



**Dr. Eitan Yudilevich**  
Executive Director

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

In July 1977, at the U.S. Department of Commerce, the BIRD Foundation's Board of Governors (BOG) held its inaugural meeting, marking the beginning of what would become a tradition of collaboration between U.S. and Israeli officials to discuss and select promising innovations, jointly presented by U.S. and Israeli companies.

After 40 years, on June 13, 2017, the BOG met at a U.S. State Department facility, in Washington, D.C., followed by a great 40th Anniversary celebration at the National Museum of American History (more on the celebration in a dedicated article below). The day before the BOG meeting, representatives from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Ministry of Public Security (MOPS) met to discuss joint U.S.-Israeli projects submitted to the second annual cycle of the BIRD First Responders program. At the BOG meeting, 11 projects were approved, three of them for the DHS-MOPS First Responders program.

In general, first responders are in great need of solutions to support safe, efficient and effective response to everyday emergencies. One important element of any modern solution includes the use of advanced technologies, properly developed or adapted to the varied and special circumstances in which first responders operate. The use of technology is now ubiquitous in the missions of individual infantry soldiers from advanced armies. However, the cost of equipment is still very high. For first responders, the need is not only to develop hi-tech solutions well matched to their missions, but also to take into consideration the affordability of such solutions.

First responders are on the job 24/7, during routine and, especially critical, during catastrophic natural or man-made disasters, something we see happening every day in different parts of the world. For entrepreneurs and companies this can be a significant market. The next Call for Proposals for the BIRD First Responders program is expected to be published in November 2017.

As demonstrated by the BIRD First Responders program, after 40 years, the BIRD Foundation continues to find new avenues to enhance the power of innovation through U.S.-Israel collaboration, bringing important solutions for global needs.

## BIRD Celebrates 40th Anniversary at the National Museum of American History

BIRD celebrated 40 years of U.S.-Israel collaboration and innovation on June 14 in Washington DC at the National Museum of American History. The reception was held at the museum's special wing dedicated to innovation. Guests had the opportunity to explore exhibits focusing on American Enterprise and Places of Invention/Inventive Minds. It was a most appropriate backdrop to highlight the success and evolution of BIRD and the positive technological and economic impact made by the Foundation which continues to serve as an important catalyst for joint U.S.-Israel Innovation.

In honor of the 40th anniversary, BIRD presented its own exhibit, an Interactive Project Database, where guests could browse through hundreds of BIRD projects viewed by year, industry sector and U.S. state. [BIRD's Interactive Project Database](#) is now available online for all to explore. In addition to welcoming remarks given by both U.S. and Israeli dignitaries, a panel comprised of five successful BIRD grantees, discussed how their joint collaborations contributed to the success of their companies. In honor of the 40th anniversary, a video was also produced and debuted at the reception which highlighted these successful projects and described their technology and final products. [Click here to watch the videos](#). The celebration will continue in December as we recognize this successful milestone once again in Israel.



BIRD Reception: Greetings and Speaker's Panel



BIRD's Interactive Database

## BIRD Funding Cycles

### BIRD Approves Eight New Projects in General Technology Cycle

In its first bi-annual cycle of 2017, BIRD selected eight new projects for a total investment of \$7M in the areas of autonomous vehicles, biotechnology, digital health, homeland security, nanotechnology and others.

### BIRD Approves Three First Responder Projects in Second Annual Cycle

BIRD completed its second annual cycle of funding for advanced technologies for first responders, approving three new projects with an investment of \$2.75M.

## BIRD Promotes Collaborations Involving Technologies Related to Advanced Manufacturing

There is much buzz of late revolving around the topic of Advanced Manufacturing. Both the U.S. and Israeli governments have prioritized this area in order to increase their global competitiveness and strengthen each country's existing manufacturing base through innovation. Recently, BIRD's Limor Nakar-Vincent, authored an article entitled, Israel Can Help Lead the Advanced Manufacturing Revolution which takes a look at how Israel is contributing to this area and highlights specific Israeli companies and technologies as well as relevant projects BIRD has funded. As with all new areas of innovation, BIRD looks to promote and ultimately fund new projects relating to advanced manufacturing by actively seeking out companies with relevant technologies in both countries and bringing them together.

On November 12-14, 2017, BIRD is partnering with other Israeli government organizations to host a symposium in Tel Aviv, "Driving Prosperity through Industry 4.0" which will explore how Israel's vibrant innovation ecosystem can usher in the next phase of industrial production and economic growth. Interested U.S. and Israeli companies should contact Ms. Limor Nakar-Vincent at [limorn@birdf.com](mailto:limorn@birdf.com) for more information.

## U.S.- Israel NextGen First Responders/HLS Summit to be Held on November 15, 2017 in Chicago, IL

An event promoting BIRD's program to fund technologies for First Responders will be held on November 15, 2017 in Chicago, IL in collaboration with the Israel Economic Mission to the Midwest. First Responder agencies, companies from the U.S. and Israel, and government officials including Daniel Cotter, Director of First Responders Group, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, will discuss new technologies for responding to large scale events, protecting critical infrastructure and more. Contact Andrea Yonah at [andrey@birdf.com](mailto:andrey@birdf.com) for more information.

## Rhode Island Israel Collaborative (RIIC) to represent BIRD in Rhode Island

A new organization, the Rhode Island Israel Collaborative (RIIC), was recently formed to strengthen the relationship between Israel and Rhode Island. The RIIC will work to connect businesses as well as academic and research organizations. They will also serve as BIRD's official representative to Rhode Island, which though the smallest U.S. State, already boasts several successful BIRD funded projects.



Left photo: Avi Nevel, CEO and President, RIIC, Ella Hood, Board Member, Limor Nakar - Vincent, Deputy Executive Director of Business Development & BIRD Energy, Misha Joukowsky, President, Crawford High Performance Composites and Dr. Eitan Yudilevich, Executive Director, BIRD Foundation

Right photo: Avi Nevel, CEO and President RIIC, Andrea Yonah, East Coast Representative of the BIRD Foundation, Misha Joukowsky, President Crawford High Performance Composites, Daniel Barel, CEO, SoftWheel and Natalie Galperin, CFO, BIRD Foundation

## BIRD Honors Dr. Yuval Weiss's 19 Years of Service



BIRD says farewell to its longtime Chief Business Officer, Dr. Yuval Weiss, who has retired after 19 years with the BIRD Foundation. For all of us who have had the great pleasure of working with Yuval, we will miss his friendship, sense of humor, and the professional knowledge and expertise he brought to BIRD.

Dr. Yuval Weiss was honored at BIRD's June 2017 Board of Governors

## Tal Kelem, Moran Lazar and Oshrat Attias join the BIRD Team



### Tal Kelem is BIRD's new Director of Business Development

Tal comes with many years of experience working in the public and private sectors and has played an active role in Israel's high tech ecosystem. Most recently, he was Director of TheHive Ashdod, a startup accelerator for Israeli entrepreneurs.



### Moran Lazar joins BIRD as the new Finance Manager

Prior to BIRD, Moran worked in Elop's (subsidiary of Elbit systems) finance department where she was in charge of the preparation and analysis of the company's financial data. Prior to Elop, Moran worked at KPMG conducting audits of public international companies and accompanying companies through the IPO process.



### Oshrat Attias joins the BIRD team as BIRD's Administrative Assistant

Oshrat brings with her over ten years of experience in Senior Administrative Assistance from Ormat Technologies Inc., a worldwide company in the field of Geothermal Energy. Prior to Ormat, Oshrat worked as an English teacher in high school.

Please join us in welcoming Tal, Moran and Oshrat to BIRD!

## Join BIRD on Facebook!



Find us on Facebook

**BIRD Foundation - Israel-U.S.  
Binational Industrial R&D**



Join our Facebook Page and get the latest news about our activities, events and hot topics in the U.S. and Israeli high-tech scenes.