# The Key Role of Fincantieri in the Revival of the US Navy

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In a moment of extreme geopolitical tension, with the United States Navy engaged in the delicate chessboard of the Strait of Hormuz and supporting operations in Iran, an unequivocal truth emerges: **the American maritime industrial base is struggling**. A recent report from the **Center for Maritime Strategy** highlights the urgent need for the United States to rely on its allies to bridge the production and technological gap that threatens Washington's naval supremacy.

In this scenario, Italy — and in particular **Fincantieri** — positions itself as an indispensable partner for the future of the US fleet.

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## The Crisis of American Shipbuilding

Despite the fiscal 2027 budget proposed by President Trump providing a record allocation of **65.8 billion dollars** to double naval production, the obstacles remain structural. The US Navy currently has about 295 ships, a number destined to decrease due to the retirement of old hulls that exceed new commissions. The declared goal of 381 ships seems distant without a paradigm shift.

The report highlights an atrophy of the internal industrial base, burdened by:

- **Exorbitant costs:** As highlighted by the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. Eric Smith, the costs of specialized labor (welders, electricians, pipefitters) make each unit a massive investment.
- **Declining operational readiness:** The availability of amphibious assault ships has dropped to **41%**, an alarming figure as troops are massively deployed in the Middle East.

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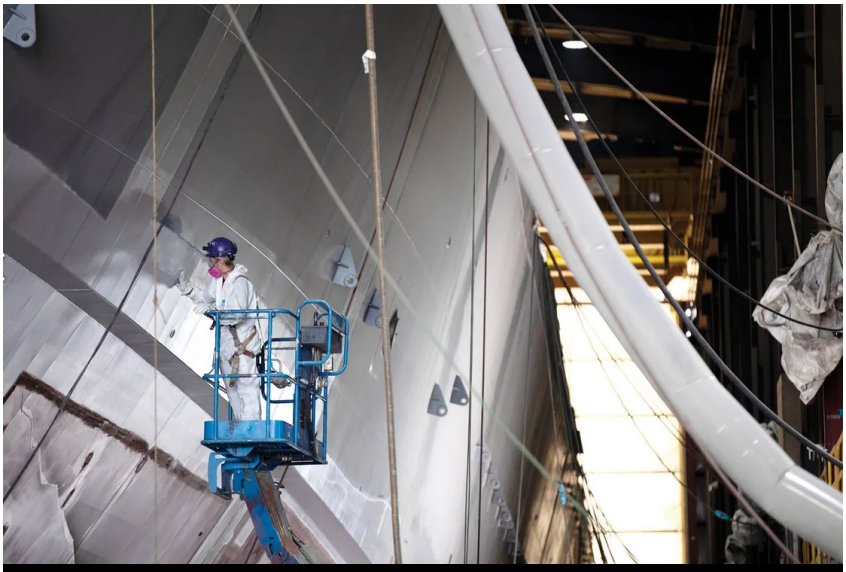
## Italian Excellence at the Service of US Defense

Among the five key allies suggested by the report (South Korea, Italy, Canada, Sweden, and the United Kingdom), **Italy** stands out for its established tradition and physical presence on American soil through **Fincantieri Marinette Marine**.

> *"To face the challenges of the coming decades, the United States must leverage strong partnerships with naval allies to support a collective revitalization of the maritime industrial base."*
>
> — ***Kenneth Braithwaite**, 77th Secretary of the Navy.*

### Why is Fincantieri crucial?

1. **Existing successful models:** Fincantieri is already building the *Constellation* class frigates (FFG-62), based on the design of the award-winning FREMM frigates. This demonstrates that allied design can be integrated quickly and successfully into American standards.
2. **Technology and Innovation:** While the USA seeks to produce "simpler" ships to speed up timelines, Fincantieri offers a perfect balance between technological sophistication and production efficiency, reducing design times thanks to already tested platforms.
3. **Workforce Integration:** The report suggests integrating the domestic labor pool with workers from allied countries. The synergy between Italian shipyards and those in Wisconsin represents the ideal model of this "circulation of skills".



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## Towards an "Allied Industrial Base"

The report from the Center for Maritime Strategy is not just a wake-up call, but a call to action for deeper transatlantic collaboration. In an era where "everything costs what it costs," Italian production efficiency and the reliability of Fincantieri are not just commercial opportunities, but fundamental pillars to ensure that the US Navy can maintain its role as a guarantor of global navigation freedom.

The maritime alliance between Rome and Washington, cemented by the steel of ships, seems to be the most effective response to the crisis of American shipbuilding and the growing international threats.