

Media information



ASC welcomes AWD block preferred suppliers

Saturday, 9 May 2009

ASC – shipbuilder for the Hobart Class Air Warfare Destroyer (AWD) Program – has congratulated the FORGACS group and NQEA Australia Pty Ltd on their selection as preferred suppliers of blocks for the AWD build program.

Greg Tunny, Managing Director of ASC, said the selection would see NQEA and FORGACS build seventy per cent of the blocks before subsequent fit-out and ship integration by ASC at its Adelaide shipyard.

“ASC is delighted to welcome FORGACS and NQEA to the AWD Program, and we look forward to working closely with these Australian block constructors throughout the AWD construction task,” said Mr Tunny.

“A critical part of ASC’s AWD bid in 2005 was to share block construction with other companies across Australia that have the capability to build blocks for the three AWDs; today’s announcement represents a significant milestone in the realisation of our goal.

“ASC will subcontract the construction of 66 blocks to NQEA and FORGACS over the life of the AWD Program. ASC itself will build 27 blocks, and integrate and consolidate all 93 blocks into three next generation warships.

“Meanwhile, we continue to make steady progress on the upgrade and construction of our \$120 million shipyard, which is on track for completion in late 2009.”

Upon completion, ASC’s dedicated AWD shipyard will allow for the fabrication and construction of ship blocks, assembly of the AWDs (including handling and transport), outfitting work, set-to-work of equipment and systems, and trial activities.

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ASC Pty Ltd

ACN 008 605 034
ABN 64 008 605 034

Telephone + 61 8 8348 7000

Facsimile + 61 8 8348 7001

Mersey Road, Osborne
South Australia 5017

GPO Box 2472, Adelaide
South Australia 5001

www.asc.com.au

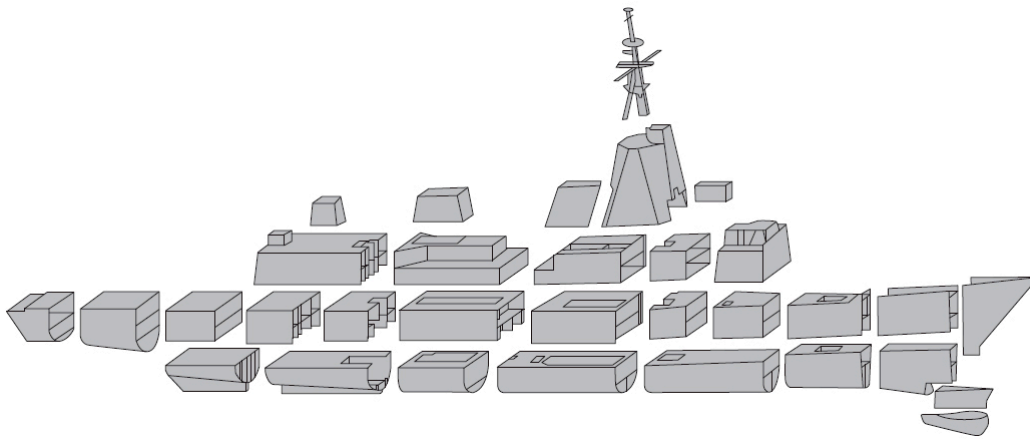
AWD BLOCKS

The AWDs will be constructed using the block build method.

Thirty per cent of the blocks will be constructed by ASC at its Osborne, South Australia shipyard with the other 70 per cent to be built under subcontract facilities elsewhere in Australia.

The blocks constructed off site will be transported via ship or barge to Adelaide for block erection and integration by ASC.

Blocks will average 15 metres by 12 metres by 9 metres, and weigh around 200 tonnes each.



ASC (formerly Australian Submarine Corporation) is the nation's last remaining Australian-owned prime defence contractor. The company was responsible for the design and construction of the Collins Class submarines and today delivers design, upgrade and maintenance services for the submarines through-life. In May 2005, ASC was selected to build Australia's next generation warships – the Hobart Class air warfare destroyers. ASC employs over 1,500 personnel in South Australia and Western Australia, including 280 engineering and technical specialists.

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MORE INFORMATION: Ben Osborne

CONTACT: 0412 251 390

ben.osborne@asc.com.au
