

New Collaborative Initiative between Israel and the U.S. Promotes the Development of Advanced Technologies for First Responders

Israel-U.S. agreement, under the BIRD Foundation, will support the collaboration between companies and research organizations in Israel and the U.S.

December 8, 2015 – The Israel –U.S. Binational Industrial Research and Development (BIRD) Foundation, announced that the Israeli Ministry of Public Security and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security have signed a collaborative agreement to promote and fund joint Israeli-U.S. projects for the development of advanced technologies for First Responders. The collaboration agreement was designed to improve and enhance the preparedness of national rescue forces including fire, police and first-aid units, and their capabilities in the field. According to the agreement, the BIRD Foundation will manage the binational program, titled "NextGen First Responder Technologies," which will also allow for collaboration between companies and research institutions.

The total expected investment in the collaborative projects is about \$12 million, to be distributed over three years. Half of the investment will be provided by the two countries, equally between them.

The BIRD Foundation issued today a Call for Proposals inviting U.S. and Israeli companies to submit joint collaborative projects in the field of NextGen First Responder Technologies, for funding from the Foundation. The Israeli Ministry of Public Security and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security will issue a document outlining current capability gaps. The program is open to any innovative technology initiative that can improve and enhance the future capabilities of First Responders.

The new program extends and enhances the successful collaboration that already exists between the U.S. and Israel in science and technology to the Homeland Security sector, outlined in a broader agreement signed in 2008 between the Israeli Ministry of Public Security and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Minister of Public Security and Knesset Member Gilad Erdan congratulated the parties on the agreement and said among other things: "This is a breakthrough for the First Responder sector in Israel. There is now a channel of significant value for development and innovation which will deepen Israel's global leadership in Homeland Security for the Israeli Hi-tech sector and the Israeli market, in general."

Dr. Eitan Yudilevich, Executive Director of the BIRD Foundation, said: "We are pleased that the Ministry of Public Security and the Department of Homeland Security have selected the BIRD Foundation to lead the joint U.S.-Israel NextGen First Responder Technologies program. This program will provide added value to promote and enhance innovation for developing advanced technologies for First Responders and enable new business opportunities in a developing market for both Israeli and U.S. companies."

The BIRD Foundation accelerates cooperation between U.S. and Israeli companies in a wide range of technology sectors to foster strategic partnerships between companies in both countries for the development of joint projects. BIRD has approved over 900 projects between Israeli and U.S. companies since it was established. BIRD funded projects have generated direct and indirect sales of approximately \$10 billion.

The deadline for submission of Executive Summaries for NextGen First Responder Technologies is March 9, 2016.

For more information, please visit www.birdf.com.

About the BIRD Foundation

The BIRD (**B**inational **I**ndustrial **R**esearch and **D**evelopment) Foundation works to encourage cooperation between Israeli and American companies in a wide range of technology sectors by providing funding and assistance in facilitating strategic partnerships for developing joint products or technologies.

During its 38 years, the BIRD Foundation has invested in close to 900 projects, which have yielded direct and indirect revenues of about \$10 billion.

The BIRD Foundation supports projects without receiving any equity or intellectual property rights in the participating companies or in the project itself. BIRD funding is repaid as royalties from sales of technology products that were commercialized as a result of BIRD support. The Foundation provides support 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.