Austal Limited (Austral) (ASX: ASB) has received an award from the United States Department of Defense totalling over US$23 million (~A$34 million) for support activities, including dry docking, on the USS Tulsa.

The award of the Post Shakedown Availability (PSA) service contract for the USS Tulsa (LCS 16) is in addition to the US$21 million contract Austal was awarded in January 2019 for the USS Manchester (LCS 14). Both are Independence-variant Littoral Combat Ships manufactured by Austal.

The USS Tulsa PSA contract will the second contract where Austal is Prime Contractor for work of this nature. The USS Manchester PSA contract was the first.

“Austral’s sustainment business is continuing to expand as more Austral-designed and constructed naval vessels are delivered into service,” Austal CEO David Singleton said. “And there’s a solid pipeline of vessels still under construction.

“Construction of a ship takes about two years, whereas sustainment can provide continuing work and regular earnings for Austral for many years, even decades.

“Austral has significantly expanded its operations in the United States and globally to meet continuing sustainment requirements of naval customers.”

To date Austral has delivered 10 LCS vessels with a further nine vessels on order, all of which will undergo regular maintenance and dry docking activities to maintain fleet availability during the life of the ship class. Austral USA’s west coast operations, headquartered in San Diego, California, has grown significantly this year to include expanded service capacity to support the San Diego home-based Independent-variant LCS. Austral has expanded its global services capacity in support of US programs including increased capacity in Mobile, Alabama, and at its Singapore service centre.

The Independence-variant LCS is a 127m, frigate-sized vessel, built at Austral facilities in Mobile, Alabama. The program is in a full rate of production with several ships under construction.
simultaneously. The future USS Kansas City (LCS 22) and the future USS Oakland (LCS 24) are both preparing for trials. Final assembly is well underway for the future USS Mobile (LCS 26) and has just recently begun for the future USS Canberra (LCS 30).

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Further Information:

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About Austal

Austal is a worldwide ship manufacturer with its corporate headquarters and Australian manufacturing facility based in Henderson, Western Australia. The company’s global operations include manufacturing facilities in the United States and the Philippines with service centres in Darwin and Cairns, Australia, Muscat, Oman, and Singapore. Austal also maintains offices in London, Washington, D.C., and Canberra. The company is proud to provide design, construction and services to commercial and defence customers around the world including the United States Navy.

For over 30 years, Austal has delivered some of the world’s most advanced high-speed vessels. 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. The company is also the fifth largest shipbuilder in the United States.

Austal is most known for its iconic monohull, catamaran and trimaran commercial vessel and defence platforms – including the world’s largest trimaran ferry for multiple commercial operators and the Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) and Expeditionary Fast Transport (EPF) for the U.S. Navy.