

Austal wins largest individual contract

An unconditional contract has been confirmed for the supply of four fast ferries, consisting of two 69 metre and two 88 metre Austal Auto Express vehicle-passenger catamaran designs. Further customer details cannot be released at this stage.

Commenting on the announcement Austal's Executive Chairman, John Rothwell, said:



Artist impression of the four ropax ferries ordered from Austal

"This huge contract is of particular importance, not only in adding to our current strong order book but

also as it confirms our presence in a region with substantial growth opportunities for Austal".

Due for delivery in 2009, these fast ferries will be built in Western Australia.

Bourbon building GPA 670 MKII quartet

French marine services provider Bourbon Offshore has placed an order for four GPA 670 MKII special products vessels designed by Seattle-based naval architect firm Guido Perla & Associates (GPA), thereby expanding their well-proven GPA designed fleet to 96 vessels. This includes 54 GPA 254 AHTS, 24 GPA 654 PSV and 4 GPA 670 ROV, which were all ordered within the last year.

The 70-metre newbuildings will be built at Zhejiang Shipyard in China and will be equipped with two Z-Drive, open-water propeller units, as well as two tunnel bow thrusters. The use of environmentally friendly diesel-electric propulsion results in excellent fuel efficiency, as well as lower operating cost for the owner.

In addition to the fuel efficiency of the vessels, competitive pricing for the GPA 670 series, of which Bourbon is already successfully operating ten vessels, provides the owner with an excellent return of investment.

The GPA 670 MKII will primarily be engaged in the transport of stores, materials and equipment to offshore installations in tropical areas and distinguishes itself from other platform support vessels mainly due to its ability to carry

approximately 170 cubic metres of special products in specially designed tanks located in the aft end of the vessel. Furthermore, the DP2- and FFV1-certified vessels can also provide the capability to carry 255 cubic metres of bulk material, as well as 1,083 cubic metres of liquid products.

Delivery for the first GPA 670 MKII special products vessel is expected at the end of May 2008 with the last due in December 2008, increasing the number of GPA 670 PSVs Bourbon owns to 18.

Artist impression of the GPA 670 MKII special products vessel



Aker to build PSV for GDV

Aker Yards has signed a contract with GDV Shipping AS in Arendal, Norway, to deliver one Aker PSV/ROV 06CD platform supply vessel. The total value of the

contract is approximately \$67 million.

The 94.9 metre hull for the 4,400DWT vessel will be built in Romania and outfitted in Norway.

Delivery of the vessel is scheduled for the 4th quarter of 2009.

The contract also includes an option for a similar vessel for delivery in the 2nd quarter of 2010.

Profile drawing of the Aker PSV/ROV 06CD

