

## **Senate Economic References Committee**

Future of Australia's naval shipbuilding industry – 20 June 2017

### **ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Department of Defence

**Topic:** Offshore Patrol Vessels

**Question reference number:** 7

**Senator:** The Committee

**Type of question:** provided in writing

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 14 July 2017

#### **Question:**

What is the status of the Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPV) Competitive Evaluation Process? Will there be a down selection to one or to two contenders?

- a) If one is down selected, can you confirm the response to the Competitive Evaluation Process is non conditional and binding?
- b) If two are down selected, what process will follow to down select to one? When will this down selection occur? What are the Intellectual Property transfer requirements for the OPV Competitive Evaluation Process? Noting a decision has been made to build the OPVs in Adelaide and Perth, please confirm that ASC and Austal (i.e. Australia's sovereign shipyards) will have substantive involvement in the OPV build?

#### **Answer:**

The Competitive Evaluation Process is progressing on schedule and currently in the Tender Evaluation stage following Request for Tender (Acquisition) close on 30 March 2017.

a and b. The purpose of the Competitive Evaluation Process and, more specifically, the Request for Tender is to enable Defence to inform a Government decision. It is not possible to confirm the nature of any down select at this stage prior to Government consideration. Defence can, if required, conduct an Offer Definition and Improvement Activity to assist in refining any offer.

The outcomes of the Competitive Evaluation Process will be submitted for Government decision in late 2017.

Defence is not able to confirm the Intellectual Property transfer requirements for the OPV Competitive Evaluation Process, as the Request for Tender responses are in the process of being evaluated.

The three designers (Lürssen, Fasmer and Damen) were required to team with an Australian shipbuilder in response to the Request for Tender. As tender responses are

in the process of being evaluated, Defence is not able to confirm the details of the involvement of the respective Australian shipbuilders.