



**COMPANY ANNOUNCEMENT
1 AUGUST 2018**

**AUSTAL'S LITTORAL COMBAT SHIP CHARLESTON (LCS 18)
COMPLETES ACCEPTANCE TRIALS FOR THE U.S. NAVY**

AUSTAL (ASX: ASB) today celebrated its ninth Independence Class Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) which completed acceptance trials in the Gulf of Mexico. The Charleston will be the third LCS Austal has delivered to the U.S. Navy in 2018.

The completion of acceptance trials is the last major milestone required by the U.S. Navy before the ship is delivered and commissioned into service. The trial involves the execution of intensive and comprehensive tests by the Austal-led industry team to demonstrate to the Navy the successful operation of the ship's major systems and equipment.

"Austal USA delivered LCS 14 to the Navy at the end of February, LCS 16 at the end of April and will deliver *Charleston* in the next couple of months. Moving these ships out to the fleet in such rapid succession is a huge accomplishment for our Mobile team and a testament to the supply chain supporting the LCS Program" CEO David Singleton said.

"Of the eight Independence-variants LCS Austal has delivered, six are currently homeported at the San Diego Navy Base. These ships are being increasingly utilized by the Navy in operations and the feedback on their versatility and capability is a fantastic endorsement of our unique Austal design" he said.

"There's no doubt these small surface combatants are and will continue to make a major difference in the US global force structure as the Navy continues to grow to a 355 ship fleet" he said.

The LCS program is at a full rate production with several ships currently under construction. *Cincinnati* (LCS 20) is preparing for sea trials. Final assembly is well underway on *Kansas City* (LCS 22) and *Oakland* (LCS 24). Modules for *Mobile* (LCS 26) and *Savannah* (LCS 28) are under construction in the module manufacturing facility and *Canberra* (LCS 30) is in pre-production.

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Further Information:

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About Austal

Austal is an Australian shipbuilder and global defence prime contractor which designs constructs and sustains some of the world's most advanced commercial and defence vessels.

Austal successfully balances commercial and defence projects and celebrates 30 years of success this year. Austal has designed, constructed and delivered more than 300 commercial and defence vessels for more than 100 operators in 54 countries worldwide.

Austal is Australia's largest defence exporter and the only ASX-listed shipbuilder. Austal has industry leading shipyards in Australia, the United States of America and Philippines and service centres worldwide.

Austal delivers iconic monohull, catamaran and trimaran commercial vessel platforms – including the world's largest trimaran ferry and multiple defence programs such as the Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) and Expeditionary Fast Transport (EPF) for the United States Navy. Austal has grown to become the world's largest aluminium shipbuilder.