

AWD Alliance Contract Signing Ceremony

ASC Shipbuilding, 4 October 2007

Speech by John Gallacher, AWD Alliance Chief Executive Officer

Today is, without doubt, a day of celebration.

As I drove down Victoria Road towards the shipyard this morning, I considered the magnitude of this day – and how it will forever be carved in the history of the Hobart Class Air Warfare Destroyer Program.

Very shortly DMO, ASC and Raytheon will collectively sign the much anticipated contract that will kick-start Phase 3 of the Program. And, what I like to call – ‘the business end’ of our massive shipbuilding task.

I would firstly like to acknowledge our platform system designer – Navantia - on the signing of their contract today. This is a terrific accomplishment and one in which Navantia is well tooled for the impending task at hand.

It has been a long journey for the AWD Alliance team to reach this pivotal turning point in the Program. On such a momentous occasion, it would be remiss for me not to acknowledge some of the milestone events that have paved our way to today’s celebration.

When I joined ASC in May 2004, ASC and Raytheon were already heavily involved in bidding for their respective roles in the Destroyer Program.

Within twelve months, Raytheon was selected as the Combat System Systems Engineer, while ASC was chosen for the role of Shipbuilder.

The companies, along with DMO and ASC’s capability partner Bath Iron Works, established two teams to co-develop separate platform system design options.

With these two design teams working at the AWD Systems Centre in complete isolation from each other (a most challenging work environment I can assure you); Navantia’s Existing Design was ultimately chosen for Australia’s destroyers.

Reminiscent of the Berlin Wall coming down, the two competing platform design teams finally merged together into one consolidated Alliance team, with a focus on completing all preliminary work and putting contracts in place.

So although we are formally coming together to sign this contract today, and move into the next phase of the Program, we have been working as an Alliance for some time now, and the results have been impressive.

Merging different organisational cultures makes for a challenging task, yet the ease of weaving three organisations into one Alliance speaks volumes about the committed and talented personnel who work in this Program.

I praise the Alliance employees, most of who are here today, and thank you for fostering this terrific foundation for the AWD Program. I hope you find the next phase even more challenging and rewarding.

Today's contract binds the Alliance participants – DMO, ASC and Raytheon – together. Our objective is clear. Together we now embark upon the massive task ahead to deliver the Navy its air warfare destroyer capability.