

NEWS RELEASE 9 June 2009

NEXT GENERATION AUSTAL TRIMARAN REVEALED

Revolutionary sea transportation solution coming soon

Austal has officially unveiled its new 102-metre trimaran vehicle-passenger ferry platform, which is currently under construction at its Western Australian shippard and available for purchase.

The new 102-metre trimaran is an evolution of Austal's landmark 2005 trimaran ferry "Benchijigua Express" in every sense - optimising performance, seakeeping, fuel efficiency, passenger comfort and payload to deliver a truly next generation transportation solution.

The vessel utilises Austal's trimaran technology, combining the softer roll of monohulls with the low resistance, stability and carrying capacity of catamarans, to open up new markets beyond existing fast ferry designs. A lower roll speed means lower accelerations experienced by passengers – significantly reducing passenger seasickness.

The trimaran's unique hydrodynamic hull form combined with its three engine propulsion train delivers fuel efficiency across a range of operating conditions.

At the heart of the vessel are three class-leading MTU 20V 8000 Series diesel engines, which offer the world's highest power-to weight ratio in their power range and are established as a low risk propulsion engine option for many leading high speed ferry operators.

A seating layout that draws on Austal's 20-year experience with a wide range of customer requirements can be customised to seat between 950 and 1165 passengers.

The extensive range of high quality onboard facilities include two bar areas, a food preparation and service counter and a boutique gift store.

Onboard amenities are designed to maximise accessibility and include wheelchair-accessible toilets, lift and four independent passenger entry points.

Passenger-friendly seating density ensures rows are limited to no more than 2-3 seats, increasing comfort and accessibility, which is important during longer journeys. An outdoor seating area is also available.

With flexibility in mind, the mezzanine deck is a mixture of fixed and hoistable decks that allow the carriage of up to 132 cars with a clear deck height of 2m. When hoisted there is a height on the main deck below of 4.3m and 2.3m when lowered.

A cavernous vehicle deck has space for 245 cars or 190 truck lane metres plus 145 cars. The stern is reinforced to accept a stern ramp if required.

The trimaran's unique hydrodynamic hull form combined with its three engine propulsion train delivers fuel efficiency across a range of operating conditions. A speed of 39 knots (@ 90% MCR) allows a range of more than 600nm and fuel consumption of only 4.78 tonnes / hour.

To learn more about Austal's new 102 metre trimaran, visit the interactive mini-site.

PRINCIPAL DIMENSIONS

Length overall 102.0 m Length (waterline) 101.4 m

Beam (molded) 26.8 m

Hull depth (molded) 7.6 m

Hull draft (maximum) 4.2 m

PAYLOAD AND CAPACITIES

Passengers 1,165 / 950

Outdoor seating for 12

Vehicles 245 cars

Heavy vehicles 190 lane m for trucks and 145 cars

Clear heights

Trucks under raised mezzanine deck 4.30 m

Cars under mezzanine deck 2.30 m

Cars over mezzanine deck 2.00 m

Maximum deadweight 700 tonnes

PROPULSION

Main engines 3 x MTU 20V 8000 M71L

9,100 kW @ 1,150 rpm

Gearboxes 3 x ZF 53800

Waterjets 3 x Wartsila LJX 1300

PERFORMANCE (with Ride Control fitted)

Speed Up to 39 knots

Deadweight 700 tonnes

Range 630 nm

CLASSIFICATION

Germanischer Lloyd

100 A5, HSC - B OC3 High Speed Passenger / Ro-Ro Type, MC, AUT

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