



## **Ministry of National Security**

Government of the republic of Trinidad and Tobago

October 18, 2023

For Immediate Release

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

#### **COAST GUARD BOLSTERS OPERATIONAL CAPACITY WITH NEW AUSTAL MAINTENANCE FACILITY**

**Port of Spain:** At an official handover ceremony held on Tuesday October 17, 2023 Minister of National Security, the Honourable Fitzgerald Hinds MP; officially handed over the newly constructed AUSTAL Maintenance Facility to the Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard. The ceremony was held at the Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard's Base in Hart's Cut, Chaguaramas.

The construction of the Facility will bolster the operational capacity of the TTCG, ensuring the timely maintenance of the Coast Guard capital assets, to further strengthen the border security of the country.

During his feature address at the Ceremonial Handover, Minister Hinds acknowledged the longstanding relationship between AUSTAL and the Government of Trinidad and Tobago which dates back to 2010.

Minister Hinds also expressed his appreciation and gratitude on behalf of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago for AUSTAL'S commitment to the In Service Support Agreement which was signed in April 2022 evident through the construction of the Maintenance Facility.

In 2021 the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago took delivery of two (2) AUSTAL Cape Class Patrol vessels to enhance the border protection capabilities of this country, to work in conjunction with the existing Coast Guard fleet.

Austal Limited is an Australian-based global ship building company and defence prime contractor that specializes in the design, construction and support of defence and commercial vessels.

Also present at the handover ceremony were Acting High Commissioner of Australia to Trinidad and Tobago, Her Excellency Melissa Mitchell, Permanent Secretary (Ag.), Ministry of National Security, Ms. Nataki Atiba-Dilchan, Chief of Defence Staff, Air Vice Marshal Darryl Daniel, Acting Commanding Officer of the Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard, Commander Aknaton Isaac and AUSTAL's Chief Operations Officer, Mr. Ian McMillan.

**PHOTOS AND CAPTIONS:**



**Caption: (From Left to Right)** AUSTAL's Chief Operations Officer, Mr. Ian McMillan; Acting High Commissioner of Australia to Trinidad and Tobago, Her Excellency Melissa Mitchell; Minister of National Security, the Honourable Fitzgerald Hinds MP; Permanent Secretary, Ministry of National Security, Ms. Nataki Atiba-Dilchan; Chief of Defence Staff, Air Vice Marshal Darryl Daniel, Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force and Acting Commanding Officer of the Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard, Commander Aknaton Isaac, at the ribbon cutting for the AUSTAL Maintenance Facility of the Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard, during the Handover Ceremony for the Facility on Tuesday October 17, 2023



**Caption:** The new AUSTAL Maintenance Facility of the Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard, located at Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard, Hart's Cut Base, Chaguaramas. The facility was handed over at a ceremony on Tuesday October 17, 2023

**END**