



**COMPANY ANNOUNCEMENT
4 DECEMBER 2018**

U.S. NAVY CONTRACTS AUSTAL TO ORDER MATERIALS FOR EPF 14

AUSTAL (ASX: ASB) today announced Austal USA has been awarded a US\$40,369,095 million (AU\$54.9 million) order to fund the procurement of long lead-time materials for the construction of a 103-meter Expeditionary Fast Transport (EPF). This will be the fourteenth vessel of this class built by Austal for the US Navy. This contract follows a similar award for procurement of long lead time items for EPF 13.

This order means that Austal has received long lead material contracts for 2 EPF's in this financial year, one funded from the FY18 US Federal budget and one from the FY19 US Federal budget. It is expected that these contracts will lead to full vessel contracts later in the fiscal year. If awarded, these full vessel contracts will ensure EPF construction continuity out until 4th quarter 2022.

Long lead-time materials for the additional vessel will include diesel engines, water jets and reduction gears.

Austal was awarded the initial contract to design and build the first 103-meter EPF in November 2008. The EPF is a high speed, shallow draft catamaran, designed for rapid intra-theatre transport of troops and cargo. Reaching rapid speeds of 35-45+ knots allows the EPF to be used for rapid deployment of conventional and special-forces with their equipment and supplies, making it an ideal platform for utilisation in emergency humanitarian disaster relief.

Since 2008, nine Spearhead-class EPFs have been delivered and are serving as an affordable solution to fulfilling the Military Sealift Command's requirements worldwide. Three additional EPFs are under construction at Austal USA.

- ENDS -

Further Information:

Austal Media Contact:

Contact: Gemma Whiting - Government Relations
Mobile: +61 (0)408 982 727
Email: gemma.whiting@austal.com
Website: www.austal.com

About Austal

Austal is an Australian shipbuilder and global defence prime contractor which designs constructs and sustains some of the world's most advanced commercial and defence vessels.

Austal successfully balances commercial and defence projects and celebrates 30 years of success in 2018. Austal has designed, constructed and delivered more than 300 commercial and defence vessels for more than 100 operators in 54 countries worldwide.

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

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 has grown to become the world's largest aluminium shipbuilder.