

AUSTRALIA'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE LOCKHEED MARTIN F-35 JOINT STRIKE FIGHTER PROGRAM: AUSTRALIAN SOLE SOURCE SUPPLIER COMPANIES

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On 11 April 2025, the Australian Department of Defence announced that Australian industry has reached over \$5 billion in contract value as part of the global F-35 Program, highlighting that “more than 75 Australian companies have contributed to this success through advanced manufacturing, supply chain solutions and sustainment services”.¹ A since deleted page on Lockheed Martin’s official F-35 website states: “As a programme partner, Australian businesses are supplying components for the entire F-35 fleet, not just Australian aircraft. Every F-35 built contains some Australian parts and components.”²

According to a Ploughshares Report ‘Global Production of the Israeli F-35I Joint Strike Fighter’ released in January 2025:

“the bulk of the production on Israel’s current fleet of F-35Is can be tied to approximately six large contracts that contributed to the production on F-35s for a host of recipients. According to the data collected, more than 36,000 individual subawards from these contracts, valued at more than US\$41.5 billion, were granted to 609 manufacturers from at least 14 countries. Of these, only a small subset of the production of each lot would be destined for Israel.”

For example, Lot 11 produced 141 aircraft for 11 end-users, with six aircraft going to Israel with the available information, it is not currently possible to determine the extent to which each manufacturer produced components destined for each F-35I. This is because, in some circumstances, it is possible that some components could have been provided by multiple manufacturers under a given lot, instead of being sole-sourced from one supplier.”³

Figure 1 shows the number of F-35s acquired by Israel from each lot number.⁴

Figure 1

| LOT NO. VS NO. OF F-35Is PRODUCED | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| LOT NUMBER | F-35s PROCURED BY ISRAEL |
| LOT 8 | 2 (LMC 2017) |
| LOT 9 | 7 (Ibid.) |
| LOT 10 | 6 (Ibid.) |
| LOT 11 | 6 (Phantom Aviation 2021) |
| LOT 12 | 6 (Ibid.) |
| LOT 13 | 6 (AirForces Monthly 2022) |
| LOT 14 | 6 (Egozi and Clark 2019) |
| LOT 15 | UNKNOWN ¹ |
| LOT 16 | UNKNOWN |
| LOT 17 | UNKNOWN |

¹ <https://www.defence.gov.au/news-events/releases/2025-04-11/australian-industry-achieves-major-milestone-f-35-program-securing-over-5-billion-contracts>

² <https://web.archive.org/web/20240315223332/https://www.f35.com/f35/global-enterprise/australia.html>

³ <https://ploughshares.ca/global-production-of-the-israeli-f-35i-joint-strike-fighter/>

⁴ Ibid.

Figure 3 shows national production by lot number.⁵

Figure 3

| NATIONAL PRODUCTION BY F-35 LOT NUMBER | | | | | | |
|--|-------|-------|--------|--------|-----------|-----------|
| | LOT 8 | LOT 9 | LOT 10 | LOT 11 | LOT 12-14 | LOT 15-17 |
| AUSTRALIA | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| BELGIUM | | | | | X | X |
| CANADA | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| DENMARK | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| GERMANY | | | | | | X |
| ISRAEL | | | X | X | X | X |
| ITALY | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| JAPAN | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| LUXEMBOURG | X | X | X | | | |
| NETHERLANDS | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| NORWAY | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| TÜRKIYE | X | X | | X | X | X |
| UNITED KINGDOM | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| UNITED STATES | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| F-35s PROCURED BY ISRAEL | 2 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 18 | N/A |

According to this data, Australian companies have been involved in the manufacture of components for Israel's F-35I 'Adir' fleet. As stated, while difficult to extrapolate specific components in the F-35I's being used in the genocide in Gaza, this report details a list of Australian companies that are considered sole-source suppliers for components. As sole-source suppliers, the components manufactured by the companies outlined below have manufactured parts for every F-35 in the world, including Israel's F-35I.

Israel performs maintenance of the F-35I at IAF bases, with sub-systems sent abroad to regional Repair, Maintenance and Overhaul depots, locations of which are in the US, the Netherlands and Australia.⁶ The components for the global fleet, including for the F-35I, to conduct maintenance are acquired from the regional depot locations. Israel is the only F-35 country with a domestically operated maintenance regime.⁷ Israel is also the only country which Lockheed Martin has modified the F-35 for in terms of command, control, communications, computers, and intelligence (C4I), electronic warfare, and weapons integration, to allow for domestic systems to operate over the existing infrastructure.⁸ Israel is able to undertake maintenance of domestically sourced components and systems that allows the IAF to maintain a 90% readiness rate, significantly higher than the global fleet.⁹ Simultaneously, the US Government has accelerated the delivery of F-35 parts to Israel since October 2023, as outlined by U.S. Rep. Rob Wittman (R-VA), Chairman of the Tactical Air and Land Forces Subcommittee:

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ <https://breakingdefense.com/2019/12/lockheed-presses-for-sale-of-75-f-35s-to-israel-boeing-touts-f-15s/>

⁷ <https://nationalinterest.org/blog/reboot/only-israel-can-modify-its-f-35-stealth-fighters-heres-why-165724>

⁸ <https://simpleflying.com/how-many-f-35-adir-fighter-jets-israel-bought-us/#:~:text=Israel>

⁹ <https://defense.info/defense-systems/a-tale-of-two-air-forces-why-israels-f-35-fleet-outperforms-the-us-air-force/>

“The F-35 joint program office has moved at a breakneck speed to support our closest partner and ally in the Middle East, Israel. They've done this by accelerating F-35 weapons capabilities and increasing spare parts supply rates,”¹⁰

As of June 2025, for each hour of flight, there is an ‘actual’ figure of 5.6 hours of maintenance per hour of flight across the global F-35 fleet.¹¹ From October 2023 to March 2025, Israel’s F-35I have undertaken over 15,000 hours of flight time.¹²

In September 2021, Raytheon Technologies Corp. and Pratt and Whitney Military Engines, who manufacture the engines for F-35s, were awarded a \$258,549,739 contract for “sustainment support, material and support equipment for depot maintenance facilities as well as supplies, services, and planning for depot activations in support of F-35 aircraft sustainment efforts for the Air Force, Marine Corps, Navy, non-U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) participants, and Foreign Military Sales (FMS) customers”.¹³ The expected completion date for the contract was September 2024, and the contract states that 2.9% of this contract would be carried out in Australia.¹⁴

Israel’s signed a Letter of Intent in 2010 to purchase 20 F-35s.¹⁵ The contract was subsequently extended to bring the fleet to a total of 50 aircraft. In December 2017, the first of Israel’s F-35I fleet was declared operational, and by 2018 was the first of the global fleet to be used in combat.¹⁶ In June 2024, the Israeli Ministry of Defence signed an agreement to purchase an additional 25 F-35Is, with delivery set to begin in 2028.

The table below outlines the delivery dates of F-35Is to Israel between March 2022 and April 2025.

| DELIVERY DATE | NUMBER IN DELIVERY | TOTAL FLEET |
|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| MARCH 2022 | 3 | 33 ¹⁷ |
| NOVEMBER 2022 | 3 | 36 ¹⁸ |
| NOV 2022 – JUNE 2024* | 3 | 39 ¹⁹ |
| 13 MARCH 2025 | 3 | 42 ²⁰ |
| 24 APRIL 2025 | 3 | 45 ²¹ |

¹⁰ <https://armedservices.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=3571>

¹¹ https://uslockheedmartin.com/content/dam/lockheed-martin/aero/f35/documents/25-00149_001A%20F-35FastFacts_06_2025.pdf

¹² <https://www.idf.il/en/mini-sites/idf-press-releases-israel-at-war/march-25-pr/three-new-adir-f-35i-aircraft-landed-last-week-thursday-at-the-nevatim-airbase/>

¹³ <https://www.war.gov/News/Contracts/Contract/article/2788736/>

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ <https://simpleflying.com/how-many-f-35-adir-fighter-jets-israel-bought-us/#:~:text=Israel>

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ <https://www.19fortyfive.com/2022/03/meet-the-f-35i-adir-israels-very-special-stealth-fighter/>

¹⁸ https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/three-more-f-35-fighter-jets-arrive-in-israel-from-the-us/

¹⁹ <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-inks-deal-to-buy-25-more-f-35-fighter-jets-for-3-billion/>

²⁰ <https://www.idf.il/en/mini-sites/idf-press-releases-israel-at-war/march-25-pr/three-new-adir-f-35i-aircraft-landed-last-week-thursday-at-the-nevatim-airbase/>

²¹

https://x.com/idfonline/status/1915693769283821794?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1915693477209194870%7Ctwgr%5E%7Ctwcon%5Es1_&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.jns.org%2Fnew-f-35-fighter-jets-arrive-at-israels-nevatim-airbase%2F

** Reports indicate that in November 2022 Israel's F-35I fleet totalled 36, while in June 2024, the fleet was 39, indicating that a delivery of 3 more aircraft took place between those dates, however an exact date has been difficult to determine. On June 19 2024, deliveries of F-35s resumed after a year on hold and storage whilst the Block 4 systems were undertaking testing and evaluation.²²*

Lots 12-14 contracts are ongoing, and delivery of aircraft manufactured in these lots (contract N0001917C0001) is not yet completed, thus difficult to ascertain from which lot the F-35I deliveries between January 2024 and present have occurred.²³

Production for Lot 15 began in 2022.²⁴

Production for Lot 17 has begun in 2025.²⁵

LOCKHEED MARTIN CORPORATION

The largest weapons manufacturer in the world, Lockheed Martin, was formed in 1995 through the merger of Lockheed Corporation and Martin Marietta.²⁶ Lockheed Martin is involved in the research, development and manufacture of every aspect of global militarism including air, sea, land, space and cyber (C4I). Lockheed Martin have a network of lobbyists within governments internationally. Most recent figures indicate that in the third quarter of 2025, Lockheed Martin spent US\$4.14 million on in-house lobbying, deploying 16 lobbyists including former House Armed Services Committee and Senate Intelligence Committee staffers.²⁷ Lockheed Martin Australia maintains close contact with the Australian Government and military through the revolving door process, with individuals including Kim Beazley, Amanda Vanstone, Alan Hawke, and former heads of Australian Defence Forces.^{28 29} In 2017, newly elected Labor MP, Peter Khalil, now Assistant Minister for Defence, hosted a Lockheed Martin Australia briefing at Parliament House with discussion topics including "Lockheed Martin's industrial narrative and continuing investment in Australia, and partnerships with Australian companies, specifically around existing capabilities such as the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter..."³⁰

Lockheed Martin's involvement in Australia, from providing STEM programs in schools to government lobbying, and their impact on the Australian manufacturing sector is too broad for the scope of this report. This report focusses Australian companies which have global sole source supplier status in just one program, the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter.

²² <https://www.airandspaceforces.com/f-35-deliveries-resume-after-year-hold/>

²³ <https://govtribe.com/award/federal-contract-award/definitive-contract-n0001917c0001>

²⁴ <https://www.listcorp.com/asx/qlh/quickstep-holdings-limited/news/finalisation-of-terms-for-multi-year-f-35-firm-order-2752877.html>

²⁵ <https://www.navalnews.com/naval-news/2025/03/f-35-set-to-receive-critical-upgrades-in-2025-production-lots/>

²⁶ www.nytimes.com/1995/03/16/business/company-news-martin-marietta-lockheed-merger-is-approved.html

²⁷ legis1.com/news/defense-lobbying-lockheed-martin/

²⁸ <https://theklaxon.com.au/lockheed-martin-has-deep-ties-to-the-australian/>

²⁹ lobbyists.ag.gov.au/organisation/1d75cc8a-5a64-eb11-8147-0050569d2348/profile

³⁰ <https://www.crikey.com.au/2017/08/16/peter-khalil-hosts-f35-manufacturer-lockheed-martin-in-parliament/>

Lockheed Martin can be seen as the embodiment of Eisenhower’s Military Industrial Complex. In 2024, Lockheed Martin made \$64,650,000,000 in arms revenue, up 3.2% on the previous year.³¹

Lockheed Martin is the overall contractor for the global F-35 program. Australian Government measures including grants and subsidies, legislative amendments, industry to industry introductions and networking through Team Australia and the Office of Defence Industry Support, have facilitated contractual relationships between Australian companies such as those in this report and Lockheed Martin.

In October Senate Estimate, Deputy Secretary of Strategy, Policy, and Industry Group Mr Hugh Jeffrey claimed;

“That supply chain is operated globally by Lockheed Martin, a US prime, with goods and supplies that are owned by the United States. Australian industry inputs into that supply chain, but the actual supply chain itself is a US led and US operated mechanism.”³²

And reiterated by Deputy Secretary of the Capability, Acquisition and Sustainment Group, Mr Chris Deeble AO;

“The components that are part of that global supply chain solution are owned by the US government, and, as I said, administered by Lockheed Martin on their behalf. An item that comes out of regional warehouses—we have a regional warehouse in Williamstown—is then vested to Australia and placed on the aircraft. An item removed from that goes back into that warehouse, and that immediately becomes a US government asset—again, administered by Lockheed Martin on their behalf. That global supply chain works across the globe to try and provide the most cost-effective sustainment solution for the Joint Strike Fighter Program.”³³

The Government’s insistence that they have no role in what is essentially a business-to-business arrangement does not absolve it of responsibility for the ongoing facilitation of trade and export of F-35 components through the above mechanisms. Nor does it address the role it has played in transferring F-35 parts from RAAF Base Amberley to the IDF.

However, it does raise the issue of the individual companies’ responsibilities under the UN Global Compact.

AW BELL

AW Bell began as a casting business in 1952, and over the years has developed into a precision machining and complex metal casting manufacturer for defence, aerospace and biomedical products. In 2011, AW Bell partnered with the CSIRO to develop its trademarked Aluminium Billet Equipment (ABE) process. In 2014, AW Bell and its ABE process gained endorsement from Northrop Grumman, its largest customer.³⁴ As part of this partnership, AW Bell now supplies three components for the F-35 Electro-Optical Distributed Aperture System (EO DAS) to Northrop Grumman, alongside other

³¹ <https://www.sipri.org/visualizations/2025/sipri-top-100-arms-producing-and-military-services-companies-world-2024>

³² Commonwealth of Australia. *Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee, Senate Estimates*. Proof Committee Hansard. 9th October, 2025.

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ <https://www.amgc.org.au/news/aw-bell-casting-a-collaborative-international-network/>

aerospace products.³⁵ Designed and sustained by Northrop Grumman for the JSF Project, the AN/AAQ-37 EO DAS system is considered a cornerstone technology for the F-35, integrating into a five part full sensor suite on the aircraft.^{36 37} Since 2018, production of the EO DAS has been undertaken by RTX (formerly Raytheon), with delivery in 2023 for integration on Lot 15 aircraft in beyond.³⁸

AW Bell has been involved in the Joint Strike Fighter Program since 2007. In 2011, it became an approved supplier for Marand Precision Engineering, the sole source supplier of the F-35 Engine Removal and Installation Trailer. As of 2018, AW Bell were producing 19 different components to Marand for this contract.³⁹

In 2011, AW Bell was one of 6 Australian small to medium enterprises (SMEs) to be awarded contract with BAE Systems Australia to produce specialised components for the Joint Strike Fighter Program.⁴⁰ As part of the contract, production orders for AW Bell's F-35 electronic warfare countermeasure magazine commenced in 2014.

*At present, AW Bell remains the only approved casting supplier for the F-35 countermeasure magazines worldwide.*⁴¹

As the only approved casting supplier for this component, every F-35 in the global fleet, including Israel's F-35I contains components manufactured by AW Bell. Furthermore, AW Bell's involvement in the global F-35 program, and its complicity in manufacturing components used in genocide are intensified due to its position as an approved supplier for Marand Precision Engineering, another sole-source supplier for F-35 components.

CHEMRING AUSTRALIA

Chemring Australia is the Australian subsidiary of UK-listed multinational, Chemring Group. Chemring Australia claim that their Lara facility "is recognised as the world's most advanced countermeasures manufacturing facility".⁴² In 2020, Chemring Australia was awarded a US\$107.5 million contract for the production of the MJU-68/B countermeasure flares for the global F-35 fleet.⁴³ This contract was awarded under the US Navy as part of a multi-year collaboration between the US Department of Defence, the Australian Government and the Chemring Group.⁴⁴

³⁵ 'F-35 Australian Industry Participation – Journey to \$1 billion'. Australian Government Department of Defence. 2018

³⁶ 'The F-35 Lightning II Project'. Northrop Grumman. 2023. <https://cdn.northropgrumman.com/-/media/Project/Northrop-Grumman/ngc/what-we-do/air/f35/F-35-Brochure-2023-v007.pdf?rev=3cfd9520b5704dc483bce63635f04b40>

³⁷ 'F-35 Mission Systems Design, Development, and Verification'. Lemons, G., Carrington, K., Frey, T., Ledyard, J. Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company. 2018

³⁸ <https://www.navalnews.com/naval-news/2025/03/f-35-set-to-receive-critical-upgrades-in-2025-production-lots/>

³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ <https://www.baesystems.com/en-aus/article/australian-companies-secure-global-joint-strike-fighter-contracts>

⁴¹ <https://defence.vic.gov.au/success-stories/a.w.-bell>

⁴² <https://www.chemring.com/inside-chemring/2021/spotlight-on-lara>

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ <https://www.minister.defence.gov.au/media-releases/2020-05-04/geelong-company-chosen-supplier-global-f-35-fleet-0>

“The significant contract award confirms Chemring's position as the designated sole source for operational countermeasures” for Australian, US, and international F-35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter operators.⁴⁵

In September 2021, Chemring Australia Pty Ltd was awarded a firm-fixed-price contract to procure 10,089 MJU-68/B flare infrared countermeasures; 4,628 for the Navy, 1,440 for the Air Force, 685 for the government of Israel, 312 for the government of Netherlands, 504 for the government of Norway, and 2,520 for the government of Great Britain in support of the F-35 Lightning II program.⁴⁶ As of February 2025, that contract has completed after its initial end date was extended. The entire contract value was \$117,829,163.⁴⁷ This contract specifies that the US Navy “awarded sole source to Chemring Australia because the [US] government believes that only one company can provide the product / service (FAR 6.302-1).”⁴⁸

An additional contract awarded in January 2024 to Chemring Australia (CHA) to meet the US’s FY24 requirements. As stated in the contract notice:

“The supplies acquired in this procurement will satisfy both domestic and foreign requirements... CHA is the only manufacturer that possesses the technology, infrastructure and capacity to produce and conduct verification testing for the MJU 68/B within the timeframe to meet United States Navy (USN) deployment schedules as well as United States Air Force (USAF) requirements and other Global F-35 operations.”⁴⁹

FERRA ENGINEERING

Established in 1992, Ferra Engineering is headquartered in Brisbane, and operates facilities in Oklahoma US, Arkansas US, California US, London UK and Bangalore India, a network that boasts that it is “able to contract and deliver to suit the geographical needs of our customers and end-users.”⁵⁰ In 2022, Ferra Holdings Limited was acquired by Liberty Hall Capital Partners’ Accurus Aerospace Corporation.⁵¹

Ferra have been involved in the F-35 Program since its inception in Australia.⁵² Ferra are the sole source supplier of the Alternate Mission Equipment (AME) weapon adapters for the global F-35 fleet and “only company worldwide approved by Lockheed to make and assemble weapons bay adapters for the JSF program.”⁵³ From its inception, the 30-year project, forecast to be completed in 2035, equates to a contract value of approximately \$1.1 billion in the production of 6 different variants of the adapters for the international fleet.⁵⁴ ⁵⁵ Ferra Engineering supplies the AME systems to US company Marvin Engineering, who since 2003 have served as the Managing Partner overseeing the

⁴⁵ <https://www.chemring.com/inside-chemring/2021/spotlight-on-lara>

⁴⁶ <https://www.highergov.com/contract/N0001921C0081/>

⁴⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ <https://www.highergov.com/document/ja-23-0286-mju-68-redacted-pdf-8ca8cd/#preview>

⁵⁰ <https://ferra-group.com/about-us/locations/>

⁵¹ https://www.libertyhallcapital.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/PR_Liberty-Hall_Accurus_Ferra_FINAL.pdf

⁵² <https://www.lockheedmartin.com/en-au/partnerships/partnership-key-to-advancing-f-35-manufacturing-capability.html>

⁵³ <https://www.exportfinance.gov.au/customer-stories/ferra-engineering/>

⁵⁴ <https://ferra-group.com/capabilities/complex-manufacturing-2/>

⁵⁵ <https://www.lockheedmartin.com/en-au/partnerships/partnership-key-to-advancing-f-35-manufacturing-capability.html>

Aircraft Armament Equipment (AAE) associated with the F-35 Lightning II (Joint Strike Fighter).⁵⁶ In addition to the adaptors, which secure the weapons to the aircraft, Ferra is producing and supplying more than 100 other Joint Strike Fighter component parts for the F-35 Program.⁵⁷

In a 2016 onsite visit to Ferra's Brisbane facility with then Minister for Defence Dan Tehan, local member for Bonner, Ross Vasta highlighted:

“every Joint Strike Fighter flying world-wide will have weapon adaptors produced by Ferra.”⁵⁸

According to Ferra's website, its AME weapon adapters “are subject to full batch traceability, customer approved manufacturing plans and serial number traceability... [which] involves the use of physical barcodes on each component.”⁵⁹

Ferra Engineering's main prime partners in defence and aerospace are Lockheed Martin, Boeing, Northrop Grumman, BAE Systems, Thales and Parker Aerospace, as well as downstream supply chain partnerships with local SMEs including Heat Treatment Australia, Lovitt Technologies (and its subsidiary Electromold) and Marand Precision Engineering.

Alongside its involvement as a sole supplier for the F-35 Program, Ferra Engineering is also the Boeing global supplier for 500lb Joint Direct Attack Munition Extended Range (JDAM ER) wing kits.⁶⁰ Ferra's production of the wing kits for Boeing began in 2013, and the extension of the production partnership culminated in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the two companies in October 2023.⁶¹ The signing of the MoU came days after Boeing announced that it would be accelerating the delivery of 1,800 JDAM-ER wing kits to Israel, expediting delivery from a 2021 direct contract sale.⁶² The wing kits produced by Ferra convert the existing Mark 80 series “free fall” bombs into “accurate, adverse weather “smart” munitions using GPS or laser guidance systems, artificial intelligence and sensors.”⁶³

AUSTRALIAN SOVEREIGN DEFENCE & ADVANCED MANUFACTURING GROUP

Australian Sovereign Defence & Advanced Manufacturing Group (ASDAM) are Australia's largest supplier to the F-35 program, majority owned by CPE Capital. ASDAM own and operate several companies under their umbrella including their flagship Marand Precision Engineering, Rosebank Engineering, Levett Engineering, TAE Aerospace and most recently Quickstep.⁶⁴ Through its end-to-end capability ASDAM provides design, engineering, manufacturing, assembly and sustainment services to major defence primes including Lockheed Martin, BAE Systems, Honeywell, Pratt & Whitney, Northrop Grumman, Boeing, as well as BHP and Rio Tinto, across 18 locations in Australia and the US.⁶⁵ Companies owned and operated by ASDAM are sole-source suppliers for the global F-

⁵⁶ <https://marvineng.com/story/f-35-ame/>

⁵⁷ <https://ferra-group.com/ferra-formidable-in-f-35/>

⁵⁸ Ibid.

⁵⁹ <https://ferra-group.com/capabilities/complex-manufacturing-2/>

⁶⁰ <https://www.boeing.com.au/news/2023/boeing-ferra-expand-precision-aerial-munition-partnership>

⁶¹ Ibid.

⁶² <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-10-18/boeing-accelerates-delivery-of-up-to-1-800-gps-guidance-bomb-kits-to-israel?leadSource=verify%20wall>

⁶³ <https://qudsnen.co/maariv-israel-used-advanced-jdam-bombs-to-kill-civilians-in-al-mawasi/>

⁶⁴ <https://www.asdam.com/>

⁶⁵ Ibid.

35 fleet. ASIC records indicate the ASDAM operates across three separate companies, namely ASDAM Holdings Pty Ltd, ASDAM Operations Pty Ltd and ASDAM Finance Pty Ltd.⁶⁶

MARAND PRECISION ENGINEERING

Marand are the largest of the ASDAM subsidiaries, operating since 1969 and purchased by CHAMP Private Equity (now CPE Capital/ASDAM) in 2019.⁶⁷ Marand operates both in Australia and internationally with a presence in Victoria (Moorabbin and Geelong), South Australia, Western Australia, London United Kingdom and Fort Worth Texas USA. As a long-term partner and supplier to Lockheed Martin, Marand acts as a go-between with downstream suppliers and engineering sub-contractors, as emphasised by CEO Rohan Stoker; “Every element of our F-35 programme is carried out by a network of local specialists, without having to leave the state. From castings made in Dandenong by AW Bell to world-capable precision gears from flight specialists Ronson Gears in Highett, we have an entire advanced production line on our doorstep.”⁶⁸

Marand have been involved in the F-35 program from the start, when Lockheed Martin contracted a senior consulting automation engineer to their SkunkWorks research facility in Palmdale, California.⁶⁹

Marand was the first company in the world to receive a contract for the design and development of ground support equipment for the JSF program, as announced by Lockheed Martin in June 2003.⁷⁰ In January 2006, the first Pratt & Whitney F-35 engine was installed using the Engine Removal and Installation Trailer, designed and manufactured by Marand.⁷¹ As the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM), Marand’s design and manufacture of the installation product is now incorporated into the global F-35 Program.⁷² A now deleted article from Lockheed Martin’s website spotlights Marand’s importance in the global F-35 program as the “sole source for the global fleet” for the installation trailer.⁷³ In 2016, Marand won the contract to be the global sole source of the F-35 Engine and Lift Fan Removal and Installation Trainer (ELFRIT) for training global partners of the F-35 program.⁷⁴ Commenting on the contract win, Head of the Joint Strike Fighter Program within Capability Acquisition Sustainment Group, Air Vice-Marshal Leigh Gordon highlighted that “Marand has been an extraordinary performer in the global F-35 program already, manufacturing the F-35 vertical tails, being the original equipment manufacturer for the complex F-35 engine trailer, supplying thousands of production tools and now *sole supplier* for the ELFRIT.”⁷⁵

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<https://connectonline.asic.gov.au/RegistrySearch/faces/landing/panelSearch.jspx?searchType=OrgAndBusNm&searchText=ASDAM>

⁶⁷ <https://www.marand.com.au/sale-of-marand-precision-engineering-to-champ-private-equity/>

⁶⁸ <https://djsir.vic.gov.au/made-in-victoria/about/manufacturing-case-studies/from-moorabbin-to-space-how-the-f-35-is-taking-victoria-to-the-world>

⁶⁹ <https://www.marand.com.au/australian-company-helps-achieve-critical-jsf-milestone/>

⁷⁰ <https://www.marand.com.au/australian-company-helps-achieve-critical-jsf-milestone/>

⁷¹ Ibid.

⁷² <https://djsir.vic.gov.au/made-in-victoria/about/manufacturing-case-studies/from-moorabbin-to-space-how-the-f-35-is-taking-victoria-to-the-world>

⁷³ <https://web.archive.org/web/20231213230350/https://www.lockheedmartin.com/en-au/partnerships/taking-marand-from-moorabbin-to-the-world.html>

⁷⁴ <https://www.australiandefence.com.au/news/marand-wins-f-35-engine-removal-trainer-contract>

⁷⁵ <https://www.australiandefence.com.au/news/marand-wins-f-35-engine-removal-trainer-contract>

In 2011, Marand signed a Long Term Agreement with BAE Systems to produce vertical tail fins for the F-35 program.⁷⁶ The LTA spans over 20 years and represents over \$700 million in sales with 722 ship sets planned for the contract over its lifetime.⁷⁷ The first flight of an F-35 with Marand's vertical tail fins was conducted at Fort Worth, Texas on July 17, 2015.⁷⁸

In addition, Marand is the only Australian prime contractor to Lockheed Martin for 155 tooling components for the F-35 program.⁷⁹

ROSEBANK ENGINEERING

Rosebank Engineering was purchased by ASDAM in 2022.⁸⁰ Rosebank Engineering has been involved in the F-35 Program since the System Development and Demonstration phase in 2004.⁸¹ In 2015 the company was rebranded as RUAG Australia.⁸² Before completing the sale to ASDAM, RUAG Australia existed as the sole global source supplier of the uplock actuator system for the F-35 program.⁸³ Following its acquisition by ASDAM, the company rebranded to Rosebank Engineering, to restore the name and to better integrate with other ASDAM companies, but to continue the component manufacturing across its sites in Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia and Queensland.⁸⁴ Immediately following the acquisition by ASDAM in September 2022, and prior to the rebrand to Rosebank Engineering in November of the same year, the company "signed on with Honeywell International to become a Maintenance, Repair & Overhaul (MRO) Authorized Service Center for the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter Wheels and Brakes program in the Asia-Pacific (APAC) region."⁸⁵ Following the rebrand, Rosebank Engineering highlighted its restoration as a global Defence Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) and additive technology company, providing maintenance and manufacturing support to aerospace systems and components for "Australian and other international Defence forces."⁸⁶

Rosebank Engineering remains the sole global source supplier of the uplock actuator systems, which "opens and closes the bay doors in seconds to enable the F-35 to drop its payload more quickly and maintain its stealth capability. The component comprises 27 part numbers and is assembled into the bay door's drive system."⁸⁷ Significant upgrades to the Hydraulic Actuator Centre of Excellence manufacturing facilities in Bayswater in 2020, now operating as Rosebank Engineering, has been celebrated by the Department of Defence, highlighting the company's capacity to reduce lead times

⁷⁶ <https://www.marand.com.au/marand-signs-long-term-agreement-for-supply-of-jsf-vertical-tails/>

⁷⁷ <https://www.marand.com.au/first-f-35a-with-australian-made-vertical-tails-takes-flight/>

⁷⁸ <https://www.marand.com.au/first-f-35a-with-australian-made-vertical-tails-takes-flight/>

⁷⁹ <https://www.marand.com.au/lockheed-martins-vote-of-confidence-in-australian-tooling-for-f-35/>

⁸⁰ <https://www.ruag.com/en/news/sale-ruag-australia-successfully-completed>

⁸¹ 'F-35 Australian Industry Participation – Journey to \$1 billion'. Australian Government Department of Defence. 2018

⁸² Ibid.

⁸³ <https://asiapacificdefencereporter.com/ruag-australia-achieves-manufacturing-milestone-on-uplock-actuator-system-for-f-35-joint-strike-fighter-program/>

⁸⁴ <https://smedefence.com.au/2022/11/03/ruag-australia-rebranded-as-rosebank-engineering/>

⁸⁵ <https://www.defenseadvancement.com/news/ruag-australia-becomes-authorized-service-center-for-f-35-wheels-brakes/>

⁸⁶ <https://smedefence.com.au/2022/11/03/ruag-australia-rebranded-as-rosebank-engineering/>

⁸⁷ <https://asiapacificdefencereporter.com/ruag-australia-achieves-manufacturing-milestone-on-uplock-actuator-system-for-f-35-joint-strike-fighter-program/>

and to meet full production demand for the global F-35 Program.^{88 89} To meet full production demand, the company has implemented streamlining across the spectrum of the supply chain, from raw material procurement to machining, special processing, assembly, testing, resulting in packaging and shipment of completed components.⁹⁰

QUICKSTEP HOLDINGS

ASDAM completed the acquisition of Quickstep Holding on the 17th of April 2025.⁹¹ In 2011, Quickstep Holdings signed a Long Term Agreement (LTA) with Northrop Grumman to manufacture components for the global F-35 Program over a 20 year period, implemented in 2012.⁹² As a subcontract under an MOU signed between Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman in 2009, under the LTA, “Quickstep will supply up to 16 different JSF components, including lower side skins, maintenance access panels, fuel tank covers, lower skins and in-board weapons bay doors, projected to amount to some 36,000+ parts over the life of the program.”⁹³ The integration of Quickstep into Northrop Grumman’s F-35 supply chain places it as Northrop Grumman’s largest Australian supplier for the F-35 Program.⁹⁴

In 2020, Quickstep announced that it had completed the manufacture of its 10,000th component for the F-35 program, according to Quickstep’s website, the company is “supplying more than 30 individual components with content on every aircraft produced” through its contracts with Northrop Grumman, BAE Systems and Marand Precision Engineering.^{95 96}

Pursuant to the MoU, Quickstep announced a multi-year contract with Northrop Grumman in August 2022 for centre fuselage components for Lots 15-17 of the global F-35 program, with work having commenced on Lot 15, and to be completed by 2025, and contract extensions for Lots 18-19 through to 2028.⁹⁷ This contract followed from “recent purchase orders from Marand Precision Engineering for production of F-35 vertical tail components for lots 15 and 16 valued at \$32.99 million under the existing agreement with this customer”, as announced by Quickstep CEO Mark Burgess.⁹⁸ In January 2023, Quickstep announced a further contract with Marand Precision

⁸⁸ <https://www.australiandefence.com.au/defence/air/ruag-upgrades-hydraulic-centre-for-f-35-work>

⁸⁹ <https://www.minister.defence.gov.au/media-releases/2019-02-27/ruag-australia-delivers-35000th-component-part-global-f-35-program>

⁹⁰ <https://asiapacificdefencereporter.com/ruag-australia-achieves-manufacturing-milestone-on-uplock-actuator-system-for-f-35-joint-strike-fighter-program/>

⁹¹ <https://www.marketscreener.com/quote/stock/QUICKSTEP-HOLDINGS-10354285/news/ASDAM-Operations-Pty-Ltd-completed-the-acquisition-of-Quickstep-Holdings-Limited-from-a-group-of-sha-49645837/>

⁹² <https://www.aerospacemanufacturinganddesign.com/news/aerospace-manufacturing-design-quickstep-f35-components-020411/>

⁹³ <https://www.aerospacemanufacturinganddesign.com/news/aerospace-manufacturing-design-quickstep-f35-components-020411/>

⁹⁴ <https://www.armyrecognition.com/?view=article&id=339799&catid=108>

⁹⁵ <https://www.defenceconnect.com.au/joint-capabilities/7358-quickstep-celebrates-10-000th-f-35-component?highlight=WyJxdWlja3N0ZXAiLCIxMCwwMDAiXQ==>

⁹⁶ <https://www.quickstep.com.au/about/>

⁹⁷ <https://www.listcorp.com/asx/qhl/quickstep-holdings-limited/news/finalisation-of-terms-for-multi-year-f-35-firm-order-2752877.html>

⁹⁸ <https://www.aumanufacturing.com.au/quickstep-firms-up-151m-f-35-components-order>

Engineering for vertical tail fins for Lot 17 of the F-35, for works to be completed at their Bankstown facility through FY2024-2025.⁹⁹

In addition to its manufacture of components for the F-35 Program, Quickstep are Lockheed Martin's sole supplier of composite wing flaps for the military C-130J "Super Hercules."¹⁰⁰ The C-130J is recognised as an integral part of the Israeli Air Force's 103rd Squadron, used in its Gaza offensive to air drop military equipment, troops and supplies, notably in the December 2023 rapid offensive in Khan Yunis, as well as being used to drop evacuation pamphlets over neighbourhoods in Gaza.¹⁰¹

This report highlights in non-exhaustive detail and evidence the Australian companies involved in the sole-source supply of components for the global F-35 fleet, including Israel's F-35I. Further undertaking in research, when coupled with information provided by independent organisations such as Declassified Australia, spotlight the integral part that Australian companies play in enabling the continuation of the genocide in Gaza. The defence industry and its involvement in the global F-35 Program is facilitated and awarded diplomatic and legislative cover by the Australian Government through frameworks and instruments such as the Australia US Defence Trade Cooperation Treaty and the Defence Trade Control Amendment Bill 2024. According to UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, Francesca Albanese's latest report presented to the UN General Assembly on the 20th October 2025 titled "Gaza Genocide: a collective crime", Australia is listed as one of the 19 countries involved in the global F-35 program supplying parts and components to Israel for their F-35s, highlighted as "key to the Israeli military assault in Gaza".¹⁰² The report emphasises that Australia continues to defend its role in the F-35 program, despite having ratified the Arms Trade Treaty and despite litigation brought forward.¹⁰³

⁹⁹ <https://www.quickstep.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/11.3M-Verical-Tails-Components.pdf>

¹⁰⁰ <https://www.quickstep.com.au/about/>

¹⁰¹ <https://www.jpost.com/israel-hamas-war/article-789700>

¹⁰² 'Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, Francesca Albanese Gaza Genocide: a collective crime'. 20 October 2025. Accessed: <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/hrcouncil/coiopt/a-80-492-advance-unedited-version.pdf>

¹⁰³ Ibid.