AOTEAROA is a purpose-built, technologically enhanced asset that will add real value to the Royal New Zealand Navy’s combat operations, humanitarian relief functions and operational and training support. She will provide global sustainment to New Zealand and coalition maritime, land and air units, and United Nations security operations through resupply of ship and aviation fuel, dry goods, water, spare parts and ammunition.

Her many capabilities include the ability to carry up to 22 x twenty foot shipping containers, high capacity fresh water generation plants (enough to produce 100 tonnes per day), self-defence systems, aviation and marine fuel cargo tanks, dual all-electric replenishment at sea rigs, a SH-2G(NZ) Seaspire or NH90 medium utility helicopter, integrated communications and bridge systems, an integrated platform management system and winterisation features such as some upper deck trace heating and an ice-strengthened hull and underwater fittings.

Aotearoa will utilise a world-first naval “Environship” leadge bow design. This design incorporates a new wave-piercing bow which reduces resistance and lowers fuel burn, while its Combined Diesel Electric and Diesel propulsion plant has lower fuel emissions than older vessels. Her Selective Catalytic Reducers will reduce harmful NOx exhaust emissions, and she has been built to adhere to Polar Code safety regulations and is ice strengthened to Polar Class level 6 for Southern Ocean monitoring and Antarctic operations including the resupply of McMurdo Station and Scott Base.

New Plymouth will be the Home Port of Aotearoa which continues the long standing relationship the Navy have had with the wider Taranaki area.

Dame Patsy Reddy, Governor General of New Zealand, is the ship sponsor.