



**COMPANY ANNOUNCEMENT  
5 OCTOBER 2014**

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**US NAVY EXTENDS CHARTER OF HIGH SPEED VESSEL**

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Austal Limited (Austal) (ASX:ASB) is pleased to announce the charter of Austal's high speed vessel, the *WestPac Express*, has been extended by the United States Navy's Military Sealift Command.

Under the new contract, the initial charter period has been extended for 10 months, with three option periods. Should all options be exercised, the contract will be valued at approximately US\$29.9 million and extend the charter to mid-2016.

Austal's *WestPac Express* has been chartered to the US Navy for the rapid deployment of marines and their equipment in the Western Pacific continuously since July 2001. The ship has achieved in excess of 99% technical availability across this period.

The *WestPac Express* is a 101 metre high speed catamaran that enables up to 900 personnel together with up to 550 tonnes of vehicles and equipment to be moved in a single lift, providing considerable strategic and cost advantages compared to alternative transportation modes. The ship can operate at speeds up to 36 knots (70km / hour).

Austal manages the charter operation, including in-service support, ship management services, and integrated logistics support.

The success of *WestPac Express* reflects Austal's capability to provide high speed platforms for military operations and the breadth of Austal's global support services, with support facilities in the United States, Australia, Asia, the Caribbean, and the Middle East.

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## **About Austal**

Austal is a global defence prime contractor and a designer and manufacturer of defence and commercial ships. For more than 25 years Austal has been a leader in the design, construction and maintenance of revolutionary ships for Governments, Navies and Ferry operators around the world. More than 250 vessels have been delivered in that time.

### *Ships*

Defence vessels designed and built by Austal include multi-mission combatants, such as the Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) for the United States Navy and military high speed vessels for transport and humanitarian relief, such as the Joint High Speed Vessel (JHSV) for the United States Navy and High Speed Support Vessel (HSSV) for the Royal Navy of Oman. Austal also designs, constructs, integrates and maintains an extensive range of patrol and auxiliary vessels for government agencies globally, including the Cape Class Patrol Boat Program for Australian Customs and Border Protection. Defence vessels are designed and constructed in Mobile, Alabama and in Henderson, Western Australia.

Austal has been at the forefront of the high speed ferry market since the early days of the industry. Our market leading designs of high performance aluminium vessels have long been at the heart of Austal's research and development. Today, commercial ship construction is centred on our shipyard in Balamban, Philippines.

### *Systems*

Austal has expertise in integrating complex systems into its ships, including ride control, ship management, and communication, sensors and weapon systems.

### *Support*

Austal provides a wide range of support services, including through life support, integrated logistics support, vessel sustainment and systems support. These services are delivered through our global support network in the USA, Australia, Asia, the Caribbean and the Middle East together with partner shipyards worldwide.

## **For further information contact:**

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