



COMPANY ANNOUNCEMENT
28 DECEMBER 2017

AUSTAL DESIGNED & BUILT LITTORAL COMBAT SHIP COMPLETES ACCEPTANCE TRIALS

AUSTAL (ASX:ASB) today announced the future USS *Manchester* (LCS 14) has successfully completed acceptance trials in the Gulf of Mexico. This is the last significant milestone required by the US Navy prior to delivery, scheduled for early 2018.

This milestone achievement involved the execution of an intense series of tests on the vessel at sea conducted by US Navy, Austal and Industry. During the two day tests, approximately 250 personnel were on board operating and demonstrating the performance of all of the ship's systems and equipment. The vessel returned to port carrying a broom in its mast signifying a 'clean sweep' of successful tests was achieved.

LCS 14 will be the second Independence-variant LCS Austal has delivered to the Navy in less than six months.

Austal CEO, David Singleton congratulated the Austal USA team on yet another LCS delivered on-time and on-budget.

"This is the fourth Austal-built ship to reach this milestone in the last 12 months. LCS 14 is now making final preparations for delivery and LCS 16 is not far behind. Shipbuilding performance in the USA is now very positive and new orders received and expected in FY2018 means that this part of our business will continue to be a major contributor to group results for years to come" Mr Singleton said.

"We are delivering these ships to US Fleet at a steady and reliable pace, that positions us well for the future," he said.

Austal has delivered six Independence-variant LCS, one of which, USS *Coronado* (LCS 4), recently returned to San Diego Navy Base after completing a successful 14-month deployment with the Pacific Fleet.

The LCS program is at full rate production and is continuing its momentum at Austal USA with seven ships currently under construction. *Tulsa* (LCS 16), *Charleston* (LCS 18) and *Cincinnati* (LCS 20) are preparing for trials. Final assembly is well underway on and *Kansas City* (LCS 22) and *Oakland* (LCS 24) and the first aluminium was cut on the future USS *Mobile* (LCS 26) on December 12. Austal also recently received new construction contracts for LCS 28 and LCS 30 – two of the three LCS awarded in FY 2017.

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About Austal

Austal is an Australian shipbuilder and a global defence prime contractor which designs constructs and sustaining 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.

About Austal USA

Austal USA is a subsidiary of Australian-based Austal Limited. Austal USA is headquartered in Mobile, Ala. with offices in San Diego, Washington, D.C., and Singapore. The company is well positioned to support both commercial and government ship construction as well as post-delivery service and support worldwide. Austal USA is on contract with the U.S. Navy to build two high-speed advanced ship classes, the Expeditionary Fast Transport and the Independence-variant Littoral Combat Ship. Austal USA is not only the newest and most state-of-the-art shipyard in the U.S., but also one of the safest as the company has earned 10 safety awards in its short 18-year history.

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