



COMPANY ANNOUNCEMENT
18 APRIL 2013

AUSTAL DELIVERS FIRST CAPE CLASS PATROL BOAT

Austal has delivered the first of eight new patrol boats being supplied to the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service under a design, construct and in-service support contract valued at approximately \$330 million.

Commenting on the contract milestone, Austal's Chief Executive Officer, Andrew Bellamy, said the timely delivery of *Cape St George* underlined Austal's prime contracting credentials and total solution capability encompassing ships, systems and support.

"*Cape St George* demonstrates Austal's ability to deliver the key strategies we have set for the company, namely focussing the Australian operation on designing and building defence vessels; expanding our systems capabilities; and expanding our support business through long-term contracts," he said.

"We are very pleased to be providing the Australian Government with another high quality border protection asset. As the third generation of Austal patrol boats to be used in this important role, the Cape Class are a significant advance on the highly successful Bay and Armidale Class vessels."

Austal designed and built eight Bay Class vessels for Customs and Border Protection between 1998 and 2000 and the Royal Australian Navy's 14 Armidale Class patrol boats between 2003 and 2007.

"Although only 1.3 metres longer than the Armidales, the 58 metre Cape Class have some 30 per cent more internal volume, provide 33 per cent more range, and retain fuel efficient performance in the 25 knot speed bracket. These are just some of the tangible benefits of Austal's intellectual property, design capability and excellence in aluminium shipbuilding," Mr Bellamy said.

Graham Backhouse, General Manager and President of Austal Australian Operations, said the success of *Cape St George* reflected the skills, experience and hard work of all involved.

"Cape St George performed extremely well on trials and everyone who has seen it has been incredibly impressed by the quality of the design and construction; the systems technology we have developed and integrated; and the sheer size and capability the Cape Class provides.

"A great deal of effort and expertise has been applied in order to achieve those outstanding outcomes, and it's a tribute to all involved," he said.

Austal is currently providing onboard training and familiarisation to the crews of Cape St George. Customs and Border Protection will then conduct a rigorous five-month operational trial during which Cape St George will undertake patrols to test and evaluate new maritime operational procedures and protocols, technology and equipment.

Construction of subsequent patrol boats has commenced, with all eight due to be completed by August 2015. Austal will provide ongoing in-service support for the fleet until at least 2019. Valued at approximately \$50 million, this aspect of the contract encompasses a full range of intermediate and depot level maintenance activities.

With the completion of Cape St George, Austal has delivered 69 defence vessels including 41 patrol boats for Australian agencies. The company has outstanding orders for 27 vessels across its three shipyards. These include the remaining seven Cape Class Patrol Boats as well as nine Joint High Speed Vessels and seven Independence-variant Littoral Combat Ships for the United States Navy. In addition to the Cape Class in-service support, Austal is currently contracted to provide similar services to defence and patrol vessels operating in the Middle East, Asia and the Caribbean.

END

Project Background

Austal was awarded the contract for the design, construction and through-life support of the Cape Class patrol boats for the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service in August 2011. The eight 58 metre aluminium monohulls are due to be delivered by August 2015.

The support contract extends for a minimum period of eight years and encompasses a full range of intermediate and depot level maintenance activities. Further options can be exercised by the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service for In-Service Support for the life of the Cape Class Patrol Boat Fleet.

The Cape Class Patrol Boats have greater range, endurance and flexibility in responding to maritime security threats than the current fleet.

The vessels also have enhanced capability to operate in higher sea states and survive in more severe conditions.

The Cape Class Patrol Boats are able to:

- Undertake 28 day patrols;
- Sail 4,000 nautical miles before having to refuel;
- Combat the full range of maritime security threats;

- Carry a larger crew to more effectively and safely manage boarding operations;
- Identify, track and intercept an extended range of threats in the maritime domain and gather intelligence and store evidence for matters that may proceed to the courts; and
- Launch two Tender Response Vessels simultaneously.

Customs and Border Protection patrol boats may be deployed according to aerial surveillance, community reports and/or radar sightings. They may be used to:

- Counter people, drug and weapons smuggling;
- Apprehend foreign fishing vessels;
- Gather information and intelligence;
- Monitor environmental pollution; and
- Assist management of offshore nature reserves and marine parks.

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