



COMPANY ANNOUNCEMENT  
4 AUGUST 2020

---

## **FUTURE USNS NEWPORT - TWELFTH EXPEDITIONARY FAST TRANSPORT (EPF 12) FOR US NAVY - SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES ACCEPTANCE TRIALS**

---

Austal Limited (ASX:ASB) is pleased to announce that the future USNS *Newport* (EPF 12) has successfully completed acceptance trials in the Gulf of Mexico. USNS *Newport* is the 12th *Spearhead*-class Expeditionary Fast Transport ship built by Austal USA in Mobile, Alabama, for the United States Navy (USN).

Austal Chief Executive Officer David Singleton said the successful completion of acceptance trials for EPF 12 was yet another important milestone for a program that has seen 11 vessels delivered to the US Navy in less than 8 years.

“Austal’s EPF high-speed catamaran is a true success story, proving to be an invaluable addition to the US Navy’s sealift capability worldwide,” Mr Singleton said.

“*Newport* will soon join a fleet of 11 EPF vessels that are making a real difference to communities around the world, through a variety of missions and exercises conducted by US Military Sealift Command for the US Navy.”

Acceptance trials involve the execution of a number of tests by the Austal USA-led industry team while the vessel is underway; demonstrating to the US Navy the successful operation of the ship’s major systems and equipment. The trials are last significant milestone before delivery of the vessel, scheduled for August 2020.

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.

With seven EPF’s currently deployed internationally, the Austal-designed EPF’s support a wide range of missions – from maritime security operations to humanitarian aid and disaster relief. The ship’s flexibility also allows it to support potential future missions such as special operations, command and control, and primary medical operations.

One additional *Spearhead*-class EPF is under construction at Austal USA's shipyard; the future USNS *Apalachicola* (EPF 13) while the future USNS *Cody* (EPF 14) is scheduled to commence construction in August 2020.

In addition to the EPF program, Austal USA is contracted to deliver 19 *Independence*-class Littoral Combat Ships (LCS) for the U.S. Navy. Twelve *Independence*-class LCSs have been delivered, with an additional five ships in various stages of construction.



***The future USNS Newport (EPF 12) was constructed by Austal USA in Mobile, Alabama (Images: Austal)***

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

-ENDS-

**Media Contact:**

Cameron Morse  
+61 433 886 871  
[cameron.morse@fticonsulting.com](mailto: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 has grown to become the world's largest aluminium shipbuilder and is Australia's largest defence exporter.

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