

Links to Amdocs

AT&T has a close working relationship with another Israeli firm linked to the warrantless-wiretapping spy scandal, namely Amdocs. (See pp.5-6.) AT&T is Amdocs' biggest customer. Also, when AT&T established an R&D innovation centre in Israel they set up shop on Amdocs' Israeli premises in Ra'anana. Managing their AT&T Foundry, which works with high-tech start-up companies, is Yigal Elbaz, "a Lieutenant Colonel at the Israeli Reserve Defense Force."

Aurum Ventures MKI Ltd.

Another link between AT&T and Amdocs is an Israeli investment firm called Aurum Ventures MKI. Bloomberg's *Business News* website says "Aurum Ventures MKI Ltd. is a venture capital investment arm of AT&T Inc." Aurum, which funds fledgling Israeli companies, says it is "the technology investment arm of Morris Kahn," the founder of Amdocs, and one of Israel's richest men.

Although Aurum says it "prefers to invest in life sciences and cleantech sectors," it also invests in military- and surveillance-related firms like Elcom Technologies and Foxcom.

Elcom Technologies:

Elcom manufactures radio frequency and microwave technologies used in unmanned aerial vehicles, military communications, radar and electronic warfare equipment. Its products are marketed in Israel by Elul Technologies Ltd. which calls itself "Israel's largest aerospace and defense business development and consulting company."

Foxcom:

This Israeli firm makes fibreoptic links for tactical communication systems, including military satellites. It says its products are "used around the world on numerous different military platforms."

Foxcom got caught in a 2002 scandal that landed US Republican Congressman Rob Ney behind bars for corruption. Ney pled guilty to awarding Foxcom a suspicious multi-million dollar contract in exchange for campaign contributions and other gifts from disgraced lobbyist Jack Abramoff. Israel's *Globes* business paper describes

him as a "religiously observant man and a fervid support of Israel ...suspected of sending paramilitary equipment to Israeli settlers in Betar Illit." Foxcom then paid Abramoff US\$280,000 and donated US\$50,000 to his charity.

Here's how former CIA officer Philip Giraldi described the crime:

"Congressman Bob Ney...arranged a noncompetitive bid for the Israeli telecommunications company Foxcom Wireless to install equipment to improve cellphone reception in the Capitol and House office buildings.... Telecommunications security experts note that equipment that can be used to enhance or improve a signal can also be used to redirect the phone conversation to another location for recording and analysis. The possibility that someone in the Israeli Embassy might be listening to congressmen's private phone conversations is intriguing to say the least."

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BAE Systems

Canada Pension Plan
2011 Investment

\$1 million

BAE produces everything from nuclear submarines and nuclear weapons to handcuffs and shackles used at Guantanamo Bay and in Saudi Arabia. And, BAE also churns out artillery, missiles, torpedoes, battle vehicles, aerial drones, and even remote-controlled machine guns.

Easily the largest weapons manufacturer in Britain, BAE has US\$38 billion in assets. It consistently ranks among the world's four largest war profiteers, and was in second place in 2007, 2008 and 2009. Not too surprisingly, about 96% of BAE's revenues come from military sales.

Of the US\$64.7 billion in contracts that BAE had with the US federal government between 2000 and 2009, US\$61 billion (95%) were with military departments and agencies. During each of those years, BAE figured among the Pentagon's top 15 suppliers. And, the company ranked seventh among the top Pentagon contractors for that decade.

BAE also supplies high-tech components for major US weapons systems of the kind sold to Israel, including AH-64 "Apache" attack helicopters, and F-15 and F-16 warplanes. The Israeli Air Force used these aircraft when attacking Lebanon in 2006, and Gaza in 2008-2009. Between 1999 and 2009, the US "Government Contracts Won" database lists BAE Systems and its subsidiaries as having received 265 contracts, worth US\$460 million for these three weapons systems alone.

The BAE equipment used aboard Israeli F-15s includes "Head-Up Displays." These transparent displays of flight and weapons-control data allow pilots to avoid looking down at cockpit instruments.

Israel was reported to have used BAE's "Suter" airborne network attack system to bomb Syria in 2007.

In 2005, BAE acquired United



**M113
"Nagmash"**

Israel's military has 5,500 of these armoured troop carriers which are built and serviced by BAE Systems.

Defense Industries (UDI), a major US weapons maker owned by The Carlyle Group between 1997 and 2004. (See pp.14-15.) After this US\$4.2 billion acquisition, UDI became known as US Combat Systems and BAE formed its Land & Armaments division. This BAE division designs, manufactures and provides "integrated logistics support throughout the product life-cycle" for battle vehicles, heavy artillery, naval weapons, missile launchers and munitions. Many of these BAE weapons systems are now part of Israel's arsenal, including:

- M113 Armoured Troop Carriers
- M88 Armoured Recovery Vehicles
- M109 155 mm "Dohar" howitzers
- M110 203 mm howitzers

Defense Technology Corp., a US-based firm owned by BAE, supplies CS tear gas to Israel's police and military which routinely use it against Palestinian protesters. Deaths have resulted from using this kind of tear gas. For instance, Israel's *Haaretz* newspaper reported on New Year's day 2011 that Jawaher Abu Rahmah "died...after she was exposed to tear gas that was shot by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers to disperse the crowd of demonstrators against the separation wall" in the West-Bank village of Bil'in. Her brother "Bassem Abu Rahmah...was killed by an extended-range tear gas projectile fired at his chest by IDF soldiers...on April 17, 2009."

BAE's Israel subsidiary, BAE Rokar International, manufactures three main products:

- (1) "Combat-proven" electronic war-



**An Israeli
M109 "Dohar"
in action**

This photo from an online album called "Miluim 2006 (milhama)," or "Reserves 2006 (war)," is dated Aug. 11, 2006, during the Lebanon War.

Israel has 600 of these M109 self-propelled howitzers made by a BAE subsidiary, US Combat Systems. Formerly called United Defense, and previously owned by the Carlyle Group, BAE acquired it for US\$4.2 billion in 2005.

fare systems for warplanes and helicopters. Rokar is "the sole supplier of these systems to the Israeli Air Force."

(2) Global positioning systems and guidance systems for space, air, land and naval platforms, as well as for rockets, smart munitions and projectiles.

(3) Armament control systems for fighter aircraft, helicopters and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles.

BAE is on the global team building the F-35 warplane, which Israel has on order. BAE responsibility is to design the aft fuselage, the horizontal and vertical tails, and the wing-fold mechanism for one variant of this fighter/bomber. The F-35's prime contractor is Lockheed Martin. (See table, "CPP Investments," p.53.)

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