Factsheet
Thales in the Kingdom of Thailand
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- 50 years of cooperation with Thailand.
- HQ in Bangkok since 2005 (Empire Building)
- Growing footprint with more than 200 employees within 2021 – 90% Thai nationals
- Supporting Thailand’s technological and economical transformation (Thailand 4.0) with state of the art technology in Defense, Transport, Space, Aerospace, Digital and Biometrics

Key highlights

Defence
- Thales supplies multiple sensors, combat management and communication systems to the Royal Thai Armed Forces.
- 80% of the Royal Thai Navy fleet is equipped with Thales solutions making it the third-largest Thales fleet globally.
- In 2019, Thales cemented its position as leading supplier to the Royal Thai Navy by successfully delivering two major contracts for Above-water and underwater systems.
- Thales is referenced with the Royal Thai Army by having supplied the StarStreak air defence system.
- Thales is actively engaged in Transfer of Technology projects under the supervision of the Defence Technology Institute (DTI).

Transportation
- Thales establishes itself as the largest ETCS Level 1 provider within Thailand and first introduced its technology to Thailand in 2017. Since then Thales has been contracted for a total of 450km.
- Thales enhances the safety of the mainline rail networks across Thailand (Red Line) supplying ETCS Level 1, point machines and axle counters.

Aerospace
- In Aerospace, Thales delivered the world’s first fully-integrated Air Traffic Management (ATM) system to Bangkok-Suvarnabhumi as well as a complete nationwide state-of-the-art ATM system to Thailand’s air navigation service provider.
- Thales has delivered a significant amount of Navigation aids, Radars and Instrument Landing Systems across the country since 2004.

Space
Thales supplied the Thaicom 3 and Thaicom 5 satellites, having provided television and internet services to the Asia-Pacific region.

Digital Identity & Security
- Thales will supply the next 15 million new generation e-Passports to Thai citizens over the next seven years.
- Thales is a leading supplier of hardware security modules to Thai banks and organisations, securing payment transactions and information.
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Thales signed its first contract with the Royal Thai Navy in 1969. Since then, the cooperation with the Kingdom of Thailand has expanded from Defence to several other country strategic sectors: Aerospace, Space, Transportation and Digital Security.

In 2005 Thales established its Thai headquarters in Bangkok (Empire Building), with a progressive growth of employees and a coherent policy focusing on customer proximity and localisation of expertise. In 2018, Thales in Thailand was promoted under the Thai Board of Investment (BOI).

Within 2021, the Thales team in Thailand will expand to over 200 employees – over 90% of whom are Thai nationals.

The Group is a long-term strategic supplier of defence systems for the Royal Thai Armed Forces with references in the Royal Thai Navy, Army and Air Force.

In the Aerospace Domain, Thales is contributing to the safety and efficiency of air operations by providing nation-wide state-of-the-art Air Traffic Management technology to Aerothai as well as modern Avionics systems on Thai operated passenger aircrafts.

In Space, Thales is a worldwide player for Telecommunication and Observation Satellites and has contributed to the provision of television and internet with the satellite Thaicom 5.

In the Transport domain, Thales has been pivotal in bringing the highest international standards in Rail Signalling and Fare collection Systems to Thailand, with key projects performed for MRTA and SRT.

In the Digital domain, the acquisition of Gemalto in 2019 has made Thales a world leader in identity & biometrics, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, big data, IoT, connectivity, and banking & payment services. Thales is implementing a turn-key project to provide the next generation ePassport to the Thai citizens.
Local cooperation
Thales’ presence in Thailand pivots on growing local competence and scope, directly by growing the Thales Thailand team and indirectly by cooperating with Thai industry on a long term basis.

Within this Group long term vision that privileges proximity and cooperation, the ambition is to bring to our Thai customers value, price competitiveness, reactivity and full alignment with the Thailand 4.0 vision.

As a responsible, long term partner of the Thai Government, Thales recognises that it must fulfill its contribution to the technological, employment and economical ambitions of Thailand as a key element of its long term success.

Industry focus
Defence
Thales has been a reference partner to the Royal Thai Navy for the past 50 years and has equipped a significant portion of the RTN Fleet with state-of-the-art systems. The operational enhancement provided to the RTN include a significant number of Thales radars, sonars, fire control and command & control systems.

2019 saw the successful delivery of two significant contracts for the supply of a full spectrum of Above-water and Underwater solutions for the Royal Thai Navy.

In one contract, Thales was awarded the role of prime contractor for an extensive upgrade of two Bang Rachan Class minehunters built in the late 80’s (HTMS Bang Rachan and HTMS Nong Sarai). The contract, successfully and timely implemented, will extend the operational capability of these two minehunters for decades to come. On the 11th of June 2019, Thales delivered the two minehunting vessels to the RTN.

In a second contract, Thales has been a key contractor for the most recent and modern Patrol Vessel (HTMS Prachuap Khiri Khan): the Royal Thai Navy mandated Thales to take prime integration responsibility for the program that included the most advanced Thales Combat Management system (TACTICOS) at the heart of the vessel. The Thales system also included surveillance radar, fire control radar, Radar ESM sensors, TACAN, a modern integrated bridge and navigation system, an Integrated Communication System including the Thales Tactical Data Link (LINK-Y Mk2) and the integration of weapon systems.

By working together with its naval key industrial partner and establishing expert teams in Thailand, Thales is building an indigenous capability with its local partners in Thailand - in shipbuilding, integration and providing training and Integrated Logistic Support (ILS) to the Royal Thai Navy. In addition, Thales is serving the Royal Thai Navy’s Marine Corps with digital tactical radios, as well as other key capabilities, enabling optimal operation in challenging environments.

In the land domain, Thales has a wide portfolio of systems and products for soldier and military vehicle applications and is continuously working with the Royal Thai Army to offer world-class modern digital communications. Furthermore, Thales is a major supplier of electronic warfare equipment, dedicated to intelligence and counter-measure applications, as well as thermal imagers & radars for surveillance operations.

In air defence, the Royal Thai Army selected Thales’ STARStreak Air Defence System in 2012. The system comprises the world’s fastest very-short-range air defence (VSHORAD) missile and Lightweight Multiple Launchers (LML). Following this initial purchase, in 2015, Thales signed a new contract to supply the Royal Thai Army with the second and third batches of the STARStreak Air Defence System.

In 2017, through an MoU with Defence Technology Institute (DTI), Thales is collaborating with DTI on research and innovation in support of establishing local expertise in the area of vehicle-based Digital Communications and Command systems as well as integrated air defence systems.

In 2018, a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) was signed between Defence Technology Institute (DTI), Datagate and Thales for further collaboration in digital communications systems for military vehicles. As a result of these agreements, during Defense & Security Exhibition in Bangkok last November (2019), the
DTI unveiled their new Command variant Armoured Personnel Carrier, equipped with Thales’ CSI system (Computerised, Command, Control, Communications & Combat Information).

Aerospace

Thales contributed to Bangkok-Suvarnabhumi Airport’s (BKK) spectacular success by supplying the world’s first fully-integrated Air Traffic Management (ATM) system in 2006, establishing a new standard for airport platforms. Landing-safety at 16 major Thai airports has been enhanced with Thales’ Instrument Landing System (ILS) system.

In 2020, Thales completed a contract to modernise the nationwide ATM system to Aeronautical Radio of Thailand Ltd. (Aerothai), Thailand’s air navigation service provider. The system is called Thailand Modernization CNS/ATM System (TMCS) and provides Aerothai’s air traffic controllers capacity to manage the whole Thai Airspace using one of the most sophisticated technologies in the world.

In addition, Thales has supplied numerous navigation and landing systems to airports across Thailand, helping making air travel safer in all weather.

Thales’ expertise covers on-board safety and security. Thales is the major supplier of the cockpit avionics suite on multiple Airbus fleets, including the A320, A330, A350 and A380 that are operated by Thai Airways, Bangkok Airways and Thai Air Asia. Many of the high-quality complex avionics boards for these aircraft are produced, assembled and tested in Thailand, through Thales’ sub-contractor, Sanmina-SCI. This partnership provides close to 200 Thai jobs for Sanmina and its partners.

Transportation

Thales is providing Automatic Fare Collection systems for the Bangkok MRT and on Bangkok’s Airport Rail Link. In 2017, the Bangkok MRT authorities renewed their confidence in Thales’ capabilities by awarding Thales with the contract to equip the Blue Line extension with modern ticketing systems, including 19 additional stations.

Thales expanded its team of local engineers and its program management organization in Thailand to support the project implementation and to train BEM technicians and local industry on AFC technology management and maintenance.

In the area of signalling, Thales was instrumental in bringing to Thailand the European Train Control System (ETCS) technology to Thailand. The cooperation with SRT was launched in 2017 with the Double Tracking project Chachoengsao - Klong Sip Kao - Kaeng Khoi (104 KM). In 2018, its reputation for ETCS technology was reaffirmed with the award to deliver the technology on 41 kilometres of the Bangkok Red Line, which is expected to serve over 130,000 commuters daily.

In September 2019, Thales was awarded the contract to design, deliver and install the ECTS Level 1 system to four individual sections on SRT’s railway network, covering significant sections of SRT’s four lines (Northern, North-Eastern, Eastern and Southern Lines). The signalling project will cover 48 stations, from Lop Buri in the north to Nakhon Pathom in the south and Map Kabao in the north-east. The longest stretch being installed with ECTS Level 1 will be on 21 stations from Hua Mak to Laem Chabang, enabling commuters to safely and efficiently reach the furthest eastern part of Thailand by rail.

Thales continues to expand delivery and implementation of ECTS-1, axle counters and point machines in support of efforts to upgrade existing lines, as well as new lines and trains enhancing safety on the Thai transportation network.

Digital Identity & Security

Thales expanded its footprint in Digital Identity and Security with the acquisition and integration of Gemalto on 2nd April 2019. In 2019, the Ministry Of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) of Thailand awarded the Thales-led DGM Consortium a strategic turn-key contract for the production a of up to 15 million new generation e-passports over the next seven years. The project includes the design, development and production of a 64-page biometric travel document compliant with the highest standards of security set by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO). Thales successfully delivered the project in July 2020.
With an increased production capacity, higher efficiency during the registration and enrollment phases and the employment of several hundreds Thai nationals upskilled in the latest technologies in digital identity and biometrics, Thales is maintaining faith to its commitment towards supporting the development of the Kingdom of Thailand.

**Space**

Thales Alenia Space, a joint venture between Thales and Finmeccanica, is a key player in space telecommunications, navigation, earth observation and space exploration globally. Thales continues to set the global standard for telecommunication satellites and is the Thaicom 5 communications satellite supplier. Based on a Spacebus 3000A platform, Thaicom 5 is a Thai geostationary communications satellite developed with the aim of providing television and internet services to the Asia-Pacific region.

The Thaicom 5 satellite provides telecommunications services for the Asia-Pacific region (credit – Thales Alenia Space)