



COMPANY ANNOUNCEMENT
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**AUSTAL STRENGTHENS SUSTAINMENT
CAPABILITY IN ASIA-PACIFIC**

Austal continues to demonstrate its commitment to enhancing its support offering to the United States Navy and other navies active in the Asia-Pacific region, announcing new strategic partnerships with regional shipyards at the IMDEX Asia defence exhibition in Singapore this week.

Following on from the strategic partnership with Singapore's Sembawang Shipyard Pte Ltd announced in January 2013, Austal has now secured similar agreements with Unithai Shipyard and Engineering in Thailand and Cam Ranh Shipyard in Vietnam.

Austal Chief Executive Officer Andrew Bellamy stated: "We are very proud to have partnered with such reputable shipyards and we look forward to building mutually beneficial relationships to support the defence and commercial vessels in the region.

"In particular, we are focussed on developing a comprehensive capability tailored to support the requirements of the US Navy's fleet of Littoral Combat Ships (LCS) and Joint High Speed Vessels (JHSV), both of which are expected to operate in the region," he said, noting that the first LCS recently deployed to the region.

Austal is currently contracted to build ten 103 metre JHSVs under a US\$1.6 billion contract and eight 127 metre Independence-variant LCSs, six of which are a part of a 10-ship US\$3.5 billion contract. Austal has already delivered one LCS and one JHSV.

"We have our own people and facilities in the western and northern Australia, as well as in the Philippines, and we are now well down the road of expanding our support capability both geographically and in terms of facilities and manpower," Mr Bellamy said.

"Aligning with these capable shipyards is an efficient and effective way of rapidly expanding the area and customer base to which we can make our specialist capabilities available."

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

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