



**---Press Release---**

**Detecting Fraud in Real Time, Scanning for Improvised Explosives, and Advancing Wildfire Situational Awareness - BIRD Invests in Three Threat Detection Technologies**

**The Israel-U.S. Binational Industrial R&D (BIRD) Foundation to Invest in Groundbreaking Detection Technologies for Homeland Security with a total value of \$6.3 million**

In an effort to supply Israeli and U.S. first responders with the most advanced tools to fight crime and save lives, the Israel-U.S. Binational Industrial Research and Development (BIRD) Foundation has awarded funding to three new breakthrough homeland security projects, each between a U.S. and an Israeli company, dealing with early detection of threats. The projects were selected by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate (S&T), the Israel Ministry of National Security (IMNS), and were approved by the BIRD Foundation's Board of Governors. The combined total value of the three projects is approximately \$6.3 million.

**The projects are:**

- [Validit.ai](#) (Haifa, Israel) and [Inspire Labs](#) (New York, New York) will develop a real-time biofeedback-based fraud detection platform for HLS-wide field deployment.
- [NeuralGuard](#) (Netanya, Israel) and [Point Security](#) (Lexington, North Carolina) will develop an AI auto detection system of improvised explosive devices for X-ray.
- [NextVision Stabilized Systems](#) (Raanana, Israel) and [Data Blanket](#) (Bellevue, Washington) will develop an airborne sensors and computer vision system for wildfire suppression and real-time situation awareness in HLS and disaster response applications.

Since 2016, DHS S&T and IMNS have partnered to fund technology collaboration between U.S. and Israeli R&D companies, addressing the homeland security needs of both countries, and demonstrating significant commercial potential. This joint research effort supports technologies

in the areas of Critical Infrastructure and Public Facilities, Safe and Secure Cities, Border Protection, Unmanned Aerial Systems, and Advanced Technologies for First Responders. Projects submitted for consideration are reviewed by experts from DHS S&T, the Israel Innovation Authority and IMNS.

“DHS S&T is pleased to mark the eighth year of our partnership with IMNS and the BIRD Foundation with the selection of these innovative projects that will benefit the homeland security enterprise and significantly improve first responders’ decision-making capabilities,” **said Ms. Megan Mahle, Director of DHS S&T Industry Partnerships.** “The BIRD Homeland Security (HLS) Program has been instrumental in fostering U.S.-Israeli partnerships to develop leading-edge technology solutions and we look forward to seeing the successful outcomes from these awards.”

“We continue to explore for new technologies and to support those projects that may bring high value for Israeli first responders” said **Dr. Gad Frishman, Chief Scientist, IMNS.** “The BIRD HLS program established an important dialogue with DHS regarding both countries’ priorities in security preparedness. We hope that the tight collaboration with DHS in supporting cooperation between U.S. and Israeli companies will continue in the coming years and will serve the needs of both countries.”

**Jaron Lotan, Executive Director of the BIRD Foundation, said:** “Recent events in Israel lead to increased need and motivation to invest in technologies that can improve early detection of threats and upgrade the preparedness of first responders. This year we saw several such submissions that have the potential to improve capabilities in both Israel and U.S. The three granted projects, all of them focused on early detection of different threats, are a good indication of the futuristic tools that will serve first responders in the years to come. The BIRD HLS program continues to prove itself as a great platform for collaboration between the U.S. and Israel, and we congratulate both IMNS and DHS on their ongoing collaboration within the BIRD HLS program and with the BIRD Foundation.

#### **About the BIRD Foundation:**

The BIRD (Binational Industrial Research and Development) Foundation encourages and facilitates 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 participating companies or their projects.

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. In addition to providing conditional grants for approved projects, the Foundation assists by working with companies to identify potential strategic partners and facilitate introductions.