Factsheet
Thales in Finland
Thales in Finland:

- Present in Finland for over 130 years
- Over 300 Employees
- 2 sites

Key Highlights:

Defence
Thales provides a wide range of solutions for army, navy and air forces:
- Thales is a longtime partner of the Finnish Army with the Crotale air defense missile system and its support & maintenance services.
- Thales supplied the GM400 and 22XX Teresa radars to the Finnish Airforce.
- Thales in partnership with Conlog delivered optronics solutions for the upgrade of the infantry fighting BMP-2 vehicles.

Aerospace
- Thales has since 1990’s provided the FINEST system to Finland and Estonia, aiming at ensuring a world-class, safe and cost-effective Thales Air Traffic Management system.

Transportation
- Thales is one of the main signalling suppliers for Finland Railways with the modernisation of more than 40 railway stations with electronic interlocking systems.
- With the contract for signalling tech update on the Kotka-Kouvola-Hamina line, Thales takes another step into modernizing the Finnish rail network.
- Thales provides a GreenSpeed solution to the VR Group to assist them in reducing energy consumption on its freight and passenger rail operation.

Digital and Identity services in Finland
- Thales is the trusted partner to the Finnish Authorities and provides passport, ID cards, driving licenses and other official documents.
- Thales in Finland is a research & development hub within biometric solutions providing cutting edge technologies globally.
- Thales in close partnership with leading Finnish banks, Thales drives the change in lifestyle payment products and manufacture credit cards.
- Thales provides a wide range of IoT solutions for the energy, health care and logistics market.
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Thales is a key partner of the Finnish authorities and governmental institutions since 1880s in civil and defence domains.

Since then, Thales has increased its footprint through the provision of Military Air Surveillance Radars, where the first contract was signed in 1988 and the second in 2009.

Thales is also a partner for Air Traffic Management providing Air Control Systems to the civil aviation sector and the transportation rail control systems.

In the Digital & Identity Services area it dates back to 1885, when the Bank of Finland Banknote Printing Works was founded. Since 1987, Thales has been the passport supplier to the Finnish Authorities and in 1998 the National eID card was introduced by Thales, which was the first electronic ID card in the world.
Local cooperation

Thales’ strategy is to boost its local presence and establish local partnerships. Whenever a critical decision needs to be made, Thales has a role to play. Our solutions help customers to make the right decisions at the right time and act accordingly in challenging environments.

To help create a safer world, we serve five keys sectors in Finland

- Defence and Security
- Aerospace
- Space
- Ground Transportation
- Digital Identity and Security

Our core competencies are in Civil and Military Sectors, support on industrial participation, system engineering, life cycle services & support in several domains, extension of product life time and also cybersecurity solutions.

In 1999 the first Ground Transportation contract was signed providing Signalling systems to Finland, which was then followed up by a further 14 signalling contracts. This demonstrate Thales’ strong position as a strategic supplier of railway signalling solutions and Traffic Management Systems to the Finnish Railway Authorities.

Our activities

Defence

Thales in Finland has a longstanding and strong position in the Finnish armed forces. We offer a wide range of solutions for air, land, naval and joint forces in areas such as command & control systems, surveillance, detection and intelligence systems.

Army

Thales has equipped the Finnish Army Ground Based Air Defence (GBAD) units with the highly mobile Crotale air defence missile systems. In 2016, the Finnish army procured optronic solutions for an upgrade of the infantry fighting BMP-2 vehicles, which are equipped with commander/shooter night vision systems and Driver Vision Enhancer (DVE) system. For this solution, Thales is partnering up with the Finnish company Conlog.

Thales also provides maintenance support through a local company, i.e. Millog.

Thales is also a key partner of the army by providing simulating systems for the main battle tanks (MBT, Leopard 2).

Air Defence

In 1988, the Finnish Air Force procured Teresa 22XX long range air defence radars from Thales. These fixed radars are the back bone of aerospace surveillance thanks to their long range and high altitude. In 2009, the Air Force signed a contract for upgrading the radars and selected the GM400 Air Defence radars in a joint procurement with Estonia.
Aerospace

As a worldwide leader in technology and communication, Thales provides a variety of products and services to the aviation industry.

Since the first Thales Air Traffic Management centre was built in the late 90s, Thales has been the service provider to the Finnish air navigation service, FINAVIA. After several updates, the current Air Traffic Management centre at TOPSKY ATC now covers the entire country including military and smaller civil airports.

Transportation

Thales offers one of the most reliable and comprehensive portfolios of rail and public ground transportation solutions on the market.

In Finland, Thales is one of the main signalling suppliers delivering and integrating the complete signalling technology starting from field elements (such as axle counters, signal units and point machines), train routing and train control system up to the centralised Traffic Control system in the South Eastern region of the country. The Ring Rail Line between Vantaankoski and Tikkurila is an 18km double track line equipped by Thales technology and has since 2015 connected Helsinki Airport to the existing track network.

In 2018, Thales Finland signed a contract with Finnish Transport Infrastructure Agency concerning the Lulma Line. Thales will be extending the existing interlocking and replacing three old interlockings by ESTW L90 5. During October 2019, first commissioning phase was implemented successfully and released to the commercial use.

Thales is supporting Finnish Transport Infrastructure Agency and Fintraffic in European Rail Traffic Management System (ERTMS) strategy planning for Finnish railways. ERTMS technology provides a competitive edge to railways by increasing the capacity of rail infrastructures and a greater ability to respond to growing transport demands. In February 2021, Thales Finland signed the Kotka-Kouvola-Hamina contract to renew the outdated signalling technology and also to provide a first ERTMS L2 test track in the country. The project represents a further step in the modernisation of the Finnish rail network.

Furthermore, the Thales owned company, Cubris, has since 2016 onboarded their GreenSpeed solution for the VR Group. VR Group’s main ambition is to reduce its energy consumption on its freight and passenger rail operation market by including the GreenSpeed Driver Advisory System, and its other added values, onto their own driver control platform.
Digital & Identity Services

Thales is a world leader in digital security, where trust has been brought to the global economy and digital exchanges are being secured for billions of people and things. April 2nd 2019, Gemalto was acquired by Thales providing Digital Identity & Security in the majority of the countries in the world.

Identity & Biometric Solutions

Thales is the trusted partner to the Finnish Authorities and provides passport, ID cards, driving licenses and other official documents.

Since 2017 more than 750,000 passports have been issued per year for Finland, and in 2019 produced more than 10 mio. Biometric passports for more than 30 countries in the world.

Thales is known for a reliable and secure service and the use of the local site ensures an efficient workflow, both in terms of data transfer and document delivery. Thales operates the issuance and afterwards the documents are delivered to the Citizens through a secure delivery network. Security is our state of mind.

Besides Passports and ID cards, Thales is producing eResident permits, Visas, Visa stickers, Driving licenses, eTacho, Gun Permits, Boating licenses, boat registrations, seafarer permissions and health care cards. Interoperability is the key for all our products therefore the international standards and regulations are always strictly followed.

Banking & Payment Services

Thales offers services for financial institutions in the Banking & Payment Services (BPS) unit. The world of financial services is changing fast and consumers look for evermore personalised, convenient and secure ways to pay, communicate and interact with their banks and accounts. Today, we provide the Finnish banking sector with a wide range of secure digital banking, cards and digital payment solutions meeting and exceeding these demands. Our onboarding/KYC (Know Your Customer), access/SCA (Strong Customer Authentication) and risk management services have been used for many years in the Nordics, and combined they are the ideal way to secure and enhance the entire customer journey for digital banking. Available both as on-premises and cloud platform, as a service, supporting either mobile authentication or hardware devices. In close partnership with leading Finnish banks we also drive the change in lifestyle payment products, including world-leading mobile, biometric, metal, eco-friendly and wearable contactless payment cards.

Cloud Protection Licencing

Thales is also well known for providing advanced data protection as well as identity and access management solutions both for government organizations and large enterprises. In Finland, several qualified Thales Partners are able to provide consultancy and system integration services leveraging our security portfolio. Some large Finnish Managed Service Providers offer “Security As A Service” powered by our comprehensive portfolio to enable customers to consume our solutions based on a monthly fee. We provide robust solutions for both on premise and cloud deployments, encryption for data at rest, data in motion across networks plus identity and access controls which have become more complex due to the new ways of working.

Internet of Things

By 2025, 75 billion IoT devices will be connected with a potential market value of around $1.6 trillion. IoT devices and services offer unprecedented possibilities, business opportunities, and challenges.

To support its clients, Thales delivers innovative IoT technology that simplifies and speeds enterprise digital transformation. In Finland, Thales also provides a wide range of market leading IoT solutions perfectly adapted for the Finnish market context such as Smart Metering solutions for utilities and grid managers within the energy market. For the Finnish Healthcare system, Thales provides state of the art solution in security and connectivity. IoT in Healthcare, dramatically improves patient outcomes and save millions of lives with remote patient monitoring. Within Asset Tracking, IoT is also driving the evolution. Whether devices monitor vehicle fleets, locate containers, trace stolen goods, or detect changes to environment, Thales IoT asset tracking provides the tools to improve efficiency in a wide range of industries, providing our Finnish customers’ devices with the exact data they need.