Elbit Systems

As Israel’s largest war industry, Elbit is fiercely proud of its “Corporate Responsibility Policy.” As proof that it is a “good corporate citizen and an advocate for social and environmental responsibility,” Elbit points to its design, creation and production of weapons systems. Elbit promotes its contribution to world peace, by saying that the first “key element” of its Corporate Responsibility Policy is “Leveraging …our core technological knowledge, skills, capabilities and innovation to make the world a safer place.”

However, Elbit’s “knowledge, skills, capabilities and innovation” are almost exclusively devoted to refining the technologies of war. In fact, only 5% of Elbit’s business is non-military.

With annual military revenues weighing in at US$2.5 billion, Elbit currently ranks as the world’s 33rd largest military contractor.

Although Elbit’s weapons systems are extensively used by Israel’s military forces, they are also widely exported. One of its foreign customers, the US government, purchased US$560 million worth of Elbit’s products between 2000 and 2009. Of these, 100% were for US military departments and agencies.

In amazing disregard for what Elbit actually produces (and how Israel uses them), the Ethicsphere Institute ranked Elbit as the single most ethical foreign firm dealing with the US government in 2008.

Urged on by Israel’s then-Deputy Defence Minister, Shimon Peres, the company began in 1966 as Elbit Computers Ltd. It was a joint venture between the Israeli military’s Research Institute and Elron Electronic Industries, which was founded by a former Motorola employee and funded by Israel’s Discount Investment Corp. (DIC). (See DIC, p.25, and Motorola in table “CPP Investments,” p.53.)

Through a subsidiary, Cyclone Aviation Products, Elbit upgrades many varieties of warplanes (including the F-4, F-5, F-15, F-16 and MiG-21 fighter aircraft), military helicopters (such as the CH-53, AH-1W, Super Puma) and the V-22 tiltrotor aircraft. The Israeli Air Force arsenal includes all of these except the F-5, MiG-21 and Super Puma, while the V-22 is near the top of for fighter aircraft.

Elbit also makes electronic systems for air-, land- and sea-based weapons, including Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance systems, electro-optics and electronic warfare systems.

Other Elbit products used by Israel’s military include:
- Computers, helmet-mounted systems and display systems for F-16s.
- Advanced combat training systems.
- Light trainer aircraft.
- Fire control systems and thermal imaging sights for weapons in Israel’s main battle tanks.
- Support services for warplanes and helicopters (repair, maintenance and spare parts).
- Enhanced tactical computers for armoured vehicles, howitzers and mortars, multiple-launch rocket systems and attack helicopters.
- Skylark, a “highly-covert” drone that “supports open area as well as urban warfare scenarios,” and is

Elbit produces “Hermes” 450 and 900 drones. Israel has used these unmanned aerial vehicles for reconnaissance and air strikes in the West Bank, Gaza, Lebanon (2006) and Sudan (2009).
“battle-proven” by Israel’s military, as well as in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- Battle management systems for sensors and weapon systems within combat-vehicles.
- Cutting-edge laser systems for air, ground and naval uses that “have been tested and proven in combat for more than three decades.”
- Laser designators/rangefinders for ground, naval, aircraft and unmanned aerial platforms.
- Ground-based payloads, for day-and-night scanning, tracking, range measurement, aiming and targeting.
- Thermal imaging systems. These electro-optical, infrared, night-vision technologies fulfil surveillance tasks for air, sea, ground, “homeland defense and anti-terror applications.” Elbit’s products include cameras, long range sensors, clip-on night sights, elbow sights and night-driving systems.

Data obtained by the Coalition to Oppose the Arms Trade (COAT) from the “Government Contracts USA Defense Department” database, shows that between 2001 and 2003, an Elbit subsidiary supplied components for AH-64 “Apache” helicopters. Elbit’s electro-optical subsidiary, Elop Ltd., received about US$1.2 million in contracts from US Aviation and Missile Command to provide a various electrical and electronic components for AH-64s. The US exported this variety of attack helicopter to Israel which has then used them in attacks on Lebanon (2006) and Gaza (2008-2009).

Elbit is also one of two suppliers of the electronic detection fence which is part of Israel’s separation barrier in the occupied West Bank. Two of Elbit’s subsidiaries, Elop and Elbit Security Systems (Ortek), supplied the Long-Range Reconnaissance and Observation System (LORROS) surveillance system for the Ariel and A-ram sections of the separation barrier. (LORROS uses cameras made by Sony. See table, “CPP Investments, p.53.) Elbit is also involved in building the Masu’a system to monitor the Jerusalem Envelope section of Israel’s separation wall. To get this contract, Elbit teamed up with Detekion, a US firm.

References
Social Responsibility Full Report
Elbit Systems Ltd.
duns100.dundb.co.il/tx.cgi?tscript=comp_eng&duns+514421098
Top 100 Defense Contractors, Defense News
www.defensenews.com
Contracts to Elbit Systems Ltd.
www.fedspending.org/fds/search.php
5 Best Foreign Company Ethics Programs
ethisphere.com/5-best-foreign-company-ethics-programs
Elron Electronic Industries
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elron_Electronic_Industries
Unique Aerospace Prowess, Israel’s Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labor

ir.elbitsystems.com/Phoenix.zhtml?c=61849&p=irol-newsArticle&ID=1393398&highlight=F-16
Advanced Combat Training System
Services & Privatization
Ruggedized Tactical Terminals
Skylark® I LE - Mini UAS
Battle Management Systems
Flashlamp-Pumped Laser Designators/Rangefinders
www.elbitsystems.com/elbitmain/area-in2.asp?parent=59&num=144&num2=144
Ground-Based Payloads
Thermal Imaging Systems
Government Contracts USA Defense Dep’t
www.govconcontracts.com
Elbit Systems
www.whoprofits.org/Company%20Info.php?id=554