

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN COMPANIES CUT STEEL FOR CRUISE SHIP BLOCKS

8 June 2018, Adelaide – As part of **Fincantieri Australia's** local operations start-up, the company today announced the first steel has been cut in South Australia for three cruise blocks. The cruise ship block contracts were awarded to **MG Engineering** and **Ottoway Engineering** in March. The Australian steel will be integrated into the cruise ship superstructure for one of Fincantieri's international projects.

Fincantieri is one of the world's largest shipbuilding groups and is tendering for Australia's next major naval program – the **SEA 5000 Future Frigates** program. With the cruise ship block initiative as well as other test orders for mechanical equipment, work-force preparation and qualifying Australian supply chain, Fincantieri will be ready to start construction of nine frigates for the Royal Australian Navy in Adelaide in 2020 with an Australian shipbuilding workforce.

As part of Fincantieri's commitment to transferring technology and its expertise in commercial shipbuilding to Australian businesses, Fincantieri representatives will also be on site at MG Engineering and Ottoway Engineering this week and will share best practices with Australian technicians. This includes sharing methods and fabrication sequences, familiarising engineers of the company's technical drawings and supporting the cutting and production process.

Building the cruise ship blocks locally allows Fincantieri to establish and strengthen its relationships with local suppliers and understand their capabilities. It is part of the company's detailed Industry Plan, which is focused on maximising local industry participation and helping Australia become autonomous in the design, construction and export of vessels, including the material and equipment within.

MG Engineering was awarded a contract for the construction of two blocks that sit on port and starboard sides of the ship and will be dedicated to accommodation areas. The block constructed by Ottoway Engineering will be located in the central part of the ship and will be dedicated to technical zones where emergency generators are located. Construction is expected to employ approximately 40 – 50 local workers across the two South Australian sites.

An estimated 1,000 square meters of Australian steel will be used – enough to cover four tennis courts¹. All three blocks will be constructed and delivered by mid-2018.

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Notes to Editor:

Fincantieri is one of the world's largest shipbuilding groups and number one by diversification and innovation. It is leader in cruise ship design and construction and a reference player in all high-tech shipbuilding industry's sectors, from naval to offshore vessels, from high-complexity special vessels and ferries to mega-yachts, ship repairs and conversions, systems and components production and after-sales services. Headquartered in Trieste (Italy), the Group has built more than 7,000 vessels in over 230 years of maritime history. With more than 19,500 employees, of whom more than 8,300 in Italy, 20 shipyards in 4 continents, today Fincantieri is the leading Western shipbuilder. It has among its clients the major cruise operators, the Italian and the U.S. Navy, in addition to several foreign navies, and it is partner of some of the main European defense companies within supranational programmes.

¹ The International Tennis Federation specifies court length of 23.77m and width of 10.97m, which equals total square meters of 260.76m. The TARE weight of an Iveco Metro LE – Custom CB80 ranges from 11,200kg to 11,380kgs.