



**COMPANY ANNOUNCEMENT
21 DECEMBER 2012**

AUSTAL AWARDED CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR JHSV 10

Austal USA, Mobile, Ala., has been awarded a US\$166,881,824 modification to previously awarded contract (N00024-08-C-2217) to exercise the construction option for Joint High Speed Vessel 10. Work is expected to be completed by June 2017.

Austal Chief Executive Officer Andrew Bellamy said that the award demonstrated the US Navy's commitment to the program. "Austal now has all ten Joint High Speed Vessels fully funded and following the delivery of JHSV 1 earlier this month, AUSA is now in a great position to focus its approaches on improving efficiency and delivering these innovative ships to the Navy."

As of today, Austal is currently under contract with the U.S. Navy to build all ten 103-meter JHSVs under a 10-ship, US\$1.6 billion contract and five 127-meter Independence-variant LCS class ships, four of which are a part of a 10-ship, US\$3.5 billion contract.

For the LCS and JHSV programs, Austal, as prime contractor, is teamed with General Dynamics Advanced Information Systems, a business unit of General Dynamics. As the ship systems integrator, General Dynamics is responsible for the design, integration and testing of the ship's electronic systems including the combat system, networks, and seaframe control. General Dynamics' proven open architecture approach allows for affordable and efficient capability growth as technologies develop.

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