



**COMPANY ANNOUNCEMENT
3 NOVEMBER 2017**

AUSTAL'S EPF 9 COMPLETES ACCEPTANCE TRIALS

Austal (ASX:ASB) today announced that *USNS City of Bismarck*, Expeditionary Fast Transport (EPF) 9, successfully completed acceptance trials on October 19 in the Gulf of Mexico.

"Austal is delighted with the continued success of this important program; the EPF platform is an extremely versatile vessel that can be utilised to meet a wide variety of operational needs" Austal CEO David Singleton said.

"The highly talented and dedicated workforce at Austal's Mobile operation is the core of our continued success in being able to deliver top quality vessels on time and on budget" Mr Singleton said.

"This adds to our excellent relationship with the US Navy, where Austal has also received contracts for 15 Independence-variant Littoral Combat Ships (LCS) with a combined value of over AUS\$6 billion. Six LCS vessels have been delivered while an additional six are in various stages of construction," he said.

City of Bismarck is slated for delivery to the U.S. Navy in November and is the ninth ship in Austal's 12-ship EPF contract valued at over AUS\$2.5 billion.

In Australia, Austal is currently partnered with Fassmer for the Government's \$3 Billion Offshore Patrol Vessel program and is in a teaming agreement with ASC for the \$35 Billion Future Frigate Program.

-ENDS-

Further Information:

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About Austal

Austal is the Australian shipbuilder, global defence prime contractor and maritime technology partner of choice, designing, constructing and sustaining the world's most advanced commercial and defence vessels.

As the only shipbuilder in the world that successfully balances commercial and defence projects, Austal celebrates 30 years of success in 2018, and has delivered and continues to construct more than 300 commercial and defence vessels for more than 100 operators in 54 countries worldwide.

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

Delivering 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.

With relentless determination, Austal continues to pursue and win commercial and defence projects throughout the world, playing a leadership role in developing Australia's sovereign shipbuilding capability.