

BIRD – Israel-U.S. Binational Industrial R&D Foundation to Invest \$1.5 Million in Two New Projects to Foster Advanced Technologies for Homeland Security

The selected projects address diverse needs in the areas of public security and safety

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The Israel-U.S. Binational Industrial Research and Development (BIRD) Foundation has awarded funding to two homeland security projects between U.S. and Israeli companies, selected by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate (S&T), the Ministry of Public Security (MOPS) of the State of Israel and approved by the BIRD Foundation's Board of Governors, to advance technologies for homeland security.

In addition to the grants from BIRD, the projects will access private sector funding, boosting the total value for the projects to approximately \$3 million.

The two joint projects that were approved are:

- **Levitection** (Haifa, Israel) and **Liberty Defense Technologies** (Peachtree Corners, Georgia) will develop a detection solution based on electromagnetic imaging and artificial intelligence to detect threats and concealed items in wide-open areas.
- **Ception Technologies** (Jerusalem, Israel) and **Hivemapper** (Burlingame, California) will develop a Fused Air and Ground 3D Mapping System.

Since 2016, DHS S&T and MOPS have partnered to fund technology collaborations between U.S. and Israeli partners that address Homeland Security (HLS) needs of both countries and have significant commercial potential. This joint research effort currently supports the development of technologies in the following areas: Cyber Crime; Critical Infrastructure and Public Facilities; Safe and Secure Cities; Border Protection; Unmanned Aerial Systems; Advanced Technologies for First Responders.

The BIRD Foundation promotes collaboration between U.S. and Israeli companies in various technological fields for the purpose of joint product development. In addition to providing

conditional grants of up to \$1 million for approved projects, the Foundation assists by working with companies to identify potential strategic partners and facilitate introductions.

Projects submitted for consideration are reviewed by representatives of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the Israel Innovation Authority and experts from the Israeli Ministry of Public Security.

“The 2020 selections reflect DHS S&T’s and MOPS’ important and broad homeland security interest areas,” said **Megan Mahle, DHS S&T Industry Partnership Director**. “We’re looking forward to seeing the impact of these new strategic collaborations.”

Dr. Gad Frishman, Chief Scientist, Israel Ministry of Public Security, said: "BIRD HLS enables us to enhance public safety in Israel and in the United States by supporting the development of innovative technologies to support law enforcement, prevent crime and violence, and by developing new rescue tools and methods for fire and emergency cases, all for the benefit of both countries.”

Dr. Eitan Yudilevich, Executive Director of the BIRD Foundation, said, “We are pleased to announce the newly selected BIRD Homeland Security projects that will fulfill critical homeland security needs in both countries. This is the fifth year of the program that was initiated to develop new technologies for first responders, and was expanded to respond to additional needs that will secure public safety. We look forward to continuing our work with the DHS and the Israel Ministry of Public Security.”

About the BIRD Foundation:

The BIRD (Binational Industrial Research and Development) Foundation works to encourage and facilitate cooperation between U.S. and Israeli companies in a wide range of technology sectors and offers funding to selected projects. The BIRD Foundation supports projects without receiving any equity or intellectual property rights in the participating companies or in the projects, themselves. BIRD funding is repaid as royalties from sales of products that were commercialized as a result of BIRD support. The Foundation provides funding of up to 50% of a project's budget, beginning with R&D and ending with the initial stages of sales and marketing. The Foundation shares the risk and does not require repayment if the project fails to reach the sales stage.