

# Notes on the Teledyne Corporation

## Introduction

These are notes on the Teledyne corporation with specific reference to the activities of its factory in Shipley, W.Yorks, and the ongoing campaigns to end exports of armaments to Israel.

There have been steep rises in overall military expenditure, particularly by the United States and Israel. Teledyne is a US-based corporation which, through organic growth and acquisition, has positioned itself as an expanding, medium-sized specialist supplier of electronic and aerospace components for both international, military and civil markets.

The main UK sites are identified with the Shipley factory specialising in civil and military aerospace, steadily increasing output to become a significant manufacturing employer in the Bradford district.

Campaigns to ban exports of military equipment to Israel emphasise obligations under international law and previous embargoes carried out by UK governments. If an arms export ban to Israel was implemented, Teledyne could benefit from new civil markets that more than compensated for lost military contracts.

## Military Spending

Global military spending has increased by 37% between 2015-2024, with the 9.4% increase in 2024 being the steepest rise since 1988. The United States is responsible for nearly a third of the total at \$997 billion, while Israel's defence budget in 2024 was \$46.5 billion, an increase of 65% (including \$10 billion of direct US military aid) to pay for its invasion and occupation of Gaza and the genocide of the Palestinian people.<sup>1</sup>

## Teledyne

Teledyne is a medium-sized corporation headquartered in the USA with other sites in Europe, Malaysia and China. It has specialisms in digital imaging, instrumentation, aerospace, defence electronics, and engineered systems. Through organic growth and acquisition it has expanded, particularly since 2021, with the acquisition of FLIR Systems, a leader in thermal imaging, for \$8 billion. According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), it was the 69<sup>th</sup> largest arms corporation in the world in 2024, with an annual turnover just above \$2billion, of which 36% was for military contracting.<sup>2</sup>

By 2024 turnover had almost doubled with the highest growth in the civil sector for marine sensors and in defence electronics. Its contracts with the United States Department of Defense (DoD) - renamed the Department of War by Trump - included the supply of thermal and night-vision weapons sights in a contract placed in 2023 and valued at \$500 million. FLIR also had a long-term relationship with Israel, including multi-million dollar contracts with the Israeli Defense Force for thermal weapons sights.<sup>3</sup>

### Previous Research

There has been little, independent research on the company, although the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) - a Quaker, peace organisation, produced a short report in 2024 that identified the US DoD as the company's largest contractor responsible for a quarter of its total revenue in 2023, not only from thermal imagery but surveillance systems and aerial and ground drones. The company was also a major supplier to the US Customs and Border Protection providing mobile surveillance systems and remotely-controlled drones operating on the Mexican border. In the UK, the Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT) has identified the main sites of Teledyne around the country and their specialisms, as part of its campaign against exports to Israel.<sup>4</sup>

### Teledyne UK

There are six main sites in the UK -

Shipley, W.Yorks; (sensors, microwave and digital signal processing)

Lincoln, Lincs; (microwave and radar applications)

Wirrall, Lancs; (specialist aerospace composites)

Presteigne, Powys; (microwave printed circuit boards)

Chelmsford, Essex; (Charge-Couple Device (CCD) digital imaging)

Newbury, Berkshire: (high-voltage interconnection).<sup>5</sup>

### Teledyne Shipley

The Teledyne site has been operating since 2007, originally as Teledyne Defence but now Teledyne Defence and Space (TDS) to reflect its diversification, from sensors and signal processing, mainly for defence and security markets, into commercial satellite work. The company experienced a major expansion in 2018, with a 30-40% increase in employment to approximately 200 employees, after the award of contracts for filters and diplexes (sharing of communications across separated frequency levels) for satellites. The company is heavily dependent on exports but is well placed in both civil and military markets.<sup>6</sup>

## Campaigns against Arms Exports to Israel

There have been ongoing campaigns, including direct action, to end arms exports to Israel, the most prominent by Palestine Action against Elbit Systems UK. This is a subsidiary of Elbit Systems, Israel's largest arms producer with specialisms in drone technology. Twenty four people were arrested for direct action against the sites in the Bristol area and it was reported that one of the sites targeted had closed in September 2025.<sup>7</sup>

Teledyne has also been the focus of campaigns, particularly the Shipley site for its role as a subcontractor on F35 aircraft. Five activists carried out a rooftop protest and were prosecuted for criminal damage estimated at £60,000 that resulted in four receiving suspended jail sentences and one a community order. (The judge commented that he acknowledged their, in his words, “...genuinely held but misguided conscientious beliefs.”, influencing his decision not to impose custodial sentences.)<sup>8</sup>

## Arms Export Policy

There are serious difficulties in identifying contracts and final destinations of arms exports. According to Declassified UK one approach was to track cargo manuals that indicated how several UK-based companies have been acting as subcontractors, sending weapons parts directly to Israeli air bases. This tallies with the governments general information that Teledyne Defence and Space had been granted 28 military export licences in 2022.<sup>9</sup>

Since taking office in July 2024, the Labour government has undertaken a review that resulted in the suspension of around 30 licenses out of a total of 350 over concerns that they might be used for offensive purposes in Gaza. According to the government, the total value of exports was £42 million in 2022 and £18 million in 2023, although there were also a substantial number of non-military exports for security and surveillance equipment.

The ban included some components for fighter aircraft, UAVs, naval systems and targeting equipment but excluded F-35 aircraft. The latter's exclusion is controversial since the Israeli air force has carried out attacks using its fleet of F-35s. The government's position is that there are serious national security issues because F-35 production is structured around an international system of subcontracting for the general pool of aircraft manufacture and maintenance that might be disrupted.

However, the Liberal Democrats and the SNP have called for the extension of the ban to F-35s, and the Dutch High Court ruled in February 2024 that the direct export of equipment for F-35s to Israel should be halted. Simply put, despite the national security issues raised over F35s, the government could swiftly implement a ban on arms exports

to Israel. For example, in response to Israel's invasion of Lebanon, the, then, Conservative government maintained a total ban between June 1982 and May 1994.<sup>10</sup>

Two further issues could be addressed. Firstly intra-company relationships, for example, Teledyne's UK companies act as subcontractors to their US headquartered companies that subsequently export arms to Israel. Such relationships are, effectively, invisible under existing UK export controls but may play a significant role. Secondly, the granting of civil licenses for security and surveillance equipment under the general definitions of border control, etc. Such tracking of vehicles and individuals, combined with facial recognition can be used as intelligence for subsequent military strikes. These sorts of issues reflect the need for a broader framework around the arms trade infrastructure on which exports policy might be based.

## Conclusion

From a purely industrial and technological perspective there is no reason why Teledyne, given its corporate history and range of activities, could not be successful by focusing on civil rather than military production. Its specialisms in digital mapping, sensors and communications provide work across a range of sectors including satellites and civil aerospace, medical equipment and marine inspection. The social utility of this work is reflected in the use of Teledyne satellite imagery during the Turkish earthquake in April 2025, identifying damage to buildings in support of rescue operations; and the digital imaging of deep space to assist scientific research on the origins of the universe.<sup>11</sup>

But the company's strategy, especially after the acquisition of FLIR, has been to prioritise the military and security applications of its technologies, placing itself as a major supplier in what could be described as new forms of warfare centred on the use of drones, remotely-controlled weapons and surveillance systems.

The ongoing destruction of Gaza is appalling in itself, but the military-industrial complex (MIC) is also using it as a testing-ground for this new generation of weapons - the ultimate objective being a seamless web of border surveillance, monitoring, targetting and military strikes that can be used by authoritarian regimes anywhere in the world.

With the prospect of still further and massively increased military spending, and the application of Artificial Intelligence for semi-autonomous, or even fully-autonomous weapons, Teledyne will make significant profits from military oppression and the construction of a national security state.

The question, therefore, is not technological but political, how to end the arms trade and how to prioritises civil productions and social utility over military contracting and mass slaughter. The government has the power to transfer funding from military to civil

uses through R&D programmes and public procurement. Preference in contracting can be given to UK-based companies that offer skilled, manufacturing jobs.

In turn, these companies must be transparent about their operations, showing what proportion of work would be lost from arms export controls, how they intend to replace it with civil work and how they will communicate with their workforces on the timescale and implementation of those plans in order to avoid redundancies. In the case of Teledyne, Shipley, government and commercial contracts on satellites and civil aerospace would provide compensation for cuts in the arms trade.

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<sup>9</sup>. <https://www.declassifieduk.org/vindicated-how-palestine-action-hit-weapons-factories-exporting-to-israel/>

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<sup>11</sup>. <https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-03-15/debates/71F29CF4-DC54-40C3-B7A2-CFE3AA4F3FA4/DomesticSpaceIndustry>