



# Merkavim Transportation Technologies Ltd.



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**M**erkavim is the largest manufacturer of bus bodies in Israel. With an international reputation for high quality, highly reliable purpose-built vehicles for public and tourist transportation, Merkavim specializes in the production of cost effective city buses, inter-city buses, coaches and armored buses.

## The Mars Defender

The ultimate passenger protection against terrorist attack, Merkavim's Mars Defender is the most effectively armored bus in the world. The attractive modern exterior and interior design hide MIL-STD 461000 High Hardness Steel (HHS) armor covering the entire envelope - sides, front, roof and floor - which offers protection against 7.62 AP bullets, grenades and IEDs, while its opaque armor is capable defeating a blast of 15 kg TNT from up to 5 meters distance. Two quickly and easily opened emergency hatches are installed in the roof and rear wall of the bus, while all 8 wheels are fitted with runflate systems.

## Design and Production

The Defender's functional design and production were carried out in accordance with the stringent requirements of the Israeli Defense Authorities and with their full cooperation. The bus complies with all Israeli Ministry of Transportation and European safety Standards as well as EC R66 anti-rollover standard.



## Volvo Chassis

The Mars Defender is built on a Volvo B11R 6x2 chassis equipped with two rear axels, enabling it to carry its own weight plus 53 passengers and driver. The body is built of stainless steel using state-of-the-art technology and the bus is fitted to full tourist specification including air-conditioner adapted to high ambient temperatures, ergonomic seats, large baggage racks and highly convenient driver's panel. The bus comes fully equipped with refrigerator and roll-down blinds for all passengers and for the driver - electrically operated external mirrors and internally operated pneumatic baggage compartment doors.

## Innovative Production Facility

Located in Caesarea, central Israel, Merkavim's new state-of-the-art production facility is one of the most advanced in the world, offering the following advantages:

- Over 480 Highly Skilled Professional Staff
- 100,000 Square Meters Production Facility
- SAP -Information System
- Production Flexibility
- ISO 9001 Certification
- Computerized R&D

## Ownership

Mayer's Cars and Trucks Ltd. ....	73.5%
Volvo Bus Corporation .....	26.5%

## Annual Sales

\$60 million