



AWD Alliance Contract Signing Ceremony

ASC Shipbuilding, 4 October 2007

Speech by Greg Tunny, Managing Director, ASC Pty Ltd

Distinguished guests, employees and families.

On behalf of ASC good morning.

First, my congratulations to Navantia and its President Juan Pedro Gomez for signing the platform system design contract, without which we have no ship to build.

Navantia's F100 provides an outstanding, operationally proven platform design; one that ASC, as shipbuilder within the AWD Alliance, will be proud to build.

Today we stand at the threshold of an exciting new era for Australian naval shipbuilding.

Twenty years ago ASC signed the contract to build six Collins Class submarines.

Starting with what was a 'greenfield's' site, we built a modern submarine yard, developed a 1,000 person plus workforce and made an enormous contribution to the growth of a robust local defence industry.

Today, ASC will sign the contract that will see us do it all again.

Building on 20 years of experience and achievement we will now build three Hobart Class Air Warfare Destroyers for the Royal Australian Navy.

These warships will be built here on this very site and launched a mere 300 metres behind me. ASC will invest over 100 million dollars to transform this facility into a highly capable modern shipyard.

Our investment will be leveraged by the Defence SA-funded Common User Facility, situated strategically between ASC's submarine and ship yards.

However, even more important than facilities is our ongoing investment in personnel; highly skilled professionals and tradespersons. ASC's workforce will double as ASC Shipbuilding recruits about 1,000 people to build the AWDs.



I thank Minister Nelson for his and the Federal Government's support for the AWD program and faith in our ability to build these highly sophisticated ships in Australia.

My congratulations to our customer representatives, Dr Stephen Gumley, LTGEN David Hurley and particularly the AWD Program Manager Warren King for achieving this momentous milestone; this dawn of a new era.

I congratulate also our Alliance partner, Ron Fisher from Raytheon.

I congratulate and thank the AWD Alliance CEO John Gallacher for his tireless efforts to bring all Alliance participants together.

Last, but by no means least, I applaud the efforts and achievements of the AWD Alliance workforce. I thank you for your sacrifices and ongoing commitment to the Program.

Today we sign the AWD Alliance contract and tomorrow we set upon a path to build three Hobart Class air warfare destroyers.

ASC is proud to be an AWD Alliance participant.

We are ready and we are able.