

## **Ferra Engineering & Queensland Government Investments**

### Summary

Ferra Engineering is the sole supplier for the AME Weapons Adapters that hold and release various bombs from Lockheed Martin's F-35 jet fighters. They make over 100 essential parts for the F35.

The Israeli Defence Force has confirmed they rely on F 35s armed with 900kg JDAM bombs in their invasion of Gaza. Every single bomb dropped from an F 35 in Gaza has been done so by one of Ferra's weapons adapters - weapons adapters that are manufactured and exported from right here in Tingalpa, Brisbane.

The Queensland Government's funding of weapons manufacturers in recent years means that Queensland is now a top contributor to the global arms trade and supply of arms to Israel.

The consistent investments Ferra Engineering has received from the Australian and Queensland Governments over the years are responsible for their contribution to the genocide of Palestinian people being perpetrated by Israel.

Every product manufactured by Ferra, whether in Australia or overseas, was conceptualised by the Brisbane based team. Over the last three decades they have refined their business model and manufacturing processes right here in Brisbane.

Ferra was founded in Brisbane in 1992. Their contributions to global terror can all be traced back to this small factory, right here in Tingalpa.

### Ferra Engineering

Ferra Engineering specialises in advanced manufacturing for the defence and aerospace industry and has major contracts with weapons manufacturers including Lockheed Martin, Boeing, Northrop Grumman, Raytheon and Thales.<sup>1</sup>

Ferra Engineering was established in Brisbane in 1992 and has since expanded internationally with several locations in the USA and one in India. Ferra was bought by Liberty Hall Capital (Accurus Group) in 2022, with their head office now located in the UK.<sup>2 3</sup>

Ferra Engineering manufactures more than 100 parts for Lockheed Martin's Joint Strike Fighter Program (F 35 Program). They are the sole source supplier of the Alternate Missions Equipment

---

<sup>1</sup> [Electromechanical Assembly & Test - The Ferra Group \(ferra-group.com\)](https://www.ferra-group.com)

<sup>2</sup> [PR Liberty-Hall Accurus Ferra FINAL.pdf \(libertyhallcapital.com\)](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Locations - The Ferra Group \(ferra-group.com\)](https://www.ferra-group.com)

(AME) weapons adapters for the global F 35 supply chain. Every F 35 in production and operation requires weapons adapters manufactured by Ferra Engineering.<sup>4 5</sup>

The IDF and US officials have confirmed that F 35s are being used against Palestinians in Gaza.<sup>6</sup>

It is estimated that more than 70% of the products manufactured in Ferra's Tingalpa factory are exported.<sup>7</sup> The AME weapons adapters for the F 35 are exported from Tingalpa to the USA where they are received by Marvin Engineering and assembled for Lockheed Martin, and then sent on to Israel.<sup>8</sup>

Spare F 35 parts have also been ordered by Israel from storage in Europe, for which it is unclear if Australia has contributed.<sup>9</sup>

Ferra relies heavily on local supply chains in its production of F 35 parts and has a close working relationship with Heat Treatment Australia (HTA) in Coopers Plains.<sup>10</sup>

Ferra has an intimate relationship with Lockheed Martin dating back to 2006. Ferra's latest contract with Lockheed Martin for the F 35 Program is valued at \$1.1 billion through to 2035.<sup>11 12</sup>

Ferra's largest partnerships are with Lockheed Martin and Boeing, and largest manufacturing platforms the F 35 Joint Strike Fighter Program and the Boeing MQ28A Loyal Wingman (Ghost Bat).<sup>13</sup>

The Ghost Bat is a weapons capable drone that is intended to support F 35s on long missions. While initially developed for RAAF, US officials have indicated that from 2023 these drones will be tested for application within the US Air Force and its allies. In early 2023 the Queensland Government boasted of its involvement in supporting Ferra to produce these drones on behalf of Boeing here in Queensland. They have also assisted Ferra to secure export deals in countries like the UK and India via Trades and Investments Queensland (TIQ).<sup>14</sup>

Following 7th October, Boeing urgently sped the delivery of 1,800 JDAM units to Israel. Boeing has supplied tens of thousands of these units to Israel in the past decade.<sup>15</sup>

In late October 2023, Ferra Engineering signed a MoU with Boeing to continue production of the JDAM Extended Range (ER) Wing Kits, for which Ferra is Boeing's global supplier through to

---

<sup>4</sup> [Partnership key to advancing F-35 manufacturing capability | Lockheed Martin Australia](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Ferra Formidable in F-35 - The Ferra Group \(ferra-group.com\)](#)

<sup>6</sup> [Israeli F-35Is Providing Close Air Support To Troops In Gaza With 2,000-lb Bombs - The Aviationist](#)

<sup>7</sup> [Ferra | EPICOS](#)

<sup>8</sup> [F35\\_Booklet\\_0.pdf \(defence.gov.au\)](#)

<sup>9</sup> [Australia's role in the bombing of Gaza - Pearls and Irritations \(johnmenadue.com\)](#)

<sup>10</sup> [QUEENSLAND AEROSPACE 10-Year Roadmap and Action Plan \(statedevelopment.qld.gov.au\)](#)

<sup>11</sup> [Ferra Formidable in F-35 - The Ferra Group \(ferra-group.com\)](#)

<sup>12</sup> [Partnership key to advancing F-35 manufacturing capability | Lockheed Martin Australia](#)

<sup>13</sup> [PR\\_Liberty-Hall\\_Accurus\\_Ferra\\_FINAL.pdf \(libertyhallcapital.com\)](#)

<sup>14</sup> [Tingalpa's Ferra puts Queensland defence on world stage - Ministerial Media Statements](#)

<sup>15</sup> [Boeing Speeds Delivery of GPS-Guidance Bomb Kits to Israel - Bloomberg](#)

2028. While first developed for RAAF, the ER Wing Kits are exported internationally and provided to countries allied with the United States. There is no information available to suggest they are currently deployed by Israel, but have been used recently by Ukraine.

Per Boeing, “this project is a great example of Australian industry working with Defence to the great benefit of one of our key allies, the United States.”<sup>16</sup>

### Queensland Government Initiatives

The Queensland Government has established various initiatives to provide funding and support to local defence and aerospace businesses, including the:

Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning – Aerospace Roadmap and Action Plan 2018-2028 (Miles): [QUEENSLAND AEROSPACE 10-Year Roadmap and Action Plan \(statedevelopment.qld.gov.au\)](https://statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/queensland-aerospace-10-year-roadmap-and-action-plan)

Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning – Queensland Defence Industries 10-year Roadmap and Action Plan 2018-2028 (Miles): [defence-industry-roadmap-october-22.pdf \(statedevelopment.qld.gov.au\)](https://statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/defence-industry-roadmap-october-22.pdf)

Defence and Aerospace Industry Development (DAID) Fund. Steven Miles re the DAID Fund, 25 May 2023: “it is a priority of this Government to assist many of our smaller businesses to develop and promote their defence, aerospace and space capabilities here and overseas.” [Defence and Aerospace Industry Development Funding for Qld businesses - Ministerial Media Statements](#)

Queensland is home to Boeing’s largest workforce in the world outside of the United States thanks to Queensland Government deals with Boeing to bring defence manufacturing onshore. In 2018, the Government provided \$18 million towards a deal with Boeing, of which \$9 million was allocated to Queensland businesses to boost their weapons manufacturing capabilities in order to supply Boeing with weapons parts.<sup>17 18 19</sup>

Ferra Engineering is a member of the Queensland Reference Group (QRG) for Manufacturing and Engineering and is the sole representative of the aerospace industry within this group. The QRG falls under the scope of the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water.<sup>20 21</sup>

---

<sup>16</sup> [Boeing, Ferra Expand Precision Aerial Munition Partnership](#)

<sup>17</sup> [Twenty Queensland companies behind global aerospace project - Ministerial Media Statements](#)

<sup>18</sup> [Boeing partnership backs Queensland as global aerospace powerhouse - Ministerial Media Statements](#)

<sup>19</sup> [Autonomous aircraft: Qld government, Boeing enter historic deal | news.com.au — Australia's leading news site](#)

<sup>20</sup> [How we work with industry to advance manufacturing — Queensland Manufacturing Institute \(qldmanufacturinginstitute.org.au\)](#)

<sup>21</sup> [Queensland Reference Group for Manufacturing and Engineering | Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water \(rdmw.qld.gov.au\)](#)

The Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water, per Minister Glenn Butcher, recently awarded a grant (unknown quantity) to Ferra Engineering to increase domestic manufacturing capabilities to supply Boeing's Ghost Bat Program.

Per Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment Cameron Dick, "Ferra Engineering, from Tingalpa, [is] a company that our government has assisted with a manufacturing grant which Ferra will use to invest in new technology as it works on helping to build Boeing's new Ghost Bat aircraft right here in Queensland." 30 March 2023.<sup>22</sup>

Ferra Engineering also has a longstanding relationship with Trades and Investments Queensland (TIQ) dating back to 2010. In 2023 Cameron Dick via TIQ assisted Ferra in expanding exportation to India and reported achieving a \$700,000 outcome between parties. TIQ has also assisted Ferra to achieve export outcomes in the UK. The nature of assistance provided is unpublished.<sup>23 24 25</sup>

### Ministerial Statements

#### **Quotes attributable to Minister for Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water Glenn Butcher, 28 February 2023:**

##### [Tingalpa's Ferra puts Queensland defence on world stage - Ministerial Media Statements](#)

"The Palaszczuk Government recognised the potential at Ferra some time ago, which is why we've done everything we can to help them fly into this next development.

The Department of Regional Development and Manufacturing provided the Ferra team a grant to ensure their manufacturing was brought onshore to Queensland.

Twenty good, new jobs are expected to be created in the next five years and the flow-on benefits of that are invaluable."

#### **Quotes attributable to the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment, 28 February 2023:**

##### [Tingalpa's Ferra puts Queensland defence on world stage - Ministerial Media Statements](#)

"You'd be hard-pressed to find a better example of our Government's commitment to defence industry jobs than Ferra.

"We're supporting Boeing to assemble the Ghost Bat in Queensland.

We've supported Ferra to install technology that allows them to build larger components for military aircraft systems.

---

<sup>22</sup> [Ministerial Statement \(parliament.qld.gov.au\)](#)

<sup>23</sup> [TIQ-Annual-Report-2022-2023.pdf](#)

<sup>24</sup> [Tingalpa's Ferra puts Queensland defence on world stage - Ministerial Media Statements](#)

<sup>25</sup> [Queensland and India partner for future space and defence technologies - Ministerial Media Statements](#)

And we're supporting them to export their products to countries like India through Trade and Investment Queensland.

We want to keep strengthening Queensland's advanced manufacturing capabilities, because that will further diversify our economy and build on our existing skills base.

Our Government's support for the local production of the MQ-28A Ghost Bat will help deliver around 300 construction jobs and at least 70 high-skilled jobs once operational, bringing with it supply chain opportunities for local businesses.

Ferra's export customers include Boeing, Dynamatic Technologies, Godrej Aerospace, Northrop Grumman, the Airbus Group, GE Aviation, Thales and Lockheed Martin."

**Commenting on the partnership [between Ferra Engineering and Dynamatic Technologies (India)] Queensland Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment Cameron Dick said (21 March 2023):**

[Queensland and India partner for future space and defence technologies - Ministerial Media Statements](#)

"I commend Ferra for securing partnerships with prestigious customers in India like Dynamatic Technologies.

"Partnerships with global defence giants like Boeing and Dynamatic Technologies strengthen Queensland's advanced manufacturing capabilities.

"Supporting companies like Ferra further diversifies Queensland's economy and builds on our existing skills base."