



COMPANY ANNOUNCEMENT
9 JUNE 2021

**AUSTAL USA AWARDED US\$44 MILLION CONTRACT TO DEVELOP
AUTONOMOUS CAPABILITY IN EXPEDITIONARY FAST TRANSPORT
[EPF] 13**

Austal Limited (ASX:ASB) is pleased to announce that Austal USA has been awarded a US\$44 million fixed-price, undefinitised contract modification for the design, procurement, production implementation and demonstration of autonomous capability on Expeditionary Fast Transport (EPF) 13, the future USNS *Apalachicola*.

Austal USA is constructing 15 *Spearhead*-class EPF vessels for the US Navy and has delivered twelve EPFs since December 2012. EPF 13 is currently under construction at Austal USA's Mobile, Alabama shipyard.

Austal Limited Chief Executive Officer Paddy Gregg said the highly-anticipated contract was another significant, strategic step towards greater autonomous vessel capability.

"Austal noted in our half year results presentation that the funding for an autonomous EPF conversion contract had been appropriated in the USA Government 2021 Budget, so we are pleased that it has now been converted into a formal contract," Mr Gregg said.

"Winning a \$44 million contract is welcome from a revenue perspective, but strategically this contract award is even more significant for Austal.

"Autonomous vessel capability has been identified as an area of strategic importance by the US Navy, so it is promising for Austal that the US Navy has awarded Austal USA a contract for the design, procurement, production implementation and demonstration of autonomous capability of one of our vessels, the Expeditionary Fast Transport (EPF) 13, the future USNS *Apalachicola*," he added.

The *Spearhead*-class EPF is a 103-metre high-speed aluminium catamaran with a large, 1800 square metre cargo deck, medium-lift helicopter deck and seating for 300+ embarked troops; providing a fast, high-payload transport capability to combatant commanders around the world.

The Austal-designed and built EPFs support a wide range of missions – from maritime security operations to humanitarian aid and disaster relief.

Two EPF's are currently under construction at Austal USA's shipyard – the future USNS Apalachicola (EPF 13) and the future USNS Cody (EPF 14).

In addition to the EPF program, Austal USA is contracted to deliver 19 *Independence*-class Littoral Combat Ships (LCS) for the U.S. Navy, of which 13 have been delivered since 2010. The 15th Independence-class LCS, the future USS Canberra was christened at Austal USA on 5th June 2021.

This ASX announcement has been approved and authorised for release by Paddy Gregg, Austal Limited's Chief Executive Officer.

-ENDs-

Media Contact:

Cameron Morse
+61 433 886 871
cameron.morse@fticonsulting.com

About Austal:

Austal is Australia's global shipbuilder and defence prime contractor designing, constructing and sustaining some of the world's most advanced commercial and defence vessels.

For more than 30 years Austal has contracted more than 300 vessels for over 100 commercial and defence operators in 54 countries, worldwide.

Austal is Australia's largest defence exporter and first ASX-listed shipbuilder. Austal has industry-leading shipyards in Australia, the United States of America, Philippines and Vietnam with service centres worldwide, including the Middle East.

Austal delivers iconic monohull, catamaran and trimaran commercial vessel platforms – including the world's largest trimaran ferry and multiple defence programs such as the Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) and Expeditionary Fast Transport (EPF) for the United States Navy.

Austal Limited ACN 009 250 266
100 Clarence Beach Road
Henderson, Western Australia 6166