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**Fincantieri Announces Plan to Adapt FREMM Frigate for U.S. Navy
*Shipbuilder to Partner with Gibbs & Cox Inc., Trident Maritime Systems***

Washington, D.C – Fincantieri Marine Group announced further details on its plans to adapt its “Best-in-Class” FREMM frigate, already in service for the Italian Navy since 2012, to design the U.S. Navy’s new guided-missile frigate, FFG(X).

FINCANTIERI will lead an experienced industry team, including Gibbs & Cox and Trident Maritime Systems, to design and build these multi-mission ships capable of conducting anti-surface, anti-submarine, and electronic warfare and air defense operations.

As design partners, Gibbs & Cox, will leverage their experience modifying proven hull, mechanical and electrical systems to U.S. Navy standards. Trident Maritime Systems will serve as the Electric and Propulsion System Integrator with responsibility to design, specify and integrate these ship systems and components.

“We’ve assembled a world-class team of partners to customize to American design standards and deliver an advanced, flexible and highly reliable ship to the U.S. Navy for their current and future needs,” said Francesco Valente, president and CEO of Fincantieri Marine Group. “Our American shipyards are tailor-made for building small surface combatants and we have a strong, established and reliable U.S. supply chain.”

The FINCANTIERI FFG(X) design is based on FREMM, the most capable and modern off-the-shelf frigate available in the world for the range of capabilities required by the U.S. Navy. FINCANTIERI is building ten (10) FREMMs for the Italian Navy, six (6) of which have been delivered and have already accumulated 30,000 hours and 200,000 nautical miles in real-world operations.

The FINCANTIERI-led team would construct the FFG(X) ships at its American shipyards, including Fincantieri Marinette Marine (FMM) in Marinette, Wisconsin, which was modernized for serial production in order to build the U.S. Navy’s Littoral Combat Ship (LCS).

(MORE)



Fincantieri FREMM-FFG reference design vessel. Six of the 10 FREMM ships Fincantieri is constructing for the Italian Navy are in service. They have accumulated more than 30,000 hours and 200,000 nm of performance operations.

About Fincantieri

Fincantieri is one of the world's largest shipbuilding groups and number one by diversification and innovation. It is a 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.

Having built more than 7,000 vessels in over 230 years of maritime history, and with around 19,400 employees and 20 shipyards on four continents, today Fincantieri is the leading Western shipbuilder. It has among its clients many of the world's 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 programs. www.fincantieri.com

Fincantieri operates in the United States through its subsidiary Fincantieri Marine Group (FMG). Fincantieri Marine Group serves government customers, including the U.S. Navy and Coast Guard, with its three shipyards (Fincantieri Marinette Marine, Fincantieri Bay Shipbuilding and Fincantieri ACE Marine) all located in the Great Lakes Region: www.fincantierimarinegroup.com

About Gibbs & Cox, Inc.

Gibbs & Cox, Inc. is the leading independent engineering and design firm in North America, specializing in naval architecture, marine engineering and engineering consulting. The firm is headquartered in Arlington, Virginia with offices in Newport News, New Orleans, New York City, Philadelphia and Washington D.C. The company has been responsible for delivering designs and engineering for nearly 7,000 new construction ships including current surface combatants such as the Oliver Perry Class Frigates, Arleigh Burke Class Destroyers, and the Freedom Class Variant of the Littoral Combat Ship. www.gibbscox.com

About Trident Maritime Systems

Trident Maritime Systems is a leading turnkey provider of Cryogenic Insulation, Joiner, HVAC, and Power, Propulsion and Controls solutions. Our systems integration capabilities cover the mechanical and electrical systems within commercial and naval vessels. Headquartered in the Washington DC area this global company serves shipbuilders and owners in the cruise, military, offshore oil & gas and commercial ship markets. From Brazil to West Africa, Italy to Indonesia, if there's a military, cruise, commercial or oil & gas project in a shipyard, there's a good chance Trident is working on it.

Media Contact

George Moutafis, Vice President Programs, Fincantieri Marine Group, 202.488.4799 ext 6610
George.Moutafis@us.fincantieri.com