



**COMPANY ANNOUNCEMENT
18 OCTOBER 2012**

STOCK VESSEL UPDATE

In relation to public statements made by Euroferries Limited, Austal confirms that it has entered into an agreement with Euroferries Limited for a four-year charter of the 102 metre trimaran stock vessel "Austal Hull 270".

Austal has received a security that enables further work to be undertaken to prepare the vessel for the charter.

No further details will be made available at this time as both parties are subject to commercial confidentiality agreements.

Austal will inform the market of any further developments.

END

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. Systems development, sales and support are coordinated from Austal's facility in Canberra, Australia.

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