



COMPANY ANNOUNCEMENT
26 MAY 2020

**TWELFTH INDEPENDENCE-CLASS LITTORAL COMBAT SHIP
- FUTURE USS OAKLAND (LCS 24) - COMPLETES ACCEPTANCE
TRIALS**

Austal Limited (ASX:ASB) is pleased to announce that the future USS *Oakland* (LCS 24) has successfully completed acceptance trials in the Gulf of Mexico. LCS 24 is the 12th *Independence*-class Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) built by Austal USA in Mobile, Alabama for the United States Navy (USN).

Austal Chief Executive Officer David Singleton said the successful completion of acceptance trials for LCS 24 during the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated Austal USA's capability and reliability to deliver vessels on time, even under challenging circumstances.

"Austal USA has clearly answered the call, as part of a mission-essential industry, to continue operations during the COVID-19 pandemic and deliver on commitments to the US Navy," Mr Singleton said.

"The completion of acceptance trials for LCS 24 during this time of adversity is an outstanding achievement and a great acknowledgement of the skills and commitment of the Austal USA team."

Acceptance trials involve the execution of a number of tests by the Austal USA-led industry team while the vessel is underway; demonstrating to the United States Navy the successful operation of the ship's major systems and equipment. The trials are last significant milestone before delivery of the ship, scheduled for June 2020.

The *Independence*-class LCS is a high-speed, shallow-draft surface combatant with an aluminium trimaran hull that provides class leading, multi-mission capability. These ships are designed to defeat growing littoral threats and provide access and dominance along coastal waters. A fast, maneuverable and networked surface-combatant, LCS provides the required warfighting capabilities and operational flexibility to execute surface warfare, mine warfare and anti-submarine warfare missions. USS *Montgomery* (LCS 8) and USS *Gabrielle Giffords* (LCS

10) continue their successful deployment with the Pacific fleet, while seven other *Independence*-variant LCS are homeported in San Diego, USA.

Austal USA's *Independence*-class LCS program is at full rate production, with six ships currently under construction including *Oakland*. The future USS *Mobile* (LCS 26) has been launched and is preparing for trials. Final assembly is well underway on the future USS *Savannah* (LCS 28) and USS *Canberra* (LCS 30), while modules for the future USS *Santa Barbara* (LCS 32) are under construction in the Module Manufacturing Facility (MMF). Austal USA cut the first aluminium to mark start of construction for the future USS *Augusta* (LCS 34) in early April.



Independence-class Littoral Combat Ship, the future USS Oakland (LCS24) constructed by Austal USA has successfully completed acceptance trials (Images: US Navy)

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

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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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