ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY’S PREFERRED PATROL BOATS FEATURE CEA TECHNOLOGIES’ COMMUNICATIONS AND DIRECTION FINDING SYSTEMS

Australia’s Minister for Defence, Senator The Hon. Robert Hill, announced on 29 August 2003 that Defence Maritime Services (DMS) and Austal Ships have been selected by the Australian Government as the preferred tenderer to design, build and provide through-life support to the Royal Australian Navy’s new patrol boats. The proposed vessels will be equipped with CEA Technologies’ Integrated Ships Communications System (CEA-ISCS) and WARRLOCK Direction Finding (DF) systems. Both systems are in operation with the RAN, CEA-ISCS providing integrated internal and external communications for the RAN’s Huon Class Coastal Minehunters and WARRLOCK on the current Fremantle Patrol Boats and other ships.

The communications system (CEA-ISCS) is a key capability of the new patrol boats, integrating the vessels’ secure, non-secure and internal communications systems. The patrol boats can communicate with a wide variety of military, government organisations and civilian craft. Access to the system is available from various locations on the ship, allowing greater flexibility for the communications staff.

The WARRLOCK DF system is an aid to search and rescue and the location of illegal activities. The systems are designed, developed, manufactured and supported from CEA’s Australian offices, and thus contribute to the high level of local content in the DMS/Austal bid.

CEA’s involvement in the Replacement Patrol Boat program would provide employment for over 20 skilled professionals for up to five years in engineering, project management and technical disciplines. The program builds on CEA’s position as a supplier of leading-edge communications and radar systems.

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