

The issue of Australia's participation in so-called Free Trade Agreements is too large to go into here in any depth... Keep your eye out for our coming leaflet about this...

However, it is important that people understand that since the rush towards trade liberalisation of the 1980s under Thatcher, Reagan and Hawke, Australia has entered into numerous trade agreements ostensibly to put Australia's manufacturing industry on a 'level playing field' with that of other countries. This is of course bullshit as there is nothing level about competing with countries that have less stringent labour, OH&S and environmental controls than we do.

Under these free trade laws, governments are unable to support their industries through grants, subsidies or tariffs.

With the exception being for industries involved in military production.

Whether the Australian Government likes it or not, under the terms of these agreements, if they want to support and expand Australia's industrial base the only way they can do it is through funding military production.

The three companies in this leaflet have together received millions of dollars in taxpayer funded grants aimed at increasing their capacity to export to the international weapons markets

FREE TRADE IS NOT FREE

F-35S ARE BEING USED BY ISRAEL TO BOMB GAZA

The United States has officially confirmed that Israel is extensively deploying its F-35 Adir stealth fighters in the ongoing military operations against Hamas, underscoring the exceptional efficacy of these advanced aircraft in the current conflict.

On December 12, the head of the Joint Strike Fighter program, in congressional testimony, revealed that in the aftermath of Hamas' October 7 attack, the United States swiftly upgraded Israel's F-35 fighters.

In response to the attack, the US provided F-35 mission data files—essential to the aircraft's operation—to Israel within a remarkably short period, according to Pentagon acquisition chief Bill LaPlante's statements during a House Armed Services tactical air and land forces subcommittee hearing.

These mission data files, described as the "brains" of the jet, contain extensive information on threats.

Furthermore, during the hearing, F-35 Program Executive Officer Lt. Gen. Michael Schmidt praised Israel's F-35 fleet for its outstanding performance in the war against Hamas, citing high mission capability rates in the Middle East—a notable achievement given the challenges faced by the Pentagon's F-35 operators.

www.eurasiantimes.com

In January 2024, following the International Court of Justice's finding that Israel does have a case to answer on South Africa's allegations of genocide, Israel and the US announced that they have agreed to a new raft of arms sales including Apache Helicopters, F-16s and a third squadron of F-35s.

As many F-35 parts made in Australia are done so as the sole global supplier for these parts, there is absolutely no doubt that work being undertaken by small Australian engineering firms like AW Bell, Hoffmann and Cablex are contributing to Israel's ongoing attempt at genocide on the people of Gaza.

Renegade Activists Action Force have been campaigning on issues of Australian militarism since the 1980s.

Australia's role in the West's global war fighting has been a focus of our work.

Believing that the first step in challenging the masters of war is to expose them, we provide solidarity and anti-war campaigns with resources that draw the links between Australia and the many military and environmental travesties taking place around our planet.

We believe that the first step in challenging the masters of war is to expose them.

Renegade Solidarity Audio Force is a collaboration between Renegade Activists and the Solidarity Sound System.

We have been the crew behind the sound for all the big Melbourne Palestine rallies and Motorcades, dock pickets and most of the smaller rallies and actions that take place in support of Palestine around Melbourne. We have been providing sound, stage and other logistic services to human rights, climate and First Nations' events for five years.

Contact us at
info@renegadeactivists.org
audioforce@renegadeactivists.org
Follow us on Instagram at
[renegadesolidarity.audioforce](https://www.instagram.com/renegadesolidarity.audioforce)
And our Patreon at
www.patreon.com/renegadesolidarityaudioforce



www.renegadeactivists.org

Produced on the lands of the Wurundjeri people that have never been ceded.



The region around Dandenong has long been associated with light industrial engineering.

Many of the factories in the area are small family owned businesses producing all manner of parts.

The move towards trade liberalisation which began in the 1980s however imposed a false equality between these small family firms and major corporations producing similar components in less than ideal conditions overseas.

As a result many companies were forced to close... whilst some sought to diversify into the only game left in town: the arms trade.

It is important to bear in mind that the people working in these factories are workers: with no real political interest in creating weapons of war.

In the 1960s Jewish philosopher Hannah Arendt coined the term 'the banality of evil' when referring to Germans during the Holocaust who 'were just doing their jobs'.

She wrote that "perhaps the nature of every bureaucracy, is to make functionaries and mere cogs in the administrative machinery out of men, and thus to dehumanize them."

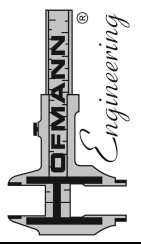
A part of our campaign is to get each and every worker, and indeed, every member of Australian society to recognise and take responsibility for the end result of following laws and 'just doing their jobs' that result in genocide being perpetrated on other workers, on other societies on the other side of the world.

The three companies listed in this leaflet are by no means the only ones in the region involved in the production of weapons that are currently being used in Gaza.

In particular Renegade Activists' ask that you make a note of Marand Engineering in Moorabbin, the subject of our ASDAM backgrounder.

#3

A backgrounder by Renegade Activists



DANDENONG REGION





145 Abbots Rd DANDENONG SOUTH 3175 03 9799 9555 www.awbell.com.au sales@awbell.com.au

AW Bell started up in 1952 as a casting business. Over the years it moved into precision machining, though it is still a leader in the metal casting industry. In 2011, in conjunction with CSIRO it developed the ABE aluminium casting process for the precision casting of lightweight metals for the aerospace and defence industries.

The Abbots Rd facility where this new process takes place was funded to the tune of \$6 million by the Federal Government. AW Bell have been in receipt of many other government grants and assistance packages designed exclusively to enable them to supply parts for global weapons manufacturers.

Apart from the engine parts and housings that AW Bell produce for the F-35 JSF, they are involved with a range of other military projects including: Casings, vanes and fins for BAE Evolved Sea Sparrow Missile and Nulka Decoys. Gun mounts for armoured vehicles and for EOS systems, whose remote targetting systems were being used by Saudi Arabia and the UAE in Yemen. Engine parts and impellers for the Australian Submarine Corporation.

Not limiting themselves to Earth, they supply precision parts for Northrop Grumman's space systems.



63 -69 Fairbank Road CLAYTON SOUTH 3169 03 9575 3088 www.cablex.com.au info@cablex.com.au

Since Cablex started business in Clayton South in 1985 they have expanded to become a global business incorporated in the United States providing cables and cable harnesses to weapons manufacturers.

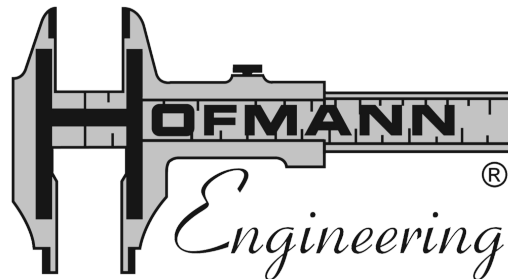
In 2017 Rear Admiral (Ret) Raydon Gates, former Chair of Lockheed Martin Australia and former Chief of the Australian Navy became an adviser to help them tender for military contracts. Gates is also on the Board of Elbit Systems.

In 2018 they received Victorian Government grants to help them expand their work overseas and the following year signed an agreement with Polish arms manufacturer WB Electronics to produce an Australian version of their Warmate, loitering munitions platform... a big leap from their core business of wiring harnesses.

Cablex makes a lot of the wiring harnesses for the F-35 global program.

They also make the harnesses for a range of weapons systems including the global fleet of Boeing's Apache Helicopters and partner with Rheinmetall on their Land 400 Boxer program.

Cablex are increasing their work in the weapons industry all over the world.



292 Bay Road CHELTENHAM 3192 03 8585 1800 www.hofmannengineering.com/hofmann_melburne melbourne@hofmannengineering.com

Hofmann Engineering are based in the Perth suburb of Bassabdean, where they have been providing advanced engineering services to Australian industry. Hofmann's growth parallels that of the WA's mineral extraction industry, traditionally their largest customer.

In addition to their Perth plant, they have facilities in Brisbane and Newcastle along with a huge factory in Bendigo adjoining Thales Defence factory with whom they work very closely.

Hofmann are now an international engineering company with factories in Canada, Chile, Peru, India and China.

They are involved in all aspects of defence and mining engineering too diverse to list.

In Melbourne, the Cheltenham factory, is an amalgamation of three former companies, Metaltec, Tooling Pty Ltd and TED Engineering. At this facility Hofmann undertake precision tooling for other factories working on F-35 projects.



www.renegadeactivists.org