

## Media information



# AWD construction commences in Victoria, NSW and South Australia

15 April 2010

Construction of Australia's air warfare destroyer (AWD) capability is underway, with three Australian shipyards simultaneously building destroyer blocks.

Adelaide-based ASC, shipbuilder for the AWD Project, has congratulated its block subcontractors - BAE Systems (Williamstown, Victoria) and FORGACS (Newcastle, New South Wales) - for commencing their build programs on time.

ASC Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Steve Ludlam said the simultaneous construction of AWD blocks in multiple Australian shipyards reflected a truly national commitment to building the three AWDs.

"A critical part of ASC's AWD bid in 2005 was to share block construction with other companies across Australia that have the capability to build blocks for three AWDs," Mr Ludlam said.

"This vision is now a reality with shipyards in South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales simultaneously building blocks for the largest defence project in the nation's history."

ASC has subcontracted the construction of 65 blocks to BAE Systems and FORGACS over the life of the AWD Project. ASC will build 28 blocks, and integrate and consolidate all 93 blocks into three next generation warships.

ASC will undertake its own fabrication and construction of ship blocks in its dedicated AWD shipyard, which was officially opened in January 2010.

The \$120 million shipyard will also be home to the assembly of the AWDs (including handling and transport), outfitting work, set-to-work of equipment and systems, and trial activities.

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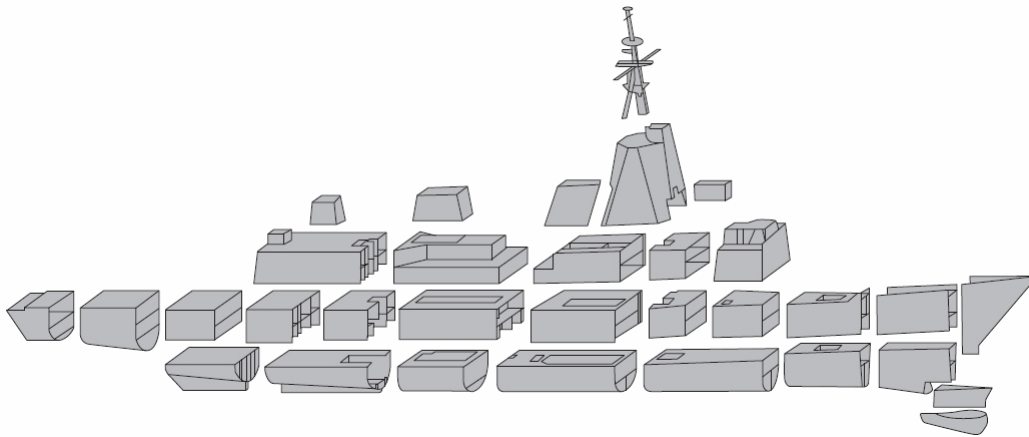
## AWD BLOCKS

The AWDs will be constructed using the block build method.

Thirty per cent of the blocks will be constructed by ASC at its Osborne, South Australia shipyard with the other 70 per cent to be built by BAE Systems in Williamstown, Victoria and FORGACS in Newcastle, New South Wales.

The blocks constructed off site will be transported by sea to Adelaide for block erection and integration by ASC.

Blocks will average 15 metres by 12 metres by 9 metres, and weigh around 200 tonnes each.



*ASC (formerly known as Australian Submarine Corporation) is the nation's last remaining Australian-owned prime defence contractor. The company constructed the Collins Class submarines and today delivers design, upgrade and maintenance services for the submarines through-life. ASC is also the shipbuilder of Australia's next generation warships – the Hobart Class air warfare destroyers. ASC employs over 1,600 personnel in South Australia and Western Australia, including 280 engineering and technical specialists.*

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