Key highlights

Defence
- Thales is a long-standing partner of the Royal Armed Forces in Morocco.
- Systems and equipment widely used in the Royal Air Force, the Army, the Royal Gendarmerie and the Royal Navy. The main areas addressed concern highly secure communications, optronics (night vision), radars, combat systems and security.

Aerospace
- Thales has supplied navigation aids for the airports at Tangiers, Oujda, Fes, Errachidia, Zagora, Dakhla and Casablanca. As a first-tier supplier of avionics and onboard electronics for Boeing and Airbus airliners, the company is also a key partner for the national carrier Royal Air Maroc.

Transportation
- For the national rail operator ONCF, Thales is providing signaling systems for the Taourirt-Béni Ansar line and the control system for the Nouaceur-Jorf Lasfar line.
- The company is also deploying mobile communications (GSM-R) on seven lines of the national rail network.

Security
- Thales supplied the country’s biometric national identity card, based on contactless smartcard technology.

Identity and Biometrics
- Thales has been a trusted Identity and Biometric partner for prestigious customers in Morocco, for more than 10 years.
- Thales has deployed various Identity and Biometric Solutions in the country (ePassports, National AFIS/FRS, eDL/eVR, Biometric equipments...) and continues to reinforce its positioning in this field.

Digital & Cybersecurity
- Thales Morocco has developed a cybersecurity skills center to help both Moroccan and African customers tackle those challenges.

Thales in Morocco:
- A presence for over 40 years
- About 100 employees to date including Joint Ventures
- Permanent office in Rabat
- Industrial operations in Casablanca (3D printing plant)
Thales in Morocco – Factsheet

Overview

Thales has served the Moroccan defense, aerospace, transportation and security markets for more than 40 years. A local office opened in Rabat in 2006 and now employs 100 people.

The Group has close ties with local SMEs and universities and is a member of leading professional associations, including GIMAS (Groupement des Industries Marocaines Aéronautiques et Spatiales), GIFER (Groupement des Industries Ferroviaires), CFCIM (Chambre Française de Commerce et d’Industrie du Maroc) and CLUSIM (Club de la Sécurité de l’Information Marocain).

Thales operates an industrial competence center specialising in 3D printing, located in Casablanca and serving international customers.

Since the acquisition of Gemalto in 2019 - now Thales Digital Identity & Security, Thales is also a trusted identity and biometric partner in Morocco.

Commitment at Local Level

With a view to supporting economic development in Morocco as well as tapping into local skills and capabilities, Thales set up in 2016 an industrial facility in Casablanca specialising in metal additive manufacturing (3D metal printing).

With metallic 3D printing, the components can be produced with more complex structures which is not possible with conventional manufacturing processes, with shorter implementation times. The objects, thus manufactured, make it possible to integrate several functions into a single piece. Additive manufacturing makes it possible to integrate major technological breakthroughs for increased performance of Thales products.

This technology represents a real revolution in the design and production of mechanical parts. The Thales plant in Morocco presents the latest innovations in smart and connected industrial installations as part of the Group’s transition to the latest digital technologies and industry 4.0.

Through the Casablanca competence center, Thales is now part of a local ecosystem of high-performance industrial suppliers, specialising in the design and production of mechanical parts, offering the possibility of meeting stringent requirements in terms of quality, performance and cost for the aerospace market.
Partnership with the academic research community:

In the fields of training and research, Thales has forged strong ties with local universities. In April 2013, Thales and Rabat International University signed a partnership agreement covering aerospace, space and cybersecurity to support technological innovation through training and research.

Support for academic training is a priority for Thales and one of the strategic pillars of its involvement in Morocco. Thales has a long-standing partnership with INPT (Institut National des Postes et Télécommunications) in Rabat, whose training program has trained more than 150 engineers from INPT, ENSA and Moroccan universities on high-tech telecom systems. Thales also has strong ties with MAScIR and ENSA Marrakesh to develop training opportunities in radar architectures.

The Group is also supporting research into Additive Layer Manufacturing (ALM) technology in partnership with the universities of Fes, Tangiers and Meknes.

Transportation in Morocco

Key points:

- For the national rail operator ONCF, Thales has provided signalling systems for the Taourirt-Béni Ansar line since 2009 and the control system for the Nouaceur-Jorf Lasfar line since 2013.

Aerospace in Morocco

Key points:

- Thales has supplied navigation aids for the airports at Tangiers, Oujda, Fes, Errachidia, Zagora, Dakhla and Casablanca.
- As a first-tier supplier of avionics and onboard electronics for Boeing and Airbus airliners, the company is also a key partner for the national carrier, Royal Air Maroc.
- Royal Air Maroc’s Boeing 737 and 787 fleets are equipped with Thales in-flight entertainment systems.

In March 2016, the company signed a partnership agreement with AIMAC (Académie Internationale Mohammed VI de l’Aviation Civile) to support air traffic management instruction and training.

Royal Air Maroc has chosen Thales in-flight entertainment systems for its airliners. As a tier-one equipment supplier to Boeing and Airbus, Thales also works regularly on aircraft maintenance and upgrade programmes with teams in Morocco.
Defense in Morocco

Key points:
Thales Group has been a long-standing partner of the Royal Armed Forces in Morocco for nearly 30 years. Systems and equipment are widely used in the Royal Air Force, the Army, the Royal Gendarmerie and the Royal Navy. The main areas addressed are highly secure communications, optronics (night vision), radars, combat systems and security.

Security in Morocco

Key point:
Thales supplied the country’s biometric national identity card, based on contactless smartcard technology.

All of Morocco’s banks rely on Thales cybersecurity solutions. The company also operates a dedicated cybersecurity competence center to help local businesses fight cybercrime. The center conducts audits and implements cybersecurity solutions for customers not only in Morocco but throughout Africa.

Identity and Biometrics in Morocco

Key points:
Thales is a trusted company in Morocco for Identity and Biometric Solutions and continues to reinforce its position in this market.

A strong partnership has been developed with Bank Al-Maghrib (BAM) for over 10 years, during which Thales has provided and upgraded the personalisation solution for the Moroccan Biometric Passports, and is the exclusive BAM supplier of eCovers with more than 15 Million eCovers supplied to date.

Thales is also trusted by national law enforcement agencies since 2005 for the supply and upgrade of National AFIS (Automated Fingerpoint Identification System) and FRS (Facial Recognition System) systems in addition to various biometric equipment & solutions.

Thales supplied Driving Licenses and Vehicle Registration cards to RMK/Assiaqa card from 2011 to 2019 before production and personalisation became fully managed by Bank-Al-Maghrib.

Digital & Cybersecurity

Key point:
Thales Morocco has developed a cybersecurity skills center to help both Moroccan and African customers tackle those challenges.

The Rabat-based team has delivered over the last 5 years multiple critical cybersecurity missions with the country’s largest local banks, national telecom operators and other key industrial players in the region.

Combining the advantage of customer proximity with a wide cybersecurity capability portfolio, Thales Morocco supports customers in:

- the assessment of their cyber-risks and maturity
- challenging their defense-to-detect residual vulnerabilities
- investigating and anticipating cyber-crises to neutralizing complex attacks

Thales Morocco has also developed synergies with Thales France, Thales Middle East and Thales Portugal to be able to address the entire information security lifecycle, the cornerstone of digital trust.