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Arizona Israel Technology Alliance Partners with the BIRD Foundation in Arizona to Promote Partnerships between Arizona and Israeli Companies

The BIRD Foundation Provides Conditional Grants of Up to \$1 Million for Approved Projects

In a move that will help launch some of the next great technology startups in Arizona, the <u>Arizona Israel Technology Alliance</u> (AITA) today announced it has formalized a partnership agreement with the <u>BIRD Foundation</u> in the state of Arizona. AITA is working with the BIRD Foundation to facilitate and promote collaborations between Arizona and Israeli-based companies to develop advanced technologies.

"The mission of the BIRD Foundation is something that syncs perfectly with the work we're currently doing," said Leib Bolel, president and CEO of the Arizona Israel Technology Alliance. "By creating joint ventures between Arizona and Israeli-based companies, we will continue to build Arizona's tech hub and bolster its ability to compete on the global stage."

The BIRD Foundation promotes collaborations between U.S. and Israeli companies in various technological fields for the purpose of joint product development. The Foundation funds up to 50% of the combined research and development budget, up to \$1 million per project. In addition, the BIRD Foundation assists by working with companies to identify potential strategic partners and facilitate introductions. The Foundation's goal is to promote innovation and advance technology that is mutually beneficial and creates economic and social impact in both the U.S. and Israel.

"We look forward to working with the Arizona Israel Technology Alliance," said Dr. Eitan Yudilevich, executive director of the BIRD Foundation. "I am confident that the partnership with AITA and its expertise relating to the business landscape in Arizona will result in a larger number of projects funded by the BIRD Foundation for the benefit of Arizona and Israel."

For more information about AITA visit <u>http://www.arizonaisrael.com/</u> and to read more about the mission and work of the BIRD Foundation, visit <u>https://www.birdf.com/</u>

About the Arizona Israel Technology Alliance

The Arizona Israel Technology Alliance (AITA) serves as the premier resource for companies and organizations in Arizona and Israel on collaborative initiatives. AITA is dedicated to promoting and strengthening business, investment, entrepreneurship, technology and trade relations between the technology communities of Arizona and Israel. AITA's purpose is to increase and support bilateral trade and investment between Arizona and Israel, with each offering resources and opportunities across the technology industry. Visit the Arizona Israel Technology Alliance's website at <u>www.arizonaisrael.com</u>.

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. For more information, visit <u>www.birdf.com</u>

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