



Company Profile

Denel SOC Ltd trading as Denel Overberg Test Range is a versatile Test Range specialising in in-flight systems performance measurements for the local and international aerospace industries. Its spectrum of services range from tests of short range guided munitions for land, sea and air combat, to evaluation of modern standoff weapons and aviation systems. In addition, the Test Range can provide mobile telemetry launch support services at remote sites almost anywhere.



The Test Range was established in the mid-eighties as an integrated test facility with the flexibility to allow multipurpose applications. Since final qualification in 1991, the Range has proved its ability to manage and execute any combination of air, ground and sea flight tests, rendering invaluable performance evaluation services to international defence forces and the armaments industry. The Test Range's focus is mainly on evaluation of flight performance rather than the destructive power of weapons. The vast majority of firings are thus performed with inert warheads and/or telemetry packs. Its array of measuring systems, sophisticated support facilities, experienced personnel and unique location make Denel Overberg Test Range a well-equipped and effective test range by international standards.



Denel Overberg Test Range is located immediately east of the remote southernmost tip of the African continent at latitude of 34 south on the south-eastern coast of the Western Cape. This area is virtually void of air traffic and shipping is limited compared to Northern Hemisphere traffic. A large overland area of approximately 43 000ha adds to the convenience of the vast sea arena, allowing tests to take place over both land and sea. The overland portion comprises two sectors separated by the De Hoop Nature Reserve.

Because of the diversity of tests catered for, many of the instruments are mobile and can be deployed at various sites on the Range as required. A base leg of 70km along the coast is available to cover tests taking place over the sea. Longer distances, typically around 350km, can be covered by electromagnetic instruments (radars and telemetry) and/or deployment of optical instruments on remote sites beyond the range boundaries as well as by planning trajectories to describe racetrack or figure eight patterns within a controlled zone. In addition, given the varying terrain and coastline characteristics, a cruise missile's terrain recognition capabilities, for example, can be subjected to a variety of ground and sea conditions.

The Test Range's main services include:

- In-flight tests on sophisticated missile and rocket systems.
- Aircraft performance, avionics evaluation, carriage and release clearance.
- Measurement of trajectories of all types of bombs.
- Anti-tank tests, also from helicopter.
- Electronic warfare tests.
- Mobile telemetry launch support for satellite launches.





Clients' needs satisfied by the Test Range vary from simply providing an arena in which to carry out a test securely and safely, to doing a complete test design, managing the deployment of instrumentation and execution of the test, as well as carrying out the detailed analysis and evaluation of results. The Test Range thus can provide a turnkey service. A high premium is placed on quality and integrity of data and the Range endeavours to remain a neutral agent in the supply of data.

Where requested, Test Range experts may join the client in interpreting data and explaining phenomena. The Test Range never takes control of dient furnished equipment and all data is considered to be the exclusive property of the client.

Instrumentation has been designed to be flexible, and where necessary mobile, so that the Range can be configured to best suit the requirements of the system under test. Typical results are trajectories, telemetry recording, meteorological profiles and photographic documentation. A well-proven test execution doctrine, quality assurance and logistic support philosophy have been established. Denel Overberg Test Range has full time personnel of 170. The Range is accredited with ISO9001:2008 and ISO14001:2004 certification, underlining the Test Range's commitment to quality service within the boundaries of sound environmental management.

Denel Overberg Test Range operates a comprehensive array of instruments to maintain the level of proficiency and reliability required for modern flight-testing. These include high precision radars, high-speed optical and infrared tracking systems, fixed cameras, telemetry, meteorology and an extensive command and control infrastructure. A full data reduction service, ranging from video reading to final mathematical processing of data, is provided. Support facilities such as launch sites; target areas, a large verity of ground, air and sea targets, explosive storage, integration facilities, a calibration laboratory, a multimedia lab, geodetic measurement systems and accommodation and catering services for 120 people are available on site.





A high-speed target drone service is provided in conjunction with Denel Dynamics. The modern South African Air Force base (Air Force Base Overberg) adjacent to the Range with its 3 000m runway and extensive ground support services is an added convenience to Test Range clients. It simplifies logistics for participating and support aircraft and provides convenient access for test clients and their equipment.

In addition, the Test Range also operates a satellite ground station. The ground station has a precision 10m tracking antenna available to its operation with S&XBand capabilities. The ground station is suitable for launch support and Tracking, Telemetry & Command (TT&C) and is situated in a prime location for east and south bound space missions of sun synchronous and polar orbiting spacecraft.

Denel Overberg Test Range's mobile telemetry launch support capability is derived directly from the unique facilities established in the mid-1980s for South Africa's previous space programme. The equipment was adapted and re-configured to make it transportable by commercial air cargo and can now be deployed easily on remote sites almost anywhere in the world where real-time tracking of crucial events during a space mission is needed.

Denel Overberg Test Range's holding company, Denel SOC Ltd is one of the biggest industrial groups in South Africa and is wholly owned by the South African government. It does not resort under the South African DoD and therefore operates as a commercial enterprise and is subject to normal company law. All the Test Range's revenue is earned from work performed by the Range for its domestic and international clients.

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