

Austal USA Awarded Contract for Next Generation Logistics Ship Design Studies



Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70) conducts a replenishment-at-sea with Henry J. Kaiser-class fleet replenishment oiler USNS Rappahannock (T-AO 204). The next-generation logistics ship is intended to be a smaller than current combat logistics force ships such as the Rappahannock. *U.S. NAVY / Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Elizabeth Grubbs*

MOBILE, Ala. – Austal USA was awarded a contract to perform design studies for the U.S. Navy's next generation logistics ship program Dec. 20, the company announced.

This contract requires Austal to develop a new baseline design and perform specific trade studies for the Navy's newest logistics ship. Austal, as the shipbuilder and design agent, will be the prime contractor.

"Austal is excited to begin work on another U.S. Navy steel shipbuilding program," Austal USA President Rusty Murdaugh said. "This contract, combined with our recent T-ATS ship construction contract award and the concept studies we are performing on the LAW p[light amphibious warships] rogram, demonstrate our commitment to bring the same industry leading quality to steel ships as we have been delivering for aluminum ships."

The next generation logistics ship program represents a new class of medium-sized at-sea supply ships intended to support small surface combatants such as littoral combat ships and frigates as well as the Navy's planned LAW. The mission of the NGLS fleet will include refueling, rearming, and resupply of naval assets.

Austal USA's reputation of completing major military vessel contracts on schedule and on budget gives the company a strong foundation to provide a highly capable and cost effective NGLS design to the Navy.