OFFICIAL NAMING OF FIRST NEW AUSTRALIAN PATROL BOAT

CEA Technologies congratulates the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) on the official naming of Armidale and is proud to be a supplier of communications equipment to the latest vessel to carry the name.

CEA’s Chief Executive Officer Mike Aitchison said, “Along with Defence Maritime Services (DMS) and Austal we are proud to be associated with the excellent team delivering advanced capability in a rapid schedule.”

“We are supplying the integrated communications and direction finding systems. These systems are critical to the vessel completing its mission. We believe Armidale to be the first ship built with this type of mast structure designed for such levels of data communications on a small platform. The design is innovative to achieve this in a 56m vessel and demonstrates the RF design capabilities of CEA.”

“The communication system is the next generation from that in the RAN’s Huon Class Coastal Minehunters, providing enhanced technical and operational capabilities.”

The program has aligned CEA for future expansion to meet the objectives and challenges of other Defence programs.

Background

Armidale was officially named at a naming ceremony at Austal Ships, Henderson Facility in Western Australia on 22 January 2005.

The prime contractor to the Australian Department of Defence is Defence Maritime Services. The ship builder is Austal Ships, Henderson WA

CEA has various contracts under this program to Austal, DMS and the Commonwealth however the major contract is with Austal.

The total value of work to CEA is in excess of $40M.

CEA’s communications system (CEA-ISCS) is a key capability of the new patrol boats, integrating the vessels’ secure, non-secure and internal communications systems and enabling the crew to 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 crew.

The WARRLOCK Direction Finding 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 facility and head office.

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