Thales in Malaysia

- A presence for over 40 years
- Headquartered in Kuala Lumpur
- Over 235 employees (including Sapura Thales Electronics and former Gemalto)
- Naval Service & Support Centre in Lumut and Kota Kinabalu
- Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) Centre for Catherine cameras

Sapura Thales Electronics (STE) designs, develops and produces VHF handheld radios, complete with a range of accessories, solutions & services, that are being exported worldwide

- Award recipient for the Most Outstanding Industrial Collaboration Programme by the Malaysian Ministry of Defence

Highlights

Defence

- Thales has a long history of cooperation with the Royal Malaysian Air Force for Air Defence solution.
- Thales has signed a contract to supply the Malaysian Armed Forces with the ForceSHIELD integrated Air Defense system.
- Thales is part of the AV8 programme for the Royal Malaysian Army. Thales provides communication, avionics, sensors, command & control, mortar and optronics.
- The Littoral combat ship (LCS) are equipped with the SMART-S radar, CAPTAS-2 sonar and Electronic Warfare solutions.
- The Kasturi class corvettes are equipped with Thales sensors, fire-control and Combat Management System.
- All Royal Malaysian Navy ships are equipped with Thales Electronic Warfare solutions.
- Royal Malaysian Navy submarines are equipped with Thales Sonars.
- STE is part of the Future Soldier System Program.
- Thales supplied the RMAF with its most advanced surveillance radar, the Ground Master 400 in Kuching.
- STE fully designed and developed in Malaysia the second generation TRC 5200 VHF handheld radio, exported worldwide.

Security

- In September 2015, Thales Malaysia signed an MOU with Cyber Security Malaysia (CSM) to help develop and implement practical cybersecurity approaches and technological advancements.
- In 2013, Thales and the University of Malaya (Kuala Lumpur) deployed technologies to generate digital degree certificates to reduce risk of counterfeit and fraud.
- Security elements in Malaysia’s e-passports are made by Thales.

Aerospace

- Thales’ In-Flight Entertainment system flies aboard Malaysia Airlines’ Airbus A380 aircraft.
- Thales avionics systems flies on-board Air Asia’s entire fleet of 304 A320neo aircraft.
- Thales is supplying its TopSky air traffic control system to the Kota Kinabalu flight information region.
- Screens for Thales’ inflight entertainment systems, serving a global market, are manufactured in Kedah state.

Transportation

- In Kuala Lumpur, Thales is the long term technology partner of Prasarana, accomplishing successful delivery of the monorail and the updated signalling of the Ampang and Kelana Jaya LRT lines.
- Thales is also supplier of KTMB for axle counters and it is providing its Integrated Control Supervisory System (ICSS) for MRT line 2, currently under construction.
- Thales has created a Rail Center of Excellence in Batu Gajah and collaborates closely with the TDA and KTMB to develop future rail expertise for Malaysia.
Thales in Malaysia - Factsheet

Thales has been present in Malaysia for over 40 years and is a strategic partner to key customers in defence & security, transportation, aerospace and digital identity & security. Thales employs over 235 people in Malaysia, including personnel from its joint venture with the Sapura Group, Sapura Thales Electronics, and employees from the former Gemalto. Its employees are located in Kuala Lumpur, Lumut and Kota Kinabalu.

The acquisition of Gemalto on 2nd April 2019 brought Thales an unrivalled portfolio of solutions based on technologies such as biometry, data protection and cybersecurity. In Malaysia, Thales now serves the needs of diverse customers in the banking, telecommunications and government sectors.

Thales has a large installed base in Malaysia and consequently, a growing service organisation with Support Centres at the naval bases of Lumut and Kota Kinabalu.

Thales is a historical partner of the Royal Malaysian Armed Forces. Thales provides radars and sonars for the Littoral combat ships.
Local cooperation

Thales’ presence in Malaysia is built on a strategy of building strong relationships with local partners. Established in 1996, Sapura Thales Electronics Sdn. Bhd. (STE) is a private limited company registered in Malaysia. Through this active industrial partnership, STE is designing, developing and producing VHF handheld radios, together with a complete range of accessories that are being used in several Armed Forces. Products developed by STE are also exported from Malaysia to countries in Asia, Africa, the Middle East and South America. In March 2019, STE launched its 2nd generation, fully ‘Made in Malaysia’ handheld radio, 20 years after the successful launch of the first generation radio.

Since 2005, Thales has been operating a Naval Service & Support Centre (NSSC) based in Lumut and Kota Kinabalu, and a systems integration laboratory in Kuantan, to support the numerous systems currently in service with the Malaysian Armed Forces. Thales is implementing a Maintenance Centre of the very latest generation of Thermal Imagers, together with DEFTech and Defence Services Sdn. Bhd. (DSSB) in Nilai. Thales has a strong presence through partnerships with prestigious local industry players including Sapura, DEFTech, Weststar, Boustead and Airod which were selected for their expertise in their respective areas of business.

To prepare for the future, Thales has developed strong relations with universities and research centres, via academic partnerships and Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) signed with industry partners.

Thales is involved in an Industrial Collaboration Programme (ICP) with the Technology Depository Agency (TDA) and rail operator Keretapi Tanah Melayu Berhad (KTMB), providing a Train-the-Trainee programme for a railway signalling and communications module to develop future talent in Malaysia’s rail industry, via a rail Centre of Excellence in Batu Gajah. 10 rail experts from local Malaysian institutions successfully graduated from this programme in 2017.

In September 2017, Thales signed a 2nd Tier agreement with the National Defence University of Malaysia (University Pertahanan Nasional Malaysia - UPNM) to promote technology awareness in Malaysia. Thales’ architects will bring their unique expertise to jointly develop a three-year Master of Science degree programme in International Technology Management for Defence and Security with the Warwick Manufacturing Group (WMG) at the University of Warwick and UPNM. The programme, which commenced in September 2018, will produce 60 next-generation trained defence and security experts by the end of 2021 as part of an offsets arrangement in the ForceSHIELD procurement contract between Global Komited and Thales.

On 1 July 2018, Thales and the Technology Depository Agency signed a Pre-Industrial Collaboration Program agreement where the Celestica (strategic supplier for Thales Group) plant in Kulim, Kedah, was subcontracted to carry out the complete manufacturing, assembly and final testing of airborne displays for the latest generation Thales inflight entertainment systems. The agreement, which is directed at a global market, is expected to create over 450 Malaysian job opportunities per year for Celestica and the associated industry for the next five years in addition to generating offset credits and other business opportunities for Malaysia.

On 26 March 2019, Thales was recognised by Malaysia’s Ministry of Defense with an award for the Most Outstanding Industrial Collaboration Programme. The award was presented to Thales by the Secretary General of Defence Dato’ Halimi bin Abd Manaf and witnessed by Tun Dr. Mahathir bin Mohammed, Prime Minister of Malaysia, and Tuan Haji Mohamad Sabu, Minister of Defence. The award recognises Thales’ active participation in key projects designed to modernise the defence sector, including the integrated vehicle electronic architecture for the AV8 programme, and the ForceSHIELD integrated air defence system.

Industry focus

Defence

Thales offers the full scope of its defence expertise and experience in support of the modernisation plan for the Malaysian Armed Forces. Thales is actively involved in the three largest programmes for the Malaysian Ministry of Defence: the AV8 programme for the Army; the Gowind corvettes for the Navy; and the STARStreak air defence programme for the Malaysian Joint Forces.

In the Naval sector, Thales supplies the Royal Malaysian Navy (RMN) with state-of-the-art above water and underwater sensors and mission systems installed onboard...
various Malaysian ships. Thales is supplying six SMART-S Mk2 naval surveillance radar systems, as well as six CAPTAS-2 towed sonar systems for the Royal Malaysian Navy’s Second Generation Patrol Vessel (SGPV) Littoral Combat Ships (LCS). Thales successfully conducted combat system (TACTICOS) integration work on Kasturi class corvettes for the RMN.

For Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR), all operational ships in the Navy are equipped with electronic warfare systems from Thales. The Amascos and Ocean Master are on board Beechcraft B200, while the Fulmar UAV are onboard the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA)’s New Generation Patrol Craft (NGPC).

In the field of Communications and Command & Control systems, Thales is providing the Malaysian Army with its secured digital communication solutions as part of the major digitalisation programme of the Malaysian Armed Forces. STE is also providing integration on various platforms. These vehicles are part of the 257 armoured vehicle units that are designed, developed, manufactured and commissioned by DEFTECH under a contract awarded in 2011.

In March 2019, Thales launched the second-generation military VHF radio, the TRC 5200. The launch of these second-generation Sapura Military VHF radios was witnessed by Malaysian Prime Ministry Tun Dr. Mahatir bin Mohamad and marked a significant milestone in the country’s local industrial capabilities. The radios are fully designed and developed in Malaysia by STE, the joint venture between the Sapura Group and Thales.

In December 2014, the first 12 units of the 8X8 Infantry Fighting Vehicle 25 mm (IFV25) were handed over to the Malaysian Army. Thanks to its expertise in C4ISR systems for Land Forces, Thales provides an integrated and scalable vehicle electronic architecture in the AV8 programme. This includes a wide range of Thales equipment such as communications, avionics, sensors, command & control, mortar and optronics that meet the rigorous operational performance criteria of the Malaysian Army.

In order to manage this programme in close cooperation with DEFTECH, Thales set up a system integration laboratory in the Kuantan factory where the AV8s are manufactured. This laboratory is managed by Thales Malaysia Sdn. Bhd. and its joint venture, STE, in order to strengthen its local footprint. A Maintenance, Repair & Overhaul (MRO) centre has also been established in order to enhance the maintenance of the Catherine cameras used by the Malaysian armed forces.

In the military aerospace sector, the Royal Malaysian Air Force is operationally using Thales’ AMASCOS mission system on its mission aircrafts. Furthermore, its SU-30 Jet Fighters are equipped with Thales optronics (Pod Damocles), avionics and navigation solutions. Thales has supplied a wide range of solutions to the RMAF for Air Surveillance and ISR, including the GM400 radars for air surveillance and air defence.

In December 2016, Thales delivered an FNPT II (Flight and Navigation Procedures Trainer) simulator used to provide flight training to the Royal Malaysian Air Force. The simulator for H120 helicopters is accompanied by a visual database adapted to training needs within the Malaysian environment.
Thales signed a contract in September 2015 with Global Komited, a company within the Weststar Group, to supply the Malaysian Armed Forces with ForceSHIELD, Thales’ integrated Advanced Air Defence system. In addition to the STARStreak missiles, the system comprises CONTROLMaster 200 radar and weapon coordination systems, RAPIDRanger and RAPIDRover mobile weapon systems and the Next Generation Lightweight Multiple Launcher, as well as associated communications. The purchase of ForceSHIELD will enable the Malaysian Armed Forces to modernise and enhance the previously commissioned Thales STARBurst missile system, which has been in service since the mid 1990’s.

As a reinforcement to the ForceSHIELD contract, Thales signed a 1st Tier industry collaboration agreement with the Malaysian Ministry of Defence and Global Komited in 2017. The contract aimed at modernising the defence sector through a range of projects that will boost the country’s military and security technological capabilities.

In 2018, the ForceSHIELD Ground Based Air Defence (GBAD) system project with the Malaysian Armed Forces reached its final milestone with Full System Acceptance (FSA). The next generation of Short Range Air Defence (SHORAD) will enter service with the Malaysian Armed Forces.

In less than 3 years, Thales completed its ForceSHIELD offsets obligation by helping boost local capabilities with the creation of a Master of Science degree in International Technology Management for Defence and Security with the Universiti Pertahanan Nasional Malaysia (UPNM). The one-year programme, designed by Thales in collaboration with UPNM and Warwick Manufacturing Group, will commence with its first batch of students in 2019.

Security

Public Safety and Security: Thanks to its experience in security for cities and critical infrastructure, Thales is positioning itself in Malaysia to address the needs of public safety and crisis management in large metropolises. Thales security solutions cover areas such as citizen protection, anti-terrorism, protection of critical infrastructures, green and blue borders’ control and information systems security.

Cyber security and information system security: Thales has a strong team of cyber security experts in its Kuala Lumpur office responsible for the sales, marketing and consulting of Thales solutions in Malaysia. Thales has over 25 years of regional presence and expertise in this domain and is the leading global provider of data protection solutions in the region.

Academic institutions around the world face occasional challenges over the production of counterfeit degree certificates. In 2013, the University of Malaya decided to address the problem by issuing e-Scrolls or digital degree certificates to their graduates. These e-Scrolls are digitally signed, time-stamped and can be authenticated online. As a leader in information systems and communications security,
Thales deployed its technology to the university with its NShield hardware security modules (HSMs) and Time Stamp Server, supporting their aim of reducing instances of counterfeiting and fraud.

In September 2015 Thales Malaysia signed an MOU with Cyber Security Malaysia (CSM). Thales supports CSM with the development and implementation of practical cyber security approaches and technological advancements through this strategic alliance. Thus, Thales continuously enhances the quality of Critical Infrastructure Systems Security Assurance and delivers greater benefits of ICT to internet users in Malaysia.

In 2017, Thales signed a follow-up MOU with Cyber Security Malaysia to form a Strategic Cyber Security Collaboration under the supervision of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation of Malaysia (“MOSTI”). The collaboration seeks to stimulate activities such as the development of an advanced Security Monitoring Capability, cutting-edge consulting and ITSEF capabilities, cyber training dedicated to form Malaysian cyber experts and cooperation on cyber threat intelligence and information sharing. This is in line with Malaysia’s goals to reinforce the cyber protection of its critical national assets.

**Digital Identity and Security:** Thales expanded its footprint in Digital Identity with the acquisition and integration of Gemalto on 2nd April 2019. Elements of the Malaysian e-Passport, including datapages, hinges and security elements, are produced by the (former) Gemalto, and Thales also serves the needs of major banking, telecommunications and government customers.

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**Aerospace**

In 2010, Malaysia Airlines selected Thales for SATCOM connectivity. The Thales TopFlight SATCOM provides the hardware and communications software that connects the aircraft cockpit and cabin to the ground.

In 2012, Malaysia Airlines selected Thales’ In-Flight Entertainment System for its A380 fleet. Passengers are able to enjoy audio and video on-demand and entertainment in dual languages. Other features include games, interactive Qur’an, e-books and e-shopping. A Thales workshop is located within Malaysia Airlines’ facilities in Kuala Lumpur Airport.

In 2017, AirAsia, the leading Low-Cost Carrier (LCC) in the region, selected Thales’ avionics systems for their new fleet of 304 A320neos. The contract will also include a long-term Repair-By-The-Hour support agreement. The avionics package includes the TopFlight flight management system, T3CAS, Low Range Radio Altimeter and Emergency Location Transmitters.

In the area of Air Traffic Management, Thales has been supplying the Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia (CAAM) with approach and landing systems as well as radar systems. In 2018, Thales announced that it will be upgrading Kota Kinabalu’s Flight Information Region’s (FIR) Air Traffic Control (ATC) system, radars, ground station, surveillance systems and distance measurement equipment over the next three years. Thales will supply its state-of-the-art ICAO’s ASBU-ready TopSky-ATC system, its new generation of primary and secondary co-mounted radars, ADS-B (Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast) ground stations and latest DVOR-DME.

Celestica, a strategic Thales Group supplier, has been manufacturing Thales’ IFE cabin video displays since 2005. The Celestica plant in Kulim, Kedah, produces the latest generation of Thales inflight entertainment displays for global airlines, serving a worldwide market.

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**Transportation**

Thales systems at support of the public transport services are in operation since 1998 in Malaysia, when the Kelana Jaya LRT line Section 1, from Subang Depot to Pasar Seni commenced operations, using Thales SelTrac Communications-Based Train Control (CBTC) system. It has been for years the longest automated driverless metro in the world.

In 2011, Thales was awarded a contract to upgrade Kuala Lumpur’s Monorail signalling system. On this program, Thales was selected to supply a turnkey signalling Solution.

In the same year, Thales was awarded a contract to provide its world-leading CBTC system for the 17 km extension of the Kelana Jaya Line in Kuala Lumpur, which encompassed an extension from Kelana Jaya Station to Putra Heights, servicing 13 additional new stations and reaching a total length of more than 46 km.

In 2012, Thales won the contract to upgrade the Kuala Lumpur Ampang Line to fully-automated CBTC signalling. Thales provides the SelTrac CBTC for the existing 27 km Ampang Line, plus an 18 km southwest extension. Due to the close cooperation and teamwork between the various stakeholders, as well as strong capabilities developed locally, both the Kelana Jaya and Ampang Line projects were successfully delivered in mid-2016.

In 2016, Thales was chosen to supply its Integrated Control Supervisory System for the MRT Corp’s project Sungai Buloh-Serendang-Putrajaya MRT. The line is expected to be fully operational in 2021.