Austal Finalizes Deal for San Diego Waterfront Ship Repair Facility



The Independence-variant littoral combat ships USS Gabrielle Giffords (LCS 10), bottom, and USS Montgomery (LCS 8) operate in the South China Sea. Shipbuilder Austal USA has finalized a deal to establish a repair facility in the Port of San Diego, including for littoral combat ships. *U.S. NAVY / Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Chris Roys*

SAN DIEGO – Austal USA has finalized a deal to establish a repair facility in the Port of San Diego, the company said Dec. 15.

The deal includes a long-term lease of a waterfront site in National City adjacent to Naval Base San Diego. Austal USA's 15-acre site will focus on ship repair for U.S. Navy, Military

Sealift Command and U.S. Coast Guard ships. The site will be centered on a newly built dry dock designed to efficiently dock small surface combatants and similar sized ships.

“This agreement marks a major milestone in the continued growth of Austal USA’s services business. When the dry dock is delivered, we will be able to provide the Navy a highly capable full-service repair facility located in the homeport of San Diego,” Austal USA President Rusty Murdaugh said. “We know how valuable this additional repair facility is to our customers, the Navy, Coast Guard, and Military Sealift Command, and we are ready to meet the growing demand. We are also looking forward to working closely with the National City community as we expand our presence in the area.”

Austal USA will establish a full-service ship repair capability providing maintenance and modernization for small surface combatants, unmanned and autonomous vessels, and other ships. The site will include a dry dock optimized to execute availabilities on littoral combat ships and other small surface combatants. Services will include technical and material support, topside work, and drydocking availabilities. The new facility will enable more availabilities to be completed in their home port of San Diego reducing the strain on the fleet and Sailors.

This lease agreement follows a string of maintenance contract awards for Austal USA. In August, the Navy awarded Austal SEC East and West contracts positioning the company to service all Littoral Combat Ships. In November, Austal received a contract to provide services and support for LCS deployed to the Western Pacific and Indian Ocean. These contracts are the result of the company’s significant investment in and continued focus on growing its service business and centers in Mobile, San Diego and Singapore.