

# ARCHIVED REPORT

For data and forecasts on current programs please visit  
[www.forecastinternational.com](http://www.forecastinternational.com) or call +1 203.426.0800

## Submachine Guns (International)

### Outlook

- European players continue to dominate the international market
- IWI and Thales Australia have emerged as major players in the international submachine gun market
- Production of submachine guns by all non-U.S. and non-European sources will average 10,000 weapons annually

### Orientation

**Description.** Light, selective-fire or full-automatic weapons firing pistol-caliber ammunition to engage targets at short range.

**Sponsor.** The respective contractors develop, produce, and market various submachine gun designs.

**Licensee.** Several contractors produce non-European and non-U.S. small arms, with or without license.

**Status.** Development through serial production.

**Total Produced.** Through 2023, we estimate non-U.S. and non-European contractors produced at least 1.7 million submachine guns since 1980 inclusive.

**Application.** A personal weapon that fires pistol-caliber ammunition. The submachine gun is optimized for individual defensive and limited offensive use.

**Price Range.** In 2024 U.S. dollars, non-U.S. and non-European submachine guns carry unit prices ranging from \$107 for the NORINCO Type 85 to \$1,154 for the latest-model Uzi.

In addition, many submachine guns appear on the international market at very competitive prices.

### Contractors

#### Prime

<b>China North Industries Corp (NORINCO)</b>	<a href="http://www.norinco.cn">http://www.norinco.cn</a> , 12A Guang An Men Nan Jie, PO Box 100053, Beijing, China, Tel: + 86 10 6352 9988, Fax: + 86 10 6354 0398, Email: <a href="mailto:norinco@norinco.cn">norinco@norinco.cn</a> , Prime
<b>Denel SOC Ltd</b>	<a href="http://www.denel.co.za">http://www.denel.co.za</a> , Nellmapius Dr, Irene, South Africa, Tel: + 27 12 671 2700, Fax: + 27 12 671 2751, Email: <a href="mailto:marketing@denel.co.za">marketing@denel.co.za</a> , Prime
<b>Fabrica Militar Fray Luis Beltran</b>	Ruta 11 km 323, Fray Luis Beltran, Santa Fe, Argentina, Tel: + 54 341 4916238, Fax: + 54 341 4916608, Email: <a href="mailto:info@fmflb.com.ar">info@fmflb.com.ar</a> , Prime
<b>Fabricas y Maestranzas del Ejercito (FAMAE)</b>	<a href="http://www.famae.cl">http://www.famae.cl</a> , Av. Manuel Rodriguez 02, Talagante, Chile, Tel: + 56 2 510 74 00, Fax: + 56 2 510 75 11, Email: <a href="mailto:famae@famae.cl">famae@famae.cl</a> , Prime

## Submachine Guns (International)

<b>Hsing Hua Electric Innovative Corp, Hsing Hua Arsenal</b>	http://www.thh-electric.com.tw, No 7 Alley 29 Ln 29, Sec 1 Anjhong Rd, Tainan City, Annan District, Taiwan, Tel: + 886 6 245 6156, Fax: + 886 6 255 8586, Email: hsinhua.edos@msa.hinet.net, Prime
<b>Industria de Material Belico do Brazil, IMBEL</b>	http://www.imbel.gov.br, Avenida 15 de Marco, Casa 1, Portao de Limeira, Piquete, Brazil, Tel: + 55 12 3156 9042, Fax: + 55 12 3156 9028, Email: comercial.sp@imbel.gov.br, Prime
<b>Israel Weapon Industries Ltd, (formerly IMI Small Arms Division)</b>	http://iwi.net/, PO Box 63, Ramat Hasharon, Israel, Tel: + 972 3 760 6000, Fax: + 972 3 760 6001, Email: info@israel-weapon.com, Prime
<b>Maadi Co for Engineering Industries</b>	Corniche El-Nile Sq, Maadi, Cairo, Egypt, Tel: + 20 2 359 6567, Fax: + 20 2 358 1855, Prime
<b>Peru Ministry of Defense</b>	Av De la peruanidad s/n, Campo de Marte, Lima, Peru, Tel: + 51 511 209 8530, Email: jfowks@mindef.gob.pe, Prime
<b>Thales Australia, Armaments &amp; Ammunition</b>	http://www.thalesgroup.com, 7 Murray Rose Ave, Sydney Olympic Park, New South Wales, Australia, Tel: + 61 2 9562 3333, Email: communications@thalesgroup.com, Prime

Contractors are invited to submit updated information to Editor, International Contractors, Forecast International, 75 Glen Road, Suite 302, Sandy Hook, CT 06482, USA; rich.pettibone@forecast1.com

## Technical Data

<u>Caliber</u>	<u>Designation</u>	<u>Type (Action/Fire Modes)</u>
<u>Manufacturer - Thales Australia (formerly ADI Ltd)</u>		
9x19mm Parabellum	F1	Blowback, selective
9x19mm Parabellum	AUG Para	Blowback, selective
<u>Manufacturer - China North Industries Corporation (NORINCO)</u>		
7.62x25mm Type 51	Type 64 Suppressed	Blowback, selective
7.62x25mm Type 51	Type 79	Blowback, selective
7.62x25mm Type 51	Type 85	Blowback, selective
7.62x25mm Type 64	Type 85 Suppressed	Blowback, selective
9x19mm Parabellum	Jati-Matic (copy)	Blowback, selective
9x19mm Parabellum	Uzi (copy)	Blowback, selective
<u>Manufacturer - Milkor Marketing Ltd/Denel SOC Ltd</u>		
9x19mm Parabellum	BXP	Blowback, automatic
<u>Manufacturer - Fabrica Militar Fray Luis Beltran</u>		
9x19mm Parabellum	FMK-3 Mod 2	Blowback, selective fire
9x19mm Parabellum	FMK-5	Blowback, semi-automatic
9x17mm Browning Short	FMK-3 Mod 1	Blowback, selective
<u>Manufacturer - Fabricas y Maestranzas del Ejercito (FAMAE)</u>		
9x19mm Parabellum	FAMAE Submachine gun	Blowback, automatic
9x19mm Parabellum	SAF	Blowback, selective
9x19mm Parabellum	Mini SAF	Blowback, selective
<u>Manufacturer - Hsing Hua Electric Innovative Corp</u>		
9x19mm Parabellum	Type 37	Blowback, automatic
11.43x22.79mm (.45 ACP)	M3A1	Blowback, automatic
<u>Manufacturer - Industria de Material Belico do Brazil (IMBEL)</u>		
9x19mm Parabellum	SM6 9mm Madsen	Blowback, selective
<u>Manufacturer - Israel Weapon Industries Ltd (IWI)</u>		
9x19mm Parabellum	Uzi	Blowback, selective
9x19mm Parabellum	Mini-Uzi	Blowback, selective
9x19mm Parabellum	Micro-Uzi	Blowback, selective
11.43x22.79mm (.45 ACP)	Micro-Uzi	Blowback, selective

## Submachine Guns (International)

Caliber	Designation	Type (Action/Fire Modes)
<u>Manufacturer - Maadi Company for Engineering Industries</u>		
9x19mm Parabellum	Akaba	Blowback, automatic
9x19mm Parabellum	Port Said (Carl Gustaf)	Blowback, automatic
<u>Manufacturer - Peru Ministry of Defense</u>		
9x19mm Parabellum	MGP-79	Blowback, selective
9x19mm Parabellum	MGP-79A	Blowback, selective
9x19mm Parabellum	MGP-84	Blowback, selective
9x19mm Parabellum	MGP-87	Blowback, selective

## Variants/Upgrades

**Variants.** Not generally applicable. To have the greatest degree of product differentiation and largest range of products, small arms manufacturers usually give modified or upgraded models of their weapons different designations.

**Modernization and Retrofit Overview.** Not generally applicable. Contractors usually integrate upgrades as production cut-ins.



9x19mm Parabellum AUG Para Submachine Gun

Source: Steyr Mannlicher GmbH & Co KG

## Program Review

**Background.** Submachine guns are light, short-range, fully automatic or selective-fire shoulder weapons, traditionally distinguished by their high rate of fire and use of pistol-caliber ammunition. Submachine guns can provide a level of self-defense to personnel (armored vehicle crews, military police, combat support troops, staff members) for whom carrying a full-size battle rifle or carbine would be inappropriate. The modern submachine gun, however, comes into its own in the hands of special operations forces during urban assault or close-quarters battle engagements.

### *Glamorous Image, Limited Use*

Most modern military battle carbines, especially those incorporating the bullpup design, can now compete very favorably with submachine guns in terms of compactness and rates of fire. Over time, the intermediate-caliber battle carbine has increasingly taken over the niche market, with the submachine gun as a bridge between the sidearm (pistol) and the full-size battle rifle. Despite the enduring appeal of the submachine gun, it is ultimately a weapon of very limited and specific use.

## Submachine Guns (International)

### AFRICA

#### Republic of South Africa

*Milkor Marketing Ltd/Denel SOC Ltd.* While Milkor developed the 9x19mm Parabellum BXP submachine gun, Lyttleton Engineering Works and Mechem actually handle serial production, under the auspices of Denel SOC Ltd.

#### ***BXP***

The BXP is a blowback-operated, fully automatic weapon featuring a wrap-around breechblock. Of simple design and rugged construction, the BXP reportedly operates well in adverse environments and is easy to maintain.

The South African National Defence Force (SANDF) and police have procured the BXP in quantity. Export sales have thus far been limited to the security forces of neighboring countries. The BXP is currently in production on an as-needed basis.

### ASIA

#### People's Republic of China

*China North Industries Corporation (NORINCO).* Under the auspices of NORINCO, which acts as the primary conduit between the Chinese arms industry and the international market, the People's Republic of China currently produces and markets at least three types of submachine guns. Three others have only recently completed their production runs.

#### ***Indigenous Designs***

Four of these six weapons are of indigenous design, incorporating some Kalashnikov features. The NORINCO weapons are generally unremarkable in their design and operation, with the exceptions of the 7.62x25mm Type 64 and Type 85 suppressed submachine guns. The Type 85 has superseded the earlier Type 79 in production due to its simplified production requirements.

#### ***Unlicensed Copies***

The Chinese have also been producing unlicensed copies of the Finnish Jati-Matic and the Israeli Uzi, both chambered in 9x19mm Parabellum. NORINCO aggressively promotes these submachine guns on the international market, offering bargain-basement unit prices in order to compete with other international players.

#### Republic of China (Taiwan)

*Hsing Hua Electric Innovative Corp.* Hsing Hua continues to produce the Type 37 submachine gun for the ROC Army. Available chambered for the 11.43x22.79mm (.45 ACP) or 9x19mm Parabellum

cartridge, the Type 37 is an indigenous version of the Second World War-era American M3A1 submachine gun. The M3/Type 37, though obsolete, remains in first-line service.

While Hsing Hua does not currently engage in production for export, the company maintains the capacity to produce the weapon in large quantities.

### AUSTRALIA

#### Australia

*Thales Australia.* The license-produced Steyr 9x19mm Parabellum AUG submachine gun variant, the AUG Para, replaced the 9x19mm Parabellum F1— itself a license-produced variant of the British Sterling – in Australian military service.

While Thales Australia (formerly ADI Ltd) continues to produce the 5.56x45mm NATO (.223 Remington) battle carbine version of the AUG under license, it does not actively market the AUG Para for export at this time. However, the AUG Para production line apparently remains available for new orders. Reports suggest the contractor still considers all of Southeast Asia as its target market for small arms.

### MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

#### Egypt

*Maadi Company for Engineering Industries.* The Maadi Company currently produces two submachine guns for the Egyptian armed forces.

#### ***Port Said & Akaba***

The 9x19mm Parabellum Port Said submachine gun is a license-produced copy of the Swedish Carl Gustaf 45B, differing only in minor features such as the sights. Maadi later refined the design in the 9x19mm Parabellum Akaba, reflecting the influence of the United States' M3 submachine gun.

Both weapons remain in Egyptian service, with the Port Said in production on an as-needed basis. While Maadi has not commercially exported either weapon, the National Organization for Military Production catalog has recently listed the Port Said as available for export, with a variety of accessories and spare parts.

#### Israel

*Israel Weapon Industries Ltd (IWI).* This firm's 9x19mm Parabellum Uzi submachine gun remains one of the most advanced and desired weapons of its type. The Uzi is one of the most compact, robust, and soldier-proof general-issue submachine guns ever built. In spite of its reputation for rugged dependability, the Uzi features simple pressings, as well as spot and running welds, in its construction.

### *A Market Legend*

The Uzi – along with the Beretta Model 12, the Heckler & Koch MP5, and the Sterling L2A3 – ranks as one of the most successful submachine guns ever built. In addition to its extensive license-production agreements worldwide, the contractor – formerly the Small Arms Division of Israel Military Industries Ltd (IMI) – has directly exported the Uzi to the following countries:

- Algeria
- Angola
- Belgium (FN Herstal produces the Uzi under license)
- Bolivia
- Central African Republic
- Chad
- Chile
- Republic of China
- Colombia
- Dominican Republic
- Ecuador
- El Salvador
- Ethiopia
- Gabon
- Germany
- Guatemala
- Haiti
- Honduras
- Iran
- Ireland
- Kenya
- Liberia
- Luxembourg
- Netherlands
- Nicaragua
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Panama
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Philippines
- Portugal
- Rwanda
- Somalia

## **Submachine Guns (International)**

- South Africa
- Sudan
- Suriname
- Swaziland
- Thailand
- Togo
- Uganda
- United States
- Uruguay
- Venezuela

### *Mini-Uzi & Micro-Uzi*

The 9x19mm Parabellum Mini-Uzi is slightly smaller than the basic submachine gun, optimized for SOF requirements. Law enforcement and personal-protection elements in a number of nations also use the Mini-Uzi.

The contractor has also developed the 9x19mm Parabellum Micro-Uzi. This submachine gun measures barely 25.4 centimeters (10 in) long with its stock folded.

These Uzi variants are currently in serial production.

#### Argentina

*Fabrica Militar Fray Luis Beltran.* Through the late 1970s, this government-owned operation produced a locally modified version of the 11.43x22.79mm (.45 ACP) M3 submachine gun for Argentine military and police forces. The modified weapon, which incorporates a wrap-around bolt, is reportedly stable during firing. It also has the capability to launch grenades, an unusual feature for a submachine gun. The Argentine armed forces continue to field this weapon. The only major export sale was reportedly to Panama (10,800 weapons) in 1991. This weapon is still available for export.

### *FMK-3*

Fabrica Militar Fray Luis Beltran announced in 1986 that it was developing a new compact 9x19mm Parabellum submachine gun, designated the FMK-3. This weapon, in the current sliding-stock Mod 2 version, is in production and available for export. A semi-automatic carbine variant, the FMK-5, is also in production.

#### Brazil

For decades, Brazil has been a major worldwide center for the design, development, and production of submachine guns. In the recent past, the Brazilians initiated a number of private industry projects for the design and production of new submachine guns to replace two existing models:

## Submachine Guns (International)

- The license-produced 9x19mm Parabellum Beretta Model 12, by Forjas Taurus SA
- The 11.43x22.79mm (.45 ACP) MB 50, an indigenous variant of the Danish Madsen, by Industria Nacional de Armas SA

While neither of these weapons remains in production, they are both still in Brazilian Army service and available for export.

The Brazilian Army devoted large resources to small arms research and development work during the 1970s at its Marambaia research facility.

### *The Uru Saga*

The 9x19mm Parabellum Uru submachine gun program has a rather complex history involving several design and manufacturing organizations since the 1970s. Originally managed by Olympio Vieira de Mello, the Uru program passed through several hands before Mekanika Industria e Comercio (MIC) reacquired rights to the Uru in 1997. MIC then entered into a production agreement with Amadeo Rossi and a marketing agreement with Planejamento e Execucao de Vendas Ltda.

The Uru II (now simply called the Uru) remains in limited production for the Brazilian armed forces. A suppressor conversion kit has been available since the late 1990s. MIC has exported the Uru along with a number of these kits to customers in Latin America, Africa, and the Middle East.

*Industria de Material Belico do Brazil (IMBEL).* In 1982, IMBEL undertook a program to retrofit the license-produced 11.43x22.79mm (.45 ACP) MB 50 Madsen submachine gun back to the original Madsen 9x19mm Parabellum chambering. This weapon, the SM6, is currently available in two selective-fire versions, the most recent of which features a shorter barrel without compensator. The latest model is in production to meet both domestic and export requirements.

### Chile

*Fabricas y Maestranzas del Ejercito (FAMAE).* This firm's 9x19mm Parabellum SAF submachine gun is a modified version of the SIG 540 design. The Chilean variant features a three-round burst mechanism. It is available in three models: fixed stock, folding stock, and suppressed.

The weapon's 20- or 30-round translucent magazines feature integral studs, allowing the shooter to clip two magazines together. The Mini SAF mounts a much shorter barrel; it features no stock assembly but has a forward handgrip. The SAF series of submachine guns is currently in production for undisclosed clients.

### Peru

*Peru Ministry of Defense.* The state-owned SIMA-Electronica organization has developed a number of noteworthy 9x19mm Parabellum submachine gun designs since its inception in 1982.

### *MGP-79 & MGP-87*

The stockless MGP-79 was the first design the firm produced in quantity, largely for Peruvian police and internal security units. By the mid-1980s, the firm had introduced the improved MGP-79A. Another new design, the MGP-87, also entered service at that time.

Each of these weapons features a rather conservative blowback design. While all three are somewhat larger and heavier than other weapons of this type, they have earned a reputation in the market for their ruggedness and ease of use. All three submachine guns are now out of production.

### *MGP-84 Series*

In 1986, the firm developed a more compact and lighter submachine gun, the 9x19mm Parabellum MGP-84. This weapon is a compact blowback design that houses the magazine in the pistol grip. Notably, the barrel does not protrude from the body of the weapon, giving the weapon a 28.4-centimeter (11.18-in) overall length.

Based on the MGP-84, the 9x19mm Parabellum MGP-14 Micro features a vertical foregrip in lieu of a folding stock. Another variant, targeting the commercial market, is the semi-automatic 9x19mm Parabellum MGP-14 pistol-carbine. Since adopting the MGP-84 series of submachine guns in 1988, Peru has sold the weapons to Argentina, Honduras, and Mexico. The MGP-84 series remains in production.

**Analysis.** Since its introduction near the end of the First World War, the submachine gun has always been something of a bastard child in the small arms industry.

### *Ill-Defined Role*

Filling an ill-defined role somewhere between the personal sidearm (pistol) and the full-size battle rifle, the pistol-caliber submachine gun could only offer its compact size and high rate of fire as its defining virtues, mitigating its short range and relatively ineffective ammunition. The increasingly more compact battle carbines are fast eclipsing the submachine gun's niche market in general service worldwide.

### *Mystique vs. Utility*

Yet the submachine gun remains a popular weapon, perhaps more because of its mystique than its actual utility in combat. The images from the Second World War of Thompson submachine guns and MP38/40

## Submachine Guns (International)

machine pistols remain solidly entrenched in popular culture. The popularity of the Heckler & Koch MP5 with special operations forces worldwide as the weapon of choice for highly specialized urban assault and close-quarters combat missions propelled the submachine gun to a completely new level of popularity. By 1988, the MP5 had a worldwide production rate of 1,000 weapons per week.

The development of new types of intermediate-caliber battle carbines is likely to be the most significant factor affecting the submachine gun market going forward. However, many countries simply cannot afford to

develop and procure new "families" of modular small arms that would supplant the submachine gun in general use.

### *No Experience Necessary*

Further, the submachine gun is particularly suitable for armed forces fielding troops with only limited small arms training. For such forces, "spray and pray" fire techniques must suffice. For these practical reasons, as well as continued mystique-driven popular demand, the submachine gun will continue to survive as a significant component of most armed forces worldwide.



## UZI SMG

9x19mm Parabellum Uzi Submachine Gun

Source: Israel Weapon Industries Ltd

## Funding

---

The various contractors, some of which are government-owned enterprises or state-owned arsenals, fund the development of submachine guns.

## Timetable

---

We believe the current crop of non-U.S. and non-European submachine guns will remain in serial production through the forecast period. Those firms currently producing designs under license will likely develop their own designs in the mid- to long-term of the forecast period.

## Worldwide Distribution/Inventories

---

**Export Potential.** Most non-U.S. and non-European submachine gun manufacturers produce their weapons primarily for domestic procurement and sales. While Heckler & Koch and Beretta continue to dominate the

## Submachine Guns (International)

international market for submachine guns, some other firms, such as IWI and, to a lesser extent, Thales Australia, are emerging as major players.

**Countries.** Because most contracts go unreported, it is virtually impossible to determine the precise distribution of submachine guns on the international market.

## Forecast Rationale

The encroachment of modern, compact intermediate-caliber battle carbines has less of an impact on the international submachine gun market than on its European counterpart. Many countries simply cannot afford to develop and procure new "families" of modular small arms. Further, the submachine gun is particularly suitable for armed forces fielding troops with only limited small arms training. For these practical reasons, as well as continued mystique-driven popular demand, the submachine gun will continue to survive as a significant component of most armed forces worldwide.

Furthermore, the near-universal adoption of the Heckler & Koch MP5 by special operations forces worldwide as the weapon of choice for highly specialized urban assault and close-quarters combat missions propelled the submachine gun to a new level of popularity.

Thus, while total submachine gun production has declined significantly over the past two decades, the

number of new players and programs has actually increased since the early 1990s. This reflects an international phenomenon of an increasing number of smaller players in what remains a relatively stable market dominated by select major players.

### *Emerging Players*

While the established European players – notably Heckler & Koch and Beretta – continue to dominate the international market, Israel Weapon Industries and Thales Australia have emerged as the major non-European players.

### *Stable Market*

The Forecast International Weapons Group expects a continued steady demand by military, paramilitary, and police forces worldwide for non-U.S. and non-European submachine guns. The combined output of the manufacturers in this market segment will average 10,000 weapons per year.

\* \* \*