

MT30 gets in position for *Freedom*

Lockheed Martin recently completed another key milestone on the first US Navy Littoral Combat Ship, named *Freedom*: completing the installation of the ship's two MT30 main propulsion gas turbines.

The Rolls-Royce MT30s – the largest gas turbines ever to be installed on a US Navy ship – will remain wrapped in protective shrouding until later in the construction process to prevent damage. *Freedom* (LCS1) is being built at the Marinette Marine Corporation shipyard in Wisconsin and is on schedule for launch in summer 2006 and delivery to the Navy in 2007 – 24 months after the start of construction. The innovative combined diesel and gas turbine propulsion plant will allow the 115.2m-long LCS to sustain sprint speeds well over 40 knots when lightly loaded. Two booster and two steering/reversible Kamewa 153SII waterjets are also part of the Rolls-Royce equipment fit.