

## **BIRD – Israel-U.S. Binational Industrial R&D Foundation to invest \$8.4 million in 9 new projects**

**The approved projects, with an overall budget of \$20 million, involve innovations in the areas of 3D Printing, Agrotech, Advanced Manufacturing, Biotech, Cell Therapy, Medical Devices, Robotics, and Space**

January 19, 2023 – During its meeting in December 2022, held in Tel Aviv, the Board of Governors of the Israel-U.S. Binational Industrial Research and Development (BIRD) Foundation approved \$8.4 million in funding for nine new projects between U.S. and Israeli companies. In addition to the grants from BIRD, the projects will access private-sector funding, boosting the total value of all projects to \$20 million.

The BIRD Foundation promotes collaborations between U.S. and Israeli companies in various technological sectors for joint product development. In addition to providing conditional grants of up to \$1.5 million per project, the Foundation assists by working with companies to identify potential strategic partners and facilitate introductions.

The submitted projects are reviewed by evaluators appointed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) of the U.S. Department of Commerce and the Israel Innovation Authority.

The nine projects approved by the Board of Governors are in addition to over 1000 projects which the BIRD Foundation has approved for funding during its 45-year history. To date, BIRD's total investment in joint projects is over \$370 million, helping to generate direct and indirect sales of more than \$10 billion.

The projects approved include:

- **Amarel Embedded Solutions (AES)** (Yokneam, Israel) and **Setco Sales Company** (Cincinnati, OH) who will develop a smart spindle platform optimizing CNC machines.
- **Apeiro Motion** (Zur Igal, Israel) and **Hellbender** (Pittsburgh, PA) who will develop an Indoor/Outdoor Robotic Navigation System.
- **CASTOR Technologies** (Tel Aviv, Israel) and **Siemens Corporation Technology** (Charlotte, NC) who will develop an automatic CO2 emission calculation to identify environmental benefits by using Additive Manufacturing.
- **Cielo Inertial Solutions** (Jerusalem, Israel) and **Guinn Partners** (Austin, TX,) who will develop an inertial sensor solution designed to fulfill NewSpace requirements.

- **EyeControl** (Tel Aviv, Israel) and **Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center** (Boston, MA) who will test the efficacy of the EyeControl-Pro platform in reducing ICU delirium by enabling bi-directional communication between patients, medical teams, and families.
- **Kadimastem Ltd.** (Ness Ziona, Israel), and **iTolerance** (Miami, FL) who will develop a regenerative technology to potentially cure type 1 diabetes without the need for chronic immuno-suppression.
- **New Phase** (Petach Tikva, Israel) and **Ultraflex Power Technologies** (Ronkonkoma, NY) who will develop the NextGen RF machine for activation of cancer treatment nanoparticles to treat metastatic solid tumors by electromagnetic hyperthermia in stage 4 patients.
- **Tevel** (Gedera, Israel) and **Vinergy** (Bakersfield, CA) will develop a clean-energy autonomous harvesting system.
- **Xerient Pharma** (Petach Tikva, Israel), and **Accuray** (Madison, WI), who will develop a treatment that combines novel gastrointestinal radioprotectant with precision radiotherapy to increase the effectiveness of treating pancreatic cancer.

**Ms. Mojdeh Bahar, Associate Director for Innovation and Industry Services at the U.S. National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and co-Chair of BIRD's Board of Governors** said: "This cycle's nine projects feature many exciting partnerships, small and large businesses and a wide variety of technologies ranging from robotics to medical devices, agrotech to advanced manufacturing. I look forward to the outcomes of these R&D projects. I wish the companies good luck as they work to develop these promising technologies."

**Dr. Amiram Appelbaum, Chairman of the Israel Innovation Authority, and co-Chair of BIRD's Board of Governors:** "We are pleased with the bilateral US and Israel support of technologically innovative projects that are tackling some of the most pressing global challenges including Climate-tech, Agritech, and Health Services."

**Dr. Eitan Yudilevich, the outgoing Executive Director of the BIRD Foundation,** said: "This cycle demonstrated, once again, that there is great interest among U.S. and Israeli companies in jointly developing innovative technologies and leveraging BIRD funding as a way to reduce their risk. I wish the awardees much success in bringing their jointly developed technologies to market."

The deadline for submission of Executive Summaries for the next BIRD cycle is March 1, 2023. Approval of projects will take place in June 2023.

### **About the BIRD Foundation**

The BIRD (**B**inational **I**ndustrial **R**esearch and **D**evelopment) 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 Foundation supports projects without receiving any equity or intellectual property rights from the participating companies or 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.