



**COMPANY ANNOUNCEMENT
3 AUGUST 2014**

AUSTAL'S FOURTH JOINT HIGH SPEED VESSEL COMPLETES ACCEPTANCE TRIALS

Austal Limited (**Austal**) (ASX:ASB) is pleased to announce that Joint High Speed Vessel 4 (JHSV 4), *USNS Fall River*, has successfully completed US Navy acceptance trials.

The trials, the last significant milestone before delivery, were undertaken in the Gulf of Mexico and involved comprehensive testing of the vessel's major systems and equipment by the US Navy.

Austal Chief Executive Officer Andrew Bellamy said the successful completion of acceptance trials on *USNS Fall River* further demonstrated how Austal has positively transitioned the JHSV program to the efficient, serial production of vessels.

"The JHSV program has matured into a phase of efficient production and predictable delivery of vessels through to 2017," Mr Bellamy said.

"The three JHSVs we have delivered to the US Navy have already been operational in forward deployments and we look forward to delivering the future vessels under our contract."

After delivery of JHSV 4, Austal will deliver a further six Joint High Speed Vessels from its shipyard at Mobile, Alabama, under a 10-ship, US\$1.6 billion contract from the US Navy. Of those, *USNS Trenton* (JHSV 5) is expected to be launched later in the year, while construction is well underway on *USNS Brunswick* (JHSV 6).

JHSV 1, 2, and 3 have been deployed to support US defence operations in European, African, Southern and Pacific command areas of responsibility since JHSV 1 was delivered in December 2012.

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About Austal

Austal is a global defence prime contractor and a designer and manufacturer of defence and commercial ships. For more than 25 years Austal has been a leader in the design, construction and maintenance of revolutionary ships for Governments, Navies and Ferry operators around the world. More than 250 vessels have been delivered in that time.

Ships

Defence vessels designed and built by Austal include multi-mission combatants, such as the Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) for the United States Navy and military high speed vessels for transport and humanitarian relief, such as the Joint High Speed Vessel (JHSV) for the United States Navy and High Speed Support Vessel (HSSV) for the Royal Navy of Oman. Austal also designs, constructs, integrates and maintains an extensive range of patrol and auxiliary vessels for government agencies globally, including the Cape Class Patrol Boat Program for Australian Customs and Border Protection. Defence vessels are designed and constructed in Mobile, Alabama and in Henderson, Western Australia.

Austal has been at the forefront of the high speed ferry market since the early days of the industry. Our market leading designs of high performance aluminium vessels have long been at the heart of Austal's research and development. Today, commercial ship construction is centred on our shipyard in Balamban, Philippines.

Systems

Austal has expertise in integrating complex systems into its ships, including ride control, ship management, and communication, sensors and weapon systems.

Support

Austal provides a wide range of support services, including through life support, integrated logistics support, vessel sustainment and systems support. These services are delivered through our global support network in the USA, Australia, Asia, the Caribbean and the Middle East together with partner shipyards worldwide.

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