



COMPANY ANNOUNCEMENT
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**THIRD AUSTAL JOINT HIGH SPEED VESSEL
COMPLETES ACCEPTANCE TRIALS**

Austal Limited (**Austal**) (ASX:ASB) is pleased to announce that Joint High Speed Vessel 3 (JHSV 3), USNS *Millinocket*, has completed US Navy acceptance trials, the last significant milestone before delivery of the vessel.

The US Navy acceptance trials of USNS *Millinocket* in the Gulf of Mexico involved the performance of intense, comprehensive tests of the ship's major systems and equipment. Austal CEO Andrew Bellamy said the vessel had performed exceptionally well in the trials, and as a result was expected to be delivered to the US Navy in late January.

The USNS *Millinocket* is the third JHSV built by Austal as prime contractor under a 10 ship, \$1.6 billion contract.

Mr Bellamy said successful completion of the acceptance trials demonstrated the maturity of Austal's JHSV program.

"Austal has now delivered two Joint High Speed Vessels to the US Navy; delivery of a third (USNS *Millinocket*) is impending; and another two vessels are under construction. This demonstrates that Austal's JHSV program is progressing well and Austal is successfully moving to efficient, serial production of the vessels."

Earlier this week, JHSV 4, the USNS *Fall River*, was officially christened by the wife of the Governor of Massachusetts, Diane Patrick, at Austal's Mobile, Alabama shipyard.

In Australia, the second Cape Class Patrol Boat (CCPB), *Cape Byron*, was launched last week at the Company's Henderson shipyard in Western Australia.

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About Austal

Austal is a global defence prime contractor. The Company designs, constructs and maintains revolutionary platforms such as the Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) and the Joint High Speed Vessel (JHSV) for the United States Navy, as well as an extensive range of patrol and auxiliary vessels for defence forces and government agencies globally. Austal also designs, installs, integrates and maintains sophisticated communications, radar and command and control systems.

Austal benefits from its position as a world leader in the design, construction and support of customised, high performance aluminium vessels for the commercial high speed ferry market, an achievement gained over a period of nearly 25 years.

Austal's primary facilities comprise a dedicated defence shipyard in Henderson, Western Australia; a dedicated defence shipyard in Mobile, Alabama; and a dedicated commercial shipyard in Balamban, Philippines. The Company also provides vessel support services from its facilities in Australia, the United States, Asia, the Caribbean, and the Middle East. Systems development, sales and support are coordinated from Austal's facility in Canberra, Australia.

About USNS *Millinocket* (JHSV 3)

USNS *Millinocket* (JHSV 2) is a 103 metre aluminium catamaran capable of transporting 600 short tons 1,200 nautical miles at an average speed of 35 knots and can operate in shallow-draft ports and waterways, interfacing with roll-on / roll-off discharge facilities and on / off-loading a combat-loaded Abrams Main Battle Tank (M1A2). Other joint requirements include an aviation flight deck to support day and night aircraft launch and recovery operations. It has airline-style seating for 312 embarked forces with fixed berthing for 104.

For further information contact:

Austal, Public Relations

Tel: +61 8 9410 1111

Fax: +61 8 9410 2564

Email: pubrel@austal.com

Website: www.austal.com