



Israel Yearly Insight 2021

Prepared by:
Elchanan S. Harel
President

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January

Israel removes import restrictions on food products from Japan

KYODO NEWS - All, Japan, World 28/01/2021

Israel has removed import restrictions on food items from Japan imposed after the 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster, bringing the number of countries and regions retaining such trade policies to 15, the Japanese government said Friday.

The measure took effect Monday to exempt Fukushima and five other prefectures in Japan from submitting radiation inspection certificates for their food exports or having all the items tested upon entry to the Middle Eastern country, the farm and foreign ministries said.

All food products from Fukushima and some items such as grain, seafood and mushrooms from Iwate, Miyagi, Tochigi, Gunma and Chiba were subjected to the import restrictions.

About a decade after the massive earthquake and tsunami of March 11, 2011, triggered core meltdowns in three reactors at the Fukushima Daiichi plant, 39 countries and regions have lifted import restrictions.

"Based on science, we will continue to tenaciously urge countries and regions retaining (import) restrictions to ease or eliminate them," farm minister Kotaro Nogami said at a press conference Friday.

Infarm drives expansion of urban farming in Japan

Infarm's rapid growth in Asia continues with new agreement to offer freshly harvested produce to Summit supermarkets in the Tokyo metropolitan area. Following partnerships announced with East Japan Railway Company (JR East), food retailer, Kinokuniya and distributor Muroo Co. Ltd, Infarm produce to appear at partner retail locations starting in January 2021.

TOKYO, December 2, 2020 – Infarm, the world's fastest growing urban farming network, announced today a partnership with Summit Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of **Sumitomo Corporation Group** to offer fresh produce grown and harvested at the company's Summit Store (supermarket) , one of Tokyo's leading supermarket chains. With annual revenue (as of March 2020) of USD 3B, **Summit Inc. has 120 retail locations across the Tokyo metropolitan** area. The first farms will be installed by Infarm at Summit's Gotanno location, in conjunction with the store's rebuilding in December 2020, and produce will be available for purchase at Summit Gotanno store at the end of January 2021.

This announcement marks Infarm's second major partnership in Japan. The company first expanded into the market through partnerships with East Japan Railway Company (JR East), food retailer, Kinokuniya, and national food distributor, Muroo Co. Ltd, announced in February 2020. Infarm produce will first be available to Kinokuniya consumers on January 19, 2021 at the Aoyama International flagship store and on January 23, 2021 at the Nishi-Ogikubo store located at the JR Nishiogikubo station. Additional Kinokuniya stores are expected to follow through 2021.

"We are very pleased to partner with Infarm. Since last year, we have been communicating with Erez and Mr. Hiraishi, and our business vision and chemistry matched with each other, which led to this partnership. We look forward to serving our customers with Infarm vegetables at our Gotanno store, an important flagship store for Summit," commented Junpei Yamamoto, Executive Officer of Summit Inc.



“Japan’s busy urban centers present a unique opportunity to improve the way millions of people get access to fresh, sustainable produce. We are proud to partner with Summit as we continue to grow in this dynamic market. Summit’s commitment to offering high-quality food to customers at all price points, while reducing waste and making shopping enjoyable, aligns perfectly with Infarm’s vision to make fresh nutritious food available to everyone,” commented Erez Galonska, co-founder and CEO of Infarm.

According to some estimates, Japan relies on imports for about 60% of its food, contributing to a tremendous amount of cumulative food miles, while annual food waste has been estimated to have reached more than 6.12 million tons[1]. In addition, Japan has one of the highest rates of pesticide use in the world according to estimates offered by the FAO.[2] By partnering closely with Japanese clients, Infarm hopes to make a positive contribution to retailer efforts to reduce the negative environmental impact of produce with fresh food that is grown as closely as possible to the point of consumption.

Infarm has developed the world’s most advanced, easily scalable and rapidly deployable modular farms that can transform any retail space and fulfill any market demand. Each in-store farm offers a controlled environment with growing recipes that bring out the natural flavor and properties of each plant.

The individual farms are connected and remotely controlled from a central farming platform that gathers up-to-the-minute information about each plant’s growth and learns, adjusts and improves itself continuously, so each plant grows better than the one before.

Infarm staff regularly visit the farms to harvest mature plants, place them at the point of sale, and plant new seedlings for the next cycle. Consumers have access to the plants at their freshest points, still alive with their roots, free of pesticides and full of nutrients and flavor.

"Flavor for me is a primary concern - as I want to offer each of my customers a unique experience that both surprises and delights the palate. Being able to use herbs and lettuces freshly harvested from Infarm gives me a personal garden to be creative and make my dishes sparkle - it's an experience that can really transform your cooking as a chef or for your family at home," said Tim Raue, Infarm client and Michelin-starred chef of Restaurant Tim Raue in Berlin.

Founded in 2013, Infarm is one of the world's largest urban farming platforms harvesting and distributing more than 500,000 plants each month across its network. Infarm currently operates across Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Japan, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, the United States and Switzerland where it has deployed more than 1,200 farms in stores and distribution centers. Since 2013 the company has raised more than 300 million USD.

About Infarm

Infarm was founded in Berlin in 2013 by Osnat Michaeli and the brothers Erez and Guy Galonska. Passionate to become self-sufficient and eat better, they were growing their own food, enjoying all the flavor and nutrients, without the chemical pesticides and transport kilometers. With the aim to share the goodness of own-grown produce with everyone, they developed a smart modular farming system, that allows distribution of farms throughout the urban environment, growing fresh produce in any available space and fulfilling any market demand. Today, with cutting edge R&D, patented technologies, and a leading multi-disciplinary team, Infarm is growing a worldwide farming network helping cities become self-sufficient in their food production while significantly improving the safety, quality, and environmental footprint of our food.

With a multinational team of 700 people globally, Infarm has partnered with more than 30 major food retailers including Albert Heijn, Aldi Süd, Amazon Fresh, Auchan, Casino, E.Leclerc, Edeka, Empire Company Ltd (Safeway, Sobeys, ThriftyFoods), Farmdrop, Intermarché, Irma, Kaufland, Kinokuniya, Kroger, Marks & Spencer, Metro, Migros, Selfridges, Selgros, Summit and Whole Foods Market in Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Japan, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, the United States and Switzerland, deployed more than 1200 farms in stores and distribution centres, saved more than 40,000,000 liters of water and 50,000 square meters of land, while harvesting 500,000+ plants monthly and growing.

About Summit

Summit Inc. was established in 1963 in Tokyo, 100% owned by Sumitomo Corporation. Summit has spread across the Tokyo metropolitan area with 120 supermarkets. The annual revenue as of March 2020 is USD 3B

Mitsubishi Pairs with Aleph to Sell Lab-Grown Beef in Japan

By [Yaacov Benmeleh](#) Bloomberg 5/1/2021

[Mitsubishi Corp.](#) agreed to partner with Israel's [Aleph Farms Ltd.](#) to lay the groundwork for bringing lab-grown beef to Japan, where demand for meat is growing.

The two companies will work on tailoring Aleph's beef -- grown in vats from muscle cells of living animals -- to the tastes and nuances of Japanese consumers and regulatory bodies, Aleph's Chief Executive Officer, Didier Toubia, said in an interview from his office in Rehovot, Israel. They would then use Mitsubishi's manufacturing capabilities to scale up production and distribution, he said.

Aleph, whose investors include American food giant Cargill Inc., plans to sell its initial batch of lab-grown meat to consumers in Asia next year, with Japan being "high on the list" of target countries, Toubia said.

Toubia declined to provide further details about the companies' arrangement or plans to obtain regulatory approval. Mitsubishi wants to examine the potential of the biomeat market by becoming an insider in the industry, a company spokesman said on Tuesday.

The partnership reflects the recent strides made by the so-called cultivated meat industry, which arose mainly in response to animal rights and environmental concerns. Aleph is among some 60 startups jockeying to sell meat or poultry that bypass the abattoir and modern, industrial-scale farming, and countries are starting to open pathways to consumers.

Tokyo-based Mitsubishi, which had \$15.6 billion in food sales in the 12 months through March, is tapping an industry that's expected to grow. The cell-based meat market is projected to reach \$140 billion in the next decade, according to forecasts compiled by Blue Horizon Corp., which invests in alternative proteins.

That's still nowhere near the size of the meat industry, which was \$1.3 trillion last year, according to Global Data. High production costs and consumer skepticism over taste and health implications are among the biggest barriers to accelerated growth.



Governments must also be convinced. Last month, Singapore became the first nation to approve the sale of cultured meat. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is supportive of the sector -- he visited an Aleph factory last month and tried its cultivated steak as part of his initiative to promote the country's startups in the sector.

Still, Aleph isn't rushing its product to market, and is particularly mindful of the specific preferences of the Japanese market, famed for its Wagyu beef.

"We might be the third or fourth company to release a product, but that's because we're focused on consumer acceptance," Toubia said. "They have high expectations for their meat, and we want to get it right."

Aleph Farms and Mitsubishi Corporation are members of the **"Cellular Agriculture Study Group,"** a consortium implementing policy proposals under the **Japanese Center for Rule-Making Strategy**. The consortium brings together a range of experts on the definition and construction of cellular agricultural foods, and adds clarification of conditions for Japanese products and technologies to have international competitiveness and establishes mechanisms for coexistence, and division of roles with existing industries.

Vdoo Raises \$57M in Funding

Published on [January 13, 2021](#)

Vdoo has received \$70 million in funding from prominent investors including leading Japanese firms such as **MS&AD Ventures and **NTT DOCOMO Ventures**. Vdoo has sold its solutions to multiple Japanese customers through local distribution partners **DNP** and **Macnica Networks**.**

Vdoo, a Tel Aviv, Israel-based leader in product security for embedded software, extended its Series B funding to \$57M.

The additional round – increased the total capital raised by Vdoo to \$70M – was led by Qumra Capital, Verizon Ventures, which joined existing investors 83North, GGV Capital, WRVI Capital, Dell Technologies Capital, **NTT DOCOMO Ventures**, **MS&AD Ventures**, and prominent private investors in the extension round.

Vdoo has received \$70 million in funding from prominent investors including leading Japanese firms such as MS&AD Ventures and NTT DOCOMO Ventures. Vdoo has sold its solutions to multiple Japanese customers through local distribution partners DNP and Macnica Networks. Vdoo opened its Tokyo office on June 2020, the company has appointed Toshiaki Ito as its Japan country manager. An industry veteran, Ito-san previously held senior roles at FireEye and Carbon Black where he focused on leading business growth and operational expansion in the region.

The company intends to use the funds to expand its offering to the telco and smart utility space.

Led by Netanel Davidi, Co-Founder and CEO, Vdoo delivers an automated product security platform for device manufacturers and deployers. Its system performs a complete security assessment in minutes, providing a comprehensive report identifying zero-day vulnerabilities, CVEs, configuration and hardening issues, standard incompliance, and other security exposures with suggested prioritization and remediation mechanisms.

Vdoo is a global company with offices in the U.S., Germany, Israel and Japan.



Israel's Via teams up with insurance giant Sampo to battle car accidents caused by the elderly in Japan

Through an app called NORAZA the elderly in the Japanese city of Chino is able to order smart AI-based transport services

CTech:07.01.21

Japanese insurance giant Sampo and Israeli ridesharing company Via have launched a new transport service in Japan, which aims to decrease car accidents involving the elderly and to reduce traffic congestion.

Japan, which has a population of 128 million, is known as the country with the largest percentage of elderly people in the world, with one third of its citizens over the age of 65. Car accidents involving people aged 75 and over have climbed to new records over the past two years to 401 fatal accidents, which represent 14.4% of the total number of fatal car accidents in the country. Through an artificial intelligence (AI) based alternative, Sampo and Via are supporting a Japanese government initiative to reduce the number of accidents while providing incentives for the elderly to give up their driving license. In the Aichi Prefecture, for example, discounts are being offered for hundreds of restaurants in exchange for relinquishing the license

As part of the project, an app called NORAZA has been launched, through which it is possible to order smart AI-based transport services, as well as order the ride through a telephone call center operated by Sampo. The project has been launched in Chino, a city with a population of 55,000, which is about two hours from Tokyo. The project will allow the elderly residents, who make up 40% of the city's population, and anyone else who wants, to travel freely and quickly, for any reason, whether for medical services, visiting care homes, leisure, or just a change of scenery.

The payment for the service in Chino will be made through a local virtual currency, which will also encourage consumers to use local businesses.

Via, which raised more than \$400 million last March at a company valuation of \$2.25 billion, operates in some 100 cities worldwide. The company was founded in 2012 by CEO Daniel Ramot and CTO Oren Shoval and initially provided passenger services in New York City in 2013 and has since expanded its operations to other countries. Today, the company operates systems for smart management of public transport in hundreds of cities around the world through partnerships,



including in New York, Washington DC, Chicago, London, Sydney, Paris, Amsterdam, Berlin, and Tokyo.

Sompo is the second largest insurance company in Japan and has the largest chain of homes for senior living with 300 homes and 125 day-care centers. The company operates in more than 30 countries with overall annual sales of \$36 billion and millions of customers in Japan and around the world. Since entering Israel in 2018, Sompo has invested more than \$20 million in Israeli startups including Sensifree, Guardian, Nexar, Intuition Robotics, and Binah.ai

EasySend signs deal with Japanese insurance giant Sompo

14 Jan, 2021 [Globes correspondent](#)

The Israeli company's cloud-based technological solution converts PDF files into digital documents.

Japanese insurance giant **Sompo** has signed an agreement with Israeli no-code digital experience developer [EasySend](#). As part of the collaboration, Sompo will use EasySend's platform to implement the **digitalization of documents** and integrate digital communications into its client interface. In the first stage, the technology will be integrated into its **maritime insurance division** and subsequently the project serving the system will be expanded to other departments in the company.

Due to a need that has become almost a necessity because of Covid-19, and thanks to technological developments and the major increase in use of digital services, many companies are required to adapt their communication channels to respond to consumer requirements and to adopt technological solutions, which effectively support these services.

EasySend's cloud-based technological solution converts PDF files into complete digital documents for enterprises and produces interactive forms. Use of this technology does not require any programming skills and allows people who are not systems developers, using simple definitions and applying drag and drop actions interactively, to create and develop digital forms and procedures easily and quickly.



The platform allows simple, easy and personal communications with customers and makes it easy to fill in forms. Use of the platform prevents errors and saves on operational costs.

To provide its tens of millions of customers with faster and higher quality service, Sompo has conducted joint research in a range of its branches outside of Japan - including in its innovation laboratory that operates in Tel Aviv, in order to promote the topic of the switch to digital. The technology research that was led by Sompo's innovation lab in Tel Aviv, with an emphasis on technology for developing cloud-based systems, demonstrated that a platform such as EasySend's, which does not require knowhow in writing code, will contribute to improvement in the digital transformation, as well as in work efficiency.

Sompo is the first company in Japan, which will use this platform, although banks in Europe and the US and most of the financial companies and banks in Israel such as Leumi, Psagot, Menora, Harel and Clal already enjoy this complete digitalization solution. Sompo Digital Lab Israel head Yinon Dolev said, "The spread of the Covid-19 virus around the world has led to a sharp rise in demand for technology enabling digital transformation in order to allow convenient and simple interaction with customers. We are delighted with the start of this collaboration with EasySend through which we can provide services that meet the diverse needs of our customers with rapid procedures, at low cost while maintaining business flexibility."

EasySend cofounder Omer Shirazi said, "Combining the technology that EasySend has developed with the insurance giant Sompo's systems, represents for us a foothold and first penetration into the Japanese market. We are delighted to collaborate with the Sompo Digital Lab Tel Aviv and assist in moving forward with the digital transformation of the company's overall insurance services."

Sompo, which is the second largest insurance company in Japan, operates in more than 30 countries and has annual revenue of \$36 billion and more than 20 million customers in Japan and worldwide. In 2018, **Sompo founded its innovation lab in Tel Aviv, which is led by Yinon Dolev, in order to promote commercial and technological cooperation with Israeli companies, and it has invested more than \$20 million in Israeli startups.**

EasySense was founded in 2016 by CEO Tal Daskal, COO Omer Shirazi and his brother Eran Shirazi who serves at CTO. The company has 50 employees in its Tel Aviv offices and an additional eight sales staff in Germany and the United States. The company has raised \$11 million over the past year.

Splitit Payments Ltd Partners with Google in Japan

Jan 11, 2021 AEST (ABN Newswire) - Splitit Payments Limited ([ASX:SPT](#)) ([OTCMKTS:STTTF](#)), a global payment solutions provider, announces that it has signed an agreement with Google to empower Japanese customers, for the first time ever, to use instalment plans to make purchases from the Google Store in Japan.

In the coming weeks, Japanese customers purchasing Google's new 5G phone, the Pixel 5, or Nest devices from the Google Store, will be able to split their payments into equal monthly instalments.

Splitit CEO, Brad Paterson said: "This is one of the strongest case studies yet of our unique offering. We are working with Google in its effort to provide the best possible experience for its customers, and the seamless integration of Splitit into Google Store Japan means they never have to leave the platform.

Splitit is the only instalment provider to service the huge credit card industry, with 68% of adults in Japan holding a credit card, the highest in Asia. Splitit does not issue new credit to consumers, but rather allows existing credit card holders to make higher value purchases more easily, without incurring additional costs or fees. We are excited to allow Google customers to use their existing credit to pay for their new Pixel 5, Nest or Chromecast products."

"This partnership marks the next phase in our expansion into Asia as we continue to grow our footprint with our global platform" concluded Paterson.

The materiality of the agreement with Google in Japan is unknown due to the variable nature of revenues which are dependent on customer uptake of specific products.

About Splitit Payments Ltd

Splitit Payments Ltd (ASX:SPT) (OTCMKTS:STTTF) is a payment method solution enabling customers to pay for purchases with an existing debit or credit card by splitting the cost into interest and fee free monthly payments, without additional registrations or applications. Splitit enables merchants to offer their customers an easy way to pay for purchases in monthly

instalments with instant approval, decreasing cart abandonment rates and increasing revenue. Serving many of Internet Retailer's top 500 merchants, Splitit's global footprint extends to hundreds of merchants in countries around the world. Headquartered in New York, Splitit has an R and D centre in Israel and offices in London and Australia.

Aquarius establishes a subsidiary in Japan to create collaborations in the field of hydrogen energy

The subsidiary will try to establish strategic collaborations with leading companies in Japan, in order to promote business opportunities and create research and development activities to adapt the linear engine it has developed to use hydrogen.

TheMarker 18/01/2021

Aquarius Engines is deepening its operations in Japan: it will set up a subsidiary in Japan and start recruiting staff in order to strengthen its ties with its partners in Japan, which include **Musashi Seimtsu, which is owned by Honda and TPR**, which manufactures components for the global automotive industry.

The Japanese subsidiary of Aquarius Engines will seek to establish strategic partnerships with leading companies in Japan in order to promote business opportunities, and to promote research and development activities to adapt the linear engine developed by Aquarius for use in hydrogen and penetration into the Japanese market. Aquarius sees Japan as a potential target for strategic partnerships, in part because the Japanese government encourages the development of technological innovations in the use of hydrogen as an energy source. Aquarius has developed [an internal combustion engine](#) for generating electricity designed for electric propulsion - in contrast to existing motors, designed for mechanical propulsion, ie for the purpose of turning wheels.

The Aquarius engine is characterized by significantly lower weight than similar engines, high efficiency (fuel consumption to power) ratio, low pollution level and significantly lower production

and maintenance costs than similar engines, because the Aquarius engine consists of only one moving component - free piston moving from side to side - and not including oil basin.

Gal Friedman, chairman of Aquarius, said the company's main target markets at the moment are power generation in logistics and maintenance sensitive markets such as the cellular communications towers market, power [outlets and leading communications equipment manufacturers such](#) as Ericsson, Nokia and Huawei.

Another target market is the refrigerated truck market. The company has signed an agreement with Canadian company Rig Master specializing in the production of generators for transportation, which has ordered 120,000 engines for the next six years, subject to experimental success. Aquarius has also signed a joint development agreement with the U.S. military for land vessels and gliders. The company will try to extend the flight range of skimmers using the light

Innoviz Technologies, Leading LiDAR Company, Announces Partnership with Macnica for Mass Adoption of InnovizOne in the Japanese Market

TEL AVIV, Israel, Jan. 25, 2021 /PRNewswire/ -- [Innoviz Technologies](#), an Israeli LiDAR company founded by former officers of Israel's Defence Forces elite technology division, known as "Unit 81", which recently announced its intention to go public through a SPAC merger with Collective Growth Corporation (Nasdaq: [CGRO](#)), based in Texas, at a market value of \$1.4B, has partnered with [Macnica](#), Japan's largest distribution company and a global technology solutions distribution company, to sell its flagship product, InnovizOne, in Japan for the first time. InnovizOne has been selected by BMW for use in its fully electric iX autonomous car program.

Macnica announced their intention to sell InnovizOne in the Japanese market last month, and have since been inundated with purchase orders for Innoviz's solid-state 3D MEMS-based long-range LiDAR, which leads the high-spec LiDAR market by dint of its maturity and Innoviz's long-standing and very close relationship with the Tier1 company Magna and customer BMW.

Mr. Atsushi Sato, GM of Macnica Strategic Innovation Group, had this to say: "We have been partnering with Innoviz for some three years, starting with detailed technical training at Innoviz's R&D center in Israel, and we have already achieved good sales of InnovizPro, Innoviz's first

product. InnovizOne, first demonstrated by Macnica at our booth at the Automotive World show in Tokyo in January 2020, is already recognized as the most mature LiDAR in the market, with the best technology and the highest specifications. InnovizOne uses only automotive-grade components and will soon finish certification as an Automotive-Grade LiDAR. This market recognition is helping Macnica to achieve quick sales of the InnovizOne, and we have every intention of expanding these sales exponentially into many new markets beside those that we have already penetrated with this product."

Among the customers who have already bought InnovizOne from Macnica: Japanese automotive manufacturers, for use in Advanced Development Programs leading to car and truck series production programs, their Tier1 partners and many leading industrial companies from various fields, from construction to space travel.

David Oberman, Innoviz's VP Asia commented: "At Innoviz, we are constantly learning from our customers about new use cases and applications for our LiDAR sensors, including but not limited to: construction, industrial automation, security, trains, marine, agricultural, robotics, wind turbines, drones, mining, mapping and smart city applications. I am thrilled that customers in the Japanese market are using our LiDAR in their projects for various applications and look forward to seeing our cooperation with Macnica continue to grow and diversify in the future."

About Innoviz Technologies

Innoviz is a leading manufacturer of high-performance, solid-state LiDAR sensors and perception software that enable the mass production of autonomous vehicles. Innoviz's offerings include InnovizOne, an automotive-grade, mass-producible LiDAR sensor, InnovizTwo, a next generation high-performance automotive-grade LiDAR sensor, and Innoviz's perception software, designed to complement its hardware offerings with advanced AI and machine learning-based classification, detection and tracking features. Innoviz is backed by top-tier strategic partners and investors, including SoftBank Ventures Asia, Samsung, Magna International, Aptiv, Magma Venture Partners, Vertex Ventures, China Merchants Capital (SINO-BLR Industrial Investment Fund, L.P.), 360 Capital Partners, Glory Ventures, Naver, Shenzhen Capital Group, New Alliance Capital, Harel Insurance Investments and Financial Services, Phoenix Insurance Company and others.

Japanese giant Nikko Global builds on Fintica AI success for market analysis

Nikko Global Wrap and Fintica to further develop relationship on Japanese Equity after initial successful results on US Equity

TEL AVIV, Israel and TOKYO, Jan. 26, 2021 /PRNewswire/ -- Fintica AI, Ltd. announced today the successful execution of a project for leading international Japan-based asset management company, Nikko Global Wrap, part of Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group. Following the successful trial, Nikko Global Wrap confirmed it planned to leverage advanced market regime classification capabilities, harnessing Fintica's proprietary autonomous artificial intelligence engines.

Nikko Global Wrap is a major Tokyo-based international asset management company with over JPY2.5 trillion (approx. USD24bn) under management. The company has proven a global leader in integrating advanced technologies. From financial engineering, to data science and machine learning, Nikko Global Wrap actively utilizes financial big data capabilities to ensure customer success and deep traction within the markets.

Fintica is an Israeli deeptech Fintech Company that is building next generation Autonomous AI for the Global Financial Industry. The company is the fintech spinoff of Israel's leading Artificial Intelligence (AI) company, Cortica, and has developed disruptive autonomous AI technology for the financial markets. The company's technology is based on advanced self-learning methodologies coupled with proprietary time series data science analysis, which enables a new breed of intelligent, holistic and timely market regime analyses. With its modular approach to market regime classification, anomaly detection, and risk management, Fintica's AI x-rays the markets in real time, to provide asset managers with a unique understanding of the vast amounts of data. This provides a qualitative edge for efficient and well-informed decision making.

The collaboration announcement comes at a time of significant market volatility and turbulence, with companies around the world seeking to greatly improve their ability to achieve a deeper understanding of changing market structures and conditions, and implement a pro-active and effective investment strategy management.



Tevel Raises \$20M For Its Flying Fruit-Picking Robots

Kubota joins OurCrowd investing in Agri-robotics technology

(news from AgFunder News).

Tevel Aerobotics Technologies, which develops flying fruit-picking robots that provide autonomous on-demand harvest, announced this week it has raised \$20 million for its technology. Investors in this round include venture capital firms Maverick Ventures Israel, OurCrowd, AgFunder, as well as Asian agriculture equipment producers **Kubota** and Forbon. This brings the company's total funding to \$33.9 million, which includes a \$2.5 million grant from the Israel Innovation Authority (

Tevel, based in Tel-Aviv, Israel, has developed a patented platform called FAR (Flying Autonomous Robots) that is a combination of the actual flying robots, algorithms, AI, and data analytics. The flying robots are equipped with computer vision and AI that detects fruit and foliage, and identifies the type of fruit, size, and ripeness. Attached to the drone is a three-foot-long claw for grabbing and picking the fruit. Additionally, the small drones are capable of other tasks like pruning, trimming, and thinning of orchard trees.

Fruit picking is very dependent on the available labor force, which has been consistently declining throughout the world in the past few years, causing labor shortages in orchards. On top of this, even though agriculture workers are considered essential personnel, the pandemic has caused delays for laborers seeking visas to pick fruit in other countries. Tevel aims to provide a solution to this issue through its platform, which will also allow fruit farmers to use its services exactly when needed to fill unmet labor needs on an on-demand basis.

Tevel is the first flying produce picking robot we've covered at The Spoon; however, there are plenty of other agriculture companies using robots on the ground to reduce labor costs and increase efficiency during harvest. Root AI raised \$7.2 million last summer for its tomato and strawberry harvesting robots. Companies such as Greenfield Robotics, Small Robot Company, and FarmWise use AI-powered robots to remove weeds from crop fields. My colleague Jenn

Marston predicts that we will see more automation in agriculture in 2021, which will include more robots and software technologies that create the optimal environment for particular crops.

Tevel's new funding will be used to continue the production of its technology and launch its commercial services for orchards. The service is not commercially available for farms yet but the company says it will be conducting pilots of its platform this year in Spain, Italy, and the US. Tevel is also accepting additional equity crowdfunded investments directly and through the investment platform OurCrowd.

Israel's FinTLV Raises \$120 Million For FinTech and InsurTech Investments

By [PYMNTS](#) Posted on January 31, 2021

FinTLV's backers have included Clal insurance, Psagot investment house, Poalim Capital Markets, Ayalon insurance, MS&AD, FWD, Reale Mutua, LB, BDO Israel and Matrix.

FinTLV, a Tel Aviv-based fund that specializes in FinTech and InsurTech companies in their "growth stage" phases, announced that it has closed a new \$120 million fund, FinTLV II. The parent fund already invested \$200 million in the space, according to the release. "The insurance industry is a huge industry undergoing a fundamental disruption," FinTLV Founding Partner [Gil Arazi](#) said in the release. "The revenue of the U.S. insurance industry is five times larger than that of the banking industry; yet the technology used by most insurance companies is antiquated. The leading InsurTech companies drive this revolution. The unique understanding of this market as well as the rich network with many tens of insurance players around the globe give us access to the most lucrative investment opportunities in the field." FinTLV stated in the release that the firm's first fund "invest[ed] in three out of the four most promising InsurTech-related unicorns (Hippo insurance, Next insurance and Unqork)."

Those investments, according to the release, were: leading \$150 million round in Hippo Insurance with an investment of \$50 million at a valuation of \$1.5 billion; investing about \$50 million as part of a \$250 million round in Next Insurance at a valuation of about \$2 billion; and investing in Unqork, which recently was valued at about \$2 billion.

Avishai Silvershatz, managing partner of FinTLV, said in the release: "In order to be a successful InsurTech company, a company needs to have not only great technology but also the ability to cope with high regulatory barriers, to meet capital solvency requirement, to establish relationships with other players in the insurance ecosystem, to build expertise in risk assessment and online marketing, to have financial sophistication, to manage M&A activities and more."



February

Japan-Israel ties blossom as 2020 investments reach record \$1.1 billion.

Data compiled by consulting firm Harel-Hertz shows that Japan accounts for 11.1% of all foreign investment in Israeli high-tech vs just 1.8% in 2016.

By [SHOSHANNA SOLOMON](#) 8/2/2021 Times of Israel

2020 was a record year for economic relations between Japan and Israel, with Japanese firms investing some \$1.1 billion in 51 deals in Israel, a 20% jump in money terms compared to 2019, according to a study by consulting firm Harel-Hertz Investment House.

In 2019, Japanese firms invested \$914 million in 67 investment deals; in 2015 this figure totaled just \$87 million.

Japan now accounts for 11.1% of all foreign investment in Israeli high-tech, compared to just 1.8% in 2016, Elhanan Harel and Ziv Tetruck, the authors of the report, said.

In absolute numbers, however, Japanese investment is still [small](#), compared to that of US and Israeli investors.

Total Japanese investment in Israel since 2000 amounted to \$8.25 billion in 308 investment deals, the Harel-Hertz report showed.

Israel and Japan have seen a blossoming relationship in recent years, after years of stuttering mutual trade relations that were mostly kept under wraps.

The very conservative Japanese had been reluctant to embrace Israel because of traditional fears of upsetting Arab oil suppliers, or because of cultural differences. But since 2015, following the visit of Prime Minister Netanyahu to Japan in May 2014 and of

Japanese Prime Minister Abe to Israel in January 2015, the number of investment deals and their values have surged.

The two nations have signed investment agreements and cooperation in security, cyber and agriculture.

The Harel-Hertz report points to the fact that the circle of Japanese investors has gotten larger over the years. While until 2015 most of the investments were made by a very limited number of trading companies and large industrial companies, in the last three years investors have included car manufacturers, financial institutions, insurance companies and small and medium-sized venture capital funds.

The most active three investors in 2020 were multinational Mitsubishi Corporation, trading and investment giant Sumitomo, and financial services group SBI Holdings, which respectively invested \$318 million, \$118.5 million, and \$29 million, the data showed.

In 2020 Japanese institutional investors also appeared on the Israeli scene, with leading insurance companies like Sompo, Tokio Marine, Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Company, and banks like MUFG and Mizuho initiating partnerships with their counterparts in Israel and investments in Israeli venture capital funds.

There are currently 15 Japanese venture capital funds operating in Israel and investing in Israeli startups, from just two in 2016, Harel said.

The number of Japanese representative offices in Israel has also risen to close to 90 today, from just 15 four years ago.

Alongside the dramatic increase in investments, the number of acquisitions of Israeli firms by Japanese giants is still small. In 2020, there was just one acquisition of a company in Israel, the bio-pharma, gene-editing company EmendoBio, which was [acquired](#) by the Japanese biopharmaceutical company AnGes at a valuation of \$250 million in December.

Harel said he expects the volume of Japanese involvement in Israel will continue to grow going forward.

“The trade war between US and China has created friction and startups are looking elsewhere and not to China for investments, especially in the fields of cybersecurity, AI and IT,” he said in a phone interview. “This has led to greater Japanese prominence.”

Israel's Medi-Tate acquired by Japanese powerhouse Olympus Corporation for \$300 million

The Israeli manufacturer of non-surgical solutions for BPH had previously raised \$37 million from private investors

Meir Orbach21:2226.02.21 CTECH

Tokyo-listed medical device and life science company Olympus Corporation announced Friday that it was exercising its options on the remaining shares of Israeli medical device company Medi-Tate Ltd. in a \$300 million cash deal.

Olympus is traded at a valuation of \$27 billion and is considered a global leader in the medical equipment market. Olympus made its initial investment in Medi-Tate in November 2018, gaining a 16.7% stake in the company in an agreement that included the rights to distribute Medi-Tate products and gave Olympus an option to acquire 100% of the Israeli company at a later date.

Medi-Tate was founded in 2007 by founder and CEO Ido Kilemnik. Its flagship product is called iTind and offers non-surgical solutions for Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia (BPH).

The iTind earned the EU CE Mark and is approved for sale in the European Union, UK, Israel, Australia, Brazil, and the FDA cleared it for use in the United States. The iTind treatment is performed by a urologist in an outpatient hospital, ambulatory surgery center, or a clinic, where the device is placed in the prostatic urethra in a folded configuration. The device slowly expands



and exerts gentle pressure at three precise points to reshape the prostatic urethra and bladder neck. After five to seven days, the device is completely removed, leaving a wider opening through which urine can flow, and relieve the symptoms of BPH.

Since its founding, Medi-Tate has raised a total of \$37 million making its sale to Olympus a lucrative exit for its shareholders, which include Israeli investment firm Xenia Venture Capital Ltd., which holds an 18.14% stake.

Medi-Tate employs 12 workers, 11 of them in its development center in Hadera, Israel, and another person in the U.K. Following the acquisition, Medi-Tate will become Olympus's Israeli R&D Center.

Medi-Tate was represented in the deal by Atir Jaffe a senior partner at the **Pearl Cohen law** firm.

"We are pleased to be joining Olympus, which shares our vision of making iTind the global standard for BPH treatment. Today's announcement is a testament to our focus on long-term clinical results and the hard work and dedication of the entire Medi-Tate team. We are excited to be cooperating with Olympus in our effort to improve patients' lives." said Kilemnik.

"As the current market leader in the BPH surgery field, Olympus has the ideal platform to propel iTind onward and ensure many men have better access to this important method of treatment," said Vanessa Malka, Medi-Tate's VP of Marketing and Business Development.

Nacho Abia, Chief Operating Officer of Olympus Corporation, said, "the investment in Medi-Tate has expanded our patient care offerings in BPH, adding to Olympus' market-leading plasma resection portfolio for transurethral resection of the prostate (TURP). Our partnership with Medi-Tate has supported one of Olympus' key strategic initiatives to drive growth in our urology business and to expand our minimally invasive surgical solutions, enabling further improvement of clinical outcomes, reduction of overall costs, and enhancement of patients' quality of life and safety."

Meditate was first introduced to Olympus R&D center in Tokyo by [Harel-Hertz Investments House](#), back in Sept 2017.

Mitutoyo and Kitov.ai have signed a Partnership Agreement to integrate Kitov's Automated Planning and Smart Visual Inspection System into Mitutoyo's metrology solutions

Mitutoyo Corporation, a leading global company specializing in measuring instruments and metrological technology, headquartered in Kawasaki, Kanagawa, Japan, and Kitov, a developer and provider of automated smart visual inspection software solutions, headquartered in Petah Tikva, Israel, announced today the signing of a partnership agreement. The agreement will enable Mitutoyo to integrate Kitov's technologies across its metrology solutions.

. (PRWEB) FEBRUARY 03, 2021

Mitutoyo Corporation, a leading global company specializing in measuring instruments and metrological technology, headquartered in Kawasaki, Kanagawa, Japan, and Kitov, a developer and provider of automated smart visual inspection software solutions, headquartered in Petah Tikva, Israel, announced today the signing of a partnership agreement. The agreement will enable Mitutoyo to integrate Kitov's technologies across its metrology solutions.

As part of the agreement, Mitutoyo will invest and become a shareholder in Kitov. The agreement also establishes the framework for joint-development of new solutions that combine Mitutoyo's measurement technologies and Kitov's planning and inspection technologies.

Kitov's proprietary AI, Robotics, and Computer Vision technologies allow complete semantic understanding of the part or product under inspection including its 3D structure and components. This results in automated highly reliable and cost-effective visual inspection and measurement solutions that significantly improve quality control and reduce manufacturing costs.

"While constantly striving to identify the best complementary technologies for our leading metrology systems, we have been seeking for an effective technology that can help us to fully automate and further enhance our measurement and inspection solutions. Kitov's technology is an advanced and innovative solution that meets Mitutoyo's high standards," says Yoshiaki Numata, Mitutoyo President.



Hanan Gino, the CEO of Kitov states: "The Kitov solution is already deployed by leading electronics, automotive and aerospace manufacturers in Europe, China, USA, Mexico and Israel. We are proud to team up with Mitutoyo, a global leader in the metrology industry and we are delighted to have the opportunity to introduce our unique technology to this industry. We value our strategic partnership with Mitutoyo which will allow us to integrate our software platform into the most advanced manufacturing environments that are constantly seeking to achieve high quality control."

About Mitutoyo Corporation

Mitutoyo is a global leader in the field of precision measuring equipment.

As a comprehensive manufacturer of precision measurement instruments, the Mitutoyo name is known around the world. Mitutoyo products have a leading market share both in Japan and overseas and continues to be the choice across industries and nations. Major companies all over the world put their trust in Mitutoyo.

For more information about Mitutoyo, visit <https://www.mitutoyo.co.jp/eng/>

About Kitov Systems Ltd.

Kitov is a supplier of smart visual inspection solutions for a broad range of production lines in the electronics, defense, aerospace, automotive, and medical device industries. Kitov develops a fully automated, universal, and flexible 3D visual inspection system that can be trained by a non-expert in a fast and intuitive manner to inspect a large variety of products.

MyBiotics Pharma Receives Investment from Mii Fund, an Innovator in the Field of Dermatology

The funds will be used to advance the Company's microbiome therapeutics pipeline and initiate a development program in the field of skin microbiome

REHOVOT, Israel, Feb. 3, 2021 /PRNewswire/ -- MyBiotics Pharma, a microbiome therapeutics company, announced today that it has received an investment from [Mii Fund](#), a partnership with Maruho Co. Ltd., Japan's preeminent leader in dermatology.

MyBiotics will use the funds to advance its microbiome therapeutics pipeline and continue to enhance its unique microbiome platform technologies. In addition, the company is initiating a development program in the field of skin microbiome, leveraging the support of the Mii Fund & Lab, and the relationship with Maruho Co. Ltd, a leading market player in the dermatology market.

MyBiotics has developed breakthrough, scalable and robust culturing, fermentation, and delivery technologies for generating a highly stable and diverse bacterial community that can be used to restore microbiome equilibrium. These technologies are effective for single microbes, complex microbial consortia and whole microbiome products, and are integrated with a computational AI platform.

"Together with Maruho we are excited about the potential of microbiome-based therapeutics in dermatology and skin care. With the combination of its microbiome productization and delivery platforms and AI capabilities, MyBiotics is perfectly positioned to bring a new category of solutions to unmet needs this space," said Eran Perry, Mii Fund's Managing Director.

"The transaction will allow us to strengthen our technology platforms and accelerate the development of our microbiome-based pipeline towards a more significant fund raising planned later this year," stated David Daboush, co-founder and CEO of MyBiotics Pharma. "We are extremely pleased to collaborate with Mii Fund and Maruho, which dominates Japan's dermatology market. This also marks our entrance into the field of dermatology, where we will leverage our technologies to develop novel skin products."



About Dermatology and the Microbiome

Skin microbiome is an emerging fast-growing field within the human microbiome space, with products under development aiming at addressing a variety of conditions including sensitive skin, dermatitis, adult acne and eczema all aiming at restoring the equilibrium of the skin microbiome. The global [dermatology drug market](#) was estimated at 36.82 billion dollars in 2019 and is expected to reach 63.99 billion dollars by 2027, representing a significant opportunity for skin microbiome.

About Mii Fund

MII invests in dermatology related technologies across different stages seed to growth – covering the pharma, biotech, medical device, digital health, and cosmetic sectors. Through the fund's partnership with Maruho, Japan's preeminent leader in dermatology, the Mii Fund aims to bring Israeli innovation in dermatology and skin care to the Japanese market, in effect giving Japan first rights to next generation skin therapies.

About MyBiotics

MyBiotics discovers and develops microbiome-based products aimed at restoring microbiome equilibrium for the therapeutics and food markets. MyBiotics' technologies are effective for single microbes, complex microbial consortia and whole microbiome products, and are integrated with a computational AI platform which enables the design of unique microbial consortia and whole microbiome profiles. The Company's pipeline includes MBX-SD-201 and MBX-SD-202, for Clostridium difficile Infection (CDI) developed for oral delivery, that may become the first alternative for fecal microbiota transplant (FMT). MBX-SD-202 is planned to enter Phase I clinical studies in 2021. Additional products in the pipeline focus on woman's health, gastro and oncology indications, as well as probiotics and prebiotic programs.

Israeli in-game advertising platform Anzu.io gets \$9 million for global expansion

By [Annie Musgrove](#), February 2nd, 2021.

SONY INNOVATION FUND JOINS THIS ROUND

The gaming industry is investing in its own adtech, while agencies, VCs and even professional sports teams jump on board. [Anzu.io](#), an Israeli in-game advertising platform, has received \$9 million in new funding to fuel expansion in North America and Asia.

The gaming industry is now larger than the music and film industries combined and is [expected](#) to reach about \$257 billion by 2025. "Gaming is one activity that has exploded over the past year and increasingly an important advertising channel," said WPP CEO Mark Read.

Anzu makes it easier for brands to get in on the action. Operating across console, PC, and mobile platforms, Anzu's technology blends real-world ads into the highest quality video games, esports tournaments and live streams. Clients include game publishers Ubisoft, Lion Castle, and Nacon and global brands Pepsico, Samsung and Vodafone.

BITKRAFT Ventures and HBSE Ventures led the round, with participation from global marketing services organisation WPP and **Sony Innovation Fund**. Other investors include Alumni Ventures Group, Goal Ventures, an LGBT+ VC called Gaingels, along with angel investors Marc Merrill, co-founder of Riot Games, and Dylan Collins, co-founder and CEO of SuperAwesome, a kid-safe ad platform recently acquired by Epic Games. The US baseball team the Chicago Cubs joined the round, to boot.

"Anzu has been delivering the technology they promised and growing their industry footprint. We are excited to join this funding round and support Anzu, entering a new phase of growth in [in-game advertising](#). The company's gamer-first attitude will enable developers to access new business models and bring advertisers closer to gamer audiences without disturbing gameplay," says [Gen Tsuchikawa](#), CEO and Chief Investment Officer at Innovation Growth Ventures, Sony Innovation Fund.

With the new funding, the Israeli startup plans to expand internationally, starting in the US with Los Angeles and New York, plus Singapore, China and more.

Toyota Tsusho: Introduces UVeye Vehicle Inspection System at USS Tokyo,

02/04/2021 | Yahoo Finance

Toyota Tsusho Introduces UVeye Vehicle Inspection System at USS Tokyo, Japan's Largest Used Vehicle Auction Site
- Promoting online transactions of used vehicles through use of digital technologies.

Toyota Tsusho Corporation ('Toyota Tsusho') announced today that its wholly owned subsidiary Toyotsu Automotive Creation Corporation ('TAC') and USS Co., Ltd. ('USS') are introducing the UVeye vehicle inspection system at USS Tokyo, the largest auction site for used vehicle auctions in Japan. USS is Japan's largest used vehicle auction provider and UVeye is a system from UVeye Ltd. of Israel, a company which Toyota Tsusho has made an investment in.

TAC and USS first introduced UVeye in Japan at the Nagoya auction site in October 2020. Auction members are provided with high resolution images of auction vehicles' undercarriage and wheels obtained by UVeye. This allows members to discern the conditions of vehicles without having to actually go to the auction venue in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, which highly appeals to Internet members who participate in the auctions online. At USS Tokyo, the second site for the system's introduction, a newly developed function for taking photographs of tire tread grooves has been added and will commence operation from today February 4, 2021.

UVeye is a unique system which detects vehicle's anomalies instantly by 1) scanning and creating 3D images of the undercarriage, body and wheels and then 2) conducting AI-based image analysis. The introduction of this system will increase efficiency and fairness of vehicle inspection, which is usually done by man.

Senior Managing Director Masayuki Akase of USS commented, 'At the Nagoya auction site, through the cooperation of Toyota Tsusho and TAC, we were able to introduce UVeye without significant changes to the vehicle photography process that came with putting vehicles up for auction. Through the high-resolution images, the UVeye has allowed customers to visualize parts they were previously unable to see, which has contributed to the added value. Going forward, we hope to continue cooperating with Toyota Tsusho and TAC to meet customers' needs through the promotion of digital transformation in used vehicle transactions.'

In the future, TAC and USS will work to introduce UVeye at other sites, and at the same ti



HAREL - HERTZ
Investment House Ltd.

8 Hamada, P.O.B.4103 Herzliya Pituach 46140 Israel
T:+972-9-955-0560 ; www.harel-hertz.com ; info@harel-hertz.com

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WOWOW tees off with LiveU for Women's open Golf coverage

Faye Sutton 10 February 2021

Japanese premium pay-TV broadcaster WOWOW has used LiveU technology to provide player-following coverage of the US Women's Open Golf tournament.

During the December tournament, organized by the United States Golf Association, [WOWOW](#) deployed LiveU's IP contribution solution with multiple units via its local US production crew with only two people travelling from Japan – a producer and audio engineer. All staff were regularly tested for Covid-19 and all social distancing requirements were adhered to.

WOWOW used four units – two for each player – to follow Japanese players Nasa Hataoka and Hinako Shibuno around the course. The live coverage provided dedicated player feeds as they made their way round the Champions Golf Club, Houston, Texas. The feeds were streamed on WOWOW Members on Demand on each player's dedicated channel. It also had an on-site reporter and another LiveU unit at the compound to send the footage.

The four feeds were sent direct from the course to WOWOW's Tokyo Broadcast Centre, where commentary and graphics were added. Content from this coverage, along with footage from the world feed, was then also used on WOWOW Prime and WOWOW Live, the broadcaster's satellite-based channels.

Yuko Toda, producer, sports department, WOWOW, said: "By having dedicated channels to show all holes played by specific players, we hope viewers enjoyed watching golf in a new style. LiveU was very stable during the event and we used a very minimal delay that enabled us to use on-camera live talk between the commentator in Tokyo and the on-site reporter.

"Ten years ago, the way we were doing this was shooting on-site, bringing the recorded hard disk to an SNG truck to transmit the footage to Japan. After receiving the footage, we then edited the highlights and finally broadcast it. Compared to those days, sending the live feeds from the venue to studio in Japan with a unit is amazingly easy and fantastic and it really expands what's possible and does so cost-effectively. LiveU is making this achievable for us and we're looking forward to trying more new things and rising to future challenges."

Added Yaal Eshel, GM, [LiveU](#) Asia: "WOWOW has fully utilised our technology not only to replace expensive satellite and fibre for premium sports coverage, but also to create true

innovation in the type of coverage they produce, taking advantage of remote multi-camera production techniques. This increases fan engagement by providing very specific live coverage as well as following the overall tournament.”

TDK CORPORATION JOINS GENCELL IN DEVELOPING A NOVEL LOW-COST APPROACH TO GREEN AMMONIA – THE FUEL OF THE FUTURE

Petah Tikva, Israel – February 23, 2021 – [GenCell Energy](#), GNCL (TASE), a leading Israel-based manufacturer of fuel cell energy solutions, today announces that Gencell and TDK Corporation, the Japanese major passive component company and one of the world’s leaders in the manufacture of lithium ion batteries under its umbrella, have signed a framework agreement intended to support GenCell in developing a novel and low-cost approach to green ammonia, the fuel of the future. GenCell intends to develop an end-to-end, clean, low temperature and highly energy-efficient process for green [ammonia](#) production aimed at replacing the 235 million metric tons of industrial ammonia produced today, reflecting a market value of some US\$70 billion. The development effort to achieve a technological Proof of Concept will involve an initial investment of some US\$ 8.5 million.

The rapidly expanding green ammonia market has been forecasted by Argus Research to grow to as much as a billion ton per annum market, as it is increasingly becoming the disruptive fuel of the future that will be able to drive decarbonization across numerous segments of the global energy markets. This green ammonia will not only provide feedstock for fertilizers and fuel for marine shipping but will also produce the fuel for GenCell’s [alkaline fuel cells](#), enabling GenCell to deliver a self-sustained circular economy green source of power to the site where the power is to be consumed, enabling electrification anywhere. In this way, TDK Corporation and GenCell could realize a joint vision to meet the world’s demand for clean energy.

The development of this unique process to produce the green ammonia fuel of the future will boost GenCell to the position of a major player in the innovative clean fuel industry. The ability to produce not only clean power from GenCell’s fuel cells, but also the green fuel on which the fuel

cells run, sets GenCell in a far superior position as a well-to-wheel total green energy solution provider. These independent clean “nano-power” stations will completely circumvent the complex logistical and cost challenges to transporting and storing [hydrogen](#) as well as the strict regulatory barriers limiting mass distribution of large quantities of ammonia, thus facilitating compliance with ambitious U.N.-defined zero carbon emission targets that have been adopted by Japan, the European Union, the U.S. and other countries around the world.

This technology signifies an important step forward for TDK towards achieving by 2050 the zero-carbon emission targets set by the government of Japan. “We are extremely pleased to reach this important milestone towards developing our green ammonia vision,” comments Dai Matsuoka, CTO, TDK Corporation. “Looking at the excellent progress we have made to date in our technology cooperation with GenCell, we are confident that together we will succeed in translating this vision to reality and in applying deep materials science knowledge to create the chemistry that will fuel our future.”

Rami Reshef, GenCell CEO explains, “GenCell salutes our partners at TDK for their leadership, commitment and perseverance in working with us to flesh out these designs and concepts for green ammonia synthesis and to translate them into valuable scientific knowhow and repeatable processes that will allow us to revolutionize, streamline and economize ammonia production. We are confident that our disruptive and economical approach will displace costly alternatives and garner interest and market share both for TDK and GenCell. More importantly, this technology will enable the broad availability of green ammonia and the proliferation of self-sustaining green ammonia-driven “nano-power” stations that will empower us to move towards eliminating carbon emissions and neutralizing the climate crisis. The future is now, and the future of energy is green ammonia.”

About TDK Corporation

TDK Corporation is a world leader in electronic solutions for the smart society based in Tokyo, Japan. Built on a foundation of material sciences mastery, TDK welcomes societal transformation by resolutely remaining at the forefront of technological evolution and deliberately “Attracting Tomorrow.” It was established in 1935 to commercialize ferrite, a key material in electronic and magnetic products. TDK’s comprehensive, innovation-driven portfolio features passive components such as ceramic, aluminium electrolytic and film capacitors, as well as magnetics, high-frequency, and piezo and protection devices. The product spectrum also includes sensors

and sensor systems such as temperature and pressure, magnetic, and MEMS sensors. In addition, TDK provides power supplies and energy devices, magnetic heads and more. These products are marketed under the product brands TDK, EPCOS, InvenSense, Micronas, Tronics and TDK-Lambda. TDK focuses on demanding markets in automotive, industrial and consumer electronics, and information and communication technology. The company has a network of design and manufacturing locations and sales offices in Asia, Europe, and in North and South America. In fiscal 2020, TDK posted total sales of USD 12.5 billion and employed about 107,000 people worldwide.

Neurolief and Sawai Enter into Exclusive Development and Marketing Agreement for Relivion®

TAMPA, Fla.--([BUSINESS WIRE](#))--[Neurolief Ltd., a neurotechnology innovator](#), announces that it has entered into an exclusive agreement with **Sawai Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.** for the development and marketing of Relivion®, a non-invasive digital medical device for migraine and depression, in Japan.

Relivion® is a non-invasive brain neuromodulation* device that is placed around the head and delivers unparalleled stimulation to the occipital and trigeminal nerves. This creates a cumulative effect by releasing neurotransmitters in the brainstem and modulating brain networks associated with control of pain and mood. The device is designed to allow patients to use Relivion® at home, and share treatment data with their physician, in addition to uploading the data to the cloud database through a dedicated app. It is also designed to self-learn and analyze the treatments using AI technology in order to optimize the treatments for patients according to their symptoms.

*Neuromodulation: A therapeutic technology to modulate neurological activities through the administration of electric/magnetic stimuli or drugs.

With the view to launch Relivion in Japan, submissions to the Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency (PMDA) are expected for migraine by 2022 and depression by 2023. If Relivion® is approved by the agency, it will be the only brain neuromodulation device available for treatment at home in Japan.



*In Europe, Neuro Relief obtained the CE Mark certification as a treatment device for migraine and is in preparation for the market launch. In the US, the application was filed to FDA in November 2020 as a 510(K) submission for migraine and is scheduled to be filed for depression by 2022.

By working with Sawai to introduce the Relivion® neuromodulation device in Japan for use at home with doctor's supervision, we are widening treatment options for patients who are suffering from either migraine or depression.

About Neuro Relief

Dedicated to bringing relief to patients suffering from chronic neurological and neuropsychiatric disorders, Neuro Relief is creating a digital therapeutics platform of wearable clinically-proven neuromodulation solutions. This technology, which is made to be worn like a headset, is intended to offer highly effective, safe treatment options that work with current pharmaceutical therapies or may provide an alternative to these therapies. It is designed to concurrently neuromodulate major neural pathways in the head, and thereby affect brain regions that are involved in control and modulation of mood and pain. Neuro Relief's technology is currently studied for patients with migraine and major depression, and future indications may include insomnia, ADHD and additional chronic pain and neuropsychiatric disorders. The company is based in Israel, with US operations in Tampa, FL and is made up of highly experienced professionals with a proven track record in neurosciences, neuromodulation technology and the neurotech devices industry.

March

Israeli, Japanese economy ministers hold talks on financial cooperation

Israel and Japan are now debating how to improve their relations specifically in the digital health and cyber tech sectors, perhaps with a free trade agreement.

By JERUSALEM POST STAFF MARCH 13, 2021 07:54

Economy Minister [Amir Peretz](#) and Japanese Economy Trade and Industry Minister Hiroshi Kajiyama held a virtual meeting on Tuesday as part of the third annual Japanese-Israeli economic dialogue.

Peretz remarked that in recent years, Israel has seen an unprecedented amount of investments in it from Japan's direction. \$1.1 billion were invested this past year alone, a record-breaking number, bringing Japanese investments in Israel up to 11.1% of overall foreign capital entering the country in contrast to 2016, when that number was at a mere 1.8%.

He remarked that such cooperation between the land of the rising sun and the start-up nation "will march the economy of Israel forward by many years."

The two countries are currently debating how to improve their relations in digital health and cyber tech with an option of creating a free trade agreement.

Various company heads who are active at the [Japan](#)-Israel Innovation Network (JIIN) discussed how to further Japanese-Israeli joint projects in 2021. A future conference with a focus on smart cities and clean-tech is also being planned.

Israel exports goods and services to Japan estimated at roughly \$924m. in 2020.



Cybellum Opens a Japanese Office to Address Growing Demand for Its Cyber Digital Twins Platform for Automotive Risk Assessment

TOKYO, March 2, 2021 /PRNewswire/ -- Cybellum, a leader in Automotive Cybersecurity Risk Assessment, today announced the opening of its Japanese office.

In 2025, the Japanese connected car market is forecasted to reach almost two trillion Japanese yen, growing by almost 15% over the period 2020-2027. However, connected cars, advanced as they are, are prone to cyber-attacks. They rely heavily on software, they are connected to the internet and involve a long list of suppliers, each using its own open source, proprietary and commercial software of choice, operating systems and encryption methods. As a result, automotive manufacturers have very limited visibility into the software that operates their vehicles and needs to be secured.

Cyber attacks on connected cars have increased by 99% in the last year. As a result, in the coming months, new stringent regulations and standards, including UNECE WP29 and ISO/SAE 21434, designed to drive cyber responsibility throughout the automotive supply chain, will be introduced.

Cybellum's [Cyber Digital Twins platform](#) addresses the need for risk assessment and compliance with regulations in the automotive industry specifically. The state-of-the-art risk assessment platform allows manufacturers to map and trace hundreds of thousands of potential cyber vulnerabilities in the software that runs a vehicle. It then presents the software 'fix,' to maintain security throughout the vehicle lifecycle.

Given the growing concern about vehicle protection, and with Japan a leading player in the automotive industry, Cybellum has decided to build on the momentum of demand for its risk assessment platform and establish a permanent presence in the country.

The company has appointed Masa Okuda as its Japan country manager. An industry veteran, Okuda-san previously held senior roles at Harman International and Mitsubishi Electric Corporation, where he focused on introducing advanced cybersecurity solutions into the market,



leading business growth and operational expansion in the region. Okuda-san will be building on the strong relationship Cybellum has established with Japanese leading automotive manufacturers and local partners to continue the company's business expansion.

"We are excited to open an office in Japan, reinforcing our strong foothold in the automotive industry and making a long-term commitment to the Japanese market," said Slava Bronfman, CEO of Cybellum. "Utilizing our Cyber Digital Twins platform manufacturers gain control over their risk assessment and mitigation, from design to production and beyond, ensuring the ongoing security and compliance of their vehicles. This is an exciting era for car manufacturers and Cybellum is happy to expand its operations worldwide and partner with some of the biggest brands in the industry."

About Cybellum

Cybellum empowers automotive OEMs and suppliers to identify and remediate security risks at scale, throughout the entire vehicle life cycle. Our agentless solution scans embedded software components without needing access to their source code, exposing all cyber vulnerabilities. Manufacturers can then take immediate actions to eliminate any cyber risk in the development and production process, before any harm is done, while continuously monitoring for emerging threats impacting vehicles on the road.

Bill Gates and Sumitomo Backed Israeli Startup Raises \$22M To Scale Up Green Hydrogen

By [Tsvetana Paraskova](#) - Mar 09, 2021, 12:30 PM CST

Israeli green hydrogen production company H2Pro has announced that it has closed a \$22 million Series A2 financing round led by Breakthrough Energy Ventures (BEV), IN Venture and Sumitomo Corp. CVC. Also participating were existing investors iAngels, TPY Capital, Contrarian Ventures and Bazan (Oil Refineries) and new investors Horizon Ventures, New Fortress Energy (NFE) and OurCrowd

H2Pro, a startup founded in Israel in 2019, has raised US\$22 million in a funding round from clean energy funds backed by Bill Gates, among others, in order to scale up green hydrogen production,

H2Pro aims to enable affordable green hydrogen production at scale, it says, through the use of a proprietary method for producing green hydrogen by splitting water that is over 95 percent efficient, safe, and cost-competitive with fossil-fuel hydrogen. The company's E-TAC technology with 95 percent efficiency is more efficient than alkaline and Polymer electrolyte membrane (PEM) water electrolysis with an energy efficiency of around 70 percent, according to H2Pro. The start-up also estimates that its membrane-free technology would be easy to scale and thus reduce capital expenditures (capex) by half compared to traditional electrolyzers. H2Pro's technology splits water into hydrogen and oxygen, but hydrogen and oxygen are generated separately in different steps, unlike in conventional electrolysis.

The company told Bloomberg that it could produce green hydrogen for \$1 per kilogram by the second half of this decade, much more ambitious than current analyst estimates, which do not see this low a cost for clean hydrogen by 2050. BloombergNEF estimates that in 2019, a kilogram of green hydrogen cost between \$2.50 and \$6.80.

H2Pro, in which Hyundai Motor has also invested, is the latest company aiming to scale up green hydrogen production and make it cheaper.

Last week, Danish catalyst manufacturer Haldor Topsoe said it planned to build a large-scale facility to manufacture electrolyzers that would be used for green hydrogen production and potentially reduce the cost of green hydrogen by 20 percent.



Hydrogen, especially green hydrogen, has become the latest fad among energy companies, including Big Oil, who see potential in developing and investing in technologies to produce green hydrogen.

French supermajor Total looks to become a large producer of clean hydrogen one day, chairman and chief executive Patrick Pouyanné said at an event last month, while BP, Shell, and Eni are also developing green hydrogen projects.

Japan's NTT, OurCrowd to jointly invest in Israeli tech firms

By Reuters Staff 17/3/2021

JERUSALEM (Reuters) - NTT Finance said on Tuesday it will establish an investment vehicle that will invest in Israeli tech startups from venture firm OurCrowd's portfolio.

NTT Finance, a subsidiary of NTT Group or Nippon Telegraph and Telephone, said it will commit \$15 million into OurCrowd's portfolio through the vehicle, called NTT Finance Israel LP.

OurCrowd will provide NTT early access to its deal flow pipeline which include Israeli firms with technologies such as artificial intelligence and self-driving cars, NTT and OurCrowd said in a joint release.

"NTT Finance will contribute to pursuing business growth for both NTT Group and startups in Israel, facilitating potential opportunities to launch collaborations between their businesses, through expanding venture investments in IT startups," said NTT Finance President Yoshiaki Sakai.

OurCrowd has more than \$1.5 billion in commitments and has invested in more than 240 companies and 25 funds.

Sumitomo Corporation Invests in Quantum Computer Emerging in Israel

February 26, 2021

[Sumitomo Corporation](#) has invested in ClassiQ, an Israeli startup with quantum computer technology. The company has the technology to streamline the development of related software. Sumitomo has also set up a new organization within the company that aims to create businesses that utilize quantum technology. Establish a system to support the utilization of quantum technology by companies.

[Classiq](#), a Tel Aviv-based startup that aims to make it easier for computer scientists and developers to create quantum algorithms and applications, today announced that it has raised a \$10.5 million Series A round led by Team8 Capital and Wing Capital. Entrée Capital, crowdfunding platform OurCrowd and Sumitomo Corporation (through IN Venture) also participated in this round, which follows the company's recent \$4 million seed round led by Entrée Capital.

Through Israeli Corporate Venture Capital (CVC), it invested a few percent in Classic. Opening technology that facilitates the development of software for quantum computers ...

IntSights Announces IntSights Extend™ to Enhance Real-Time Threat Intelligence

[Intosite Cyber Intelligence, Inc. Japan Branch](#)

March 18, 2021 10:00

IntSights has announced a new browser extension, IntSights Extend™, that provides rich threat intelligence on any browser with the click of a button. IntSights announces IntSights Extend™ to enhance real-time threat intelligence capabilities

Tokyo --**March** 18, 2021 --**Next-** generation externals working on threat intelligence

democratization Threat intelligence company IntSights (has announced a new browser extension, IntSights Extend™, that provides rich threat intelligence on any browser with the click of a button. This allows enterprises, regardless of industry and size, to enhance vulnerability, IOC (IOC) identification and risk prioritization directly within existing tools and web pages.

With this new feature, enterprise customers have immediate access to threat intelligence that enables advanced context-based investigations derived from the various signs IntSights detects on the surface, deep, and dark webs. SOC teams can leverage IntSights Extend™ to perform end-to-end research and analysis to detect external threats and gain greater visibility and control.

● Great features of IntSights Extend™

IntSights Extend™ activates cyber threat intelligence data from any web-based application through a comprehensive survey of domains, URLs, IP addresses, file hashes, email addresses, and CVE information (Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures). Analyze, enhance, and view the latest threats and intelligence feeds in detail.

Koichi Iwasaki, Japan Country Manager, IntSights, said: "The business environment of a company is evolving rapidly due to the effects of a pandemic. Regardless of the size of the company, the rise of threats that have to be renewed in the attitude of cyber security is emerging. As a result, the use of threat intelligence continues to grow. The announcement of IntSights Extend is an example of our constant investment in research and development, and through our unique cyber research capabilities, companies can use it. It demonstrates our commitment to helping us gain the deepest and most practical threat intelligence on the market. "



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8 Hamada, P.O.B.4103 Herzliya Pituach 46140 Israel
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IntSights is meeting the rapidly growing demand for threat intelligence in Japan. IntSights has achieved remarkable results in 2020, with sales orders up 60% year-on-year and competitive win rates up 80%. With the steady expansion of our workforce and the appointment of key senior executives, product-driven growth by accelerating R & D, and the launch of our Resale Partner Program to expand our all-in-one external threat intelligence monitoring services. IntSights has been expanding rapidly in Japan since 2018.

Japanese agricultural giant Kubota, to partner with Israeli innovation firms

Kinneret Innovation Centre and Impact Innovation Israel will look for investment opportunities for Kubota and will be their link into the Israeli eco-system.

By JERUSALEM POST STAFF MARCH 21, 2021

Japanese agricultural equipment giant Kubota announced on March 14 that it will be partnering with Israel's leading agtech innovation hub Kinneret Innovation Center (KIC), and Impact Innovation Israel, the strategic advisory firm working with multinational companies on identifying and implementing innovative technological solutions.

This announcement followed [Kubota's](#) recent investments into Israeli agtech startups Tevel Robotics and SeeTree, as the Japanese company tries to develop its activities in the Israeli eco-system.

"Having a constant presence in Israel will allow us to be exposed to attractive deals early on and be on top of new trends and developments," said Peter van der Vlugt, General Manager of Kubota Innovation Centre Europe. "We are excited to partner with the team at Kinneret Innovation Centre and Impact Innovation Israel, and are looking forward to expanding our involvement and engagement in the Israeli eco-system."

KIC and Impact will look for investment opportunities for Kubota and will be their link into the Israeli eco-system.

"[Kinneret](#) Innovation Center's unique position and holistic approach provide us with an ongoing due diligence tool including great insights and opportunities," said CEO Elad Shamir. "We are



glad to partner with Kubota and to enable them to invest smartly and effectively in Israeli technologies."

"Kubota's presence in Israel will greatly benefit the eco-system as they will share their experience and expertise spanning over 120 years," Impact Innovation Israel founder Ethy Levy said. "We have seen an increasing interest in the Israeli market from Japanese investors over the past couple of years and Kubota's announcement is a great milestone in the Japan-Israel relations."

Israeli industrial cybersecurity company SCADAfence raises \$12 million

The funding round was led by JVP and joined by Rapid7 and GlobalBRains VC, after SCADAfence tripled both its revenues and customer base over the last year

Tech15:0022.03.21

Israeli industrial cybersecurity company SCADAfence announced on Monday that it has secured \$12 million in funding, led by existing investor JVP, with participation from strategic investor Rapid7, GlobalBrains and other existing shareholders.

The company, which provides cyber solutions for Operational Technology (OT) and Internet of Things (IoT) environments, said it had tripled both its revenue and customer base over the last year and is aiming to use the new funding to further accelerate its expanding global customer base across a diverse set of industries – including manufacturing, water treatment, critical infrastructure, oil and gas, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, and building management systems (BMS). Some of the company's existing customers include **Honda, Murata, Vestel, Mitsui Fudosan**, Taro Pharmaceuticals, and numerous other Fortune 500 companies in the U.S.

"This investment comes at a very opportune time for our industry as the demand for OT and IoT security is at an all-time high. SCADAfence is an organization in hyper-growth mode," said Elad Ben-Meir, the company's CEO. "SCADAfence has experienced exponential growth in 2020, despite the pandemic. We managed to triple our revenues and the number of our customers. We also won 11 industry awards - more than any other company in the industrial cybersecurity space

- including recognition from Gartner as a Cool Vendor and recognition by ISG as an industry leader. Moreover, Rapid7, a global cyber security leader has identified SCADAfence as the best-of-breed OT & IoT security solution and we believe our strategic partnership will create an industry-leading value proposition."

SCADAfence also announced that it has recruited several executives from leading cybersecurity organizations to grow its executive teams in sales engineering and revenue growth, including Gordon Boyce, the former CEO of Forescout, who joins the executive team as CRO. The company is looking to add at least 20 additional new members to its global team in the near future.

"Attacks on Operation Technology (OT) networks endanger countries and civilians alike, as they pose the soft underbelly for all critical infrastructure in the fields of energy, water supply, transportation and all aspects of our daily operations and basic necessities," said Shai Schiller, JVP General Partner. "The company plans to significantly expand its U.S. operations following the entry of Rapid7 as a strategic investor and partner. Rapid7's partnership exposes SCADAfence to a substantial salesforce, dozens of channels and thousands of strategic customers. Aside from the go to market expansion, the company is also expanding its product portfolio offering to cater for the ever-changing threat landscape and in essence offering the broadest set of security products in its competitive landscape".

"Cyber risks to industrial control systems are rapidly increasing, as is the market demand for holistic, risk-based solutions that provide visibility across IT and OT environments," added Conan Reidy, Senior Vice President of Corporate Development and Technology Alliances at Rapid7. "Our strategic investment in SCADAfence further solidifies our commitment to this growing market and we look forward to working with the SCADAfence team to bring OT & IoT cybersecurity capabilities to a broader customer base."



Cymulate Expands its Global Operations into Asia with Japanese Telecoms Giant NTT

NEW YORK and RISHON LETZION, Israel, March 23, 2021 /PRNewswire/ - [Cymulate](#), the only SaaS-based Continuous Security Validation platform to operationalize the MITRE ATT&CK® framework end-to-end, today announced a distributor agreement with NTT Advanced Technology (NTT-AT), one of the subsidiaries of NTT. NTT is the fifth largest publicly traded company in Japan and was ranked 65th on Fortune's Global 500. The partnership provides NTT's APAC enterprise clients with pre-emptive security assessments and the ability to run targeted attack simulations against the latest immediate cyber threats in the wild. The deal builds on Cymulate's existing agreements with NTT entities in the USA and Europe.

"Having undergone a rigorous and lengthy testing process, NTT-AT chose our technology due to its simple, end-to-end deployment, usability across the cyber kill-chain and ability to provide both out of the box simulations as well as purple team customization for more advanced users. We're delighted to partner with the NTT group as our first Asian partner while we expand into the Japanese security conscious enterprise market," said Eyal Wachsman, co-founder and CEO of Cymulate. "By automating security risk assessments, the NTT group and their clients will be empowered to challenge, assess and optimize their security posture simply and continuously."

Deployed by hundreds of companies across all key verticals including finance, healthcare, media, critical infrastructure, and manufacturing, Cymulate was recently recognized as #1 innovation leader on [Frost and Sullivan's](#) Global Breach and Attack Simulation (BAS) Radar report. Cymulate protects against the evolving threat landscape, and provides breadth of coverage including security control validation, attack surface management, employee security awareness and purple team testing.

Cymulate saw a [50% increase](#) in unique attacks in the wild in 2020 with the healthcare sector remaining most at risk. Asia specifically has been a hotspot of cyber-attacks this past year. In December over [600](#) Japanese entities, including government agencies, were targeted by attackers exploiting vulnerabilities in remote work technologies. [81%](#) of companies in APAC suffered at least one attack and about 18% suffered seven or more in 2020.

About NTT Advanced Technology Corp.



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Since its founding in 1976, NTT Advanced Technology Corp., as the technical core company of the NTT Group, has incorporated not only NTT Laboratories' diverse leading-edge technologies, such as network technology, media processing technology, Japanese language processing technology, environmental technology, optical devices, and Nano device technology, but also leading-edge technologies from both within Japan and abroad, and has integrated them to solve customer problems and provide value to customers.

About Cymulate

Cymulate's Continuous Security Validation enables companies to challenge, assess and optimize their cyber-security posture against the evolving threat landscape, simply and continuously. The platform provides out-of-the-box, expert and threat intelligence led RISK assessments that are simple to use for all skill levels, and constantly updated. It also provides an open framework for ethical hackers to create and automate red and purple team exercises and security assurance programs tailored to their unique environment and security policies. Cymulate helps security professionals to know and control their dynamic environment.

Riskified and Dentsu Announce Strategic Global Partnership to Support Digital Transformation for Retailers

March 24, 2021 14:15

Riskified Ltd. (Headquarters: Tel Aviv, Israel, CEO: Eido Gal, hereinafter "Riskified") and Dentsu Inc. (Headquarters: Minato-ku, Tokyo, President: Hiroshi Igarashi, hereinafter "Dentsu"), which provides e-commerce enablement and fraud prevention solutions : "Dentsu") announced that it has entered into a strategic partnership. Through this partnership, Dentsu will promote the dissemination and introduction of e-commerce enablement and fraud prevention solutions provided by Riskified, and support the promotion of digital transformation in customer businesses.

E-commerce companies around the world are enhancing their online capabilities and adapting to changing sales environments through digital transformation. However, criminals are trying to commit crimes against the backdrop of the global boom in e-commerce. They invest their time and effort to counter sophisticated fraud prevention tools and use advanced tactics to try to break through these tools. The threat of fraudulent transactions and fraud can cause e-commerce businesses to be too cautious, miss out on securing sources of revenue from foreign countries, and fraudulently reduce legitimate transactions, fully demonstrating the potential of online transactions. Not done.

Riskified helps e-commerce operators safely approve more orders, increase revenue, expand their business internationally, and deliver a better customer experience.

Dentsu is partnering with companies around the world to develop solutions that create new opportunities throughout the customer journey to help our customers grow globally. The partnership will give Dentsu-supported 11,000 customers access to Riskified's chargeback guarantee solution and eliminate risk from e-commerce by transferring responsibility for fraudulent transactions to Riskified. Will be.

Riskified's AI-powered platform allows e-commerce operators around the world to identify legitimate customers, detect and eliminate criminals, and complete transactions safely. With the adoption of Riskified, e-commerce businesses around the world are seeing dramatic increases in revenue and cost savings. This partnership brings together proven expertise in business, digital transformation and market strategy at Riskified and Dentsu to help e-commerce operators reach their potential.



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8 Hamada, P.O.B.4103 Herzliya Pituach 46140 Israel
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ntial in online trading.

Koji Watanabe, Senior Project Director, Dentsu's Global Business Center, said:

"We believe that supporting smooth payments will greatly contribute to the user experience and seamless e-commerce services that companies provide. We hope that we can provide such valuable solutions to customers around the world. I am very pleased, "

said Miki Kanayama, Global Business Producer of Dentsu's Business Producer Division.

"We are very much looking forward to this partnership as we will be able to offer Riskified's innovative approaches and solutions not only to Japanese customers but also to e-commerce operators around the world. Riskified's solutions are seamless. We are confident that it will help our customers increase their bottom line and reduce fraudulent transactions while providing an e-commerce experience. "

Jed Alpert, VP of Marketing & Channels at Riskified, said: It states as follows.

"As the world suffers from a pandemic, we are excited to promote digital transformation of e-commerce operators, maximize online sales and provide a superior consumer experience through our partnership with Dentsu. This partnership is Riskified. It is also an important testament to the global growth of Dentsu. Having Dentsu as a partner means that we have global and local partners who can support EC operators around the world. "

About Riskified

Riskified helps the e-commerce industry reach its full potential by making the e-commerce industry safe, accessible and economical. From airlines to luxury fashion brands to the gift card market, the world's largest companies rely on Riskified to increase revenue, manage risk and improve the customer experience. E-commerce businesses are losing billions of dollars through traditional fraud prevention solutions, default payments, and high-friction authentication systems. Riskified uses powerful machine learning algorithms to identify legitimate customers and securely complete transactions. With Riskified, e-commerce operators can safely approve more orders, expand their business abroad, enable omni-channel flow, and provide a smooth customer experience

Hip Revolutionizes the Commute with First-Ever Dynamic Corporate Shuttle Platform for the Post-Pandemic Workplace

Company Secures \$12 Million in Funding led by NFX and Magenta Venture Partners, with participation by AltaIR Capital, and Former Executives at Uber, Booking.com, Google

NEW YORK, Feb. 2, 2021 /PRNewswire/ -- Hip, the mobility start-up that pioneered tech-first transportation for daily commuters, today announced a game-changing enterprise platform, that gives companies turn-key commuter shuttle & employee transportation programs that are resilient and flexible for the post-pandemic workplace taking shape.

In addition to the highly-rated Hip commuter app, the full-service platform includes route planning & management tools, contact tracing and a robust analytics dashboard, along with five-star transportation service with the highest health & safety standards. The company secured \$12 million in funding led by NFX and Magenta Venture Partners, with participation by AltaIR Capital, and former Uber, Booking.com, and Google executives to grow engineering, global sales and operations.

"The way corporate America 'works' is changing; the future of the workplace will look very different than it does now," says Gigi Levy Weiss, General Partner at NFX. "We invested in Hip because we saw the impact that their technology will have on commuters and employers bringing their workforce back to the office in this new post-pandemic environment, creating opportunities for corporations to keep employees safe and keep their businesses operating optimally."

The innovative new platform gives companies a flexible employee transportation option, and uses dynamic route optimization algorithms to ensure the most efficient set of shuttle routes and vehicles are used every day, minimizing employee time commuting, and controlling company spend. With the highly-rated Hip app, employees book tickets, reserve seats, and track their transportation in real time. The enterprise platform offers tools like contact tracing and vehicle capacity controls, plus customizable features like an in-app health & safety consent flow, to make returning to the office safe and smooth.



"Creating a comfortable, convenient, and safe transportation option for employees will encourage them to return to the workplace," says Ran Levitzky, General Partner at Magenta Venture Partners. "Hip is leveraging technology to give companies & employees flexibility that the post-pandemic workplace requires for them to thrive."

With the change in the work environment, companies around the world are planning a hybrid approach with employees working partially from home and partially in the office. In a recent survey, **73% of companies** said they plan to support a hybrid work model of both in-office and remote work. Hip's technology and managed-service platform lets companies solve their employees' new commute challenges, with key employee experience and safety features, while also maintaining the flexibility to accommodate the future commute.

A Hip commute is relaxed and pleasant, a key benefit to attracting employees back to the office. Hip offers a full-service commuter platform with its game-changing technology on clean, spacious vehicles with productivity enhancements like wifi and power outlets, or Hip can integrate its commute mobility-as-a-service software platform with companies' existing ground transportation providers.

About Hip

Hip is a pioneering mobility technology company based in New York City and Tel Aviv, with a mission to transform the daily commute. Hip's commute-as-a-service platform is available for organizations throughout the US, and major cities worldwide.

Field Service Management Startup Workiz Raises \$13M in Series B Funding

Introduces first-of-its-kind automated Service Phone System to improve customer experience and increase revenue for service professionals, Magenta Partners VC Joins this Series B round

February 24, 2021 07:00 AM Eastern Standard Time

SAN DIEGO--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Workiz, the leading field service management and communication startup, announced today that it has closed a \$13 million Series B fundraising round led by **New Era Capital Partners**, with **Managing Partner Gideon Argov joining the Workiz board**. Additional investors include **Aleph, Magenta Venture Partners, Maor Investments, and TMT Investments PLC**.

Workiz more than doubled revenue and clients in both 2019 and 2020. The cloud-based field service management solution enables service professionals to quote and schedule jobs, send invoices, receive payments, and manage clients, teams, and inventory with numerous avenues for automation, customization, and optimization across the platform. Workiz caters to over 100,000 service professionals across the United States and Canada who have scheduled more than 12 million jobs, sent upwards of 100 million text messages to clients, and earned over \$5 billion in job revenue.

“What started as a venture between friends now spans multiple industries and locations across North America. This new round of funding highlights the momentum that has kept growing since our launch in 2015, thanks to our ongoing commitment to R&D focused on empowering home service professionals through technological capabilities,” said Workiz CEO Adi (Didi) Azaria. “While the home services industry has traditionally lagged in digital adoption, we aim to use these new funds to harness opportunities to provide clients with the transformative technologies they need to elevate the customer experience they deliver and reimagine their businesses through innovation.”

The pandemic has accelerated changing customer expectations of digital engagement. Now more than ever, locksmiths, carpet cleaners, appliance repair specialists, junk removal professionals, and other essential home service providers are positioned to embrace innovative tools to replace pen and paper, automate client communications, enhance customer experience, and increase revenue for their small businesses.



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Investment House Ltd.

8 Hamada, P.O.B. 4103 Herzliya Pituach 46140 Israel
T: +972-9-955-0560 ; www.harel-hertz.com ; info@harel-hertz.com

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"Field service management is a market ripe for disruption, with a technological approach that is both agile and competitive," said Gideon Argov, Managing Partner at New Era Capital Partners. "In Workiz, we found all the elements for success, coupled with passionate leadership that started from the field. We are delighted to join the Workiz team."

Long before businesses were shut down and social distancing was the norm, [three friends set out](#) to start a locksmith business in San Diego. In an effort to optimize their advertising budget, Erez Marom, Idan Kadosh, and Saar Kohanovitch—who would later go on to sell their business for \$1 million and found Workiz—bought separate mobile phones for every Yellow Pages ad they took out to evaluate which ads brought in more leads.

Inspired by that pile of cellphones, the company is debuting the [Workiz Service Phone System](#), an experience-driven digital solution to replace time-intensive and mistake-prone manual processes associated with telephone-based service calls. From first-hand knowledge, Workiz's founders understood that all service calls start with a phone call, and so they conceived of the Service Phone System to deliver control to business owners over their customer communications. The Service Phone System features easily accessible and automatically indexed call recording, profitability-conscious ad source tracking, and patented call masking technology that provides discretion both to the business and to the end consumer. Business owners gain peace of mind knowing that all calls between dispatchers, technicians, and customers are recorded and monitored, and customers enjoy responsiveness and professional service even in the most urgent circumstances.

About Workiz

Workiz is the premier field service management and communication software for small to medium, on-demand service businesses in the locksmith, junk removal, carpet cleaning, garage door repair, and appliance repair industries. With specialized and customizable features like scheduling, dispatching, client and job management, invoicing, payments, inventory management, online booking, and a patented in-app Service Phone System, Workiz is on a mission to make "work easy" and transform service professionals into business professionals. Workiz integrates with Quickbooks, Google, Zoom, MailChimp, and Gusto

Samurai Incubators VC invest in FUGU

Israel's FUGU raises seed round for online consumer fraud protection. The company helps merchants identify fraudulent payments online with machine learning at the post-purchase stage

James Spiro16:0010.03.21

FUGU, an Israeli startup that has launched a technology enabling trust between online businesses and their customers, has completed a seed round to help fund the fight against consumer fraud in online commerce. The amount, which is roughly \$600,000, was led by an international venture fund and private investors.

FUGU uses machine learning technology to change the way that payments are made online. It provides online businesses with continuous and up-to-date information on the risks inherent to each transaction, allowing decision points such as cancellation before shipment, to occur. It does this by tracking the payment post-purchase to look for signs of fraud.

"The main point is that the entire system of payments 'insures' itself on top of the merchant's backs," explained Amir Sadras, Founder and CEO at FUGU. "Therefore, they naturally defend themselves with overprotection that erodes sales. Our goal is to help them with our service, a unique method and the only one that protects the merchant from fraud committed by cardholders abusing consumer protection regulations. These scams have grown at a double-digit rate in recent years and have become a real nuisance."

FUGU was founded by Sadras, a Technion graduate engineer. Its CTO, Nimrod Shory, is an entrepreneur and was previously CTO in Residence at Sarona Partners. The solution is available for installation on platforms like Shopify and Magento with customers in the U.S and Israel.

Israeli Goodwill for Japan

Comprehensive Israeli initiative aims to further strengthen ties 10 years after the Fukushima disaster

March 16, 2021 Israel Today.

This month the Israeli Embassy in Japan launched a unique initiative including a series of projects in the eastern Japanese region affected by the earthquake, tsunami and radioactive disaster in Fukushima. The initiative marks the 10th anniversary of the disaster.

This new cooperation between Israel and Japan will include a variety of projects in the fields of technological innovation, economics, culture and welfare. The various projects will include key figures from the Israeli high-tech world, author David Grossman, the Boom Pam band and pianist-composer Shai Maestro. The initiative is a continuation of Israeli support for the region, which began immediately after the disaster.

Creating this platform for future cooperation will strengthen the friendship with the Japanese superpower and contribute to Israel's political and economic strength.

Ten years ago, Israel was the first country to send a medical delegation to the disaster-stricken eastern Japan region to help those suffering. Despite significant difficulties encountered and bridged by the Israeli embassy, including cultural, language, and coordination gaps, the delegation established a field hospital and operated in the area for over two weeks. Upon completion of its activities, the Israeli delegation donated all medical equipment at its disposal to a local hospital, including advanced equipment like ultrasound devices and more. The Israeli aid at the time has remained inscribed in the collective memory of the local residents, and has acted as fertile ground for the connection between the embassy and significant organizations and individuals of the region to this day.



Israel's mission to mark the 10th anniversary of the Fukushima disaster is a direct continuation of the relationship that began in 2011. The initiative is expected to strengthen economic and political ties between the two countries, and to enhance Israel's image as a source of innovation, entrepreneurship, and as a developed culture.

Israel's ambassador to Japan, Ms. Yaffa Ben-Ari, said:

"The partnership and friendship between Israel and Japan has been growing steadily over the past decade. Within the good relationship that exists between the countries, the relationship with the east Japan region is a special story. We were honored to assist local residents 10 years ago and to be the first to provide medical assistance. It is a privilege for us today to launch a number of projects for cooperation with key parties from the region. The Embassy in Tokyo is working to create connections between the two peoples and to establish successful ties between the two countries. The current initiative, which touches on a deeply important issue for the Japanese people, is expected to further strengthen bilateral relations between Israel and Japan, and open up new opportunities for joint activity."



Israeli Ambassador to Japan Yaffa Ben-Ari with Fukushima Provincial Governor during a visit to the province in December 2020.

Project to connect the start-up industries

Towards the end of April, the Israeli Embassy in Japan will launch a project to create a connection between the Israeli start-up industry and the local start-up industry in the Tohoku area, which has grown rapidly in recent years. For this purpose, the embassy is a member of a group of entrepreneurs from the city of Sendai in eastern Japan, which works to promote start-ups and the development of the local ecosystem, and of one of the largest private investment funds in Japan – the Nippon Foundation. The project will include a program for professional guidance by leading Israeli mentors in the industry, and a dedicated training program on entrepreneurship and innovation. Apart from assisting the local ecosystem, the aim of the project is to create a long-term connection between the entrepreneurial communities from Israel and the East Japan region, which will lead to economic changes for both parties.

The short film project “Nowhere to Go but Everywhere”

More than 15,800 people perished during the 2011 disaster, and more than 2,500 are still listed as missing. One of the missing is the wife of Yasuo Takamatsu, a local bus driver from the town of Ongu. A decade later, Yasuo continues to dive into the depths of the sea in an attempt to track down his missing wife. In a special production of the Israeli Embassy in Japan, author David Grossman and Israeli pianist and composer Shai Maestro will collaborate with two Japanese filmmakers, Masako Tsumura and Erik Shirai, to create a short documentary about Yasuo’s moving story.

The film is expected to be released this May, but you can view the trailer right here:

The musical album project “3 / 11-3 / 21”

The Israeli initiative will include a unique Israeli-Japanese cultural connection for the production of a mini-album. The album will be produced by the Israeli band Boom-Pam, and by folk artists from the area of the town where the Home Front Command delegation was stationed in 2011. Over the next few months,

musical pieces will be recorded simultaneously in both countries, which will be connected to the album in collaboration with producers from the Japanese Folk Art Association.

Welfare projects

The initiative also includes two welfare projects designed to support the local population in eastern Japan. Many of the locals in the affected districts to this day experience various difficulties, and many of them, especially the young ones, leave the area and move to other districts. The Israeli Embassy in Japan will cooperate with two local civil society organizations, in order to operate two community centers in the area. The first is for education and will provide activities for children and adults who have struggled to recover since the disaster. The second center will be targeted at high-risk youth who have dropped out of school. The center will provide a “warm home” for them, and a place for meetings and activities with leading individuals in the local industry, mainly fishing and agriculture.

April

AI company Trax closes SoftBank and BlackRock-led financing

A computer vision company with plans to transform the future of brick-and-mortar retail has closed a Series E financing round raising USD 640 million,

The financing round, led by **SoftBank Vision Fund II** and **technology-focused funds managed by BlackRock**, an existing investor of Singapore-headquartered Trax, also saw involvement from new investors including one of Canada's biggest defined benefit pension plans, OMERS, and **Sony Innovation Fund by Innovation Growth Ventures**.

Trax's mission is to drive digital transformation of the retail shopping experience, providing packaged goods companies and food retailers with customer engagement, merchandising, revenue and market analysis services using advanced technology including artificial intelligence and image recognition.

As a result, companies in the retail industry, one of the most affected industries in the Covid-19 pandemic, can accelerate their growth, save on costs and focus on purchase and awareness intent.

"We are witnessing the retail industry adopt digital technologies at an unprecedented pace and scale," said executive chairman and co-founder of Trax Joel Bar-El in a statement, adding:

"Despite the turbulence of 2020, we made tremendous strides in our business because of the hard work, dedication and team spirit at Trax."

Bar-El continued to state that the new funding "puts Trax confidently at the forefront of the future of retail, where the physical and digital combine in new ways to bring meaningful experiences to shoppers".

Trax, which was founded in 2010, plans to harness the funds to help it expand its role in developing technology that allows retailers to gain insight into activities by people in physical

stores in a way similar to how they track shoppers online, Behar said. The company, which already works with retailers in more than 90 countries, also intends to use the money to expand to parts of the world where it does not already have a presence and for potential acquisitions, he added.

SoftBank Investment Advisers' director Chris Lee noted: "Trax is optimizing retail stores by enabling consumer packaged goods brands and retailers to execute better inventory strategies using data and analytics," while Trax's CEO Justin Behar said: "Through this significant investment from SoftBank, BlackRock and others, we will invest in our team, extend our market leadership, continue to scale our retailer business, and drive the next stages of long-term growth and innovation."

JP Morgan acted as placement agent to Trax on the financing round, with Latham & Watkins acting as legal adviser to Trax, using a corporate deal team headed up by Hong Kong partner Amy Beckingham and Bay Area partner Tad Freese, who were assisted by two associates, Bing Xi Sia and Vivian Yeung.

Tiger Global and Softbank pour \$310 million into Redis Labs

Israeli database software developer closed a \$110 million series G round at a company valuation of more than \$2 billion in addition to completing a \$200 million secondary transaction

Meir Orbach16:0007.04.21

Database software developer Redis Labs Inc. announced on Wednesday that it has completed a \$110 million series G round, taking the company's valuation to more than \$2 billion. The round was led by new investor, Tiger Global, and also included participation of another new investor in Softbank's Vision Fund 2, as well as from existing investor TCV. Additionally, Tiger, SoftBank, and TCV acquired additional ownership as part of a \$200 million secondary transaction.

"In this current round some early investors sold their holdings," Redis CEO Ofer Bengal told Calcalist. "We have angel investors that invested in the company when it was valued at \$5 million and for them this is an exit in which they will be making 20 and 30 times their money. Everyone held on to some of their holdings and no one sold all their shares."

Founded in 2011 by Bengal (CEO) and Yiftach Shoolman (CTO), Redis Labs has now raised a net amount of \$347 million and will continue to invest in expanding the company's global footprint and advancing its market-leading real-time data platform. The company employs 500 people worldwide and plans to recruit another 200 new employees this year, half of which are set to join Redis' R&D center in Israel, which currently numbers 150 employees. The company's existing investors include Bain Capital Ventures, Francisco Partners, Goldman Sachs Growth, Viola Ventures, TCV, and Dell Technologies Capital.

Bengal told Calcalist that Redis decided against going public, either via a traditional IPO or a SPAC, despite some lucrative offers. "There was a big demand from many investors and one of the reasons we chose the ones we did is that these are players that will also participate in an IPO and will remain onboard afterward and these are the types of investors you want to work with," added Bengal. "We received offers to do a SPAC and go public, but it is still too early for us, which is why we decided to embark on this funding round. In our sector the name of the game is to grow quickly and companies from our sector are rewarded by the market for accelerated growth and that is the route we are taking. We are burning a lot of money right now and that is preventing us from being profitable and when you are a public company you have to be very cautious about that. I want to continue and grow as a private company and we will go public next year if market conditions are good. If the market cools off, we might wait a bit with going public as we have enough money and the ability to wait, raising \$110 million just six months ago and now



another \$100 million. We have \$230 million in our account and have the luxury of deciding when to go public," said Bengal.

"\$100 million isn't a big investment for our new investors and they were looking to invest more. But because we didn't want to dilute the shares too much, we decided that this was enough money."

Redis reported that it experienced revenue growth of over 54% (CAGR) over the three years ending in January 2021, with more than 8,000 paying customers, including 31% of the Fortune 100. The company said it has a net retention rate greater than 120% and has built joint go-to-market programs for Redis Enterprise Cloud with AWS, Google Cloud, and Microsoft Azure, which includes the general availability of Redis Enterprise-powered tiers on Azure Cache for Redis.

"Tiger were the ones who led the round and we considered them a good partner due to their connections in the Far East, in particular in Japan and China, markets which we plan to enter and in which they can help us a lot. None of the investors has a controlling share and we saw no problem in raising money from them."

"We founded Redis Labs with the idea that the future of the database market would be defined by performance, where Redis excels," Bengal added. "Through the dedication of our team, Redis has become an enterprise-grade data platform to tackle nearly any real-time use case across every industry."

GenCell Energy receives \$14.3m investment

BNP Paribas and TDK support a global hydrogen economy

By [Molly Burgess](#) on Apr 13, 2021

Banking group BNP Paribas has cemented its support for a global hydrogen economy by leading an investment worth approximately \$14.3m in GenCell Energy.

Made through BNP Paribas' investment arm BNP Paribas Energy Transition Fund, together with TDK Ventures and additional investors, the effort will help GenCell continue to extend the momentum towards its company objectives.

BNP Paribas Energy Transition Fund, an alternative arm of BNP Paribas, manages assets in the volume of €6bn, with a major focus on the green energy sector. BNP Paribas has invested hundreds of millions of dollars in companies such as Ballard Power Systems

"We are pleased to finalise our initial investment in GenCell, whose innovative fuel cell and hydrogen technologies closely align with the sustainable finance values and guidelines directing our investments," said Edward Lees, Director of the BNP Paribas Energy Transition Fund BNPP CP.

"The BNP Paribas Foundation was one of the first organisations to finance climate research. BNP Paribas has made the energy transition one of its pillars of the company's engagement, for example through the financing of renewable energy. The Group believes that hydrogen and fuel cells have a strong role to play in the transition to a low carbon economy, whether in mobility, in industry or in energy storage."

Welcoming the investment, Rami Reshef, Co-Founder and CEO GenCell, added, "We are extremely honoured and appreciative to note this extraordinary investment by leading international institutional and private investors."

"We recognise the investment by BNPP – a large and important institution focused on investments in renewable energy and hydrogen sectors – to be an expression of belief in GenCell's revolution that we are undertaking. This investment follows upon our recent announcement regarding closer cooperation with the Japanese corporation TDK to develop the fuel of the future – green ammonia."



“The investment will enable us to continue to extend the momentum towards the objectives we set for ourselves in terms of establishing cooperation with important international bodies and reinforcing the positioning of GenCell in our target markets.”

Aquarius Engines Signs New Deal with Japanese Auto-parts Manufacturer TPR

ROSH HA'AYIN, Israel, April 1, 2021 /PRNewswire/ -- [Aquarius Engines](#) (TASE: AQUA) has signed a memorandum of understanding with Japanese auto-parts manufacturer TPR, focused on cooperation between TPR and Aquarius's soon-to-be established Japanese subsidiary.

[Aquarius Engines](#) is in the process of establishing a sister company in Japan with the aim of promoting and strengthening ties with existing **Japanese partners, which include Honda-affiliate Musashi Seimitsu and TPR.**

Aquarius Japan will work to create strategic partnerships across Asia and promote more business opportunities in the Japanese market. In addition to research and development to adapt the patented Aquarius linear engine to operate on hydrogen and penetrate the Japanese automobile market.

TPR is a Japanese publicly traded manufacturer of components for the global automotive industry, and is a non-material shareholder in Aquarius Engines.

According to the memorandum of understanding, which is still subject to a number of conditions, the two companies will cooperate in multiple areas that include development production and supply of parts that Aquarius Engines will use to manufacture its products. The manufacture and assembly of the Aquarius Engine and generator by TPR. The sale of the Aquarius Engines and generators by TPR in certain areas and their subsequent maintenance. In addition, TPR expressed its willingness to invest in the Aquarius's Japanese subsidiary, and both parties agreed

that TPR would be given an option to invest at least \$5M in Aquarius Japan, with the opportunity to participate in the company's management.

Aquarius Engines estimates that the new business partnership with TPR, a leading player in the automotive industry, with significant commercial experience, could have a positive impact on demand for products developed by Aquarius Engines and give significant advantage in terms of quality and turnaround.

Aquarius Engines looks to Japan as a key destination for strategic collaboration, which are expected to advance the company's research and development in international markets. The new collaboration is also expected to propel Aquarius Engines towards its entry into the automotive market through a strategic partnership with a leading player in the industry.

It should also be noted that the Government of Japan continues to encourage the development of technological innovations in the field of hydrogen as an energy source and allocates significant resources for this purpose, a move that serves as a fertile ground for the Aquarius Engines plans to revolutionize green energy.

"We are pleased to be partnering with TPR, which is a dominant and central force in the Japanese automotive industry. Bringing together our subsidiary Aquarius Japan with TPR, we will be able to create long-term relationships with leading manufacturers in the Japanese market and establish Aquarius' status as a key player in manufacturing the cars of the future. This is thanks to our innovative products, which will contribute to the green revolution that has already begun in the global automotive industry," said Gal Fridman, Chairman of Aquarius Engines.

Aquarius Engines has developed and produced a tiny 10kg linear engine for generating electricity, with an internal combustion mechanism designed primarily for use in generators. Unlike large traditional engines, the Aquarius Engine has only one moving part and converts fuel into electricity without the use of oil. Due to its size and light weight, the engine has high mechanical efficiency that allows for low emissions and low pollution.

In addition to its partnerships with the Japanese Musashi Seimitsu and TPR, Aquarius Engines has a partnership with Nokia in the field of remote communication and energy equipment management.

The [Aquarius Engines](#) technology currently has around 20 patents registered worldwide. The technology has additional applications in the fields of aviation, marine and range extenders for the automotive market. Aquarius has manufacturing and development centers in Israel, Germany and Poland.

Agaroot Academy Chooses Cybint to Launch Cybersecurity Bootcamp in Japan for Corporate Clients

A unique bootcamp partnership focused on corporate clients in general and Managed Security Service Providers (MSSP) in particular looking to fill cyber roles

TOKYO, April 1, 2021 /PRNewswire/ -- [Cybint](#), a global cyber education and training company, partners with [Agaroot Academy](#), a Japanese online education leader, to launch the Cybint Cybersecurity Bootcamp for corporate clients in Japan, aimed at closing the cyber skills gap in the region.

The Cybint Bootcamp [at Agaroot](#) is structured to future-proof workers on a global scale with cyber skills, ensuring they can protect their organizations from emerging cyber threats. One of the first sales partners with Agaroot for the new cybersecurity bootcamp is [LAC](#), a major managed security service provider in Japan.

"This collaboration is marking the beginning of real, exponential growth of the cybersecurity workforce in Japan," says Roy Zur, Founder and CEO of Cybint. "It is an honor for Cybint to

partner with Agaroot and LAC, and connect the dots between hands-on learning, launching careers in cybersecurity, and closing the employment gap in Japan".

"Recently, the risk of corporate data mismanagement due to information leakage by cyber attacks has increased," comments Hokuto Iwasaki, Founder and CEO of Agaroot. "Training engineers who are familiar with cybersecurity is an issue and we are very pleased to be able to provide assistance to solve this by partnering with Cybint, who has a track record of global cybersecurity education, and LAC Co., Ltd., who are leading cybersecurity experts in Japan."

"LAC is welcome to introduce the cybersecurity training provided by Cybint to Japan," says Shunsuke Higashi, General Manager of Digital Innovation Department of LAC. "These days, it requires more practical training in cybersecurity under the circumstances that our businesses are connected globally through digital devices. Cases of cyber incidents occurring abroad are spilling into Japan. It is necessary to nurture skilled human resources who can understand and practice high-level cybersecurity technology in order to take effective cybersecurity measures."

"Israel is well-known for their cyber expertise and Cybint is an Israeli company that has experience implementing cybersecurity training all over the world. It is our pleasure to raise awareness of Japanese organizations and support upskilling in cybersecurity by introducing the Bootcamp into the online curriculum of LAC Security Academy, which has been successful in a number of trainings in Japan."

About Cybint:

Cybint is a global cyber education company with a commitment to reskilling the workforce and upskilling the industry in cybersecurity. With innovative and leading-edge education and training solutions, Cybint tackles cybersecurity's two greatest threats: the talent shortage and the skills gap. The Cybint team is comprised of military cyber experts, industry professionals, and educators united under the vision of creating a safer digital world through education, training, and collaboration.

About Agaroot:

In the qualification examination online course "Agaroot Academy" that started in January 2015, a large number of short-term passers were produced in difficult examinations such as the bar examination, administrative scrivener examination, and social insurance labor consultant

examination. Recently, we have developed a wide range of educational programs that go beyond the framework of qualification exams, centered on alliances, such as data science courses (courses in partnership with GRI Incorporated) and business skills courses (courses in partnership with nobetech Co.,Ltd.). The business is expanding rapidly.

About LAC:

LAC was founded as a system developing company in 1986 and has developed infrastructural systems of society, especially has many records in the financial services. LAC started business in cybersecurity in 1995 and currently provides cutting-edge IT total solutions using leading cybersecurity technologies with customers in public service, companies, and a wide variety of organizations as a leading cybersecurity company in Japan.

Murata Continues to Innovate Its SmartFactory Initiative, Selecting SCADAfence To Secure All Their Global Factories

TOKYO and TEL AVIV, Israel, April 7, 2021 /PRNewswire/ -- SCADAfence (SCADAfence/HQ in Tel Aviv, Israel/CEO: Elad Ben-Meir), the global leader in OT/IoT Security, today announced Murata Manufacturing Co., Ltd. (Murata/HQ in Kyoto, Japan/President: Norio Nakajima) has selected SCADAfence to secure Murata's global factories and started to use their OT security solutions in their factories.

As the use of IoT technology and digital transformation (DX) progresses, production facilities in factories are now increasingly connected to the Internet. Unlike corporate environments, factories must prioritize the operation of their production facilities while improving the level of security measures against cyber-attacks that are becoming more advanced every day.

[The SCADAfence Platform](#) is designed for securing large manufacturing facilities. By collecting communication data from operational systems and production facilities in real-time, the SCADAfence Platform visualizes and analyzes the contents of communication protocols using its unique analysis technology. It detects suspicious movements of production facilities resulting



from cyber-attacks, insecure protocols, as well as unexpected configuration changes and malfunctions, enabling the enhancement of network monitoring functions in factories.

Based on Murata's Global Agreement for this global implementation with NRI Secure Technologies Ltd. (NRISecure/HQ in Tokyo, Japan/President: Akira Kakinoki), a consulting partner under SCADAfence's eco-partnership program in Japan, NRISecure and SCADAfence will jointly support Murata's manufacturing to further improve the level of security measures at their production sites and ensure the safety and security of their global production activities.

The solutions provided by SCADAfence are integrated network monitoring tools that maximize the security and availability of production processes consisting of the following components.

- **OT / ICS Security** - [The SCADAfence Platform](#) is an industrial cybersecurity solution that provides visibility and monitoring for industrial networks. The platform is passive and automates asset discovery and inventory management, as well as threat detection and risk management. By employing a wide range of algorithms, machine learning, and AI, the platform detects anomalies and security events that can compromise availability and affect the safety and reliability of an OT network and its assets. The SCADAfence Platform is an award-winning solution that has the highest detection rates and the lowest false positive rates in the industry. It allows for centralized management of multiple locations and can be easily integrated into other cybersecurity solutions using a RESTful API.
- **Governance & Compliance** - [The SCADAfence Governance Portal](#) measures compliance and monitors the progress made over time across all sites. It identifies all of the gaps and bottlenecks and allows users to generate systematic strategies to improve their organizational security at scale. The portal enables IT and OT departments to centrally define and monitor their organizational adherence to organizational policies and to OT-related regulations. The governance portal is easily deployed, is not intrusive, and does not jeopardize the process availability in any of the OT sites.

"We have seen a substantial increase in the number of targeted attacks against manufacturing organizations over the past 12 months. As detailed in our [Anatomy of a Targeted Ransomware Attack](#) report, manufacturing facilities have become lucrative targets for crime syndicates, nation-states, and individuals with nefarious intent," said Miyoji Kakinuki, Sales Director of Japan & APAC of SCADAfence.

About Murata

Murata Manufacturing Co., Ltd. is a worldwide leader in the design, manufacture and sale of ceramic-based passive electronic components & solutions, communication modules and power supply modules. Murata is committed to the development of advanced electronic materials and leading edge, multi-functional, high-density modules. The company has employees and manufacturing facilities throughout the world. For more information, visit Murata's website at <https://www.murata.com>

About NRI SecureTechnologies

NRI SecureTechnologies is a subsidiary of NRI specializing in cybersecurity, and a leading global provider of next-generation managed security services and security consulting. Established in 2000, NRI Secure is focused on delivering high-value security outcomes for our clients with the precision and efficiency that define Japanese quality. For more details, visit <https://www.nri-secure.com>

About SCADAfence

SCADAfence is the global technology leader in OT & IoT cybersecurity. SCADAfence offers a full suite of industrial cybersecurity products that provides full coverage of large-scale networks, offering best-in-class network monitoring, asset discovery, governance, remote access, and IoT device security. A Gartner "Cool Vendor" in 2020, SCADAfence delivers proactive security and visibility to some of the world's most complex OT networks, including the largest manufacturing facility in Europe. SCADAfence enables organizations in critical infrastructure, manufacturing, and building management industries to operate securely, reliably, and efficiently.

KDDI Partners with Cato Networks to Deliver Cloud-Native SASE Services Worldwide

The agreement demonstrates how CSPs can leverage SASE to address digital enterprise requirements for pervasive secure access

TEL AVIV, Israel, April 14, 2021 /PRNewswire/ -- [Cato Networks](#), the provider of the [world's first SASE platform](#), announced today a partnership with KDDI Corp to deliver Cato SASE services across North America, Europe, and the Asia Pacific. The agreement demonstrates how Communication Service Providers (CSPs) like KDDI can leverage cloud-delivered SASE to quickly meet enterprise requirements for pervasive security and optimized access from the branch, the road, and the office to any application.

"We look forward to partnering with KDDI and helping IT leaders everywhere benefit from the power of SASE," said Shlomo Kramer, CEO and co-founder of Cato Networks. "With the Cato Cloud SASE platform, CSPs can provide their customers secure access to corporate resources worldwide without compromising on performance, visibility, and control."

"KDDI is very happy to have this partnership with Cato and excited to be able to provide such secure network features to our enterprise customers," said Toru Maruta, Executive Officer and Head of Product Management in the solution business sector of KDDI.

KDDI Leverages Cato SASE Platform to Address Digital Requirements

With enterprises moving data to the cloud and users working from anywhere, CSPs need to offer IT and security leaders pervasive secure access solutions without compromising the user experience.

"Our customers are searching for a solution to enable their people to 'Work from Home,' but they have major concerns about the security of such solutions," said Mr. Maruta.



Cato's global SASE platform addresses this need for CSPs, converging access and network security into a global cloud-native service. With a single converged offering, CSPs can offer enterprise customers a secure access solution without the operational overhead of integrating and managing multiple third-party appliances and Virtual Network Functions (VNFs).

Cato's fully converged, cloud-delivered platform offers CSPs a global private network of more than 65 points of presence (PoPs), allowing them to go to market quickly with:

- **Pervasive security** where users and resources anywhere are protected by a fully managed suite of enterprise-grade and agile network security capabilities, including a NGFW, Secure Web Gateway, Advanced Threat Prevention, and a Managed Threat Detection and Response (MDR) service.
- **Persistent secured remote access** coupling SDP/ZTNA with the rest of Cato security and network optimizations
- **Optimized cloud access** to resources in Azure, AWS, and other cloud datacenters without requiring additional software or hardware.
- **Optimized SaaS access** by routing traffic across Cato to the doorstep of the SaaS application.

All managed through a single console, expandable through a single, global API, and available on-demand through zero-touch deployment.

"The beauty of Cato Cloud is that it doesn't just provide connectivity - it also provides the security features that enterprise customers demand. Cato Cloud's vision is just that - providing network and security all combined in one package," said Mr. Maruta.

About Cato Networks

Cato is the world's first [SASE platform](#), converging [SD-WAN](#), network security, and [Zero Trust Network Access \(ZTNA\)](#) into a global, cloud-native service. Cato optimizes and secures application access for all users and locations. Using Cato Cloud, customers easily migrate from MPLS to SD-WAN, optimize connectivity to on-premises and cloud applications, enable secure branch Internet access everywhere, seamlessly integrate cloud datacenters into the network,

and connect mobile users with Cato SDP client and clientless access options. With Cato, the network, and your business, are [ready for whatever's next](#).

About KDDI

KDDI is a telecommunication service provider in Japan, offering both mobile and fixed-line communications. With its well-established base of over 58 million customers, and through mobile services and shops offering its "au" brand, KDDI is expanding its services into the "Life Design" business, which includes e-commerce, fintech, nationwide electric power utility services, entertainment and education. With a 60-year history, KDDI is now focusing on creating smart infrastructure through IoT technologies and open innovation with partners and start-up companies in diverse industries. KDDI is accelerating the global growth of its telecommunications consumer business, with operations in Myanmar and Mongolia, and in the global ICT business with the "TELEHOUSE" brand.

Gilat Receives Over \$5M for Cellular Backhaul Expansion from Tier-1 Mobile Network Carrier in Japan

April 22, 2021 7:09 AM EDT

PETAH TIKVA, Israel, April 22, 2021 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Gilat Satellite Networks Ltd. (Nasdaq: GILT, TASE: [GILT](#)), a worldwide leader in satellite networking technology, solutions and services, announced today that it received over \$5M for cellular backhaul over satellite expansion from Tier-1 Mobile Network Carrier in Japan.

The Mobile Carrier will utilize Gilat's SkyEdge II-c platform to quickly expand coverage to rural zones that are lacking fiber access, as well as to provide emergency response in the case of earthquakes or other natural disasters. An aggressive deployment schedule was put in place to fulfil the carrier's requirements.

"The leading Mobile Carrier, required Gilat's proven cellular backhaul solution to meet its aggressive deployment schedule and to meet interoperability standards," said Abhay Kumar, Regional Vice President, APJ at Gilat. "This win adds on to other Japanese and worldwide Tier-1 operators who are benefitting from Gilat's leading cellular backhaul technology, with a joint vision of delivering connectivity to people in the most remote regions, as well as to providing the essential emergency response readiness in a disaster-prone country such as Japan."

About Gilat Gilat Satellite Networks Ltd. (NASDAQ: GILT, TASE: [GILT](#)) is a leading global provider of satellite-based broadband communications. With 30 years of experience, we design and manufacture cutting-edge ground segment equipment, and provide comprehensive solutions and end-to-end services, powered by our innovative technology. Delivering high value competitive solutions, our portfolio comprises of a cloud based VSAT network platform, high-speed modems, high performance on-the-move antennas and high efficiency, high-power Solid-State Amplifiers (SSPA) and Block Upconverters (BUC)



HAREL - HERTZ
Investment House Ltd.

8 Hamada, P.O.B.4103 Herzliya Pituach 46140 Israel
T: +972-9-955-0560 ; www.harel-hertz.com ; info@harel-hertz.com

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Hino Motors and REE Automotive Sign Business Alliance Agreement

Aiming to create new value through next-generation commercial mobility

Hino Motors Co., Ltd. (Hino), a subsidiary of Toyota Motor Corporation, and REE Automotive Ltd. (REE), an innovator in e-mobility, today announced the signing of a strategic business alliance agreement to realize their shared vision of "providing new value to society through next-generation commercial mobility."

With the backdrop of advancements in CASE - Connected, Autonomous, Shared and Electric vehicles, the automotive industry is entering a major transformation phase. Hino and REE envision beyond this transformation a future in which commercial vehicles that support the movement of people and goods will evolve into mobility that provides new value and opportunities for society. Hino and REE next-generation electric commercial mobility solutions are geared to improve quality of life on a global scale by lowering carbon emissions, minimizing strain on infrastructure, reducing congestion and allowing companies to better allocate resources. The two companies will combine their advantages to realize this vision – Hino's knowledge and technologies as a commercial vehicle manufacturer closely attuned to customer needs with REE's innovative and highly competitive proprietary REEcorner™ EV technologies – and take on initiatives to create new value through next-generation commercial mobility solutions.

The next-generation commercial mobility solution to be jointly developed by Hino and REE will be comprised of a modular platform (Powered by REE) that will carry a customized Mobility Service Module on top. The Mobility Service Module - which will carry passengers, goods and deliver services – would address a wide variety of current and future applications aligned with customer requirements, aimed to provide new value to society, and will be enhanced with data-driven services. In addition, the Mobility Service Module can be easily detached from the EV platform and once detached it can serve as an independent, stand-alone unit - making services and goods easily accessible to society, leaving the platform to be operated separately and continue on its next mission. This will not only be applied toward Mobility-as-a-Service (MaaS) and delivery segments but this modular design could also offer solutions for completely new applications. Leveraging the REEcorner™ modules, the flat chassis and the detachable Mobility Service Module will meet the diverse needs of consumers while contributing to more efficient utilization of customers' business resources. The specialized EV chassis to be jointly developed by Hino and



REE will leverage proprietary REEcorner™ technology, which packs critical vehicle components into a single system positioned between the wheel and the chassis.

The solution will boast a low-floor, full-flat design that flexibly meets customer needs and also supports autonomous driving. The modular platform provides expandability, and the Mobility Service Module is designed with customer co-creation in mind.

The companies will first work to develop hardware prototypes by FY 2022, while evaluating business models, engaging potential customers, and conducting demonstrations in parallel.

"The starting point of this collaboration is the FlatFormer concept we showcased at the 2019 Tokyo Motor Show," said Hino CEO Yoshio Shimo. "It received an excellent response, and I am delighted to see this FlatFormer concept come closer to reality. REE is a visionary company, and I am confident that this business alliance will become a driving force for Hino as we take on the challenge of generating new value in commercial mobility to harmonize with future society."

"The FlatFormer unveiling at the 2019 Tokyo Motor Show proved to be a turning point in future electric mobility and set the stage for this exciting alliance with the visionary team at Hino. We see this alliance as a unique opportunity to fulfill our shared mission of improving quality of life for people around the world by developing and bringing to market revolutionary next generation EVs," said Daniel Barel, Co-Founder and CEO of REE.

Going forward, both companies will further evaluate opportunities of working with like-minded partners with the goal of creating new value for society.

About Hino Motors

Hino Motors, Ltd. is a Toyota Group company selling trucks and buses in more than 80 countries in 2020. Number of employees totals 35,000 globally, and produces vehicles in over 20 countries including the 4 major plants in Japan. Hino slogan is "Trucks and buses that do more". To put "Trucks and buses that do more" into practice, Hino will provide "appropriate products with safety and environment technologies", "ultimately customized total support for customers", and "challenge new fields".

DIC Invests in Israeli Biotech startup Vaxa Technologies

TOKYO--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Apr 28, 2021-- DIC Corporation (TOKYO:4631) has completed investment in Vaxa Technologies Ltd., a biotech startup headquartered in Rosh Pina, Israel, as part of a strategic expansion of DIC businesses around health food and other algae-derived products.

Vaxa Technologies possesses unique proprietary light-emitting diode (LED) illuminated photobioreactors and algae cultivation technologies and is engaged in the development and commercialization of clean, unparalleled high-value-added algae products. Vaxa Technologies' cultivation process employs renewable energy, achieving excellent productivity while consuming significantly less land and fresh water than conventional cultivation methods. This process also converts discharged CO2 into useful materials, making the process carbon negative and thus highly sustainable.

The new deal with Vaxa Technologies adds to growing DIC biotech startup investments and collaborations, enhancing DIC's algae and other microbial biotechnologies, while strengthening related businesses.

DIC expects this latest investment—combining DIC's extensive algae expertise with Vaxa Technologies' superb algae cultivation technology—to enhance DIC's ability to develop and market products that contribute to the realization of a healthier and more sustainable world.

About DIC Corporation

DIC Corporation (DIC) is one of Japan's most diversified fine chemical companies and the heart of the DIC Group. Worldwide, the DIC Group encompasses over 170 subsidiaries, including Sun Chemical Corporation, across 60+ countries. The DIC Group portfolio is organized into three segments: Packaging & Graphic, Color & Display, and Functional Products notably for electronic, automotive, and building materials. The DIC Group is constantly working to promote and develop sustainable solutions to exceed customer expectations and better the world around us. With combined annual sales of more than \$7 billion and 22,000+ employees worldwide, DIC Group companies support a diverse collection of global customers. Please visit <https://www.dic-global.com/en/> for more details.



May

Japan Defense Official Backs Israel over Escalating Violence

Politics May 13, 2021

Tokyo, May 13 (Jiji Press) --Japanese State Minister of Defense Yasuhide Nakayama has posted a Twitter message that he sides with Israel over the escalating violence with Hamas Palestinian militants.

"Who fired rockets against ordinary citizens first? Our hearts are with Israel," Nakayama said in a Twitter post Wednesday.

His attitude contradicts the neutral stance of the Japanese government, calling for both sides to stop violence.

Nakayama told reporters that he posted the message because he hopes terrorism will be eliminated and he believes Israel has the right to protect its own citizens from terrorist attacks.

At a press conference Wednesday, Chief Cabinet Secretary Katsunobu Kato avoided a direct comment on Nakayama's view.



[Copyright The Jiji Press, Ltd.]

NTT: Establishment of an Israeli Subsidiary

May 12, 2021

TOKYO--([BUSINESS WIRE](#))--NTT Corporation (NTT)(TOKYO:9432) is pleased to announce the establishment of a subsidiary in Israel to leverage cutting-edge Israeli technology into the NTT Group to help create new business opportunities.

1. Background

Israel is where some of the world's most advanced technologies are developed, produced many successful technology startups, and housing many global companies' R&D operations. NTT has decided to invest in Israel by establishing a new company that will help provide access to these cutting-edge technologies and startups into future NTT products and services.

2. Overview

In July 2021, NTT will establish a new Israeli subsidiary (Company name: NTT Innovation Laboratory Israel Ltd. (tentative), President & CEO: Noa Asher) under the umbrella of NTT. This company will enable an ecosystem and support the creation of new businesses through synergies between Israeli companies and the NTT Group. Specifically, we will develop new businesses by strengthening relationships with startups, venture capital firms, and global companies in Israel.

3. Company Profile (Plan)

- (1) Company Name: NTT Innovation Laboratory Israel Ltd.
- (2) Location: Tel Aviv, Israel
- (3) Representative: Noa Asher
- (4) Business: Intelligence, surveys, research, information provision services, consulting related to global technological trends
- (5) Capital: US \$500,000
- (6) Shareholders and Ownership Ratio: NTT, 100%
- (7) Number of Employees: 5 (at the time of establishment)
- (8) Establishment: July 2021

4. Biography of Noa Asher

2014 -2020 Economy Minister of the Embassy of Israel in Japan

2002 -2014 Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Israel

2010 -2011 Graduate of Harvard Kennedy School (MPA)

2000 -2002 Tel Aviv University (MBA)

1993 -1997 Jerusalem University (LLB)

About NTT

NTT believes in resolving social issues through our business operations by applying technology for good. We help clients accelerate growth and innovate for current and new business models. Our services include digital business consulting, technology and managed services for cybersecurity, applications, workplace, cloud, data center and networks all supported by our deep industry expertise and innovation. As a top 5 global technology and business solutions provider, our diverse teams operate in 80+ countries and regions and deliver services to over 190 of them. We serve over 80% of Fortune Global 100 companies and thousands of other clients and communities around the world. For more information on NTT, visit www.global.ntt/.

Japan's Mitsui insurance invests \$36 million in Israel's Upstream Security

Injection of funds is part of C funding round of startup, which offers cloud-based cybersecurity solutions for connected and autonomous vehicles

By [SHOSHANNA SOLOMON](#) 20.5.2021

Japan's Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Co. (MSI) on Thursday said it has set up a strategic partnership with and invested \$36 million in Israel's **Upstream Security** as part of the cybersecurity startup's C funding round.

The injection of funds is part of a larger amount of money the startup hopes to raise in its C funding round.

Upstream offers cloud-based cybersecurity and machine learning and big data analytics for connected and autonomous vehicles. The collaboration will help the Japanese insurer use Upstream's machine learning and analytics solutions to get insights from the mobility data for insurance purposes. Through the partnership, MSI and Upstream will "bring the power and benefits of automotive telematics data into the hands of the insurers and policy-holders," the companies said in a statement.

In addition to MSI, I.D.I. Insurance Company, one of the Israel's leading insurance companies, also took part in the investment round, injecting \$2.5 million into the firm and bringing the total funds raised in the round to \$38.5 million. Earlier this year, I.D.I. and MSI launched a joint technology hub in Israel.

The strategic partnership between Upstream and MSI "will help revolutionize the car insurance industry," allowing insurance companies to use connected vehicle data to "gain meaningful insights for various insurance-related areas including improved risk management and enhanced customer experience," the statement said.

The rapid growth of the connected car ecosystem has brought along with it an increased interest in telematics-based services. Upstream's cloud-based mobility data platform expands MSI's data analytics capabilities and enables MSI to provide additional risk-related services based on driver usage and behavior, the statement said.



MSI aims “to improve the customer experience through digitalization,” said Masashi Ippongi, director and managing executive officer at Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance. “Upstream’s data analytics vantage will help MSI satisfy the consumer demand for higher-value and next-gen insurance products, applications, and services.”

“The Upstream and MSI partnership will open new data-driven opportunities for both automotive manufacturers, insurance companies, and their customers,” said Yoav Levy, co-founder and CEO at Upstream. The collaboration with MSI will expand Upstream’s existing mobility data platform and help develop “deep and long-lasting relationships with their customers and automotive OEMs in Japan.”

Established in 1918, Mitsui Marine & Fire Insurance Co., Ltd. merged with Sumitomo Marine & Fire Insurance Co., Ltd. in 2001 to form Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Co., Ltd.

Upstream, founded in 2017 by Levy and Yonatan Appel, has raised a total of \$81.5 million to date, including the latest round, from investors including Alliance Ventures (Renault, Nissan, Mitsubishi), Volvo Group, Hyundai, Nationwide Insurance, Salesforce Ventures, CRV, Gliot Capital Partners, and Maniv Mobility.

Mitsubishi partners with Israel's Trendlines Agrifood to ID emerging startups

<https://www.israelhayom.com/2021/05/03>

Trendlines Agrifood, an investment vehicle of the Israel and Singapore-based Trendlines Group, which focuses on high-growth medical and agrifood technologies, has entered into a partnership agreement with Mitsubishi Corporation to identify emerging technologies and start-ups of interest to their global integrated business enterprise, the company announced Monday.

Organized into 10 business groups, Mitsubishi operations span virtually every industry, and it is actively exploring innovation coming from Israel.

CEO of Trendlines Agrifood Nitza Kardish remarked: "Collaborating with MC is synergistic. We gain invaluable market and industry insights from a global leader in their field, and MC leverages on our experience in technology evaluation and development."

CInO at Mitsubishi Tel Aviv Leor Ben-Yakov, said that "General Manager, Mr. Takashi Kai, and I are very excited about working with Trendlines. Our office is the Headquarters' forward outpost mandated to tap into the Israeli innovation ecosystem across several key industries. By partnering with a highly reputable partner such as Trendlines we are basically creating a win-win-win collaboration opportunity for Trendlines, for MC and, of course, for top notch start-ups in Israel and abroad."

Genoox accelerates genomic data community platform expansion with \$8M round

PALO ALTO, Calif., June 1, 2021 /PRNewswire/ -- Genoox, the world's first community-driven genomic data platform, announced today that it has raised \$8 million in a round led by IN Venture, a Sumitomo Corporation backed venture fund, with participation from Infinity Medical and existing investors Inimiti, Glilot Capital and Triventures. The new investment will enable the company to expand its community of genetic professional users, reaching over 1500 healthcare organizations today, enhancing the network effect created by sharing genetic insights on the Genoox platform.

"Our investment in Genoox is a clear reflection of our belief that genomic data will become the backbone of the precision medicine revolution", says Eitan Naor, Managing Partner & Co Founder at IN Venture. "Digital Health is one of our focus investment pillars highly aligned with Sumitomo Corporation strategy to meaningfully impact society. Genoox's deep-tech and unique approach to building a world-class community of users has created an incredibly rich data platform, which in turn holds a profound opportunity for making new clinical discoveries."

Additionally, the company announced that Ohad Arazi has been appointed as Chairman of the Board. Arazi has been a leading technology executive and digital health innovator for 20 years, spanning Israel and North America.

"I am delighted to join Genoox as Chairman of the Board. The company has made tremendous progress in creating unique insights through a first of its kind community based-approach to genetic data", says Arazi. "This next stage of growth, coupled with the new investment, is a very exciting time to be joining the team. I look forward to collaborating with the Board of Directors and the Genoox team, as we expand our clinical reach and advance the commercialization of our platform."

"With thousands of genomic professional users around the globe our community is rapidly growing and helping the genetic medical community bridge the gap in clinical care. Genoox is proud to be the catalyst of such an important effort. The community already generating novel and

valuable insights for its members across a wide range of domains, including oncology, pediatrics, rare and undiagnosed diseases, reproductive health, pharmacogenetics and more", says CEO and Co-Founder, Amir Trabelsi. "We are thrilled to take the community to the next level with Sumitomo as a partner and the addition of Ohad Arazi as Chairman of the Board", concludes Trabelsi.

About Genoox: Genoox uses the power of the community to make genomic data actionable, enabling platform users to make impactful discoveries using the most advanced genomic tools and applications. By connecting clinicians, genetic counsellors, and healthcare organizations, Genoox delivers genomics to the point of care. The Genoox platform is used by genetic labs and health systems across the globe, from the U.S. to Europe, Australia to Asia and the Latin America region.

About IN Venture: IN Venture is a Sumitomo Corporation backed venture fund investing in early stage Israeli startups. As one of Japan's largest conglomerates, Sumitomo Corporation consists of nearly one thousand affiliate companies active across industries and countries. A strong presence in Israel's dynamic technology ecosystem is part of Sumitomo's commitment to digital transformation. Established in 2019 and led by a team of Israeli and Japanese professionals, IN Venture invests in deep technology startups that have the potential to make a global impact while helping to transform Sumitomo Corporation's diverse business activities. As a strategic investor, IN Venture takes a hands-on approach to accelerate value creation activities between portfolio companies and Sumitomo Corporation global businesses.

Jordan's FM, Japanese counterpart talk ties, Middle East peace efforts over phone

[27-05-2021 01:35 PM]

Ammon News - Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, Ayman Safadi discussed with his Japanese counterpart, Motegi Toshimitsu, international efforts aimed at launching "serious and effective" negotiations to achieve a comprehensive and just peace based on the two-state solution, stabilize the ceasefire and stop the illegal Israeli practices that undermine chances of achieving peace in the region.

In a phone call Safadi received from Toshimitsu on Wednesday, the talks focused on strengthening relations within the framework of the joint strategic partnership and cooperation in all fields.

Lauding Japan's position on the two-state solution, Safadi stressed the importance of Tokyo's role in supporting international efforts to achieve a comprehensive and just peace based on the two-state solution, in accordance with international law and international legitimacy resolutions.

Safadi demanded Israel to respect the existing legal and historical status quo in Jerusalem and its sanctities and stop the continuous attacks and violations in the occupied Palestinian territories and Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram Al-Sharif.

Israel's practices in Jerusalem, including the expulsion of residents from their homes, are a "provocative act" that challenges international endeavors to achieve peace in the region, according to Safadi.

The Japanese minister, for his part, stressed the importance of the Hashemite custodianship over Islamic and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem, lauding Jordan's role, under the leadership of His Majesty King Abdullah II, to push the peace process forward, commending the Kingdom's recent efforts to achieve cease fire and restore calm.

Toshimitsu also expressed hope that the ceasefire agreement would lead to pushing comprehensive and just peace.

The two ministers agreed to continue continuous coordination and consultation, underlining the joint keenness to develop new mechanisms to push the strategic cooperation between the two friendly countries to "broader" prospects



Japan provides \$10 million in prompt assistance to Gaza

RAMALLAH, Thursday, May 27, 2021 (WAFA) – Japan today announced the provision of \$10 million in prompt assistance to address Gaza's urgent needs following the recent Israeli onslaught.

In a telephone call with **Palestinian Foreign Affairs and Expatriates Minister, Riyad al-Malki**, **Japan's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Motegi Toshimitsu**, stated that his country was providing USD \$10 million to help the war-torn coastal enclave address its urgent needs arising from the recent Israeli relentless bombardment, which killed 254 Palestinians and wounded some 1,950 others, and battle the Covid-19 outbreak.

According to a statement published by Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Motegi "stated his determination to play an active role, including in addressing promptly the urgent need for assistance, as well as in assisting reconstruction efforts in the Gaza Strip" once the relevant arrangements are commenced through the Palestinian Authority.

He "exchanged views with al-Malki[on the latest developments", "welcomed the ceasefire agreement" and "strongly encouraged the Palestinian Authority to continue implementing its efforts towards easing the tension in the region with a view to ensuring the lasting ceasefire."

Minister Motegi reaffirmed his country's "support for a two-state solution regarding the Middle East Peace Process, and expressed his continued commitment to confidence-building measures among the concerned parties through Japan's own initiatives such as the "Corridor for Peace and Prosperity" initiative and the "Conference on Cooperation among East Asian Countries for Palestinian Development (CEAPAD)".

He expressed his desire to visit Palestine in August 2021 in order to put his country's role into effect with regards to the revitalization of the political process.

Minister al-Malki expressed his gratitude for Japan's assistance to Palestine as he welcomed any Japanese efforts aimed at restoring trust between the two sides as the first step towards resuming talks based on the relevant international terms of reference with the ultimate purpose of ending the Israeli occupation and establishing the independent Palestinian state, with East Jerusalem as its capital.



He also stated that Palestine is fully committed to achieving peace and will continue to make utmost efforts to realize peace and stability in the region, including sustaining the ceasefire.

June

Congratulatory Message from Prime Minister Suga to Prime Minister Bennett of the State of Israel

June 15, 2021

1. On June 14 (June 13 in local time), Mr. Naftali BENNETT, Member of the Knesset, took office as the Prime Minister of the State of Israel. On June 15, Mr. SUGA Yoshihide, Prime Minister of Japan, sent a congratulatory letter to Prime Minister Bennett.
2. In his letter, Prime Minister Suga extended his congratulations to Prime Minister Bennett and expressed his hope to further deepen the close bilateral relations, as the two countries will be celebrating the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations next year. Furthermore, recognizing that the progress in the Middle East Peace Process is of paramount importance for peace and stability in the region, Prime Minister Suga conveyed that Japan would spare no effort with a view to achieving a "two-state solution."

Insurance powerhouse Sampo signs strategic collaboration with Paramatrix to insure e-commerce stores

The Israeli startup, which specializes in insurance policies in the event of cloud-based crashes or downtime, plans to provide service to millions of customers in Japan and the Far East over the next few years

CTech15:0313.06.21

Japanese insurance giant Sampo has launched a new insurance product to insure e-commerce stores on platforms such as Yahoo! Shopping, Shopify, and Amazon, based on the technology of Israeli startup Paramatrix. Paramatrix's plan is to provide service to millions of customers in Japan and the Far East over the next few years, thanks to the collaboration. The project was created and agreed upon during the Covid-19 pandemic solely through Zoom meetings.

Paramatrix specializes in insurance policies in the event of cloud-based crashes or downtime, ensuring that companies with mission-critical services in the cloud can quickly recover from IT downtime events. The startup, which raised \$17.5 million earlier this month from FirstMark Capital, and F2 Ventures, was founded two years ago and has more than 30 employees in offices in Israel and around the world. The company offers its insurance products in Israel, the U.S., and Europe, and now with the collaboration with Sampo is expanding to the Japanese market as well.

"The collaboration with Sampo represents a foothold and our first entry into the Japanese market," said Paramatrix co-founder and CEO Yonatan Hatzor. "We are glad of the opportunity to cooperate with Sampo's innovation lab in Israel and to move forward with the digital transformation in the overall insurance services offered by the company."

Paramatrix has developed innovative technology which continuously monitors many third-party systems such as cloud computing, internet service providers, customer relations management systems, e-commerce services, and digital payment means. This system provides precise alerts about the timing of downtime and the type of services that have collapsed, as well as providing the data required so that the company can produce inexpensive policies, based on parametric models. Parametric insurance is insurance that allows rapid provision of insurance indemnity,



without the need for a claim clearing process, and which is adapted to the needs of the customer, in terms of the level of the coverage.

The significance of Parametrix's offering was on full display last week when millions of users around the world experienced a sudden collapse of news sites like the New York Times, CNN as well as online e-commerce websites such as Amazon, eBay, and Shopify. The crash occurred as a result of a severe malfunction in the servers of a company that provides cloud content infrastructure. The glitch affected not only web surfers, but also a long line of businesses around the world that rely on the proper functioning of those servers that crashed. In addition, during March users worldwide reported a fault using Microsoft which lasted for more than three hours. As a result of the malfunction, multi-user services such as 365, Exchange and Teams collapsed, leading to damage to many businesses. Similar events happened to Google in February and to Amazon late last year.

The collaboration between Parametrix and Sompo has been led by Sompo's innovation center in Tel Aviv, which leads investments and collaborations with Israeli companies in the fields of transport, digital health services, cybersecurity, and insurance services.

"The Covid pandemic created a challenge for us because of our inability to meet face to face with the startups," said Sompo Digital Lab Israel Head, Yinnon Dolev. "Despite the difficulties, we led the project solely through Zoom meetings, with both sides focusing on the aim of providing an insurance solution for the digital world in Japan. We are delighted about the start of the collaboration with Parametrix, which will allow us to adapt our raft of products to the changing digital world."

SBI launched Invest in Israeli Emerging, New Fund 10 billion Yen

June 9, 2021 2:00 Asia Nikkei

SBIJ Innovation Advisory (Israel), a venture capital firm under the umbrella of [SBI Holdings](#), has launched a new fund to invest in local startups. We will start recruiting investors from the 9th for Japanese pharmaceutical companies and financial institutions. With an investment amount of 10 billion yen, it aims to be the largest Japanese VC fund to invest in Israeli companies.

This time, it is the second fund, and the investment target is a growth-stage startup that deals with drug discovery and mobility. Over the next five years, each company will invest 300-500 million yen toward about 20 companies. The investment destination will be selected in collaboration with a local VC and introduced to Japanese invested companies.

The No. 1 fund manages about 6 billion yen and invests in 12 emerging companies such as drug discovery. Five of them went public in the United States. "The number of Japanese companies that want to bridge the gap with promising Israeli emerging companies is increasing, and we have created a second fund that recruits a wide range of investors," said Ryo Nakajima, managing director.

Israel is called the "Silicon Valley of the Middle East" and supports R & D and corporate development nationwide. According to research firm CB Insights, 13 unlisted companies have a corporate valuation of more than \$ 1 billion, more than double that of Japan (5).

InnerPlant acquires \$5.65m. funding

en.globes.co.il - on June 20, 2021

The company develops genetically adapted living sensors that help farmers grow plants more sustainably, cutting their reliance on pesticides and fertilizer. MS&AD Insurance Group lead the Investment. Israeli living plant sensors developer InnerPlant has announced the completion of \$5.65 million seed and pre-seed financing round led by MS&AD Ventures, the investment arm of the Japanese insurance titan MS&AD Insurance Group, with participation from Bee Partners, Up West, and TAU Ventures.

The new capital will be used to develop new products using data directly from plants for crop risk management and food supply chains.

InnerPlant was founded in 2018 by CEO Shely Aronov to develop genetically adapted living sensors that help farmers grow plants more sustainably, cutting their reliance on pesticides and fertilizer.

Aronov said, "Enabling crops to express their needs finally brings the data revolution to the farmer's field in a way that fits with how they're already working. Rather than installing hardware across fields, farmers continue planting crops the way they always have and our platform pulls data directly from individual plants to provide farmers with insight into stresses so resources like pesticides and fertilizers are used only when needed."

Farmers routinely see up to 20% of their harvests destroyed by pathogens that could have been controlled with earlier detection and more responsive, plant-specific interventions. InnerPlant's approach to collecting data directly from plants and its use of advanced algorithms to process the data provides plant-by-plant status that's impractical using external sensors.

InnerPlant delivers this data flow by tapping plants' natural defenses. Plants have evolved sophisticated defense mechanisms to protect themselves from environmental stresses. InnerPlant utilizes these signals by adding a safe protein, long studied for human consumption, to plants' capabilities. When plants are thirsty, short of nutrients, or under attack by pests or fungi, they generate different optical signals that can be seen in daylight using common optical filters on devices ranging from an iPhone or tractor to a satellite.



Valens Collaborates with Leading Sensor Vendor to Evaluate A-PHY Integration in Next-Generation Products

HOD HASHARON, Israel, June 28, 2021 /PRNewswire/ -- Valens, the semiconductor company that is pushing the boundaries of connectivity, today announced that it has started an evaluation with Sony Semiconductor Solutions Corporation (Sony) to develop and integrate MIPI A-PHY technology into next-generation image sensor products.

A-PHY is a long-reach serializer-deserializer (SerDes) physical layer interface for long-reach, ultra-high-speed automotive applications. It was released by the MIPI Alliance in September 2020 as a standard seeking to simplify the integration of cameras, sensors and displays in vehicles, while also incorporating functional safety and security. Valens will be the first company to market with A-PHY compliant chipsets, having recently completed a successful [tapeout of its VA7000 chipset family](#).

"It's highly important for Sony to integrate the cutting-edge technology into our image sensors, and A-PHY serializer integration will provide significant benefits for our customers," said **Kenji Onishi, General Manager, Automotive Business Department, Sony Semiconductor Solutions Corporation**. "The MIPI ecosystem is growing quickly, and we're happy to be early adopters of this automotive connectivity standard. Valens is in a leading position with A-PHY, which is why it is so important for us to start this collaboration. We believe future models will have even higher resolutions. In addition, our company is preparing to integrate several features into their next-generation sensors, including metadata output, higher framerate, and wider bit depth – all of which will require an ultra-high-speed, long-reach connectivity solution such as MIPI A-PHY. We will continue to support not only A-PHY but also D-PHY, proprietary interfaces, and open-standard interfaces."

Integration of A-PHY into system components such as image sensors and SoCs will eliminate the need for proprietary bridge solutions meant to extend CSI-2 and DSI-2 data streams, which would simplify car architecture and lower total system cost. A-PHY offers data rates as high as 16 Gbps with a roadmap to 48 Gbps and beyond, with an unprecedented ultra-low packet error rate (PER) of 10^{-19} and high noise immunity to electromagnetic interference.



"We're happy to support Sony in bringing optimized MIPI A-PHY architecture to the automotive industry," said **Gideon Kedem, Valens SVP and Head of Automotive**. "A-PHY is marching steadily towards widespread market adoption – we expect A-PHY to be the dominant connectivity solution on the road in cars around the world within a matter of years, and this evaluation marks yet another milestone for MIPI A-PHY to that end."

About Valens

Valens is a leading provider of semiconductor products, pushing the boundaries of connectivity by enabling long-reach, high-speed video and data transmission for the audio-video and automotive industries. Valens' Emmy® award-winning HDBaseT technology is the leading standard in the professional audio-video market with tens of millions of Valens' chipsets integrated into thousands of HDBaseT-enabled products. Valens Automotive is a key enabler of the evolution of autonomous driving, providing chipsets that are on the road in vehicles around the world. The underlying technology has been selected to become the basis for the new standard for automotive connectivity.

Japanese FM praises Egypt's 'major role' in achieving ceasefire between Palestinians, Israel

Egypt Today

CAIRO – 7 July 2021: Japanese counterpart Toshimitsu Motegi expressed his deep appreciation towards Egypt's "major role" in achieving ceasefire agreement between the Palestinian factions and Israel, in telephone conversations with Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry.

According to a statement by the Japanese embassy in Cairo, "the two ministers exchanged views on the current situation between Palestine and Israel, where Minister Motegi stated that Japan will take an active role, including rapid response to emergency aid needs in Gaza, foremost of which is the emergency grant of up to \$10 million identified this week.

Accordingly, with regard to the issue of peace in the Middle East, Minister Motegi expressed that Japan supports the principle of the "two-state solution," and expressed his willingness to continue to work on building trust between the concerned parties through Japan's efforts such as the concept of the "corridor of peace and prosperity."

In response, Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry expressed his appreciation for Japan's emergency humanitarian aid to Gaza, as well as Japan's efforts in dealing with the issue of peace in the Middle East. Shoukry also expressed his desire to cooperate with Japan for the long-term stability of Gaza and the region as a whole.

After the two Ministers shared their views of recognizing the need to work from all sides, and on all axes in order to build confidence between Israel and the Palestinians, they also agreed to continue working closely together, including further strengthening of the bilateral relations between the two countries.



July

Israelis killed at 1972 Munich Games remembered in opening ceremony

A moment of silence held for the first time in 49 years

July 23, 2021 22:49 JST

TOKYO (Reuters & Nikkei) -- Israeli Olympic team members killed by Palestinian gunmen at the **1972 Munich Olympics** were remembered during the Tokyo Olympics opening ceremony on Friday with a moment of silence, the first time in 49 years this has happened.

The move was welcomed by relatives of the victims and the government of Israel. The families of the 11 killed had long asked the International Olympic Committee to hold a minute's silence at a Games opening ceremony but had been turned down for almost half a century.

"We, the Olympic community, also remember all the Olympians and members of our community who have so sadly left us, in particular we remember those who lost their lives during the Olympic Games," said an announcer during the opening ceremony.

"One group still holds a strong place in all our memories and stand for all those we have lost at the games - the members of the Israeli delegation at the Olympic Games Munich 1972," the announcer added as the stadium darkened and a soft blue light illuminated parts of the arena.

On Sept. 5, 1972, members of the Israeli Olympic team were taken hostage at the poorly secured athletes' village by Palestinian gunmen from the Black September group.

Within 24 hours, 11 Israelis, five Palestinians and a German policeman were dead after a standoff and subsequent rescue effort erupted into gunfire.

"The Tokyo Olympics have just opened, but they are already a historic Olympics - after 49 years, on the main stage, at the opening ceremony, the 11 heroes, the victims of the Munich Olympics, were mentioned," said Hili Tropper, Israel's minister of culture and sport. "Better late than never."

He thanked **IOC president Thomas Bach** for doing "historic justice" to the matter.



"The tears don't stop flowing," Ilana Romana, widow of weightlifter Yossef Romano, told Israeli public broadcaster Kan. She said they "fought for this for decades and the decision should have come much sooner".

Relatives of those killed had sought for them to be remembered at opening ceremonies but the IOC had previously ignored those requests.

Instead of a ceremonies commemoration, the IOC in 2016 inaugurated the Place of Mourning in a leafy part of the Olympic village at the Rio de Janeiro Olympics to remember those who had died during the Olympic Games, with two of the Israeli victims' widows present.

The Place of Mourning featured two stones from ancient Olympia encased in glass and had been described as "closure" at the time by Ankie Spitzer, widow of her Israeli fencing coach husband Andre.

A memorial ceremony was held also in the **Israeli embassy in Tokyo** on Sunday August 1st in honor of the 11 victims of the 1972 Munich massacre.

During the 1972 Olympics in Munich, [11 Israeli athletes and coaches](#) were murdered by eight Palestinian terrorists.

The ceremony, hosted by Israeli ambassador to Japan Yaffa Ben-Ari and the Israeli Olympic Committee, was held in a limited capacity as per COVID rules in Tokyo and marked 49 years since the terrorist attack was carried out in Munich.

In attendance were, among others, **the President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Thomas Bach, Governor of Tokyo Yuriko Koike, Japanese Olympic Minister Tamayo Marukawa, widows of the Israeli athletes murdered in the massacre**, and several Israeli Olympic swimming team members.

"Our thoughts are with the families of the athletes murdered in cold blood by Palestinian terrorists," said Yaffa Ben-Ari at the ceremony. "The heinous massacre is etched in our memories for eternity."

Ex-Mossad Chief Cohen to Lead Israel's Office of Japan's SoftBank Group, Report Claims

02:51 GMT 10.07.2021

The SoftBank Group is a major Japanese investment holding company that focuses on enterprises in the technology, energy, and finance industries. It also manages the Vision Fund, the world's largest technology-focused venture capital fund, with over \$100 billion in assets and backing from Middle Eastern sovereign wealth institutions.

Yossi Cohen, who retired as chief of the Israeli spy agency last month, will be put in charge of operations for Japanese billionaire Masayoshi Son's SoftBank, Israeli Globes news outlet reported on Friday.

According to the report, one of the grounds for hiring Cohen is that, despite his lack of investment experience, he is a well-known and popular person in Israel. Moreover, Cohen reportedly has links to Israeli entrepreneurship and technology experts, and can open doors for them in any corporation, government, or public body in any country.

"SoftBank has pioneered a new approach to technology investing and created the world's largest ecosystem of emerging technology champions," Cohen is quoted in the report as saying while commenting on the news. "Israel's advanced technology and entrepreneurial culture make it a natural fit for SoftBank's investment vision, and I look forward to helping fast-moving companies scale in the region and globally."

Cohen will reportedly oversee SoftBank's activities in Israel, scouting firms for investment and assisting those companies in finding worldwide markets, with a focus on Asia. The former intelligence service chief will join SoftBank's Europe and Middle East team, which is led by SoftBank Vision Fund managing partner Yanni Pipilis and is based in London.

Also, Cohen will be a member of SoftBank's second fund, worth \$30 billion, but will not invest from the firm's first fund, which has the Saudi Arabia national wealth fund among its investors.



According to the outlet, SoftBank plans to send a \$50 million check to growing firms with a valuation of at least \$250 million that have demonstrated high-level AI technologies. SoftBank will need businesses to have at least \$10 million in yearly revenue, a track record of quick growth, and metrics that indicate profitability, even if just in the medium future.

"We're very interested in expanding our presence in Israel. We believe massively in the ecosystem that exists in the country, because we are investors in technology and AI, and Israel has amazing entrepreneurs and founders in this technology space," Pipilis told Globes. "We felt that increasing our focus in the area would make sense. We've recently completed multiple investments in Israel and see many other compelling opportunities."

He also added that when the company met Cohen, they "immediately got excited about the opportunity to work together. He is very well connected in the Israeli industry at large, he is someone that entrepreneurs and founders can recognize and can be a central focal point for us."

"Clearly, his relationship across Israeli industry and the ability to traverse international relations are effective to be able to essentially help connect these entrepreneurs globally with the AI ecosystem," Pipilis added. "Mr. Cohen's experience in dealing internationally is a huge asset."

59-year-old Cohen was recruited by Mossad in 1982 while studying abroad in London, and rose through the ranks of the organization to become its chief after a brief term as the National Security Council chief. Even while he led operations against Iran's nuclear program and helped lead Israel's clandestine ties with Arab nations, Cohen had a particularly public profile for an Israeli espionage head.

Cohen, who was appointed by former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, stated earlier that he did not rule out the possibility of running for the premiership of the Jewish State in the future, though he is not considering it at this time.

After more than five years as chief of the Mossad, he stood down on June 1 shortly before Yair Lapid informed the nation's president of the formation of a new coalition government.



SOFTBANK Co- Leads \$235M investment in Israeli Facial Recognition Start-up: AnyVision

No Camels team 7 /7/2021

Israeli facial recognition startup AnyVision secured a \$235 million investment from SoftBank's Vision Fund 2 and Eldridge with further participation from existing investors

AnyVision said the investment was “one of the largest funding rounds in the visual intelligence space in Western markets, underscoring the growing importance of AI, machine learning, and biometrics in transforming physical and perimeter security.” The funding brings AnyVision's total capital raised to over \$350 million; it last [raised \\$43 million](#) in September 2020. As part of the new investment, Director for SoftBank Investment Advisers Amit Lubovsky will join AnyVision's Board of Directors.

Founded in 2015 by Eylon Etshtein and Prof. Neil Robertson, AnyVision developed an AI-powered visual intelligence software for facial, body, and object recognition products. These include Touchless Access Control and Remote Authentication offerings. The platform uses facial recognition tech to identify persons as they approach a physical point of entry. The entrance opens as soon as that person's identity is verified, allowing them to enter a space without slowing down or interacting with doorknobs, terminals, or other shared touchpoints. The company indicated that it helps protect a given organization's physical access points by identifying authorized personnel and persons of interest in real-time — whether VIPs or bad actors.

AnyVision's remote authentication capability leverages the same powerful AI platform through a mobile SDK to authenticate users on edge devices (smart cameras, bodycams, and chips).

The company said it will use the funds to advance its product innovation in edge computing and [Access Point AI](#) (devices) used to optimize touchless access control, video surveillance, and watchlist alerting. This same platform, AnyVision said, will drive operational insights including occupancy analytics, people counting, and dwell times as well as flag potentially dangerous behavior. Additionally, AnyVision said it will use the funding to expand into new markets and fuel its growing channel program.

“AnyVision's innovations in Recognition AI helped transform passive cameras into proactive security systems and empowered organizations take a more holistic view to advanced security threats,” said AnyVision's CEO Avi Golan. “The Access Point AI platform is designed to protect

people, places, and privacy while simultaneously reducing costs, power, bandwidth, and operational complexity.”

Anthony Doeh, Partner for SoftBank Investment Advisers, noted: “The visual recognition market is nascent but has large potential in the Western world. We have witnessed the transformative power of AI, biometrics and edge computing in other categories, and believe AnyVision is uniquely placed to redefine physical environment analytics across numerous industries.”

Currently, AnyVision says its biometric technologies serve leading blue-chip organizations across financial services, gaming, stadiums, education, critical infrastructure, healthcare, and manufacturing/distribution verticals.

AnyVision has over 200 employees worldwide with offices in Tel Aviv, New York, Mexico, London, and Singapore, and a dedicated team of over 30 PhDs in Belfast focused solely on computer vision research.

The company’s tech has stirred controversy in recent year. In 2020, Microsoft [divested](#) its minority stake in AnyVision following an internal probe to investigate the practices of the Israeli company and to review its investment in it. In June 2019, Microsoft’s venture fund M12 was one of several investors to participate in a [\\$74 million funding round in AnyVision](#).

The probe came in the wake of a [2019 report by NBC News](#) claiming that the Israeli military uses AnyVision’s technology to conduct mass surveillance of Palestinians living in the West Bank. A [July report in Haaretz-TheMarker](#) that year said the Israeli military uses two systems by AnyVision; one installed at 27 crossings and checkpoints to improve inspection procedures, and another “much more confidential” system that involves “cameras deep inside the West Bank [that] try to spot and monitor potential Palestinian assailants.”

Civil liberties advocates have criticized mass surveillance methods and governments that employ such tools, saying they violate privacy rights.

IoT Pioneer Wiliot Secures \$200 Million Investment Round Led by SoftBank Vision Fund 2

SAN DIEGO--([BUSINESS WIRE](#))--Wiliot, the Sensing as a Service company and Internet of Things (IoT) technology leader whose self-powered, stamp-sized computer is changing the relationship between manufacturers and their products, announced today it received \$200 million in a Series C funding round led by SoftBank Vision Fund 2ⁱ ("SoftBank").

Wiliot has created a platform that is built on Wiliot IoT Pixels and the Wiliot Cloud. Wiliot IoT Pixels are tiny low-cost, self-powered tags that attach to any product or packaging to sense a range of physical and environment data that is then fed into the Wiliot Cloud, where machine learning algorithms translate data into actionable insights for businesses across a range of industries. The Wiliot Cloud also ensures data remains secure, private, and authentic.

For decades, there has remained a massive gap as trillions of products travel billions of miles without any data being available as to their status, whereabouts, or situation. Lacking this information, global supply chains have been profoundly, and vulnerably, in the dark. Recognizing this, many leaders in consumer-packaged goods, pharmaceuticals, furniture, and apparel have been working with Wiliot to add their sensing capabilities, intelligence and connectivity.

Effectively, products that were off-line during their manufacturing, shipping and consumption journeys are now online, a reality that is changing the way products are made, distributed, sold, used, reused, and recycled.

Wiliot-enabled products and packaging can sense temperature, fill level, motion, location changes, humidity, and proximity. Wiliot IoT Pixels can be integrated into vaccine vials, food packaging, and more, bringing real-time transparency to the supply chain, and the ability for brands for the first time to understand inventory levels throughout their retail channels. They can even understand how their products are used in customers' homes through a highly secure, privacy-protected platform.

This omniscient view of the supply chain built on people's usage allows a new paradigm called Demand Chain, which promises to slash the required capital that's non-productively tied up in

inventories. Products will be able to self-reorder based on usage, accelerating the adoption of the “subscription economy” as brands transform their business models.

All this will provide consumers with increased convenience, fresher, safer food, less waste, lower medical costs and a lower environmental impact.

“Wiliot has created a vision of the future of AI-enabled IoT, and we are delighted that SoftBank is supporting us in making this future a reality,” said Tal Tamir, Wiliot’s CEO. “IoT is a vision created around Things and our mission at Wiliot is to use cutting edge hardware, AI-based sensing and an innovative business model to implement a safer and more transparent world, a world in which all the things around us help consumers use them better and suppliers avoid waste.”

“By inventing the first hyper-scalable, self-powered computer that uses AI to sense the world, Wiliot is positioned to bring together the digital and physical,” said Yanni Pipilis, Managing Partner at SoftBank Investment Advisers. “We have always believed that with IoT and AI, people will live better and healthier lives – where any food or medicine has the ability to understand if it’s safe to use and communicate seamlessly with people. We are pleased to play a part in helping Wiliot dramatically scale the ever-expanding application of IoT globally.”

SoftBank joins existing investors that include 83North, Amazon Web Services, Inc. (AWS), Avery Dennison, Grove Ventures, M Ventures, the corporate VC of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, Maersk Growth, Norwest Venture Partners, NTT DOCOMO Ventures, Qualcomm Ventures LLC, Samsung Venture Investment Corp., Vintage Investment Partners, and Verizon Ventures. As part of the investment, Amit Lubovsky, Investor for SoftBank Investment Advisers, will join Wiliot’s Board of Directors.

Wiliot will use the latest round of capital to grow its team and scale its channels for the forthcoming launch of its V2 product, which offers next-generation performance that will help accelerate its vision for a new IoT.

About Wiliot

Wiliot is a Sensing as a Service company whose cloud platform connects the digital and physical worlds using its IoT Pixel tagging technology, computers the size of a postage stamp that power themselves in revolutionary ways. Our vision is to expand the Internet of things to include everyday products, adding intelligence to plastic crates, pharmaceuticals, packaging, clothes, and

other products, connecting them to the internet, changing the way things are made, distributed, sold, used, reused, and recycled.

Keshet International & Tokyo Broadcasting System to co-pro Japanese crime drama

By [Mark Layton](#) 14/07/2021

Keshet International (KI) and Tokyo Broadcasting System Television (TBS) have partnered with Canada's Facet4 Media to create a Japanese adaptation of the latter's police procedural format *Deep Crime Unit (DCU)*.

KI, the global production and distribution arm of Israel's **Keshet Media Group**, licensed the series from Westmount-based TV production, distribution and financing company Facet4 Media, and worked closely with them and TBS to then co-develop an original adaptation of the format for the Japanese and the global market, which will debut on TBS' prime Sunday night drama slot in early 2022.

The deal will mark the first time that KI has brought an original scripted format into Japan.

Written and created by Ilan Ulmer and Samuel Goldberg, the 10 x 60-minute series follows an elite unit of the SCUBA underwater crime investigation team as they tackle a new case each episode, while working to maintain their complex lives and relationships on land.

It is expected to begin filming later this summer in Japan, with Hiroshi Abe (*Shin Zan Mono*) in the lead role of Masayoshi Nina. Keshet International will distribute the both the finished tape and format internationally.

TBS's Hidenori Iyoda, producer of the drama series *Naoki Hanzawa*, will helm the series, working alongside executive producers Atar Dekel, KI's VP of Global Drama, and Anna-Sue Greenberg and Stephen Greenberg of Facet4 Media.

KI CEO Alon Shtruzman said that the co-production represented “so much more than a licensing deal for us” and shared his hopes for “a long term and mutually beneficial relationship between us.”

TBS president Takashi Sasaki called the deal an “epoch-making collaboration” and praised both KI for “its reputation for high-quality production and international distribution expertise” and Facet4 for “its track-record for developing excellent dramas and films.”

Surveillance balloon patrols for Tokyo Games

This is the first time that the Israel-made balloon has appeared on Japan's skyline

The Yomiuri Shimbun 2:59 pm, July 17, 2021

A balloon equipped with a high-performance surveillance camera has been hovering over the waterfront area in Koto Ward, Tokyo, where many of the competition venues for the Tokyo Games are located.

Measuring 6 meters in diameter, the balloon has been deployed as a watchful eye in the sky, monitoring for suspicious activity from its vantage point 100 meters above Tokyo Bay.

The Metropolitan Police Department began operating the balloon on July 6 as a lookout for accidents, traffic jams and terrorist activity.

Although similar balloons were used at the Sochi Olympics in 2014 and the Rio de Janeiro Olympics in 2016, **this is the first time that the Israel-made balloon has appeared on Japan's skyline.**

Areas to be intensively monitored by the balloon include skateboarding venue Ariake Urban Sports Park, triathlon venue Odaiba Marine Park, and the Ariake Tennis Park.

Footage captured by the camera is being transmitted to MPD headquarters, where officials will work around the clock checking for irregularities until Sept. 6, the day after the Paralympic closing ceremony.

Israeli and Japanese companies join forces in lunar industry

Helios and ispace have announced a partnership that will allow them to demonstrate their technology to produce oxygen and metals on the lunar surface.

By JERUSALEM POST STAFF JULY 20, 2021 11:22

Helios, an Israeli startup, plans to join Japan-based ispace's second and third missions to the lunar surface to demonstrate its technology to produce oxygen and metals on the lunar surface, according to a press release that was published on Monday.

"The technology we are developing is part of the value chain that enables the establishment of permanent bases away from Earth," said Jonathan Geifman, Helios co-founder and CEO.

Helios' technology, called Lunar Extractor 1 and Lunar Extractor 2, aims to demonstrate the production of oxygen and metals from local resources, such as the Moon's soil, which has over 40% oxygen by weight. The first extractor is designed to separate the oxygen from the soil.

"ispace, as a pioneer in building the cislunar ecosystem, is honored to provide our lunar transportation service and assist Helios to demonstrate their technology on the Moon," said founder & CEO Takeshi Hakamada.

"Utilizing the resources on the Moon is the natural conclusion and would lead to large economic impact for a cislunar ecosystem and eventually the sustainability of the Earth. ispace, as a pioneer in building the cislunar ecosystem, is honored to provide our lunar transportation service and assist Helios to demonstrate their technology on the Moon. We are very excited by their technology and we believe this effort will stimulate more players to enter this market."

A signing ceremony between the Israeli and [Japanese](#) companies was hosted by Japanese Ambassador to Israel Koichi Mizushima. The agreement allows ispace to deliver the Helios technology to the lunar surface by the end of 2023 and mid-2024.

Sumitomo bets on Israeli startup's remote driving tech

Japanese trading houses hunt for partners in AI and cybersecurity

TAKEHIRO HASEGAWA, Nikkei staff writer July 21, 2021 03:03 JST

TOKYO -- Sumitomo Corp. has invested in a trio of Israeli tech-sector startups, including a company developing monitoring technology for autonomous cars, joining the growing ranks of Japanese companies targeting a hub of high-tech entrepreneurship.

IN Venture, Sumitomo's Israel-based venture capital arm, has reportedly invested millions of dollars each in three companies, including Ottopia, which develops teleoperation systems to assist autonomous vehicles. Its technology uses artificial intelligence to predict wireless network conditions and compress video data to provide a steady real-time video feed to the operator.

Israeli startups are attractive targets for Japanese companies seeking partners to expand into new fields. Trading houses like Sumitomo look to combine the innovative technology of these enterprises with their own broad sales networks to the benefit of both.

IN Venture will offer management support to Ottopia with an eye toward a launch of the service as early as this year. Sumitomo hopes to develop the business in Japan together with Ottopia, cultivating a new business in autonomous and remotely controlled agricultural and construction equipment.

IN Venture has also bought into blockchain security company GK8 and Genoox, developer of a genome analysis platform. The venture capital firm has now invested in six companies since it was established in 2019, with a focus on such fields as mobility and health care.

Israel is a startup hot spot that sees 700 to 800 launched each year, many in fields requiring advanced technical capabilities, such as in AI and cybersecurity.

Other trading houses with an eye on the country's startup scene include Toyota Tsusho, which on Tuesday announced a distributor agreement with Cybellum Technologies, a provider of cybersecurity solutions for vehicles. Cybellum's service for detecting and analyzing vulnerabilities in vehicle software will be marketed to Japanese automakers under this deal.

Marubeni also has a presence in Israel to unearth promising high-tech investment targets and has bought into such companies as D-ID, which uses AI to anonymize faces in video footage.



Stor.ai Partners with Toshiba Global Commerce Solutions to Equip its Grocers with Holistic Ecommerce Infrastructure

Wed, 21 July 2021

Partnership empowers grocers to create a scalable, online storefront in a matter of weeks

NEW YORK, July 21, 2021 /PRNewswire/ -- [Stor.ai](#), the end-to-end digital commerce solution for grocers, today announced a strengthened partnership with [Toshiba Global Commerce Solutions](#), the global market share leader in retail store technology. The partnership will facilitate the full offering and integration of stor.ai's platform within the retailer's environment providing their customers with the tools to create a scalable, online storefront with full infrastructure.

Online grocery shopping has grown exponentially in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, and increased digitization is set to characterize the industry for years to come. Faced with rising consumer demand for digital solutions, retailers require integrated solutions to conduct sales both offline and online. In this context, grocers have seen their operations come under threat from a handful of leading ecommerce providers who increasingly monopolize the industry, taking many parts of the sales flow out of retailers' hands and eroding brands' hard-won identity. Stor.ai equips grocers with the tools to manage their own digital transformation, and its partnership with Toshiba Global Commerce Solution – a global market share leader in retail technology with over 3.25 million POS and self-checkout units installed worldwide – will greatly expedite these changes to be put in motion for their customer base.

"With ecommerce growing at breakneck speeds, retail store integration has often struggled to keep pace with rising use – and retailers increasingly demand integrated online sales solutions to ensure positive retail experiences for customers," said Orlee Tal, CEO, stor.ai. "This partnership strengthens the stor.ai mission, which is to create customer-first commerce, where consumers have one seamless, personalized, digital experience across all platforms. Aligning with Toshiba Global Commerce Solutions will help retailers shift towards front-end and digital transformation in a simple, convenient and user-oriented manner."

As a Toshiba Global Commerce Solution Partner, stor.ai will provide a white-labelled, SaaS solution (via Microsoft Azure) to offer a robust online shopping experience for consumers across all devices. Toshiba Global Commerce Solution is working with stor.ai and several other partners to create a suite of digital shopping solutions to address retailer and consumer journeys from online order to in-store fulfilment, to pick up or last mile delivery. The transition this partnership



HAREL - HERTZ
Investment House Ltd.

8 Hamada, P.O.B.4103 Herzliya Pituach 46140 Israel
T: +972-9-955-0560 ; www.harel-hertz.com ; info@harel-hertz.com

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heralds forms part of both parties' vision to reimagine the retail industry and help it gain ground as the need to accelerate the use of new technologies grows.

"By partnering with stor.ai, Toshiba Global Commerce Solutions can enable an integrated digital shopping experience for our retailers, allowing for an alternative to services such as Instacart," said John Pistone, Executive Director, Solutions Strategy and Business Development, Toshiba Global Commerce Solutions. "Instacart and other third-party solutions are frequently unprofitable to the retailer, control the consumer relationship and customer data, and have the potential to disintermediate the retailer from the equation. This partnership opens the doors for profitable scalability as the industry sees online orders grow."

About Stor.ai

[Stor.ai](#) is the leading digital transformation partner for retailers and wholesalers of all sizes, providing immersive and enriching experiences across digital touchpoints inside and outside the store. Serving as a change agent for the industry, the stor.ai technology suite supports food retailers' transition to online, integrating fulfillment methods and point of sale and retail catalogues into a mobile-first, custom-branded eCommerce experience within days. Stor.ai's digital commerce engine combined with Artificial Intelligence, omnichannel marketing tools and delivery logistics software, elevates customer experience and loyalty and results in increased sales and profit. Founded in 2014, stor.ai has a growing client and partner base including Unilever, Toshiba, Microsoft and more.

About Toshiba Global Commerce Solutions

Toshiba Global Commerce Solutions is a global market share leader in retail store technology and retail's first choice for unified commerce solutions. Together with a global team of dedicated business partners, we advance the future of retail with innovative commerce solutions that enhance customer engagement, transform the in-store experience, and accelerate digital transformation.

Toyota Tsusho and Cybellum Join Forces to Provide Automated Cyber Risk Assessment for Japanese Automotive Manufacturers

The partnership will introduce Cybellum's Cyber Digital Twins platform to the Japanese automotive OEM and suppliers to speed up the WP.29 regulation readiness.

TEL AVIV, Israel and TOKYO, July 27, 2021 /PRNewswire/ -- Toyota Tsusho, the global business corporation and a prominent member of Toyota group, and Cybellum, the leading Automotive Cybersecurity Risk Assessment solution provider, today announced they had entered into a partnership. The goal is to support Japanese automotive OEMs and suppliers in their race to become UNECE WP. 29 and ISO 21434 compliant.

Toyota Tsusho will provide the Cybellum Cyber Digital Twins platform to OEMs and automotive suppliers based in Japan. Toyota Tsusho's deep expertise and rich experience in the automotive industry along with the strong automotive cybersecurity risk assessment expertise of Cybellum combine to create a powerful alliance. This close cooperation will ensure that Cybellum's Cyber Digital Twins platform is available for the Japanese automotive industry to use, and is tailored to their specific needs.

The Cybellum platform allows for automated vulnerability and risk assessment of vehicles and their software-based connected components. Cybellum platform automatically creates a detailed digital replica of an automotive ECU including its BoM, interfaces, operating systems configuration, encryption mechanism, hardening and mitigation mechanism, API calls and a complete simulated model of the component, all from the firmware alone, with no access to its source code.

The Cyber Digital Twins are used to identify any potential vulnerability or threat within the vehicle's code, triage and prioritize it in the context of the component and in line with industry standards and regulations. It then provides remediation guidelines in time for the start-of-production (SoP) while continuously monitoring the relevant threat landscape throughout the lifespan of the vehicle.



"By adding Cybellum's platform to our rich set of expertise, Toyota Tsusho will provide an end-to-end solution for automotive OEMs and suppliers, ultimately resulting in the highest levels of vehicle security, both pre- and post-production," said Mr. Yasuhiro Kakiyama, Executive officer of Electronics SBU at Toyota Tsusho. "With industry regulations like UNECE WP.29 soon coming into effect, cybersecurity has become an inherent part of the automotive design and development process so we see great demand for Cybellum's Cyber Digital Twin platform in Japan."

"The cooperation with Toyota Tsusho is an important step for Cybellum Japan," said Masa Okuda, General Manager of Cybellum. "Toyota Tsusho is a trusted partner of the leading automotive players in Japan. This partnership will ensure that while more software is embedded in their vehicles, for top-notch connectivity and customer experience, the automotive industry in Japan meets the highest security standards and the rigorous demands of the regulations."

About Cybellum

Cybellum empowers automotive OEMs and suppliers to identify and remediate security risks at scale, throughout the entire vehicle life cycle. Our agentless solution scans embedded software components without needing access to their source code, exposing all cyber vulnerabilities. Manufacturers can then take immediate actions and proactively eliminate any cyber risk in the development and production process, before any harm is done, while continuously monitoring for emerging threats impacting vehicles on the road.

About Toyota Tsusho Corporation

Toyota Tsusho Corporation, listed on both Nagoya Stock Exchange and Tokyo Stock Exchange, was founded in 1948 as the trading company for the Toyota Group. Today, Toyota Tsusho operates in more than 120 countries with approximately 64,000 employees that are all striving to contribute to the creation of prosperous societies. The company has seven operating divisions focused around three business fields, which are the Mobility field, the Resources & Environment field, and the Life & Community field. In addition, the company has launched the Next Mobility Strategy in April 2017, and now has dedicated members in each operating division that are working on this new strategy.

UVeye Secures \$60 Million in New Investments to Support Further Global Expansion

CarMax, W.R. Berkley Corporation and F.I.T. Ventures Are Among UVeye's Series C Investors, Toyota Tsusho one of the ongoing investors

TEL AVIV, Israel, July 21, 2021 /PRNewswire/ -- UVeye, a supplier of high-speed vehicle inspection systems for the auto industry, has obtained \$60 million in additional funding to support its global expansion plans.

CarMax, W.R. Berkley Corporation and F.I.T. Ventures are among the participants in UVeye's Series C funding round. CarMax, the largest used-car retailer in the U.S., joins a UVeye group of investors that already includes Volvo Cars, Hyundai Motors and Toyota Tsusho.

W.R. Berkley Corporation, also a participant in previous investment rounds, is a Fortune 500 company and one of the largest commercial insurance firms in North America. F.I.T. Ventures is a growth-oriented investment firm based in Montreal, Canada.

A group of Israeli institutional investors also took part in the funding round. Led by Epsilon Underwriting & Issuing, a leading Israeli investment bank, the group includes Meitav Dash Investments, Menora Mivtachim Holdings and Y.D. More Investments.

"The completion of Series C funding represents a significant step forward for UVeye and our plans to expand in Europe and the United States," said Amir Hever, the company's CEO and co-founder. "We have a strong team of investors and corporate partners to help us set new quality standards for vehicle inspection across a broad range of industries."

UVeye currently has facilities in North America, Europe and the Asia Pacific region, including offices in Israel, Japan, Germany and the U.S. The company has raised more than \$90 million and has formed strategic partnerships with numerous dealership groups, used car auctions and vehicle fleets.

Founded in 2016, UVeye offers automated vehicle-inspection systems based on advanced artificial intelligence and machine learning technologies for both the automotive and homeland security industries. UVeye systems are increasing the speed and quality of inspection processes on assembly lines, as well as at new- and used-car dealerships, used-car auction houses and major vehicle fleets, as well as at security checkpoints around the world.

Background information

UVeye systems utilize a unique combination of proprietary algorithms, cloud architecture, artificial intelligence, machine learning and sensor fusion technologies. The company's drive-through systems can detect any external or mechanical flaw and identify anomalies, modifications or foreign objects from under and from any side of a vehicle. The scanning process completes within a matter of seconds and can be used throughout a vehicle's lifecycle.

UVeye's technology originally was developed for the security industry to detect weapons and contraband. It is now also used in the auto industry to detect a wide variety of quality issues, including oil leaks, paint scratches, tire damage, brake-line damage and exhaust-system problems.

August

Japan foreign minister heads to Mideast to talk security, Afghanistan

KYODO NEWS 16 Aug' 2021

TOKYO

Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi left Tokyo on Sunday for a trip to the Middle East including Iran and Israel, two countries that recently underwent changes in government.

The 10-day trip comes as the Taliban insurgents regain control of the country, a development that has stoked concerns about a potential spillover of instability across the region.

Motegi will also visit Egypt, Jordan, Palestine, Turkey and Qatar to discuss regional security issues as well as the response to the coronavirus pandemic, according to the Japanese Foreign Ministry.

Motegi's trip to the Middle East is the first since last October, when he visited Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

He has stressed the importance of building relationships of trust with the new governments of Iran and Israel, two key powers in the region that carries strategic importance to Tokyo due to it being a major source of oil.

Earlier in the month, anti-U.S. hard-liner Ebrahim Raisi took office as Iran's president, vowing to pursue a nuclear program and calling for the lifting of international sanctions on Tehran.

Motegi is expected to call on Iran to resume dialogue with U.S. President Joe Biden given bilateral nuclear talks have been stalled since June.

Among topics likely to be on the table is an attack on a tanker owned by a Japanese firm and operated by an Israeli company last month off the coast of Oman.

The United States and Britain suspect Iran's involvement in the incident.

Motegi's visit is also timed to come soon after Israel's first change of power in 12 years in June when Naftali Bennett was sworn in as prime minister following the resignation of Benjamin Netanyahu.

Motegi initially considered visiting Iraq as well, but the COVID-19 situation there has prevented him from doing so, according to the ministry.



President Herzog meets with Japanese FM Motegi in Israel

Motegi presented Herzog with a photo of his father, former president Chaim Herzog, meeting with Japan's long-standing former emperor Hirohito.

By TAL SPUNGIN AUGUST 18, 2021 17:24 JPost

President Isaac Herzog met with Japanese foreign minister Toshimitsu Motegi on Wednesday for a work meeting during the foreign minister's visit to Israel.

Herzog thanked minister Motegi for Japan's hosting of the Olympics, adding that "Japanese citizens must know the world looked at Japan with a sense of pride and appreciation."

Herzog also noted his appreciation for the [moment of silence](#) observed during the opening ceremony of the Olympics, in memorial of the 11 Israeli victims of the Munich massacre which occurred during the 1972 Olympics.

"We hope to continue the cooperation between Israel and Japan in the fields of economics and global warming," President Herzog added.

Motegi presented Herzog with a photo of his father, former president Chaim Herzog, meeting with Japan's long-standing former emperor Hirohito.



President Herzog receives a photo of his father, president Chaim Herzog, and former Japanese emperor Hirohito. (credit: MARK NYMAN/GPO)



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Investment House Ltd.

8 Hamada, P.O.B.4103 Herzliya Pituach 46140 Israel
T: +972-9-955-0560 ; www.harel-hertz.com ; info@harel-hertz.com

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"Israel is an important partner of Japan who shares with us basic values such as liberty, democracy, human rights and the rule of law," said Motegi.

Motegi also congratulated Israel for its [unprecedented success](#) at the Tokyo Olympics.

Japan seeks Israel's efforts toward stability in Middle East

[KYODO NEWS](#) - 3 hours ago – 19/08/2021

Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi on Wednesday asked Israel to make concrete efforts toward easing of tensions in the Middle East.

In separate meetings with new Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett and Foreign Minister Yair Lapid in Jerusalem, Motegi asked for the Middle Eastern nation's actions to foster trust with "all parties concerned" in reference to its relations with the Palestinians, the Japanese Foreign Ministry said.

The Japanese minister explained **Tokyo's support for a two-state solution** that establishes an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel, it said.

Bennett said in response his country will work with the international community, including Japan, toward increasing stability in the region, according to the Japanese ministry.

Motegi's visit to Israel came after the country saw its first change of power in 12 years in June, with Bennett assuming his post following the resignation of Benjamin Netanyahu.

The two sides also discussed a free and open **Indo-Pacific initiative led by Japan and the United States**, which Motegi told the Israeli leaders will serve the Middle East through developments such as improvements in infrastructure.

Among other topics, Motegi requested Israel's cooperation in supporting an immediate resolution of the issue of North Korea's abductions of Japanese nationals in the 1970s and 1980s.



Astellas and Minovia Therapeutics Announce Strategic Collaboration for Novel Mitochondrial Cell Therapy Programs

July 30, 2021 08:00

TOKYO & HAIFA, Israel--([BUSINESS WIRE](#))--Minovia Therapeutics, Ltd. (CEO; Natalie Yivgi-Ohana, Ph.D., "Minovia") and Astellas Pharma Inc. (TSE: 4503, President and CEO: Kenji Yasukawa, Ph.D., "Astellas") today announced a worldwide strategic collaboration and license agreement for the research, development, and commercialization of novel cell therapy programs for diseases caused by mitochondrial dysfunction.

Through this strategic collaboration, Astellas and Minovia aim to accelerate the creation of allogeneic mitochondrial cell therapy programs. The two companies will jointly research cell therapy program candidates comprised of cells derived from Astellas' proprietary genetically-engineered, induced pluripotent stem cells and augmented with Minovia's proprietary MAT platform technology. The goal of these programs will be to treat diseases caused by mitochondrial dysfunction, through the transfer of healthy mitochondria to restore the patients' tissues.

Minovia is a leading company in the field of mitochondrial cell therapy that utilizes mitochondrial transfer to deliver healthy mitochondria to a patient's diseased cells. Minovia has a unique technology platform called Mitochondrial Augmentation Therapy (MAT), where the patient's own cells are isolated, loaded with healthy mitochondria obtained from a healthy donor, and then re-infused back into the patient. Minovia is currently conducting research, development and clinical studies with MAT in mitochondrial diseases.

Astellas is engaged through its US subsidiary companies, Astellas Institute for Regenerative Medicine (AIRM) and Universal Cells Inc., to advance allogeneic, off-the-shelf, differentiated cell therapy programs derived from pluripotent stem cells¹. The new collaboration with Minovia extends Astellas' capabilities in mitochondrial biology, and follow its recent acquisition of Mitobridge, Inc. and Nanna Therapeutics Limited^{2,3}.

"We are excited and honored to collaborate with Astellas," stated Minovia's Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer, Natalie Yivgi-Ohana, Ph.D. "We share with Astellas both their passion for mitochondrial science and their commitment to patients in need of new therapies. As Minovia



HAREL - HERTZ
Investment House Ltd.

8 Hamada, P.O.B.4103 Herzliya Pituach 46140 Israel
T: +972-9-955-0560 ; www.harel-hertz.com ; info@harel-hertz.com

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continues the development of Mitochondrial Augmentation Therapy, we believe this partnership is critical to accelerate the development of off-the-shelf, allogeneic cell therapy programs for the many patients living with mitochondrial diseases caused by mitochondrial dysfunction.”

Naoki Okamura, Representative Director, Corporate Executive Vice President, Chief Strategy Officer and Chief Financial Officer, at Astellas said, "We, at Astellas, have positioned mitochondrial biology as one of the Primary Focuses of our research and development strategy to develop therapies for patients with unmet medical needs. One of the aspirations of this Primary Focus is to establish a mitochondrial cell therapy platform. Minovia is pioneering mitochondrial cell therapy and has unique technologies for enhancing delivery of healthy mitochondria to the patients' cells. This strategic collaboration with Minovia will accelerate and expand our pipeline of treatment options for patients with diseases with underlying mitochondrial dysfunction.”

Under the terms of the agreement, Minovia receives an upfront cash payment of \$20M USD. Through the joint research program with Minovia, if Astellas develops and commercializes product candidates for diseases caused by mitochondrial dysfunction, Minovia is eligible to receive up to \$420M USD per product in future development, regulatory and commercial milestone payments from Astellas.

About Minovia

Minovia Therapeutics, Ltd. is a clinical stage company and the first to use a mitochondrial cell therapy approach with the hope of bringing life-changing therapies to patients living with mitochondrial diseases, through their proprietary Mitochondrial Augmentation Therapy (MAT) platform. Minovia has an on-going autologous cell therapy program in clinical development, utilizing MAT for the future potential treatment of primary and secondary mitochondrial diseases.

About Astellas

Astellas Pharma Inc. is a pharmaceutical company conducting business in more than 70 countries around the world. We are promoting the Focus Area Approach that is designed to identify opportunities for the continuous creation of new drugs to address diseases with high unmet medical needs by focusing on Biology and Modality. Furthermore, we are also looking beyond our foundational Rx focus to create Rx+® healthcare solutions that combine our expertise and knowledge with cutting-edge technology in different fields of external partners. Through these efforts, Astellas stands on the forefront of healthcare change to turn innovative science into value for patients.

Sompo partners with Israeli start-up Planck

Sompo Japan unmanned contract decision AI usage cost reduced by 15 billion yen

[August 16, 2021 NIKKEI]

Sompo Japan will unmanned decisions when concluding corporate insurance contracts. Partner with Israeli startup Planck to leverage its artificial intelligence (AI). It collects a huge amount of public information on the Internet and uses it to determine whether or not to accept insurance and to calculate insurance premiums. Ultimately, 90% will be unmanned, leading to cost reductions of up to 15 billion yen per year. In Japan as well, the introduction of "InsurTech", which makes use of IT (information technology) for the sophistication of insurance, has begun in earnest.

Planck's AI collects up to 100 types of information in seconds, using a small amount of information such as the company name and address of the contracting company as a clue. Judgment is that if there is a fire station nearby, it will be easier to stop the damage caused by the fire, and if more alcohol is provided, the possibility of trouble will increase. From images posted on SNS (exchange site), grasp the presence or absence of smoke detectors and emergency exits, and the installation status of materials.

In the past, agency employees had to spend several days listening to information such as industry, sales, number of employees, and site area. In principle, the information collected by AI will be connected to Sompo Japan's insurance underwriting system, and the decision on whether or not to underwrite it will be unmanned. In the future, the same work will be completed in a few seconds, and the floating manpower will be used to develop new customers. It will be introduced for small and medium-sized enterprises by the end of 2021, and the target will be gradually expanded. This is the first time in Japan that the decision to underwrite corporate insurance is unmanned.

Corporate insurance mainly consists of fire insurance and liability insurance. Sompo Japan's corporate insurance is expected to account for 40% of the total net premiums received. Expenses such as personnel expenses in this business are about 70 billion yen annually, but it is expected to be able to reduce 10 to 15 billion yen. In the future, it will lead to a reduction in insurance premiums.

Founded in 2016, Planck has raised a cumulative total of \$ 48 million. The company's AI is also used in Berkshire Hathaway's insurance business, led by renowned investor Warren Buffett. This is the first time to expand outside the United States.



Japan's Mitsui- Sumitomo insurance ups investment in Israel's Upstream Security

Japanese company leads \$62m expanded Series C round in provider of cloud-based cybersecurity solutions for connected and autonomous cars

By [RICKY BEN-DAVID](#) 24 August 2021, 4:52 pm

Japan's Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Co. (MSI) has increased its investment in Israeli automotive cybersecurity startup **Upstream Security**, the companies announced on Tuesday, bringing Upstream's Series C funding up to \$62 million. This comes three months after MSI led a \$36 million investment in the Israeli company.

New investors in the now-completed C round included Israeli insurance company IDI Insurance, 57 Stars' NextGen Mobility Fund, and French investment club La Maison Partners. Earlier this year, **IDI and MSI launched a joint technology hub in Israel.**

Founded in 2017, Upstream offers cloud-based cybersecurity and machine learning and big data analytics for connected and autonomous vehicles. The collaboration will further help the Japanese insurer use Upstream's machine learning and analytics solutions to get insights from the mobility data for insurance purposes.

"The new investment will boost Upstream's growth and reinforce its leadership in the connected vehicle cybersecurity market, while expanding its offering to current and future customers," MSI and Upstream said in a joint statement.

The rapid growth of the connected car ecosystem has brought along with it an increased interest in telematics-based services. Upstream's cloud-based mobility data platform expands MSI's data analytics capabilities and enables MSI to provide additional risk-related services based on driver usage and behavior, the companies said in May.

MSI aims "to improve the customer experience through digitalization," said Masashi Ippongi, director and managing executive officer at Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance, three months ago with the initial investment. "Upstream's data analytics vantage will help MSI satisfy the consumer demand for higher-value and next-gen insurance products, applications, and services."



Upstream is also privately funded by Alliance Ventures (Renault, Nissan, Mitsubishi), Volvo Group Venture Capital, Hyundai, Nationwide Insurance, Salesforce Ventures, MSI, CRV, Glilot Capital Partners, and Maniv Mobility.

“The Upstream and MSI partnership will open new data-driven opportunities for both automotive manufacturers, insurance companies, and their customers,” Yoav Levy, co-founder and CEO at Upstream, said at the time.

“With today’s revolution in automotive connectivity and exponential growth in the number of connected vehicles on the road, the demand for automotive cybersecurity and data analytics solutions has increased significantly, and Upstream is well poised to tap this growth and capitalize on the business opportunities shared by our customers and partners,” he added on Tuesday.

Established in 1918, Mitsui Marine & Fire Insurance Co., Ltd. merged with Sumitomo Marine & Fire Insurance Co., Ltd. in 2001 to form Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Co., Ltd.

Upstream, founded in four years ago by Levy and Yonatan Appel, has raised a total of \$105 million to date, including the latest round.

Leading AI Chipmaker Hailo Partners with Macnica in Japan

By collaborating with Macnica, a leading global semiconductor distributor, Hailo will be better able to serve its growing base of Japanese customers

TOKYO and TEL AVIV, Israel, Aug. 31, 2021 /PRNewswire/ -- Top Artificial Intelligence (AI) chipmaker [Hailo](#) has partnered with [Macnica](#), a leading global semiconductor distributor, to sell Hailo's products in Japan. The agreement with Macnica will allow Hailo to expand its presence in Japan, extending its reach to customers in fields such as smart retail, smart cities, smart homes, industry 4.0, and beyond.

The agreement is part of Hailo's strategy to strengthen partnerships with existing customers in Japan, while expanding further into other Asia-Pacific markets to enable companies from a wide array of industries to accelerate AI computing performance at the edge. Hailo will continue to offer its innovative product line to customers in the region, including its specialized AI processor for edge devices, the Hailo-8™, as well as its M.2 and Mini PCIe high-performance AI acceleration modules.

"Working with Macnica will significantly strengthen our presence in the Asia-Pacific region, where interest in Edge AI solutions continues to rise," said Orr Danon, CEO of Hailo. "This comes with growing demand from Japanese customers as they seek to empower their devices with AI capabilities at the edge. We were impressed by Macnica's mission statement, as well as their strong relationship with customers, and we are confident that with our collaboration, we will further expand our offerings in the region."

"We are excited to work with a leading company like Hailo, as we see the vast potential of their innovative AI solutions at the edge," said Yusuke Kobayashi, Macnica Altima company president. "Our deep experience supplying semiconductors and other innovative technologies to this key market, combined with Hailo's state-of-the-art AI products and team's capabilities, will bring significant value to customers in Japan."

The partnership follows the establishment of [Hailo Japan G.K.](#), Hailo's wholly owned subsidiary located in Tokyo, led by former Sony executive Hiro Uchida.

The Hailo-8™ delivers unprecedented performance to edge devices. Featuring up to 26 Tera Operations Per Second (TOPS), the module is built with an innovative architecture that enables edge devices to run sophisticated deep learning applications that could previously only run on the cloud. Hailo-8's advanced structure translates into higher performance, lower power, and minimal latency, enabling enhanced privacy and better reliability for smart devices operating at the edge.

About Hailo

[Hailo](#), an AI-focused, Israel-based chipmaker, has developed a specialized Artificial Intelligence (AI) processor that delivers the performance of a data center-class computer to edge devices. Hailo's AI processor reimagines traditional computer architecture, enabling smart devices to perform sophisticated deep learning tasks such as object detection and segmentation in real time, with minimal power consumption, size, and cost. Supported by its Hailo-8™ M.2 and Mini PCIe high-performance AI acceleration modules, the deep learning processor is designed to fit into a multitude of smart machines and devices, impacting a wide variety of sectors including automotive, industry 4.0, smart cities, smart homes, and retail.

About Macnica

Since it was established in 1972, Macnica has provided leading-edge semiconductors, electronic devices, networks and cyber security products with high value-added technology. More recently, Macnica has been actively developing new businesses in the fields of AI, IoT, automated driving and robotics, based on its strength in global sourcing and strategic planning for world-leading technologies. With its slogan "Co.Tomorrowing", Macnica connects leading-edge technologies with 'Macnica' intelligence to provide unique services and solutions, *creating social value and contributing to the betterment of future societies. Headquartered in Yokohama, Macnica's global business spans 24 countries and 84 locations worldwide.

MUFG Invest another \$120M in Liquidity Group Fund-Mars Growth.

Mitsubishi Group Invests Additional \$120M in a Liquidity Group Fund - Mars Growth, as it Ramps Up Growth Financing in ASIA PAC Tech Companies, Reaching \$220M Direct MUFG Investment in Liquidity Within the Last 10 Months

NEW YORK--(BUSINESS WIRE) --Sep 1, 2021--

Mitsubishi Group (MUFG) the second largest banking and finance group in the world has injected another \$120 million investment into the Mars Growth fund, a 50/50 joint venture owned by MUFG and Liquidity Capital. MUFG has a broader strategic relationship with Liquidity and this latest investment represents their cumulative investment of \$220 million to date.

Mars Growth Capital provides debt financing solutions to technology companies in Asia Pacific and Europe. Since its inception one year ago, the fund has recorded exceptional performance through ten transactions to the value of \$80 million, executed across Asia, Australia and Europe, with demand exceeding \$2 billion during this period.

Through its strategic collaboration with MUFG, Liquidity is focused on revolutionizing the credit underwriting process for the business sector. Recognizing the challenges for high potential companies to secure non-dilutive capital from traditional financial institutions, Liquidity developed DYNAMiCS, a world-first, machine learning platform that can perform fast and thorough, data-driven due diligence on companies to assess their performance and growth potential.

DYNAMiCS uses algorithms to accurately predict future revenues, cash balances and other relevant financial covenants unique to technology business. Each of Liquidity's four funds, including Mars Growth Fund, use the platform to inform their investment decision making, oftentimes in a process that takes less than 24-hours to complete.

Liquidity Group has provided over \$750 million during the last year to over 50 growth companies across USA, Asia Pacific, Europe and the Middle East, including top unicorns such as eToro, Homer, Resident, Infinidat, Acronis, Infra.Market, and others. Its financing ranges from

\$5 million to \$100 million, and is committed to 24-hour due diligence using its first of a kind platform - DYNAMiCS.

Ron Daniel, Liquidity CEO, said: "MUFG's ongoing investment in our funds is a vote of confidence in our technology, capabilities and potential. Mars Growth Capital's performance to date is a reflection of the strength of our methodology of combining our team's professional investing expertise with our bespoke DYNAMiCS technology solution. We are excited to continue our ongoing partnership with MUFG, who shares our ethos to support innovative, technology-driven companies across key market segments."

Rio Hiroshima, who manages Mars Growth Capital's operations on behalf of MUFG, said, "Since launching the fund just one year ago, we have quickly positioned ourselves as the market leader in growth financing for technology companies across the APAC and EMEA regions. Market demand, coupled with our strong investment performance has enabled us to grow rapidly and increase the value of the fund to \$200 million. We are excited to continue our partnership with MUFG as we continue on the same dizzying trajectory into 2022".

Yaron Primovich, the fund manager on behalf of Liquidity said: "Our partners at MUFG believe in our value proposition, and share our ambitions to be the global leader in growth financing. We hold a unique position in the marketplace because our underwriting platform acts as a data-driven oracle to identify and assess the potential of prospect companies. DYNAMiCS can cut through masses of information to analyse the strength of different business models, end customer behaviours and financial situations, arming us with insights to determine a company's ability to meet future debt repayments."

"In a post Covid-world, businesses across the globe are on the cusp of even greater levels of innovation and expansion, further fuelling companies' appetite for growth and debt without dilution. We are excited to play a crucial role in helping these companies optimise on this opportunity".

In addition, Mars Growth Capital has registered high levels of demand from hundreds of companies, in less than one year since its formation.

Direct Insurance and MSI will invest NIS 80 million (\$25M) in start-ups in the field of insurtech

Bituach Yashir will invest NIS 80 million in start-ups in the field of insurtech. The investment will be made in collaboration with the Japanese insurance company MSI. (Mitsui-Sumitomo Insurance)

Golan Hazani 01.09.21

Direct Insurance will invest NIS 80 million in start-ups in the field of insurtech. The investment will be made by the company's investment division led by Yossi Efrati,

NIS 8 million has been invested in recent days in Upstream Security, which provides a cloud platform used for cyber security and data analysis for the automotive industry.

An additional NIS 3.2 million was invested in Ridevision, which developed a system to prevent accidents in two-wheeled vehicles by real-time warning of dangerous situations.

The investment division of Bituach Yashir manages NIS 3.3 billion, which is invested in tradable and non-tradable channels. Direct Insurance, controlled by the Schneidman family, is managed by Kobi Haber.

September

ZOLL Medical Corporation, an Asahi Kasei company Signs Definitive Agreement to Acquire Itamar Medical

Acquiring provider of home sleep apnea diagnosis solutions will allow ZOLL to better serve undiagnosed and untreated cardiac patients

September 13, 2021 — Chelmsford, MA and Caesarea, Israel — ZOLL® Medical Corporation, an Asahi Kasei company that manufactures medical devices and related software solutions, and Itamar™ Medical Ltd. (Nasdaq and TASE: ITMR), a medical device and digital health company focused on the integration of sleep apnea diagnosis into the cardiac patient care pathway, today announced that the two companies signed a definitive agreement under which ZOLL Medical will acquire all outstanding ordinary shares of Itamar Medical for a total value of approximately \$538 million.

Itamar Medical is focused on the development and commercialization of non-invasive medical devices and solutions to aid in the diagnosis of respiratory sleep disorders. The company pioneered the WatchPAT® Home Sleep Apnea Device, an innovative sleep apnea diagnosis program for patients and healthcare professionals. The WatchPAT device is FDA-cleared and continues to gain recognition as a safe and effective method for home-based testing for sleep apnea.

Research has shown complex interrelationships between cardiovascular disease and both obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) and central sleep apnea (CSA). OSA is associated with increases in the incidence and progression of coronary heart disease, heart failure, stroke, and atrial fibrillation, while CSA associated with Cheyne-Stokes respiration predicts incident heart failure and atrial fibrillation, and strongly predicts mortality among patients with heart failure.¹

“ZOLL Medical is committed to improving outcomes for underserved patients suffering from serious cardiopulmonary conditions,” said Jon Rennert, CEO of ZOLL Medical. “It is currently estimated that 60% of cardiovascular patients suffer from some form of sleep apnea, and the majority of these patients go undiagnosed.² The combination of ZOLL Medical and Itamar Medical will help more patients receive diagnosis and treatment for sleep-disordered breathing. We look forward to helping strengthen the collaboration between the worlds of cardiology and sleep medicine.”



“We are excited to join forces with ZOLL Medical, a leader in addressing the needs of cardiologists and their patients. The integration of Itamar’s WatchPAT® technology and Digital Health solution for sleep apnea with ZOLL Medical’s commercial footprint will accelerate our mission of advancing home sleep medicine to benefit the population of undiagnosed and untreated patients,” said Gilad Glick, President and Chief Executive Officer of Itamar Medical.

ZOLL Medical has a long history of improving patients’ lives with innovative technologies, including multiple monitoring solutions that aid in the diagnosis and management of cardiac patients. In April 2021, [ZOLL Medical acquired Respicardia](#), maker of the remedē® System – the only implantable device approved by the FDA to treat moderate to severe CSA in adult patients.³

Transaction Details

Under the terms of the agreement, which has been unanimously approved by the boards of directors of ZOLL Medical and Itamar, ZOLL Medical will acquire all outstanding ordinary shares of Itamar Medical for \$31 per American Depositary Share (ADS), or \$1.03 (equivalent to approximately NIS 3.31) per ordinary share, in cash. The offer of \$31 per ADS in cash represents a premium of 50.2% over the price of Itamar Medical’s ADS on the Nasdaq Stock Market on September 10, 2021.

ZOLL Medical’s acquisition of Itamar Medical is subject to approval by the shareholders of Itamar Medical, regulatory approvals and other customary closing conditions. Assuming typical regulatory and shareholder approval timeframes, the parties currently expect the transaction to close by the end of 2021.

Once the acquisition is completed, it is expected that Itamar Medical’s principal operations will continue at its current location in Caesarea, Israel, including its R&D and Digital Health Technology centers, as well as the production center.

Advisors

Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC is acting as financial advisor to ZOLL Medical, and Cooley LLP and Gornitzky & Co. serve as legal advisors to ZOLL Medical. Piper Sandler & Co. is acting as financial advisor to Itamar Medical, and Latham & Watkins LLP and Goldfarb Seligman & Co. are acting as its legal advisors.

About ZOLL Medical Corporation

ZOLL Medical Corporation, an Asahi Kasei company, develops and markets medical devices and software solutions that help advance emergency care and save lives, while increasing clinical and

operational efficiencies. With products for defibrillation and cardiac monitoring, circulation enhancement and CPR feedback, supersaturated oxygen therapy, data management, ventilation, and therapeutic temperature management, ZOLL Medical provides a comprehensive set of technologies that help clinicians, EMS and fire professionals, as well as lay rescuers, improve patient outcomes in critical cardiopulmonary conditions.

About Asahi Kasei

The Asahi Kasei Group contributes to life and living for people around the world. Since its foundation in 1922 with ammonia and cellulose fiber business, Asahi Kasei has consistently grown through the proactive transformation of its business portfolio to meet the evolving needs of every age. With more than 40,000 employees around the world, the company contributes to sustainable society by providing solutions to the world's challenges through its three business sectors of Material, Homes, and Health Care. Its health care operations include devices and systems for acute critical care, dialysis, therapeutic apheresis, transfusion, and manufacture of biotherapeutics, as well as pharmaceuticals and diagnostic reagents. For more information, visit www.asahi-kasei.com.

About Itamar Medical Ltd.

Itamar Medical is a medical technology company focused on the development and commercialization of non-invasive medical devices and solutions to aid in the diagnosis of respiratory sleep disorders. Itamar Medical commercializes a digital healthcare platform to facilitate the continuum of care for effective sleep apnea management with a focus on the core sleep, cardiology and direct to consumer markets. Itamar Medical offers a Total Sleep Solution to help physicians provide comprehensive sleep apnea management in a variety of clinical environments to optimize patient care and reduce healthcare system costs. The Company's key product, WatchPAT, is commercially available within major markets including the U.S., Japan, and Europe. Itamar Medical is a public company traded on the Nasdaq and on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchanges, and is based in Caesarea, Israel with U.S. headquarters based in Atlanta, GA. For additional information visit www.itamar-medical.com.

NYK trials new lookout support system for navigators

<https://shipinsight.com/articles>

Japanese operator NYK and MTI have installed a prototype of the Automatic Ship Target Recognition System developed in Israel by Orca AI on a trial basis on a ship operated by the NYK Group.

Japanese operator NYK and MTI have installed a prototype of the Automatic Ship Target Recognition System developed in Israel by Orca AI on a trial basis on a ship operated by the NYK Group.

To avoid dangerous objects and collisions with other vessels while sailing, navigators use binoculars to visually recognise dangerous objects. Nautical instruments such as radar are also used, and decisions are then made to change course if necessary. The new system will be installed on a trial basis to verify whether the safety of the ship's operation can be improved by automating the task of identifying dangerous objects. This system is said to be able to recognise dangerous targets and other vessels that may be overlooked by the human eye, especially at night and in congested waters.

Research on automatic identification by image analysis has been underway, and automatic recognition is possible if the image can be acquired. However, ships are exposed to wind and rain. In such an environment, there is no camera that has been able to operate day and night, and no system that could measure the distance from the captured image to the target with a certain degree of accuracy.

The new system uses a camera unit that is claimed can do this to automatically recognize ships and targets and measure the distance to them. Information obtained from navigational equipment, including vessel names, distance, and time when the ship is closest to the target, can be superimposed and displayed in an integrated manner to a tablet or touch-panel monitor display.

In addition, the system is ground-breaking because it can independently recognise small fishing boats and small markers that are not captured by radar and not equipped with AIS. The system measures the distance to these targets and notifies the person on duty of danger of collision.

Surrounding images taken are analysed using artificial intelligence (AI) on Orca AI's server, which makes use of machine learning and then remotely updates the onboard software. This



HAREL - HERTZ
Investment House Ltd.

8 Hamada, P.O.B.4103 Herzliya Pituach 46140 Israel
T: +972-9-955-0560 ; www.harel-hertz.com ; info@harel-hertz.com

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mechanism improves performance such as recognition rate through continuing use. In addition to the captured video, navigation instrument information is sent to Orca AI's server and displayed together with the video data. This makes it possible to monitor the movement of the ship and check the situation from the land office.

The camera unit has an angle of view: 120 degrees and is equipped with three standard and three infrared cameras.

In this verification, the system has been installed on a trial basis on a ship operated by the NYK Group to verify detection capability and contribution to lookout work, improve the target detection algorithm through data collection and machine learning, and enhance the recognition rate.

In addition, in joint research conducted by NYK and MTI in advance with Orca AI, the system was installed on domestic vessels to collect information on the Japan coast, in addition to fishing boats, fishing gear, and buoys peculiar to Japan. We are also researching how to use the system for future autonomous operations by improving its recognition rate.

SoftBank leads \$100M round for StreamElements

September 23, 2021 TechCrunch and Others

SoftBank Vision Fund 2 is leading this latest round, which also includes new backers PayPal Ventures and MoreTech, as well as previous investors State of Mind Ventures, Pitango, Menorah and Mivtach Shamir.

Video is at the heart of how people use the internet today, and creators are at the heart of what is being made and watched on video. Today, a startup that has built a platform that helps them produce and monetize their work is announcing a big round of funding that underscores just how lucrative and big the creator economy has become.

StreamElements, which provides production and analytics tools to people who livestream and make video-on-demand for platforms like Amazon's Twitch, YouTube and Facebook, has raised \$100 million in funding — money that it will be using to continue building out the tools on its platform, to do more in on-demand alongside a big business in livestreaming and for marketing, specifically to bring more creators to its platform, which is already being used by 1.1 million people.

The company competes against a wide swathe of others in the so-called **creator economy**, including many of the video platforms themselves building their own production and monetization features, so the race for more talent is not a small one.

StreamElements is not disclosing its valuation, but this round is coming in the wake of very strong growth for the company, after a prolonged period where user-generated video consumption went through the roof. That was not just because of the popularity of apps like TikTok, Instagram, YouTube (now with [40 million gaming channels](#), among other content) and Twitch (which passed 2 *billion* hours of watched video in January 2021), but also because video became a pastime and lifeline for many people after other activities and sometimes even movement outside of the house became restricted after the rise of COVID-19.

"The pandemic had a massive impact on our business," Hirsch said in an emailed interview "In addition to people in quarantine watching more content, more people started creating it. We know this because our monthly users went from a couple hundred thousand before the quarantine and less than a year later it is now over a million"

In the case of StreamElements, the company said usage of its platform grew 233%, and it has especially seen some strong traction with some of the more popular creators. It said that over 60%

of the top content creators — those with 20,000 or more views and followers across multiple platforms — use the StreamElements dashboard.

While StreamElements has made its name up to now mostly with livestreaming and working with, say, gamers on platforms like Twitch to help them produce content, manage conversations and build in ways of making money, it's now looking to focus more attention on video-on-demand, the company said — an area where it had already provided some services but will be doubling down to address what it sees as an untapped opportunity, especially in contrast to livestreaming.

“YouTube currently has over 40 million active gaming channels, making it the largest gaming platform in the world,” said Hirsch in a statement. “The bulk of this content [is] on-demand videos, which lack the real-time engagement functionality that has driven the success of the livestreamed market”

Notably, currently, StreamElements' creator tools are 100% free to use, so as Hirsch described it “The primary way we generate revenue is through brand partnerships. We offer influencer-driven sponsorship activations that rely on our proprietary technology which already powers the majority of the top creators' channels and enables unparalleled depth in terms of the measurement brands are looking for.” This is one reason why the company is going to focus on bringing more of these high-volume creators to its platform. Currently, he said the majority of its creators are based in the U.S., Europe and Brazil, although the aim will be to continue to tap more people in more markets internationally, a mass market play that is exactly the kind of business SoftBank likes to back.

“As online entertainment continues to develop as an immersive experience, the demand for authentic creator-driven content has grown exponentially,” said **Nahoko Hoshino, a senior investor for SoftBank Investment Advisers**, in a statement. “Through a suite of broadcasting and engagement tools, StreamElements is helping creators deliver an enriched experience for audiences while monetizing content from the most popular social video platforms. This creates an exciting, new digital market between creators and fans, and we're thrilled to be working with the company in building engagement across an ever-widening global community.”

Japanese Broadband Provider Asahi Net Launches Allot Traffic Management Solution

Allot replaces existing solution with its SmartTraffic QoE solution to improve Quality of Service for ISPs under Asahi Net and their customers.

Hod Hasharon, Israel, Sept. 29, 2021 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- [Allot Ltd.](#) (NASDAQ: ALLT) (TASE: ALLT), a leading global provider of innovative network intelligence and security-as-a-service (SECaaS) solutions for communication service providers (CSPs) and enterprises, today announced that [Asahi Net](#), a broadband provider in Japan, has launched Allot's SmartTraffic QoE solution. SmartTraffic QoE provides comprehensive network traffic analytics as well as flexible, granular and precise real-time traffic management, which will improve network Quality of Experience (QoE) for Asahi Net's VNOs and their broadband customers.

With the deployment of [SmartTraffic QoE](#), Allot has replaced the incumbent solution, while expanding its footprint in Japan. The solution utilizes the Allot Service Gateway Tera II (SG-Tera II), an integrated platform for delivering network intelligence, traffic management, and cybersecurity protection. It addresses multiple challenges including modular scalability through its ability to handle up to 1 Tbps of network traffic in a single system and multiple Tbps in a clustered configuration.

"When we decided to renew our existing network traffic management system, Allot's more expandable DPI solution SG-Tera II system was exactly what we needed," said Satoshi Kashiwa, Corporate Officer of Asahi Net. "With this new solution, we now have greater flexibility and can manage significant traffic capacity."

Allot's SmartTraffic QoE solution utilizes Allot's Dynamic Actionable Recognition Technology to identify different types of encrypted traffic. The solution prioritizes critical applications over those that overwhelm available bandwidth, based on Key Quality Indicators (KQIs). Using those KQIs, network traffic is dynamically shaped to ensure that heavy users do not negatively impact the QoE of regular customers.

"Asahi Net's launch of SmartTraffic QoE marks a significant milestone in our expansion into the Japanese market as it is the first deployment of SG-Tera II in the nation," said Dr. Oren Kaufman, General Manager at Allot Japan. "We are thrilled to be working together with Asahi Net on developing new broadband services in Japan."



About Allot

Allot Ltd. (NASDAQ: ALLT, TASE: ALLT) is a provider of leading innovative network intelligence and security solutions for service providers and enterprises worldwide, enhancing value to their customers. Our solutions are deployed globally for network and application analytics, traffic control and shaping, network-based security services, and more. Allot's multi-service platforms are deployed by over 500 mobile, fixed and cloud service providers and over 1000 enterprises. Our industry-leading network-based security as a service solution has achieved over 50% penetration with some service providers and is already used by over 20 million subscribers Globally

CytoReason and Summit Pharmaceuticals International Announce the Introduction of an AI Platform to One of Japan's Top Pharmaceutical Companies

The first implementation will leverage CytoReason's technology to progress the development of a clinical asset, using CytoReason's disease model.

TOKYO and TEL AVIV, Israel, Sept. 30, 2021 /PRNewswire/ -- CytoReason, an AI company developing computational disease models for discovery and clinical drug development, and Summit Pharmaceuticals International (SPI), a Japanese company providing service and products to the pharmaceutical industry (wholly-owned subsidiary of Sumitomo Corporation), today announced that CytoReason has entered the Japanese market, with its technology being utilized by one of Japan's top pharmaceutical companies.

CytoReason's AI platform will use its disease model, along with clinical data from the Japanese pharmaceutical company, to help it gain a better understanding of how its drug behaves on a molecular level, relative to similar drugs on the market.

This is the first-ever announced collaboration between an Israeli company and a Japanese pharmaceutical company to bring AI to clinical drug development. The collaboration will explore the relationship between disease mechanisms and drug MoA in order to increase the drug's valuation in immunology. It is especially impactful as Japan has the third largest pharmaceutical market in the world.

CytoReason helps pharma and biotech companies accelerate drug discovery and development with the use of its cell-centered computational models and proprietary data. The company's technology enables scientists to gather critical information on the body's immune functioning, which ultimately speeds up the scientific process and brings life-saving drugs to market faster and at a reduced cost. R&D using AI technology is becoming essential in the pharmaceutical field and the industry has taken keen interest in CytoReason's technology. Sumitomo Corporation group facilitates digital transformation in various industries, and SPI intends to further support data-driven drug discovery and clinical development by CytoReason's proprietary AI/machine learning platform.

"We're thrilled to enter the Japanese market with such an important player in the country's pharmaceutical industry," said David Harel, CEO and Co-founder of CytoReason. "This collaboration represents a meaningful step forward for our company and for the global pharmaceutical industry."

"We are very delighted that CytoReason initiated a project in the Japanese market," said Katsuya Okuyama, President & CEO of SPI. "We will continue to contribute to the healthcare industry through the collaboration with CytoReason."

About CytoReason

CytoReason's computational model of the human body simulates human disease on a cellular level, minimizes the need for animal trials, and makes human trials more focused and accurate. With CytoReason's proprietary database and AI-led platform, pharma and biotech companies make data-driven decisions in a fraction of the time and cost. To date, six of the world's top ten pharma companies use CytoReason's technology to bring the right drug, to the right patient, at the right price. For more information, visit www.cytoreason.com.

About SPI

SPI is a provider of high-quality integrated products and services to the pharmaceutical industry, from research equipment and bioresources for drug discovery, pharmaceutical licensing and research alliance support, to manufacturing of APIs, intermediates for pharmaceuticals, generic drugs and biologics. SPI plays a central role in the medical science business line as a group company of Sumitomo Corporation, with one of the leading global trading companies, 113 locations in 66 countries, and 22 locations in Japan, with a diverse range of products and services.

e-Mobility Power Chooses Driivz EV Charging Management Platform to Unify its EV Charging Operations Throughout Japan

TEL AVIV, Israel, Sept. 30, 2021 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- [e-Mobility Power](#) (eMP), the leading provider of EV charging in Japan, has migrated and unified its entire network of more than 27,000 chargers onto the [Driivz](#) end-to-end EV charging and smart energy management software platform. The Driivz technology comprises operations management, authentication and billing, and driver mobile app and web self-service tools that will help eMP achieve its mission of delivering anytime, anywhere EV charging and an excellent user experience across Japan.

In April of 2021, eMP took over the Nippon Charge Service (NCS) in Japan and effectively provided one-stop charging for electric cars nationwide. eMP works to bundle almost all areas relating to electric vehicle charging in Japan. Driivz provides eMP with the ability to consolidate the former NCS partners such as mobility service providers (charger owners and charge point operators) into a single managed system controlled by eMP.

"This partnership with Driivz will aid in future-proofing our EV charging business and streamlining EV charging management while giving our EV drivers the most seamless experience possible," said Shoko Yotsuyanagi, President of eMP. "This is crucial to our progress in achieving eMP's mission."

eMP selected Driivz following an extensive six-month evaluation. Key factors were Driivz's extensive experience integrating chargers from multiple vendors and its proven scalability and flexibility.



The Driivz EV management platform enables eMP to enhance the user experience. Drivers use a single mobile app and web portal to start charging sessions and self-manage their account. The new Driivz system is also interfaced with an Integrated Authentication system (a “Hub” system, that integrates more than 27,000 EV chargers in Japan). This allows eMP drivers to use other Charging Point Operator (CPO) chargers and enables non-eMP members to use eMP chargers.

“The Driivz platform is empowering eMP to achieve their vision of integrating separate charging operators and creating a single unified network,” said Doron Frenkel, founder and CEO of Driivz. “We are thrilled to have been selected by eMP as their EV charging and smart energy management solution as they create new services and infrastructure that support the next-generation mobility society.”

About Driivz

[Driivz](#) is the leading global software supplier to EV operators and service providers, accelerating the plug-in EV industry's dynamic and continuous transformation. The company's intelligent, cloud-based platform spans EV charging operations, energy management, advanced billing capabilities and driver self-service tools. Based in Tel Aviv, Israel, Driivz's team of EV experts serve customers in more than 20 countries, including global industry players such as Volvo Group, EVgo, Gilbarco Veeder-Root, ElaadNL, ESB, and Centrica. Driivz's platform manages tens of thousands of EV chargers in North America, Europe, and APAC, used by almost 1 million EV drivers.

October

Renesas acquires Celeno to deliver end-to-end connectivity solutions for clients and access points

Israel's Celeno acquired by Japan's Renesas for \$315 million

<https://www.helpnetsecurity.com/2021/10/29/>

[Renesas Electronics Corporation](#) announced it has entered into a definitive agreement with Celeno Communications, a provider of Wi-Fi solutions, under which Renesas will acquire Celeno in an all cash transaction valuing Celeno at approximately US\$315 million, assuming the payment of certain milestone payments as set forth in the definitive agreement.

The transaction has been unanimously approved by the boards of directors of both companies and is expected to close by the end of calendar year 2021, subject to customary closing conditions. The acquisition significantly enhances Renesas' connectivity portfolio with the addition of Celeno's Wi-Fi technologies and software expertise.

Headquartered in Israel, Celeno offers a wide range of wireless communication solutions, including advanced Wi-Fi chipsets and software solutions, for high-performance home networks, smart buildings, enterprise and industrial markets. Its chipset offerings for Wi-Fi 6 and 6E deliver Wi-Fi network performance and increased security with low latency and low power consumption.

Celeno's Wi-Fi Doppler Imaging technology, a Wi-Fi based, high-resolution imaging technology, is ideal for home elderly care and assisted living, home security, safe driving and digital and connected factories. It depicts, tracks and analyzes the motion, behavior and location of people and objects using standard Wi-Fi, eliminating the need for multiple cameras or sensors in home environments and commercial buildings.

Renesas offers a breadth of low-power MCU/MPU/SoC processors, wireless ICs, sensors and power management technologies. Celeno's field-proven Wi-Fi and software capabilities are highly complementary to Renesas. The combination creates comprehensive, end-to-end embedded

solutions for addressing the fast-growing markets for low-power connectivity in IoT, infrastructure, industrial and automotive applications.

In addition to expanding the solution offering, the acquisition also increases Renesas' engineering and design scale with Celeno's design center in Israel and by welcoming R&D staff based in Israel, Ukraine, India, China, Taiwan and more. This further strengthens Renesas' global engineering and software development talent base, allowing Renesas to bring more seamless and expanded services to customers around the globe.

"The transaction announced today underscores our continuous commitment to improve performance and efficiency in electronic systems," said Hidetoshi Shibata, President and CEO of Renesas. "Building on our recently-expanded connectivity portfolio following the Dialog acquisition, the addition of Celeno provides us with more advanced Wi-Fi connectivity capabilities to deliver end-to-end connectivity solutions for both clients and access points. Renesas is now strongly positioned to capitalize on the growing opportunities from the massive rise in connectivity and requirements created by today's increasingly connected world."

"This is a compelling transaction for both our customers and employees. Our depth and strength in connectivity combined with Renesas' industry leading portfolio of embedded solutions will allow us, together, to open up new growth areas we can target," said Gilad Rozen, President and CEO of Celeno. "Renesas will also provide us with the go-to-market capabilities to bring Celeno to a broader range of customers."

SoftBank makes strategic investment in OurCrowd

The investment from Japan's SoftBank includes a strategic partnership with SoftBank Investment Advisers (SBIA).

By [ZEV STUB](#) OCTOBER 27, 2021 19:50 JPost

The Jerusalem-based venture funding platform [OurCrowd](#) said Wednesday that SoftBank Vision Fund 2 will make a \$25 million convertible equity investment into the firm.

The investment from Japan's SoftBank, one of the world's top investment companies, includes a strategic partnership with SoftBank Investment Advisers (SBIA), which is headed by former head of the Mossad [Yossi Cohen](#).

The investment by one of the world's largest technology-focused investors is a significant strategic development for the fund, OurCrowd CEO Jon Medved said.

"Our collaboration with SoftBank will help OurCrowd expand and further develop our global platform," he said. "Not only will we explore new deals together, but we will cooperate on key areas of mutual tech interest such as artificial intelligence, quantum computing, mobility, agtech, cybersecurity, healthtech and more. As a strategic investor with a global reach and a network of market-leading technology companies, they will be a pivotal partner in helping OurCrowd realize our vision of democratizing access to venture capital."

Based in Jerusalem's, OurCrowd has investments in over 280 companies and 30 funds, and has been rated Israel's most active venture investor by PitchBook for nine consecutive years. The platform includes 140,000 accredited investors from more than 195 countries.

OurCrowd achieved record growth in the past year, it said in a statement. It has added 75,000 new registered subscribers so far in 2021, compared to 25,000 last year. New investments made this year on the platform will exceed \$500m., representing more than 100% growth in additional annual assets under management. More than 50 OurCrowd portfolio companies have achieved exits, including Lemonade, Beyond Meat, Uber (Jump), Kenna, Argus and Wave.

Under OurCrowd's agreement with SBIA, the parties will work with each other to evaluate market trends in a broad variety of sectors. The collaboration will also see OurCrowd and SBIA support geographic expansion across their respective ecosystems, they said. SBIA will consider investment opportunities via OurCrowd's online venture capital investment platform.



“SoftBank has been investing ahead of major technology trends for over 40 years, and we believe there is huge, embedded potential in the private markets ecosystem,” Yossi Cohen said. “In OurCrowd, we have an investment partner with the networks and pedigree to help promising Israeli start-ups to potentially emerge as international tech champions.”

The first SoftBank Vision Fund, founded in 2017, is the world’s largest technology-focused investment fund, with more than \$100 billion in capital. SoftBank Vision Fund 2 was founded in 2019, and, with more than 115 investments made so far this year, is one of the most active funds in the world.

Softbank-backed Reef Technology to buy Israeli logistics startup Bond

Bond developed a logistics platform that allows e-commerce brands to manage their operations across the fulfillment chain

By [RICKY BEN-DAVID](#) 7 October 2021, 7:15 pm

Reef Technology, a Miami-based operator of parking, mobility, and logistics hubs across North America backed by **Japanese multinational Softbank**, announced on Thursday that it signed an agreement to acquire Israeli startup Bond, the developer of a logistics platform for the e-commerce industry.

Reef specializes in transforming underutilized urban spaces into neighborhood hubs that help people access locally curated goods and services. Founded in 2013, the company has an ecosystem of 4,500 locations and a team of 15,000 people, and describes itself as the largest operator of mobility, logistics hubs, and neighborhood kitchens in the United States. The company raised \$700 million late last year.

Bond was initially founded in 2017 in Tel Aviv as Shookit, a direct-to-consumer grocery startup that delivered fresh produce to clients in the city within hours. The startup has since rebranded as

Bond, and offers a software solution that helps small- and medium-sized companies gain full visibility into their operations and manage their storage and delivery processes.

The platform offers access to “hyperlocal” carriers and delivery partners, as well as spaces and facility management companies, to allow brands and operators to stock inventory locally. The solution is also compatible with popular e-commerce platforms, such as Shopify.

The terms of Reef’s acquisition of Bond were not disclosed, but Reef said in a statement that the move will “significantly bolster” its last-mile fulfillment capabilities across its entire network, in the US, Europe, and the Middle East. It also said that the agreement aligns with its “strategic vision of ‘connecting the world to your block,’ by enabling fast delivery across a vast array of inventory in fulfillment centers close to consumers.”

Michael Osadon, co-founder and CRO of Bond, told The Times of Israel in a phone interview that the startup sought to address the “biggest friction point” in direct-to-consumer services — last-mile fulfillment — and focused on end-user experiences in urban locations.

Bond raised \$15 million last year with investors Lightspeed Venture Partners, MizMaa Ventures, and TLV Partners, and sought to “stay lean and mean and focused.”

The startup employs 22 people, a majority in R&D, and they will all become part of Reef’s operations, he said.

Aquarius Engines: TPR will invest \$ 20 million for 20% of its subsidiary in Japan

The investment reflects a value of \$ 100 million to subsidiary Aquarius Japan; The parties will cooperate in the production, development, and marketing of Aquarius products in the Japanese market

Sponsor News 18/10/2021

Aquarius Engines has signed an agreement with TPR Co, a Japanese public company and manufacturer of propulsion systems for vehicles and engine. The two companies entered into a non-binding memorandum of understanding to regulate the principles in principle regarding the cooperation between them, after which they will begin negotiations towards a binding

agreement. The binding agreement is expected to be signed within 60 days.

Under the emerging agreement, the Japanese TPR will invest \$ 20 million in the share capital of Aquarius Japan against 20% of the subsidiary's shares, at a value of \$ 100 million. The investment will be made in two identical parts, with the execution of the second part of the investment will be subject to the receipt of a first order of the company's products in accordance with the terms of the memorandum.

Also, according to the Memorandum of Understanding, Aquarius will grant TPR and its affiliates exclusive rights to manufacture the Company's products for the purpose of their sale and distribution by Aquarius Japan to customers located in Japan only. The agreement does not prevent Aquarius Engines from manufacturing its products and selling them through Aquarius Japan to customers not located in Japan.

In addition, the parties agreed to cooperate in promoting the business activities of Aquarius Japan, which includes the establishment of a hydrogen-based engine research and development center in Japan, the promotion of Aquarius Japan's business activities by TPR, in business development, business relationships, sales, marketing and research and development. And the employment of specialist workers in Japan, including TPR's employees.

The current memorandum of understanding was signed following TPR's investment in the company from September 2020 and also following the initial memorandum of understanding, signed between the parties in March 2021, which states that TPR will be able to invest \$ 5 million in Aquarius Japan.



Gal Friedman, Chairman of Aquarius Engines: "We continue to promote our strategic collaboration with TPR, which is a significant player in the automotive industry in Japan, and in this context is also expected to make a significant investment in its subsidiary, Aquarius Japan, and assist our position in Japan.

"TPR has production capabilities that will allow Aquarius to shorten the time required to assimilate its products in the Japanese market, along with business relationships and extensive experience in this market, which will allow us high accessibility to significant customers in Japan".

Aquarius Engines has established a subsidiary in Japan with the aim of promoting and strengthening ties with the company's existing partners in Japan, including Musashi (a Japanese public company partly owned by the Honda Motors Group .(The company in Japan will help create strategic partnerships with key players in Asia and advance further business opportunities in the Japanese market - and the deal reported today is expected to be a significant growth engine in this market.

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NeuroBlade raises \$83m to help accelerate data analytics

Marubeni Ventures participate in latest round. NeuroBlade, a specialist in data acceleration solutions, has announced that it has secured \$83mi in Series B funding, bringing total invested capital to \$110m.

Israeli data analytics company [NeuroBlade](#) today announced the completion of a \$83 million Series B financing round, led by **Corner Ventures with participation from Intel Capital**, and existing investors **StageOne Ventures, Grove Ventures and Marius Nacht. Tech companies including MediaTek, Pegatron, PSMC, UMC and Marubeni** also provided funding during this round. This round brings the total amount raised by the company to \$110 million.

The financing will be used to expand the company's engineering teams in Tel Aviv and build out its sales and marketing teams globally.

NeuroBlade has developed a new data analytics architecture that eliminates major data movement bottlenecks by integrating the data processing function inside memory, better known as processing-in-memory (PIM). PIM has been a pipe dream for decades, and NeuroBlade is the first company to successfully bring this innovation to production, accelerating data analytics by integrating its technology into a full system-level easy-to-deploy appliance.

Commenting Elad Sity, CEO and co-founder of NeuroBlade said, "We have built a data analytics accelerator that speeds up processing and analysing data over 100 times faster than existing systems. Based on our patented XRAM technology, we provide a radically improved end-to-end system for the data centre."

Existing system architectures show that the constant shuffling of data between storage, memory, and central processing is the primary cause of poor application performance and slow response times. NeuroBlade realised that current architectures were unable to scale to meet future data analytics needs, which led them to build a computational architecture that eliminates the data movement requirements and massively speeds data analytics performance.



Samurai Incubates Celebrate 40th Investment in Israel.

Samurai Incubates Israel announced its latest investment in [Spinframe Technologies Ltd.](#)

This is the company's 40th investment in Israeli Start-ups, becoming Japanese most active and most diversified investor in Israel.

Established in 2008, **Samurai Incubate Inc.** is an early-stage Japanese Venture Capital firm and the first Incubator in Japan; with branches in Tokyo and in Tel Aviv, Samurai Incubate has invested in over 120 startups, including 40 Israeli startups.

Samurai Incubate Israel, located in Tel Aviv and operating since 2014, is the first branch of Samurai Incubate outside of Japan.

The Samurai Incubate Israel Managed by Ms. Shirley Binder, is dedicated to taking ventures from the very basic stages to greater heights, and to later connect them to the Japanese market.

Spinframe Technologies creates a new standard for vehicle visual inspection in the digital age. Its solution instills trust and generates savings across the entire vehicle's lifecycle. Spinframe's AI powered technology provides automatic damage tracking at every gateway and handover point, in real-time.



Scent digitization startup Moodify raises \$8 million from Procter & Gamble, Toyota

The Israeli company has developed a platform in collaboration with leading Weizmann Institute researchers that enables molecular-level accurate control in the design of scent

Meir Orbach09:5204.10.21

Moodify, an Israeli startup that develops technology for the digitization of scent, announced on Monday that it has recently completed raising \$8 million in equity financing. CPG giant Procter & Gamble is a key investor in the round. Other investors include Toyota Ventures, OurCrowd, Next Gear Venture Partners, and Taisho Pharmaceuticals.

Moodify has developed a platform in collaboration with leading Weizmann Institute researchers that enables molecular-level accurate control in the design of scent, through the use of neural network machine learning.

Whereas the sense of scent is considered essential for people, many companies that tried to create the optimal scent experience have come across difficulties and even failed on their way to realizing it. Moodify has taken a different approach, utilizing advanced subsets of deep learning to discover a connection between certain physico-chemical features of scent molecules and the way they are perceived by humans. This capability helps to digitally communicate and print scents via the internet. Moodify's technology also enables to effectively and selectively control malodor



Fujitsu and Israeli Startup Autofleet Embark on Global Strategic Cooperation

OCTOBER 28, 2021 PUBLISHED AT 11:01 AM ACN NEWSWIRE

TOKYO, Oct 28, 2021 - (JCN Newswire) - Fujitsu Limited and Autofleet, Ltd., providing an optimization platform for fleets, leveraging AI for demand prediction and vehicle dispatching technology, have agreed to embark on global strategic cooperation to develop sustainable logistics solutions and contribute to the resolution of issues including labor shortages in the logistics industry and environmental problems. To kick-start co-creation activities, Fujitsu has made a strategic investment in Autofleet through a corporate venture capital fund managed by its subsidiary Fujitsu Ventures Limited (1).

Logistics represents a critical element in the infrastructure of society, and enriches peoples' lives by supporting economic development within a complex ecosystem. Changes in peoples' lifestyles with the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic has upended existing consumer business models, highlighting the importance of logistics as demand for shipping and e-commerce services increase dramatically.

These trends have exposed fundamental weaknesses in the global supply chain, as the logistics industry confronts new challenges posed by labor shortages and environmental issues due to increased CO2 emissions. With this latest move, Fujitsu and Autofleet recognize the urgent need to develop more dynamic and resilient models for logistics to ultimately deliver more efficient and environmentally sustainable approaches.

By combining Autofleet's platform, with Fujitsu's know-how in systems development and industry expertise in logistics, the two companies aim to leverage their joint activities to develop and bring to market sustainable global logistics solutions.

The two companies envision use cases including solutions for the dynamic allocation of trucks for last-mile transport for home delivery, where demand for logistics fluctuates widely, as well as vehicle matching (2) for emergency transport, the coordination of mixed vehicles transporting passengers, and freight with public transport. The companies will also explore the possibilities of route optimization solutions based on the location of charging points for electric vehicles, which are being introduced in the logistics industry with the aim of achieving decarbonization targets.



HAREL - HERTZ
Investment House Ltd.

8 Hamada, P.O.B.4103 Herzliya Pituach 46140 Israel
T: +972-9-955-0560 ; www.harel-hertz.com ; info@harel-hertz.com

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This partnership will be introduced during a virtual session during Fujitsu's flagship digital experience, "Fujitsu ActivateNow 2021"

About Fujitsu

Fujitsu is the leading Japanese information and communication technology (ICT) company offering a full range of technology products, solutions and services. Approximately 126,000 Fujitsu people support customers in more than 100 countries. We use our experience and the power of ICT to shape the future of society with our customers. Fujitsu Limited (TSE:6702) reported consolidated revenues of 3.6 trillion yen (US\$34 billion) for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2021.

About Autofleet

Autofleet provides the leading Vehicle-as-a-Service platform for fleets to optimize existing operations and to seamlessly launch new business models from existing assets. The platform leverages advanced machine-learning algorithms for demand prediction, optimized placement and matching, automated pit-stop management and in/de-fleeting, and more. To date, Autofleet is optimizing tens of thousands of vehicles, and has partnered with some of the largest fleets on the planet.

Adaptive Shield, Leaders in SaaS Security Posture Management, Partners with Macnica Networks for Expansion into Japan

TEL AVIV, Israel and TOKYO, July 20, 2021 /PRNewswire/ -- Adaptive Shield, leaders in SaaS Security Posture Management, is pleased to announce that it has entered into a distribution agreement with Macnica Networks Corp., Japan's global technology solutions company that analyzes cyber threats targeting Japanese organizations and provides security solutions.

Today, SaaS apps have become the business of record, from the company's CRM and customer support tools to IT tools, HR management systems, dashboards, workspaces, and much more. The use of SaaS apps doesn't come without risk. With the multitude of settings, controls, and policies to manage and track on every SaaS app in use, many misconfigurations arise. While SaaS providers build in security features, it is up to the company's security team to fix any potential vulnerabilities and configuration weaknesses.

By partnering with Adaptive Shield, Macnica Networks will utilize the cloud security knowledge they have cultivated alongside Adaptive Shield's technology to support the safe use of SaaS applications by enterprises.

"Cloud services are essential to business today, yet maintaining a consistent policy across platforms, business units and user groups is a difficult problem. Adaptive Shield is unparalleled in its ability to provide enterprises a continuous, and automated SaaS security solution and we are proud to partner with them to make this solution available to our customers and enhance our cloud security portfolio," says Jun Ikeda, President of Macnica Networks.

Through this partnership, Japanese companies will gain clear visibility of their whole SaaS ecosystem with all the potential places for infiltration -- and get detailed alerts at the first sign of configuration drift or anomaly. Adaptive Shield also provides built-in remediation tools so the security team can open a ticket to fix the issue with no go-between and no lengthy additional steps.



"The cooperation with Macnica is another important step in our mission to provide security teams complete control of their organizations' SaaS applications with visibility, detailed insights and remediation of all SaaS misconfigurations," asserts Maor Bin, CEO of Adaptive Shield. "We are thrilled to partner with Macnica Networks, leaders in cybersecurity in Japan. Through this collaboration, we will further accelerate the safe use of SaaS applications by Japanese companies, helping them maintain a clean, safe and efficient SaaS app environment."

About Macnica Networks

Macnica Networks works with a large number of overseas companies to provide the latest technological advances in network devices and software. Its extensive range of products, and installation and maintenance support services make it a favorite of governmental and educational establishments, and private sector corporations.

About Adaptive Shield

Adaptive Shield, the leading SaaS Security Posture Management (SSPM) company, enables security teams to see and fix configuration weaknesses quickly in their SaaS environment, ensuring compliance with company and industry standards. Adaptive Shield works with many Fortune 500 enterprises to help them gain control over their SaaS threat landscape. Our management team has vast experience in cybersecurity leadership, delivering cybersecurity solutions and cloud enterprise software.

Japan condemns Israel's plan to build thousands of new colonial settler units

(Statement by Press Secretary YOSHIDA Tomoyuki)

On October 24th, the Government of Israel announced the publication of tenders for about 1,300 settlement housing units in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, and, on October 27th, approved plans for the construction of about 3,000 housing units in settlements. The settlement activities are in violation of international law and undermine the viability of a "two-state solution". The Government of Japan deeply deplores the continued settlement activities by the Government of Israel despite repeated calls for freezing such activities from Japan and the international community.

Underscoring the necessity of confidence-building between Israel and Palestine and the efforts toward easing tensions and stabilizing the region, Japan strongly urges the Government of Israel to rescind the above-mentioned tenders and approval of the construction plans, and to totally freeze its settlement activities.

November

Ithaca Energy agrees to buy Marubeni's North Sea assets for \$1 bln,

Delek Group Ltd. (TASE:DLEKG) fully owned unit Ithaca Energy has reportedly signed an agreement to buy Japanese company Marubeni Oil and Gas .The acquisition is designed to increase Ithaca's oil and gas reserves in the North Sea.

By Ron Bousso Reuters

LONDON, Sept 13 (Reuters) - Ithaca Energy has agreed to acquire Marubeni's oil and gas assets in the North Sea for about \$1 billion, industry sources told Reuters.

The owner Ithaca, Israeli energy company Delek Group (DLEKG.TA), said last year it wanted to list the North Sea-focused energy company.

Several other Japanese energy and trading firms are also seeking to exit the ageing North Sea basin.

Ithaca Energy and Marubeni declined to comment.

Marubeni's main oil and gas asset in the North Sea is its 41.03% stake in the Montrose Area, which includes the Montrose, Arbroath, Arkwright, Brechin, Wood, Godwin, Shaw and Cayley fields, operated by Repsol Sinopec Resources UK.

Ithaca, which produced about 56,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day in the first half of 2021, said in August it had refinanced a \$1.225 billion reserve based lending facility and placed a \$625 million bond "to continue to pursue business growth ambitions".

In order to pursue business growth ambitions, Ithaca last month said it had refinanced a \$1.225bn reserve-based lending facility and also placed a bond worth \$625m.

Fujitsu and Ben-Gurion University Embark on Joint Research at New Center in Israel for Precise and Secure AI

BEER-SHEVA, Israel and TOKYO, Nov. 16, 2021 /PRNewswire/ -- Fujitsu Limited and [BGN Technologies](#), the technology transfer company of [Ben-Gurion University of the Negev](#) (BGU), have signed a three-year comprehensive joint research agreement to develop technologies and solutions to contribute to the realization of safe, real-world applications of AI and machine learning technologies. The newly-established "Fujitsu Cybersecurity Center of Excellence in Israel" (Fujitsu CCoE IL) hosts a team of approximately 20 researchers including Prof. Yuval Elovici and Prof. Asaf Shabtai. The lab is headed by Prof. Elovici, Department of Information Systems Engineering and Head of BGU's Cyber Security Research Center located at the Cyber@BGU labs in the advanced technology park at the university's campus in Israel.

With this initiative, Fujitsu and Ben-Gurion University aim to accelerate joint research and development into technologies that offer solutions to threats posed to AI models and machine learning, improving the trustworthiness and security of AI-based systems and software that increasingly impact our daily lives.

Vivek Mahajan, Chief Technology Officer of Fujitsu Limited commented, "We are delighted to collaborate with Ben-Gurion University, which boasts world-class software development capabilities in the security field. I'm confident that the establishment of the Fujitsu CCoE IL will yield a variety of promising new security technologies for AI, and I look forward to a fruitful partnership with Ben-Gurion University as we work in tandem to resolve some of the challenges facing our increasingly digitized society."

Prof. Yuval Elovici, said, "We are excited to enhance our collaboration with Fujitsu, a world-leading information and communications technology company. Together we can make systems that are based on AI more robust to attacks that focus on the AI component."

"This joint strategic research collaboration is a testament to Ben-Gurion University's leadership in the cybersecurity space," added Josh Peleg, CEO, BGN Technologies. "The multi-year collaboration will improve AI security and help create a safer world while strengthening the

University's positioning as a global player in the AI, machine learning and cybersecurity arenas."

Growing Opportunities, Growing Threats

AI and machine learning technologies play a growing role in society, with promising applications emerging that will increasingly affect our daily lives, including the improvement of public safety through analysis of human behavior in surveillance video data, product quality control through the detection of abnormalities, product recommendations, as well as to improvement of autonomous driving.

With the growth and expansion of these technologies, however, the need to improve AI security represents an urgent priority. Hostile entities use increasingly sophisticated techniques to threaten critical infrastructure and systems by stealing and leaking confidential information contained in AI datasets. For instance, adding special noises to video data can cause the AI to misidentify people or misdetect actions. Fujitsu CCoE IL will address these issues through research on AI security to detect such attacks, protect against adversarial access to AI systems, and to make the models more robust against attacks.

As part of their new partnership, Fujitsu and BGU will focus on research that confronts these threats to make AI technologies safer and more trustworthy. For one of the Center's initial research projects, researchers from Fujitsu and Ben-Gurion University will apply an AI model (Out of Distribution detection model [1]) that can detect new, unknown types of threats, such as attacks on drones and fraud in network communications and develop technologies able to appropriately cope with the rapidly evolving attack methods. The Out of Distribution detection model will additionally be applied to detect product malfunctions in cases where unexpected data appears intentionally or accidentally.

Outline of the Joint Research

1. Length of contract:

Three years

2. Roles and responsibilities:

Fujitsu:

- Development of security technologies for AI-based systems and software
- Examination of scenarios for technology verification
- Support for verification and evaluation

Ben-Gurion University:

- Development of security technologies for AI-based systems and software
- Research, verification, and evaluation of security technologies for AI-implemented systems and software

3. Research Contents:

The two partners will conduct trials at the Fujitsu CCoE IL in Israel simulating various cases of security threats to AI and will promote advanced research toward the establishment of technologies to defend against such threats.

Future Plans

Fujitsu and Ben-Gurion University will promote research and development activities at the Fujitsu CCoE IL in order to realize AI security technologies applicable to a wide range of fields with the ultimate objective of delivering advanced solutions for the global market that will contribute to the solution of various social issues.

Notes:

[1] Out of Distribution detection model:

Generic term for a model to detect data that has not been expected at the time of AI learning. One of the methods to deal with unknown data and used to detect new methods of cyber attacks and abnormalities of products.

About Fujitsu

Fujitsu is the leading Japanese information and communication technology (ICT) company offering a full range of technology products, solutions and services. Approximately 126,000 Fujitsu people support customers in more than 100 countries. We use our experience and the power of ICT to shape the future of society with our customers. Fujitsu Limited (TSE:6702)

reported consolidated revenues of 3.6 trillion yen (US\$34 billion) for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2021. For more information, please see www.fujitsu.com.

About Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (BGU) is the fastest growing research university in Israel. With 20,000 students, 6,000 staff and faculty members, and three campuses in Beer-Sheva, Sde Boker and Eilat, BGU is an agent of change, fulfilling the vision of David Ben-Gurion, Israel's legendary first prime minister, who envisaged the future of Israel emerging from the Negev. The University is at the heart of Beer-Sheva's transformation into an innovation district, where leading multinational corporations and start-ups eagerly leverage BGU's expertise to generate innovative R&D.

About BGN Technologies

BGN Technologies is the technology transfer company of Ben-Gurion University, the third largest university in Israel. BGN Technologies brings technological innovations from the lab to the market and fosters research collaborations and entrepreneurship among researchers and students. To date, BGN Technologies has established over 100 startup companies in the fields of biotech, hi-tech, and cleantech, and has initiated leading technology hubs, incubators, and accelerators. Over the past decade, BGN Technologies has focused on creating long-term partnerships with multinational corporations such as Deutsche Telekom, Dell-EMC, PayPal, and Lockheed Martin, securing value and growth for Ben-Gurion University as well as the Negev region

NRGene Signs Collaboration with Mitsui's Top Seeds International

-

November 19, 2021

Israel's NRGene and Top Seeds International have signed a collaboration agreement to develop and commercialize new and improved cherry tomato varieties.

Based on the agreement, NRGene will lead the research by applying its AI technology to accelerate and improve the accuracy of the breeding process, while Top Seeds will take responsibility for product development, marketing and commercialization.

The tomato is widely considered to be the most extensively cultivated vegetable crop worldwide. Its global seed market was recently evaluated at over US\$1.1 billion with a *compound annual growth rate* of 6% between 2021-2026. The cherry tomato segment alone will grow at a higher rate than other tomato varieties.

In past years, tomato growers had to face the challenges of ever-growing demand for top quality tomatoes, new plant diseases, and the repercussions related to natural climate extremes and those compounded by climate change. By joining forces, the two companies can better tackle these issues through the development of new and improved varieties.

“Top Seeds is constantly investing in the development and commercialization of vegetable varieties with improved traits so that farmers can better adapt to challenges and, as a consequence, customers can enjoy better tasting and healthier vegetables”, said Alon Lerner, the Innovation and Collaboration lead in Top Seeds.

“Developing new varieties takes years and requires large investments. We are at the technological forefront to discover important traits, optimize breeding processes, and shorten the time to market of new varieties. This collaboration allows us to apply NRGene’s advanced solutions to our proven genetics, enabling both our companies to lead the seed industry.”

Top Seeds International Ltd., wholly owned by the Mitsui Group — one of the largest corporate groups in the world — is a global vegetable seed company specializing in research, production and marketing of innovative, high-quality hybrid varieties.



HAREL - HERTZ
Investment House Ltd.

8 Hamada, P.O.B.4103 Herzliya Pituach 46140 Israel
T:+972-9-955-0560 ; www.harel-hertz.com ; info@harel-hertz.com

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NRGene estimates the investment in this project at US\$400,000, while its market potential in the targeted regions was estimated at US\$25 million in 2020. Following successful completion of the project, NRGene will be entitled to royalties of 35-70% from the sales (net of production and distribution costs) of the improved seeds and varieties, based on their genetic content. The first revenues from this project are expected in 2025.

“We are pleased to join Top Seeds in this partnership as it fulfills NRGene's strategic decision to deepen our involvement in variety development and our presence in the seed industry value chain,” said Dr. Gil Ronen, NRGene's CEO and founder. “Successful completion of this project will contribute significantly to the growth of NRGene and serve as additional proof of our technology to improve development processes and shorten the time by up to 50%.”

Denso Is Joining Drive TLV's List of Automotive Partners

- Other partners include Honda, Volvo, Volvo Group, Cox Automotive and Hertz
- Drive helps high-tech mobility startups commercialize promising new technology

TEL AVIV, Israel, Nov. 3, 2021 /PRNewswire/ -- Drive TLV, a startup-development organization based in Israel, has added Denso Corporation to its list of major corporate partners.

In addition to Denso, Drive partners include Honda, Volvo Cars, Volvo Group, NEC Corporation, Cox Automotive and Hertz. Drive TLV has helped more than 40 mobility-focused startups raise a total of more than \$1 billion to develop and commercialize new technologies since 2017.

Drive's innovation-hub partners can participate in its FastLane program for startups. They also have access to the POWER by Drive test track and development center for testing, evaluation and further development of new technology.

FastLane offers a unique combination of mentoring and training for high-tech mobility startups. The intense five-month commercialization program includes bi-weekly sessions with a team of financial and technology experts, a CEO forum that includes key industry leaders and ongoing face-to-face meetings with Drive's corporate and private-equity partners.

Denso is a leading supplier of advanced automotive technology systems. Last year the company invested nearly 10 percent of its annual revenue in research and development globally. A Denso Israel Innovation Lab opened in 2018.

"We have conducted more than 20 proof-of-concept programs with Israeli startups in the past three years alone," said **Ifushi Shimonomoto**, the head of **Denso's lab in Israel**. "In partnership with Drive we plan to accelerate our collaboration with high-tech startups to further our vision for a greener, safer mobility future."



Headquartered in Kariya, Japan, Denso is a Fortune 500 company with more than 170,000 employees working in more than 35 countries. Many of its research and development programs focus on electrification and autonomous-vehicle technologies.

Itay Erel, Drive TLV's CEO, explained that Drive's commercialization process introduces corporate partners such as Denso with operations in Europe, the Americas and the Asia Pacific region to entrepreneurs with a broad range of never-before-imagined technology.

He noted that Drive's FastLane program will be expanded next year to include startup companies in Europe and North America. The Drive umbrella also will be extended to cover smart-mobility technologies in other mobility-related business sectors, including the logistics, insurance and energy industries.

"The concept of mobility is constantly evolving," Erel pointed out. "The goal of carrying people or goods from one place to another is no longer strictly an automotive challenge. Global collaboration from within multiple industries is required to meet today's smart mobility challenges."

He said that FastLane alumni include Hailo, Foretellix, Arbe Robotics and Tactile Mobility -- all four involved in autonomous-vehicle technology and sensors. Other FastLane participants have included Addionic and Apollo Power, both centered on sustainability and electrification, and UVeye, a provider of automated inspection systems for the auto industry.

About Drive TLV

Drive TLV is a unique innovation hub focused on smart mobility. It leverages an in-depth knowledge of Israel's high-tech ecosystem to handpick the most promising smart mobility startups and enhance their businesses with strategic guidance. It also forms and maintains strong global partnerships with industry-leading mobility enterprises, then promotes commercialization between its startups and industry partners.

illumigyn™ Raises \$33M to Provide Women with Outstanding, Accessible, and Affordable Medical Care Worldwide

Financial round was led by Yozma Group Korea and UBICOM Holdings Japan

NEVE ILAN, Israel, Nov. 3, 2021 /PRNewswire/ -- [illumigyn](#), the world's first remote gynecological imaging platform, today announced that following the closure of its latest investment round it has raised \$33 million to date. The current investment round includes the Yozma Group Korea and Ubicom Holdings Japan.

The funding will enable the company to accelerate its plans to bring cutting-edge gynecological imaging to women across the globe, starting this month with deployments in the United States, United Arab Emirates, India, Singapore, and South Korea.

As part of its vision to expand access to vital care for women worldwide, illumigyn developed a complete platform featuring the Gynoscope™ System, a revolutionary "gynecology endoscope" and cloud platform service with an accompanying mobile application.

The first FDA-cleared remote gynecological platform, the Gynoscope™, digitally documents the cervix, vagina, and external genitalia. High-quality resolution and superior magnification enhance details beyond the capabilities of traditional cervix exams, enabling more accurate pap smears.

The illumigyn Gynoscope™ can be handled by any trained caregiver (OB/GYN, GP, Midwife, Nurse Practitioner, and Physician Assistant) so that women of all individual sensitivities can be assessed in a safe space. The HIPAA-compliant solution automatically uploads and securely stores images to the cloud. This allows a doctor or specialist to view the images remotely and provides women with access to their scans and doctors' recommendations.

"This is another milestone in our vision to democratize women's healthcare and bring advanced gynecological care to women worldwide," **said Mr. Ran Poliakine, illumigyn's Founder.** "Our



deployments this month are aligned with our mission to bring our platform to women everywhere, in developed and developing countries, in population centers, as well as remote communities. This is our mission and our commitment."

The investment will also support illumigyn's research and development efforts, which are geared toward turning illumigyn into a comprehensive solution for examining the lower genital tract and providing women across the world the best possible care for cancer and other diseases. This includes the worldwide availability of preventive screenings, evaluations, diagnoses, and treatments.

"We are proud to introduce to the world a cutting-edge innovation that will ensure that women all over the world will feel safe during gynecological exams and will have access to all of their medical information," **Dr. Avi Ludomirski, CEO and Chairman of the Board of illumigyn.** "The funding secured by the company will be deployed to ramp up production and will enable illumigyn to execute existing distribution agreements and sign additional new global partnerships."

About Illumigyn

illumigyn, founded by Ran Poliakine and Lior Greenstein, is an Israeli corporation focused on powering women's health and making it accessible and affordable for every woman worldwide. Illumigyn's vision is to disrupt the medical field of gynecology with a complete platform solution featuring the Gynoscope™ System, a revolutionary and FDA cleared "gynecology endoscope" and cloud platform service. With our technological know-how and expertise, our vision is to then create an ecosystem that powers all facets of women's health.

Obligo Raises \$35M in Series B to Power the Home Renting Experience of the Future

The rapidly growing fintech company combines open banking technology with AI to make renting as easy as checking in and out of a hotel. **MUFJ INOVATION PARTNERS AMONG STRATEGIC INVESTORS**

November 04, 2021

NEW YORK--([BUSINESS WIRE](#))--[Obligo](#), the fintech company that builds trust between renters and landlords, today announced a Series B funding of \$35 million led by investor [83North](#).

Additional investors participating in the round include [HighSage Ventures](#), [10D](#), [Entrée Capital](#), [Alumni Ventures](#), [MUFJ Innovation Partners](#), [La Maison Partners](#) and other strategic investors.

Combined with its recent [Series A round](#), Obligo has raised over \$50 million in the last 12 months. The new funding will be used to expand its product suite, grow market share and bring industry-changing rental solutions to millions of homes across the United States.

Obligo's holistic product suite powers a trusted and streamlined rental experience. Obligo's platform uses Open Banking data and AI to determine a renter's eligibility to rent deposit-free. Renters then proceed to make their move-in payments online, including a traditional security deposit if needed. At move-out, Obligo handles any end-of-lease deductions, refunding of deposits and billing the renter for any open charges.

"An Obligo-powered experience provides renters with flexibility, peace of mind and financial freedom," said Roey Dor, CEO of Obligo. "Thanks to powerful software integrations and elimination of all paper processes, the operational and financial benefits to owners and operators are substantial."

Obligo has partnered with over 100 tech-forward U.S. property owners and managers including AIR, Beam Living (StuyTown) and Common. Landlords and property managers use Obligo to simplify their move-in process, comply with the ever-changing regulatory landscape, and make their listings more appealing to renters.



HAREL - HERTZ
Investment House Ltd.

8 Hamada, P.O.B.4103 Herzliya Pituach 46140 Israel
T: +972-9-955-0560 ; www.harel-hertz.com ; info@harel-hertz.com

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"Obligo is a disruptive and innovative solution, both in its ability to make predictions about renter risk and in its effective debt recovery process," said David Buttress, Partner with 83North. "We believe the product suite is becoming an irreplaceable industry standard in the U.S. and beyond."

About Obligo

Obligo harnesses financial technology to build trust between renters and landlords, making the rental process as simple as checking in and out of a hotel. In 2018, brothers Roey and Omri Dor founded Obligo as a holistic product suite to streamline rental owners operations, boost their bottom line, power a superior rental experience and comply with ever-changing regulations.

Obligo's solution suite today includes free certified electronic move-in payments, a flexible credit-backed deposit alternative, and automated electronic deposit refunds, complemented by powerful integrations with industry leading software. For more information

Mouro Capital Leads Vesttoo's \$15m Series B Round with Participation From MS&AD Ventures

TEL AVIV, Israel, Nov. 22, 2021 /PRNewswire/ -- Vesttoo, a leading global Alternative Reinsurance and Investment platform, today announced its \$15M Series B equity investment from Mouro Capital, which is backed by a large multinational bank, and **MS&AD Ventures, the corporate venture capital fund of Japan-based MS&AD Insurance Group Holdings, the fifth largest insurance conglomerate in the world.**

"Mouro Capital and MS&AD see the same opportunity we see: Vesttoo's marketplace as a global deal pipeline that drives capacity directly from the capital markets to insurers, while delivering exceptional return on risk to investors by opening up this new asset class," **said Yaniv Bertele, CEO of Vesttoo.** "Their partnership is an amazing vote of confidence in us and is a signal to financial and insurance institutions that we are significantly increasing business capacity. Together, we are going to scale our ILP and fully digital marketplace."



The Series B round, which comes just three months after Hanaco Ventures led the company's Series A round, will drive expansion of Vesttoo's Insurance-Linked Program (ILP) offering, an innovative security-based investment portfolio, as well as the world's first fully digital marketplace for insurance-based risk transfer and investments. Both are integral to Vesttoo's business strategy, aimed at bridging the funding gap in the reinsurance market.

Vesttoo's ILP investment portfolio is focused on fully collateralized Life and P&C reinsurance transactions. Through the ILP program, investors can pledge existing securities as collateral in these transactions, earning additional spreads over current yields (long-term, structured alpha), without increasing their risk profile.

Furthermore, Vesttoo's marketplace, a first of its kind in the market, provides insurers with access to capital market originated capacity. Investors, on the other hand, benefit from direct access to a new asset class comprised of low volatility insurance risks and attractive risk reward.

Mouro Capital, which is backed by a leading multinational bank, is focused on investing in the future of financial services. Mouro Capital manages \$400M in assets and has invested in companies such as iZettle (acquired by PayPal), Kabbage (acquired by American Express), Creditas, Curve, Ripple, Tradeshift, Trulioo and Upgrade.

Jon Soberg, Managing Partner at MS&AD Venture, said "Our team at MS&AD Ventures is really excited about the tech-driven approach to risk transfer that Vesttoo is applying to the reinsurance market. We believe this is the future and we see huge opportunities as risks such as climate and cyber become bigger and more complex. Vesttoo has a great team and we are excited to be part of the journey with them."

About Mouro Capital: Mouro Capital is a venture capital firm backing entrepreneurs who are shaping the future of financial services. With \$400 million in assets under management, Mouro invests across the fintech value chain in early to growth stage start-ups across Europe, North America and Latin America

About MS&AD Insurance Group Holdings, Inc.: MS&AD Insurance Group Holdings, Inc. is the insurance holding company of the new Group formed in April 2010 through the merger of Aioi

Insurance Co., Ltd., Nissay Dowa General Insurance Co., Ltd., and Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Group. The purpose of MS&AD insurance Group is to achieve sustainable growth and to enhance enterprise value through the creation of a world-leading insurance and financial services group that operates globally, by rapidly and significantly improving quality and expanding its operating presence and corporate resources.

About MS&AD Ventures: MS&AD Ventures is an early stage venture fund looking broadly at technology companies in Fintech, InsurTech, AI, IOT, Big Data and Cybersecurity. They are backed by MS&AD Insurance Group Holdings, the 5th largest insurance conglomerate in the world.

About Vesttoo: Vesttoo is the world's first marketplace for Life and P&C insurance-based risk transfer and investments. Our proprietary AI-based technology facilitates risk transfer between insurance companies and institutional investors, providing insurance-linked investments to asset managers of all types, while enhancing risk transfer and capacity in the Life and P&C insurance markets. Vesttoo's founding team include Yaniv Bertele, Chief Executive Officer, Alon Lifshitz, Chief Product Officer, and Ben Zickel, Chief Technological Officer.

Fujitsu, Israel's Autofleet embark on global strategic cooperation

TOKYO, Japan Today 15/11/2021

Fujitsu Ltd and Israel's Autofleet Ltd have agreed to embark on global strategic cooperation to develop sustainable logistics solutions and contribute to the resolution of issues including labor shortages in the logistics industry and environmental problems. To kick-start co-creation activities, Fujitsu has made a strategic investment in Autofleet through a corporate venture capital fund managed by its subsidiary Fujitsu Ventures Limited.

Logistics represents a critical element in the infrastructure of society, and enriches peoples' lives by supporting economic development within a complex ecosystem. Changes in peoples' lifestyles with the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic has upended existing consumer business models, highlighting the importance of logistics as demand for shipping and e-commerce services increase dramatically.

These trends have exposed fundamental weaknesses in the global supply chain, as the logistics industry confronts new challenges posed by labor shortages and environmental issues due to increased CO2 emissions. With this latest move, Fujitsu and Autofleet recognize the urgent need to develop more dynamic and resilient models for logistics to ultimately deliver more efficient and environmentally sustainable approaches.

By combining Autofleet's platform, with Fujitsu's know-how in systems development and industry expertise in logistics, the two companies aim to leverage their joint activities to develop and bring to market sustainable global logistics solutions.

The two companies envision use cases including solutions for the dynamic allocation of trucks for last-mile transport for home delivery, where demand for logistics fluctuates widely, as well as vehicle matching (2) for emergency transport, the coordination of mixed vehicles transporting passengers, and freight with public transport. The companies will also explore the possibilities of route optimization solutions based on the location of charging points for electric vehicles, which are being introduced in the logistics industry with the aim of achieving decarbonization targets.



As part of its expansion into Japan, Global-e partners with transcosmos

The partnership will help Japanese retailers and brands grow their cross-border ecommerce business over 200 destinations worldwide.

November 9, 2021 transcosmos inc.

Global-e (NASDAQ: GLBE), the world's leading platform enabling and accelerating global, direct-to-consumer cross-border e-commerce, announced today a partnership with global digital transformation leader transcosmos inc. (Headquarters: Tokyo, Japan; President & COO: Masataka Okuda) to enable Japanese retailers and brands to optimize and expand their cross border e-commerce operations and drive global online growth.

With Global-e, Japanese brands and retailers can now offer international shoppers in over 200 destinations worldwide a seamless localized experience, which includes local messaging, currency, tax and duties calculation, payment options, delivery and returns. By utilizing Global-e's big-data business intelligence models and streamlined logistics, Japanese merchants can optimize their cross-border ecommerce offering to boost international traffic conversion rates, while opening up new opportunities in markets across the globe.

transcosmos inc, offers comprehensive e-commerce services, driving forward digital transformation capabilities and helping businesses enhance their global online retail offerings. Global-e and transcosmos inc. will collaborate to help Japanese retailers and brands expand their cross-border ecommerce business in a simple and cost-effective way.

Ran Almog, Japan Managing Director at Global-e, said: "We are happy to partner with one of Japan's leading digital technology company- together, we are well suited to empower Japanese brands with the ability to expand their e-commerce operations globally. This partnership is an important step for us as we aim to ramp up our activities in the Japanese market, following the opening of our new office in Tokyo. We look forward to enabling local businesses to grow their D2C online sales internationally."

Masaaki Muta, Director, Executive Vice President at transcosmos, said: "Together with Global-e, we can now provide our more than 4,000 clients with our cross-border e-commerce services in a simple, fast and optimized way across over 200 countries and regions around the globe. With our DX services, we seamlessly analyze and visualize not only our clients' customer communication channels and touchpoints that are scattered throughout their sales funnels, but also VOC (Voice of Customer) and customer flow data. Ultimately, our DX services can help each individual client



achieve their own digital transformation, which fits their business and services. In partnering with Global-e, we, transcosmos can help clients drive their digital transformation better than before.”

About Global-e

Global-e (Nasdaq: GLBE) is the world's leading platform enabling and accelerating global, direct-to-consumer cross-border e-commerce. The chosen partner of hundreds of brands and retailers across the United States, Europe and Asia, Global-e makes selling internationally as simple as selling domestically. The company enables merchants to increase the conversion of international traffic into sales by offering online shoppers in over 200 destinations worldwide a seamless, localized shopping experience. Global-e's end-to-end e-commerce solutions combine best-in-class localization capabilities, big-data best-practice business intelligence models, streamlined international logistics and vast cross-border experience, enabling international shoppers to buy seamlessly online and retailers to sell to, and from, anywhere in the world. Founded in 2013 by Amir Schlachet, Shahar Tamari and Nir Debbi, Global-e operates from eight offices worldwide. For more information, please visit: www.global-e.com

About transcosmos inc.

transcosmos launched its operations in 1966. Since then, we have combined superior “people” with up-to-date “technology” to enhance the competitive strength of our clients by providing them with superior and valuable services. transcosmos currently offers services that support clients’ business processes focusing on both sales expansion and cost optimization through our 171 bases across 30 countries/regions with a focus on Asia, while continuously pursuing Operational Excellence. Furthermore, following the expansion of e-commerce market on the global scale, transcosmos provides a comprehensive One-Stop Global E-Commerce Services to deliver our clients' excellent products and services to consumers in 48 countries/regions around the globe. transcosmos aims to be the “Global Digital Transformation Partner” of our clients, supporting the clients’ transformation by leveraging digital technology, responding to the ever-changing business environment.

Exhibit on Japanese artist Kusama set to draw huge crowds in Israel

[KYODO NEWS](#) - | [Arts, All, Japan](#) November 14, 2021

An upcoming exhibition in Israel dedicated to Yayoi Kusama, an internationally acclaimed Japanese avant-garde artist, is set to draw big crowds as more than 100,000 tickets have been sold ahead of its start on Monday.

"Yayoi Kusama: A Retrospective," the first exhibit in Israel on the 92-year-old artist, is already fully booked through mid-February, according to the Tel Aviv Museum of Art's website.

Due to its overwhelming popularity, the museum in central Israel is considering extending opening hours for the exhibit, which is set to run from Nov. 15 to April 23, museum officials said.

The show will display more than 200 works of one of the most popular and commercially successful artists, including her well-known repetitive imagery of polka dots, pumpkin sculptures and a mesmerizing mirror-based installation.

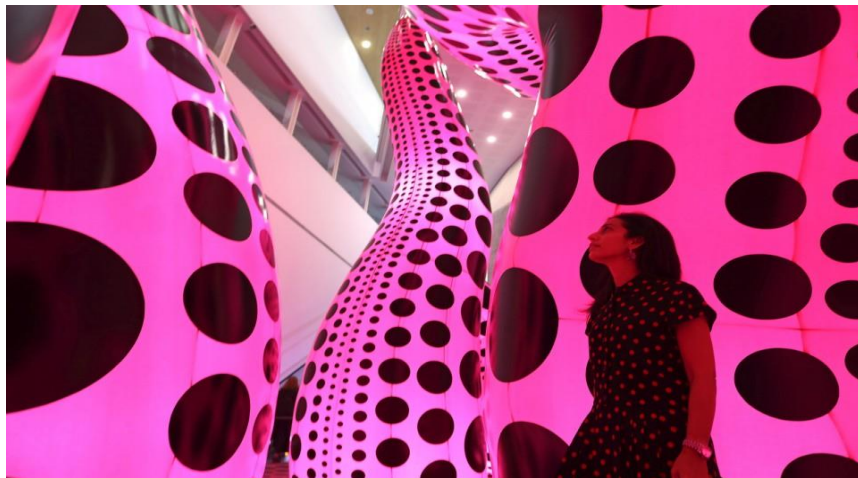


Photo taken in Tel Aviv, Israel, on Oct. 31, 2021, shows Japanese contemporary artist Yayoi Kusama's work. An exhibition displaying her works will be held there from Nov. 15. (Kyodo) ==Kyodo

Suzanne Landau, one of the curators of the Kusama show, said the artist's works have both vigor and joy and can give bright hope to people who have been tormented by the novel coronavirus.

December

Japan's largest bank MUFG to launch new \$300 million debt venture fund

Dec 24, 2021

By Makiko Yamazaki and Yuki Nitta

TOKYO (Reuters) - Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group Inc (MUFG) will launch a new \$300 million fund to offer debt financing to late-stage tech startups in the Asia-Pacific region, its chief executive said, as Japan's largest lender seeks to tap opportunities in growing economies.

The move comes amid a fundraising frenzy in Asia as the number of unicorns, or privately held startups with a valuation of more than \$1 billion, has swelled.

The new debt fund will be created early next year through **Mars Growth Capital, a Singapore-based joint venture between MUFG and Israeli financial tech firm Liquidity Capital**, Hironori Kamezawa told Reuters in an interview.

MUFG will make a \$300 million capital commitment to Mars, which will provide debt financing to startups in later stages of growth including unicorns.

If the investee firms eventually choose to go public, MUFG plans to support their initial public offerings with its U.S. alliance partner Morgan Stanley, Kamezawa said.

The fund's financing decisions will be based on Liquidity Capital's artificial intelligence-driven credit scoring model that forecasts future earnings and cash flow of a startup from real-time financial and accounting data.

"We've seen immense needs from startups for debt financing" as a way to raise funds without reducing existing shareholders' ownership, Kamezawa said.

"It's usually difficult for us bankers to extend loans to those startups in the red, but the Israeli firm's credit scoring model has helped us out," he added.

It will be Mars Growth Capital's second debt fund. The first fund, set up last year, is focused on early-stage startups and currently has a \$200 million capital commitment. Mars Growth Capital has so far clinched financing deals with 11 companies, according to MUFG.



CLASSIQ, NTT DATA Collaborate on Quantum Algorithm Design for Financial Modeling

Wed, December 1, 2021,

Global Digital Business, IT Services Leader Employs Classiq Quantum Algorithm Design Platform

TEL AVIV, Israel, December 01, 2021--([BUSINESS WIRE](#))--Classiq, which provides a breakthrough Quantum Algorithm Design platform, today announced that it is working with NTT DATA to implement novel credit risk analysis algorithms using quantum computers. Credit risk analysis exists to determine the creditworthiness of borrowers or vendors to quantify and limit the risk of loss to the lender.

"NTT DATA is looking forward to collaborating with Classiq," said Shunichi Amemiya, Head of Research and Development HQ, NTT DATA. "We are interested in applying quantum computer technology to financial engineering and believe that the need to compute complex business models will increase in the future. Classiq's platform enables us to effectively generate and run quantum algorithms for the issues in applying to our supposed use case."

Classiq's unique platform will enable NTT DATA to capture, synthesize, analyze and optimize quantum algorithms that scale. This will allow NTT DATA, a global digital business, and IT services leader, to implement novel credit risk analysis algorithms in a way that is hardware-independent and not limited by historical approaches to creating quantum algorithms.

"Sophisticated algorithms typically require a greater number of qubits," said Nir Minerbi, CEO, Classiq. "The Classiq Quantum Algorithm Design platform is the best way to generate intricate quantum circuits with ease without resorting to the process of manual, tedious gate-level programming."

About NTT DATA

NTT DATA – a part of NTT Group – is a trusted global innovator of IT and business services headquartered in Tokyo. We help clients transform through consulting, industry solutions, business process services, digital & IT modernization and managed services. NTT DATA enables them, as well as society, to move confidently into the digital future. We are committed to our clients' long-term success and combine global reach with local client attention to serve them in over 50 countries around the globe.

About Classiq



HAREL - HERTZ
Investment House Ltd.

8 Hamada, P.O.B.4103 Herzliya Pituach 46140 Israel
T:+972-9-955-0560 ; www.harel-hertz.com ; info@harel-hertz.com

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Quantum is disrupting computing. Classiq's Quantum Algorithm Design platform is revolutionizing quantum software development. Forward-thinking companies use our platform to solve real-world problems with quantum circuits that could not be created otherwise. Our patented breakthrough technology automatically transforms high-level functional models into optimized quantum circuits for a wide range of back-end systems, turning months into minutes of work and making it possible to harness the true power of today's and tomorrow's computers.

Leading AI Chipmaker Hailo Partners with KAGA FEI America to Support Growing Customer Base

By collaborating with KAGA FEI, a global distribution and supply chain specialist, Hailo will be better able to serve its growing base of North American customers

SAN JOSE, Calif. and TEL AVIV, Israel, Dec. 6, 2021 /PRNewswire/ -- Leading AI (Artificial Intelligence) chipmaker [Hailo](#) has partnered with [KAGA FEI America, Inc.](#) (KFAI), a leading global semiconductor distributor, to promote and support Hailo's products in North America. KFAI will enable Hailo to extend its reach to more customers across the region, impacting sectors such as smart retail, smart cities, smart homes, industry 4.0, and beyond.

The agreement helps Hailo strengthen partnerships with existing customers in North America, while enhancing its sales channels to expand into other markets, enabling companies from a wide array of industries to accelerate AI computing performance at the edge. Hailo will continue offering its innovative product line to customers, including its specialized [AI processor](#) for edge devices, the Hailo-8™, as well as its M.2 and Mini PCIe high-performance [AI acceleration modules](#). KFAI's extensive experience in distribution and vast array of logistic services will further bolster Hailo's supply chain for customers.

"KAGA FEI's logistical expertise will significantly strengthen our presence in North America, where demand for Edge AI solutions continues to rise," said **Orr Danon, CEO of Hailo**. "We are confident that KAGA FEI's distribution channels and strong relations with customers will accelerate our expansion in the region. Our unique edge processing and acceleration solutions are a gamechanger for enterprises in many industries, and KAGA FEI will help us with customers both old and new in need of robust AI solutions at the edge."



Today's markets and industrial structures are going through tremendous changes. KFAI undertakes everything related to manufacturing using their global technological ecosystem to respond to this transition, working closely with customers to create new services and businesses.

"We are excited to partner with a top artificial intelligence company in the edge space like Hailo, as we see huge potential for their innovative AI solutions," said **Toyohisa Hoshino, President and CEO of KFAI**. "Our experience in guiding customers in new technology adoption and demand creation, coupled with Hailo's powerful AI solutions, will bring significant value to customers across the region."

The Hailo-8™ delivers unprecedented performance to edge devices. Featuring up to 26 Tera Operations Per Second (TOPS), the module is built with an innovative architecture that enables edge devices to run sophisticated Deep Learning applications that could previously only run on the cloud. Hailo-8's advanced structure translates into higher performance, lower power, and minimal latency, enabling enhanced privacy and better reliability for smart devices operating at the edge.

About Hailo

[Hailo](#), an AI-focused, Israel-based chipmaker, has developed a specialized Artificial Intelligence (AI) processor that delivers the performance of a data center-class computer to edge devices. Hailo's AI processor reimagines traditional computer architecture, enabling smart devices to perform sophisticated deep learning tasks such as object detection and segmentation in real time, with minimal power consumption, size, and cost. Supported by its Hailo-8™ M.2 and Mini PCIe high-performance AI acceleration modules, the Deep Learning processor is designed to fit into a multitude of smart machines and devices, impacting a wide variety of sectors including automotive, industry 4.0, smart cities, smart homes, and retail.

About KAGA FEI America, Inc.

KAGA FEI America, Inc. (KFAI) is a customer-focused electronics solutions provider. Headquartered in Silicon Valley, we have very experienced professionals located throughout the U.S. to support our customers. We partner with manufacturers that offer unique technologies and

services covering a wide spectrum of products including AI inference processors, microcontrollers, GNSS receivers, power management devices, very high-performance system boards and interconnects, and many more. Our commitment is to work with customers from concept and component selection to production seamlessly to ensure their success.

Kaga FEI is a subsidiary of Kaga Electronics Japan

Tencent, Julius Baer and SBI Holdings back first new Israel bank in over 40 years

By Yaacov Benmeleh, Bloomberg 14 Dec 2021 20:34

Israel's first new bank in more than four decades has won the backing of investors including Julius Baer Group and China's Tencent as it mounts a challenge to take business from the country's biggest lenders.

Founded by serial entrepreneur Amnon Shashua, First Digital Bank raised \$120 million in its biggest funding round to date, according to a company statement on Tuesday. The round, which was also bankrolled by Japan's SBI Holdings, values it at \$320 million.

The upstart is looking to dent the dominance of the five main domestic banking groups in Israel's highly concentrated finance industry, led by Bank Hapoalim and Bank Leumi le-Israel Ltd. It also eventually plans to expand globally.

First Digital Bank uses artificial intelligence to provide all the services of traditional lenders but without the branches. It will begin opening its first accounts early next year for some 60,000 people on its waiting list, and then gradually expand its services to the rest of the country, Shashua said in an interview.

"The idea is to provide a service that the ultra-wealthy get but at scale," said Shashua, who is FDB's controlling shareholder.

Well-funded digital banks like Brazil's Nubank, Russia's Tinkoff Bank and San Francisco-based SoFi Technologies Inc. are sprouting up to vie for the more digitally savvy generation of clients.

FDB's machine learning platform will analyze clients' financial history to anticipate and recommend ways to optimize payments, savings and investments, among other things.

Shashua said his "eureka moment" happened when he noticed that, of the more than 5 million bank accounts going into overdraft at varying frequencies, about half were needlessly ending up in the red. It dawned on him as a result that there was a big enough market in Israel that needed automated help to manage finances.

The latest round follows a \$65 million initial investment by Shashua. He also founded other businesses such as OrCam and Mobileye, sold to Intel Corp. in 2017 for more than \$15 billion.

Rothschild & Co was FDB's sole financial adviser on the transaction.

TriEye Expands Global Footprint with New Japan Office Led by Former Sony and Lattice Executives

TEL-AVIV, Israel, Dec. 16, 2021 /PRNewswire/ -- Israeli startup [TriEye](#), the pioneer of the world's first CMOS-based Short-Wave Infrared (SWIR) sensing solutions, announces a new office in Japan as part of its global expansion. The main focus of the new office, located in Tokyo, is to tighten partnerships and increase engagement with customers in the Asia-Pacific region. The company continues to work towards their goal of providing SWIR imaging and 3D perception in all visibility conditions for mass-market applications.

This news follows TriEye's recent funding round of \$74M to support its rapid growth and the launch of their cutting-edge SEDAR solution. Leading the trend towards the adoption of SWIR sensing for mass market applications, TriEye's sensing solutions are generating significant interest from several industry leaders including global OEMs and Tier 1s. Keeping pace with increasing demand, TriEye's new Japan office, led by industry executives Katsutoshi Doi, former executive at Sony, and Koji Yoshida, former CEO of Lattice Japan, will serve as a platform to create strategic partnerships and offer TriEye cutting-edge SWIR sensing technology to the local market.



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Investment House Ltd.

8 Hamada, P.O.B.4103 Herzliya Pituach 46140 Israel
T: +972-9-955-0560 ; www.harel-hertz.com ; info@harel-hertz.com

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"We are thrilled to expand our presence globally into the Japan market, where we can continue to offer the advantages of SWIR sensing technology to multiple industries, and better serve the Japanese market," said Avi Bakal, CEO and Co-Founder of TriEye. "We look forward to have Katsutoshi Doi and Koji Yoshida's advanced knowledge and expertise supporting us in empowering leading companies with our cutting-edge technology as we continue to gain traction within the Japanese market with our SWIR sensing solutions."

"I am excited to join TriEye's team to help them enter this fast-paced and up and coming market." said Katsutoshi Doi, who is heading TriEye's Japan office. "I am confident that TriEye's CMOS-based SWIR sensing technology will significantly increase the operability and efficiency of perception systems by enabling capabilities that are above and beyond the par. I look forward to forming and furthering relationships within the Japanese market and accelerating the adoption of the next generation of SWIR sensing into perception systems."

TriEye continues to expand its solutions portfolio and partnerships, collaborating with major industry players based in Europe, Asia, and the U.S., including DENSO, Porsche, Continental, and Trimble. TriEye is working closely with dominant players in mass-market applications, including automotive, biometrics, industrial imaging, agriculture, and heavy machinery, that until recently could not harness the benefits of SWIR sensing.

About TriEye

TriEye is the pioneer of mass-market, CMOS-based Short-Wave infrared (SWIR) sensing solutions. Based on advanced academic research, TriEye's breakthrough and proprietary technology enables cost-effective, high-resolution image data and depth perception in all weather and lighting conditions. Founded in 2017, the company's cutting-edge technology allows perception systems to operate and deliver reliable image data and actionable information, while reducing expenditure up to 100x the existing industry rates.

Valens Semiconductor & Sumitomo Electric Collaborate on MIPI A-PHY Technology and Deployments

HOD HASHARON, Israel and OSAKA, Japan, Dec. 15, 2021 /PRNewswire/ -- Valens Semiconductor (NYSE: [VLN](#)) and Sumitomo Electric Industries, Ltd. (TYO: 5802) announced today that they are collaborating in the field of A-PHY technology and deployments. The companies will work together to ensure that Sumitomo Electric's wiring harness systems meet the channel requirements of the A-PHY specification, while Valens will add the Sumitomo Electric cable assembly and matching on-board connectors as an ordering option for its VA70XX customer evaluation kits. The cooperation will streamline the deployment of MIPI A-PHY technology across the automotive industry.

MIPI A-PHY is the first standardized, asymmetric, long-reach Serializer-Deserializer (SerDes) physical layer interface targeted for advanced driver-assistance systems (ADAS) and autonomous driving systems (ADS). It was released by the MIPI Alliance in September 2020. Soon after, in July 2021, the technology was adopted by the renowned IEEE standardization body as one of its own standards. A-PHY's primary mission is to transfer high-speed data between cameras, radars, LiDARs and their related ECUs.

Sumitomo Electric will provide differential/coaxial cables that meet the A-PHY specification, and the two companies will work together to expand the variety of cabling options in the future. Valens will feature Sumitomo Electric cables in a live A-PHY demonstration at CES 2022 (Suite 29-139, Venetian Hotel).

"Deployment of MIPI A-PHY in automotive systems just got even easier with Sumitomo Electric committing to ensuring that their off-the-shelf cables meet the A-PHY channel requirements," said **Gideon Kedem, Valens SVP and Head of Automotive**. "Sumitomo Electric is a world-class company with more than 30% market share in wire harnesses manufacturing and assembly, so we're thrilled to welcome them into the ranks of the rapidly growing A-PHY ecosystem."

"At Sumitomo Electric, we view A-PHY as the connectivity infrastructure underlying the cars of tomorrow, so it was important for us to make sure our cables meet this standard's channel

requirements," said **Hiroki Hirai, Sumitomo Electric General Manager of CAS-EV Development Promotion Division**. "We are excited to help Valens – the leading provider of A-PHY-compliant chipsets – bring additional flexibility to their evaluation kits and to provide a faster route towards the deployment of A-PHY by OEMs, both in Japan and around the world."

About Valens

Valens (NYSE: [VLN](#)) is a leading provider of semiconductor products, pushing the boundaries of connectivity by enabling long-reach, high-speed video and data distribution for the automotive and audio-video industries. Valens' Emmy® award-winning HDBaseT technology is the leading standard in the professional audio-video market with tens of millions of Valens' chipsets integrated into thousands of HDBaseT-enabled products. Valens Automotive is a key enabler of the evolution of autonomous driving, providing chipsets that are on the road in vehicles around the world. The underlying technology has been selected to become the basis for the new standard for automotive connectivity.

About Sumitomo Electric

Sumitomo Electric Industries, Ltd. is a recognized global technology leader with over 280,000 employees working at more than 390 group companies in 40 countries. Building on over 120 years of innovation, today Sumitomo Electric is engaged in diversified business activities that support people's daily lives and industries in five business segments: automotive, infocommunications, electronics, environment & energy, and industrial materials.

Hitachi and REE Automotive Agree on Collaboration to Advance and Simplify the Adoption of Sustainable Electric Vehicles Globally

- **Joint advanced digital solutions allow a more rapid transition to electric vehicles under new strategic collaboration**
- **Companies to co-create a highly scalable Data-as-a-Service (DaaS) and Analytics-as-a-Service (AaaS) platform**

SANTA CLARA, Calif. and TEL AVIV, Israel, Dec. 14, 2021 /PRNewswire/ -- Hitachi America, Ltd. ("Hitachi") and REE Automotive (NASDAQ: [REE](#), "REE") announced today a newly formed strategic agreement to ease and accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles (EV) across the entire EV value chain, including enabling EV manufacturing at scale, delivering commercial vehicle charging infrastructure and energy management, and providing comprehensive digital fleet management and operations for full visibility across EV fleets as organizations transition over the next decade.

Hitachi and REE will accelerate the development of advanced digital solutions for REE customers by co-creating a highly scalable Data-as-a-Service (DaaS) and Analytics-as-a-Service (AaaS) platform, which will enable next-generation connected commercial EVs. Leveraging Hitachi's Lumada data platform and REE's platform modularity and horizontal business strategy, the companies aim to bring to market a truly modular, smart EV solution to serve all segments, including delivery, logistics, and mobility-as-a-service.

"We are excited to partner with REE to help accelerate the transition to EVs globally," said Hicham Abdessamad, Chairman and CEO, Hitachi America, Ltd. "Hitachi is deeply committed to sustainability, and with our long history of innovation in energy, mobility, manufacturing and digital, together with REE's transformative, innovative approach to EV and autonomous vehicles (AV), we are well positioned to accelerate and ease the transition to zero-emission commercial vehicles at scale, a mission that we both share."

Through this partnership, Hitachi and REE are committed to bring data-driven, scalable, sustainable electric vehicle, commercial mobility solutions to market that deliver value while

helping to achieve carbon emissions goals and which will enable a complete, connected ecosystem of services for commercial mobility and transportation.

"This alliance with Hitachi comes at an ideal time for REE as we value their best-in-class innovation and experience in data science and analytics, enabling us to provide a complete solution to our customers," said REE Co-founder and CEO Daniel Barel. "With Hitachi's innovation and invaluable expertise in EV and digital technologies, REE is primed to build on our early leadership position as the leading e-Mobility platform across the globe. In addition, Hitachi is a well-known and respected player in the automotive, energy and digital industry which can drive customer orders, and we are looking forward to benefiting from their extensive sales network and relationships."

About Hitachi America, Ltd.

Hitachi America, Ltd., headquartered in Santa Clara, CA, is a subsidiary of Hitachi, Ltd. (TSE: 6501). Hitachi America – the North American regional headquarters of Hitachi, Ltd. – and the 101 Hitachi Group companies in North America, employs over 35,000 people as of March 2021. As a responsible corporate citizen, Hitachi Group is focused on its Social Innovation Business, which combines information technology (IT), operational technology (OT) and products to deliver solutions that increase social, environmental and economic value across six domains; IT, Energy, Industry, Mobility, Smart Life and Automotive Systems. This is made possible through Lumada – Hitachi's advanced digital solutions, services, and technologies turn data into insights to drive digital innovation.

Hitachi, Ltd. is a Principal Partner of COP26, playing a leading role in the efforts to achieve a decarbonized society and become a climate change innovator. Hitachi strives to achieve carbon neutrality at all its business sites by fiscal 2030 and across the company's value chain by fiscal 2050.

About REE Automotive

REE (Nasdaq: [REE](#)) is an automotive technology leader whose mission is to empower companies to build any size or shape of electric or autonomous vehicle – from Class 1 through Class 6 – for any application and any target market. REE aims to serve as the underpinning on top of which EVs and AVs will be built and envisions a future where EVs and AVs will be 'Powered by REE'.

REE's revolutionary technology – the REEcorner™ – packs critical vehicle components (steering, braking, suspension, powertrain and control) into a single compact module positioned between the chassis and the wheel, enabling REE to build the industry's flattest EV platforms with more room for passengers, cargo and batteries. REE uses x-by-wire technology to control each of the corners of the vehicles with full drive-by-wire, brake-by-wire and steer-by-wire.

REE's EV platforms afford complete freedom of design, enabling auto-manufacturers, OEMs, delivery & logistic fleets, Mobility-as-a-Service providers and new mobility players to design mission-specific EVs and AVs based on their exact business requirements and significantly reduce their time-to-market, lower TCO and meet zero-carbon regulations.

Headquartered in Herzliya, Israel, REE has an Engineering Center in the UK, as well as subsidiaries worldwide including Japan and Germany, and plans to open its U.S. headquarters and first Integration Center in Austin, Texas. REE's unique CapEx-light manufacturing model leverages Tier-1 partners' existing production lines; the company's extensive partner ecosystem encompasses leading names including Hino Motors (truck arm of Toyota), Magna International, JB Poindexter, Navya and American Axle & Manufacturing to provide a full turnkey solution.

REE's patented technology, together with its unique value proposition, position it to break new ground in e-Mobilit.

Japan's Largest Construction Company, Obayashi, Selects Innoviz's LiDAR for its New Proprietary Automatic Tower Crane System

Innoviz's LiDAR Enables the Autonomous Operation of Obayashi's Tower Cranes, Replacing Manual Crane Operation and Promoting Safety and Cost Savings

TEL AVIV, Israel and TOKYO, Dec. 17, 2021 /PRNewswire/ -- [Innoviz Technologies](#) (Nasdaq: INVZ), a leading provider of high-performance solid-state LiDAR sensors, and [Obayashi Corporation](#) (TYO: 1802), a major Japanese construction company, today announced Obayashi's development of an [automated tower crane system](#) that utilizes Innoviz's LiDAR sensors. Obayashi's automated tower crane system is part of its recently announced autonomous solutions for excavation equipment, construction of concrete dams and backhoe loaders.

Obayashi began using Innoviz's LiDAR on their sites in 2018 and is currently in the process of developing a full-scale system for building sites throughout Japan. Obayashi's recognition software extracts the data generated by Innoviz's LiDAR to measure the exact distance from objects and identify people and equipment in construction areas. Obayashi's system uses the data to send a series of step-by-step warnings to the crane operator, which enhances safety and enables a more streamlined and efficient process. Using Innoviz's LiDAR together with Obayashi's proprietary software has resulted in substantial savings related to the manual operation of the crane.

Obayashi's engineering team said: "Obayashi has been testing Innoviz's products for three years now, and we have great confidence in the company's solutions. We are very satisfied with Innoviz's LiDAR performance, reliability, and durability."

Omer Keilaf, Co-founder and CEO of Innoviz Technologies, commented: "We were thrilled to see the result of Obayashi's use of our LiDAR. This is a cutting-edge solution and a true testimony that our LiDAR can be used in a significant number of use cases. We believe we will see more partnerships like this come to fruition. Additionally, we're grateful to our distributor and partner, Macnica, for connecting us with Obayashi's innovative team."

Innoviz is represented in Japan by Macnica, the country's largest distribution company.

About Obayashi Corporation



HAREL - HERTZ
Investment House Ltd.

8 Hamada, P.O.B.4103 Herzliya Pituach 46140 Israel
T:+972-9-955-0560 ; www.harel-hertz.com ; info@harel-hertz.com

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Obayashi Corporation was established in 1892 and is one of the five super general contractors in Japan. Its main business is construction, including regional development, urban development, resource and energy development, and environmental development, as well as civil engineering, including research, surveying, planning, devising, design, and supervision. The company has approximately 15,000 employees and 21 offices in 14 countries. The company has a high level of technology backed by history and tradition, and actively introduces new technologies.

About Macnica, Inc.

Since its establishment in 1972, Macnica has been providing leading-edge semiconductors, electronic devices, networking and cyber security products with added technological value. In recent years, Macnica has been developing new businesses in the fields of AI/IoT, automated driving, and robotics, based on its traditional strengths of global sourcing of cutting-edge technologies and technology planning. The company is headquartered in Yokohama, Japan, and conducts global business based on 85 offices in 23 countries around the world.

About Innoviz Technologies

Innoviz is a global leader in LiDAR technology, working towards a future with safe autonomous vehicles on the world's roads. Innoviz's LiDAR and perception software "see" better than a human driver and reduce the possibility of error, meeting the automotive industry's strictest expectations for performance and safety. Operating across the U.S., Europe, and Asia, Innoviz has been elected both by an internationally-recognized premium car brand for use in consumer vehicles as well as by other commercial and industrial leaders for a wide range of use cases.

NEC establishes new US\$150 million CVC fund

TOKYO, JAPAN, December 17, 2021 — NEC Corporation (NEC; TSE: 6701) today announced the establishment of the "NEC Orchestrating Future Fund," a corporate venture capital (CVC) fund aiming to drive the ecosystems required to create social value through collaboration with customers and partners, and to promote new external services, knowledge and technologies.

By the end of June 2022, the CVC fund plans to raise capital from corporate enterprises that share the same goals of the fund, and to reach a total investment of US\$150 million.

NEC believes that the evolution of network technology and the transformation of digital services will drive the creation of new social value. The CVC fund will invest in both technology and services, and aim to maximize the investment by generating synergies. In addition, NEC will work to accelerate new business development activities by building ecosystems with corporate enterprises and portfolio startups.

The fund has six areas of focus - 5G/6G, Digital Government/Digital Finance, Smart City, DX, Healthcare and Life Sciences, and Carbon Neutral.

Overview of the Fund

Name	NEC Orchestrating Future Fund
Purpose	To create evolving digital services with next generation network technologies that will meet social needs of the future
Date established	December 16, 2021
Maximum fund size	150 million U.S. dollars
Management company	Translink Capital
Major investment areas	U.S., Israel, Europe and Asia
Investment target	Startups with technologies and services related to 5G/6G, Digital Government/Digital Finance, Smart City, DX, Healthcare and Life Sciences, and Carbon Neutral

About NEC Corporation

NEC Corporation has established itself as a leader in the integration of IT and network technologies while promoting the brand statement of "Orchestrating a brighter world." NEC

enables businesses and communities to adapt to rapid changes taking place in both society and the market as it provides for the social values of safety, security, fairness and efficiency to promote a more sustainable world where everyone has the chance to reach their full potential.

Japan Water Works Association Acknowledges Special Innovation Award for Toyota City, Japan's Use of ASTERRA Recover

December 16, 2021, 22:56 GMT

The Japan Water Works Association announced the Toyota City Water and Sewerage Bureau received the Innovation Award with the use of ASTERRA's Technology.

ASTERRA is proud to provide Toyota City, Japan with the product which uses data from JAXA's ALOS-2 satellite to locate water leaks, maintain infrastructure, and protect the potable water supply,”

TEL AVIV, ISRAEL, December 16, 2021 /[EINPresswire.com](https://www.einpresswire.com/)/ -- The Japan Water Works Association recently announced Toyota City Water and Sewerage Bureau received the Reiwa 3rd Year Water Supply Innovation Award (Special Award). The [award was announced](#) on August 16 for Toyota City's efforts to introduce the [ASTERRA Recover](#) satellite-based pipe leak detection product and efforts to improve prediction accuracy of water leaks. The award was acknowledged November 29 at the Japan Water Works National Conference.

The Water Services Innovation Award was established by the Japan Water Works Association in 2014 and includes a grand prize and a special prize. The purpose is to commend regular members who are working on overcoming many issues facing the water services industry with various ingenuity, introduce examples of efforts, and praise the achievements of the water services industry in Japan. It's about boosting the motivation to embark on new initiatives.

Special awards are for initiatives like the grand prize, such as initiatives specialized in specific fields and initiatives unique to small and medium-sized enterprises. This is the second major honor bestowed upon ASTERRA's Recover product, the first being the American Water Works Association Innovation Award announced earlier this year.

“ASTERRA is proud to provide Toyota City, Japan with the product which uses data from JAXA's



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Investment House Ltd.

8 Hamada, P.O.B.4103 Herzliya Pituach 46140 Israel
T: +972-9-955-0560 ; www.harel-hertz.com ; info@harel-hertz.com

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ALOS-2 satellite to locate water leaks, maintain infrastructure, and protect the potable water supply,” said Elly Perets, CEO of ASTERRA. “Our products have verified over 46,000 water leaks world-wide and are in support of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.”

ASTERRA’s product line of ALOS-2 derived infrastructure analysis tools include MasterPlan, which looks at the entire water delivery system and rates deficiencies from 1-5, or from low to high, and Recover, which provides information on specific subsurface points of interest to inspect for leaks.

ABOUT ASTERRA

ASTERRA provides data-driven solutions for water utilities, government agencies, and the greater infrastructure industry. ASTERRA products use synthetic aperture radar (SAR) data from satellites and turn it into large-scale decision support tools. The company’s proprietary algorithms and highly educated scientists and engineers are the key to their mission, to deliver actionable intelligence to advance Earth’s resource resilience. Since 2016, Utilis technology has resulted in saving more than 9000 million gallons of potable water and 22,000 MWH of energy per year, in support of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). The Utilis ASTERRA division is headquartered in Israel with offices in the United States and United Kingdom. Their innovative data solutions using artificial intelligence are used in multiple verticals around the globe

AironWorks, the Israeli Japanese cybersecurity simulation and training platform, takes home two platinum awards in TechCrunch Tokyo 2021 Startup Battle

The cybersecurity startup founded by a dual team of an Israeli engineer and a Japanese entrepreneur, won two platinum awards in the TechCrunch Tokyo 2021 conference.

TOKYO (PRWEB) DECEMBER 19, 2021

Twenty startups from across Japan participated in the “Startup Battle”, the main event of the [TechCrunch Tokyo 2021](#) conference, which took place on December 2nd and 3rd in Tokyo. Out of only six startups to advance to the final round, [AironWorks](#) was the only one to take home two platinum awards: the Amazon Web Services Japan Award, and the oVice Award.

AironWorks was the only startup participating in the final to be less than one year old, showing the incredible promise of its cybersecurity solution.

AironWorks is developing an AI-based cybersecurity simulation and training platform to enhance company's security from the employee-level up. AironWork's CEO, Ani Terada, came up with the idea for a cybersecurity startup after hearing again and again of the devastating consequences phishing attacks have on organizations worldwide, and especially in his home country Japan. While losses caused by phishing attacks globally were estimated to be over 5 billion dollars in 2020, Japanese corporations were hit especially hard, as cybersecurity awareness in Japan is lower than in the rest of the western world. Notable examples include the Japanese media giant Nikkei who lost \$29 Million dollars, and major data breaches in tech corporations such as Panasonic and LINE.

While discussing the issue with a friend, former cybersecurity intelligence unit 8200 member Gonen Krak, the two decided to found AironWorks to help organizations protect their digital assets and sensitive information using AI. This dual combination of leadership, with Terada as CEO and Krak as CTO, created the first ever Japanese-Israeli cybersecurity startup, with teams in both countries. The development and product team, composed of another former 8200 programmer and a Japanese market expert product manager, is located in Israel, while the marketing team, composed of Japanese marketing and sales experts, is located in Japan.



This allowed AironWorks to gain significant traction in the Japanese market. The startup is already working closely with several major Japanese companies and is about to embark on a partnership with a major Japanese bank. While many Japanese companies are in talks with AironWorks to begin using its solution, existing clients express their satisfaction with the service. "When we were facing the challenge of training our employees on cybersecurity, we came across AironWorks and decided to implement it immediately," said Mr. Hori, the President and Representative Director of Good Crew Co., "We were especially impressed with the fact it can train our employees to detect phishing attacks with techniques from the Israeli Defense forces. We could clearly see the results of the training and simulations after implementing AironWorks."

The startup also received investment from one of the best SaaS-backing VCs in Japan, ALL STAR SaaS, who invested in one of the only-ever Japanese unicorns, Smart HR.

Winning the two platinum awards in TechCrunch is only a small step in AironWork's plan to take over the Japanese and global cybersecurity market by storm. Aironworks is working to expand their client base in the USA and is currently on the lookout for a VP Marketing representative in Japan.

About AironWorks

[AironWorks](#) is a cybersecurity simulation and training platform to enhance organizations' security from the employee-level up. Existing phishing simulations send employees fixed email templates to test their capability to detect phishing attacks and to train them to spot attacks when they occur. However, email templates are easy to detect and cannot prepare employees for phishing attacks by real hackers, who usually base their attacks on information collected about the company and the employee online and on the dark-web. In comparison, AironWork's solution utilizes AI technology to collect & study real-time public information about the targets to create realistic, effective social attacks tailored specifically for the organization and its employees, making them much better prepared for the real thing. AironWorks also attacks on multiple vectors such as customer support chats, company official social media and others, and not just emails. AironWorks has proven to increase employee awareness to phishing attacks by more than 80% in just a short period of time, making organizations more immune to cyber attacks

Yayoi Kusama retrospective in Tel Aviv a strong peace message

By RYO KIYOMIYA/ Correspondent December 11, 2021 at 08:00 JST



Yayoi Kusama's installation featuring polka-dotted yellow pumpkins lined up in a mirrored room at the Tel Aviv Museum of Art in Israel on Oct. 31 (Ryo Kiyomiya)

TEL AVIV--A retrospective exhibition dedicated to Yayoi Kusama, one of Japan's leading avant-garde artists, proved so popular that tickets sold out for months in advance, according to the Tel Aviv Museum of Art.

"Yayoi Kusama: A Retrospective," the first major exhibition to showcase the works of 92-year-old Kusama in Israel, opened here Nov. 15 and runs until April 23.

Kusama is widely known as the "Queen of Polka Dots." More than 200 of her artworks, including paintings and installations, were brought together for display in chronological order to trace her footsteps from childhood to her career in New York and later in Japan.

Media representatives were given a preview on Oct. 31.

One installation features polka-dotted yellow pumpkins lined up in a mirrored room.

Kusama shows no signs of slowing down. A painting she completed several months prior to the exhibition is also on display.

Director Tania Coen-Uzzielli expressed her amazement during a news conference that Kusama "is still active and continues to work (with) different materials and different media" after she is well over 80 years old. "I have to say it's great honor to have this opportunity, (this) exhibition."

The retrospective also features a painting depicting atomic bombing created in the 1950s.

Shahar Molcho, the curator overseeing the exhibition, noted that Kusama has conveyed "peace and antiwar messages" through her art.

Showing her works in "very tensed context of Israel" also sends "a strong message," she said.



HAREL - HERTZ
Investment House Ltd.

8 Hamada, P.O.B.4103 Herzliya Pituach 46140 Israel
T: +972-9-955-0560 ; www.harel-hertz.com ; info@harel-hertz.com

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