



**COMPANY ANNOUNCEMENT
10 DECEMBER 2012**

AUSTAL SECURES FLEET MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

Austal is pleased to announce the award of a Fleet Maintenance Services contract by the Sultanate of Oman's National Ferries Company (NFC), valued at approximately \$1.6 million. The award of this contract follows a successful competitive tender.

Austal had previously held a three-year Vessel Maintenance Services Agreement which concluded in October this year. Under this new 12-month contract, Austal will support and maintain two 52 metre patrol vessels for the Royal Oman Police Coast Guard, three high speed vehicle-passenger ferries and one landing craft. Austal will also strengthen its support capability in the Sultanate of Oman through investment in maintenance facilities in the ports of Khasab and Shinas.

The award of this new contract and further investment by Austal in the ports of Shinas and Khasab demonstrates the strength of Austal and NFC's relationship and signifies a mutual commitment to the growth and support of vessel service and maintenance in the Sultanate of Oman. It also showcases Austal's through life support capability.

Austal is committed to the growth of its Middle East commercial and defence product offering. In addition to its Regional Service Centre in Muscat, Austal has offices in Dubai and Abu Dhabi, all of which benefit from Austal's shipbuilding and vessel maintenance experience in Australia, Asia, Europe, the United States and the Caribbean.

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.

For further information contact:

Austal, Public Relations

Tel: +61 8 9410 1111

Fax: +61 8 9410 2564

Email: pubrel@austal.com

Website: www.austal.com