



# **FROM NAZI MILITARY LAB TO "MODERN DEFENSE TECH HUB"?**

TU Munich and the Ludwig Bolkow Campus in  
Ottobrunn

[academicsforjustice@proton.me](mailto:academicsforjustice@proton.me)

*Preface:*

## **A Message from Academics in Munich**

On July 3<sup>rd</sup> 2025, **the new UN report (A/HRC/59/23)** of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, Francesca Albanese, exposed the economic powers benefitting from Israel's genocide in Gaza. In an unprecedented move, the report, titled "From economy of occupation to economy of genocide" dedicated **an entire paragraph** to one particular actor: **The Technical University Munich (TUM)**. Since its publication, **not a single German media outlet** has reported on this, nor did they ask TUM to comment. TUM itself has not issued any statement on the matter.

As students and academics in Munich, we were not surprised to discover that TUM was among the three universities listed in the UN report for being exceptionally complicit in the economy of occupation. For the past two years we have been researching TUM's ties to Israel, summarized in our **first report**. We were able to uncover research activities in an **illegal settlement**, collaborative **military research** with Israeli institutions, and research projects affiliated with **Israel's weapons companies**. All of our calls for the TUM administration to review its ties have been ignored.

In January 2025, we invited the administration to an open dialogue meeting in a lecture hall **at TUM to discuss TUM's activities in an illegal settlement**. A member of the administration and **TU Munich's Head of Media Relation and Spokesperson for the President** awaited us at the entrance of the lecture hall and, crucially, **an employee, standing next to them, waved us in**. As we entered the lecture hall **dozens of police officers** stormed the hallways and shut the door behind us. We, the students and academics of Munich, were detained, searched, and told we would be charged with trespassing. The full incident was **documented**.

This was an extreme attempt to intimidate and silence us and shut down a peaceful dialogue. It begs one question: **Why is TUM shutting down dialogue about its collaborations so violently?** As we witness the genocide worsening day by day, as we continue to witness the slaughtering of Palestinians in Gaza and the expansion of settlements in the West Bank, and as we witness the horrors of the Israeli government and the Israeli military, **we see it as our moral duty to have a closer look**

**at the partnerships of TU Munich with German arms companies, some of which have been long-term partners of the Israeli military industry.**

The UN report is an important milestone in holding companies and universities such as TUM legally accountable - but its findings represent only the tip of the iceberg. TU Munich, as this report will demonstrate, collaborates with major German arms companies which have connections to the Israeli military industry.

We call on all international student and academic movements to amplify the findings of both the UN report, and our report, and **demand from their own universities to halt all collaborations with the Technical University of Munich as long as they continue to ignore the recommendations given by the UN.**

### **Summary of the findings**

The report focuses largely on the Ludwig Bölkow Campus, Europe's largest campus for aerospace & defense, housing the headquarters of leading German arms companies and TU Munich's growing Department of Aerospace & Geodesy. The report focuses on two central aspects: the history of the campus and the companies located on it today.

In the first part of the report, the authors find that the campus is located on the same grounds as its predecessor, the Munich Aeronautics Institute (Luftfahrtforschungsanstalt), founded by the NS-regime, where military technology for the Wehrmacht was developed and tested. Two labor camps were built right next to this facility, one of them was a subcamp of the Dachau concentration camp. Prisoners from KZ Dachau were brought to this subcamp in cattle waggons and forced to construct the facility. The second camp was a prisoners-of-war-camp which was largely demolished in 2017. The remains can be found in a forest a few meters away from the Ludwig Bölkow Campus. In the camps, prisoners were subjected to daily torture, starvation and brutal violence. The campus is furthermore named after Ludwig Bölkow, an NSDAP member and engineer for the Wehrmacht, and located at Willy-Messerschmitt-Straße, a street named after another prominent Nazi engineer and NSDAP member.

We could not find any information about this violent history of the Ludwig Bölkow Campus on the official campus website or on TU Munich's website.

The report then finds that some of Germany's major arms companies on the campus are official partners of TU Munich, as well as the Israeli military industry or have/ had ties with Israel's weapons companies. Hensoldt, for example, announced several partnerships with Israel's leading weapons companies in recent years, and also announced an official partnership with TU Munich in May 2025, aiming to make TU Munich the "leading European defense tech hub". The report furthermore highlights two other cases of TU Munich's collaborations with militarized institutions: European Defense Tech Hub and Mekorot, both either partnering with Israel's military industry or involved in the crimes of apartheid and genocide.

## **Methodology**

This report relies exclusively on publicly available sources such as official websites, online archives, press releases, and other verifiable digital content. It employs a rigorous, evidence-based approach to ensure analytical precision and objectivity. All data sources were systematically identified and exclusively drawn from publicly accessible, verifiable online repositories, ensuring full transparency and reproducibility of findings. Each claim is substantiated by publicly documented information, following established academic standards for empirical verification. Information about the Nazi history of the Ludwig Bölkow Campus and the labor camps was taken largely from the websites of the NS-Dokuzentrum München. This approach allows the report to serve as a **comprehensive documentation of publicly accessible information**, providing a reliable reference grounded in verifiable facts.

## Content of the Report

1. The UN's findings about TUM
2. Background: Munich as the center of Germany's militarization
  - 2.1 Germany's militarization & cooperation with Israel
  - 2.2 Munich as the center of Germany's military industry
  - 2.3 Universities as central part of Bavaria's military-industrial complex
3. The history of the Ludwig Bölkow Campus
  - 3.1 The Nazi Germany's aviation research institute of Ottobrunn
  - 3.2 The Ottobrunn Forced Labor Camps and KZ Dachau
  - 3.3 The Campus after 1945
- 4 The Ludwig Bölkow Campus today: Military companies on campus and ties to Israel
  - 4.1 Hensoldt
  - 4.2 TU Munich and Rhode & Schwarz
  - 4.3 TU Munich and IABG
  - 4.4 Starburst
  - 4.5 Airbus/ Airbus Defense
5. TU Munich's institutes on the Campus and ties to Israel
  - 5.1 TU Munich's Aerospace & Geodesy Institute
  - 5.2 A German-Israeli missile project
6. Other Collaborations of TUM
  - 6.1 TUM's collaboration with Israel's water company Mekorot: Water Apartheid
  - 6.2 TUM's Defense Tech Hackathon and Nex42 - Testing Defense Tech in active combat zones?

# 1. The UN's findings about TU Munich's complicity in genocide and apartheid

In the **UN report** (A/HRC/59/23), titled “From economy to occupation to economy of genocide” by Francesca Albanese, the **Technical University of Munich (TUM)** is explicitly called out for its **complicity in Israel's illegal occupation, apartheid, and ongoing genocide of the Palestinian people**. A **full paragraph** details TUM's collaborations with Israeli military and tech firms, holding TUM responsible for serious violations of international law. The report exposes why Israel's genocide continues despite global outrage; because it is **“lucrative for many”**. Indeed, the report calls for holding the private sector accountable in this economy of genocide. Universities such as TUM are integral parts of that economy.

The UN report condemns TU Munich's extensive collaborations with Israeli partners such as Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) with whom TU Munich co-develops technologies **relevant to Israel's genocide-drones used in Gaza**:

**“The Technical University of Munich (TUM) receives €198.5 million (\$218 million) in EC Horizon funding, including €11.47 million (\$12.6 million) for 22 collaborations with Israeli partners, military and tech firms.. TUM and Israel Aerospace Industries receive €792,795.75 (\$868,416) to co-develop green hydrogen refuelling, technology relevant to IAI military drones used in Gaza.”**

Furthermore, Albanese's report exposes TU Munich's collaboration with **IBM Israel**. IBM Israel is **deeply embedded in Israel's apartheid system** as it runs the Israeli Population Registry:

**“TUM partners with IBM Israel – which runs the discriminatory Israeli Population Registry – on cloud and AI systems, as part of IBM Israel's €7.02 million (\$7.71 million) Horizon funding.”**

TUM's complicity doesn't stop here. The report continues to state how TUM contributes to the annexation through urban transportation by partnering with Municipality of Jerusalem:

“**TUM** also collaborates on a €10.76 million (\$11.71 million) project called “seamless urban mobility” that includes the **Municipality of Jerusalem**, a city entrenching annexation through urban transportation. It is impossible to disentangle the expertise Israeli partners contribute to these partnerships from that gained and used in violations to which they are connected”

The report concludes: corporate entities - including universities such as TUM - must face legal consequences “for their involvement in serious violations of international law.” All activities directly linked with the human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people must be ceased.<sup>1</sup>

## 2. Background: The role of Munich in Germany’s militarization

### 2.1 Germany’s militarization & cooperation with Israel

Germany plans to invest 152,8 Billions of Euros in the “defense sector” until 2029<sup>2</sup>; it represents Germany's **largest rearmament program** since the end of the Second World War. Chancellor Friedrich Merz said in May 2025 that Germany’s army should become “**the strongest Army in Europe**”<sup>3</sup> and the year before he claimed: “Whoever wants peace has to be **ready for war**”<sup>4</sup>.

Since end of 2023, Germany shipped weapons worth almost **500.000.000 Euros** to Israel<sup>5</sup>. An investigation by Forensis concludes: “Germany is one of

1

[https://www.un.org/unispal/document/a-hrc-59-23-from-economy-of-occupation-to-economy-of-genocide-report-special-rapporteur-francesca-albanese-palestine-2025/#\\_ftn312](https://www.un.org/unispal/document/a-hrc-59-23-from-economy-of-occupation-to-economy-of-genocide-report-special-rapporteur-francesca-albanese-palestine-2025/#_ftn312)

2

<https://www.zdfheute.de/politik/deutschland/wehretat-bundeswehr-verteidigung-haushalt-anstieg-100.html>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.bundestag.de/dokumente/textarchiv/2025/kw20-de-regierungserklaerung-merz-1064956>

4

<https://table.media/berlin/interview/interview-mit-friedrich-merz-wer-frieden-will-muss-zum-krieg-bereit-sein>

5

<https://www.reuters.com/business/media-telecom/large-majority-germans-want-tighter-controls-arms-exports-israel-2025-06-04/>

the world's largest arms exporters, often listed amongst the top ten arms suppliers worldwide. For several years, Israel figures amongst the **top recipient countries of German arms exports**, while the two states have a **long history of military cooperation**.<sup>6</sup> For example, major German weapons producer HENSOLDT (located in Munich) has **official partnerships** with Israel's state-owned weapons manufacturer RAFAEL and Elbit Systems. According to Süddeutsche Zeitung, "the armaments and sensor technology company Hensoldt, (...) also **sells** its friend-or-foe identification devices **to the Israeli military** and has a number of cooperation agreements with partner companies there<sup>7</sup>. HENSOLDT concludes: The Cooperation between German and Israeli military industry is very expansive"<sup>8</sup>.

## ***1.2 Munich as a center of Germany's arms industry***

According to the newspaper SZ (Süddeutsche Zeitung) **a third of the revenue of Germany's military sector is produced in Munich**.<sup>9</sup> Many of Germany's well-known companies are based in Munich or Bavaria, including the military division of aircraft manufacturer Airbus, Airbus Defense and Space, and Airbus Helicopters, which produces helicopters for military or the armaments company KNDS.<sup>10</sup> CSU politician Florian Dorn even states: „**Munich is currently the city in Europe with most investments in the security- and defense industry.**”<sup>11</sup>

## ***1.3 Historical continuities: Munich as a center of Nazi Germany's industrial rearmament***

Munich as a central hub for Germany's, and even Europe's militarization, is, however, a historical continuation. The **Munich Documentation Center for the History of National Socialism** (NS Dokuzentrum) states that by

<sup>6</sup> <https://counter-investigations.org/investigation/german-arms-exports-to-israel-2003-2023>

<sup>7</sup>

<https://www.sueddeutsche.de/wirtschaft/israel-deutschland-iron-dome-hensoldt-renk-rheinmetall-ruesting-1.6289164?reduced=true>

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup>

<https://www.sueddeutsche.de/muenchen/muenchen-ruestingindustrie-firmen-ueberblick-li.3230799?reduced=true>

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup>

<https://archive.is/20250513094916/https://www.sueddeutsche.de/muenchen/muenchen-ruestingindustrie-firmen-ueberblick-li.3230799#selection-413.0-417.56>

**“1942/43** at the latest, Munich had become **the center of industrial rearmament** in southern Germany. By the end of 1940, 137 companies with over 56,000 employees were already working for the armaments industry.”<sup>12</sup> Furthermore, the website states that more than **20,000 aircraft engines** were built just at one company, (...)”as well as motorcycle sidecars and passenger **cars for the Wehrmacht** until 1941, especially in the second half of the war through the **massive use of forced labor**.”<sup>13</sup> Many other companies also significantly expanded for rearmament. The massive armament was lucrative as it also meant a **massive industrialization boost for the Bavarian capital**.

### ***1.3 Universities as central elements of Bavaria's military-industrial complex***

TU Munich openly embraces the militarization of universities. **In September 2025**, the president of TUM, Thomas Hoffmann, wrote in an op-ed in DER SPIEGEL, calling for an abandonment of the civil clauses - which are a voluntary commitment by universities to do research only for peaceful, not for military purposes: “I hope that more universities (...) free their researchers from the **chains of civil clauses**”, he proclaims. “At TUM, we have (...) begun to lay the foundations for research, teaching and innovation in the field of security and defense technologies.”, he states. “We plan to establish **Europe's largest** university centre for aerospace at TUM.”, says Hoffmann.

Bavaria is the first and only German state with a new law **requiring universities to cooperate with the military**<sup>14</sup> [**Kooperationsgebot**]. This new law is intended to make Bavaria even more attractive to the army and the defense industry. If "for reasons of national security" it is necessary, universities must cooperate with the military<sup>15</sup>. The increasing militarization will **intensify the cooperation between Bavarian universities, the army**

---

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.nsdoku.de/lexikon/artikel/aufreueung-der-reichswehrwehrmacht-46>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.nsdoku.de/lexikon/artikel/aufreueung-der-reichswehrwehrmacht-46>

<sup>14</sup> [13] Beham, Sarah (2024): Kooperation von Unis mit Bundeswehr: Kritik und Knackpunkte. In: BR. 17.04.2024. URL:

<https://www.br.de/nachrichten/bayern/kooperation-von-unis-und-bundeswehr-kritik-und-knackpunkte.UADToAL> (14.06.2024). (Archived on 02.11.2024)

<sup>15</sup> Süddeutsche Zeitung (2024): Bayern will Hochschulen Zusammenarbeit mit Militär vorschreiben. In: SZ. 23.01.2024. URL:

<https://www.sueddeutsche.de/bayern/bundeswehr-bayern-zusammenarbeit-unis-schulen-1.6337446> (Archived on 02.11.2024)

**and weapons companies.** In Bavaria and thus also in Munich, however, universities have long been engaged in military research due to the absence of a civil clause, which exists in other regions of Germany<sup>16</sup>. In the face of Bavaria's **close academic, cultural and economic ties to Israel**, it is therefore particularly urgent to review the role of its universities - particularly the role of the Technical University Munich - in partnering with companies that are potentially contributing to the "economy of genocide".

### 3. From a Wehrmacht research facility to a 'modern aerospace hub': The Ludwig Bölkow Campus and TU Munich

Situated 15 kilometers south of Munich, the Ludwig Bölkow Campus, which houses TUM's aerospace departments, is somewhat removed from the primary locations of the Technical University of Munich. This faculty is set for significant expansion: by 2035, it is expected to accommodate over 4000 students and 50 professorships across an area of **75,000 square meters**.<sup>17</sup> Since 2012, the Ludwig Bölkow Campus has become home to a concentration of **prominent German defense contractors and weaponry developers**, some of whom are **official partners of Israeli military firms**, all situated on university premises (see chapter 4). At the end of 2024, the Bavarian State Ministry of Education, Science and the Arts announced that this campus is the **largest aerospace research and development campus in Europe**<sup>18</sup>. The Ludwig Bölkow-Campus Brochure outlines the aim of their academic-industrial complex as a means to link its research facilities with the companies located on campus, with the intention of developing "products ready for the market."<sup>19</sup> This objective evokes long-standing and nearly forgotten connections to **the campus' predecessor**, the "Luftfahrtforschungsanstalt München" (Munich Aviation Research Institute), founded in **1940 during the Nazi regime in Germany**, with a focus on developing military technology.

---

<sup>16</sup>[https://www.br.de/nachrichten/bayern/kooperation-von-unis-und-bundeswehr-kritik-und-knackpunkte\\_UADToAL](https://www.br.de/nachrichten/bayern/kooperation-von-unis-und-bundeswehr-kritik-und-knackpunkte_UADToAL)

<sup>17</sup><https://www.sueddeutsche.de/muenchen/landkreismuenchen/taufkirchen-ottobrunn-hightech-standort-gruenzug-luft-und-raumfahrt-campus-li.3263070>

<sup>18</sup><https://www.bayern.de/neue-flaechen-fr-europas-gruen-luft-und-raumfahrt-campus-in-taufkirchen-ottobrunn/>

<sup>19</sup>[https://lb-campus.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=61&Itemid=121&lang=en](https://lb-campus.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=61&Itemid=121&lang=en)

### **3.1 Nazi Germany's aviation research institute of Ottobrunn**

The Ludwig Bölkow Campus (LBC) is built in the same area of its predecessor, the Luftfahrtforschungsanstalt München (Munich Aviation Research Institute) (See Map in chapter 4). The facility operated under the direct oversight of the "Reichsluftfahrtministerium" (Reich Ministry of Aviation)<sup>20</sup>. At that time, the "Reichsluftfahrtministerium" was the principal NS ministry responsible for aviation, supervising a wide range of military research.

During its brief existence until the collapse of the Nazi regime, the institute's tasks included testing and improving new aircraft using wind tunnels, yielding highly precise research outcomes for military applications<sup>21,22</sup>. **Forced labourers** were used extensively for the construction, including prisoners from the **Dachau concentration camp**<sup>23</sup>. Furthermore, the Ludwig Bölkow Campus is **named after Ludwig Bölkow, an NSDAP member** and engineer who created military technology for the **Wehrmacht**. In 1943, he played a key role in designing the Messerschmitt Me 262 fighter-bomber, which Nazi propaganda touted as a "wonder weapon"<sup>24</sup>.

### **3.2 The Ottobrunn Forced Labor Camps and KZ Dachau**

Since the second world war was still ongoing, resources in Nazi Germany were limited and the construction of the "Luftfahrtforschungsanstalt München" (LFM) moved along very slowly. There was a significant shortage of materials and labor.<sup>25</sup> Consequently, **the Nazi regime established two forced labor camps in Ottobrunn**, located just a few meters from the LFM. One camp was a subcamp of the **Dachau concentration camp**, known as "KZ-Außenlager Ottobrunn,"<sup>26</sup> which housed up to 600 inmates, while the other was a prisoners-of-war camp. Inmates were transferred from the

<sup>20</sup> <https://departure-neuaubing.nsdoku.de/glossar/luftfahrtforschungsanstalt>

<sup>21</sup> [Wie ein Abiturient die Erinnerung an das KZ-Außenlager Ottobrunn wachgehalten hat. - Landkreis München - SZ.de](#)

<sup>22</sup> <https://departure-neuaubing.nsdoku.de/glossar/luftfahrtforschungsanstalt>

<sup>23</sup> <https://departure-neuaubing.nsdoku.de/glossar/luftfahrtforschungsanstalt>

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.deutschlandfunk.de/vom-duesenjet-zur-solarpaneele-100.html>

<sup>25</sup> [Wie ein Abiturient die Erinnerung an das KZ-Außenlager Ottobrunn wachgehalten hat. - Landkreis München - SZ.de](#)

<sup>26</sup> [Luftfahrtforschungsanstalt - Departure Neuaubing](#)

KZ-Dachau to Ottobrunn to be forced into labor for the construction of the LFM. The prisoners were transported in **cattle waggons** from Dachau to Ottobrunn and were given the usual striped prison clothing to wear.<sup>27</sup> The living conditions in the Ottobrunn camp were comparable to those in other concentration camps<sup>28</sup>, although no deaths were officially recorded at the Ottobrunn camps; this was primarily because inmates were sent back to Dachau for cremation.<sup>29</sup> Individuals from both Ottobrunn camps were forced to work on the construction of the LFM.

Although documentation about the camps is lacking, it is well documented that torture was a key element of the camps. In the Dachau subcamp, prisoners were tortured for even minor “offences”. One of such torture methods was a “**punishment bunker**”:

“The standing cell was a wardrobe-sized **concrete cell** with a floor area of approximately **one third of a square metre**. The room was so low that the punished person **could not stand upright** in it. **An iron bar prevented sitting**. The prisoners often spent their detention in the standing cell **for days** on end in a **bent position**, without being able to sleep in this position. Some prisoners had to undress completely and endure several days in the damp, **cold cell without food** and with only one ration of water per day.”<sup>30</sup>

Another example of the torture methods in the camp was pole hanging: the prisoner’s hands were tied behind his back and he was suspended by them. The pain could be made even worse by fastening a heavy stone to his feet and swinging him.

A comprehensive report about the Ottobrunn camps was published by Martin Wolf, called “[Im Zwang für das Reich: Das Außenlager des KZ Dachau in Ottobrunn](#)” providing more information<sup>31</sup>.

***We could not find any information about the history of the Ludwig Bölkow Campus or about the labor camps on the official website of the campus or on the TU Munich website.***

<sup>27</sup> [https://gymnasium-ottobrunn.de/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/facharbeit\\_wolf.pdf](https://gymnasium-ottobrunn.de/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/facharbeit_wolf.pdf)

<sup>28</sup> [Die Willy-Messerschmitt-Straße und das KZ-Außenlager Ottobrunn | Grüne Taufkirchen](#)

<sup>29</sup>

<https://gruene-taufkirchen.de/2023/05/14/die-willy-messerschmitt-strasse-und-das-kz-aussenlager-ottobrunn/>

<sup>30</sup> [https://gymnasium-ottobrunn.de/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/facharbeit\\_wolf.pdf](https://gymnasium-ottobrunn.de/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/facharbeit_wolf.pdf), p. 34

<sup>31</sup> [https://gymnasium-ottobrunn.de/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/facharbeit\\_wolf.pdf](https://gymnasium-ottobrunn.de/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/facharbeit_wolf.pdf)

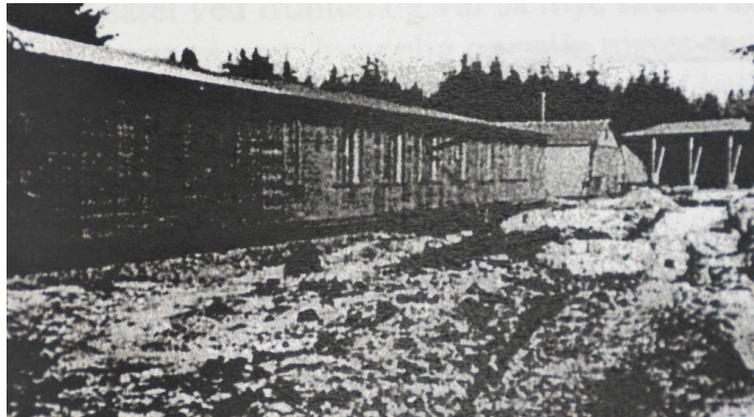


Figure 2: Photo of the barracks of the Dachau subcamp in Ottobrunn.<sup>32</sup>

**A Map on the Website of NS Dokuzentrum München shows the exact locations of the NS-aeronautics facilities and the labor camps:**

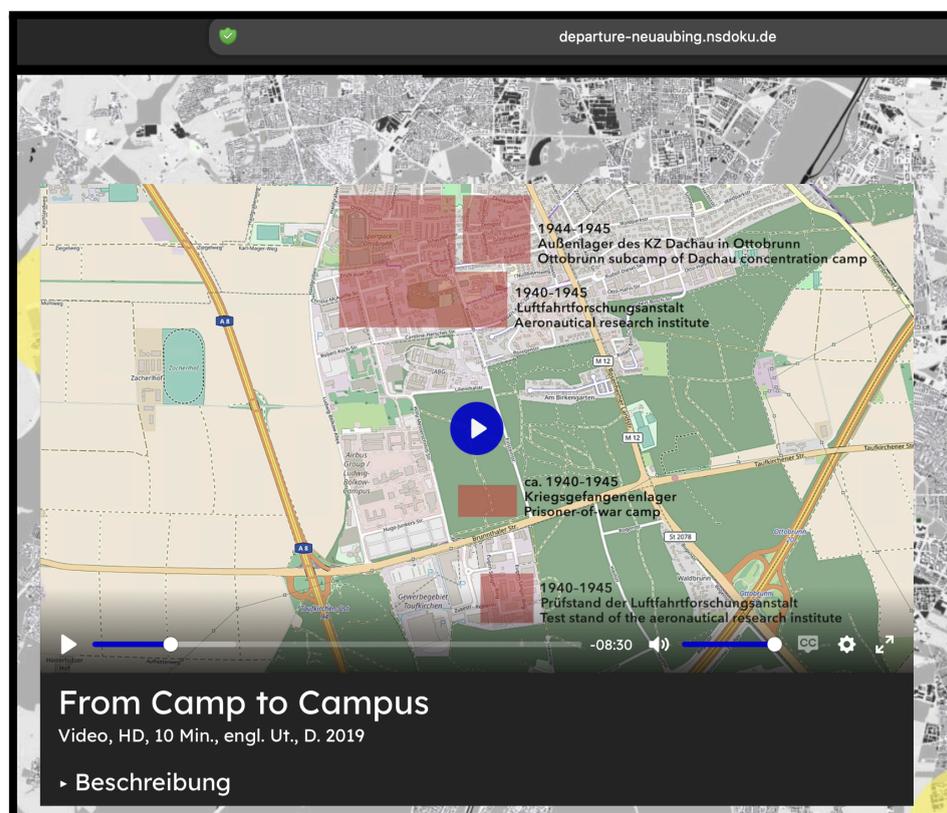


Figure 1: Map. Source: website of the NS Dokuzentrum Neuaubing.<sup>33</sup>

<sup>32</sup> [Mind the Memory Gap - Departure Neuaubing](#) (Photo is a still of the video “from Camp to Campus”

<sup>33</sup> <https://departure-neuaubing.nsdoku.de/pages/ueber>

according to the NS Dokuzentrum München, in 2017, the majority of the camps' remains were, **silently removed, just prior** to [Bavaria's announcement](#) of the "Bavaria One" aerospace program in 2018, which aimed to make Bavaria the **European center for defense** and aerospace. At the heart of the "Bavaria One" plan was the ongoing **expansion of TU Munich's aerospace** facilities on the Ludwig Bölkow Campus - there were **no comments** in the official press release of the Bavarian government about the Nazi history or the labor camp which was largely demolished the year prior.<sup>34</sup> Following the announcement of "Bavaria one", the TU Munich department of aerospace and geodesy was officially established on campus in 2019.<sup>35</sup>

On the website of the NS-Dokuzentrum München, a short video called "From Camp to Campus", documents this process:

"Demolition of the foundations and cellars of the former Nazi forced labor camp in Ottobrunn began 2017. In 2018, the Ludwig Bölkow Campus has been the site of the aeronautics and space program "Bavaria One."<sup>36</sup>

The establishment of TU Munich's aerospace department on the Ludwig Bölkow Campus was the first step of "Bavaria One", says the official press release:

"As a **first major step** toward implementing "Bavaria One," a **new faculty** for aeronautics, astronautics, and geodesy was established at the **Technical University of Munich** (...) The faculty will be centrally located on the Ludwig Bölkow Campus (LBC) in Ottobrunn."<sup>37</sup>

---

<sup>34</sup> <https://www.bayern.de/bericht-aus-der-kabinettsitzung-vom-2-oktober-2018/>

<sup>35</sup>

<https://www.hightechagenda.de/2023/06/27/groesster-luft-und-raumfahrtcampus-europas-in-taufkirche-n-ottobrunn-freistaat-und-kommunen-unterzeichnen-erklaerung-zu-weiterentwicklung/>

<sup>36</sup> [Mind the Memory Gap - Departure Neuaubing](#)

<sup>37</sup> <https://www.bayern.de/bericht-aus-der-kabinettsitzung-vom-2-oktober-2018/>



Figure 3: Documentation of the demolition of the former camp's remains in 2017.<sup>38</sup>



Figure 4: The photo shows parts of the last remains of the former Nazi labor camp on the right, and the Airbus building on the Ludwig-Bölkow-Campus on the left.<sup>39</sup>

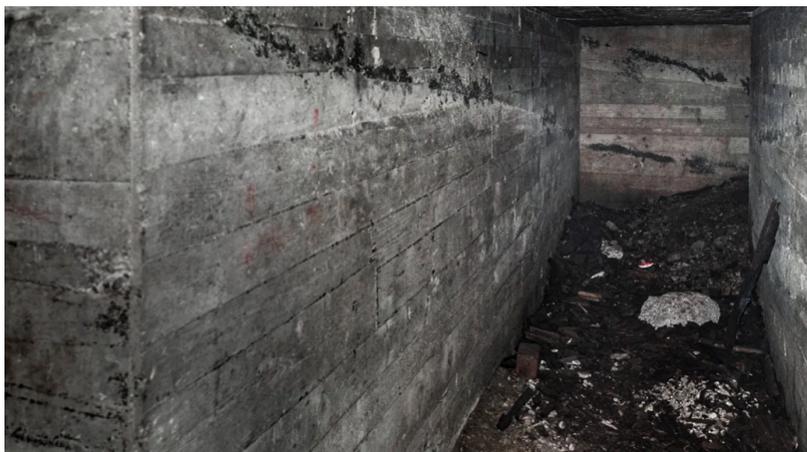


Figure 5: The cellars of the prisoners-of-war-camp.

---

<sup>38</sup> Ibid.

<sup>39</sup> Ibid.

Despite the silent removal and demolition of large parts of the labor camp before the announcement of “Bavaria One”, the foundations and basement areas of the prisoners-of-war camp are still visible, only a few meters away from the current Ludwig-Bölkow campus<sup>40</sup>:

### **3.3 The Campus after 1945**

In 1957, the engineering office of Ludwig Bölkow, despite being a Nazi, established itself on the site of this Wehrmacht facility in Ottobrunn, where it continued missile experiments in the historic buildings of the propulsion research institute of LFM.<sup>41</sup> In the following years, Ludwig Bölkow expanded his operations and partnered with **Willy Messerschmitt**, a former member of the NSDAP, who had employed approximately **12,000 inmates from the Dachau concentration camp** for the construction of military aircrafts.<sup>42,43</sup> Together, Messerschmitt and Bölkow founded the aerospace manufacturing company "Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm," which was one of the largest defense contractors in Germany at that time. Through a series of mergers and acquisitions, the company ultimately became part of "EADS" (European Aeronautic Defence and Space Company), which was rebranded as "**Airbus Group**" in 2014.<sup>44</sup> Today, Airbus Group - particularly its division Airbus Defense - and many other weapons companies run significant facilities at the Ludwig Bölkow Campus. **The transformation from wartime research facility to “modern aerospace hub”** raises critical questions about institutional memory and the continuity of expertise built on these foundations. Moreover, contemporary concerns emerge regarding Ottobrunn's current research activities, as the campus maintains collaborations with entities **that have been accused of supplying weaponry to active conflict zones and with close ties to Israel's military industry.**

---

<sup>40</sup><https://www.sueddeutsche.de/muenchen/kuenstlerische-interventionen-blick-hinter-die-mauer-1.5028492>

<sup>41</sup>[facharbeit\\_wolf.pdf](#)

<sup>42</sup><https://www.gusen-memorial.org/de/Das-Konzentrationslager/Zwangsarbeit/Die-Zwangsarbeit-fuer-Messerschmitt-GmbH-Regensburg>

<sup>43</sup>[Die Willy-Messerschmitt-Straße und das KZ-Außenlager Ottobrunn | Grüne Taufkirchen](#)

<sup>44</sup><https://lbt.de/historie/>

#### 4. The Ludwig Bölkow Campus today: Arms companies on campus and ties to Israel

##### Campus Map

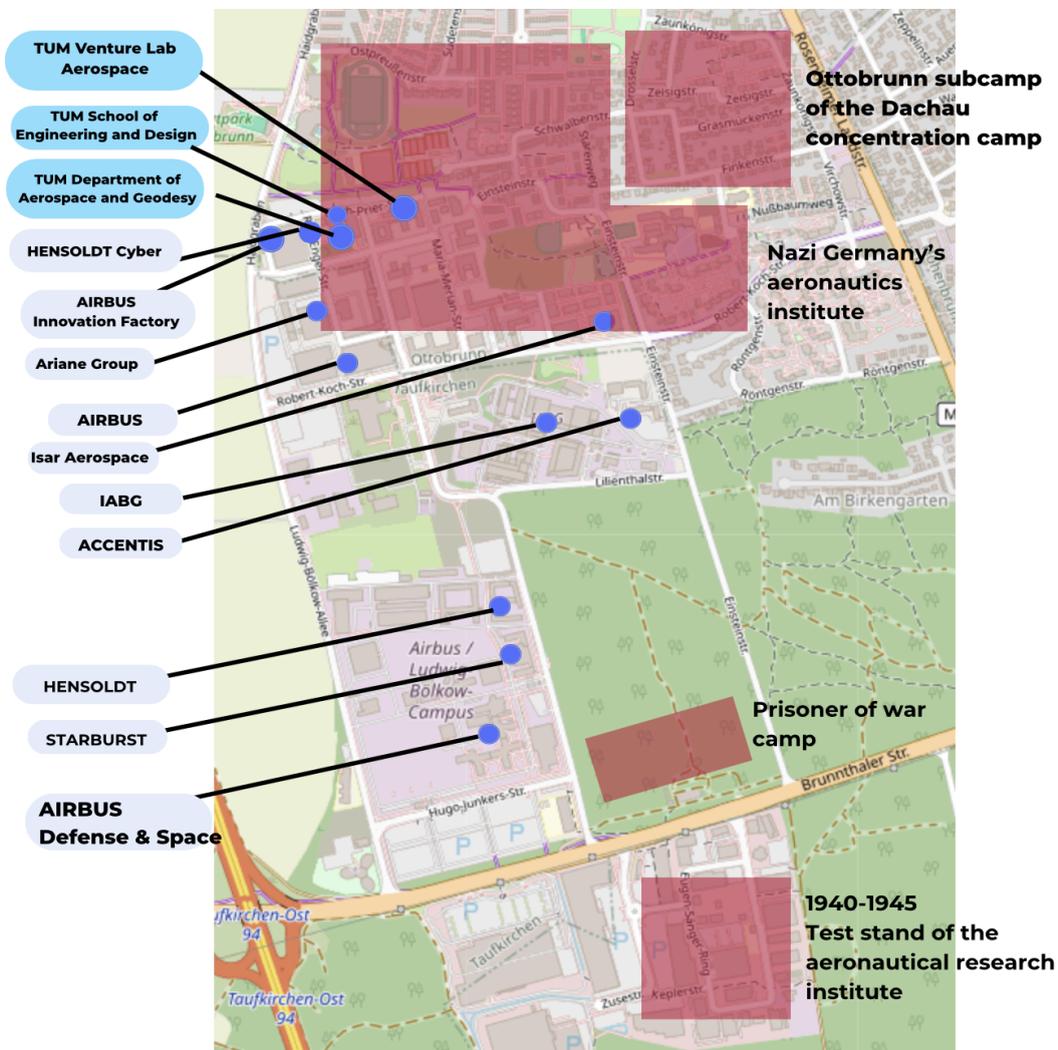


Figure 6: Map: The Ludwig Bölkow Campus today. The information about the exact locations of the research facilities of the Nazi Regime were taken from the map on the website of the NS-Dokuzentrum München (see page 9).

The **Campus is not only named after the Nazi engineer Ludwig Bölkow**. The Ludwig-Bölkow Campus can be found at the following address: Willy-Messerschmitt-Straße 1. Willy Messerschmitt was an **NSDAP member** and one of the most prominent aircraft manufacturers for the Nazis, who employed **thousands of forced laborers and concentration camp**

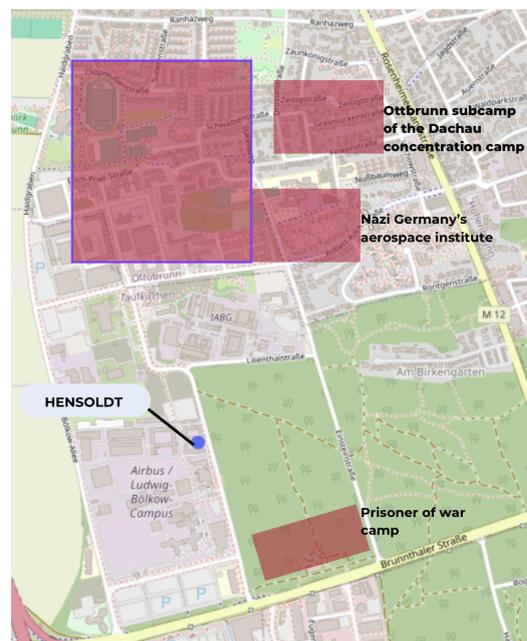
**prisoners** during the Nazi era. Many of them died as a result of malnutrition, overexertion, and disease<sup>45</sup>.

According to the campus website, “the Ludwig Bölkow Campus is a company; The GmbH is particularly responsible for the marketing of the campus, the settlement of new companies on campus, and the contacts to the political arena.”<sup>46</sup>

The main academic institutions on the campus are TU Munich and the Military University, “Universität der Bundeswehr”.<sup>47</sup> The heart of the campus is the **expansion of TU Munich’s academic facilities**. Currently, the goal is to expand the department of Aeronautics, Astronautics, and Geodesy on campus with 3,000 to 4,000 students and 55 professorships.<sup>48</sup> More than 20 companies are located at the campus.<sup>49</sup>

#### 4.1 Hensoldt

Hensoldt AG is one of **Germany’s major arms manufacturing companies**, based at the Ludwig-Bölkow Campus, in building number 88.<sup>50</sup> SIPRI lists Hensoldt AG as the world’s 69th largest arms-producing company worldwide in 2022.<sup>51</sup> It specialises in radar, optronics, avionics, and electronic warfare. Hensoldt has been an **official partner** of **Israel’s state owned weapons company** RAFAEL and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) for many years. The companies have continuously and publicly declared collaborative development of military technologies. Until now (September 2025), there has not been any



<sup>45</sup> <https://www.sueddeutsche.de/muenchen/landkreismuenchen/taufkirchen-garching-namensgeber-mit-ns-vergangenheit-1.2763132>

<sup>46</sup> [https://lb-campus.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=64&Itemid=109&lang=de](https://lb-campus.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=64&Itemid=109&lang=de)

<sup>47</sup> [https://lb-campus.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=64&Itemid=109&lang=de](https://lb-campus.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=64&Itemid=109&lang=de)

<sup>48</sup> [https://www.region-muenchen.com/fileadmin/region-muenchen/Dateien/Pdf\\_Downloads/Sitzungsunterlagen/Sitzungsunterlagen\\_2025/DS25\\_3\\_Anlage2.pdf](https://www.region-muenchen.com/fileadmin/region-muenchen/Dateien/Pdf_Downloads/Sitzungsunterlagen/Sitzungsunterlagen_2025/DS25_3_Anlage2.pdf)

<sup>49</sup> <https://lb-campus.com/index.php?lang=de>

<sup>50</sup> [Deutschland: HENSOLDT AG | HENSOLDT](#)

<sup>51</sup> [Forensis-Report-German-Arms-Exports-to-Israel-2003-2023.pdf](#)

announcement or statement by Hensoldt that any of the ties to these Israeli companies have been ceased.

In May 2025, **TU Munich** announced their **official strategic partnership** with Hensoldt.<sup>52</sup> In their official press release, Hensoldt stated:

**“HENSOLDT will provide significant support for TUM's ambition to create a European defense tech hub.”<sup>53</sup>**

### ***HENSOLDT's ties to the Israeli military industry***

In 2025, HENSOLDT was present at the “Europe Days” defense-tech-startup conference in Tel Aviv to partner with Israeli defense-tech-companies<sup>54</sup>. HENSOLDT is officially listed in the 2024 study by **Forensis** titled **German Arms Exports to Israel**, where “arms manufacturing companies registered in Germany with **known connections to military equipment used by the Israeli army** and/or military cooperations with Israeli arms manufacturers” are documented.<sup>55</sup>

In **September 2024**, the international organization Business & Human Rights Resource Centre invited Hensoldt to respond to the call by UN Experts to cease the transfer of arms to Israel:



**Figure 7: Screenshot of an article posted by Business & Human Rights Resource Centre<sup>56</sup>**

<sup>52</sup> [TUM Venture Labs und Hensoldt schließen strategische Partnerschaft im Bereich Verteidigung - TUM](#)

<sup>53</sup> [HENSOLDT und TUM Venture Labs vereinbaren strategische Kooperation | HENSOLDT](#)

<sup>54</sup> <https://www.rnd.de/wirtschaft/europas-ruestungsindustrie-sucht-hightech-partner-in-israel-APLZGK5XBFPJVN3GE5NNCDXYGY.html>

<sup>55</sup> [Forensis-Report-German-Arms-Exports-to-Israel-2003-2023.pdf](#)

<sup>56</sup> <https://www.business-humanrights.org/en/latest-news/hensoldts-response-to-the-un-experts-call-to-cease-arms-transfers-to-israel/>

The partnership of Hensoldt with Israeli military partners is far reaching. For example, in November 2023, Hensoldt entered into a cooperation with Israeli-state owned company Rafael Advanced Defense Systems to **develop jamming systems for naval vessels.**<sup>57</sup> Also in 2023, Hensoldt announced its collaboration with RAFAEL for the **Spice 250 ER System.**<sup>58</sup> According to RAFAEL, the SPICE system “**delivers multiple, simultaneous, precision Strikes.**”<sup>59</sup> SPICE (Smart, Precise Impact and Cost-Effective) is an Israeli-developed guidance kit created by Rafael Advanced Defense Systems that converts unguided bombs into precision-guided munitions.



Figure 8: Photo: Rafael and Hensoldt are long-standing partners<sup>60</sup>.

A year prior, Hensoldt stated that it provides the “Israeli air defense radars with IFF equipment”.<sup>61</sup> In 2020, Hensoldt signed a cooperation agreement with Israel Aerospace Industries to co-develop radar systems.<sup>62</sup> Hensoldt has also been the target of public outrage when it was revealed that its sensor systems are installed in **Turkish TB2 drones**, which have been proven to have been used in attacks **in violation of international law in the Syrian and Iraqi parts of Kurdistan.**<sup>63 64</sup>

<sup>57</sup> [HENSOLDT develops jamming system to protect naval vessels together with Israeli partner RAFAEL | HENSOLDT](#)

<sup>58</sup> [RAFAEL, Diehl Defence, and HENSOLDT announce Teaming Agreement for SPICE 250 ER System during Paris Air Show in Le Bourget | HENSOLDT](#)

<sup>59</sup> [SPICE 250™: Stand-Off Air-to-Surface Weapon System](#)

<sup>60</sup> [HENSOLDT and RAFAEL team on integrating and offering Electronic Warfare capabilities to the German Luftwaffe | HENSOLDT](#)

<sup>61</sup> [HENSOLDT provides Israeli air defence radars with IFF equipment | HENSOLDT](#)

<sup>62</sup> [Hensoldt geht strategische Zusammenarbeit mit Israel Aerospace Industries ein](#)

<sup>63</sup> [Raketen und Sensoren: Deutsche Technik für den türkischen Drohnenkrieg](#)

<sup>64</sup> [How Turkey Defied the U.S. and Became a Killer Drone Power](#)

## **HENSOLDT and TU Munich**

In May 2025, TU Munich announced the official collaboration between Hensoldt and TUM Venture Lab, the university's startup hub on their website: "TUM Venture Labs and sensor specialist Hensoldt will jointly promote start-ups focusing on security and defense in the future."<sup>65</sup> They also announced that Hensoldt will become **a partner of "TUM Venture Labs** and assume a **central role in the defense sector** within the emerging technology ecosystem."<sup>66</sup> Together with TUM, Hensoldt will "support start-ups focusing on the accelerated development of security and **defense technologies** in the future."<sup>67</sup>



Figure 9: From left to right: Philipp Gerbert, CEO TUM Venture Labs, Oliver Dörre, CEO Hensoldt, Prof. Thomas F. Hofmann, President of TUM<sup>68</sup>

## **4.2 TU Munich and Rhode & Schwarz**

In the same month as announcing the official partnership with HENSOLDT, "TUM Venture Labs", located on the Ludwig Bölkow Campus, also announced a partnership with the major arms company **Rhode & Schwarz** (located outside of the campus). According to TUM's announcement, the arms firm will support TUM's "deeptech" lab in the field of **"aerospace & defense"**<sup>69</sup>.

<sup>65</sup> [TUM Venture Labs und Hensoldt schließen strategische Partnerschaft im Bereich Verteidigung - TUM](#)

<sup>66</sup> [TUM Venture Labs und Hensoldt schließen strategische Partnerschaft im Bereich Verteidigung - TUM](#)

<sup>67</sup> [TUM Venture Labs und Hensoldt schließen strategische Partnerschaft im Bereich Verteidigung - TUM](#)

<sup>68</sup> [TUM Venture Labs und Hensoldt schließen strategische Partnerschaft im Bereich Verteidigung - TUM](#)

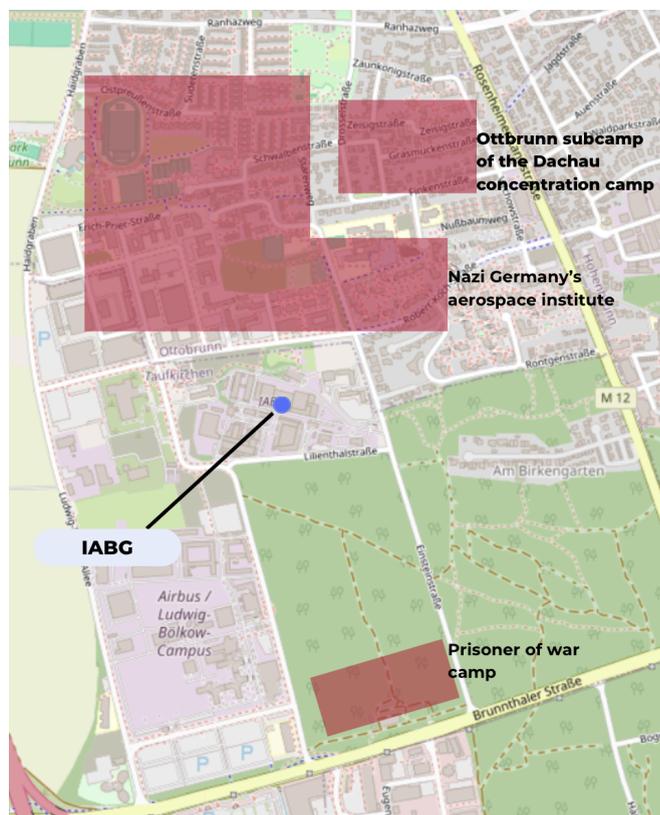
<sup>69</sup> [Erweiterte Partnerschaft von TUM Venture Labs und Rohde & Schwarz - TUM](#)

### **Rhode & Schwarz' ties to Israel**

In 2022, Rohde & Schwarz opened a new office in Ra'anana, central Israel. According to the company, this “important step strengthens the commitment of the high-tech company to the Israeli market.”<sup>70</sup> In July 2025, Rohde and Schwarz was listed as the official supporter of an event by ELNET<sup>71</sup> in Berlin, which announced the establishment of a new “Security and Defense Initiative”, which aims to **promote German-Israeli military cooperation**. Panel talks were held by figures such as the former **commandeur of the Israeli airforce**<sup>72</sup>.

### **4.3 TU Munich and IABG**

IABG is another major weapons company with its headquarters located on the Ludwig-Bölkow Campus. In July 2025, the Israeli Ministry of Defense listed IABG as one of the “key Israeli and German defense industries” involved in the **“Largest defense export agreement in Israel’s history”** (see Screenshot).

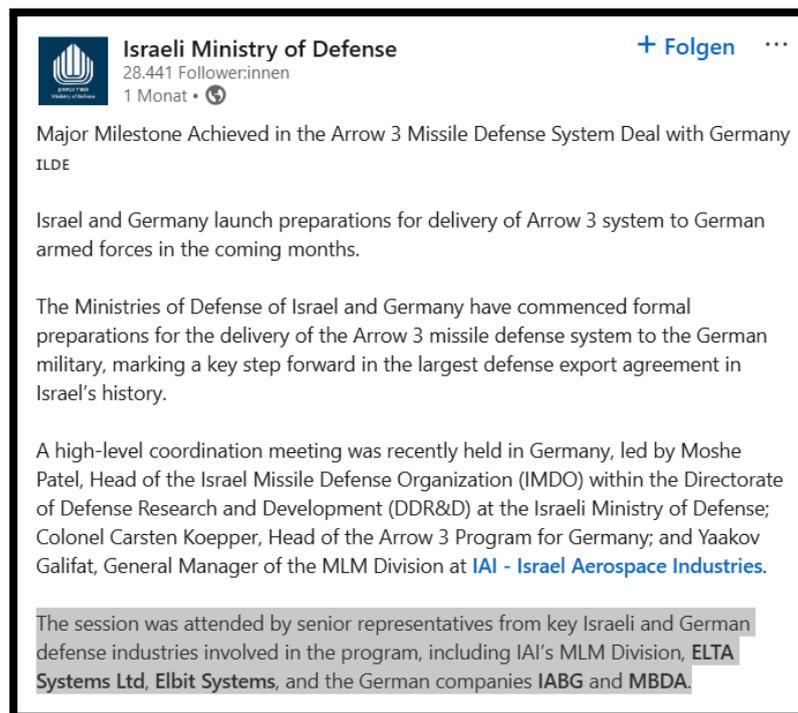


70

[https://www.rohde-schwarz.com/de/unternehmen/news-und-presse/all-news/rohde-schwarz-opens-subsidary-in-israel-pressemitteilungen-detailseite\\_229356-1236227.html](https://www.rohde-schwarz.com/de/unternehmen/news-und-presse/all-news/rohde-schwarz-opens-subsidary-in-israel-pressemitteilungen-detailseite_229356-1236227.html)

<sup>71</sup> (European Leadership Network, a non-governmental organization that promotes links between Europe and Israel)

<sup>72</sup> [ELNET begründet neue Security & Defense Initiative - European Leadership Network \(ELNET\)](#)



**Figure 10: Israel Ministry of Defense's post on LinkedIn about the "largest defense export agreement in Israel's history"<sup>73</sup>.**

In 2023, TU Munich announced its official collaboration with IABG as the new official partner of TU Munich's "Venture Labs". IABG will support startups in the field of Artificial Intelligence, according to TUM.<sup>74</sup>

#### **4.4 Starburst**

Another company located on the Ludwig Bölkow Campus is "Starburst". On their Website, Starburst lists many military companies as their partners such as Hensoldt, Lockheed Martin, Israel Aerospace Industries, and Thales.<sup>75</sup> The company supports startups, specifically "defense startups" by connecting them to funding, mentors and established companies. There is no documentation that Starburst collaborates with TU Munich in any way, however, since the company is located on the LBC and has strong ties to Israel, it is still worth mentioning.

<sup>73</sup> [https://www.linkedin.com/posts/israelimod\\_major-milestone-achieved-in-the-arrow-3-missile-activity-7336403921839517696-hOYI](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/israelimod_major-milestone-achieved-in-the-arrow-3-missile-activity-7336403921839517696-hOYI)

<sup>74</sup> [IABG wird Platin-Partner der TUM Venture Labs - TUM](#)

<sup>75</sup> [Starburst](#)



Figure 11: Screenshot from the Starburst Website<sup>76</sup>.

Starburst collaborates with on-campus companies such as Airbus Defense and Hensoldt to create accelerator programs for defense-tech-startups and companies.<sup>77</sup>



Figure 12: Screenshot from the Starburst Website.

### **Starburst's connections to Israel**

Starburst, located on the Ludwig Bölkow Campus, has deep-reaching collaborations with the Israeli defense industry as evidenced below:

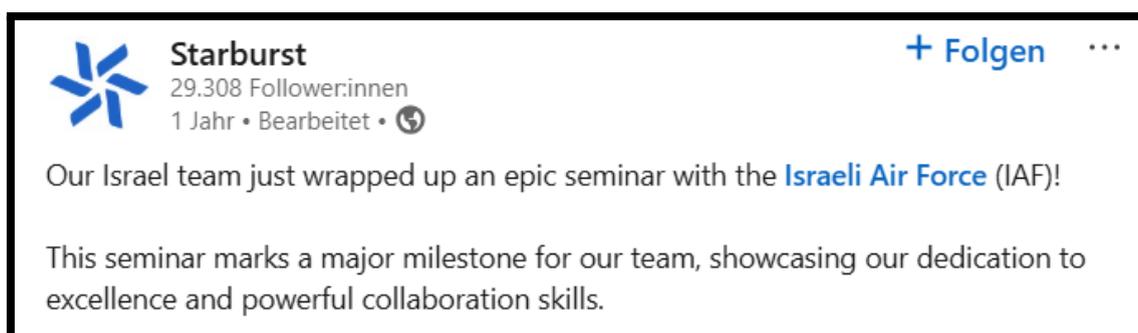


Figure 13: Starburst's LinkedIn post about a seminar with the Israeli Air Force.<sup>78</sup>

<sup>76</sup> [Defense Accelerator + Small Businesses | Starburst](#)

<sup>77</sup> [Starburst Aerospace Partners with Airbus Defence and Space to Launch the Combat Cloud Accelerator - Starburst](#)

<sup>78</sup> [https://www.linkedin.com/posts/starburst-aerospace-defense\\_teamwork-iaf-innovation-activity-7206966068064518145-l4pv/](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/starburst-aerospace-defense_teamwork-iaf-innovation-activity-7206966068064518145-l4pv/)

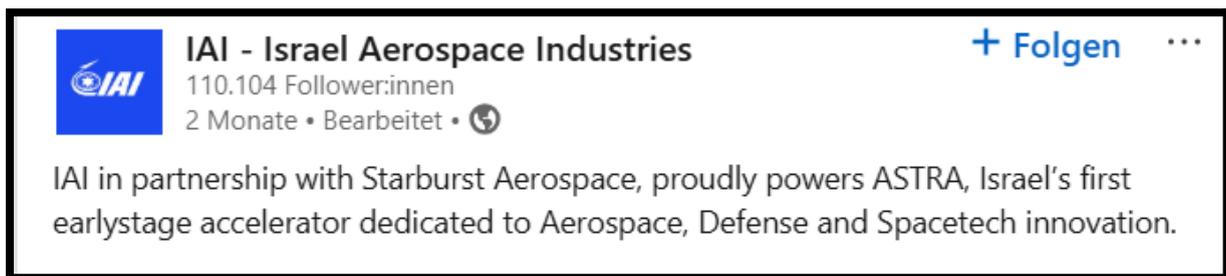


Figure 14: IAI's post on LinkedIn<sup>79</sup>.

The company's official partner is Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI). According to the UN report "From Economy of Occupation to Economy of Genocide", published in July 2025, "Drones, hexacopters and quadcopters have been omnipresent killing machines in the skies of Gaza.<sup>80</sup> Drones largely developed and supplied by Elbit Systems and **Israel Aerospace Industries** have long flown alongside these fighter jets, surveilling Palestinians and delivering target intelligence. (...) **For Israeli companies like Elbit and Israel Aerospace Industries, the ongoing genocide has been a profitable venture**".<sup>81</sup>

#### 4.5 Airbus/ Airbus Defense

Major collaborators on campus include Airbus, specifically its division Airbus Defense, which has its headquarters on the Ludwig Bölkow Campus. Airbus is one of the biggest European defense companies, involved in military aircraft, satellite systems, and missile development. Airbus Group is a trans-European multinational aerospace corporation. It is one of the **15 largest arms companies** in the world, despite primarily specializing in the design and manufacturing of commercial aircrafts. Its Defence and Space sector specialises in **military aircrafts**, space systems, connected intelligence, and unmanned aerial systems, which have been put to work in **European border surveillance systems and in Saudi Arabia's attacks on Yemen**.<sup>82</sup>

<sup>79</sup> <https://www.linkedin.com/company/starburst-aerospace-defense/posts/?feedView=all>

<sup>80</sup> <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/a-hrc-59-23-from-economy-of-occupation-to-economy-of-genocide-report-special-rapporteur-francesca-albanese-palestine-2025/>

<sup>81</sup> [From economy of occupation to economy of genocide - \(A/HRC/59/23\) Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 \(Advance unedited version\) - Question of Palestine](#)

<sup>82</sup> <https://caat.org.uk/data/companies/airbus-group-eads/>



2025, Elbit Systems from Israel announced it will supply “laser-based self-defense systems” for the German Air Force; Airbus is the main contractor.<sup>89</sup> In 2025, Airbus Defense and Space was one of the attendees at Tel Aviv’s defense conference “Europe Days”, **seeking to collaborate with Israeli defense-tech startups**, “in the fields of air traffic management, drones, UAVs, secure communication, and battery energy management.”<sup>90</sup>

### **Airbus & TU Munich**

Airbus and TU Munich collaborate on various research projects. In December 2024, TU Munich’s president stated that **Airbus is an important partner of TUM**.<sup>91</sup> In October 2025 the TUM and Airbus planned to hold a **workshop** about the development of **hardware for fighter jets**; **Airbus Defense** is also listed as the official partner of the TUM Data Innovation Lab<sup>92</sup>. In July 2025, as part of the Ottobrunn “Forum Munich Aerospace” - a forum focusing on military tech and aerospace - TUM organized a lecture on **“target drones of Airbus”**<sup>93</sup>. The lecture gave an extensive overview of the history of the **Airbus target drones** and presented current projects, in which they were being used. The speakers included specialists in “Unmanned Aerial Target Systems” and “Aerospace and Flight dynamics” of Airbus Defence and Space<sup>94</sup>.



**Figure 16: Lecture on “Target drones of Airbus” at TUM**

<sup>89</sup> <https://www.nd-aktuell.de/artikel/1192932.schutz-fuer-militaerflugzeuge-bundeswehr-kauft-autonome-laserwaffen-aus-israel.html>

<sup>90</sup> <https://defence-network.com/europe-days-in-tel-aviv/>

<sup>91</sup> <https://www.merkur.de/wirtschaft/forschung-prestige-der-pfad-ins-universum-bayern-sorgt-sich-nach-airbus-jobabbau-um-mehr-als-jobs-93479281.html>

<sup>92</sup> <https://www.mdsi.tum.de/di-lab/partner/airbus-defence-and-space-gmbh/>

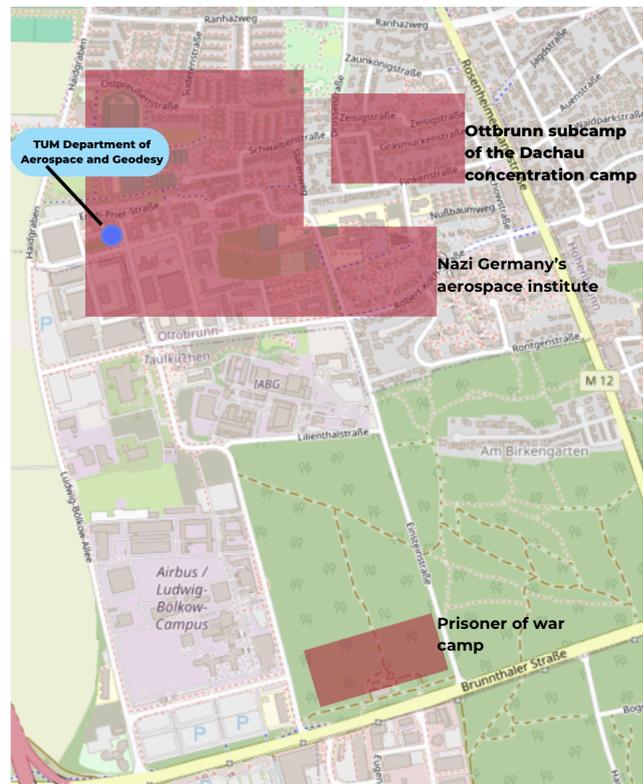
<sup>93</sup> [https://www.munich-aerospace.de/en/cpt\\_event/forum-munich-aerospace-target-drones-of-airbus-ds-history-and-current-developments/](https://www.munich-aerospace.de/en/cpt_event/forum-munich-aerospace-target-drones-of-airbus-ds-history-and-current-developments/)

<sup>94</sup> [https://www.munich-aerospace.de/en/cpt\\_event/forum-munich-aerospace-target-drones-of-airbus-ds-history-and-current-developments/](https://www.munich-aerospace.de/en/cpt_event/forum-munich-aerospace-target-drones-of-airbus-ds-history-and-current-developments/)

## 5. TU Munich's institutes on the Campus and ties to Israel

### 5.1 TU Munich's Aerospace & Geodesy Institute

The heart of the Ludwig-Bölkow Campus is TU Munich's expanding Aerospace department with more than 50 planned professorships until 2035. One of the chairs listed on the school's website is called the **'Institute for Flight system dynamics'**. The Institute has been the host of the military conference "Forum Munich Aerospace", with presentations titled **"Bullets flying around corners ? From Hollywood to the future battlefield"** or **"Artificial intelligence – opportunities and limitations for military aviation"**<sup>95</sup>.



The Institute for Flight System Dynamics advertises jobs to students at companies such as MBDA.<sup>96</sup> In July 2025, the Guardian published an article with the headline: **"European missile group MBDA selling parts for bombs that have killed children in Gaza."** The article does, however, not mention MBDA Germany but rather focuses on MBDA UK and US.<sup>97</sup> It is thus not known to what extend

Great Place to Work as

## ROCKET SCIENTIST

The MBDA Group has been formed by outsourcing the missile divisions of the three European leaders in aerospace and defence, namely Airbus, BAE Systems and Leonardo to jointly form an European champion. Today the multi-national MBDA Group is the leading European missile systems house with more than 15.000 employees working together across France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the UK.

Contact at TUM:  
Prof. Dr.-Ing. J. Dambeck  
E-Mail: dambeck@tum.de

Contact at MBDA Germany:  
E-Mail: bewerbung@mbda-careers.de  
www.mbda-careers.de

APPLY NOW

<sup>95</sup> <https://www.fsd.ed.tum.de/forum-munich-aerospace/>

<sup>96</sup> <https://www.fsd.ed.tum.de/rocket-scientist/>

<sup>97</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/jul/17/european-missile-group-mbda-selling-parts-for-bombs-that-have-killed-children-in-gaza>

or if MBDA Germany was involved here.

## 5.2 A German-Israeli missile project: TU Munich and Israel's Technion University

The Institute of Flight System Dynamics, part of the Department of Aerospace and Geodesy, collaborated on an **Israeli-German missile project** called “Project Cornetto”, together with Israel’s Technion University located in Haifa. On Technion’s website, the missile’s requirements are described in detail: the missile should “achieve the longest distance possible”, it should reach a height of 1500 meters by a ballistic launch, and: **“The missile should fit the launcher designed by TUM University”**.<sup>98</sup>

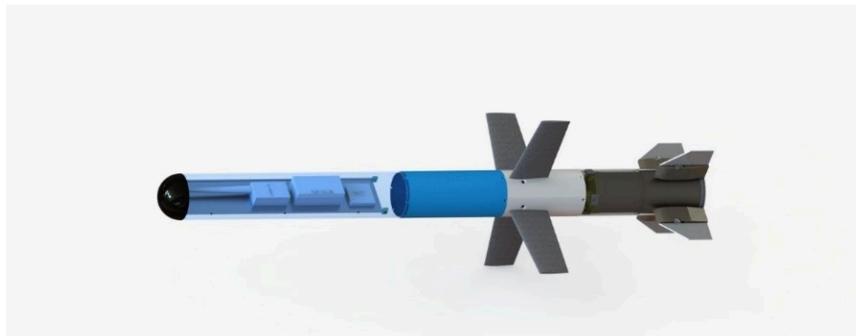


Figure 17: The Cornetto Missile, a TUM-Technion project.

### Missile Requirements:

- ➔ Reach the height of at least 1500 [m] by a ballistic launch, with a given propellant (with roll control).
- ➔ The missile should achieve the longest distance possible by gliding and keeping controlled route with guidance.
- ➔ The missile needs to be aerodynamically stable and withstand all the anticipated loads during flight.
- ➔ Traced from the ground with the help of navigation systems.
- ➔ The missile should fit the launcher designed by TUM University.
- ➔ The nose of the missile will carry different payloads.
- ➔ The missile will have salvaging system, making it reusable.

Figure 18: Screenshots from the missile project’s website.<sup>99</sup>

The Hebrew version of the project website on Technion’s homepage states: **“The project is being carried out in collaboration with a group from TUM (Technical University Munich), funded by RAFAEL and MAFAT”**<sup>100</sup>.

<sup>98</sup> <https://aerospace.technion.ac.il/projects/project-cornetto-second-year/> (Archived)

<sup>99</sup> <https://aerospace.technion.ac.il/projects/project-cornetto-second-year/>

<sup>100</sup>

<https://aerospace.technion.ac.il/he/projects/%D7%A4%D7%A8%D7%95%D7%99%D7%A7%D7%98-cornetto-missile-testbed-%D7%A9%D7%A0%D7%94-ii/>

RAFAEL is Israel's state-owned weapons manufacturer. MAFAT is a joint administrative body of the Israeli Ministry of Defense (IMOD) and the Israel Defense Force (IDF).

In 2022, the missile was then launched. On a post on LinkedIn, the Aerospace Faculty of Technion states: **“The project is in cooperation with the Technical University of Munich TUM”**<sup>101</sup> (See screenshot).



Figure 19: LinkedIn Post by the Aerospace Faculty of Technion

In 2020, the Cornetto missile project was presented at a Leading Israeli military conference, the “Israel Annual Conference on Aerospace Science”.<sup>102</sup> The conference was organized by representatives of the core pillars of the Israeli military-industrial complex: The Israeli Air Force, the Israeli Ministry of Defence, Elbit Systems, Rafael, and Israel Aerospace Industries, according to the conference’s website.<sup>103</sup>

<sup>101</sup>

[https://www.linkedin.com/posts/carmella-cohen-62028a193\\_corneto-an-educational-experimental-misile-activity-6920311198743724033-eolJ/?t=%7Bseek\\_to\\_second\\_number%7D](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/carmella-cohen-62028a193_corneto-an-educational-experimental-misile-activity-6920311198743724033-eolJ/?t=%7Bseek_to_second_number%7D) (Archived: <https://archive.ph/C4dyz>).

<sup>102</sup> <https://www.proceedings.com/content/055/055146webtoc.pdf> (Search for “Cornetto”).

<sup>103</sup>

## 6. Other Collaborations

### 6.1 TU Munich's "European Defense Tech Hackathon" & Testing Defense Tech in Israel

The following case is not directly tied to the Ludwig Bölkow Campus but presents another case of TU Munich's increasing militarization. From February 13-16 2025, TU Munich organized a "**European Defense Tech Hackathon.**" This event was an initiative by European Defense Tech Hub, a company founded by a TUM alumni, which, according to *REUTERS*, "aims to connect tech founders, investors and policymakers".<sup>104,105</sup> The aim of the hackathon was to develop ideas and startups for the defense of Ukraine.



The organizer, European Defense Tech Hub, however, is not solely focused on "defense tech" for Ukraine - but also for Israel. In August 2025, a few months after the hackathon held at TUM, European Defense Tech Hub publicly announced their intention to **connect the European and Israeli "defense innovation" sector by partnering with Tel Aviv-based NEX42**<sup>106</sup>.

<sup>104</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/business/mission-before-money-how-europes-defence-startups-are-luring-ai-talent-2025-04-30/>

<sup>105</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pSrSZSkBBhY>

<sup>106</sup> European Defense Tech Hub (2025, August). *Europe 🇪🇺 x Israel 🇮🇱 unite for defense innovation.* LINKEDIN. <http://archive.today/ykpXC>

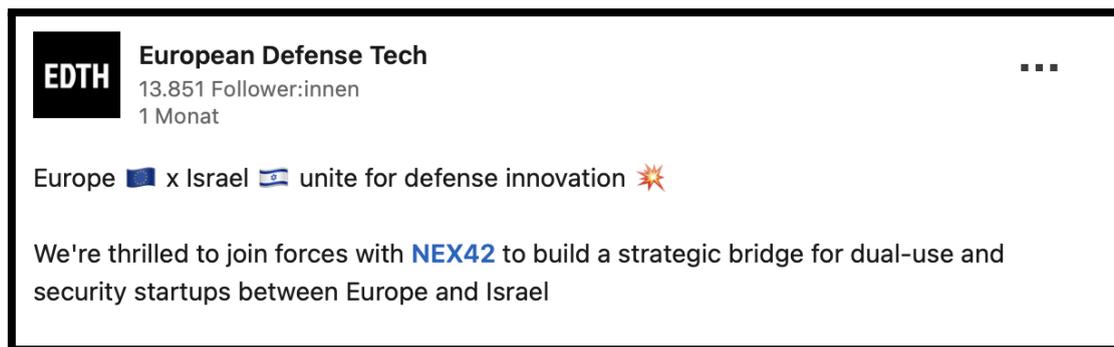


Figure 20: European Defense Tech Hub announcement of partnership with Israeli NEX42 on LinkedIn

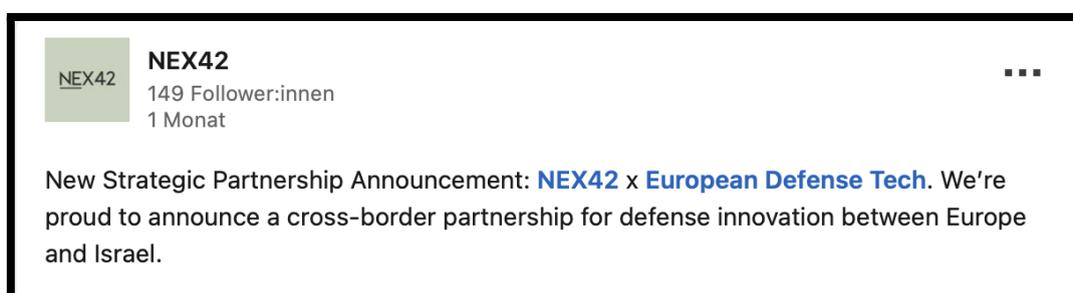


Figure 21: NEX42 announces partnership with European Defense Tech on LinkedIn<sup>107</sup>

**NEX42**, official partner of European Defense Tech Hub, is based in Tel Aviv and helps businesses in the field of defense scale internationally. NEX 42 **openly advertises the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) as a “critical military market” for “growth-stage defense and dual-use companies”**<sup>108</sup>

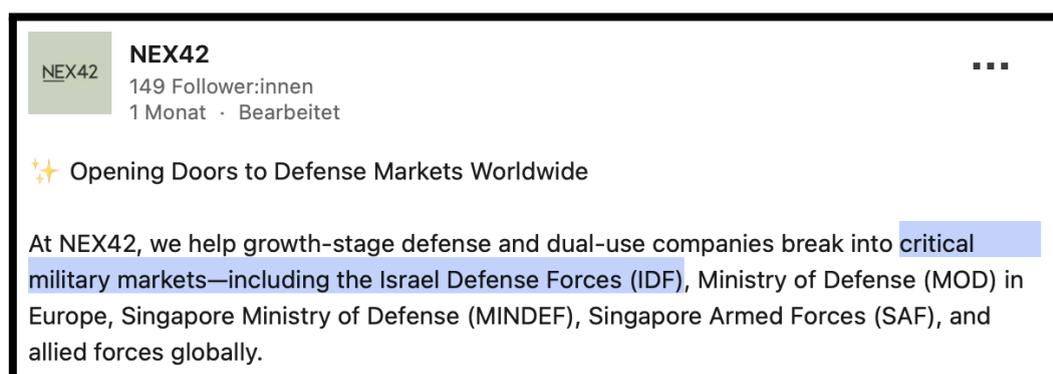


Figure 22 NEX42 advertises the IDF as a “critical military market”.

As stated on their website, NEX42 helps companies “go global” - **Israel is described as a location where companies have the “rare opportunity to**

<sup>107</sup> [https://www.linkedin.com/posts/nex42\\_new-strategic-partnership-announcement-nex42-activity-7355492209921605632-9LIP](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/nex42_new-strategic-partnership-announcement-nex42-activity-7355492209921605632-9LIP)

<sup>108</sup> <http://archive.today/Rw6mu>

prove, adapt and validate their technologies in real combat conditions”.

109

Israel – A global leader in defense, mobility, and frontier tech. In a live operational environment shaped by ongoing conflict, companies entering the market have a rare opportunity to prove, adapt, and validate their technologies under real combat conditions.

Figure 23: NEX42’s website advertises “real combat conditions” to test technologies.

## 6.2 TUM’s collaboration with MEKOROT: the company responsible for water apartheid (Human Rights Watch, Amnesty)

Although this report is largely focused on the Ludwig Bölkow Campus, following collaboration presents another concerning case. TUM currently collaborates with Israel’s water company **Mekorot** and **Technion University** on a project funded by BMFTR German-Israeli Cooperation in Water Technology Research.<sup>110,111</sup> The project began in 2024 and is set to last **until 2027**. On TUM’s website, **Mekorot is listed as a collaborator**:

Funding	BMFTR German-Israeli Cooperation in Water Technology Research
Collaboration	Technion Israel Institute of Technology (Prof. Avi Ostfeld)
	Stadtentwässerung Schweinfurt
	Xylem Water Solutions GmbH
	<a href="#">Mekorot Israel National Water Co.</a>

Figure 24: Screenshot from TU Munich’s website.

**TUM’s partner, Mekorot**, has been called out for its crimes **for decades**, specifically related to water apartheid. **In 2025**, the NGO Business and Human Rights Resource Centre stated:<sup>112</sup>

<sup>109</sup> <https://www.nex42.com/>

<sup>110</sup> <https://www.cee.ed.tum.de/en/sww/research/advanced-water-treatment/staysafe/> (<http://archive.today/mdhvr> )

<sup>111</sup> <https://www.kooperation-international.de/laender/asien/israel/projekte-israel/detail-laendereinstiegss-eite/info/staysafe-sichere-intermittierende-landwirtschaftliche-bewaesserung-deutsch-israelische-wass-ertechnologie-kooperation> ( <http://archive.today/Kbiat> )

<sup>112</sup> <https://www.business-humanrights.org/en/latest-news/israel-opt-access-to-water-in-palestinian-town-restricted-by-mekorot/>

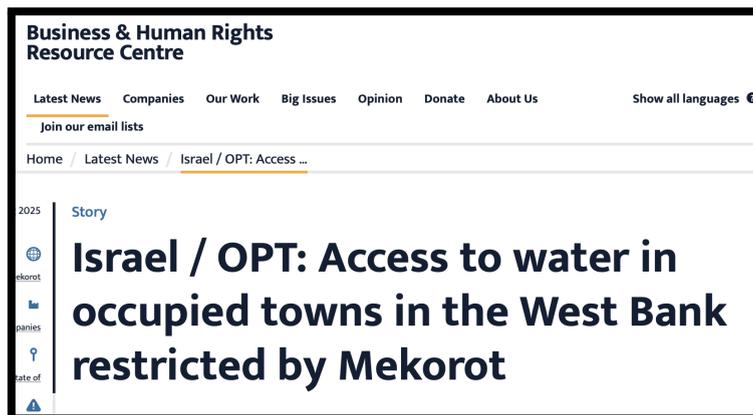


Figure 25: NGO calls out Mekorot for restricting water access

## About TU Munich's partner Mekorot

The Israeli company Mekorot, Israel's national water company and has been implementing an **apartheid policy in water management** in the occupied Palestinian territories, illegally restricting access to water, **depriving Palestinians of a sufficient water supply**, and violating World Health Organization recommendations. In addition, Mekorot operates approximately 42 wells in the West Bank, mainly in the Jordan Valley region, which primarily supply Israeli settlements<sup>113</sup>.

**Mekorot's crimes are not recent or new.** As early as **2013**, Dutch water companies cut ties with Mekorot<sup>114</sup>:

Figure 26: 2013 article reports Dutch water firms cut ties with Mekorot



In 2017, **Amnesty International** stated: “The Israeli state-owned water company **Mekorot** has **systematically sunk wells and tapped springs** in the occupied West Bank to supply its population, including those living in

<sup>113</sup> [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2025-001734\\_EN.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2025-001734_EN.html)

<sup>114</sup> <https://nltimes.nl/2013/12/11/dutch-water-firm-cuts-relations-israels-mekorot>

illegal settlements with water for domestic, agricultural and industrial purposes.”<sup>115</sup>

**Many Reports** have documented Mekorot crimes **for decades:**

- B’Tselem (1998)<sup>116</sup>
- Business and Human Rights Resource Centre (2025)<sup>117</sup>
- Amnesty International (2021)<sup>118</sup>,
- World Bank (2009)<sup>119</sup>
- United Nations (1992)<sup>120</sup>



One of two Mekorot pumping stations outside the village of Bardala. These pumping stations have caused springs in the villages of Ein al-Beida and Bardala to dry up completely, forcing the Palestinian community to be entirely reliant on the Israeli state-owned company for their domestic and agricultural water provision.

© Amnesty International

### **Mekorot’s key role in the Gaza genocide**

In 2024, Human Rights Watch published the report which gained large international attention, documenting “Extermination and Acts of Genocide.” **Mekorot is mentioned in the report thirteen times.**

A key component in the genocide in Gaza is the restriction of water supply

<sup>115</sup> <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/campaigns/2017/11/the-occupation-of-water/>

<sup>116</sup> [https://www.btselem.org/publications/summaries/199809\\_disputed\\_waters](https://www.btselem.org/publications/summaries/199809_disputed_waters)

<sup>117</sup> <https://www.business-humanrights.org/en/latest-news/israel-opt-access-to-water-in-palestinian-town-restricted-by-mekorot/>

<sup>118</sup> <https://www.amnesty.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/mde150272009en.pdf>

<sup>119</sup> <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/775491468139782240/pdf/476570SR0P11511nsReport18Apr2009111.pdf>

<sup>120</sup> <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/auto-insert-197919/>

for which Mekorot is responsible, as following screenshot from the Human Rights Watch Report shows:



Figure 27: Screenshot from HRW report<sup>121</sup>

Oxfam also highlighted Mekorot's role in the Gaza genocide in 2024<sup>122</sup>:

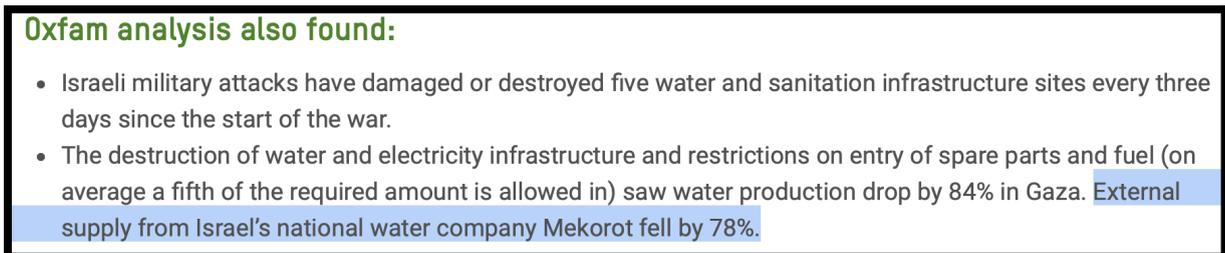


Figure 28: Oxfam report on Mekorot<sup>123</sup>

121

<https://www.hrw.org/report/2024/12/19/extermination-and-acts-genocide/israel-deliberately-depriving-palestinians-gaza>

122

<https://www.oxfam.org/en/press-releases/israel-using-water-weapon-war-gaza-supply-plummets-94-cr-eating-deadly-health>

123

<https://www.oxfam.org/en/press-releases/israel-using-water-weapon-war-gaza-supply-plummets-94-cr-eating-deadly-health>