

Turkish Aerospace Industries Inc. (TUSAŞ) (TAI - Turkish Aerospace Industries, Inc.) is the technology center in Turkey for the design, development, production, completion, renewal, and post-sales services of air platforms. The company produces parts for the world's largest passenger aircraft, the Airbus A380, and the military transport aircraft, the Airbus A400M. Additionally, the company started producing wingtips for the Airbus A350, which made its first flight in 2013.

History and Current Status

Its origins go back to the establishment of Turkish Aircraft Industries Inc. (TUSAŞ) in 1973. TUSAŞ was founded on June 28, 1973, within the Ministry of Industry and Technology, aiming to reduce Turkey's dependence on foreign defense industries. On April 28, 2005, TUSAŞ and TAI merged under the name TAI (Turkish Aerospace Industries Inc.), forming a significant force with its design and production infrastructure and human resources, serving as an "Aviation Center." TUSAŞ's shareholders are the Turkish Armed Forces Foundation (TSKGV) (54.49%), the Presidency of Defense Industries (SSM) (45.45%), and the Turkish Aeronautical Association (THK) (0.06%).

Turkish Aerospace Industries Inc. (TAI) was established on May 15, 1984, in accordance with the Turkish Commercial Code and the Law on the Encouragement of Foreign Capital. On January 12, 2005, through the "Share Sale Agreement" signed at the TUSAŞ facilities, shares owned by Lockheed Martin of Turkey (42%) and General Electric International (7%) were purchased by Turkish Aircraft Industries Inc. (TUSAŞ).

TUSAŞ facilities are established on a total area of 5,000,000 square meters, with 186,000 square meters being covered. The modern aircraft production facility, equipped with high-tech machinery and equipment at Akıncı Air Base, has extensive production capabilities ranging from part manufacturing to aircraft assembly, flight tests, and delivery. TUSAŞ's quality system meets globally recognized standards such as NATO AQAP-110, ISO-9001:2000, AS EN 9100, and AECMA-EASE.

TUSAŞ's current experience includes joint production of F-16 Fighting Falcons, CN-235 light transport/maritime patrol/surveillance aircraft, SF-260D training aircraft, Cougar AS-532 search and rescue (SAR), combat search and rescue (CSAR), and general-purpose helicopters, as well as development programs for indigenous products like unmanned aerial vehicles, target drones, and agricultural spraying aircraft.

TUSAŞ's main activities include modernization, modification, and system integration programs for military and commercial air platforms in Turkey and other countries in the region, as well as post-sales services. These activities include electronic warfare and structural modifications for the Turkish Air Force's F-16s, converting S-2 Tracker maritime patrol aircraft to firefighting aircraft, modifications of CN-235 aircraft and Black Hawk Helicopters for Special Forces, modernization of Cougar AS-532 helicopters, digital cockpit modifications for S-70 helicopters, structural and avionic modifications of CN-235 platforms for the Naval Forces Command and the Coast Guard, and all structural modifications and system integration activities for converting B737-700 aircraft into Airborne Early Warning and Control Aircraft (AEW&C).

Starting with very few people in 1984, TUSAŞ has transferred its experience from military projects to commercial projects, achieving its goal of becoming a global company today with over 3000 qualified employees and nearly 50 different projects.

TUSAŞ, as a national industrial organization, is also a partner in Airbus Military, participating in the design and development activities of the A400M aircraft along with aviation companies from France, Germany, Italy, the UK, Spain, Belgium, and South Africa.

Committed to being among the leading organizations in the aviation field by closely following the latest technological developments worldwide, TUSAŞ aims to open new horizons in Turkey in the 21st century. According to an agreement signed with RUAG Aerospace (RA) on November 3, 2005, TUSAŞ will produce D-Nose Panel Stretching Shells for the Airbus A380 aircraft at its facilities in Turkey.

In recent years, TUSAŞ has started designing unique aircraft for Turkey, independent of external sources. The first of these is the agricultural spraying aircraft TUSAŞ ZİU, entirely designed and flown by TUSAŞ. Following this, many indigenous design projects are currently underway. As of 2008, the Gözcü (an anti-terrorism unmanned observation aircraft), Keklik and Turna-g (both target drones for fighter pilot training) unmanned aircraft are designed and produced by TUSAŞ and are in the inventory of the Turkish Air Force. A new model of Gözcü is currently being designed. Besides unmanned aerial vehicles, the design and development of a training aircraft called HÜRKUŞ (a training aircraft with jet aircraft-like controls but without a jet engine, offering low operating costs) have been completed, and its mass production has begun. The development of the tactical unmanned aerial vehicle ANKA is ongoing. The renewal of T-38 and C-130 Hercules aircraft is being carried out. The integration of the Göktürk-1 reconnaissance and observation satellite in collaboration with TÜBİTAK UZAY was carried out at the Space Systems Integration and Test Center (USET), operated by TUSAŞ.

Being one of the most advanced parts of Turkish Aviation, TUSAŞ also serves as the locomotive of the sector. As Turkey's avionics integration center, TUSAŞ continues to increase its competitiveness in this field every day. The organization is also one of the stakeholders of Teknofest Istanbul.

Vision and Mission

TUSAŞ's vision is to become a global brand by achieving the capability to design, produce, and support all types of air and space vehicles.

TUSAŞ's mission is to develop technologies and capabilities, including design, to meet the military and civil aviation and space system needs of Turkey and international customers, to increase its market share in the global competitive environment through continuous improvements, and to create value for its country, customers, partners, suppliers, and employees.

Projects and Designs

- Strengthening electronic warfare systems and structural modifications for the Turkish Air Force's F-16s
- Upgrading 42 F-16 Block-15 aircraft to Block-50 level for the Pakistan Air Force

- System renewal for Royal Jordanian Air Force F-16s
- Conversion of S-2E Tracker maritime patrol aircraft into firefighting aircraft
- Modifications for CN-235 and UH-60 Black Hawk aircraft for the Special Forces Command
- Conversion of CN-235 aircraft into Maritime Surveillance and Patrol Aircraft for the Turkish Naval Forces Command and the Coast Guard Command
- Modernization and system upgrades for Eurocopter AS-532
- Cockpit window strengthening for S-70 helicopters
- Conversion of B737-700 aircraft into Airborne Early Warning and Control Aircraft for the Peace Eagle Project
- Avionics upgrades for the Turkish Air Force's C-130 aircraft
- Production of the forward middle fuselage for the F-35 Lightning II aircraft for the Joint Strike Fighter project
- Partnership in the design, development, and production of the Airbus A400M military transport and tanker aircraft in Europe
- Avionics upgrades for the Turkish Air Force's T-38 aircraft
- Partnership with AgustaWestland in the design, development, and production of the Turkish Air Force's Tactical-Attack-Attack Helicopter T-129
- Design, development, and production of the HÜRKUŞ Turkish primary and basic training aircraft with EASA CS-23 certification
- Design, development, and future production of the Heavy Class Attack Helicopter ATAK-2
- Design, development, and future production of the TUSAŞ T-925 10-Ton Class General Purpose Helicopter
- Design, development, and production of the Anka UAV
- Design and development of the Anka-3 unmanned combat aircraft
- Design, development, and production of the Anka-Aksungur Unmanned Aerial Vehicle
- Design, development, and future production of the Göksungur Jet-Powered UAV
- Design, development, and production of the Turna Target Drone System
- Design, development, and production of the Şimşek Target Drone System
- Design and production of winglets for Airbus A350 passenger aircraft
- Design, development, and future production of the Hürjet Jet Training and Light Attack Aircraft
- Design, development, and future production of the TUSAŞ Kaan under the National Combat Aircraft project
- Design, development, and future production of the Very Light Aircraft (VLA (ODTÜ-İTÜ))
- Production of the 18 and 19 number fuselage panels for Airbus A320 aircraft
- Production of the tail rudder for Airbus A330 aircraft
- Design, development, and production of the Super Şimşek Target Drone System