

FINCANTIERI CREATES NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE AUSTRALIAN SHIPBUILDING INDUSTRY

24 November 2017, Adelaide – **Fincantieri Australia** has released to South Australian shipbuilders a Request for Proposals (RFP) to build three **cruise ship blocks in Adelaide**, with Australian steel, commencing in the second quarter of 2018. The companies invited to provide quotations are ASC Shipbuilding, Adelaide Ship Construction International, MG Engineering and Ottoway Engineering (Whyalla).

Fincantieri is one of the world's largest shipbuilding groups and is now operating in Australia to tender for Australia's next major Naval program – the **SEA 5000 Future Frigates program**. By building these ship sections in South Australia, Australian industry will have the opportunity to demonstrate its capabilities and create a trusted working relationship with Fincantieri.

Constructed by the successful Australian tenderer and Fincantieri's shipbuilding workforce, the cruise ship blocks will be integrated into Fincantieri cruise ships under construction across its network of 20 shipyards across the world.

Chairman of Fincantieri Australia, Dario Deste said that the purpose of this initiative would be to start up Fincantieri's shipbuilding operations in Adelaide, gain familiarity with local partners leading into the commencement of the Future Frigate project.

"The size and strength of our operations enables us to invite Australian companies to work on our global projects. This is a unique opportunity to strengthen our relationships with suppliers, partners and sub-contractors, commencing knowledge transfer and importantly for the industry, opening up an export market for them. With the strength of Australian steel and a local workforce, we are not only bringing suppliers into our expansive network, but giving them the opportunity to become competitive in a global marketplace."

If selected in the SEA 5000 Future Frigates Project, Fincantieri will build all nine Anti-submarine warfare frigates in Adelaide with an Australian shipbuilding workforce, transfer the technology to create a continuous naval shipbuilding in Australia.

In addition to Fincantieri's 237 years of naval shipbuilding heritage, the group is one of the largest builders of cruise ships in the world, and since 1990 alone has built more than 79 cruise ships.

Today, a significant number of cruise ships currently in operation across the world are constructed in Fincantieri shipyards, carrying 8 million passengers each year, or roughly one in every three cruise goers. Many cruise liners are equipped with Fincantieri built ships, including P&O Cruises, Carnival, Viking Ocean Cruises and Costa.

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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 19,400 employees, of whom more than 8,200 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.

www.fincantieri.com