

The United States Air Force to use Thales Deployable – Instrument Landing Systems

- Thales D-ILS will provide the equivalent of fixed-based Instrument Landing System capability at tactical airfields and in diverse environments.
- This is the third USAF order for Thales D-ILS and is the first production unit order.
- The D-ILS offers significantly improved reliability, maintainability and supportability over legacy deployable precision approach radar systems.



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The United States Air Force’s (USAF) activities to establish air superiority and support ground combat units often require the use of secure airfields in remote and challenging areas. Thales Deployable – Instrument Landing System (D-ILS), a compact and movable variant of the standard ILS, helps them accomplish this mission.

Over the last three years, Thales has received three orders from the USAF under the D-ILS contract. These orders allowed Thales to deliver a total of five D-ILS used by the USAF for initial testing and evaluation. The first Production Unit (PU) will be delivered to the Air Force before next year. Under the program, the Air Force plans to purchase an additional 28 Production Units bringing the total deployable complement to 34.

These systems will be used in airfield environments where the ability to provide precision guidance to aircraft on final approach during low visibility or low-ceiling weather conditions are critical while also being able to quickly set-up, activate, break-down and re-locate.

Thales D-ILS will provide the equivalent of fixed-based Instrument Landing System capability at tactical airfields and in harsh environments such as areas of natural disaster or humanitarian relief efforts. Thales D-ILS is based on the commercial-off-the-shelf Thales ILS 420 – the next generation fixed-based, dual frequency ILS. The D-ILS system can be easily transported via truck, rail or transport aircraft and quickly deployed. More than 700 fixed-base systems have been chosen worldwide for civil and military applications.

Thales Deployable ILS have already been deployed in Italy, Qatar and Mexico.

“With Thales D-ILS, the U.S. Air Force will receive an easily supportable, adaptable and resilient precision approach capability that all joint, coalition and civil ILS-equipped aircraft will be able to use worldwide.”

Tony Lo Brutto, Vice President, Thales ATM US

Notes to editors – Thales footprint and references

Thales is the undisputed world leader in Air Traffic Management with over 80 years' experience in designing and supplying Navigation and Surveillance systems. A trusted partner to the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and the U.S. Department of Defense, as well as Air Navigation Service providers and airports worldwide, Thales today deploys over 99 percent of the instrument landing systems at U.S. airports, and an installed base of over 11,000 navigation aids deployed around the world.

About Thales

The people we all rely on to make the world go round – they rely on Thales. Our customers come to us with big ambitions: to make life better, to keep us safer. Combining a unique diversity of expertise, talents and cultures, our architects design and deliver extraordinary high technology solutions. Solutions that make tomorrow possible, today. From the bottom of the oceans to the depth of space and cyberspace, we help our customers think smarter and act faster - mastering ever greater complexity and every decisive moment along the way. With 65,000 employees in 56 countries, Thales reported sales of \$18billion in 2017.

For more than 100 years, Thales has conducted significant research and development, manufacturing, and service capabilities in the US. Today, Thales is present in 13 states operating 23 different facilities. Working closely with US customers and local partners, Thales is able to meet the most complex requirements for every operating environment.

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