



**Ministry of Industry, Trade and Employment
Office of the Spokesperson**

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The BIRD Foundation, the U.S.-Israel Bi-National Fund, is Investing \$4.2 million in 6 Communications, Electronics, Software and Medical Equipment Projects.

The Projects approved include advanced technological developments, such as the development of an advanced Capsule Endoscope, an artificial retina and high-speed communications devices, supporting the increasing need for wider bands for the transmission of visual information.

Among the American partners are companies such as McGraw-Hill, Infocus and eGtran.

The BIRD Foundation, the bi-national Israeli-U.S. industrial cooperation fund, at its Board of Governors meeting held this week approved investments amounting to \$4.2 million in six new projects, the total budgets of which amount to \$18 million, all of them the result of collaboration between Israel and American companies.

The BIRD Foundation acts to encourage collaboration between Israeli and American companies in various fields of technology, and assists in locating strategic partners in both nations for the development of a shared product. The projects approved at the Board of Governors meeting can be added to over 800 projects in which the BIRD Foundation has invested over \$270 million over 32 years of activity. To date, these projects have created direct and indirect sales of over \$8 billion.

With this investment the BIRD Foundation completes a year in which 13 projects were approved with a total investment of \$8.7 million, and in which BIRD Energy started its activities with a \$3.3 million investment.

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Dr. Eitan Yudilevich, Executive Director of the BIRD Foundation, says that "We are proud of our partnership with the U.S. Department of Energy and the Israeli Ministry of National Infrastructures. These investments, as well as investments recently approved by the Board of Governors, constitute a significant economic and social contribution to both countries, including in the advancement of the field of personal security and in energy independence and greenhouse gas emission reduction."

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Chief Scientist and Chairman of the Foundation, Dr. Eli Oppen says that "The BIRD Foundation is an example of a successful partnership between the U.S. and Israel and it has contributed much to both nations. We are currently acting to increase the Foundation's financing ability."

Background: the BIRD Foundation:

The BIRD Foundation is the Israeli-U.S. bi-national research and development fund. The fund acts to encourage collaboration between Israeli and American companies in various fields of technology, and helps them, free of charge, to locate strategic partners in either country, for joint product development projects.

In its 32 years the Foundation has invested in over 800 projects, which have produced direct and indirect sales amounting to \$8 billion. The BIRD Foundation supports projects without receiving any rights in the participating companies or the project itself. The payments to the companies are refunded from sales. The Foundation supports up to 50% of a project's budget, starting with R&D and ending at initial sales and marketing stages. The Foundation participates in the risk and does not ask for a refund in cases where the project does not reach the sales stage. The BIRD Foundation cooperates fully with the Chief Scientist's Office at the Ministry of Industry and Trade and with the NIST. Visit its website at www.BIRDf.com.

Israeli Company	US Company	Project	Area
Given Imaging	Magnetecs	Magnetically Guided Capsule Endoscope	Medical Devices
MultiPhy	eGtran	100GE Transceiver – for the transmission of very high volumes of data	Communications/ High Speed Optical
RAD Data Communication	NeoPhotonics	Miniature Rate and Protocol Converters in communication Module	Communications/ Networking
Rainbow Medical	ZyvexLabs	Nano Retina, artificial retina	Medical Devices
Tegrity	McGraw-Hill Higher Education	Lotus -Advanced Learning System	Software/ Education
Wisair	Infocus	Enhanced Wireless USB Projector Adapter	Electronics

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