

Boeing in Israel

The relationship between Boeing and Israel goes back about 70 years — to the founding of the state of Israel. Since then, Boeing has worked closely with Israeli commercial and military customers and suppliers and has developed many lasting partnerships.

Israel has a large and modern air force and a successful commercial aviation sector. Israel is also important to Boeing because of its position as a world aerospace leader. The Israeli aerospace industry in the public and private sectors provides a high level of innovation and expertise in the design and manufacture of a wide variety of defense, space and communications products.

With some of the world's highest per capita numbers of engineers and scientists, Israel is at the forefront of technological advancement. It has a highly skilled and educated workforce and a strong commitment to research and development.

Boeing Commercial Airplanes

El Al Israel Airlines

Together, Boeing and Israel's flag carrier El Al made aviation history. El Al's inaugural flight in September 1948 brought the country's first president, Chaim Weizmann, home from Geneva. The quickly improvised fleet consisted of a Douglas C-54 transport borrowed from the military and repainted in civilian livery for the occasion.

From that historic beginning, El Al grew into a prestigious world carrier, ranked as one of the world's best. The airline was formally established on November 15, 1948, and began operations in July 1949 with routes from Tel Aviv to Rome and Paris. El Al began with a handful of former military aircraft and surplus planes, including Curtiss C-46s and Douglas DC-3s and DC-4s.

The airline soon purchased longer range Lockheed Constellations, but with the coming of the jet age, they were retired in favor of new Boeing commercial jets.

El Al's changeover to an all-Boeing fleet began with an order for three Rolls-Royce powered 707-458s. The first Boeing 707 was delivered to El Al at Boeing Field in Seattle on May 7, 1961.

In June 1961, El Al set a world record for the longest nonstop commercial flight with a Boeing 707. The trip from New York to Tel Aviv covered 5,005 nautical miles (9,269 kilometers) in 9 hours, 33 minutes.

In May 1991, an El Al Boeing 747 airlifted a record-breaking 1,087 passengers — Ethiopian Jews flying from Addis Ababa to Israel as part of Operation Solomon.

Between the fourth quarter of 2013 and the first quarter of 2016, El Al received the eight 737-900ERs it ordered in 2011 and 2012.

During the last quarter of 2013, El Al launched a low-cost subsidiary, UP, that operates the 737-800 to six European destinations.

On October 29th, 2015, El Al placed an order with Boeing for nine 787 Dreamliners and a leasing arrangement for an additional seven 787s from independent leasing companies.

In July 2017, El Al announced that its Sun d'Or unit agreed to buy smaller Israeli low-cost airline Israir from IDB Tourism. The completion of the deal is expected on March 31, 2018.

On August 23, 2017, El Al received its first 787 Dreamliner and expects the second plane in October. Along with the Dreamliner, El Al now operates a fleet of more than Boeing 40 airplanes, including Next-Generation 737s, 747s, 767s and 777s.

Arkia Israeli Airlines Ltd

Arkia has operated Boeing airplanes since 1981. In 2000, Arkia Israeli Airlines took delivery of two 757-300s. Arkia operates charter, scheduled domestic and cargo services. The 757-300s allowed the airline to expand its routes and offer more international charter flights, connecting with England, France, Germany, Switzerland, Italy and Spain.

Knafaim Holdings

Knafaim is the mother-company of El Al and Global-Knafaim. Global-Knafaim is a leasing company that holds 18 airplanes Boeing and Airbus.

CAL Cargo Airlines Ltd.

CAL Cargo Airlines was founded in 1976 and began operating two 747-200Fs in 1999. In 2014, CAL upgraded to a 747-400F and a 747-400ERF.

Boeing and Israeli Military Procurement

History of Israeli Defense Forces and Boeing

The Boeing relationship with the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) dates back to 1948 when the Israel Air Force (IAF) began flying the B-17 Flying Fortress.

The Douglas DC-3 made history between 1949 and 1951 with the airlifts of 120,000 Jews from Iraq and 45,000 from Yemen. The DC-3 served in the IAF until 2002.

The PBY Catalina served for several years along with the B-17 in the IAF's 69th Squadron. This squadron also operated the F-4E Phantom and today operates the F-15I Thunder aircraft.

The P-51 Mustang fighter aircraft was one of the first to serve in the IAF and took part in the 1956 Sinai campaign.

Stearman PT-17 aircraft and Harvard AT-6 trainers served in the IAF Flying School until the late 1960s.

The IAF has operated the legendary Boeing 707 for more than 40 years in various roles, including intelligence gathering, passenger transport, freight transport and aerial refueling. The 707s undergo annual testing and biannual maintenance. One of the IAF's active 707s has been flying since 1958.

Other airplanes from Boeing and its predecessor companies that have served in the IAF include the Douglas A-4 Skyhawk, the McDonnell F-4 Phantom, the F-15 Eagle and F-15 dual-role Strike Eagle, the C-47 and the Hughes AH-64 Apache attack helicopter.

When Boeing 377 Stratocruisers (the commercial variant of the Boeing C-97 Stratofreighter) were being eclipsed by brand-new 707s, five of the still-useful Stratocruisers found their way to Israel, where they were converted to freighters. An IAF Stratocruiser is on display at the Israel Air Force Museum, near the city of Beer-Sheva.

Current Boeing defense products

Israel was the first international customer to purchase the Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) and has operated it in combat with great success. The Harpoon missile is the main sea-to-sea missile on Israel Navy vessels.

Currently the IAF employs all versions of the F-15 Eagle, including the advanced F-15I Ra'am (Thunder) — a derivative of the U.S. Air Force F-15E Strike Eagle. In 1998, Israel took delivery of the first of 25 F-15I jet fighter aircraft. It is the first U.S.-made fighter to include Israeli contractors in its production. The advanced, integrated electronic warfare suite is produced by Israel's Elisra, secure radios are made by ELTA Systems Group Ltd., and structural subassemblies are manufactured by the Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI) LAHAV Division.

Israel Aircraft Industries and Boeing signed a 2002 agreement to establish the production infrastructure to manufacture components of the IAI-developed Arrow 2 missile in the United States. The Arrow 2 missile is part of the full Arrow antiballistic missile system, the world's first operational antiballistic missile system. It is designed to protect Israel against short- and medium-range missiles. Boeing and IAI-MLM jointly developed the Arrow 3 exoatmospheric interceptor missile — a derivative of the Arrow 2. The Israeli Air Force received the Arrow 3 ballistic interceptors from the Israel Missile Defense Organization in January 2017.

The IAF has operated Boeing AH-64A "Peten" Apaches since the early 1990s. The country received 44 AH-64A helicopters from 1990 to 1993. In 2005, the IAF received its first "Saraf" Apache AH-64D rotorcraft. The Saraf, designated specifically by the IAF as the AH-64D-I, is an Apache Longbow combat helicopter that incorporates Israeli

indigenous avionics systems that further enhance the Apache's already impressive warfighting capabilities.

The nuclear agreement with Iran opened the door for a new aid package from the U.S. government to include Arrow 2 and 3 missiles ; V-22 rotorcraft; KC-46 Tankers; Apache block III and Chinook CH-47 helicopters; F-15I squadron as well as JDAMs (Joint Direct Attack Munition) and SDBs (Small Diameter Bombs).

Boeing–Israeli Business and Technical Partnerships

Boeing has a long history of working in partnership with Israel's technical and industrial sectors and other stakeholders and continues to seek such relationships for common benefit. Today, Israeli industry supplies parts for many Boeing commercial and military products, including the F-15, the AH-64D Apache Longbow, and the 737, 777 and 787 airplanes.

IAI subsidiary Elta Systems Ltd. of Ashdod, Israel, joined with Boeing in 1997 to supply the electronics support measures system to Boeing for the Nimrod maritime surveillance airplane: antennas, receivers, processors and storage. For its outstanding customer support, quality and delivery record, Elta was honored with a Boeing Supplier of the Year Award in 2002.

Currently, IAI uses its manufacturing talents in the conversion of Boeing 737-300s, 767-200s, 747-400s and 757-200s to cargo configuration and is producing various parts for the 787 Dreamliner. The IAI team also manufactures conformal fuel tanks for the world's F-15 strike aircraft.

Elbit Systems Ltd., of Haifa, manufactures the joint helmet-mounted cueing system used by the U.S. Air Force and Navy on F-15, F-16, F-18, F-22 and F-35 aircraft. Elbit's subsidiary, Cyclone, is manufacturing 610-gallon (U.S.) external fuel tanks for the world's F-15 aircraft and 330-gallon (U.S.) external fuel tanks for F-18s for the U.S. Navy.

Boeing also has cooperative ties with RAFAEL Armament Development Authority, of Haifa, and subcontracting work with other companies, including Israel Military Industries (IMI) of Ramat Hasharon and RADA Electronic Industries of Herzliya.

In April 2008, following a 2006 agreement between Space International Services and Sea Launch Company and IAI, the Zenit-3SLB vehicle launched the AMOS-3 communications satellite to geostationary orbit from the land launch site at the Baikonur Space Center in Kazakhstan. Using its Ku-band and Ka-band transponders, the AMOS-3 provides broadcast and communications services to Europe, the Middle East and the east coast of the United States.

Boeing Israel

Boeing has maintained offices in Israel since 1969. Today, it has an office in Tel Aviv and personnel working at customer and supplier sites.

In 2003, David Ivry was named president of Boeing Israel. Ivry was the ambassador of the state of Israel to the United States from 2000 to 2002. He also has served as Israel's national security advisor and head of the National Security Council, director general of the Ministry of Defense, chairman of Israel Aircraft Industries, commander of the Israeli Air Force and deputy chief of the General Staff, and board member of El Al Airlines and Technion University.

Boeing Global Engagement

Since the company's founding in Seattle in 1916, Boeing has worked to strengthen the communities where it does business, making them better places to live and work for its employees and their families, friends, neighbors and fellow citizens. Boeing Global Engagement (BGE) is the organization within Boeing that leads these activities. BGE coordinates corporate giving around the world, focusing on five areas: education, environment, health and human services, arts and culture, and civic improvement. Boeing employees also volunteer in local communities.

In Israel, Boeing has been a supporter of a number of projects and programs.

Current programs

NATAL — Training Children and Teachers to Strengthen Resiliency. The project included educational staff training and school and kindergarten workshops.

Ezer Mizion Inc. — Bone Marrow Registry Expansion Project. The project serves to grow the Bone Marrow Donor Registry with new potential donors by covering the cost of lab testing and tissue typing for new members when they join the registry.

Enosh — Professional Technological Training Program for Psychiatrically Disabled Individuals in Israel. The proposed program aims to revoke financial, physical and functional obstacles and break the cycle of poverty and alienation by providing psychiatrically disabled individuals with the necessary professional qualification and tools to work as certified computer technicians.

Nitzan — Israeli Association for Children and Adults with Learning Disabilities, a leading organization in Israel for people with learning disabilities. Founded in 1964 by parents and volunteers and with 35 branches nationwide, Nitzan is the only nonprofit organization in Israel providing professional assessment and other services to people with learning disabilities.

Etgarim — Etgarim, which means "challenges" in Hebrew, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the empowerment and social integration of people with disabilities through outdoor sports. Etgarim was founded in 1995 by a group of Israel Defense Forces (IDF) veterans and civilians with disabilities and senior rehabilitation professionals. Through programs that Etgarim operates all over the country, they enable children and adults with disabilities to engage in sports and outdoor activities to be rehabilitated physically, mentally and socially.

Bait Cham Le Kol Hayal — Translated as “A Warm Home for Every Soldier,” this is an Israeli nonprofit organization founded to support soldiers who are facing hardship, living in difficult circumstances or living alone.

Past programs

The Therapeutic Riding Center of Israel — Therapeutic Riding for IDF Veterans. The main objective of the IDF veterans program is to assist as many handicapped IDF veterans as possible through the therapeutic nature of animals, using both horses and dogs to slowly rehabilitate those who have served in the Israeli Army.

Or Simcha — Training for Staff at Or Simcha Educational Facility. In the framework of the program, the counselors receive individual supervision and/or guidance sessions with professional therapists. Training the staff members raises their professional level, helps them identify at-risk situations, prevents burnout, and raises motivation and commitment levels.

Walworth Barbour American International School — The GAIA Environmental Youth Collaboration Program. The project is a people-to-people conflict mitigation and reconciliation program that brings together individuals of different ethnic, religious or political backgrounds from some of the most economically disadvantaged populaces in Israel through collaborative environmental learning projects.

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