Factsheet
Thales in Saudi Arabia
Thales in Saudi Arabia:
- Present for over 50 years
- Over 400 employees
- All Group activities are present
- Headquarter in Riyadh
- Other offices in Jeddah, Jubail
- JVs and strategic partnerships

Highlights

Defence
- Air Defense Systems
- Surveillance & Detection Systems
- Protection Systems
- Sensors
- Communications Systems
- Optronics

Security
- Integrated Security Solutions for Makkah mosque (Shamiya and Mataf)
- Security systems for Madina mosque
- Crowd Management Systems for Jamarat bridge
- Security Systems for Aramco, Sabic, Maaden and Jubail Industrial sites
- Security Systems for Al Ula site

Aerospace
- ATM and Air Navigation Systems
- ATC Centers
- Approach and Control Centers
- Radar Systems
- IFE and Connectivity
- Simulation Systems

Space
- First Generation Satellites
- Second Generation Satellites
- Third Generation Satellites
- Fourth Generation Satellites
- Fifth Generation Satellites
- Sixth Generation Satellites

Transport
- ETCS Level 2 for the longest railways in the world – North South Railways Project (NSR)
- Al Mashaer Al Muqaddassah Metro Project (MMMP)

Digital Identity and Security
- Secured Documents Solutions
- Travel and Border Solutions
- Documents Verification Solutions
- EMV Cards
- Trusted Service Hub for Digital Payments
- eSIM
Thales in Saudi Arabia – Factsheet

Presence in the country

Thales has been present in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) for over 50 years. The Group provides its government and private customers with advanced solutions in Defence & Security, Aerospace, Transportation, Space and Digital Identity & Security.

Thales has built a mature relationship with the Kingdom through solid, country-wide partnerships. This has allowed Thales to expand its footprint at a local level and to meet ever-evolving customer demands.

Supporting the KSA Vision 2030

The Vision 2030 is the roadmap to develop the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in coming years. It is based on strong pillars to accelerate the diversification of its economy and become an emergent country.

Thales is continuously supporting the Kingdom in its three major pillars as unique advantages for the country’s economic development:

- A strategic location as a global hub connecting three continents
- A unique position at the heart of the Islamic world as host to the two holy mosques in Makkah and Medina.
- A leading center for global investment.

The country also wishes to develop focus in the following areas, including localization of defense equipment and systems, development of entertainment and tourism through the creation of mega Cities as well as digital transformation.

Thales’ strategy in Saudi Arabia is in full line with Vision 2030. Since the beginning Thales has set up and continuously develops its local footprint through a diversified approach, focusing on industrial partnerships throughout the country in all the Group domains.
Local Cooperation

Thales achieved a further step in its strategy by setting up a Joint Venture with the Saudi Arabian Military Industries (SAMI). The aim of this JV is to localize within the Kingdom the production and transfer of the technologies of products and systems in to better achieve its Vision 2030 goals.

Over the past few decades, Thales has established solid foundations for effective cooperation with local industries, thus increasing Thales’ presence in Saudi Arabia. This has been achieved through intensive transfer of technology, offering technical expertise and assistance to companies like Advanced Electronics Company (AEC), Al Salam, and others.

This commitment and achievement are praised by both the concerned authorities and partners, paving the way towards the creation of this new ambitious JV with SAMI.

As an innovative company, Thales has extended its presence and activities to collaborate with notable research organizations and universities.

Thales continues to strengthen its cooperation with the King Abdulaziz City for Sciences & Technology (KACST) in order to develop and set up joint programs related to the Group’s activities in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Thales & Prince Sultan Defense Studies and Research Center signed in 2019 an MoU to launch partnership cooperation on an autonomous stratospheric airship (Stratobus).

Thales designed and implemented the Saudi Academy of Civil Aviation (SACA) which is a regional center of excellence in civil aviation security training. Thales provided the training of instructors in air traffic control, maintenance of civil aviation electronic systems, fire safety and airport security.

Defence

Thales is a trusted partner, across the globe, to help armed forces achieve their goals. Our systems deliver information superiority and give joint forces mastery of action wherever they face their decisive moments.

Thanks to its innovative and field proven solutions, Thales is a major supplier for the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of National Guard.

Throughout the last 50 years, Thales has proven its reliability and commitments towards the users of its solutions and equipment in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Thales provides cutting edge solutions and equipment associated with intensive training and support to:

- Ministry of Defense (RSADF, RSNF, RSAF, RSLF)
- Radars
- Sonars
- Air Defense Systems
- Communications Systems
- Optronics
- Electronic Warefare
- Simulations
Ministry of National Guard (SANG)
- Radars
- Optronics
- Radio and Encryption Systems

Cooperation Council of Arab States of Gulf (CCASG)
- Communication Systems
- Encryption Systems

Security
Thales is highly active in the security sector, with a deep influence in the protection of critical infrastructures.
Since 1990 Thales has been a central to the protection of the Holy sites, providing hi-tech integrated security solutions for:
- Makkah holy mosque, the praying direction of more than one billion Muslims around the world
- Madinah holy mosque

Jamarat bridge where Thales provides a traffic flow management system, which is built around an advanced information system incorporating smart image analysis technology.

In order to accommodate 30 Million pilgrims per year for Hajj and Umrah, the Vision 2030 intends to develop and expand infrastructures, increase the capacity of the holy mosques in Makkah and Madinah and integrate digital services.

Thales is a reliable partner when it comes to protecting critical infrastructures and assets.

Our integrated security systems are deployed in petrochemical, industrial and touristic sites such Aramco, SABIC, Maaden, Jubail 2 and Al Ula.

Thales has also solid references in providing telecom systems for Aramco, Telecom and electricity companies.

Thanks to its innovative solutions, maturity of local resources and commitment, Thales is qualified by the High Commission of Industrial Security. This license is a must to bid for the industrial security projects.
Transportation

Building on its expertise to provide solutions that set the standard in the transportation industry, Thales designs, develops, and delivers transport equipment, systems and services, providing end-to-end solutions in Saudi Arabia.

Thales has supplied an ETCS Level 2 signalling for the North-South Railway (NSR). The NSR stretches for almost 2,430 km, and aims to ease mobility for freight and passengers across one of the harshest desert environments on earth. Thales deploys its main line European standard integrated solution ETCS Level 2, interlocking, rail field elements, an Operation Control Centre (OCC) and communications, amongst others. The project represents the longest ETCS system in the world, connecting Riyadh with the north of the Kingdom. In light of the strong commitment in KSA, Thales has successfully managed with SAR the knowledge transfer of the maintenance activities to SAR engineers.

On the other hand, Thales CBTC systems provided for Al Mashaaer Al Muqaddassah metro allowed the line to reach the highest capacity of any metro in the world (72,000 pphpd).

The Vision 2030 aims to transform KSA’s unique strategic location into a global hub. Thales’s strategy is to go beyond the North South Railways and Al Mashaaer Al Muqaddassah Metro Project (MMMP) by setting up partnerships with the Transport Authority.

Aerospace

As a worldwide leading supplier of ATM equipment, Thales’s commitment to continue to broaden its long standing cooperation with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the civil aviation domain and support the country’s to be a connecting hub. The Group has been supporting the country’s civil aviation authorities for many decades:

- Air Traffic Management
- Navigation Aids
- Control & Approach Center
- ATC
- The Academy of Civil Aviation

The recent programs awarded to Thales by Saudi Air Navigation Services (SANS) of GACA attest to the efficiency of Thales solutions to offer safety and efficiency in airspace management.

As a main supplier of Avionics and IFEC for SAUDIA, Thales is a key partner for this ambitious project, in particular In-Flight Entertainment and Connectivity (IFEC).
**Avionics**
- Line fit (A320, A330, Boeing 777, Boeing 787)
- Components maintenance

**IFEC**
- Line Fit (A330, Boeing 777-200/-300, Boeing 787-9)
- Components maintenance

Thales is ready to support Saudi Arabian Airlines (SAUDIA) in its ambitions to be ranked as one of the world’s top 5 airlines.

**Space**
Founded by the 21 member states of the Arab League, Arabsat has been serving the growing needs of the Arab world for over 40 years. It is considered one of the world’s top satellite operators and by far the leading satellite services provider in the Arab world.

Since the 1980s, Thales Alenia Space has delivered three first-generation satellites, two second-generation satellites and one third-generation satellite to Arabsat.

In 2009, Thales Alenia Space has teamed up with Astrium to build and deliver 4th and 5th generation satellites. Astrium built the platforms and integrating the satellites, while Thales Alenia Space designed and built the communications payloads.

The Thales Alenia Space & Astrium consortium was again awarded the Arabsat’s 6th generation. In November 2015, it was successfully launched by Arianespace from Kourou in French Guyana with an Ariane 5 rocket.

The purpose of the multi-mission satellite is to deliver broadcasting, broadband and telecommunications services over MENA (Middle East and North Africa), Africa and Central Asia.

**Digital Identity & Security**
Since 2005 Thales has cooperated with the National Information Center for National Identity program. Thanks to its unique solutions, Thales has been able to provide highly secured :
- Documents Solutions
- Travel & Border Solutions
- Documents Verification Systems

In banking, Thales has been working for many years with the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA) to secure the country’s electronic payment systems. Besides, Thales is the major supplier of EMV Cards and Trust Service Hub for Digital Payments to the Banks in Saudi Arabia.

The digital transformation is one of the main initiatives under the Vision 2030. Being a state operator, Saudi Telecom Company (STC) is a major player of the Kingdom’s strategy.

Thales, for many years has been a trusted partner of STC for SIM cards and IoT connectivity infrastructure. Recently Thales has been awarded the Nationwide eSIM project.