



COMPANY ANNOUNCEMENT  
4 MAY 2022

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**US NAVY EXERCISES US\$230.5 MILLION CONTRACT OPTION TO  
PURCHASE 16<sup>TH</sup> EXPEDITIONARY FAST TRANSPORT FROM AUSTAL**

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Austal Limited (ASX:ASB) is pleased to announce that the United States Navy has exercised a US\$230,545,382 (A\$324.6M) fixed-priced incentive (firm target) contract option for the detail design and construction of Expeditionary Fast Transport (EPF) 16 by Austal USA.

EPF 16 will be the third ship constructed by in “Flight II” configuration, which has enhanced medical and aviation capabilities. Austal USA has successfully delivered twelve EPF ships to the Navy since 2012, on schedule and on budget. and is currently constructing EPFs 13, 14 and 15 at the company’s shipyard in Mobile, Alabama.

EPF 13 is being developed as a prototype for autonomous operations, while EPF 14 and 15 were redesigned to deliver greater medical capability and capacity.

Austal Limited Chief Executive Officer Paddy Gregg said the contract for another EPF with enhanced medical capabilities highlighted both the success of the high-speed vessel platform and its flexibility to deliver various mission profiles.

“Austal’s Flight II EPF’s will further enhance the US Navy’s capability and enable a fast response with expanded medical support facilities available for any mission or theatre of operation,” Mr. Gregg said.

“We are delighted to see the EPF platform being deployed globally and we’re excited to begin production of another highly capable ship for the United States Navy.”

The United States Navy’s fleet of Expeditionary Fast Transport ships conduct humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, maritime security, surveillance, command and control, and counter narcotic missions around the globe. The versatility of the EPF design provides a significant operational capability that can be tailored to the needs of each fleet and combatant commander’s geographic command.

Flight II ships enhance the original capabilities of the *Spearhead*-class EPFs through incorporation of reconfigurable spaces for operating and post-surgical recovery efforts. Combined with the ship's V-22 capable flight deck, Flight II ships provide unmatched versatility.

Construction of EPF 16 will commence later this year with delivery projected for 2025. In addition to EPFs 13, 14 and 15 currently in production, Austal USA is currently constructing the *Independence*-variant Littoral Combat Ships (LCS) 32, 34 and 36; and is under contract for LCS 38. Following the opening of the company's new steel shipbuilding production line, construction will soon commence on the first of two *Navajo*-class Towing, Salvage and Rescue Ships (T-ATS), T-ATS 11 and 12 for the United States Navy.

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



***EPF 16 will be the third ship constructed by Austal USA in "Flight II" configuration, which has enhanced medical and aviation capabilities (image: Austal USA)***

## **ENDS-**

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### **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 is the only foreign-owned prime contractor designing, constructing and sustaining ships for the US Navy.

Austal has grown to become the world's largest aluminium shipbuilder and is Australia's largest defence exporter.

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