

AUSTAL DEFENCE NEWS

QUEENSLAND POLICE ON PATROL



▲ First of the three 22m catamaran Queensland Police Service vessels during recent sea trials.

Economical, practical, reliable and delivered fast - the three 22m catamaran police boats built for the Queensland Police Service (QPS) demonstrate the benefits of Austal's lightweight aluminium construction technology.

Less than a year since contract signing, Austal's Tasmanian shipyard - which specialises in small to medium size construction - has already delivered the first two vessels, with the final one scheduled for handover in coming weeks.

Intended to patrol remote, tropical locations for extended periods, as far north as Thursday Island, each vessel has a cruising speed of 20 knots, a minimum range of 700 nautical miles and are powered by two MTU Series 60 diesel engines.

The ability to drive on / drive off a six metre rigid inflatable boat (RHIB) while underway is a significant feature of each vessel.

Austal Director - Global Sales and Marketing, Andrew Bellamy, said smaller platforms like the QPS Police Boats were an important part of modern maritime security efforts.

"The benefits of lightweight aluminium construction technology in smaller patrol and police platforms - such as significantly lower operating costs - are becoming increasingly relevant to police forces and navies worldwide," Mr Bellamy said.

"Similar vessels are also under construction for the Armed Forces of Malta and the Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard at our Western Australian facility," he said.

Upon completion of the QPS order, Austal will have built 37 vessels for policing, customs and navy roles within Australian waters.

Sizeable orders from clients including the Australian Customs Service, the Royal Australian Navy, Kuwait Coast Guard and the Republic of Yemen have firmly reinforced Austal's position among the world's elite patrol boat suppliers.

Last year Austal's Tasmanian shipyard delivered two 47.5 metre high speed catamarans to Hong Kong. The shipyard adds to Austal's ability to facilitate the fast delivery of small to medium size vessels built to the highest quality standards at a competitive cost.

Inside this issue...



Maltese Fleet Takes Shape



Patrol Craft Ahead of Schedule



JHSV Moves Towards Construction

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO COAST GUARD UNDERGOES CREW TRAINING

More than 90 personnel from the Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard (TTCG) have commenced a comprehensive Austal vessel training program in preparation for the delivery of their six vessel fast patrol craft fleet in early 2010.

The crew training program - held at Austal's dedicated training facilities in Western Australia - will familiarise TTCG personnel with the specific features and capabilities of the 30 metre fast patrol craft, equipping them with the skills necessary to operate and maintain the vessels.

The crew training package comprises two different streams - a familiarisation training program for TTCG deck officers and ratings, and a maintenance training program for engineer officers and ratings.

Austal Service Manager Michael McCourt said coinciding the training program with the construction of the vessels provided the ideal environment for Austal's dedicated training service.

“Completion of the training program will elevate each of the personnel to a new level of expertise in their relevant field in a timeframe much shorter than traditional training programs,” Mr McCourt said.

Austal will train a further 60 TTCG personnel on location in Trinidad and Tobago commencing January, 2010.



▲ Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Gary Alexis with the Coast Guard personnel.

YEMEN VESSELS ON PIRATE PATROL

Austal's 38 metre patrol platform is playing an active role in protecting international shipping from pirates in the Gulf of Aden.

Yemen currently operates ten of its Austal-built 38 metre high speed patrol vessels (pictured) in surrounding waters, where they regularly act as armed escorts for cargo ships and other vessels along piracy prone routes.

Each vessel is armed with two 12.7mm machine guns and one 30mm twin barrel gun, with each capable of a maximum speed of almost 30 knots.

The vessels' aluminium construction delivers both excellent high speed performance and through-life economies due to reduced propulsive power and maintenance requirements.



Austal's 38m patrol platform during operations in the Gulf of Aden. ►

DEFENCE DEBRIEF



Written by John Caccivio
Head of Austal's Global Defence Sales

Amidst the global attention generated by our larger US Navy projects such as LCS and JHSV, we are continuing to field growing interest in our smaller, lightweight, high speed patrol and police vessels.

The influx of piracy in certain affected regions is certainly attracting international attention and concern, while inevitably provoking discussion about potential solutions.

In this instance we are witnessing the emergence of a modern threat that utilises speed and flexibility against a target that has neither.

It is significant therefore to see our 38 metre patrol boats playing an active role in protecting international shipping transiting the Gulf of Aden. Delivered in 2004, these vessels have proven to be reliable, highly capable platforms made extremely cost-effective through Austal's efficient, high productivity design and manufacturing techniques, as well as focus on customer requirements. This includes the provision of operational and maintenance training.

Similar patrol boat fleets for Trinidad and Tobago and the Armed Forces of Malta, along with police boats for the Queensland Police Service are all at varied stages of construction at our Australian shipyards. Each of these aluminium platforms are characterised by shallow drafts, high speeds, flexibility and reduced maintenance costs. The ability to procure this capability fast is another important consideration for navies coast guards and other security agencies.

One of the factors in Austal being awarded the recent Maltese patrol boat contract was the ability to deliver the vessels within 9 months. In the case of the Queensland Police vessels, two have been delivered less than 11 months since contract signing, with the third and final vessel to be completed in coming weeks.

A focus on delivering platforms that address the changing needs of the market means Austal Defence looks forward to an eventful remainder of 2009.

PATROL CRAFT AHEAD OF SCHEDULE



▲ Construction continues on six 30 metre patrol craft for the Trinidad & Tobago Coast Guard.

Final preparations are underway for the launch of the first of six 30 metre fast patrol craft for the Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard.

The important milestone - due to occur later this month - will be closely followed by the launch of the remaining vessels, all of which are at an advanced stage of construction at Austal's Western Australian facilities.

Ordered in April 2008, construction of the six vessel fleet is currently ahead of schedule, with

the original delivery date set at early 2010.

Once delivered, the all-aluminium fast patrol boats will support the Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard in providing sustained surveillance in the country's internal waters, the archipelagic territorial sea and its exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

Austal Business Development Manager – Defence, Jamie Robinson, said the speed at which the vessels were being constructed demonstrated Austal's ability to deliver quality multi-vessel orders in short periods.

“We are seeing modern maritime security increasingly typified by rapidly changing threats, so the speed at which suitable solutions can be delivered is an important consideration,” Mr Robinson said.

Each vessel will have a 12 man crew, a maximum speed of 40 knots and will be armed with three General Purpose Machine Guns and a 20mm Cannon.

JHSV MOVES TOWARDS CONSTRUCTION

Austal is preparing to commence construction of the US Department of Defense's next generation multi-use platform, the Joint High Speed Vessel (JHSV) at its US shipyard.

As prime contractor, Austal will design and construct the first 103-metre JHSV, with options for nine additional vessels expected to be exercised between FY09 and FY13.

Austal was awarded the contract in November last year, as part of a program potentially worth over US\$1.6 billion.

Similar to the Austal-built “WestPac Express” operated by the US Marines for the past eight years, the JHSV will be capable of transporting troops and their equipment, supporting humanitarian relief efforts, operating in shallow

waters and reaching speeds in excess of 35 knots fully loaded.

The vessels will be a joint-use platform operated by both the United States Army and Navy.

Austal's 103 metre JHSV is currently in a final design phase, with work scheduled to commence at Austal's US shipyard later this year.



▼ Cutaway view showing the large, flexible mission dock and loading ramp.



◀ A computer render of the 103m JHSV underway

US NAVY CHIEF TOURS AUSTAL USA



Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Gary Roughead tours the bridge of the littoral combat ship "Independence" (LCS 2) at the Austal USA shipyard.

Photo courtesy of US Navy

Chief of the US Navy Adm. Gary Roughead has been "encouraged" by progress of "Independence" (LCS 2) during a recent visit to Austal's Mobile, Alabama facilities.

During his tour, Adm. Roughead spoke with Navy and industry leaders to get program status updates and meet with Sailors in the pre-commissioning units.

He said he had been eager to see LCS 2 as he feels strongly about the ship class and the capabilities and capacity it brings to the US Navy.

"I was encouraged with what I saw today on LCS 2," Adm. Roughead said.

Meanwhile, US Secretary of Defense, Robert M. Gates, has told reporters of the suitability of the LCS platform for combating pirates.

"It is the kind of capability that would have enormous value against fast boats, for example, in the Persian Gulf," Sec. Gates said.

"You don't need a \$5 billion-ship to go after pirates. You don't need a \$5 billion-ship necessarily to do a humanitarian mission. And so I think its flexibility and its ability to get into tighter places than other ships that make it so attractive," he said.

Note: At time of print the US Navy had just confirmed a contract for a second Austal designed and built LCS.

LCS ENGINE LIGHT OFF COMPLETE

Sea trials of the US Navy's landmark 127 metre high speed Littoral Combat Ship (LCS 2) "Independence" are imminent following the successful light off of the vessel's main engines.

The trimaran vessel will perform final sea trials before delivery to the US Navy in September.

With a shallow draft, high payload, superior aviation capability, large internal mission deck and unique modular mission system, along with advanced seakeeping and speed, the vessel is set to significantly bolster the littoral capabilities of the US Navy.

Light off of the vessel's two MTU diesels and GE gas turbines follows the fuel load and testing of all four of the vessel's generators. Each of the four main engines drives a Wartsila Lips waterjet to provide speeds in excess of 40 knots.

By utilising the 127-metre Austal trimaran seaframe, the vessel boasts the highest flight deck elevation of any combatant ship, other than a major amphibious vessel or aircraft carrier. The flight deck is capable of conducting dual H-60 helicopter operations and can accommodate the US Navy's largest helicopter, the H-53 – a feature not available on similar size naval vessels.



▲ Littoral combat ship "Independence" (LCS 2) berthed alongside the Austal USA shipyard

Platform Profile



The APB 43 platform is a coastal patrol solution designed specifically for navies and coast guards. Endurance, low manning requirements and superior seakeeping are the key features of the APB 43, which is suited to performing EEZ surveillance and border protection.

The APB 43's speed and configurable weapons package also makes it attractive to modern maritime security agencies responsible for the protection of offshore assets, such as oil and gas infrastructure and cargo ships.

The fast delivery of multiple APB 43s can be facilitated by Austal's powerful production capacity. For more information on the APB 43 platform contact Austal at sales@austal.com

CHARACTERISTICS - APB 43

Length Overall:	43.3 metres
Beam Overall:	8.0 metres
Draft:	2.2 metres
Endurance Range @ 12 knots:	10 days / 1,200nm

MALTESE PATROL FLEET TAKES SHAPE



▲ Computer render showing the Armed Forces of Malta 21.2m inshore patrol craft.

Construction is underway on a four-vessel inshore patrol craft fleet for the Armed Forces of Malta (AFM) at Austal's Western Australian facilities.

Ordered in February, the vessels will assist the AFM with surveillance and border protection throughout Malta's coastal waters and have a maximum speed of more than 26 knots with the capability to support 7.62mm and 12.7mm guns.

Delivery of all four vessels is scheduled for the end of the year.

Speaking at the contract signing ceremony held in Malta, AMF Lt Col Martin Sammut said the vessels were a logical progression from the AMF's current fleet.

"These aluminium vessels will be operated by a maximum crew of 8 personnel and will be a major improvement in crew comfort and safety owing to better crew accommodation and enhanced catering and messing facilities," Lt Col Sammut said.

"These patrol vessels will enhance the border surveillance capabilities owing to better sea-keeping characteristics, extended range of operations, and better endurance than the current inshore patrol boats," he said.

By utilising a planing aluminium hull, the 21.2 metre inshore patrol craft combine economical performance at all operational speeds with superior seakeeping in varying sea conditions.

Austal Vice President - Global Defence Sales, John Caccivio said Austal's advanced aluminium defence platforms - typified by their speed, shallow drafts, flexibility and reduced maintenance costs - were finding increased global relevance.

"To now extend our reach to the European defence market - a market that usually shows preference towards domestic builds - underlines not only the uniqueness of the Austal product but

also the evolution of maritime security challenges, such as piracy and terrorism, within global littoral waters," Mr Caccivio said.

AFM responsibilities include maintaining Malta's territorial waters through combating terrorism and illicit drug trafficking, conducting anti-illegal immigrant and anti-illegal fishing operations, operating Search and Rescue (SAR) services, and physical/electronic security/surveillance of sensitive locations.

The project is being co-financed by the European Union's External Border Fund 2008

21.2M ALUMINIUM INSHORE PATROL CRAFT

Characteristics

Length	21.2m
Draft	1.8m
Crew	8
Classification	DNV +1A1 HSLC R2 Patrol



▲ Austal Business Development Manager - Defence, Jamie Robinson, with AMF Brigadier Carmel Vassallo at the signing ceremony in Malta.



▲ The 21.2m inshore patrol craft under construction in Henderson, Western Australia.

CHINESE DEPLOYMENT FOR ARMIDALE CLASS

The Royal Australian Navy has deployed one of its Austal-built Armidale Class Patrol Boats to China to take part in the Chinese International Fleet Review.

The 56 metre "HMAS Pirie" joined units from 15 other nations during April to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the establishment of the People's Liberation Army - Navy.

The vessel has a maximum speed of more than 25 knots, a range of more than 3000 nautical miles and is armed with a 25mm stabilised naval gun and two 12.7 mm machine guns.

Austal delivered the last of 14 Armidale Class Patrol Boats to the Royal Australian Navy in 2007.



Photo courtesy of Royal Australian Navy

SOUTH AMERICAN INTEREST FOR AUSTAL



▲ US Chief of Navy Adm. Gary Roughead talks with Austal Sales Manager Chris Pemberton during the exhibition.

Austal's advanced aluminium vessel technology attracted significant interest from a number of South American navies during the recent ExpoNaval 2008 exhibition, held in Valparaiso, Chile in December.

The exhibition was an opportunity for Austal to meet with the region's navies and maritime security forces, learn about their requirements and inform them of the company's range of defence platforms.

On display were detailed scale models of Austal's 56 metre Armidale Class Patrol Boat and Multi-Role Vessel (MRV).

Among the high ranking officials to attend the exhibition were the US Cmdr of the Fourth Fleet, the future First Sea Lord of the UK Royal Navy, as well as Chiefs of Naval Staff from Argentina, Brazil and New Zealand.

Austal's range of high speed, lightweight aluminium defence vessels will also be on display at a number of upcoming exhibitions (see below). Visit the Austal website to arrange an appointment with an Austal representative.

AUSTAL EXHIBITION ACTIVITIES

IMDEX Singapore Expo, Singapore	12 -14 MAY 2009	FAST 2009 Athens, Greece	5 - 8 OCT 2009	EXPEDITIONARY WARFARE CONF. 19 - 22 OCT 2009 Marriott Beach Resort, Panama City, FL
BRIDEX Brunei	12 - 15 AUG 2009	ANNUAL USA MEETING Washington DC Convention Center	5 - 7 OCT 2009	NDIA EXPEDITIONARY WARFARE 16 - 19 OCT 2009 Panama City, FL



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

WWW.AUSTAL.COM

BREAKING NEWS
AUSTAL AWARDED SECOND LCS
See Austal website for details