



**COMPANY ANNOUNCEMENT
29 AUGUST 2013**

**AUSTAL'S SECOND LITTORAL COMBAT SHIP
COMPLETES ACCEPTANCE TRIALS**

Austal Limited (**Austal**) (ASX:ASB) is pleased to announce that Littoral Combat Ship USS *Coronado* (LCS 4) has successfully completed acceptance trials.

USS *Coronado*, the US Navy's fourth LCS vessel and second built by Austal USA and General Dynamics, had been performing acceptance trials in the Gulf of Mexico. The trials involved comprehensive tests by the US Navy, which demonstrated the successful operation of the ship's major systems and equipment.

Acceptance trials are the last significant milestone before delivery of the ship, which is expected in September.

Austal Chief Executive Officer Andrew Bellamy said Austal had built on its experience from the first littoral combat ship in constructing LCS 4 and it was pleasing that the vessel was now close to delivery.

"In constructing USS *Coronado*, the team utilised the lessons we learnt from building USS Independence (LCS 2), in order to improve production efficiency and look forward to even greater efficiency as the program matures," Mr Bellamy said.

"The pipeline of work ahead of us is strong and will continue to drive operational performance to ensure that we deliver these revolutionary ships on budget and on schedule."

LCS 4 is the second of two Littoral Combat Ships built by Austal USA for General Dynamics. The flagship trimaran LCS vessel, USS Independence (LCS 2), was delivered to the Navy in December 2009. Austal was subsequently awarded a \$3.5 billion contract direct from the US Navy in December 2010 to build a further ten LCS vessels as the prime contractor.

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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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