



**Dr. Eitan Yudilevich**  
Executive Director

## **40 Years of Commitment to U.S. - Israel Collaboration**

*“.....Convinced that applied scientific cooperation between the two countries in industrial research and development will strengthen the bonds of friendship and understanding between their people and advance the state of industrial research and development to the benefit of both countries.....”*

These visionary words are part of the preamble to the U.S.-Israel agreement establishing the BIRD Foundation, inaugurated on May 18, 1977.

Forty years have passed. The Foundation has fulfilled its mission by maintaining the significance of a well-established model, while at the same time, keeping up with a changing global environment.

There is much value in learning from the past, which we constantly do in order to improve. It is also important to summarize and celebrate passed achievements. In the coming year, we are planning to celebrate four decades of promoting and supporting joint U.S.-Israel research and development for mutual benefit.

## **BIRD Celebrates Latest Project Approvals and Honors Outgoing BIRD Co-Chairman, Avi Hasson, at December 2016 Reception**

BIRD celebrated the selection of eight new projects at the residence of U.S. Ambassador Dan Shapiro on December 14, 2016. The reception followed BIRD's semi-annual Board of Governor's meeting where the new projects between U.S. and Israeli companies were approved.



The celebration also offered the opportunity to honor outgoing BIRD Co-Chairman and Chief Scientist of the Ministry of the Economy, Mr. Avi Hasson. Since 2011, Mr. Hasson has contributed to the selection of 120 BIRD projects by bringing to BIRD his unique combination of expertise and knowledge of technology, economy, business and venture capital.



## **BIRD Celebrated its Eighth Annual BIRD Energy Funding Cycle**

BIRD celebrated its eighth annual **BIRD Energy** funding cycle on October 26, 2016 at the Bible Land Museum in Jerusalem.



Introductory remarks were made by BIRD's Executive Director, **Dr. Eitan Yudilevich**, **Dr. Bracha Halaf**, Chief Scientist (Acting), Ministry of National Infrastructures, Energy and Water Resources, **Mr. Israel Shamay**, Executive Director Americas, Israel Innovation Authority, **Mr. Rob Sandoli**, Director, International Program, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, U.S. Department of Energy, **Mr. Jonathan Shrier**, Economic Counselor, Embassy of the United States, Tel Aviv, Israel. Keynote Speaker was **Mr. Jack Levy**, Partner, Israel Cleantech Venture

The next submission deadline for BIRD Energy is June 2017.

## New Program to support Innovations for "NextGen First Responder Technologies" Continues in 2017



### Timetable and deadlines:

**Executive Summary – February 15, 2017**

**Final Proposal - April 5, 2017**

**Decisions - June 2017**

BIRD announces its second annual cycle for U.S-Israel joint development of advanced technologies for First Responders. Funding is up to 50% of a project's combined R&D budget, maximum grant, \$1M. The deadline for Executive Summaries is February 15, 2017. Projects will be selected in June, 2017.

Funding for this program comes from an agreement between the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Israel Ministry of Public Security (MOPS). One of the two project partners can be a university or research institution. This program seeks innovations in areas such as Command, Control and Coordination, Communications, Data Analysis, Explosive & Hazards Detection, Protective Clothing, Sensors, Simulation & Training, Situational Awareness, Wearable Technologies and others.

## Event to promote BIRD NextGen First Responders to be held in Philadelphia, PA on January 25, 2017



An event to promote the NextGen First Responders initiative will be held on January 25, 2017 in Philadelphia, PA at University City Science Center. The half day event, NextGen First Responders & HLS Technologies Summit, is being hosted by the Philadelphia Israel Chamber of Commerce along with BIRD, the Israeli Economic Mission to North America, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the City of Philadelphia and others. Some of the participating U.S. companies include American Airlines, BNY

Mellon, Leidos, Tyco and Israeli companies Beeper, Cellebrite, Cityshob, HiRise Tech, Laser Ammo, RadiFlow and others. The event will feature a discussion on the topic of: Exploring Capability Gaps to Better Respond to Large Scale Events and Protect Critical Infrastructure and Commercial Continuity . [REGISTER TODAY](#) and spread the word to others in your network.

## Delegation of Israeli Ag-Tech Companies to Visit Missouri and California, March 5-9



A delegation of Israeli Ag-Tech companies will visit St. Louis, MO and California **March 5-9** to meet with major U.S. Industry stakeholders and explore business opportunities and collaborations.

The visit offers a focused opportunity for the companies to present their technologies and have meetings with investors, ag tech companies and farmers' organizations with the goal of fostering investments, collaborations, sales and marketing alliances.

The visit is organized by the BIRD Foundation and Israel Economic Mission in Chicago and in San Francisco, in cooperation with BioSTL.

## Spotlight on BIRD Project: Timocco and Rhode Island Hospital

Timocco and Rhode Island Hasbro Children's Hospital of Brown University launched their new gaming platform for Children with special needs at the Meeting Street School in Providence Rhode Island on November 18, 2016. The online skills development therapeutic gaming platform was developed as part of a BIRD funded project approved in 2014. The BIRD grant has allowed the two partners to develop Timocco's web-based therapeutic game platform for children with physical challenges, including those in wheelchairs and with spastic cerebral palsy and other motor and cognitive disabilities.



Timocco CEO, Eran Arden and Rhode Island Hospital's Dr. Trey J.J Crisco spoke along with Andrea Yonah representing BIRD and a representative of the State of Rhode Island's Economic Development Corporation. A child demonstrated how the games work and everyone was welcome to test it out.

## BIRD's Ron Maron Judges Innovative Start-ups at Ocean Exchange 2016 Event in Savannah, GA

As part of BIRD's continuing effort to seek out new opportunities for collaborations between U.S. and Israeli companies, BIRD's Ron Maron traveled to Savannah, GA where he participated as a judge in a competition to select innovative solutions at the Sixth Annual Ocean Exchange's 2016 Event, November 9-11. Dr. Maron was recommended by a former Ocean Exchange finalist and BIRD grantee, ECONcrete, who made the contest's final cut in 2012 and was granted approval for BIRD funding in 2015 (with

their U.S. partner, Besser company) for their innovative concrete products that improve and enhance coastal and marine infrastructure.

Ocean Exchange is an international platform that presents start-ups with a yearly \$100,000 award for solutions that positively impact the environment, economies and health systems. Fifteen finalists were selected from an international group of start-ups. Judges looked for solutions that generate economic growth and increase productivity while reducing the use of nature's resources and the production of waste.

The winner of the 2016 award was Sun Buckets, a U.S. based start-up from Champaign, IL who presented their portable, stored solar energy cookstove that allows users to cook without fire, fuel or emissions.

According to Dr. Maron, there is much synergy between Ocean Exchange and BIRD and he looks forward to collaborating with them to seek out companies in the U.S. and Israel with innovative solutions that contribute to our environment and to society, overall.

## BIRD Call for Proposals



BIRD's next general cycle including all technology sectors will include the following dates:

**Executive Summaries** : March 3, 2017

**Full Proposals**: April 5, 2017

**Decisions**: June 14, 2017

## BIRD Energy Call for Proposals



Deadlines for the next **BIRD Energy** cycle:

**Executive Summaries** - July 6, 2017

**Final Proposals** - August 21, 2017

**Decisions** - October 25, 2017

"**BIRD Energy**" was established following an agreement between the U.S. Department of Energy/EERE and the Ministry of National Infrastructures, Energy and Water Resources (MIEW) to promote and support R&D cooperation on advancing renewable energy and energy . Project funding is shared by the U.S. and Israeli governments and by private industry matching, using the standard "BIRD model."

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