Factsheet
Thales in Greece
Key highlights:

Defence
- CROTALE Air Defence systems
- Combat systems for surface vessels
- PR4G tactical radios and optronic systems

Transportation
- ETCS signalling systems for Athens-Promachonas line (via Thessaloníki)
- Signalling and telecommunication systems for the new Kiato-Rododafni railway line

Aerospace
- National Air Traffic Management system
- Air Navigation Aids Systems

Security
- Member of Pandora cybersecurity project.

Digital Identity & Security
- Identity and biometric solutions
- Highly secure documents such as passports, ID cards and drivers’ licenses
- Mobile identity solutions

Thales in Greece:
- Presence for over 45 years
- 40 employees

Koropi (HQ)

Athens
Thales has been active in Greece for 45 years, expanding its historical presence in Defence in the country to cover Air Traffic Control, Transport, Space and Identity markets.

In Defence markets, Thales is a supplier of major systems to the Hellenic Armed Forces. These include avionics and mission systems for the Rafale and Mirage 2000/2000-5 combat aircraft, as well as large-scale air defence systems for the Air Force and the Navy.

Thales combat systems are deployed by the Hellenic Navy on board surface vessels, whereas Thales PR4G tactical radios, optronic systems and surveillance radars are in service with the Army.

In civil markets, Thales has supplied much of the country’s air traffic management systems as well as signalling systems for the mainline rail network and supervision and communication systems for the Athens metro.
Local cooperation

Thales has teamed with local industry partners on numerous defence, aerospace and ground transportation projects.

Thales is playing an active role in the development of the Greek defence industry through a network of local SMEs and participates in European Programs in cooperation with Greek Universities and Research Centers.

In addition, Thales is an active member of a number of local industry organisations, including SEV (Hellenic Federation of Enterprises), HASDIG (Hellenic Aerospace & Defence Industries Group), SEKPY (Association of Hellenic Defence Manufacturers) and EVIDITE (Greek Space Association) and member of si-Cluster (Space Cluster). The company is also an accredited supplier of defence systems to the Greek Ministry of Defence.

In transport, Thales is working with Greek companies of civil works and engineering (Engineering Procurement Construction).

Defence

Thales is a long-standing partner of the Hellenic Air Force, Hellenic Navy and Hellenic Army.

In the Air domain, Greece announced a historic order of 18 Rafale aircraft in January 2021, becoming the first European customer of the Rafale team. Thales is responsible for the combat systems, radar and electronics of the aircraft.

The deliveries of aircraft will be spread out over two years, ending in 2023. The contract also includes logistic support to Hellenic Air Force Rafale’s air activity, maintaining the availability of equipment and systems at the highest level.

This new order complements the existing Mirage 2000 and Mirage 2000-5 combat aircraft in service with the Hellenic Air Force that are equipped with Thales sensors and equipment. Additionally in the Air domain, Thales has also supplied Crotale air defence systems to the Air Force.

Thales Hellas has also implemented the Air Command and Control System in Larissa for NATO with its local engineers, who are now deployed across Europe to support the system. Supported by Thales Raytheon Systems, the ACCS is the first unified system in NATO, enabling its members to manage all types of air operations, both inside and outside NATO. The ACCS helps member countries to assert their territorial sovereignty and protect their populations and armed forces from air and missile threats.

In the Naval domain, surface vessels in service are equipped with Thales electronic combat systems, self-defence and communication systems.

In the Land domain, Thales has provided PR4G tactical radios, surveillance radars and optronic systems to the Army.

Security

Thales is contributing to cybersecurity in Greece via Pandora, an R&D Defence project and consortium which aims to build the EU’s cyberdefence capacity.

Led by the Greek Defence Ministry and coordinated by Space Hellas, Pandora involves 15 organisations from 8 European Member States.

As a strategic partner to this program, Thales is leader of the integration and verification of the Cyber defence platform. The aim of these activities is to integrate all the developed components and to experiment and validate the end-to-end platform with the use of a simulation environment for the cyber-attacks.
Aerospace

Since the 1990s, Thales has supplied numerous systems to the Greek civil aviation authorities, including primary radars, secondary surveillance radars, communication and Air Navigation Aids (nav aids) systems.

Thales’s Air Traffic Management system has been in operation since 1990 to manage all air traffic movements in Greek airspace. In 2015, Thales was selected to upgrade this ATM system in a contract that includes hardware replacement as well as the supply and integration of the Multi Sensor Tracking System (MSTS) and other enhancements.

In 2021, Hellenic Civil Aviation Authority awarded Thales a contract to supply ground-based Air Navigation Aids systems for safer landing and approach at airport. This contract includes the supply of 10 Doppler VHF Omnidirectional Range (DVOR), 13 Distance Measuring Equipment (DME) and 6 Instrument Landing systems (ILS). It also comprises the installation of the instruments on 18 different sites across the country, from remote mountain peaks, to major hubs such as the Athens.

The Navigation Surveillance capabilities will ensure all-weather, en-route navigation and approach services and will significantly increase both safety and air traffic efficiency.

Over 60% of this project will be executed locally in collaboration with Greek Industries including Thales Hellas, highlighting the country’s technical expertise in delivering critical infrastructures.

Space

In Space, Thales Alenia Space also supplies one of Greece’s primary communications satellites, Hellasat 3, which entered into service in 2017. Two years later, Thales Alenia Space, Thales Hellas and the Hellenic Space Agency signed a Memorandum of Understanding covering cooperation in the area of Earth observation. The objective is to foster cooperation in national, European and international space programs to build synergies and boost the Greek space industry’s capabilities.

Transportation

Selected in 2014, Thales is responsible for the signalling and telecommunication systems for the new rail line between Kiato and Rododafni, which was inaugurated in 2020. Thales ETCS Level 1 signalling systems also equip the rail line from Athens to Promachonas (Bulgarian border).

In addition, Thales provides the passenger information system and train supervision system for Line 1 of the Athens metro.
In early 2019, Thales acquired the international security company, Gemalto and have combined it with existing digital assets to create a new leader in digital security.

Thales delivers identity and biometric solutions to governments, public authorities and private entities in the fields of civil identity and public security.

We do this by providing highly secure documents such as passports, ID cards, drivers’ licenses etc. but also mobile identity solutions that are at the heart of identity schemes. Governments rely on Thales to go through their digital transformation. We support them by delivering efficient eGovernment and mGovernment services.

We also provide solutions for verifying people’s identities, for example, when they cross borders and enrolling them in national registers. Both of these are built on our expertise in biometrics.

Thales stands ready to support Greece in the creation of a trusted digital identity program.