



STRIKEMASTER

LAND-BASED MARITIME STRIKE



KONGSBERG

THALES
Building a future we can all trust

STRIKEMASTER

THE READY-NOW PRECISION STRIKE SOLUTION



IN AN ERA of rapidly evolving threats and contested domains, sovereign capability is not just a strategic imperative – it is a national priority. As geopolitical tensions escalate across the Indo-Pacific, Australia is moving decisively to fortify its defence posture with a land-based, long-range maritime strike capability, providing a credible sea denial effect that directly contributes to a deterrence by denial strategy.

Kongsberg Defence Australia's (KDAu) StrikeMaster Naval Strike Missile (NSM) Coastal Defence System (CDS) solution is not only operationally mature and low-risk, but sovereign built and export-ready.

At the heart of this cutting-edge system lies the NSM – a fifth-generation, precision-guided, land and maritime strike missile – seamlessly integrated onto the flat-bed variant of the venerable Australian Bushmaster protected mobility vehicle in a twin-pack launcher. This configuration is known widely as the StrikeMaster NSM CDS. It represents a bold, yet logical fusion of advanced lethality, interoperability with key allies and deep industrial ties to Australia's defence industry base.

StrikeMaster NSM CDS is not a one-shot capability, but a launchpad for continuous evolution. Planned NSM range enhancements include increased fuel energy density and refined mid-course trajectories, extending operational reach. Onboard

software updates will improve the missile's route selection, reduce fratricide risk and enhance survivability in contested environments, whilst a modular design allows for rapid adaptation, ensuring ongoing operational effectiveness as threats evolve over time.

STRATEGIC MOBILITY, TACTICAL FLEXIBILITY

Designed for the vast and varied terrain of Australia and its regional interests, the StrikeMaster NSM CDS is deployable via C-17A Globemaster and C-130J airlifters, as well as all legacy and planned Australian Defence Force (ADF) small, medium and heavy landing craft.

Once in theatre and on terra firma, the proven mobility of the baseline Bushmaster platform enables StrikeMaster to self-deploy long distances by road and manoeuvre tactically in cross-country and complex terrain.

The modest size of StrikeMaster also permits easy concealment against detection by adversary surveillance and reconnaissance efforts, key to survivability and maintaining battle-field persistence.

These attributes combine to make StrikeMaster an unsinkable, unavoidable threat.

AUSTRALIAN LINEAGE

The key components of the StrikeMaster NSM CDS already exist in ADF service, with NSM entering service with the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) in 2024 and Bushmaster having been a stalwart of Australian Army deployments for more than 20 years. The air-launched cousin of NSM, the Joint Strike Missile (JSM) is part of the Royal Australian Air Force's precision strike weapon family on the F-35A Joint Strike Fighter, with

deliveries scheduled for late 2025. By utilising the flat-bed Bushmaster, not only is crew protection assured but the benefits of platform commonality – such as unified logistics and training – can be exploited.

This direct alignment between the StrikeMaster's primary parts – NSM and Bushmaster flat-bed – and the in-service NSM and Bushmaster fleet drives down cost of ownership while maximising flexibility across operational domains.

SPEED TO CAPABILITY

UNLIKE CONCEPTUAL CAPABILITIES that are yet to enter service and which can only promise future utility, the StrikeMaster missile launcher vehicle is built on sub-systems already in ADF service and on Australian soil.

From NSM equipping the RAN to the rugged, life-saving Bushmaster platform and the ADF intelligence and targeting architecture that guides the missiles to their targets, the StrikeMaster solution leverages existing supply chains and active production lines resident within Australia's defence industry; these components are already being manufactured and sustained locally for current ADF programs, ensuring immediate scalability without development lag.

With its in-service and in-production component status, StrikeMaster isn't about reinventing the wheel, it's about putting trusted systems to work in a new, small footprint but high-impact configuration.

These attributes combine to make StrikeMaster NSM CDS the most ready-now land-based maritime strike and land attack solution on the world market.

BELOW: StrikeMaster is the coupling of the NSM twin-pack launcher (quad-pack shown on HMAS Sydney) and the Bushmaster flat-bed utility vehicle. Images: DTR, Thales



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BUILT AND SUSTAINED IN AUSTRALIA

WHAT SETS THE StrikeMaster NSM CDS apart is not just its battlefield prowess – it is where it's built and sustained. Fabrication and all hardware assembly and integration will take place in Australia, across secure facilities in Victoria, South Australia and New South Wales.

With more than 100 local suppliers already involved, StrikeMaster NSM CDS as a program delivers true sovereign capability, backed by significant Commonwealth and industry investment in facilities such as KDAu's missile factory in Newcastle and integration facility in Mawson Lakes, and the Thales factories in Bendigo and Eagle Farm.

It is well known that Bushmaster is an Australian-made

product, leveraging a local industry supply chain involving hundreds of Australian businesses, big and small. Australian companies are already manufacturing key elements of the NSM capability for the RAN, including ship installed equipment and launchers. Come 2027, NSM will be in production locally in Newcastle at the Kongsberg Missile Factory to meet the demands of the ADF and supporting global NSM production.

With both vehicles and missiles Australian-made, StrikeMaster end users will be operating a capability with an exceptionally high percentage of Australian content that rivals some of Australia's most iconic indigenous defence products.

JOB CREATION & WORKFORCE RETENTION

The very high Australian content inherent in the StrikeMaster NSM CDS ensures maximum Australian industry involvement, leading to both significant job creation and securing the future of existing workforces at KDAu and Thales Australia facilities and across the entire local supply chain.

Few major defence platforms possess the same level of Australian industry capability as StrikeMaster, with fabrication, assembly, integration and through-life sustainment of StrikeMaster components already underway, locked in or planned to be undertaken in Australia, by Australian companies.

KONGSBERG DEFENCE AUSTRALIA

Mawson Lakes Integration Facility - Adelaide, SA

75 new jobs created

80-strong existing workforce



Currently exporting NSM CDS components to NATO customer

THALES AUSTRALIA

Protected Vehicle Centre of Excellence - Bendigo, VIC

200 new jobs created

250-strong existing workforce



KONGSBERG DEFENCE AUSTRALIA

Missile Production Factory - Newcastle, NSW

25 new jobs created

100-strong existing workforce (2027)



- Harnessing CoA investment
- Sovereign missile production
- Building ADF missile stocks

PROVEN LETHALITY FOR THE FUTURE FIGHT



NOW REGARDED AS the world's premier anti-ship missile and already in service with 14 countries, NSM is no paper tiger. NSM has been successfully live fired against a range of maritime targets by multiple end users, including Australia, Norway and the US, thus attracting the highest Technology Readiness Level (TRL 9).

The Block 1A missile in ADF service has a range in excess of 300km and is guided by a completely passive imaging infra-red (IIR) sensor that enables the missile to locate, classify and home in on targets without emitting a detectable signal – rendering it invisible to passive electronic warfare systems.

The IIR sensor has a very wide field-of-view and resultant high volume search area, enabling the missile to 'hunt' for the target without the need for continual inputs or course corrections from third party targeting assets.

Featuring a low-signature launch, NSM can adopt minimum-risk routes to the target area and attack from unexpected

ABOVE: An engagement range of more than 300km enables deployed StrikeMaster units to dominate key maritime terrain and choke points as part of a joint force sea denial strategy and littoral manoeuvre operations. Image: DTR

directions, using the prevailing coastal or littoral terrain (such as islands and peninsulas) to mask its approach.

In the final/terminal phase of its flight to the target, NSM drops to extremely low sea-skimming altitudes, employing high-G evasive manoeuvres to defeat the most advanced of air defence systems. It uses fully autonomous target recognition guided by 'innocent until proven guilty' methodology, ensuring both precision and rules of engagement compliance.

When fired in salvo, NSMs can achieve multiple round near-simultaneous impact on a target, overwhelming enemy defences with intelligent fuse control and precise impact points for maximise warhead effects. ►►

NSM RANGE EVOLUTION



With a large and growing end user base, NSM has a defined product development roadmap for longer range and other capability enhancements.

BLOCK 1



185km

BLOCK 1A



300km

BLOCK 1B



The modest size of StrikeMaster vehicles permits easy concealment against detection.

LOW RISK SOLUTION



IN THE WORLD of defence equipment procurement, risk takes on many forms, from operational and technical risks to schedule and cost risks. The StrikeMaster NSM CDS solution soundly addresses each of these risk areas to ensure a robust acquisition business case.

Operational Risk: Leveraging off the truck-mounted NSM solutions in service with the Polish Navy and US Marine Corps, the StrikeMaster concept of employment is well proven: a small deployment footprint that is difficult to detect, thereby creating uncertainty for an adversary. ▶▶

ABOVE: Test firing of the first Australian-made NSM launcher, December 2024. Image: Kongsberg

Technical Risk: With most of its major components and sub-systems already in service with the ADF and other Tier 1 militaries, the StrikeMaster NSM CDS technical risk profile is very low. For example, NSM requires no modifications to fulfill the land-based maritime strike role and is a true 'ship-to-truck' proposition. In addition, existing ADF targeting and sensor architectures – including mission data and over-the-horizon targets sensors – are already fully compatible with the StrikeMaster missile launcher vehicle.

Schedule Risk: NSM is already in full-rate production and due to begin manufacture in Australia in 2027, while the

Bushmaster platform has a long-established production facility at Thales Australia's Bendigo plant. The 'in-production' status of both NSM and Bushmaster and existing production lines for all major system components (such as the command and control system) ensures that condensed production schedules and on-time deliveries underpin every StrikeMaster order.

Cost Risk: As StrikeMaster consists of proven, in-production and in-service systems, complete transparency around both acquisition and through-life costs can be provided to prospective customers.

INTEROPERABILITY

AUSTRALIA IS NOT alone in placing its trust in NSM. To date, NSM is in service or has been ordered by 14 nations – including the US, UK, Germany and Canada – further cementing its position as the exemplar next-generation anti-ship missile.

In the land-based maritime strike role, too, NSM is becoming the de facto standard for nations with coastlines, trade routes and littoral regions to protect and utilise for deterrence in a strategy of sea denial. This has seen Poland adopt a quad-packed NSM CDS in significant numbers, with a large follow-on order placed in September 2023 for an additional 24 missile launcher vehicles. This will bring the total number of NSM-equipped missile launcher vehicles in Polish service to more than 50, and when deployed effectively closes the Baltic Sea to any adversary.

The US Marine Corps (USMC) has adopted the NSM CDS twin-pack configuration as its primary LBMS capability, where it is known as the Navy/Marine Expeditionary Ship

Interdiction System (NMESIS) and now routinely deployed on exercises across the Indo-Pacific, including in Japan and the Philippines. The Marines plan to procure 36 Block II NMESIS launchers in FY2026, according to US Navy budget estimates, with final NMESIS numbers to exceed 200 by 2030.

Romania, Latvia and most recently Bulgaria have also selected NSM CDS in truck-mounted configurations.

By sharing NSM launchers, targeting systems and integrated infrastructure common to other NSM CDS users, a StrikeMaster NSM CDS troop would enable real-time co-ordination and target hand-off between coalition partners during joint operations – a critical capability in a multi-national conflict scenario.

The Bushmaster platform is also in international service outside Australia, with the UK, New Zealand, the Netherlands and Japan among global users.



LEFT: The unmanned cousin to StrikeMaster, NMESIS is at the heart of the US Marine Corps' transformation, and has been deployed to numerous Indo-Pacific countries as the Marines refine the ability to secure and defend key maritime terrain as part of a sea denial strategy.

Image: USMC

STRIKEMASTER FAMILY OF VEHICLES

THE HIGH PAYLOAD and versatility of the baseline Bushmaster platform enables the complete StrikeMaster vehicle family to be Bushmaster-based.

This ensures identical crew protection and equal vehicle mobility and deployability across the troop, as well as common maintenance regimes and training.

MISSILE LAUNCH VEHICLE (MLV)

NSM TWIN-PACK LAUNCHER MODULE

- 2 x ready-to-fire NSMs
- Identical to NSM on RAN surface combatants – from ship to truck
- Proven for vehicle-mounted use by Polish Navy and US Marines

LAUNCHER ASSEMBLY

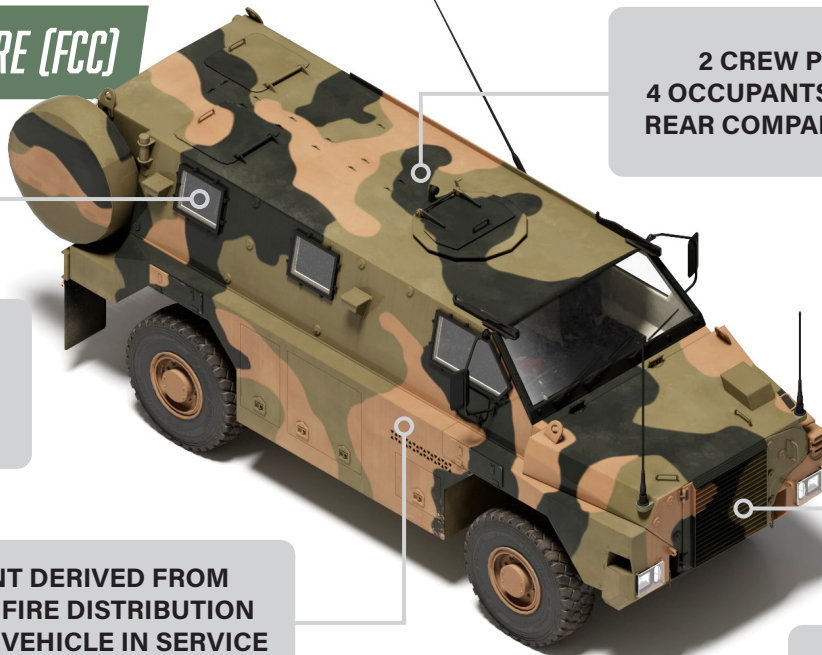
- Similar to that adopted for US Marine Corps NMESIS system

RUN-FLAT TYRES

EXTERNAL STOWAGE

STRIKEMASTER

FIRE CONTROL CENTRE (FCC)



2 CREW PLUS
4 OCCUPANTS IN 11m³
REAR COMPARTMENT

MULTIPLE CONSOLES
FOR ALL C4I
AND TARGETING
FUNCTIONS

FCC VARIANT DERIVED FROM
THE NASAMS FIRE DISTRIBUTION
CENTRE (FDC) VEHICLE IN SERVICE
WITH THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY

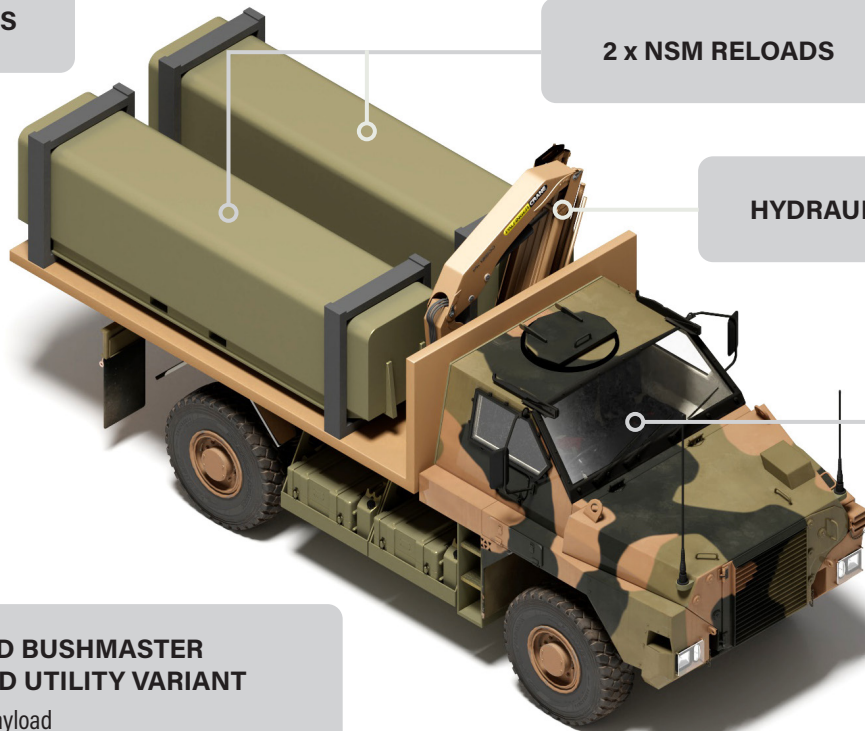
IDENTICAL EXTERIOR
PROFILE TO STANDARD
BUSHMASTER

ROOF HATCH FOR
MACHINE GUN MOUNT

MISSILE RELOAD VEHICLE (MRV)



2 CREW MEMBERS



2 x NSM RELOADS

HYDRAULIC CRANE

UPDATED BUSHMASTER FLAT-BED UTILITY VARIANT

- 5-tonne payload
- Same protection levels and automotively common with Bushmaster troop carrier variant
- 100km/h road speed, 800km road range
- 16.1-tonne combat weight

2 CREW MEMBERS

EXPORT POTENTIAL

THE GLOBAL LAND-BASED maritime strike sector is growing rapidly, with nations recognising the importance of defending their respective coastlines, island chains and littoral regions.

As a saleable product, StrikeMaster NSM CDS is, indeed, in a fortunate position in the land-based maritime strike market-

and longer on-road range than the USMC NMESIS once in theatre. It is worth noting that four StrikeMaster launchers have the same precision strike power as a Hobart-class destroyer, at a fraction of the crew and cost and with higher battlefield 'leave in place' persistence.

In this context and in view of ongoing demand for both NSM



Four StrikeMaster launchers have the same precision strike power as a Hobart-class destroyer.

place, with NSM now the world's most adopted next-generation anti-ship missile and Bushmaster long recognised as a market leader in combat-proven protected mobility vehicles.

Little wonder then that there is growing interest in the twin-pack StrikeMaster NSM CDS solution from existing NSM and Bushmaster users, as well as potential new military customers, including those considered Australia's international security partners.

The StrikeMaster is the ideal mix, not as large as the Polish Navy's quad-pack system and with a lower crew requirement

and Bushmaster, the likelihood of export orders for StrikeMaster is considered strong.

Exports will also serve to keep production lines open in Australia, creating and keeping jobs and reinforcing the national supply chain and through-life support base for StrikeMaster in service.

In June 2024, it was announced that KDAu will manufacture and supply NSM CDS command and control consoles for export customer Poland. **DTR**