


A well-known Israeli real estate investor opens an Israeli-Hungarian defense industrial center in Budapest

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Arie Yom-Tov – Fotó: The GlassHouse Kolosy



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Arie Yom-Tov, an Israeli investor who has been living in Hungary for a long time, is organizing a defense industrial center (hub) in Budapest. As the businessman told Telex, he wants to establish at least 20 Hungarian-Israeli defense industrial joint ventures within five years, creating 800 new, high-quality jobs, where the goal is to reach a total revenue of about 70 billion forints in five years. The essence of the model is that the innovative joint ventures of the Israeli defense industry, representing an extremely high technological level, will come closer to the growing European defense market,

"There should be no need to take potential buyers to Israel, but it would be more reassuring to bring Israeli technology to Budapest"

– said the businessman.

Arie Yom-Tov is known for many domestic real estate projects, the



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purchased from a company linked to Tiborczeek



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During the campaign, Péter Magyar was never invited by the public media, while politicians from opposition parties with immense support were invited several times.

presented, is almost completely ready. As he said, the other leg of the project, Hungarian production, is perhaps even more important: Kaboom Technologies, the company behind the project, organizes production in Hungary for Israeli defense companies struggling with capacity problems.

The businessman still has real estate projects, the largest of which is a seaside apartment park [on the island of Samos](#) in Greece, but his attention has recently turned more towards the defense industry. The appreciation of the defense sector during the Iran war hardly needs to be explained, just as the turn in Europe that US President Donald Trump will be less interested in defending Europe in the future is also important. The EU has a defense budget of nearly six hundred billion euros for armaments, and it is worth basing a business on this – and if the place of production is Hungary, then it qualifies as EU production.

Moreover, Ukraine's constant military needs (for example, ammunition) also highlight the scarcity of European capacities. Arie Yom-Tov also mentioned October 7, 2023, a date that, according to him, could change the way we think about security throughout the developed world after the brutal Israeli action against Hamas civilians.

At such times, Israeli advanced prevention tools become highly valued worldwide, and even today there are sometimes waiting

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has Zoom meetings with Israeli companies that the partner naturally interrupts for 15 minutes because there is an air raid. Israel is in a better position in that it has a long-standing, very serious infrastructure in preventive air defense and shelters, but Europe, or the smaller Gulf states that have recently been attacked, were not prepared for this.

"The Arab states may not love us any more today than they did yesterday, but they simply need our modern technology. The Saudis are not our friends, but if their opponents are constantly shooting at the infrastructure of the Saudi Aramco oil company, then there will be a need to protect it as well."

Growing risks

Europe is already not a safe place, the businessman believes, but with the expansion of the current war and, for example, Iran's long-range weapons, the situation could easily worsen. The increase in the risk of drone attacks is well indicated by the fact that in 2025 there were several occasions when [European airports had to be closed due to drone movements](#), a similar closure had only been seen during World War II.

The new center does not primarily want to sell weapons to the Hungarian authorities: for Israel, Budapest is more of a starting point, a

A meglepő háztartási tárgy, amely alvási apnoét okozhat

favor of the Palestinians, attacks on Jewish communities, or the frenzied crowds welcoming Israeli fans during football matches. According to the businessman, the purchase of various devices is still mainly a state task, but he can imagine that valuable plants, such as a power plant, could purchase anti-drone devices in their own well-considered interests.

The central idea of the Kaboom project is therefore to bring together Israeli capital and technology, as well as a skilled Hungarian workforce from the automotive sector, in other words, to have Israeli companies manufacture here.

“Today we see many companies that used to be subcontractors for giant automotive companies, but now they barely have any work.”

The Israelis' primary goal is to create products made in Hungary, that is, in the EU, which can be sold better if European buyers are encouraged to buy European-made defense products. However, according to Arie Yom-Tov, this will not only be an assembly role, as part of the companies' research and development departments could also come here.

When asked if he was afraid that a Hungarian-Israeli military industrial hub being built in Budapest would be an invitation to European Muslim



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As we heard, the showroom will not represent the largest Israeli companies, but rather medium-sized ones. We have heard of several of these.

One such example is [Faception](#), which is an advanced, AI-based facial recognition and personality analysis technology, meaning the program can filter out terrorist suspects even if they don't have a file yet.

Masobi [Armour](#) manufactures modern protective equipment.

Xtend [is](#) an emerging company in the AI-powered drone industry, focusing on developing advanced unmanned aerial systems (UAS) and integrated operational software.

Capture [Systems](#) also specializes in defense and security solutions, particularly in the areas of surveillance, situational awareness, anti-drone and remote-controlled weapon systems.

Finally, [RT LTA Systems](#) is an aerospace company that develops airborne intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance (ISR) systems.

Used car, defense, real estate

And then a few words about the investor himself! In 2016, [Átlátszó](#) wrote a portrait of the businessman under the title "Investor or Bulldozer?" [Arie](#)

which was the state-owned [Israeli Aerospace Industry \(IAI\)](#) .

Later, when developing bank financing and regulation made it possible, he continued with larger real estate projects, but he also had his own security company, for example, providing services in shopping malls. His two largest projects were the development of Gozsdu Udvar and Le Meridien Hotel. Hardly all of his ventures were successful, and a search for his name in the Opten company information system shows that several of the many companies he represented or owned were in liquidation.

Among his current activities in Hungary, it can also be mentioned that he owns the [365 Oldtimer Museum](#) on Kolosy Square and the [Rege Residence](#) luxury seniors' home.

This year, he made the news when his daughter, dressage champion Yom-Tov Jázmin, bought an 8-hectare development area on Népsziget, the former property of the Ganz Shipyard, for 2.9 billion forints. [Átlátszó](#) recently wrote an article about this.

The investor spoke of the development on Népsziget as his own project. According to Yom-Tov, Budapest needs a nice, renovated, indoor, i.e. year-round, but basically outdoor amusement park. When asked about the location not being the most ideal in terms of flooding, the

to be built, only old ones will have to be renovated. The businessman does not yet know whether he will complete the construction of the amusement park from start to finish alone, or whether he will later involve a partner in a joint venture, or perhaps sell the project.

As he said, these developments are also important on a larger scale, because if there are enough programs in Budapest and good marketing, there is a huge potential in Hungarian tourism. In the past, foreigners spent an average of only 2 days in Hungary, many stayed in Vienna and only came over for a day, or were on an Eastern European cruise, where they had one day in a capital. Today, the number of nights spent here is increasing gratifyingly. Tourism accounts for nearly 10 percent of GDP, so if good programs can keep guests here longer, there is potential for GDP growth.

Arie Yom-Tov's companies are private companies, private investments, often with foreign backing, and project companies. The businessman said that he tries to involve his daughter and two sons in his businesses.

We also tried to find out how politically dependent the defense industrial center project is, and whether they already have any connections with the authorities and the sector's favorite government-friendly company, 4iG.

completely regardless of the election result, and although he knows Gellért Jászai, the owner and president of 4iG, personally from the real estate industry, he and 4iG work in quite different product markets, which means that he believes they can fit together.

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