

# Thales in China

Factsheet



# THALES

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## Locations

- **Beijing**  
Thales in China Headquarters, R&D, MRO center, JV - BEST (Air Traffic Management)
- **Chengdu**  
JV BEST regional office
- **Dalian**  
Cyber & Digital regional office
- **Guangzhou**  
Cyber & Digital regional office
- **Hong Kong**  
Aviation, Cyber & Digital regional office
- **Shanghai**  
Smart card manufacturing; medical radiology equipment, Cyber & Digital regional office
- **Tianjin**  
Biometric scanners and document readers manufacturing

  
**800**  
employees

**60** years  
of business  
activities  
in China

  
**7** sites



## Did you know?

- Thales supports China in **managing the majority of its civil airspace** with Air Traffic Management solutions.
- With **dozens of radars** installed in China, Thales supports Chinese civil air operation with equipment and services in a long term.
- **More than 80%** of Chinese airlines fleet are equipped with Thales avionics solutions.
- Nearly **50%** of Chinese wide-body aircraft in service are equipped with Thales IFE systems.
- Thales **eSIM** and **banking cards** solutions enjoy a leading market position in China, trusted by local OEMs, automotive and Fintech giants.
- **Thales Software Monetization, App Security & Data Security** solutions are widely deployed in Chinese pillar industries.

# About **Thales**

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Thales (Euronext Paris: HO) is a global leader in advanced technologies specialized in three business domains: Defence, Aerospace, and Cyber & Digital. It develops products and solutions that help make the world safer, greener and more inclusive. The Group invests more than €4 billion a year in Research & Development, particularly in key innovation areas such as AI, cybersecurity, quantum technologies, cloud technologies and 6G. Thales has more than 83,000 employees in 68 countries. In 2024, the Group generated sales of €20.6 billion.

## Thales in China

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Thales provides innovative solutions for the infrastructure that forms the backbone of China's growth. The Group introduced its aerospace business to China in 1964 and has been recognized as a trusted partner of long term cooperation with Chinese aviation industry. In the areas of Cyber & Digital, Thales has also successfully applied its advanced technology to mobile communication, Fintech, automobile connectivity and software monetization, etc. Thales employs around 800 people with offices located in 7 cities across the country. Through R&D centers established in China, Thales is committed to develop innovative solutions for customers.





# Civil Aviation

Thales, a major player in avionics, aircraft cabin systems, air traffic management and digital identity, is helping to build the sustainable, connected aeronautics of tomorrow by offering a unique passenger experience in airports and in flight, optimizing flight operations and enabling the safe integration of new types of aircraft in airspace, capitalizing on cutting-edge technologies such as AI and cybersecurity.

In China, Thales guarantees the safety of air transportation by providing advanced and reliable solutions & services with expertise in air traffic management, avionics and cybersecurity.

- Thales is one of the major suppliers for air traffic management in the country. Solutions provided by Thales support local authorities in managing most of China's busiest civil air traffic zones including the airspace above Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Wuhan and Hong Kong.
- In the field of avionics, Thales provides solutions to Air China, China Southern, China Eastern, Hainan Airlines and other airlines including regional carriers. More than 4,500 aircraft in China are equipped with Thales avionics products or solutions.
- In the area of In Flight Entertainment (IFE), Thales is a leader with nearly 50% market share in China for wide-body aircraft currently in service.
- Thales also provides Customer Service, Field Technical Support, Repair and Logistics Operations for avionics and IFE products in China through its maintenance center (TAB) in Beijing.
- For the sector of Training & Simulation, Thales supports Chinese helicopter pilot training with advanced simulators.
- When it comes to the new air mobility domain for which China is also a front-runner, Thales is working to develop partnerships within the low altitude and urban air mobility ecosystems, with expertise in certifiable flight control systems, avionics, Unmanned Traffic Management (UTM) solutions, etc.



# Cyber & Digital

In a world where the number of digital connections and cyberattacks are constantly growing, Thales provides products and services which create a circle of trust between people and the digital services they rely on. The world's leading companies and governments in 180 countries trust us to secure people's and objects' identities, personal and sensitive data and their most critical applications. Our cyber & digital technologies are designed to offer solutions for a more sustainable digital transformation.

China is now one of the most digitalized countries in the world. Thales is proposing digital solutions to secure exchanges of information with a very wide range of use cases.

- **Mobile Connectivity:** Thales eSIM solutions take the leading market position in China and are trusted by most OEM and ODM customers from both consumer markets (e.g. Oppo, Vivo, ZTE, Lenovo, etc.) and automotive markets (e.g. Great Wall Motors). Thales cyber-secured connectivity solutions also support China automotive industry to meet cybersecurity challenges associated with the booming development of electric and connected vehicles.
- **Payment:** Thales supports major Chinese Fintechs (e.g. DiDi and Ctrip) to stay ahead in the expansion of overseas credit card business.
- **Biometrics:** Thales' biometric authentication and identification solutions can help to better secure national borders, protect identities, as well as enable a contactless passenger journey in airports.
- **Software Monetization:** Thales supports leading Chinese software companies to create revenue streams, improve operational efficiency, increase customer satisfaction and gain valuable business insights, by enabling innovative software pricing, selling and delivering models.
- **App Security & Data Security:** Thales Data Security & App Security solutions have been widely deployed in Chinese pillar industries to protect and control access to sensitive information, secure data in the cloud, safeguard transactions, validate identities, manage risk and ensure compliance.





## Local Partnerships



Thales is committed to the long-term development in China and aims to strengthen its local presence by partnering with local industry players. In 2007, Thales established the joint venture in China - **Beijing EasySky Technology Ltd. (BEST)** with Civil Aviation Air Traffic Control Technology Equipment Development Co. Ltd. (TEDC), to provide innovative and reliable air traffic management systems and services to meet Chinese air traffic management customers' needs.

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## Research & Innovation



Research and innovation is at the core of Thales Group. With 30,000 engineers dedicated to R&D across the world, the Group invests more than 4 billion euros a year in Research & Development, particularly in key areas such as artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, edge computing, 6G and cybersecurity. It holds a portfolio of 21,000 patents and patent applications, is one of the world's "Top 100 Global Innovators" according to Clarivate Analytics.

Thales is determined to be an integral part of Chinese local innovation ecosystem, developing innovative solutions for Chinese customers through its R&D centers established in Beijing.



## ESG Commitments



From the bottom of the oceans to the depths of space, Thales is empowering a safer, greener and more inclusive future. Thales is committed to promoting and implementing its **"Low Carbon Future Strategy"** around the world, aiming for "net zero" emissions by 2040, which is aligned with China's "Dual Carbon" target. Thales is actively supporting the environmental objectives set by the Chinese authorities, in terms of carbon footprint reduction for its industrial activities and developing greener products or solution for its customers, such as optimizing the air flight operation and providing banking cards & SIM cards made out of recycled plastic.

Thales is dedicated to increase the **diversity and inclusion** of its employees. In China, the female employees take 43% of total headcounts, with the Management Female ratio reaches 35% and the Engineering Female ratio reaches 34%.

Thales Group published the **Digital Ethics Charter in 2021** to outlines the company's position on the responsible use of technologies such as trusted AI and biometrics, and is taking steps to nurture an ESG culture within its teams. Thales proposition of TrUE AI (Transparent, Understandable and Ethical AI) concept is the good demonstration of using AI technology in an ethical way.



## Annexes/ List of Recent References



### Civil Aviation

»	Since 2019, Thales and its JV in China - BEST, have provided the advanced Air Traffic Control Automation System and Tower Automation System to Beijing Daxing International Airport, Beijing Terminal Maneuvering Area (TMA) Control Center, Qingdao Jiaodong International Airport, Wuhan TMA Control Center and Guangzhou New TMA Control Center etc., to improve the air traffic capacity and safety.
»	In 2022, Thales delivered the advanced Instrument Landing System to support the successful operation of Hong Kong International Airport 3rd Runway System expansion project.
»	From 2020 to 2023, China Eastern Airlines and China Southern Airlines signed several agreements with Thales to equip their aircraft respectively, including both Boeing and Airbus, with Thales advanced avionics solutions to increase the flight safety and efficiency.
»	In 2023, Thales together with Simaero introduced the first H225 level D Full Flight Simulator to China, contributing to improve the overall safety of helicopter flights for H225 pilots at China Sky-Wings training center in Shanghai.
»	Thales signed contracts with East ATMB and North ATMB respectively for the upgrade of Thales radars in Xiamen and Beijing, which were successfully delivered in 2024. With the upgrade completed, the two radars are expected to extend their operational life by 5 to 8 years.



### Cyber & Digital

»	In 2021, OPPO partnered with Thales for world's first 5G SA-Compatible eSIM which featured on OPPO's flagship 5G smartphone - OPPO Find X3 Pro.
»	In 2021, Thales signed an exclusive applet development agreement with China Unionpay, supporting "Quickpass" deployment on various mobile devices in China. This key function greatly helps China Unionpay to grow the mobile payment business.
»	In 2023, Thales Banking and Payment Solution delivered Ocean Plastic® banking card for TripLink (Ctrip Fintech).
»	In 2024, Yoocar partnered with Thales to provide Chinese car OEMs with automotive-grade embedded SIM cards (eUICC) supporting the SGP.02 GSMA scheme, to ensure safer and smarter car connectivity while help them meet compliance requirements in the overseas smart electric vehicle market.



### Research & Development

»	In 2023, two subsidiaries in China – Thales (Beijing) Technologies Co., Ltd and Thales Avionics (Beijing) Co., Ltd. – were recognised as Foreign-funded R&D Centers by Beijing government, which is the testament to Thales robust R&D capabilities locally in China.
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