Factsheet
Thales in the Republic of Korea
**Highlights**

**Defence**
- Thales is taking a major role to the Korean Defence Forces, with a local partnership in the naval and air defence domain.

**Transportation**
- Thales represents more than 40% of market share in rail signalling solutions, with eight urban rail & eleven mainline signalling projects secured.

**Space**
- Thales delivered satellites both for military & commercial use and develops the Korean Augment Satellite System with KARI.

**Aerospace**
- The Group is a main partner with Korean Air, providing In-Flight Entertainment and connectivity solutions to over 50% of their fleet.

**Digital Identity & Security**
- Thales supplies biometric passports for the Korean Government and delivers combined solution for connectivity & security in one chip.

---

**Thales in the Republic of Korea**
- Present in Korea since 1983
- With over 69 employees
- Headquartered in Seoul
Thales in the Republic of Korea  
– Factsheet

Thales has been present in the Republic of Korea for over thirty five years in the defence, transportation, security, aerospace and space domains. The Thales Group recently acquired Gemalto, a global leader in digital identification and data protection, enabling the Group to offer an even more comprehensive portfolio of solutions (system, equipment, services etc.) to its customers.

In Korea, Thales is present in the civil domains providing various solutions for domains such as Air Traffic Management, Ground Transportation, In-Flight Entertainment, Space and Digital Security.

Thales is a long-term provider of solutions for the Korean Armed Forces, with an extensive footprint in both naval and air defence domains. Thales is also a key player in the military space domain (communication and observation capabilities).
Local cooperation

Thales has, in the course of many military programmes over the past years supported building local capabilities with our Korean partners. Thales actively supports Korean military research bodies by providing equipment, technology and engineering assistance in the development of local equipment.

In 2000, Thales created a Joint Venture focusing on defence activities with Samsung known as Samsung Thales Corporation (STC), which was later transferred to the Hanwha Group in 2015. In 2016, Thales sold its 50% stake to Hanwha.

Today, Thales partners with many key industrial players such as renowned companies like Hanwha Systems, LIG nex 1 etc.

Thales signed two contracts with Korea, one with KAI and one with Hanwha Systems to develop a satellite system at the cutting edge of innovation. [Credit – Thales]

In the transportation domain for both the domestic and export market, Thales has developed a successful partnership with different companies such as Hyundai Rotem and Woojinfor onboard signalling systems, and DAEATI and LSIS for wayside signalling systems.

In the space domain, Thales over the past 20 years has continuously reinforced its local presence through close industrial cooperation with partners such as Hanwha Systems, KAI and many others. Thales Alenia Space’s renowned expertise is to better serve the increased military and civil needs of its end customers such as ADD, KARI and KT SAT among others.

Thales signed a Letter of Intent for technical cooperation to improve the performance of the IFF equipment operation mode. [Credit – LIG nex 1]

Industry focus

Defence

Thales has been a supplier of equipment to the Republic of Korea Navy (ROKN) since the early 1990s. Radars, sonars and fire control systems have been supplied over the years and are now supported by Thales and its in-country partners.

The ROKN is one of the most important users of the Goalkeeper CIWS and KD-COM, with several systems in operation. Thales is currently engaged in a comprehensive overhaul programme which is being executed in conjunction with local industry. Thales’ mine countermeasures sonars and Influence Minesweeping equipment are the backbone of the ROKN’s MCM capability.

A Goalkeeper [Credit – Thales]

Thales has been contracted to provide the Flash dipping sonar & SONICS dipping sonar and sonobuoy solution for the naval maritime operation helicopters. Thales also supplies IFF equipment, submarine radar and has established a VLF Communications Station.

In Air Defence, Thales is recognized as a long term partner of the armed forces and industry and has participated in the K-SAM project by supporting technical cooperation with Korean industries. Thales is also a system supplier for KMSAM Air Defence System and actively supports Korea as a reliable engineering partner.

K-SAM systems [Credit – Thales]
Aerospace

Thales has been a key partner of Korean Air (KAL) since 2009 for the supply of In-Flight Entertainment (IFE) solutions. The majority of Korean Air’s aircraft are equipped with Thales IFE systems including Boeing 777s, A330s and the Boeing 787-9 “Dreamliner”, which has been the latest addition to airline’s fleet since early 2017.

Besides, Thales is currently assisting local industries to upgrade the Air Defence Weapons System (IFF) to be Mode 5 compatible and also provides Helmet Mounted Display Systems (HMDS) for LAH (Light Armed Helicopter), as well as Avionics for KUH (Korean Utility Helicopter) and LCH (Light Civil Helicopter).

Transport

Thales has been present in the Korean transportation market since 2002. Thales secured eight urban metro projects (URS) and eleven main line projects (MLS) in the country. As a result, Thales is known as a leader in high-tech rail signalling for both urban rail and mainline sectors in close collaboration with Korean players such as Hyundai Rotem, Woojin and DaeaTi. Thales also collaborates with Korean Prime contractors such as LSIS for export projects in 3rd party countries.

In 2016, Thales opened revenue services for two metro line driverless operation systems by CBTC (Communication based Train Control): the southern extension of the SinBundang Line (Jeongja-Gwanggyo) and Incheon Metro Line 2. In 2018, following the opening of Gyeongchun and Jeolla Lines, our main line system successfully supported the Pyeongchang Winter Olympic Games. We also secured contracts for the CBTC signalling system of SinBundang Line 3rd extension (Gangnam-Yongsan) in 2018 and for the on-board signalling system of Incheon line 2. Six trains were further added in 2019.

Thales provided driverless operation for Busan-Gimhae LRT, Sin Bundang Line in Seoul and for Incheon Line 2. (Credit – Thales)

In the air traffic management domain, Thales provided STAR 2000 Radar to the Incheon, Muan, Yeosu, Ulsan Airports. Thales also delivered ASTRE 2000 ASDE radars for the Incheon, Gimpo, Gimhae & Jeju airports, and Instrument Landing System to Yeosu and Incheon airport.

Thales provided driverless operation for Busan-Gimhae LRT, Sin Bundang Line in Seoul and for Incheon Line 2. (Credit – Thales)
Space

Thales Alenia Space (TAS) delivered Koreasat-5, a dual commercial-military spacecraft, under a joint contract with KT SAT and the Korean Agency for Defence Development (ADD) in 2006. Thales also participated in the Kompsat-5 (Korean Multi-purpose Satellite 5) observation programme which was launched in 2013. For commercial use and communications, Thales delivered the Koreasat-6 to KT SAT in 2010. In 2014, Thales was granted a contract for the Koreasat-7 and Koreasat-5A telecommunication satellites with KT SAT. Both are for commercial use and were launched with success by Arianespace (Koreasat-5A) and Space X (Koreasat-7), entering service in 2017.

In Oct 2016, Thales signed a contract with Korea Aerospace Research Institute (KARI) to jointly develop KASS (Korea Augmentation Satellite System). This programme will greatly enhance the quality of life and safety by ensuring air traffic safety, facilitating emergency responses and rescue.

In 2018, Thales signed with Korea Aerospace Industries (KAI) and Hanwha Systems Corporation (HSC) to develop a constellation of four high-resolution observation military radar satellites for Korean government, Agency for Defense Development (ADD).

Digital Identity & Security

Thales DIS (Digital Identity & Security) offers a range of solutions that ensures reliable connectivity in Mobile, Banking & Payment, ePassport and Enterprise Security.

Thales is providing a wide range of security solutions for 4G, 5G and state-of-the-art flagship smartphones, connected cars in automotive, as well as IoT (Internet of Things) device communications in Cat.M1, NB-IoT. DIS is leading the global market by providing financial cards including security functions, data security solutions such as HSM (Hardware Security Module), HSE (High Speed Encryptor), USB security dongle, and analysis through AI. In addition, the next-generation ePassport, including biometric authentication solutions, is opening a new era of eGovernment and mGovernment.

In the 21st century, various changes require information processing with Big Data, Cloud and Data Center in a safe environment based on the efficient use of personal and corporate information. Thales provides all digital security solutions related to this evolution to enable organizations to offer trusted digital services.