

# HUNTER CLASS FFG FACT SHEET

## DELIVERING SUPERIOR NAVAL CAPABILITY

### AUSTRALIA'S NEW ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE PLATFORM

The Australian Government is embarking on the largest ever peacetime upgrade to our defence capabilities – a massive continuous ship building program that will deliver 54 new vessels, including nine Future Frigates. The Future Frigate program will deliver new anti-submarine warfare frigates to the Royal Australian Navy, to replace the ANZAC class currently in service.

By 2030, over half of the world's submarines will be operating in the Indo-Pacific region where Australia's interests are most engaged. The primary purpose of the Future Frigate is to detect, track and, if required, destroy enemy submarines. The new surface combatants will provide Navy and the Australian Defence Force with the critical capability that will underpin the defence of Australia into the future. The first *Hunter* class frigate will be introduced into service from the late 2020s.

#### FUTURE FRIGATE CAPABILITY

The Future Frigate will be required to operate independently or in a national or coalition task group and will conduct a range of missions, with a particular focus on anti-submarine warfare. They will have sufficient range and endurance to operate effectively throughout the Indo-Pacific and will be equipped with a range of offensive and self-protection systems.

In combining the Global Combat Ship – Australia design with the world-leading Australian-developed CEA phased array radar and the Aegis Combat Management System with Saab Interface, Australia's Navy will operate a leading-edge Anti-Submarine Warfare capability able to support the full spectrum of Government needs.

In June 2018, BAE Systems was selected as the preferred tenderer for the Future Frigate design and construction with the Global Combat Ship-Australia design.

#### DESIGN, BUILD AND DELIVERY

The nine Future Frigates will be built at the Osborne Naval Shipyard in South Australia. Significant upgrades and expansion to Osborne South are underway in preparation for prototyping and construction activities, which will begin in 2020. Delivery of the first frigate is anticipated in the mid-2020s.

#### OPERATION AND SUSTAINMENT

The location for the long-term sustainment of the Future Frigates is yet to be finalised. It is possible that the Future Frigates will follow the sustainment location for the ANZAC class frigates. The majority of the ANZAC class sustainment work is being undertaken at Henderson Maritime Precinct in Western Australia, with additional work at Fleet Base East, Garden Island New South Wales.

#### CURRENT CAPABILITY

The Future Frigates will replace the eight ANZAC class frigates currently in service. The ANZAC class has played a critical role in the nation's defence and in supporting our strategic interests, having undertaken maritime operations in the region and across the globe since their introduction into service in 1996. The ANZAC's will be maintained until the 2040s when the youngest ship, HMAS Perth, will have been in service for more than 35 years.



BAE Systems' Global Combat Ship - Australia

## TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

The Future Frigate will be based on BAE Systems Australia's Global Combat Ship-Australia (GSC-A), a variant of the Type 26 frigate currently in production for the UK Royal Navy. The warfare capabilities of the GSC-A combined with long range and excellent endurance will ensure the Future Frigate is able to execute the full spectrum of operations in the joint maritime environment.

### MISSION CAPABILITY

- Hull designed for low acoustic signature, combined with advanced sonar systems and the MH-60R combat helicopter results in a highly capable anti-submarine platform.
- Combination of Aegis CMS, CEAFAAR and the Standard Missile II and Evolved Sea Sparrow Missiles will result in a highly capable air warfare platform.
- Able to support amphibious task groups and conducted surface warfare through medium calibre gun and advanced anti-ship missiles with a coastal suppression capability.
- Self-defence with short range guns and close in weapons systems.
- Networked and highly capable in electronic warfare.
- Flexible mission bay provides capacity to embark containerised stores for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, additional seaboats for constabulary tasks and capacity for unmanned systems and an additional helicopter.

### PRINCIPAL WEAPONS AND SENSORS

- Australian CEAFAAR2 Phased Array Radar
- Aegis Combat Management System and Saab Australian interface
- Electro-optic sensors
- Ultra S2150 Hull Mounted Sonar
- Thales S2087 Towed Array and Variable Depth Sonar Systems
- Mk41 Vertical Launch System with SM2 and ESSM
- Mk45 Mod4 127mm Medium Gun
- 2 x 20mm Close in Weapons Systems
- 2 x 30mm Short range gun
- MU90 Torpedos
- Advanced Anti-ship missiles
- Australian Nulka missile decoy system
- Electronic countermeasures

### PROPULSION

- Combined Diesel Electric or Gas (CODLOG)
- 2 x electric motors
- 4 x high speed MTU Diesel Generators
- Rolls Royce MT30 Gas Turbine
- 2 x Fixed Pitch Propellers
- Top speed in excess of 27 knots
- Range in excess of 7000 nautical miles at cruising speed

### ACCOMMODATION

Approximately 180 crew including embarked flight, with accommodation and services for up to 208

### MAIN DIMENSIONS

- Length 149.9 metres
- Beam 20.8 metres
- Full load displacement approximately 8800 tonnes

### AVIATION

- 1 x MH60R combat helicopter
- Mission Bay can store additional helicopter or unmanned systems

### SYSTEMS

The Aegis Combat Management System, together with an Australian interface, which will be developed by SAAB Australia.

The combat system combines the ship's navigation systems, internal and external communications systems, and various sensors and weapons capabilities with associated computer network, integrated by the combat management system. Integration between the combat management system and the sensors and weapons of the vessel allows for the greatest capability that can be derived from the system.

### MORE INFORMATION

Future Frigate program: [http://www.defence.gov.au/casg/EquippingDefence/SEA5000PH1\\_FutureFrigates](http://www.defence.gov.au/casg/EquippingDefence/SEA5000PH1_FutureFrigates)

Australia's Naval Shipbuilding Plan: <http://www.defence.gov.au/navalshipbuildingplan/>

BAE Systems: <https://ournavalfuture.com.au/>

