

Austal's Australian Operations Approved to Bid for U.S. Naval Ship Support

HENDERSON, Western Australia – Austal Limited's shipyards and service centers in Australia have been approved to bid for and provide support services, including ship repairs, maintenance and sustainment activity for U.S. Navy and Military Sealift Command ships, according to the company.

With the agreement of boat repair (ABR) now in place, Austal's Australian operations may now bid to provide emergent repair services to deployed U.S. ships, including the Austal designed and constructed Independence-class littoral combat ships. The ABR also allows Austal to bid for maintenance and repair of MSC ships deployed to the region, to include the Austal designed and constructed Spearhead-class expeditionary fast transport (EPF) vessels.

Austal CEO David Singleton said the approval from the U.S. Navy demonstrates Austal's global capability to provide OEM support to major naval fleets.

"With this approval, Austal can provide a range of vessel repairs, maintenance and in-service support to U.S. Navy and MSC ships operating throughout South East Asia," Singleton said.

"As the designer and builder, no one knows the Independence-class LCS or Spearhead-class EPF better than us, and we're naturally very pleased and proud to now have the opportunity to provide local support for these vessels to the U.S. Navy, as opportunities arise," he said.

The approval from the U.S. Navy allows Austal to bid for work on U.S. naval vessels that may visit Australia, including

Cairns in Queensland, Darwin in the Northern Territory or Fremantle (Henderson) in western Australia.

Austal has delivered 10 Independence-class LCS to the U.S. Navy since 2010 and continues to construct six vessels at the Austal USA shipyard in Mobile, Alabama. A total of 19 Independence-class LCS have been contracted, along with 14 Spearhead-class EPF's, 11 of which have been delivered to the American Navy.