WHO PROFITS AT DSEI?

A quick guide to some of the companies attending the world's biggest arms fair.
WHAT IS DSEI?

Defence and Security Equipment International (DSEI) is a trade exhibition for the arms trade. DSEI is held in London every two years, and is where the arms trade comes into direct contact with militaries and police forces from around the world. In 2015, over 1,500 exhibitors were present; between them they sell everything a modern military might need to wage war. These companies hope to market their wares - planes, tanks, guns, rockets, bullets, tear gas, restraints, computer software, training and much more - to representatives of over sixty different countries invited to attend DSEI. In 2015 these included 14 authoritarian regimes of which ten attended, four countries identified as having wide-ranging human rights abuses and six countries at war.

DSEI is organised by a private company, Clarion Events, with the full support of the British government who send official invites to military delegations via the Defence and Security Organisation (DSO), an official government body.

WHO PROFITS?

What are the causes of war? The answer is multifaceted, but must include the economic structures that both rely on, and drive, militarism and the powerful forces that are ‘making a killing’ out of death and destruction.

Hundreds of companies attend DSEI, looking to market weapons of war to militaries from around the world – the global arms trade is worth billions of pounds each year. This resource includes short introductions to twelve of the many hundreds of companies exhibiting at DSEI in September 2017. We have included companies from several countries; some are huge (like BAE Systems, Lockheed Martin, and Northrop Grumman) with billion dollar contracts for some of the world's most deadly weaponry. Other companies are much smaller or less well known, perhaps building "non-lethal" weapons such as tear gas, or specific components that are used by militaries around the world such as aiming sights for its rifles.

WAR RESISTERS' INTERNATIONAL

This resource has been put together by War Resisters' International, a global network of pacifist and antimilitarist organisations. For more information on War Resisters' International, visit www.wri-irg.org, where you can also find a fully referenced version of this booklet. WRI publishes a regular newsletter - War Profiteers News - with news and reports from movements and campaigns resisting the arms trade and other forms of war profiteering around the world. The arms trade is one of the key drivers of war; all over the world, members of WRI are taking action to resist war and its causes.
Elbit Systems, an “international defence electronics company” is Israel's largest weapons producer, employing over 12,000 people. Through its subsidiaries around the world, the company produces a wide variety of high-tech products for the military and security industry, including:

- military aircraft and helicopter systems, such as helmet mounted displays and cockpit electronics
- unmanned aerial vehicles (“UAVs” or drones), including the military drones Hermes 900 and Hermes 450
- advanced electro-optics and electro-optic space systems
- signal intelligence (“SIGINT”) systems, data links, communications systems and radios.

Elbit has four subsidiaries in the UK; UAV Engines, Instron Precision, Ferranti Technologies and Elite KL, employing over 500 people. In 2016, the company announced it was looking for new acquisitions, including in the UK (and was “undeterred by Brexit”!) Elbit Systems also owns companies in the USA, Latin America, South Korea, India and Australia.

Drones

Elbit Systems is the main provider of drones to the Israeli military. The Hermes 900 is a one tonne drone used for reconnaissance, surveillance and communications relay and was first used by the Israeli military in Operation Protective Edge, the 2014 assault on Gaza. Other drones built by Elbit Systems used in Operation Protective Edge include the Hermes 450 – the precursor to the Hermes 900 – and the mini-UAV Skylark. Elbit drones were praised by Israeli military commanders, who claimed “Every brigade — even the reserves — got at least two air vehicles and flew them nonstop.”

Elbit Systems also provides “intrusion detection systems”, used with the Israeli separation wall, particularly around Jerusalem. Subsidiaries Elbit Electro-Optics (El-Op) and Elbit Security Systems supplied and incorporated LORROS surveillance cameras in the Ariel settlement section as well as around ar Ram.

In 2005, the UK Ministry of Defence awarded UAV Tactical Systems, a joint venture of Elbit Systems and its partner company Thales, a £1bn contract to develop the Watchkeeper 450. The project has been heavily delayed and needed extra money.
pumped into it – due to go operational in 2010, by 2015 the drone had seen just six days of active duty.

Data and communications equipment

At DSEI in 2015, Elbit Systems unveiled a new piece of technology for providing wireless networks to military units on battlefields and in extreme conditions. The GXR-8000 supports a wide variety of communication technologies, from traditional telephony to broadband.

Resistance

In September 2009, the Norwegian Pension Fund’s ethical council decided to sell the fund’s stocks in Elbit Systems because the company supplies surveillance systems for the Israeli separation wall. At a press conference to announce the decision, the Minister of Finance Kristin Halvorsen said "We do not wish to fund companies that so directly contribute to violations of international humanitarian law." In 2015, 73 MEPs called for divestment from Israeli military companies, including Elbit.

The Elbit-owned UAV Engines factory in Shenstone has been repeatedly targetted by activists, including with protests, roof top occupations, and blockades at its gates. Similar actions have taken place in Australia.
NonLethal Technologies is a US-based company, building a variety of “less than lethal riot and crowd control equipment for military and law enforcement applications”, and that also markets weapons to be used in prisons. The company produces and sells rubber pellet cartridges, “ballistic bag” beans bags, CS gas cartridges and grenades, barricade penetrators, stun grenades, colour smoke grenades and other similar equipment, as well as handheld and vehicle launchers.

NonLethal Technologies produces the IronFist vehicle mounted launching system, designed to fire a range of 37/38mm and 40mm CS, smoke screening, impact or flashbang canisters. The companies online catalogue describes the IronFist as a “less lethal 38mm weapon system with up to 36 barrels in various configurations that can be vehicle mounted or hard mounted on perimeter defensive structures, to rapidly deploy a blanket of less lethal munitions into, or over, a hostile crowd.” Using the company's high capacity cartridges, the IronFist allows “a tactical officer [to] deploy up to 360 CS mini-grenades into a riotous crowd as needed from a single vehicle station...a true force multiplier.” The weapon can also be fitted to buildings or permanent structures. The IronFist appears to have been exhibited at DSEI in 2015.

NonLethal Technologies also markets the “IceBreaker Vehicle Escape System”. The IceBreaker is a tear gas launcher fitted underneath a vehicle, designed to allow it’s operator to launch tear gas into a crowd and “escape the threat”.

There is evidence of CS gas canisters produced by NonLethal Technologies being used by Bahraini security forces in crackdowns on pro-democracy activists in April 2013 and against Turkish activists in the Gezi Park protests.

Use in prisons

NonLethal Technologies also produces a range of equipment designed for use in prisons. The TG Guard system is a remotely operated CS or OC gas dispenser “designed to move a disruptive crowd out of an affected area”. The dispensers and firing consoles are installed in prisons, embassies and other buildings around the world and allows a single operator to “shepherd” inmates towards exits.
Otokar is a Turkish company, specialising in military land vehicles such as tanks, armoured personnel carriers and turret systems in use by 30 different countries. The company is also licensed to produce variants of Land Rover vehicles. As well as military vehicles, Otokar also builds a range of civilian vehicles, including buses, trucks and trailers. The company manages a 552,000m² factory in Sakarya, Turkey, employing 2000 members of staff.

Otokar recently exhibited at IDEF, the biggest arms fair in Midde East, where it unveiled the “ALTAY-AHT Urban Operations Tank”; a tank designed for use in “assymetrical engagements” and urban environments, equipped with a jammer to stop improvised explosives, and a bulldozer blade.

Imperial Armour is a South African company, producing a wide range of clothing, uniforms, boots, bullet proof vests and body armour, helmets, bags and equipment such as binoculars, belts and holsters for military, police, fire and rescue and demining groups. The company was formed in 2000 and has supplied to over 75 different countries, with international agents in countries including Kenya, Kuwait, Namibia, Pakistan, Qatar and Vietnam.

The company also appears to advertise to the domestic market in South Africa; their social media feeds encourage readers to decide if they feel safe when driving or walking the dog, and propose weapons such as pepper spray, extendable batons, and knuckle gloves as “necessary additions” and “preventatives”. Imperial Armour has also recently exhibited at ISDEF, an arms fair in Tel Aviv, Israel.
BAE Systems is the world’s third biggest arms company and the biggest in the UK. It is a UK-based company but also considers Australia, the USA, India and Saudi Arabia as its “home markets”. BAE Systems has a “major presence” at DSEI, taking up several stands, and is one of the event’s platinum sponsors: the highest level of sponsorship. The companies stand at DSEI in 2015 took up over 1000m² and included armoured vehicles, flight simulators, surveillance technology and artillery.

The company produces a wide range of different pieces of military equipment, including tanks, planes, submarines (including the UK’s nuclear armed submarines), armoured vehicles and ammunition. 93% of it’s sales are military, and the company has military customers in 100 countries. BAE Systems employs 82,500 people and has assets totalling just under £23 billion.

**Eurofighter Typhoons**

In the past, a replica Eurofighter Typhoon aircraft – built by a consortium of companies including BAE Systems – has been displayed at the entrance to DSEI. BAE boasts on their website that the Typhoon is “in operational use around the globe 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.” BAE Systems are in the process of selling 72 of these combat aircraft to Saudi Arabia, in a deal signed in 2007, and it is believed an order of an additional 48 planes is being negotiated. Saudi Arabia is BAE System’s third biggest market and Typhoons have been used in the Saudi’s bombing of Yemen, contributing to the conflict’s thousands of casualties. In January 2017, two activists in the UK were arrested while attempting to disarm some of the planes still waiting to be delivered. In 2017, Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT) launched a judicial review of the UK government’s decision to allow shipments of weapons to Saudi Arabia because of civilian deaths in Yemen but the high court found these shipments to be legal. At the time of writing, CAAT are planning to appeal the decision.

BAE Systems also has an agreement with Lockheed Martin, the world’s largest arms manufacturer, to build sections of the USA’s new stealth fighter, the F-35. Sections of the plane will be built in either the UK or Australia by BAE Systems and some of the components will be built in the UK. The company will be involved in testing the aircraft at their testing facility in Yorkshire. The F-35 is the most expensive military project in history, costing $400 billion, but is eight years behind schedule and still has significant faults.
Nuclear submarines and missiles

BAE Systems has been contracted to build the UK’s next generation of nuclear armed submarines; the UK government has budgeted over £40 billion to complete the submarines and this new generation of nuclear weapons could cost over £200 billion over its lifetime. The submarines will be built at BAE Systems’ shipyard in Barrow-in-Furness. Trident replacement has faced continuous resistance from groups like Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) and the direct action network Trident Ploughshares, who have repeatedly blockaded sites key to the production and maintenance of Trident missiles and submarines.

BAE Systems also owns a 37.5% share of a company called MBDA, which is involved in the production of the ASMP missile. The ASMP is an air-launched nuclear armed missile used by the French military.

Surveillance technology

In June 2017, journalists in the UK and Denmark uncovered evidence that BAE Systems has profited from the sale of surveillance technology, including to many oppressive governments in the Middle East. ETI, a Danish company bought by BAE Systems in 2011 for £137m, developed a system called Evident. Evident is capable of pinpointing an individual’s location based on data from their mobile phone, decrypt encrypted messages and has advanced voice recognition capabilities. Users of the technology can monitor a whole country’s internet use and filter websites, blogs, and social media by specific key words, such as the name of an opponent of the government. An anonymous source who used to work at ETI told the BBC “You would be able to intercept any internet traffic. If you wanted to do a whole country, go ahead. You would probably need something to narrow your search down, either by a specific person, a specific email address, specific IP address or specific keywords to search for.”
Northrop Grumman is the world’s fifth biggest arms manufacturer and was formed in 1994 as Northrup bought out the Grumman company. The company is based in the USA, with over 68,000 members of staff around the world and with headquarters in Australia, Europe, Japan, Saudi Arabia, South Korea and United Arab Emirates.

Northrop Grumman has interests in a range of weapon technology, including planes, drones, sensors and radars, and providing logistical support for militaries around the world.

**Aircraft**

Northrop Grumman builds a wide range of aircraft, spacecraft, high-energy laser systems and microelectronics for the US military. The company builds the B-2 bomber, capable of dropping thermonuclear weapons and with the ability “to project air power anywhere in the world”. The MQ-4C Triton is a naval surveillance drone, designed to track ship movements and survey large areas of ocean. The US Navy has bought 68 of these drones, which are expected to be fully operational by 2023. The company is also heavily involved in building the F35, the most expensive weapon ever built.

**Radar and sensors**

Northrop Grumman also produces a range military radar and sensors, night vision goggles and secure communications equipment. In 2017, the company went into production with the G/ATOR system, a radar designed to detect unmanned aerial systems, cruise missiles, air breathing targets, rockets, artillery and mortars and designed to replace multiple individual radar systems currently in use by the military.

**Training**

Northrop Grumman has “been heavily involved in the training and development of the Saudi military personnel, most notably providing technical services for the Ministry of the National Guard.”

**DSEI 2015**

At DSEI 2015, senior members of staff delivered a range of talks and presentations on subjects such as “Embracing Unmanned Aircraft Systems”, “Cyber - The Importance of
Resilience Across the Battlespace” and “The Power of Airborne Networking”. The company also gave demonstrations of radar equipment and mine hunting equipment. The company used DSEI to launch a new unmanned ground vehicle – the Andros FX – designed to disarm explosive devices built into vehicles or buildings, and lobby the British government to purchase the MQ-4C maritime surveillance drone.

According to the SIPRI, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, Moog is the world’s 83rd biggest arms company. Moog is based in the United States of America and has facilities in 26 different countries, including the United Kingdom. Moog specialises in control systems for a range of machinery, including military aircraft, missiles and other military hardware, alongside a range of equipment with civilian applications, such as medical equipment, Formula 1 racing cars and even the retractable roof on the Wimbledon centre court.

Nuclear weapons

Moog describes itself as a “proud participant” in the production of many missiles, including the Trident D5, the missile used by the USA and UK to carry nuclear warheads. In 2015 Moog won a contract for development studies into replacing the Minuteman III Intercontinental Ballistic Missile, which is also used by the USA to carry nuclear warheads; in 2016, the company speculated that replacing these missiles “has the potential to be a $100 million plus annual business for Moog”.

Aircraft control systems

Moog has supplied control systems for military aircraft since the 1950’s, playing a key role in developing systems for the B-2 bomber and the F-16 bomber and is involved in the notorious F-35 project. The company also offers a range of components for military drones.
Aimpoint is a Swedish company, manufacturing red-dot magnifying optic sights for a wide range of military, law enforcement and commercial hunting weapons. Aimpoint was formed in 1974 and is based in Malmö, Sweden. Militaries all over the world, including the US military and those of NATO member countries, use the company’s sights, and they are available from suppliers on every continent.

Aimpoint’s most popular product is the CompM2, a red-dot sight also called the “M68 Close Combat Optic”. By August 2011, the US military had purchased more than 1,000,000 CompM2s and they have been used in conflicts all over the world.

At DSEI in 2011, Aimpoint presented the “FCS-12 Fire Control System”, an optic designed for machine guns, grenade launchers and other heavy weapons. The FCS-12 is a red-dot sight to help user target a weapon, equipped with a laser range finder and a ballistic computer which stores various ballistic algorithms for different weapons and ammunition. It is in use by militaries in Spain, Sweden and the USA.

Resistance

The company has been repeatedly targeted by campaigns and direct action and the company has a history of claiming excessive damages against activists; in 2008 activists from Ofog (“Mischief” in Swedish) entered the grounds of the company’s factory in Malmö. Though no property was damaged, the activists were charged with a fine of over €50,000. In 2013, a similar action occurred with one activist entering the site, who was given a €7,800 fine.
Lockheed Martin is the world’s biggest arms manufacturer and the world’s biggest exporter of arms. The company was formed in 1995 through the merger of the Lockheed Corporation with Martin Marietta. The company’s headquarters are in the USA and it employs over 126,000 people worldwide, building everything from ballistic missiles to combat ships, robots to satellites, radars to aircraft and other products and services. Lockheed Martin sells to countries all over the world, and the UK is its largest market outside the USA. Lockheed has seen it’s stock price triple since 2009.

At DSEI 2015, Lockheed Martin exhibited a range of ground vehicles, missile defence systems, a range of surveillance drones, cyber security systems, secure communication systems, and training sessions run by the company. At the event, the company signed a contract with Roketsan, a Turkish weapons manufacturer, to work together to develop the SOM-J air-to-surface missile.

**F35 Lightning II**

The F35 is a fighter jet being built by a group of companies from around the world, led by Lockheed Martin, and has been sold to militaries around the world, including the USA, UK, Israel, Italy, Canada, the Netherlands, Turkey, Australia, Norway and Denmark and accounts for about 37% of Lockheed Martin’s income. The plane is the most expensive weapons system ever built, and has been plagued by a wide range of problems and run massively over cost. Despite this, the UK is set to purchase 138 F35 fighter jets, costing between £77 million and £100 million. The USA plans to buy 3,100 F35s. Norway estimates that their 52 F35s will each cost $40 billion over their lifetime.

**Nuclear missiles**

Lockheed Martin is responsible for the construction of the Trident D5 II missile used by the UK and the USA and the Minuteman III missile used by the USA. Each Trident D5 II missile is worth $65 million and the contract to maintain Minuteman III missiles is worth over $450 million. Lockheed is part of the consortium of companies that run the Atomic Weapons Establishment at Aldermaston and Burghfield, Berkshire, where the UK’s nuclear warheads are designed, built and maintained.
Hyundai Heavy Industries is a South Korean company which builds naval and commercial ships, heavy industrial machinery such as diggers, loaders and bulldozers, offshore engineering, and power and chemical plants. The company runs the world’s largest shipyard with a 15% share in the global shipbuilding market. Until the early 2000s, Hyundai was a single group, when it was broken up into five different companies, including Hyundai Heavy Industries. All of these companies continue to be managed by the same family. In May 2017, Hyundai Heavy Industries itself was broken up into four separate companies, as the company struggled with a downturn in orders and billions of dollars of debt.

Shipbuilding

The Hyundai Heavy Industries’ shipyard in Mipo Bay, South Korea, stretches over four kilometres and builds a range of military naval vessels for the South Korean navy. In 2016, the company won a $337 million contract from the Philippine government to build two new frigates.

Israeli apartheid

Bulldozers, diggers and other equipment built by Hyundai Heavy Industries are used by the Israeli military to demolish the houses of Palestinian families in the West Bank. Houses of Palestinians arrested by the Israeli military or police are routinely demolished, as are homes built without an expensive and difficult to obtain permit. In 2016, Israel began to demolish homes of Syrians living in the Golan Heights – the first time this has occurred since the 1967 occupation. Again, machinery built by Hyundai Heavy Industries was used in the demolition. The company is a target of the Boycott, Divest, Sanction campaign.
Chemring Group produces munitions, countermeasures (flares and decoys offering protection from missiles) and pyrotechnics (such as crowd control products, including smoke grenades, signalling flares and CS gas products). Chemring is the UK military’s main supplier of countermeasures and military pyrotechnics.

The company made substantial profits from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and now targets “growth markets” in the Middle East and South America. Gas grenades produced by Chemring were used by Egyptian security forces against pro-democracy protesters in 2011. The company stated that the gas had either been sold to Egypt over a decade ago or reached the Egyptian military via a third party; either way, this illustrates how near-impossible the task of regulating or controlling how weapons are sued once they are build and exported is. Tear gas produced by Chemring was also used against peaceful pro-democracy protesters in Hong Kong in 2014. Since 1993, Chemring has acquired several US, German, Italian, Belgian, Norwegian and Australian companies. The company has been targeted by activists at it’s AGM.
Condor Non-Lethal Technologies is a Brazilian company, specialising in tear gas, pepper spray, stun guns, rubber bullets, smoke grenades, impact grenades and pyrotechnics. It also offers training to public and private institutions around the world, aimed at providing “operators competency in the most modern non-lethal technologies on the market.” The company was founded in 1985 and regularly exhibits at DSEI and other arms fairs, such as Milipol.

Condor secured a $22 million dollar contract with the Brazilian government to provide tear gas, tasers, rubber bullets, tasers, and grenades to the Brazilian police, to be used to secure the World Cup and Olympics. From 2009 to 2014, the company grew by over 30% with one researcher describing how, for companies like Condor, huge events such as the World Cup are “like a fashion week; it is an opportunity to showcase the latest police gear, baiting future buyers.”

The company’s weapons have been used to aid repression and counter dissent all over the world. Between 2008 and 2011, the Venezuelan government bought 150 tonnes of Condor’s tear gas. When two Bahraini children were killed with the company’s products, they claimed that the Bahraini authorities had not followed the instructions correctly. The company made similar claims when security forces in Egypt and and Turkey appeared to be using their equipment in order to intentionally increasing harm or even “systematically torture”.

Based in: Brazil

Builds: rubber pellet cartridges, “ballistic bag” beans bags, CS gas cartridges and grenades, barricade penetrators, stun grenades, colour smoke grenades, handheld and vehicle launcher systems

Key markets: used in Turkey, Bahrain, Greece

Financial information: Unavailable