



**COMPANY ANNOUNCEMENT
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AUSTAL SECURES ORDER FOR EFFICIENT NEW VEHICLE FERRY

Austal has secured an order for a highly efficient medium speed ferry with leading French Polynesian operator and existing customer, SNC Aremiti Ferry. The contract for the 80 metre vehicle-passenger catamaran is valued at approximately Euro 35 million. Delivery is scheduled for October 2013.

This is the fourth vessel Austal has sold to Aremiti and its associated companies. The new ferry is expected to operate alongside an existing Austal catamaran between the islands of Tahiti and Moorea, expanding access to the area for locals, tourists and business operators.

With a fully loaded speed of 20 knots, the new design brings the efficiency and other operating cost advantages which result from Austal's expertise in aluminium construction and multihull vessel design to the medium speed RoPax ferry market. It leverages off Austal's experience of producing over 130 catamarans and trimarans.

Austal Chief Executive Officer, Andrew Bellamy, said he was happy to be welcoming Aremiti back as a customer and said the contract provided further evidence that the company's strategy was working.

"Repeat business is the ultimate measure of customer satisfaction, and so it is particularly gratifying that our first two new contracts for the year have come from existing clients," he said.

Last month Austal signed a new contract for a 27 metre wind farm support vessel with Turbine Transfers, which already has three other vessels under construction at Austal.

"Austal has identified medium speed ferries and wind farm vessels as areas where we can apply our skills to create growth within the business. These two new orders show that our strategy of continuing to apply and expand our portfolio of intellectual property through product development and research is paying dividends," Mr Bellamy said.

"It is helping us to build upon our very substantial defence shipbuilding order book by securing orders from the commercial vessel sector."

With a capacity for up to 967 passengers and up to 146 cars, or a mix of cars and trucks, the new ferry will be French-flagged and is designed to meet EU domestic voyage rule requirements. In addition to enabling local tourism and personal transport, the ferry will support inter-island trade. To do this the vessel has substantial truck capacity and will be certified to carry dangerous goods including flammable gasses and flammable liquids.

Aremiti has been operating shipping services between Tahiti and Moorea since 1991. Its current fleet includes the 56 metre high speed ferry "Aremiti 5" which Austal delivered in 2004.

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About Austal

Austal is a global defence prime contractor. The Company designs, constructs and maintains revolutionary platforms such as the Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) and the Joint High Speed Vessel (JHSV) for the United States Navy, as well as an extensive range of patrol and auxiliary vessels for defence forces and government agencies globally. Austal also designs, installs, integrates and maintains sophisticated communications, radar and command and control systems.

Austal benefits from its position as a world leader in the design, construction and support of customised, high performance aluminium vessels for the commercial high speed ferry market, an achievement gained over a period of nearly 25 years.

Austal's primary facilities comprise a combined defence and commercial shipyard in Henderson, Western Australia; a dedicated defence shipyard in Mobile, Alabama; and a dedicated commercial shipyard in Balamban, Philippines. The Company also provides vessel support services from its facilities in Australia, the United States, Asia, Europe, the Caribbean, and the Middle East.

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