

# AUSTAL DEFENCE NEWS

*Celebrating 20 Years* 1988 - 2008

## "INDEPENDENCE" UNVEILED



Austal launches its 127 metre trimaran Littoral Combat Ship "Independence" LCS-2, built for the US Navy.

The future of near-shore naval technology has been unveiled at Austal USA's Mobile, Alabama shipyard following the recent launch of its landmark 127m Littoral Combat Ship "Independence" (LCS 2).

The aluminium vessel's shallow draft, high payload, superior aviation capability, large internal mission deck, advanced seakeeping and speed - made possible by Austal's trimaran seaframe - are set to significantly bolster the US Navy's littoral capabilities.

After its successful two-day launch in late April, "Independence" is now the largest high speed aluminium vessel ever built in the US, a title previously held by Austal USA's 107 metre catamaran ferry "Alakai", delivered to Hawaii Superferry in late 2007.

Due to its open systems architecture and unique modular mission system, "Independence" will be capable of supporting various combat missions including anti-mine and anti-submarine warfare, whilst also providing an enhanced capability for humanitarian assistance and special operations.

*Story continues on Page Two...*

# LCS-2 INDEPENDENCE LAUNCHED

*Austal USA staff prepare to launch the 127 metre vessel.*



*...continues from Page One.*

Austal USA Chief Executive Officer Bob Browning said the launch was an important milestone for the world's largest aluminium shipbuilder.

"Austal's engineers are now responsible for designing a revolutionary combat ship for the most powerful navy in the world, while our US yard has successfully constructed and launched the largest and most sophisticated aluminium warship built to date," Mr Browning said.

The vessel is one of two alternative Littoral Combat Ship designs that will be evaluated as part of a plan to build the fleet up to a total of 313 ships. The Navy's current program calls ultimately for the construction of 55 Littoral Combat Ships.

"Independence" will be moored alongside the Austal USA facility while the commissioning and testing of combat and other onboard systems is completed. Sea trials are expected to commence in late 2008.



*Following its successful launch on April 28th, the 127 metre LCS-2 "Independence" is currently moored alongside the Austal USA facility while the activation and testing of combat and other onboard systems is completed.*

## PRINCIPAL PARTICULARS

Hull Type	Trimaran
Length	127.1 metres
Beam	31.6 metres
Hull Draft (max)	4.5 metres
Crew	40

## CAPACITIES

Access	Side Mission Bay Access
Launch Capability	Water Craft Stern Launch Capability
Launch/Recover Aircraft	Sea State 5
Launch/Recover Watercraft	Sea State 4

## PERFORMANCE

Speed	40+ knots
Range	4,500 nautical miles
Mission Bay	11,000 cubic metres
Aviation	2 x H-60 helicopters

## MISSION CONFIGURATIONS

Anti-mine warfare (MIV)  
Anti-submarine warfare (ASW)  
Surface warfare (SUW)  
Future mission capabilities  
Special operations (Spec Ops)  
Intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR)  
Humanitarian assistance/disaster relief (HA/DR)

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"Independence" is rolled onto a floating dry dock.



"Independence" is rolled out of the construction hall using sixty-six 100 ton rail trolleys.



# DEFENCE DEBRIEF



Written by Jamie Robinson, Austal Business Development Manager – Defence

You only have to look at Austal's current defence order book to appreciate the flexibility of advanced aluminium defence platforms and their growing relevance in meeting a variety of global maritime security needs.

While much of the international defence media have rightly focussed on the launch of the revolutionary 127 metre LCS 2 "Independence" at our US shipyard, there has been significant activity at the other end of the scale, with ongoing demand for capable and affordable police and patrol boat platforms.

Police forces around the world continue to express their desire for effective, economical and quality platforms which can be delivered quickly at a competitive price. The recent award of a contract to build three 22 metre catamaran police boats for the Queensland Police Service adds to our extensive list of police boat deliveries and reinforces our ongoing commitment to meeting these smaller police boat requirements. Our new Tasmanian shipyard – which specialises in small to medium size constructions – strengthens our capability to deliver these platforms to high quality standards and tight deadlines.

Last issue I outlined how increasingly precious offshore assets were driving demand for suitable asset protection capabilities. The Austal 30 metre Fast Patrol Craft (APB 30) is an exciting new addition to the Austal defence portfolio. The vessel is designed around these growing demands and has already begun attracting new customers. Construction is now underway on a six-vessel APB 30 fleet for the Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard who were attracted to the

vessel's speed, flexibility, endurance, low manning requirements and customised armament.

*Just as important as the capabilities of the vessel is the assurance that the right support structures are in place to maximise vessel operability.*

Austal has recently advanced its capabilities in the support area. We now provide comprehensive ILS support where required – an example being the five-year maintenance package attached to the Trinidad and Tobago contract.

Following months of hype leading up to the launch of our 127 metre Littoral Combat Ship at Austal USA, the newly unveiled LCS 2 "Independence" looked every inch the next generation naval platform it is on track to become. With the future of close-to-shore naval capability forecast to be increasingly reliant on advanced lightweight aluminium vessel technology, we expect the performance of "Independence" to be keenly monitored by the global defence industry when sea trials commence later this year.

The excitement generated over recent months sets Austal Defence up for a busy second half to the year as demand continues for modern, innovative and flexible solutions to a variety of global maritime security needs.

# QUEENSLAND ORDERS CATAMARAN POLICE BOATS



Austal's latest police boat order adds to previous deliveries including the New South Wales Water Police (pictured) and Bermuda Police Service.

## Austal has signed a contract to build three 22 metre catamaran police boats for the Queensland Police Service.

The vessels will be the first of their type to be built at Austal's new Tasmanian shipyard – a growing facility which specialises in small to medium size constructions.

With a cruising speed of 20 knots and a minimum range of 700 nautical miles, the catamaran police vessels have the capability to patrol remote, tropical locations as far north as Thursday Island for extended periods.

Austal was awarded the contract following a competitive national tender process.

Construction of the vessels will showcase the diverse capabilities of Austal's growing Tasmanian shipyard, which was purchased by Austal in early 2007 and recently launched the first of two passenger catamaran ferries being built for Hong Kong.

An ongoing focus on design and competitiveness has seen Austal successfully deliver police boats ranging from 16 metres to 22 metres, including recent deliveries to the New South Wales Police and the Bermuda Water Police.

Austal Executive Manager Stephen Lupi said the addition of a smaller shipyard in Tasmania increases Austal's ability to deliver competitive solutions to police forces worldwide.

*"There is definitely an ongoing need for quality, economical police vessels which have the capability to meet individual maritime security requirements,"* Mr Lupi said.

"This latest order underlines Austal's commitment to meeting this demand and builds on our track record of delivering vessels which address the varied challenges facing modern water police," he said.

All three vessels are scheduled for delivery in 2009.

### PRINCIPAL PARTICULARS

Length Overall	23.76 metres
Beam	7.8 metres
Hull Depth Moulded	3.17 metres
Draft	1.30 metres

### CAPACITIES

Fuel	7,000 litres
Fresh Water	1500 litres
Sullage	1500 litres

### PROPULSION

Main Engines	2 x MTU Series 60
Propellers	2 x Fixed Pitch

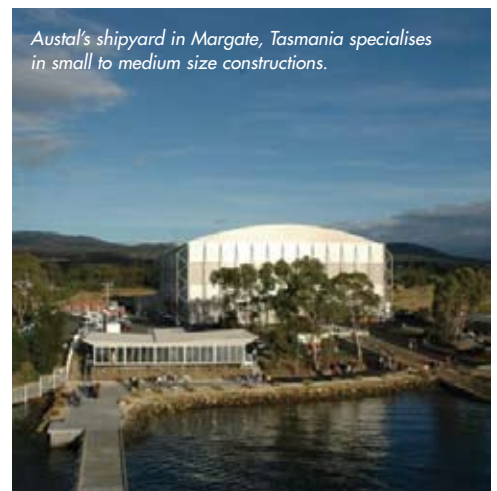
### PERFORMANCE

Top Speed	25 knots
Cruise Speed	20 knots
Range	700 nautical miles

### CLASSIFICATION

USL Code 2B & 1C

Austal's shipyard in Margate, Tasmania specialises in small to medium size constructions.



# FAST PATROL BOATS FOR CARIBBEAN



Austal will export six of its new 30 metre Fast Patrol Craft platform (APB 30) to the Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard.



The APB 30 will be armed with three General Purpose Machine Guns and a 20mm Cannon.  
**Bottom Right:** Chief Petty Officer G. Alexis, Commodore G. Best and Commander K.Huggins from the Government of Trinidad and Tobago visit Austal's Western Australian facilities.

Austal will export six of its new 30 metre Fast Patrol Craft (APB 30) platform to the Caribbean as part of a significant defence order which includes additional contracts for scheduled and unscheduled maintenance and crew training services.

The APB 30 boasts a small 12 man crew and a maximum speed of 40 knots. It will be armed with a 20mm Cannon and three General Purpose Machine Guns.

Once in operation the vessels will support the Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard in providing sustained surveillance in the country's coastal waters, the archipelagic territorial sea and its exclusive economic zone.

The contract was awarded after a competitive international tender process and follows Austal's recent success in exporting naval fleets to the Government of Kuwait and Yemen Ministry of Defence.

The vessels will target the illegal trafficking of drugs, safety at sea and perform search and rescue duties, as well as ensuring the safety of shipping and the preservation of the marine environment.

All six vessels are being constructed at Austal's Western Australian facility and are scheduled for delivery in early 2010.

## PRINCIPAL PARTICULARS

Length overall	30 metre
Beam (moulded)	6.4 metre
Hull Draft (approx.)	1.5 metre
Crew	12

## PROPULSION

Engine	2x MTU 16V 2000 M92
Propulsion	Waterjets

## PERFORMANCE

Speed	40 knots @ 100% MCR
Range	>1000nm at 10 knots

## WEAPONS

3 x General Purpose Machine Guns
1 x 20mm Cannon



# JHSV DESIGN TAKES SHAPE

**Austal is preparing to submit its proposal for the Detailed Design and Construction Contract for the US Army and Navy's Joint High Speed Vessel (JHSV) programme.**

The JHSV is a new generation of multi-use platform capable of transporting troops and their equipment, supporting humanitarian relief efforts and operating in shallow waters while reaching speeds of more than 35 knots fully loaded.

The JHSV requirements and concept of operations are similar to those of the Austal-built "WestPac Express", which has been successfully serving with the US Marines since 2001 – the longest tenure of any high speed support vessel in US Military service.

The project brings together United States Navy, Army, Marines and Special Operations Command to jointly pursue a multi-use platform.

**Austal is bidding as Prime contractor and is currently one of three companies awarded a Preliminary Design Contract.**

The Detailed Design and Construction Contract is expected to be awarded by the end of the year and will include a construction contract for the first ship and options for a further seven ships to be awarded between 2008 and 2012.

If successful, Austal's JHSV programme will be supported by the company's existing labour force and facilities - including its new state-of-the-art US modular manufacturing facility, which will enable the construction of a combination of JHSV and LCS platforms concurrently.

The 101 metre Austal-built "WestPac Express", currently serving with the US Marines III MEF based in Okinawa, Japan, has the capacity to lift 530 tons of equipment at a sustained speed of 33 knots, has steamed over 310,000 miles, carried more than 77,000 military personnel and 69,000 tonnes of equipment – all while achieving a technical reliability of 99.7 percent.

Currently, Austal USA is the only shipyard in the United States to have built a high speed aluminium ship larger than 100 metres in length. With two other 100 metre+ high speed vessels under construction, Austal USA is uniquely placed to execute the JHSV Detailed Design and Construction phase.

*Right: Similar to the Austal-built "WestPac Express" (pictured), the US Army and Navy's JHSV will be capable of transporting troops and their equipment.*



*The 65 metre vessel arrives in Muscat, Oman after its 15-day journey from Western Australia.*

## "SHINAS" ARRIVES IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The Sultanate of Oman has celebrated the arrival of its 65 metre multi-purpose vessel "Shinas" – the first of two identical vessels being built at Austal's Henderson facility. The vessel, which has the capability to assist in search and rescue, medivac operations and is equipped with helicopter landing facilities, made headlines last year after it achieved a record service speed of 52 knots during sea trials.

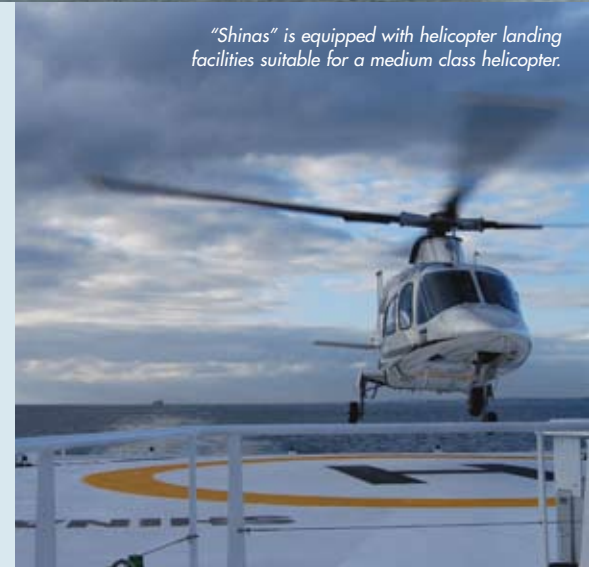
The arrival of the vessel, which currently holds the title of the world's fastest diesel-powered catamaran ferry, was a proud moment for Austal's design and construction team.

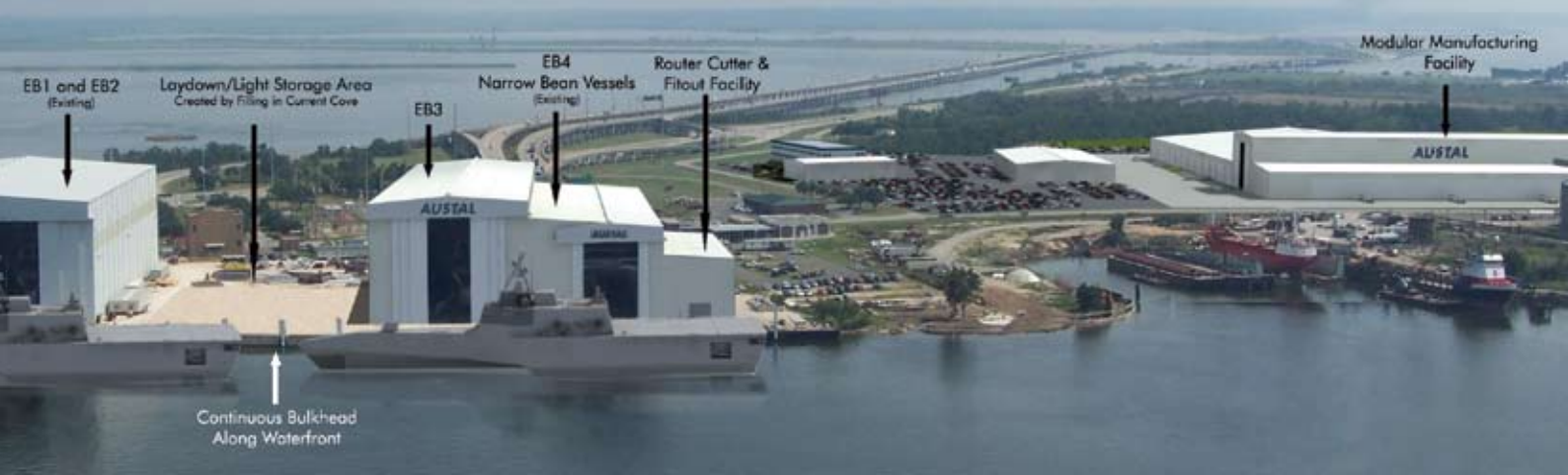
With a confirmed service speed of 52 knots, "Shinas" exceeded contract requirements while also reaching a maximum speed of 55.9 knots (103.5 km/h) during trials.

"Shinas" made the 15-day journey from Western Australia to Oman on its own power, making scheduled stops at the Cocos Islands and Mal'e in the Maldives.

Its recently launched sister vessel "Hormuz" is scheduled to repeat the delivery voyage later this year.

*"Shinas" is equipped with helicopter landing facilities suitable for a medium class helicopter.*





# AUSTAL BUILDS USA CAPABILITY

As recently as 2004, Austal's US shipyard employed a small workforce of just 116 and its construction experience was limited to smaller catamarans and crewboats.

Today, Austal USA employs over 1000 skilled workers, and moored alongside the facility is the landmark 127 metre Littoral Combat Ship "Independence" (LCS-2) - a next generation warship for the US Navy. Events such as the recent launch of LCS-2 underline how much has been achieved at the Mobile, Alabama shipyard since its establishment in 1999.

Since its inception the US shipyard has taken the deliberate strategy of carefully growing its capacity and skills in order to be able to confidently deliver

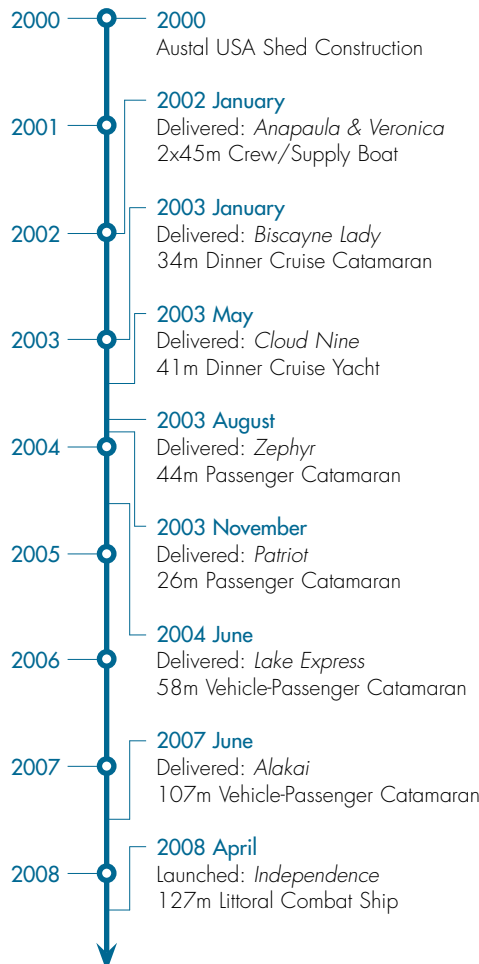
larger high performance aluminium ships, according to Austal USA Chief Executive Officer Bob Browning.

*"This capability cannot be developed overnight without great risk of failure, as we have seen previously at other shipyards, including several in Canada, Europe and Asia, taking on large high speed vessel projects without an appropriate learning curve,"* Mr Browning said.

The recent purchase of an adjacent 100 acres of land will see Austal USA commence construction of a new state-of-the-art Modular Manufacturing Facility (MMF) later this year. Once completed in 2011, the facility (pictured above) will double Austal USA's shipbuilding capability to six large vessels, such as the 127m LCS or JHSV, per year.



## GROWTH TIMELINE





*Qatar Navy Brigadier Khalid Saif Al-Naser presents Austal Sales Manager Richard Regan with an award for Austal's participation at DIMDEX 08.*

## AUSTAL ILS CAPABILITY BOOSTED

With an increased emphasis on maximising the operational availability of defence vessels worldwide, Austal has significantly enhanced its capability to provide comprehensive Integrated Logistics Support (ILS) packages for a wide variety of defence platforms.

Drawing on the extensive experience of its global service network, Austal ILS packages include Maintenance Planning, Logistic Support, Operator and Maintainer Training, Unscheduled Maintenance and Repairs, Technical Consultancy and Assistance with Dry Docking and Surveys.

Contracts for scheduled and unscheduled maintenance and crew training services were attached to Austal's recent order for six Fast Patrol Craft for the Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard (TTCG).

Austal's newly appointed ILS Manager, Mark Dixon, said securing the through life support contracts for the TTCG patrol boat fleet highlights the comprehensive vessel support service that Austal now provides.

*"The current defence market calls for increased vessel supportability. With a focus on building up training packages and maintenance packages, Austal continues to emerge as a provider of Integrated Logistics Support,"* Mr Dixon said.

The 101 metre Austal-built "WestPac Express", which has served with the US Marines III MEF based in Okinawa, Japan since 2001, is a further example of Austal's experience in delivering effective through life support services.

Over the past six years, "WestPac Express" has achieved a technical reliability of 99.7 per cent due to Austal's ongoing support and maintenance program.

## DEFENCE PLATFORMS ON SHOW

Austal's advanced aluminium vessel technology proved a popular attraction at this year's Doha International Maritime Defence Exhibition & Conference (DIMDEX), held in March.

On display were detailed scale models of Austal's "Independence", Armidale Class Patrol Boat and Multi-Role Vessel, each showcasing the flexibility and capability of high speed, lightweight aluminium defence vessels.

The three-day exhibition provided Austal with significant promotional and networking opportunities with key delegations from the Middle East and North African region among those to visit the Austal stand.

Lengthy discussions were held with representatives from various Middle Eastern navies and coast guards.

Austal will return to Qatar for the Milipol Qatar 2008 Exhibition held between the 17 – 19 November. Visit the Austal website to arrange an appointment with an Austal representative.



*A scale model of Austal's 56 metre Armidale Class Patrol Boat (pictured) was on display at DIMDEX 2008. All 14 vessels are currently in operation with the Royal Australian Navy, where they carry out surveillance, interception, investigation, apprehension and the escort to port of vessels suspected of illegal fisheries, quarantine, customs or immigration offences. Photograph courtesy: Royal Australian Navy.*

## Austal Exhibition Activities

Interferry 2008 Hong Kong	5 Oct—7 Oct
NDIA Expeditionary Warfare Conference 2008 Panama City, Florida	20 Oct—23 Oct
Marine Log Ferries 2008 Delray Beach, Florida	3 Nov—5 Nov
Milipol Qatar 2008 Qatar International Exhibition Centre, Doha	17 Nov—19 Nov
Exponaval 2008 Vina Del Mar, Chile	2 Dec—5 Dec
International Work Boat Show 2008 New Orleans, LA	3 Dec—5 Dec
IDEX 2009 Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre, UAE	22 Feb—26 Feb
IMDEX ASIA 2009 Singapore Expo, Singapore	12 May—14 May



Shipyards: Australia and USA  
Email: sales@austal.com Fax: +61 8 9410 2564 Tel: +61 8 9410 1111

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