



**COMPANY ANNOUNCEMENT
6 DECEMBER 2012**

AUSTAL DELIVERS FIRST JOINT HIGH SPEED VESSEL TO US NAVY

Austal officially delivered the first Joint High Speed Vessel (JHSV), *USNS Spearhead* (JHSV 1), to the United States Navy on 5 December.

"This delivery underlines our position as a global defence prime contractor and continues Austal's worldwide legacy as the premier provider of innovative, high-speed vessels, with capabilities to construct and support these and other vessels in a global market," said Andrew Bellamy, Austal's Chief Executive Officer.

Austal USA Interim President and Chief Financial Officer, Brian Leathers, said: "The delivery of the *USNS Spearhead* is a significant achievement for Austal and adds to the rich history of Mobile as a hub of shipbuilding activity in the United States. Austal USA has delivered 12 ships in 11 years, certainly a major contributor to the shipbuilding legacy of Mobile, Alabama."

JHSVs are 103 metre (338-foot) long aluminium catamarans that are designed to be fast, flexible and manoeuvrable even in shallow waters, making them ideal for transporting troops and equipment quickly within a theatre of operations. The ships have the ability to support a variety of operations, supporting the warfighter through traditional logistics missions, humanitarian support projects, disaster response or by supporting maritime law enforcement activities.

Austal is currently under contract with the US Navy to build nine JHSVs under a 10-ship, US\$1.6 billion contract and five 127 metre Independence-variant Littoral Combat Ships (LCS), four of which are a part of a 10-ship, US\$3.5 billion contract.

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 dedicated defence 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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