

[2 Images](#)

UPGRADE UPDATE

Date Posted: 05-May-2010

International Defence Review

## HMAS Perth begins pilot ANZAC frigate ASMD refit

**Richard Scott**

Work has started in Western Australia to refit the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) ANZAC-class frigate HMAS *Perth* with an extensive package of combat system upgrades designed to significantly enhance its anti-ship missile defence (ASMD) capability under Project SEA 1448 Phase 2.

On completion of the refit, *Perth* will be used to de-risk and prove the ASMD upgrade ahead of retrofit to the RAN's seven other ANZAC-class ships.

Project SEA 1448 Phase 2 embraces a series of improvements to the ANZAC frigate combat system designed to provide the frigates with enhanced platform survivability against medium and emerging high-end missile threats. These comprise the upgrade of the existing Saab Systems 9LV combat management system to 9LV Mk3E standard; the introduction of the Sagem Vampir NG infrared search and track system; and a new radar suite featuring the CEA Technologies' CEAFAR E/F-band active phased array surveillance radar - replacing the legacy Sea Giraffe target indication radar - and associated CEAMOUNT I/J-band illuminator (providing multi-channel mid-course guidance and illumination for the Raytheon RIM-162 Evolved SeaSparrow Missile).

The complete ASMD system has already undergone extensive trials at the ANZAC Class System Support Facility at HMAS Stirling. Australia's Defence Materiel Organisation (DMO) reports that the upgraded combat suite successfully completed land-based system integration testing in December 2009.

*Perth* started its ASMD upgrade installation in January 2010 at the Australian Marine Complex (AMC) at Henderson, Western Australia. Installation activities will continue through to October 2010, with harbour and sea testing then following through to April 2011.

The DMO adds: "The project will deliver an initial in-service operational capability by mid-2011 followed by an extended operational evaluation period of 12 months."

Pictures released by the DMO show *Perth* alongside at AMC in March 2010 with its existing radar mast structures removed. Meanwhile, the new main mast - which will accommodate both the CEAFAR and CEAMOUNT phased arrays in an integrated enclosure - is now structurally complete and awaiting outfitting.



*HMAS Perth  
alongside at the  
Australian  
Marine  
Complex in  
Henderson.  
(Australian  
Defence  
Materiel  
Organisation)  
1347956*



*HMAS Perth's  
new aft mast.  
(Australian  
Defence  
Materiel  
Organisation)  
1347957*

Copyright IHS Global Limited,  
2010