

# 2015 Wellington Weapons Conference

**What:** A meeting of 200 of the world's largest weapons manufacturers to promote the development of weapons industry in New Zealand & increase weapons sales to foreign militaries. Hosted by the New Zealand Defence Industry Association

**Where:** TSB Arena

**When:** 17-18 November 2015

**Primary sponsor: Lockheed Martin**

**Maker of nuclear weapons, surface-to-air missiles, laser guided missiles, rocket launchers**

Lockheed Martin is the world's largest arms manufacturer. Their 2013 sales were \$35 billion, and they had profits of \$2.9 billion.

It has continuously supported the US Air Force's Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) programme since the 1950s, as the developer of the Atlas, Titan, MX Peacekeeper and Small ICBMs, and as the leading provider of reentry systems for multiple ICBM generations and of ground command and control systems for today's Minuteman III. Lockheed Martin has delivered more than 700 missiles and more than 3,000 reentry vehicles to the Air Force.



Lockheed Martin nuclear-tipped ICBM



Lockheed Martin Joint Air-to-Ground Missile

## Other sponsors:

### General Dynamics Land Systems

Maker of the Abrams tank, MK46 30mm Turret Gun and range of other ground force weapons. It is the world's sixth-largest defense contractor based on 2013 revenues, with sales of \$18 billion.



## NZ Defence Industry Association local members include:

### Cubic Defence

Cubic Defence has provided the combat training simulators to many countries including the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

### MAS Zengrange

MAS Zengrange produce handheld artillery & mortar fire control computers that have now been purchased by all Gulf Co-Operation Council Countires (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates).

The Amnesty International Report 2014/15 about Saudi Arabia says:

*The government severely restricted freedoms of expression, association and assembly, and cracked down on dissent, arresting and imprisoning critics, including human rights defenders...New legislation effectively equated criticism of the government and other peaceful activities with terrorism...Torture of detainees was reportedly common; courts convicted defendants on the basis of torture-tainted "confessions" and sentenced others to flogging. Women faced discrimination in law and practice...The authorities detained and summarily expelled thousands of foreign migrants...The authorities made extensive use of the death penalty and carried out dozens of public executions.*

Similar reports of human rights abuses exist for all of the Gulf countries that have purchased weapons control systems from MAS Zengrange.

## Useful background links

New Zealand Defence Industry Association - <http://www.nzdia.co.nz/annual-forum.html>

Lockheed Martin - <http://lockheedmartin.com>

Stockholm International Peace Research Initiative - Arms production - <http://www.sipri.org/research/armaments/production>

Peace Movement Aotearoa - <http://www.converge.org.nz/pma/>



*"Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired, signifies in the final sense a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed."*

~ US President Dwight D. Eisenhower

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