



Word of Trust

Israel Insight Yearly Report 2016

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June

- Israel honors Japan's 'Schindler' who saved thousands of Jews in WWII
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- Japan, Israel defense officials eye joint research on drones, unmanned fighters: sources
- Israeli startup Interlude raises \$50-100m from Sony
- NTT Docomo invests in SundaySky
- Japanese Automaker, Daihatsu, Collaborates With Local Designers to Offer Car Design Customization Using Stratasys 3D Printing
- Mitsubishi Corp Bidding for Red – Dear Sea pipeline tender
- DTC signed a reseller agreement with the United States Zerto, Inc. to provide a new data protection of virtualization / cloud era

July

- 3rd Japan-Israel Call for Proposals
- Japan tempted by Israeli drone offer, but must consider U.S. too
- Israeli lot startups delegation head to Japan for investor roadshow
- Wacom launches a start-ups Hackaton
- SBI HOLDINGS joins Vertex VC , Invests in INDEGY
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- Cashless revolution in the vending machine, Israeli NAYAX landing in the Japanese market

August

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- Japanese drug co Takeda seeks investments in Israel
- TowerJazz and TPSCo Announce a New State of the Art CMOS Image Sensor Technology based on Stacked Deep Photodiode
- Israel's cybersecurity industry targets Japan pre-Olympics

September

- Abe offers condolences to Israel for Peres' death
- Japan, Israel to join on cybersecurity for Tokyo Olympics
- Japan to create Jericho pipeline for Palestinian goods to Arab world
- State Minister Sonoura Attends the Fifth Ministerial-Level Meeting of the Four-Party Consultative Unit for the "Corridor for Peace and Prosperity"
- State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, at the Opening Remarks for the Fifth Ministerial-Level Meeting of the Four-Party Consultative Unit for the "Corridor for Peace and Prosperity",
- Japan MoD says 'no collaboration' with Israel on UAVs
- Humavox Partners with Asahi Kasei to Make Wireless Charging Mainstream
- 2nd Murata Hackathon to Be Held in Israel: Seeking New Ideas in IoT
- Auto parts co DENSO chooses Autotalks V2X device
- Hitachi among 6 bids in Israel Railways electrified cars tender
- Israel to host first Japanese Film Festival in October

October

- Israel, Japan move to form direct commercial flight paths
- Fujitsu opens its Business Centre in Israel
- Yaskawa Robotics to invest in Israeli Start-ups
- NTT Data to comb globe for fintech startups
- PointGrab's Sensing Solution for Smart Buildings Boosted by \$7M Strategic Investment from Philips Lighting , ABB and Mitsubishi UFJ
- SoftBank to Provide High-Speed LTE Services Using Gilat's Satellite-Based Cellular Backhaul Technology
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- Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) between the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Research Council Secretariat, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan (the MAFF/AFFRCS) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the State of Israel (the MARD) on the support for joint research in Agriculture science.
- BroadSoft Japan KK Deploys AudioCodes Business Connectivity Solution
- Israel's RT LTA Displays Its Skystar 180 Aerostat, A Solution For Public Security And Counter-Terror Missions In Seecat, Japan
- Medinol receives approval from the Japanese PMDA to begin clinical study on novel DES
- NRGene and Japan's Kazusa DNA Research Institute Fully Reveal the Complex Genome of Strawberry Using Illumina Data
- InfinityAR Raises \$18M in a Round Led by Strategic Partner Alibaba Group and SUN CORPORATION of Japan
- Orchestra from Jerusalem to tour Japan
- MK Bar to present diplomatic plan in Japan
- Japan pledges \$11.4m for mosaic conservation project in Hisham's Palace in Jericho
- Visit of Israel Ministry of Health Mission

December

- METI Vice Minister visit Israel
- Japan falls in dollar GDP ranking
- Israel's IAI, Elbit join Japan's Mitsubishi. Fuji for UAV Research
- Dronomy, the Construction Drone-Software Start-up, Secures Investment Led by Mitsui Fudosan's "31VENTURES" of Japan
- Phytech closes series A round

- Novocure's Optune® (NovoTTF-100A) Approved in Japan for the Treatment of Newly Diagnosed Glioblastoma
- The Japanese Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare Approved Exablate Neuro System for the Treatment of Essential Tremor
- Pluristem and Sosei CVC to Establish a New Corporation for the Commercialization of PLX-PAD in Japan
- S. SCHNITZER DIAMONDS WINS 2015 EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR BUSINESS WITH JAPAN
- Karamba Security Announces Asgent will Introduce Autonomous Security to Protect against Cyberattacks in Japan
- Jordan receives \$254M soft loan from Japan

January

Economic ties deepen from the top down

SHINYA OSHINO, Nikkei staff writer January 12, 2016

With their governments leading the way, Japanese and Israeli companies are getting acquainted.

The trend reflects Japan's interest in Israel's wide array of innovative ventures, particularly in the fields of information technology and pharmaceuticals. Israel, meanwhile, sees economic relationships as important for avoiding international isolation.

Tel Aviv, Israel's commercial hub, will host a global cybersecurity conference on Jan. 26. Japan will send a public-private delegation, hoping to connect Japanese companies with sophisticated Israeli security technology ahead of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

Back in November, the Israeli Embassy in Japan opened a second trade office in Osaka. The first is in Tokyo. A former Israeli government official said closer ties with Japan will have a positive impact not only on sales in the Japanese market but also on global distribution networks.

Though renowned for its startups, Israel has also faced growing criticism from the U.S. and Europe over the handling of its conflict with the Palestinians. From an economic perspective alone, the country feels the need to diversify, given its heavy reliance on the U.S. and Europe.

Last January, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe made an official visit to Israel and met with his counterpart, Benjamin Netanyahu. The two leaders agreed to promote further economic cooperation. An Israeli diplomat said they seemed to get along well.

Japanese companies have long been reluctant to invest in the Middle Eastern country out of deference to Arab nations -- most of which do not recognize Israel. As a result, their knowledge of Israeli businesses and investment conditions is limited. For now, governmental matchmaking is likely to be essential.

Honda Eyes Israeli Automotive Technologies

Techcrunch January 28th

Nick Sugimoto, senior program director of the Honda Silicon Valley Lab, makes no bones about it. By 2020, he says, Japanese automotive manufacturer Honda will offer smart cars that have 50 percent fewer collisions. A decade later, Honda's safety features will take into account not just other vehicles, but also road users and pedestrians, and by 2040, Honda's connected vehicles will be collision-free.

It's an ambitious goal, and to do it 68-year old Honda needs smart technology – and that's why the largest car manufacturer in the world has announced its formal move into Israel.

“Traditional cars were big hardware products with a cabin, engine and tires, but going forward the car is a big computer, and the connected car is becoming a more and more intelligent machine,” Sugimoto tells **ISRAEL21c**.

“Honda has been very strong in our initial R&D with engines, but when it comes to that connectivity and intelligence, Honda needs help. We need partners to work with. The product is changing, industry is changing, and customer expectation is changing and that's why we are now in Israel.”

Sugimoto was speaking yesterday at the [OurCrowd Global Investor Summit](#) in Jerusalem. The car manufacturer, which sells some 10,000 cars a year in Israel and 5 million cars a year worldwide, announced at the event that it is looking for new opportunities for collaboration, and has engaged crowdfunding equity platform company OurCrowd to access its portfolio companies and facilitate introductions to relevant innovators and entrepreneurs.

“They will be our eyes and ears in Israel,” Sugimoto tells **ISRAEL21c**. “They are already well networked within the tech community, and whenever they find an industry startup that might be interesting, they will make an introduction to Honda.”

Coming upstream to the source

Sugimoto, who has visited Israel several times, says that Honda has met many Israeli companies working in Silicon Valley, and is already working with Israeli companies like **Waze** and [VocalZoom](#). The latter has developed a robust speech interface for cars and motorbikes, and could be integrated into cars by 2018.

“We wanted to come upstream, to the source of the flow to meet interesting tech companies that are younger and not quite ready for Silicon Valley,” explains Sugimoto. “We are ready to help them come to Silicon Valley; we have the financial resources.”

Honda is looking for startups developing vehicle intelligence technologies, apps and software such as human-machine interfaces that help machines understand a user's intent.

The multinational has also been in discussions with leading cybersecurity automotive companies in Israel and is looking for anything from acquisitions to joint ventures and licensing deals, according to Sugimoto.

“Israel is particularly well positioned to produce companies relevant to the auto industry given its strengths in embeddable devices, machine vision and related algorithm development and cybersecurity,” said Jon Medved, OurCrowd founder and CEO.

“Israel is an interesting country with very interesting technologies,” says Sugimoto. “It has a strong technology background coming from the defense industry and we see many disruptive technologies emerging from there.

“Also, the investment community is very strong here, and they are eager to support a wide variety of technologies,” he adds. “In Silicon Valley, investors tend to focus on one area. When clean-tech was hot several years ago, everyone in the investment community there was looking at clean-tech deals. It’s faddish.

“The Israeli investment community is more stable and steady. They are looking for disruptive innovation and look to the global market from day one. In that sense, Israel is very unique in creating new innovation and that’s why I have been very interested in this country.”

Representatives from two **Honda open innovation initiatives – Honda Developer Studio**, which enables app developers to work directly with Honda engineers to create road-ready apps quickly; and **Honda Xcelerator**, which provides innovators with funding for rapid prototyping — attended the two-day event in Jerusalem.

Will Honda one day open an R&D office in Israel? “We have no plans to open an office here yet, but who knows?” says Sugimoto. “I’m very impressed by the innovation and entrepreneurial support of the startup nation and we definitely want to join forces to develop disruptive technologies for the future.”

[Sony buys Israeli chip manufacturer Altair for \\$200 million.](#)

Japan times, jinxua and Bloomberg JAN 26, 2016

Altair Semiconductors, makers of always-on 4G communication chips, will soon become the Japanese conglomerate’s Israeli R&D center

The acquisition gives Sony a massive outpost in Israel,

Sony Corp. has agreed to buy Israel’s Altair Semiconductor Ltd. for \$212 million, acquiring technology to power the next generation of smart appliances as the firm looks for growth beyond chips for smartphone cameras.



Altair, with modem chips for fourth-generation cellular technology, will help the company make component devices featuring both sensing and communication capabilities, Sony said in a statement Tuesday. Altair, based in Hod Hasharon, northeast of Tel Aviv, makes chipsets that can connect security systems, power meters and cars to the Web with the deal due to close next month.

[Altair](#) employs 190 engineers and software developers at their Israeli headquarters where they develop 4G chips to speed up communications without using excess energy. They work with several communications protocols like LTE, XG-PHS and WiMAX and have customers like Verizon Wireless in the U.S. They recently opened a development center in Taiwan.

Altair's investors include **SanDisk Ventures, Bessemer Venture Partners, BRM Capital, ETV Capital SA, Giza Venture Capital, [Jerusalem Venture Partners](#) (JVP), Jerusalem Global Ventures, and Pacific Technology Partners**. The company's last funding round came two years ago in a \$25 million investment by Georgian businessman Yitzhak Mirilashvili's fund, called Vaizra Investments.

Altair was founded in 2005 by Eran Eshed, Oded Melamed, and Yigal Bitran, all former colleagues at Texas Instruments after that company bought the trio's previous venture [Libit Signal Processing for \\$365 million](#) back in 1999.

Chief Executive Officer Kazuo Hirai is moving the Tokyo-based company away from consumer electronics to focus on growth in image sensors, video games and movies. It agreed to buy Toshiba Corp.'s image sensor operations last year to build up its chip business with growth in its devices unit contributing to the company's return to profit.

"More and more 'things' are expected to be equipped with cellular chip sets, realizing a connected environment in which 'things' can reliably and securely access network services that leverage the power of cloud computing," Sony said in the statement.

But Sony makes major strategic gains here. A new chip manufacturer inside the Sony structure gives Sony's devices that very same advantage that Qualcomm and Intel have. Sony long ago sold off its Vaio personal computers, but its Xperia mobile line will benefit immensely from the buyout. That might mean reports of Xperia's death have been grossly exaggerated. The company's Playstation brand is also going strong and will soon enter the VR market.

Another advantage to the acquisition is that it gives Sony a foothold in the dynamic Israeli startup ecosystem, the world's most prolific outside of Silicon Valley

Global companies are increasingly looking to Israel for innovation and the country has been seeking to promote stronger trading ties with Japan.

Honda Motor Co. has partnered with Israeli crowdfunding startup OurCrowd to find applications for connected cars, Nick Sugimoto, a senior program director for Honda, said in an interview Monday.

“Japanese companies are more active in looking for innovative and disruptive Israeli technology,” said Avi Hasson, the head of the Office of the Chief Scientist, which promotes and invests in the technology industry. “The Sony deal is a good example of that.”

In October, Israel’s Economy Ministry arranged for Hitachi Ltd. to visit local companies and discuss areas where companies from the two countries could collaborate on technology for connected devices.

Altair was first introduced to Japan by HAREL-HERTZ INVESTMENTS HOUSE as ALTAIR signed strategic development agreement with WILLCOM and later with SOFTBANK

Israeli cyber consortium targets Japan 2020 Olympics

14/01/2016, Globes

The National Cyber Bureau at the Prime Minister’s Office and the Foreign Trade Administration at the Ministry of Economy and Industry confirmed their support in a new consortium of Israeli companies to provide cyber solutions for the **Tokyo 2020 Summer Olympics**.

The consortium will be led by **Israel Aerospace Industries Ltd. (IAI)** (TASE: ARSP.B1) and includes the leading cyber security companies in the country **Check Point Software Technologies Ltd.** (Nasdaq: CHKP), **Verint Systems Inc.** (Nasdaq: VRNT), **Bynet**, **ClearSky**, **CyberX**, and **ECI Telecom Ltd.**.

The Foreign Trade Administration told “Globes” on Wednesday this marked the first time leading Israeli tech bodies have united to cooperate in a bid to penetrate a foreign market like Japan. As part of its effort to support the initiative, the state will pay half of the conglomerated companies’ financial costs in their attempt to enter the Japanese market a figure estimated at several millions of shekels.

The Ministry of Economy said professional cooperation between the 7 firms will allow them to prove their wide-range of capabilities in end-to-end solutions for the cyber threats Japanese authorities will face in the run up the Olympic Games in four years.

Some of the companies have previously been involved in providing cyber solutions for sporting events of a similar magnitude like the London 2012 Summer Olympics and the Sochi 2014 Winter Olympics. The Ministry of Economy and Industry said the Japanese market is considered a challenge for Israeli companies seeking their first steps there, because it is a closed market laden with tech solutions.

The seven Israeli companies are expected to begin their efforts soon, starting with an exhibition center to showcase the technologies they will offer the Tokyo authorities.

Japanese Delegation to Israel Cybertech 2016 Conference makes major impact

Tel Aviv January 26th

A strong Japanese delegation organized by METI and JETRO participate in exhibition and conference.

Japan opened a booth for the first time at a large-scale trade exhibition for cybersecurity technologies that kicked off in Tel Aviv on Tuesday for a two-day run.

Japanese companies are aiming to cooperate with Israeli firms with cutting-edge cybersecurity technologies ahead of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics.

An increasing number of Japanese companies are interested in Israel as the two countries have been strengthening their cooperation in the field of cybersecurity since Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu visited Japan in May 2014.

Six Japanese companies, including **Dai Nippon Printing Co.** and **Murata Manufacturing Co.**, **Mitsui & Co (MBSI)**, **TrendMicro**, **Yaskawa Robotics** and **TDK-Lambda** are taking part in the Cybertech 2016 exhibition.

Other companies like **NEC**, **MITSUBISHI Electric**, **NTT Lab**, **Macnica**, have sent strong delegations to the conference.

The Japanese companies are promoting their products and explaining what kinds of technologies they are seeking from Israel.

Given that a Japan booth has been set up this time, an Israeli investor, 54, said he has the impression that Japan is making full-fledged efforts to promote cooperation with Israeli companies.

On Monday, an exchange event was held in Tel Aviv for cybersecurity-related companies of the two countries, with some 300 people taking part.

Japanese Ambassador to Israel Koji Tomita said at the event he believes that Japan, which has strength in manufacturing, and Israel, an innovation leader, can work productively together.

Motorola Solutions and FueTrek Japan Invests in VocalZoom

Published 8 January 2015

VocalZoom has developed a unique Optical Microphone agnostic to background noises

Motorola Solutions Venture Capital has invested in [VocalZoom Ltd.](#), a developer of optical speech sensors from Yoqneam, Israel. The terms of the transaction were not disclosed. Other VocalZoom investors in this series of funding include existing investors 3M and OurCrowd, as well as new investor FueTrek (Japan).

VocalZoom has developed a unique optoelectronic microphone able to substantially enhance a speaker's voice over any background noise. "VocalZoom has the potential to be the difference of whether a firefighter can communicate at a dangerous fire scene or if a transportation or utility worker can give or receive information in a noisy work environment," said Paul Steinberg, chief technology officer at Motorola Solutions.

"For police officers, for example, turning their heads to communicate can be the difference between life and death for them or the people they are protecting, or the difference between whether a criminal is apprehended or escapes."

VocalZoom was founded in 2009 by the CEO Tal Bakish, former HW engineer in companies such as Cisco Systems, IBM, Modu-Mobile, ConnectOne and Intel. While conventional approaches focus on filtering and signal processing to isolate the voice from ambient noise, VocalZoom is applying its patented technology that integrates a standard acoustic microphone and a special optical sensor to solely detect the speaker's voice.

The benefits are essential for next generation user interfaces, providing high directivity, speaker isolation, improved signal quality, and precise voice activity detection. This SEEON microphone, is first demonstrated this week during the CES exhibition in Las-Vegas.

Growing at an astounding rate, speech recognition technology is included in nearly every major technology people rely on today from cars and computers, to TVs and smartphones. In the automotive industry alone, it is expected that more than half of new cars in 2019 will integrate [speech recognition](#), as manufacturers increasingly seek safer ways for drivers to interact with navigation, audio and Bluetooth systems.

“VocalZoom’s optical microphone is the only technology of its kind that is not affected by any background noise, and has the potential to provide disruptive voice clarity in any condition,” said VocalZoom’s Chairman, Yechiel Kurtz, “We are excited with the partnership with Motorola Solutions, which provides us with new opportunities in a large and strategic market.”

About FueTrek

FueTrek Co., Ltd. is a Japan-based company principally engaged in the licensing of software. The Company operates in two business segments. The License segment consists of speech recognition/user interface (UI) solutions division, which is focusing on the licensing of speech recognition software, and the planning and advising of customized services; sound source division, engaged in the licensing of sound source intellectual property (IP) for mobile phones; and customer relationship management (CRM) solutions division, providing CRM software. The Others segment includes infrastructure business division, engaged in the customized development of sensors and software for automobile, electronic book publishing solution, as well as the development of applications for smart phones and tablets; and card business division, engaged in the writing of memory cards used for exam centers and English listening test

Israeli wine Export to Japan grows dramatically

As the Israeli wine industry continues to expand, more international markets are opening up to the variety of wines that Israel’s winemakers have to offer.

The 2016 Sommelier Wine Exhibition, organized by the Israel Export Institute (IEI) featured 80 different Israeli wineries that displayed their goods in Tel Aviv’s Culture Palace on Wednesday, January 27. The exhibition drew representatives from around the world who attended the event, with several signing contracts with Israeli wineries.

“Traditionally, the Israeli wine export was based on the demand for kosher wine by Jewish communities around the world. However, a recent trend sees Israeli wines gaining international recognition and respect also in countries where the kosher issue is irrelevant,” Yaara Shimoni, the IEI wine and fresh produce manager told Tazpit Press Service (TPS).

Such markets include countries like China, Japan and Korea. Shimoni also noted the rise in exports to Asian markets over the past year.

“The Japanese market is now our **third largest export destination**. We are talking about a very discerning palate, the Japanese only seek out ‘super premium’ rated products. We were just notified that our Yarden Chardonnay wine will now be served to Japan Airlines’

first class passengers, for example, ” Anat Levi, CEO of the Golan Heights Winery told TPS.

The Sommelier exhibition in Tel Aviv drew representatives from Japan’s wine and spirits industry as well. Experts from the **Niigata based Shirataki Sake Company** arrived to experience Israeli spirits and share their Japanese rice wine.

According to Daijiro Hosaka, Shirataki’s import and export manager, “Israel was discovered by Japan about one year ago. It’s a very open and diverse industry we find fascinating and impressive.”

Another great success in Japan is the display of Israeli wines imported to **COSTCO WHOLESALE JAPAN**. An initiative of **INTERLINK JAPAN WHICH INTRODUCES AND PROMOTES food industry out of ISRAEL to Japan**.

This initiative by Interlink is based on long standing relations with COSTCO Japan and is coordinated with IEI.

Japanese archaeologists in Israel hunting for biblical city of Anaharath

BY SHINJI TANAKA KYODO JAN 12, 2016

An archaeological survey led by researchers from Tenri University is underway in Israel to locate Anaharath, a city mentioned in the Old Testament.

“This is the likeliest place,” Yoshinobu Tatsumi, a curator at Tenri University Sankokan Museum in Tenri, Nara Prefecture, said.

Tatsumi was describing Tel Rekhes, a hilly site with a history dating back over multiple periods. It is 350 by 150 meters in size and is located around 70 km north of Jerusalem.

Anaharath, found in an inscription in ancient Egypt from the 15th century B.C., is thought to have been a flourishing Canaanite city. The ancient Israelites later invaded the surrounding area and allocated the city to one of their tribes, according to the Old Testament and other documents.

Tenri University began participating in excavation work in Israel half a century ago. Its archaeological studies at Tel Rekhes began in 2006 and involve institutions including Rikkyo University.

The joint project has so far discovered structures that may have been a castle's outer walls and gate as well as an olive mill. It has also uncovered objects including a mask in clay and a statue of a female divinity.

Many of the unearthed articles date from the 13th and 12th centuries B.C., a period close to the Old Testament's description of Anaharath.

On the other hand, clear evidence of war damage has yet to come to light.

"It may be fair to say that Anaharath, if it was on this site, continued to be managed as a city since the age of the Canaanites," said Tatsumi, an expert on archaeology in West Asia.

The joint project involves Japanese archaeologists working with a range of people, including Japanese students, Israeli scholars and Arabs.

Excavation work at Tel Rekhes is getting into full swing after digging near the site's central part started last summer. Experts are using radio probes and other high-tech devices.

February

Japanese Emperor Akihito Receives Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas

TOKYO – Emperor Akihito of Japan on February 15th received Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, who is on a four-day official visit to Japan to boost bilateral ties.

“The Government of Japan sincerely welcomes the visit of the President, which will further strengthen the friendly relations between Japan and the Palestinians,” said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in a statement published on the government website.

The meeting marks Abbas’ fourth visit to Japan since he came to power in 2005, but is the first time a Palestinian leader has spoken with the Japanese emperor.

During the meeting, the Palestinian president reportedly showed Emperor Akihito a map of the Middle East to explain the ongoing conflicts in the region, the Imperial Household Agency told Japan’s Mainichi newspaper.

Abbas said he wanted peaceful relations with Israel through dialogue without resorting to violence or terrorism, while Akihito responded that he believed many people across the world wish for peace in the restive region.

The Palestinian president – who arrived in Japan on Sunday – began the official agenda of his visit Monday after reviewing a royal guard of honor ceremony at Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s official residence and workplace at Kantei, just adjacent to the National Diet Building.

After speaking with Akihito, Abbas met with Natsuo Yamaguchi, the leader of the Buddhist party New Komeito, a coalition partner of Abe’s Liberal Democratic Party.

The session was followed by a conference with the president of the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

Abbas signed on Monday an agreement to receive up to 74 million yen (\$649,350) in General Cultural Grant Assistance to restore an Islamic construction in Jericho, Hisham’s Palace, as part of a project to boost social development and tourism in the region, according to the Ministry.

On Tuesday, the president of the Palestinian National Authority is scheduled to visit Tokyo’s National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation and meet the governor of the Japanese capital.

Abbas' visit comes a little over a year after Abe reaffirmed Japanese support for a two-state solution between an independent Palestine and Israel, calling for an end to Israeli occupation and settlement activities, according to a joint press release issued by the two leaders from the Palestinian city of Ramallah in the central West Bank on Jan. 21, 2015.

President Rivlin welcomes New Japanese Ambassador H.E Koji Tomita

Feb 28, 2016

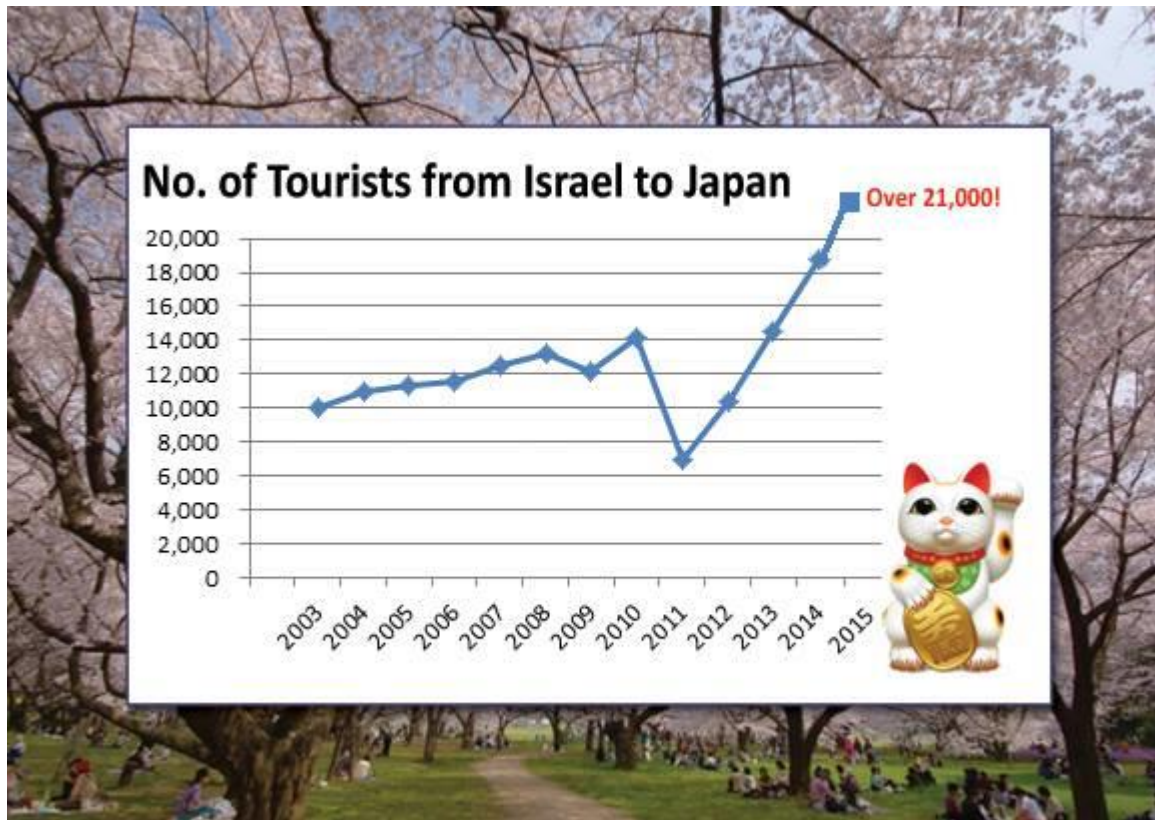
Israeli President Reuven Rivlin received the diplomatic credentials of four new ambassadors to Israel, from **Japan**, Egypt, Malta, and Bosnia and Herzegovina, at his residence in Jerusalem.

The ceremony for each ambassador began with the raising of their nation's flag and the playing of the visiting country's national anthem. The ceremony also included an honor guard, the presentation of credentials, the signing of the guest book, and the playing of Israel's national anthem Hatikva.

Rivlin told Japan Ambassador **Koji Tomita**, that he is "aware of your country's great work for the benefit of all the free world. I am aware of your desire to play a positive role in our region."

"We know that you are highly respected by the Palestinians," Rivlin told the Japanese ambassador, "and I know that you are able to help us build bridges between Israel and the Palestinians, and build confidence and the understanding that it is in our mutual interest to live together." The President concluded, "An ambassador with your great experience can help us with our neighbors in the region. We are looking forward to the future, and to working to strengthen the ties between Israel and Japan."

Tomita said that he would "do all in my power to advance cooperation between our countries in order to realize the desire of our leaders to strengthen the ties between us."



SOURCE: Japan Embassy Tel Aviv 7 February 2016

SBI Holdings Invest in FUNDBOX

SBI Holdings, Inc. ("SBIH") hereby announces that it has invested in **FUNDBOX LTD.** (Head office: San Francisco, California, the United States; "FUNDBOX"), providing online financial services for small and medium enterprises ("SME"). FUNDBOX offers small and medium sized businesses a simple way to manage and optimize their cash flow by advancing payments on outstanding invoices. By leveraging data science and deep data analytics, the FUNDBOX risk engine taps into numerous signals to assess customers and invoices for risk automatically and instantly -- the underwriting process requires no human intervention. Once approved, a business owner can select the invoice they wish to advance and with the click of a button 100% of the invoice value will be deposited in the business owner's bank account as soon as the next business day.

FUNDBOX currently serves over 30,000 U.S. small and medium-sized small businesses and has been growing rapidly. Since our foundation, we have been engaged in the internet-based financial business as a pioneer among FinTech companies. In an effort to further increase customer convenience in the financial service and differentiate our service by



making it unique, all our group companies are promoting the introduction of new technology.

By investing in FUNDBOX, we will consider further collaborating in various areas of the FinTech business such as by collaborating in the banking business through establishing a joint venture. We will also consider jointly running the business in Asia that has been developed by FUNDBOX in the U.S.

About Fundbox

Fundbox is fixing the small business economy by offering business owners a common-sense approach to cash flow management, powered by science

Outline of FUNDBOX

- (1) Corporate name FUNDBOX LTD.
- (2) Head office San Francisco, California
- (3) Representative Eyal Shinar (
- 4) Business Providing online financial services for SME (
- 5) Establishment August, 2012

Japanese Airline VP Calls Israeli Travel Market 'Important'

All Nippon Airways (ANA) launched flights from Tel Aviv to Japan via Europe in December.

FEBRUARY 3, 2016

JNS.org – The **senior vice president of All Nippon Airways (ANA)**, the largest airline in Japan, said on a visit to Israel that the Israeli travel market is important for Japan.

“The Israeli market is important to us. We recognize its great and growing potential, and are interested in the passenger traffic between the two countries,” said **ANA’s Yutaka Ito**, just weeks after the airline launched flights from Tel Aviv to Japan via Europe, reported the Israeli business news outlet *Globes*.

About 20,000 Israelis flew to Japan last year, with the figure growing each year, according to Ito. This has led to the airline establishing an office in Israel.

The Japanese airline began sales of tickets to Israeli travelers a month ago with flight connections in six European cities: London, Paris, Frankfurt, Munich, Dusseldorf, and Brussels.

Ticket prices from Tel Aviv to Tokyo start at \$1,050 for tourist class and \$3,100 for business class, including a regular **El Al Israel Airlines Ltd.**(TASE: ELAL), Lufthansa, or Brussels Airlines flight to destinations in Europe, from where the connection flights to Tokyo leaves

In an effort to attract Israeli visitors to Japan, the second secretary at the Japanese Embassy in Israel, **Osamu Maruyama**, said during the visit by ANA representatives that “in contrast to the common belief that Japan is expensive, we’re actually cheaper than Israel in many ways.”

Maruyama, who will also make a presentation at the 22nd annual International Tourism Exhibition in Israel next week, said that “a bottle of Coke [in Japan] costs an average of NIS 4 — one third to one half of the price in Israel. Two sushi rolls cost NIS 3-4 — a quarter of the price in Israel. A single room in a business hotel in central Tokyo costs NIS 230 a night, and a double room in a Western-style hotel costs NIS 470.

NTT DOCOMO VENTURES INVEST IN RISKIFIED

Riskified Raises \$25M in Growth Round, Revealing Fraud Prevention Wizard Behind E-Commerce Curtain

TEL AVIV, Israel, Feb. 10, 2016 /PRNewswire/ -- Riskified, a leading e-commerce fraud prevention company pioneering the chargeback guarantee, announced today that it has secured \$25 million in a growth round of financing, led by Qumra Capital with participation from The Phoenix Insurance Company, NTT DOCOMO Ventures, and existing investors, Genesis Partners and Entrée Capital. This brings the company's total funding to \$31 million. The new investment will be used to further accelerate Riskified's exceptional growth and customer success of online fraud prevention for global retailers including Burberry, Wish and Viagogo.

Riskified's flexible e-commerce fraud prevention solution protects the bottom line and customer experience, guaranteeing peace of mind for hundreds of global retailers. Using its proprietary behavioral analytics technology and machine learning, the company takes a dynamic, adaptive approach to stay ahead of the constantly changing fraud landscape. Riskified closed 2015 on a run rate of \$3 billion in approved transaction volume, with 400% year-over-year revenue growth.

Erez Shachar, managing partner at Qumra said, "Riskified's exponential growth is indicative of the e-commerce industry's need for a fraud prevention platform that uncovers new revenue opportunities. Leveraging its experienced team, proven technology, and

unwavering focus on their global retail customers, we're confident Riskified is positioned to build the world's best fraud prevention solution."

"Riskified continues to experience unprecedented growth within the online fraud prevention industry, showing immediate improvement to retailers' bottom line and customer experience," said Eido Gal, cofounder and CEO of Riskified. "It's a win-win for global retailers. They're recouping millions in revenue from fraud loss while gaining customers that would have otherwise been rejected. Not only do we approve 66% of orders retailers plan to decline, but we also guarantee every order we approve to provide assurance and peace of mind."

According to Javelin Strategy & Research, falsely declining legitimate orders due to suspected fraud costs US retailers \$109 billion more than actual fraud losses. Millennials and high-income shoppers are the most affected by falsely declined orders, with 74% limiting shopping or entirely abandoning the retailer. Global retailers relying on Riskified to recoup lost revenue and customers include Burberry, Farfetch, Vestiaire Collective, Viagogo, and m-commerce companies like Wish.

Gal said, "We founded Riskified with the retailer in mind, and have grown adept at servicing the needs global retailers have as they expand their e-commerce and m-commerce operations to provide more personalization to consumers. Our adoption rates continue to validate the incredible global demand for a flexible fraud prevention solution for enterprise brands. We look forward to expanding on our customer success and continuing our rapid pace in the future."

About Riskified:

Riskified keeps retailers safe, guaranteeing peace of mind. The leading eCommerce fraud management company is trusted by hundreds of global brands – from luxury fashion houses and retail chains, to gift card and ticket marketplaces. Riskified's pay-for-performance and guaranteed approval model provides a flexible, economical solution that drives revenue for retailers and enables a frictionless customer experience. Its proprietary technology uses intelligent automation and advanced fraud detection methods to accurately analyze card-not-present (CNP) orders with machine learning algorithms, behavioral analytics, and device fingerprinting. Riskified was founded in 2013 and is headquartered in Tel Aviv, with U.S. offices in Boston.

About Qumra Capital:

Qumra Capital is a growth fund investing in fast growth late stage start-ups. Qumra was founded in 2014 by Erez Shachar and Boaz Dinte who are Evergreen Venture Partners and Sivan Shamri Dahan who joined as a partner. Qumra is one of Israel's growth funds leading late stage rounds in Israeli high potential advanced startups.

MITSUI JOINS Team8 AS STRATEGIC INVESTOR

Team8 Builds World's Strongest Cybersecurity Syndicate; Raises an Additional \$US23 Million Strategic Investment Round

New strategic investors AT&T, Accenture, Nokia, Mitsui & Co., Ltd. (Mitsui) and Temasek join Team8's existing investors, including Cisco, Bessemer Venture Partners, Marker LLC and Eric Schmidt's Innovation Endeavors, to build category-leading cybersecurity companies that challenge the biggest problems in cybersecurity.

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TEL AVIV, Israel--([BUSINESS WIRE](#))--Team8, Israel's leading cybersecurity company-creation platform, today announced a \$US23 million strategic round of funding. With the completion of the strategic round, Team8 further strengthens its relationship with market leaders and design partners who work closely with Team8 in its company-creation process. The funding adds AT&T, Accenture, Nokia, Mitsui, and Temasek to Team8's existing investors Cisco, Alcatel-Lucent, Bessemer Venture Partners, Marker LLC and Eric Schmidt's Innovation Endeavors to create the world's strongest cybersecurity syndicate. Quantum Strategic Partners also participated in the round.

"Cyberattacks are evolving and are no longer only a CIO, CSO or IT department issue," said John Donovan, Chief Strategy Officer and Group President, AT&T Technology and Operations. "Breaches, leaked documents and cyberattacks impact customers, stock prices, brand reputation and competitive edge. This strategic investment is key to not merely iterating, but innovating against today's highly adaptive attacker."

"Cybersecurity is a global issue, and collaboration is critical to maintaining an advantage over today's highly innovative and motivated attackers," said Nadav Zafrir, Team8 co-founder and former Commander of Israel's Technology & Intelligence Unit 8200. "With the addition of our new strategic investors, we have not only created the world's strongest cyber syndicate, but also the most diverse. We have teamed up with companies from the United States, Europe and Asia who are at the forefront of technology, telecommunications, IT, infrastructure and professional services. Team8 and its investors are all committed to working together to fulfill our vision of building category-leading companies that challenge the biggest problems in cybersecurity."

Co-founded by Nadav Zafrir, Israel Grimberg and Liran Grinberg, all veterans of Unit 8200 (the equivalent of America's National Security Agency), Team8 does not invest in

cybersecurity companies, they create them. At Team8's core is a research group with intimate knowledge of both offensive and defensive aspects of cybersecurity. By leveraging its research group, access to the best cyber talent, and a global network that gives Team8 companies access to customers, partners and key influencers, Team8 has reinvented the entire company-creation process. The result: a cyber innovation platform uniquely engineered to create category-leading cybersecurity companies that tackle the biggest problems in cybersecurity and help organizations reclaim the advantage over attackers.

Team8's strategic investors work closely with its research group throughout the company-creation process.

Accenture, one of the world's leading professional services companies, will work with Team8 on a collaborative R&D agenda to innovate tailored solutions and strengthen the cybersecurity capabilities it delivers to enterprise clients. "We see significant opportunities to ideate with Team8 to deliver advanced cybersecurity capabilities that go well beyond establishing perimeter security and reactive cyber defense postures," said Paul Daugherty, Chief Technology Officer of Accenture. "Through our unique model of collaborative R&D, we will bring together capabilities across our global network of Accenture Technology Labs and our technology ecosystem to develop breakthrough solutions to help clients adapt in a sophisticated threat landscape."

Team8 and **Nokia Bell Labs** will collaborate on research initiatives to support large-scale telecommunications infrastructures.

New investors **Mitsui** and **Temasek** extend Team8's reach into Asia. Mitsui is one of the most diversified and comprehensive Japanese trading, investment and service enterprises in the world. Japan is the second largest security market outside of the United States. Temasek, a Singapore-based investment company, owns and manages a net portfolio of over \$US200 billion primarily in Singapore and Asia. Its portfolio covers a broad spectrum of sectors including financial services, telecommunications, media and technology, transportation and industrial, life sciences, consumer, real estate, as well as energy and resources.

Since its launch in February 2015, Team8 launched illusive networks and is on pace to launch two more companies in 2016. illusive networks, a market leader in deception technology, recently announced a \$22 million B Round of funding, led by NEA and including participation from Citi Ventures. illusive networks counts Fortune 100 companies in the financial, insurance, retail, technology and healthcare sectors among its customers.



Over the past year, Team8 has also helped recruit over 120 new hires to its portfolio companies. Team8 plans to recruit an additional 150 people in 2016 and today is announcing that Ronit Benbasat Rom, former VP Human Resources at Check Point (worldwide), is joining its management team as VP Human Resources to support its recruiting efforts.

About Team8

Team8 is Israel's most prestigious cybersecurity company-creation platform, focused on developing disruptive technologies and building category-leading companies that challenge the biggest problems in cybersecurity today. The Team8 innovation process combines a research team with intimate knowledge of both offensive and defensive aspects of cybersecurity, access to the best cyber talent, and a global network that gives Team8 companies access to customers, partners and key influencers. Team8 was founded by leading cybersecurity experts Nadav Zafrir, Israel Grimberg and Liran Grinberg, all with deep ties to Israel's famous IDF Technology & Intelligence Unit 8200. It is backed by Cisco, AT&T, Accenture, Nokia, Temasek, Mitsui, Bessemer Venture Partners, Eric Schmidt's Innovation Endeavors and Marker LLC

EZTD Licensed in Japan to Offer Online Brokerage Services

Provides EZTD Access to One of the Largest Foreign Exchange Markets Globally

February 03, 2016

TEL AVIV, Israel--([BUSINESS WIRE](#))--**EZTD Inc. (OTCQX:EZTD)**, a worldwide leader of online binary options trading, is now fully licensed to operate in Japan through **EZInvest Securities Co. Ltd.**, EZTD's subsidiary.

EZInvest Securities Co. Ltd is authorized and regulated by the Financial Services Agency, Government of Japan, Registration No. 156, and is categorized as a Type 1 Financial Instrument Business Operator. This very exclusive category allows the Company to provide brokerage services to retail investors in financial derivatives such as Forex ("FX") and Contracts for Difference ("CFDs"). EZInvest Securities Co. Ltd. is a member of the Financial Futures Association of Japan, the regulatory body that supervises business in FX and binary options. It is also a member of the Japan Securities Dealers Association, the regulatory body overseeing business in equity CFDs.

Shimon Citron, Chief Executive Officer of EZTD, said: "Obtaining a license in Japan, a country with a population of nearly 130 million, provides EZTD with an opportunity to expand into one of the largest markets worldwide for foreign exchange (FX) and CFDs.

Investors registering on our site in Japan can be assured that their interests are protected by one of the strongest regulatory authorities in the world. We look forward to developing our business in Japan as we expand our global presence.”

The retail FX market in Japan is one of the largest in the world in terms of both traded volume and number of private investors. As part of its global expansion, EZTD Inc. has established a secure footprint in this vast market with EZInvest Securities Co.

About EZTD

Launched in 2011, EZTD Inc. (F/K/A EZTRADER Inc.), (United States), (OTCQX SYMBOL: EZTD) is one of the pioneers of secure and regulated online binary trading and maintains its position as a leading, reputable and reliable binary options platform. EZTD offers 24/7 trading on more than 120 assets including commodities, stocks, currency pairs and indices. Currently available in more than 11 languages, EZTD is growing rapidly and continues to seek exciting opportunities to further enhance its presence throughout Europe and Asia. EZTD’s advanced mobile app is one of the most user-friendly and secure trading apps and is available for both [Android](#) and [iPhone](#). EZTrader.com is wholly owned and operated by WGM Services Ltd., a fully regulated company and authorized by CySEC throughout Europe. EZTD also operates in Japan through EZInvest Securities Co., Ltd.

Komori and Highcon Announce Strategic Business Partnership

Thursday, February 04, 2016

Tokyo, Japan and Yavne, Israel - **Komori and Highcon** announced today the formation of a strategic partnership between their two companies. Komori will be selling and supporting the Highcon™ Euclid digital cutting and creasing solutions in the Japanese market. This partnership is a key step in Komori’s strategy to provide comprehensive solutions to their customers, covering both analog and digital workflows, and spanning printing and finishing alike. The first Highcon Euclid machine in Japan is in being installed at Komori’s Graphic Technology Center at Tsukuba, in time for the Komori Open House to be held on February 4th-5th. As part of this event, 400 of Komori’s strategic customers in Japan will receive the opportunity to see firsthand how this revolutionary digital finishing technology fits into the Komori portfolio.

By offering the Highcon Euclid, Komori will provide customers with a solution that removes bottlenecks in the post-press process. Moreover, the Highcon Euclid II+ can perform the most intricate cutouts, deliver production samples for test marketing and produce packaging for customers that simply could not be done conventionally.

Komori will offer the UV inkjet digital printing machine (Impremia IS29) and the Highcon Euclid digital cutting & creasing system to allow their customers to grow their business by adding value. The Euclid series of machines has already been installed in over 20 sites worldwide, and the companies who are using this system are successfully demonstrating the benefits of the differentiation it offers. This collaboration is a win/win situation for Komori, Highcon and their customers.

Eiji Kajita, Operation Officer and Global Sales & Service Group, Group General Manager of Komori said: “We believe that concluding the agreement with Highcon, is an important step in Komori’s business target of being a PESP (Print Engineering Service Provider). We are encouraging our customers’ success by providing a variety of solutions to resolve their problems with partner companies from all over the world. The combination of Highcon’s innovative system and Komori’s products will provide a new business model which has not been possible to implement until now”.

Aviv Ratzman, Co-Founder and CEO of Highcon said: “This partnership is a testament to the quality and industrial strength of our product offering which brings huge benefits to both digital and conventional workflows. We are proud to have our young technology taking its place amidst the portfolio of Komori, with their almost 100 years’ experience of manufacturing products of superior quality and reliability.”

Teva Naot's slippers gain a foothold in Japan

Israeli company has sold 55,000 pairs of its footwear in the slipper-adoring Land of the Rising Sun to the tune of \$11 million.

Ynet

Published: 02.17.16,

Israeli footwear manufacturer Teva Naot, based in Kibbutz Yad Mordechai, has made quite the impression in Japan. The company has sold 55,000 pairs of shoes in the Land of the Rising Sun to the tune of \$11 million over the past few years

The secret to the company's success is the Iris model, which is similar to the slippers that traditional Japanese wear with a kimono. These are heelless clogs with removable padding available in 13 colors, with Japan's most popular color being honey brown. Alongside the Iris model, priced at approximately \$200, about 20 other models are sold that are tailored for the Japanese market.

The shoes are marketed in three Japanese stores under the Naot brand. It has two stores in Tokyo and one store in the city of Nara. Another store costing NIS 1,000,000 is soon to open in Tokyo.

Two stores more are expected to open in Japan in the next three years. The company also operates an online store in Japanese. Teva Naot footwear is marketed to about 50 countries, and the company intends to make the Japanese market one of its biggest in the world

As a part of an aggressive marketing strategy, the Japanese distributor promotes its product by hiring popular singers to sing in stores. The company also operates vans that are present at fairs, festivals and major entertainment centers for promotional offers.

"The Japanese treat their shoes differently," said Michael Illouz, CEO of Teva Naot.

"They do not throw them away, but change worn parts. When the shoe is worn out, they bring it to the store for recycling and we make the secondhand shoes into art exhibits."

SolarEdge launches commercial PV inverter solution in Japan

SolarEdge Technologies, Inc. (Hod Hasharon, Israel), a global provider of in PV inverters, power optimizers, and module-level monitoring services, announced that it is launching its commercial inverter solution in Japan.

The SolarEdge commercial solution consist of small and light-weight three-phase commercial PV inverters, sized 24.75 kW and 33.3 kW for both low and medium voltage connection, P600 and P700 power optimizers, and a cloud-based, module-level monitoring platform.

By maximizing power harvesting from each module, enabling longer strings, enhanced safety, and lower O&M costs, the SolarEdge DC optimized inverter solution improves the lifetime value of commercial systems, the company emphasizes.

"As a top global inverter company, SolarEdge is now launching its commercial inverter solution in the Japanese market," stated Guy Sella, CEO, Founder, and Chairman of SolarEdge.

"Identifying Japan as an important PV market, SolarEdge invested in developing the right products to meet the needs and regulation requirements of the Japanese market."

"SolarEdge began ten years ago by introducing innovative power optimizer. Today, we offer a full DC optimized inverter solution. Our global track record of 2.5 GW of systems shipped, including ten million power optimizers, coupled with a local Japanese team and subsidiary, ideally positions us to launch our commercial solution in the Japanese market," added Nobu Fukatsu, SolarEdge's General Manager of Japan.

SolarEdge inverters have a standard 12 year warranty, extendable to 25 years, 25 year warranty for power optimizers, and its module-level monitoring is free for system lifetime.

As part of its commercial solution, SolarEdge offers a wide variety of optional pre and post sales services to support the installation and help ensure lifetime profitability of a SolarEdge commercial system. The SolarEdge commercial solution also includes optional control & communications gateway (CCG) and environmental sensors.

SolarEdge will be presenting its commercial inverter solution for the first time during PVExpo at its booth E52-10 in Hall 6 at PVExpo in Tokyo Big Sight on March 2–4.

SoftBank to Provide High-Speed LTE Services Using Gilat's Satellite-Based Cellular Backhaul Technology

Commercial services to remote areas in Japan expected in 2016 based on successful field trial of Gilat's SkyEdge II-c Capricorn VSAT network

Tokyo, Japan and Petah Tikva, Israel – February 16, 2016 –SoftBank Corp. (“SoftBank”), a subsidiary of SoftBank Group Corp. (TOKYO: 9984) providing mobile communication, fixed-line communication and Internet connection services to customers in Japan, and Gilat Satellite Networks Ltd. (“Gilat”, NASDAQ, TASE: GILT), a worldwide leader in satellite networking technology, satellite mobility solutions and services, announced today that SoftBank intends to provide high-speed LTE services using Gilat's satellite-based cellular backhaul technology following a successful field trial. This technology makes it possible for SoftBank to cost-effectively offer high-speed mobile communication services in remote areas where it is difficult to install fixed-line facilities and base stations. SoftBank expects to offer commercial services in Japan, based on this technology, within 2016.

SoftBank has already succeeded in providing cost-efficient 3G mobile communications in Japan, where it is difficult to build facilities for fixed-line and mobile communications, by using satellite communications as backhaul. SoftBank contributed to the development of Gilat's SkyEdge II-c high-speed satellite communications platform early on, and conducted verification work along the way. The latest trials demonstrated FTP downlink rates of up to 100Mbps using actual mobile handsets, which until now have been very difficult to achieve.

Yasuyuki Imai, SoftBank's Executive Vice President and Head of the Technology Unit commented, “With this technology, we will be able to also offer high-speed LTE services in mountainous regions, remote islands and other areas in Japan where it is difficult to install fixed-line backhaul cost-effectively and quickly. We already have satellite-based backhaul in those regions, but now we will be able to offer our customers LTE speeds. We also expect to see the application of this technology to the mobile network of our group company Sprint in the US. Our hope is that this technology will help play a role in bridging the digital divide.”

Dov Baharav, Gilat's Chairman of the Board and Interim CEO commented, “Gilat is the pioneer in delivering 4G satellite-based cellular backhaul for mobile network operators and



our new technology allows for quick time to market and complete 4G service coverage. We are excited to be working with a leading global carrier like SoftBank to help them deliver high-speed mobile communication services in a variety of regions."

About SoftBank Corp.

SoftBank Corp., a subsidiary of SoftBank Group Corp. (TOKYO: 9984), provides mobile communication, fixed-line communication and Internet connection services to customers in Japan. Leveraging synergies with other companies in the SoftBank Group, SoftBank Corp. aims to transform lifestyles through ICT and expand into other business areas including IoT, robotics and energy.

About Gilat

Gilat Satellite Networks Ltd (NASDAQ, TASE: GILT) is a leading provider of products and services for satellite-based broadband communications. Gilat develops and markets a wide range of high-performance satellite ground segment equipment and VSATs, with an increasing focus on the consumer and Ka-band market. In addition, Gilat enables mobile SOTM (Satellite-on-the-Move) solutions providing low-profile antennas, next generation solid-state power amplifiers and modems. Gilat also provides managed network and satellite-based services for rural telephony and Internet access via its subsidiaries in Peru and Colombia.

With over 25 years of experience, and over a million products shipped to more than 90 countries, Gilat has provided enterprises, service providers and operators with efficient and reliable satellite-based connectivity solutions, including cellular backhaul, banking, retail, e-government and rural communication networks. Gilat also enables leading defense, public security and news organizations to implement advanced, on-the-move tactical communications on board their land, air and sea fleets using Gilat's high-performance SOTM solutions. Gilat controlling shareholders are the FIMI Private Equity Funds.

March

Japan backs France's peace initiative

Japanese envoy reportedly tells PA chairman his country backs France's initiative for a peace conference.

March 17th 2016

Japan on Wednesday expressed its support for a French initiative that would see an international peace conference in an attempt to reach an agreement between Israel and the Palestinian Authority (PA), the *Ma'an*news agency reported.

According to the report, PA chairman Mahmoud Abbas, during a meeting with the Japanese envoy to the Middle East, **Masahiro Chono**, called for the planning and execution of the French-initiated international peace conference to be expedited.

During the meeting, which was held in Abbas' Ramallah headquarters, he reportedly stressed the importance of Japan being a member in the international support group for the proposed international peace conference due to Japan's "international political and economic role."

Chono, according to *Ma'an*, confirmed his country's support for the French initiative and its willingness to take part in the peace process with hopes to end the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

France, which announced the peace conference initiative in January, **has threatened** to unilaterally recognize the "State of Palestine" if its peace efforts fail.

But its new Foreign Minister, Jean-Marc Ayrault, **backtracked on the threat** last week, saying France would not "automatically" recognize a Palestinian state if its initiative fails.

On Tuesday, PA Foreign Minister Riad al-Malki and PLO Chief Negotiator Saeb Erekat **met with the French Envoy** for the Middle East, Pierre Vimont, to discuss the prospects of the international peace conference.

Vimont's meeting with Palestinian leadership followed meetings with their Israeli counterparts on Monday.

The PA **has welcomed** the French initiative, though it has also insisted on a United Nations resolution against Israeli "settlement building" ahead of any renewed peace process.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has **rejected the initiative**, calling it "mystifying" and counterproductive and arguing that the proposal gives Palestinians no incentive to compromise.

Japan deplores Israeli confiscation of Palestinian land in West Bank

March 22, 2016 - 12:01 PM

The Japanese government on Sunday deplored the Israeli government's decision to expropriate nearly 2,342 dunums of Palestinian territory near the West Bank district of Jericho, under the pretext of being classified as 'state land'.

"The announcement by the government of Israel clearly contradicts the ongoing efforts by the international community towards a two-state solution," said the statement issued by Japan's Foreign Press Secretary Yasuhisa Kawamura.

The government of Japan called upon the government of Israel to refrain from any unilateral acts, including settlement activities, which it stressed, "does not contribute to resuming peace talks".

It called on the Israeli government to desist from implementing the unilateral decision. "Japan once again strongly urges both sides to act to enhance mutual trust as well as to continue to make steady efforts for peace."

Yokohama Rubber to buy Alliance Tire Group for \$1.2b

ATG's Israel operations lead the Group's development of innovative tires

Yokohama Rubber Co has agreed to buy out **Alliance Tire Group (ATG)**, controlled by US private equity giant KKR, for about \$1.2 billion in one of the biggest private equity exits from an India-focused investment and one of the largest strategic investments so far this year.

The Japanese firm will acquire the 90% stake held by **KKR** and 10% of the **Mahansaria family**. The acquisition is expected to be concluded on July 1, 2016, Yokohama said in a statement on Friday.

KKR bought 90% stake in Alliance from Warburg Pincus in 2013 for about \$500 million and

the private equity fund will make more than 2x returns in constant currency terms through this transaction. The deal will also mark KKR's third exit from India after it sold stakes in Bharti Infratel last year and Dalmia Bharat earlier this year.

Barclays advise Yokohama while Credit Suisse advised ATG.

The deal is part of Yokohama Rubber's plans to expand its commercial tyres business, the Japanese firm said. "Yokohama Rubber does not currently manufacture or sell tyres for agricultural or forestry machinery. The acquisition will strengthen Yokohama Rubber's. lineup in commercial tyres," Yokohama said in the statement.

The demand for agricultural equipment tyres is expected to increase due to growing use of farm machinery, which is crucial to improving efficiency to meet rising global food needs.

KKR acquired Warburg's stake in 2013. Since taking over, the US fund has invested in factories and expansion into new markets. Alliance, which has a presence in more than 120 countries, posted global sales in excess of \$529 million in FY15 and an operating profit of \$95 million, the statement said. The company has plants at Tirunelveli in Tamil Nadu, Dahej in Gujarat and Hadera in Israel, besides contract manufacturers in China and Taiwan. It has research and development centres in Israel, the the US and India.

Indian players make up about 10% of the total off-road tyre imports in the US and are a major threat to big players, HSBC said in a note on March 10. "However, we believe, the current price differential between the US and Indian players is huge and any significant impact can come through only if it qualifies for any ADDs, which we believe might be tough for Indian players. Any countervailing duty of 10% is likely to have minimal impact on market share, in our view,"

Agricultural equipment tyre demand is expected to increase as a result of the growing use of agricultural machinery, which is crucial to improve agricultural efficiency to meet the increasing food needs for the world's growing population.

Yokohama Rubber is currently in Phase IV (2015–2017) of its Grand Design 100 (GD100) medium-term management plan. This plan has established the expansion of the business in commercial tyres as a new core pillar of Yokohama Rubber's tire business strategy, and the company is accordingly devoting considerable resources to developing and expanding sales of ultra-large radial tires for mining and construction equipment. Also, Yokohama Rubber recently started production of truck and bus tyres at a new plant in the US state of Mississippi, and it plans to continue promoting local production for local consumption. The

ATG acquisition will strengthen the Yokohama Group's business in commercial tires and accelerate its ongoing globalization

oti and Billing System Corporation Demonstrate NFC-based Cashless Payment Solutions at RETAILTECH JAPAN

Rosh Pina, Israel – March 16, 2016 – [On Track Innovations Ltd. \(oti\)](#) (NASDAQ: OTIV), a global provider of Near Field Communication (NFC) and cashless payment solutions, and its strategic partner, **[Billing System Corporation](#)** (TSE: 3623), a leading payment service provider, demonstrated prototypes of their jointly developed NFC-based cashless payments solutions for the Japanese market at the **[RETAILTECH JAPAN](#)** trade show which took place March 8-11 in Tokyo, Japan.

Billing System selected oti as its exclusive NFC solution provider in June 2015. The companies are actively developing and certifying **Felica-compatible** NFC-based cashless payment readers and devices for the Japanese unattended market.

Nearly 20 million foreign travelers visit Japan annually, which is expected to increase in the coming years with the Rugby World Cup in 2019 and the Tokyo Olympic Games in 2020. However, Japan's current cashless payment settlement infrastructure, Felica, is unique to the domestic market and not compatible with international NFC services. The incompatibility has become a problem for foreign travelers as more consumers are transacting with credit cards utilizing NFC technology and mobile phone payment schemes like Apple Pay™ and Android Pay™. These settlement services are based on international standards and provide high security, convenience, and cost-effectiveness.

"With more than 5.5 million vending machines nationwide, the Japanese market represents one of the largest opportunities globally for cashless payment solutions," said Toshihiko Eda, CEO of Billing System. "NFC has clearly emerged as the technology of choice for all the major payment schemes, and with no NFC infrastructure currently deployed in Japan, now is the perfect time to enter the market with our Felica-compatible and certified product offering."

oti and Billing System are currently co-marketing prototype products to Japan's vending machine operators, manufacturers and ATM companies, and expect to introduce a full suite of products to the market by the third quarter of 2016.

"The positive response to our new products at RETAILTECH JAPAN reaffirms our belief that Japan will be a major market for us in the years to come," said oti CEO Shlomi Cohen. "In fact, we are in advanced discussions with several leading Japanese companies who have expressed interest in adopting our technology. Based on this increasing interest and



our expanding sales pipeline, we expect to secure at least one major new Japanese reader customer by year-end.”

About Billing System Corporation

Billing System Corporation provides total settlement and processing service in Japan including services related to payment gateway, mobile payment, remittance, billing, reconciliation, bank debit and finance.

About oti

On Track Innovations Ltd. (oti) is a leader in contactless and NFC applications based on its extensive patent and IP portfolio. oti’s field-proven innovations have been deployed around the world to address NFC and other cashless payment solutions, petroleum payment and management, cashless parking fee collection systems and mass transit ticketing. oti markets and supports its solutions through a global network of regional offices and alliances.

[Yahoo! JAPAN Selects Datorama to Power Data-Driven Insights Across All Yahoo! JAPAN Premium DSP Clients](#)

NEW YORK, NY--(Marketwired - Mar 2, 2016) - [Datorama](#) today announced that [Yahoo! JAPAN](#) has selected the company to power the analytics infrastructure behind the Yahoo! JAPAN Premium DSP (Demand Side Platform) reporting suite for analytics and insight-generation across their entire client base. Yahoo! JAPAN's DSP service enables ad distribution that leverages big data and high-quality media. With Datorama, Yahoo! JAPAN is able to use data to drive more informed decisions, more easily and efficiently than previously possible.

As one of the most visited internet destinations in Japan, Yahoo! JAPAN generates over 63 billion monthly page views as of Q3 FY2015. As such, the company's advertising campaigns generate massive amounts of data, representing a huge opportunity for greater client ROI and operational efficiency when the data can be harnessed at scale.

"Within weeks, Datorama helped us overcome a critical business challenge as accessing, analyzing and reporting daily on campaigns has become too immense to be done manually. Already we have been able to achieve an improvement in the quality and speed of our performance monitoring and reporting," said **Masanaga Konishi, senior manager, head of DSP, Yahoo! JAPAN.**

Working with Yahoo! JAPAN's campaign management team, Datorama automated the process of data aggregation, production and distribution with its [Marketing Integration Engine](#) to provide over 100 dashboards customized for each campaign. Datorama is pulling data from variety of sources including CRM and ad servers. Armed with the right data and making use of the platform's intelligent email and notification alerts, Yahoo! JAPAN's teams can now respond quickly to changes in campaign performance with actions that result in maximum ROI for clients and the organization.

The platform's patent-pending artificial intelligence-based (AI) architecture enables companies to scale their data needs without downtime or expensive professional service engagements.

"Datorama gives us a future-proof solution that allows us to monitor and analyze a client's campaign performance at the speed our clients expect with less time, expense and project risk than any alternatives we've tried or tested. Our business will benefit from deeper insights gained from the data that we were previously not able to understand and act on. After working with other solutions on the market, we found Datorama was unique in its ability to solve our operational efficiency challenges today and into the future as our clients and campaigns multiply," continued Konishi.

Datorama has gained significant customer traction worldwide, onboarding more than 2000 new brands and agencies across 23 industry verticals on their platform as the company enters 2016. The company was ranked third on the prestigious 2015 Deloitte Israel Fast 50-Rising Star list recognizing Datorama's extraordinary revenue growth rate of 694 percent.

"Yahoo! JAPAN is an innovative and forward-thinking organization with the kinds of data challenges that Datorama is designed to solve," said Ran Sarig, co-founder and CEO, Datorama. "We're excited to help Yahoo! JAPAN execute on their vision for a unified approach to digital advertising and look forward to driving additional value as Yahoo! JAPAN's data insight needs continue to grow and evolve."

About Datorama

Datorama is a U.S.-based marketing intelligence company that provides the world's first marketing data hub to help executives, analysts and IT professionals quickly manage and confidently execute upon vast amounts of data. It provides the capability, in today's fast-paced industry, to quickly gain control and confidence in marketing decisions -- even with the rapid introduction of new technologies, goals and metrics. From data management to visualization, Datorama handles it all -- enabling marketers to make real-time decisions across an ever-expanding landscape of marketing channels.

Datorama has a global presence with offices located in North America, Latin America, EMEA and APAC.

Airspan Networks Partners with Jin=Magic to Improve the Delivery of TCP Traffic Over LTE

“Q-Magic” Technology Dramatically Increases the Stability and Number of Concurrent Video Streams Supported by Airspan’s [LTE](#) eNodeBs

BARCELONA, [Spain](#) –(Marketwired – Feb 21, 2016) – Airspan Networks Inc., a leading [Provider](#) of LTE small cells and small cell backhaul solutions announced today it will be demonstrating Q-Magic, from Tokyo based software developer Jin-Magic Inc., to enhance the video streaming in Airspan’s LTE small cell product lines.

Wireless carriers around the world continue to face the challenge of keeping up with the capacity demands of video hungry users. As networks become increasingly congested carriers are forced to invest in additional infrastructure to provide a high quality user experience. With “Q-Magic” technology integrated into Airspan’s class leading LTE small cells there is a dramatic increase in the number of users that can be satisfied by each LTE base station.

Q-Magic works by reducing TCP network latency and jitter, while remaining compatible with all IP and LTE industry standards. The solution has a very small memory and processing overhead and runs across Airspan’s entire family of LTE eNodeB solutions, namely AirUnity, AirVelocity, AirSynergy, [Air4G](#) and AirHarmony.

“This live demonstration of Airspan’s enhanced LTE small cells capacity again demonstrates the additional innovation Airspan brings to LTE network operators who continue to look for increases in their video streaming network capacity,” said Moti Bitter Airspan’s Vice President, Product Management. “Q-magic is standards-based and was quickly and efficiently integrated to our small cell eNodeBs. This capability enables our small cells to intelligently maximize the number of customers that can be satisfied without making any changes to the standard air interface or networking protocols.”

“We are very pleased to be able to contribute to Airspan’s industry leading capabilities,” said Koji Morihiro, CEO, Jin-Magic, Inc. “The demonstration shows how our unique software can transparently integrate into existing wireless network solutions and immediately contribute to improve the flow of [Internet](#) traffic and quality of user experience in a big way.”

Airspan’s small cell portfolio provides a comprehensive set of solutions for the deployment LTE small cells in Indoor, Outdoor and Rural use cases. AirUnity, AirVelocity, AirSynergy,



Air4G, AirHarmony and V-RAN AirSymphony platform, which supports the IP-CoMP solution represent the industry's most ground-breaking and disruptive LTE RAN solutions, radically changing the economics of providing high capacity LTE service. The IP-CoMP scheme complements our iRelay/iBridge backhaul technology, providing another way to build advanced "Cloud" based RAN.

To view this demonstration, please drop by Airspan's booth #6J30 at the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona or contact Airspan Networks or Jin-Magic.

About Jin-Magic, Inc

Jin-Magic is a technology leader in developing innovative solutions for wireless and wired network optimization patented in major markets around the world including [Japan](#), U.S., Europe, and [China](#). Based in Tokyo, Japan, Jin-Magic provides drop-in network optimization software solutions that can dramatically improve the efficiency and capacity of existing networks and networking equipment. www.jin-magic.com

About Airspan Networks Inc.

Airspan (OTC PINK: [AIRO](#)) is a leading LTE RAN solution provider, with over 1000 customers in over 100 countries. Airspan is regularly recognized as a leader and pioneer in LTE Access and innovative Backhaul solutions. Airspan has an expansive product portfolio, which includes indoor and outdoor small cells, and all-outdoor, compact Micro and Macro base stations, a wide variety of user devices, and advanced core network products. These connectivity solutions operate in bands from 400 MHz up to 6.4 GHz.

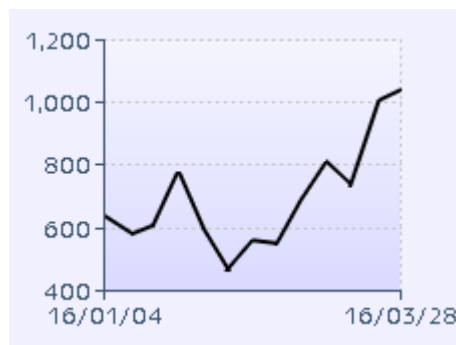
Sun Corp Stock (6736) is Soaring Because the FBI Cracked the San Bernardino Shooter's iPhone

[Jen Wiczner](#) **Fortune** MARCH 29, 2016

The U.S. government's announcement Monday that it [hacked](#) into the San Bernardino terrorist's iPhone ended the FBI's legal feud with Apple. But while many observers thought the incident left both the FBI and Apple looking foolish, there does appear to be a winner emerging from the case.

Shares of **Suncorp, a Japanese technology** company traded on the Tokyo stock exchange (ticker: 6736), soared 17% on Tuesday following the government's

court declaration that it “successfully accessed the data stored on [Syed] Farook’s iPhone.” In all, Suncorp’s shares have more than doubled in the six weeks since February 16, when Apple published its letter refusing to help the FBI.



Suncorp, which specializes in mobile data transfer as well as equipment for a popular Japanese pinball-like game called pachinko, **owns Cellebrite, the Israel-based company** that reportedly [helped the FBI](#) crack the iPhone.

Apple’s stock, meanwhile, was up just about 2% Tuesday afternoon, despite the fact that it is now free of legal expenses relating to the FBI case as well as the [technological burden](#) the government tried to impose.

Suncorp’s shares started rising last month, and really took off after the government said last Wednesday that an “outside party” had demonstrated “a possible method for unlocking” the iPhone. An Israeli newspaper quickly identified the unnamed company as Cellebrite, a government contractor that makes a [mobile forensic device](#) for extracting and decoding data from smartphones and tablets. Since then, Suncorp’s stock has risen nearly 40%, while Japan’s Nikkei 225 stock market index has been basically flat, and fell slightly on Tuesday.

The odd thing about the company’s dramatic stock rise is that neither the FBI nor Suncorp has confirmed the company was involved in unlocking the phone. In fact, the FBI has said very little so far about [how it might have cracked the iPhone](#).

After the FBI accessed the San Bernardino shooter’s iPhone, *Fortune* asked Cellebrite to confirm its assistance with the process. An external spokesperson for the company said that Cellebrite was “unable to provide a comment on this topic,” but added that the company is typically unable to discuss active investigations and cases, unless a customer specifically

asks it to comment publicly. While that's true even for lower profile cases, the Apple vs. FBI feud is a "bit of a sticky wicket for everybody," the spokesperson said.

Still, in the past week since the FBI said it thought it found a way to unlock the iPhone, the law enforcement agency struck multiple deals with Suncorp's Cellebrite, *Fortune* has learned. On Monday, the FBI purchased \$218,000 worth of IT supplies from Cellebrite—the same day the government said it had extracted the data from the phone.

The FBI also purchased more than \$15,000 worth of IT software from Cellebrite on March 21, the day after the bureau said it received a demo from a third party with a promising method for accessing the phone, and that it would undertake further testing. (See a demo on [YouTube](#) explaining Cellebrite's method for unlocking an iPhone that has been disabled for too many failed password attempts.)

Government purchase records show the FBI bought more than \$233,000 in IT software and supplies from Cellebrite in the week since it said it found a way to unlock the terrorist's iPhone. General Services Administration

FBI categorized its purchases from Cellebrite as "radio and television broadcasting and wireless communications equipment manufacturing." Cellebrite's mobile forensics technology includes a standalone device that connects to smartphones as well as GPS units, along with software for detecting a suspect's communication and movement patterns. Of course, it is possible that the FBI bought the equipment for another purpose, and investors may have heated up on Suncorp for the wrong reason.

Nonetheless, the FBI has not signed any other supplier deals in March, according to the records that are publicly available. Even if Cellebrite never confirms that it helped unlock the phone, all that matters for Suncorp's shares is that investors believe it did.

[TowerJazz and 3PEAK, Inc. Announce Further Collaboration and Dual Sourcing at TowerJazz Panasonic Semiconductor Co.'s Fab in Japan](#)

Strategic partnership and extended collaboration with 3PEAK reinforces TowerJazz's commitment to China customers

MIGDAL HAEMEK, Israel, SUZHOU, China, and TONAMI, Japan, March 30, 2016 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- TowerJazz, the global specialty foundry leader, announced today dual fab sourcing for 3PEAK, Inc., a provider of high-end analog and mixed-signal electronic products, at TowerJazz Panasonic Semiconductor Co.'s (TPSCo's) fab in Japan.

3PEAK designs and manufactures a broad range of high performance analog integrated circuits, with emphasis on low power, low noise, and high precision. 3PEAK products are manufactured solely by TowerJazz, and have been in production in its 200mm fab in Israel for many years. Now, the companies are extending their strategic partnership with dual sourcing capabilities and 3PEAK's products have already been qualified and are being mass produced at TPSCo's 200mm fab in Tonami, Japan.

3PEAK provides the market and customers with analog chips of high performance, high reliability, and better cost performance. Product applications cover various fields such as: consumer markets, industrial areas, medical devices, automotive electronics, communications systems and information security, among others. 3PEAK is manufacturing its high performance analog ICs on TowerJazz's CMOS and power platforms. By using TowerJazz's CMOS process, one of 3PEAK's products was able to achieve 25% smaller chip size as compared to any of its competitors.

TowerJazz and TPSCo's 0.18um power management process includes up to 60V scalable LDMOS devices as well as other advanced analog and optimized power devices like Schottky diodes, etc., needed in today's complex power management chips. It also includes industry leading RF and thermal modeling, predictive parasitic extraction switch, high voltage ESD solutions, optimized 5V and 1.8V digital cell libraries for "digital intensive" designs. Continuous investment into the technology and further decrease of Rdson of LDMOS devices further improve efficiency and form factor required for high power applications. TowerJazz's standard logic process adds simplicity and accuracy to analog and mixed-signal designs achieving cost-effective solutions.

"Their exceptional support, combined with their superior technology is the reason TowerJazz is our sole vendor of choice. TowerJazz's advanced power platform enables excellent analog performance and has made it possible for 3PEAK to win the market with our highly competitive products," said Dr. Joe Zhou, CEO, 3PEAK, Inc. "We are pleased to further our relationship with TowerJazz, taking advantage of their ability to ensure capacity with dual sourcing capabilities through TPSCo's Japan fabs. In 2015, 3PEAK's IC shipments increased 35% compared with 2014. With dual sourcing capabilities, we expect to have an increase of 200% in 2016."

"3PEAK's commitment to solely manufacture its devices at TowerJazz's fabs is a testimony to our world class design enablement and superior power and analog technologies. We have offered our manufacturing capabilities to 3PEAK for many years at our fab in Israel and now we are pleased to offer dual sourcing in Japan at TPSCo, providing assuredness of supply and a closer proximity to China," said Mr. Todd Mahlen, Vice President of Asia Pacific Sales and China Business Development, TowerJazz.

About 3PEAK

3PEAK Inc. designs and manufactures high-end analog and mixed-signal electronic products. Headquartered in the Suzhou Industrial Park in China, its operations also include an R&D center in Shanghai, as well as sales and FAE support in ten cities around China. By combining its advanced design technology with market demand, 3PEAK provides both IC products and solutions with extremely high performance/price ratio to its customers. Major products are in the area of power management, such as operational amplifiers, video filters, audio line drivers, ADC, and DAC, among others. These products can be widely used in consumer electronics, industrial, medical and automobile applications. For more information, visit www.3peakic.com.cn.

About TowerJazz

Tower Semiconductor Ltd. (NASDAQ: TSEM, TASE: TSEM) and its fully owned U.S. subsidiary Jazz Semiconductor, Inc. operate collectively under the brand name TowerJazz, the global specialty foundry leader. TowerJazz manufactures integrated circuits, offering a broad range of customizable process technologies including: SiGe, BiCMOS, mixed-signal/CMOS, RF CMOS, CMOS image sensor, integrated power management (BCD and 700V), and MEMS. TowerJazz also provides a world-class design enablement platform for a quick and accurate design cycle as well as Transfer Optimization and development Process Services (TOPS) to IDMs and fabless companies that need to expand capacity.

To provide multi-fab sourcing and extended capacity for its customers, TowerJazz operates two manufacturing facilities in Israel (150mm and 200mm), two in the U.S. (200mm) and three additional facilities in Japan (two 200mm and one 300mm) through **TowerJazz Panasonic Semiconductor Co.**(TPSCo), established with Panasonic Corporation of which TowerJazz has the majority holding. Through TPSCo, TowerJazz provides leading edge 45nm CMOS, 65nm RF CMOS and 65nm 1.12um pixel technologies, including the most advanced image sensor technologies

Teva and Takeda reorganize joint venture of Japan

Israel's Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd and Japan's Takeda Pharmaceutical Co Ltd **named Hiroshi Matsumori** on Thursday as the chief executive of their new joint venture in Japan.

The companies also said the joint venture, **Teva Takeda Yakuhin Ltd**, would be renamed **Teva Takeda Pharma Ltd** after October.

Matsumori is a 34-year veteran of the pharmaceutical industry and has worked in the generic drugs business, the companies said on Thursday.

He will assume his role as chief executive on April 25 and will be based in Nagoya city.

The joint venture, announced in November, will help Teva bring its portfolio of generic drugs to Japan, where a rapidly aging population is in need of affordable medications.

Teva will have a 51 percent stake in the company and Takeda will own 49 percent.

Takeda said it expected to record a gain of 100 billion yen (\$890 million) from the sale of some assets to the joint venture in full-year 2016.

Eisai gains marketing authorization for Lenvima in Israel

09-03-2016 THE PHARMALETTER

Japanese pharma major Eisai (TYO: 4523) has received regulatory marketing authorization in Israel for its novel in-house developed anticancer agent **Lenvima** (lenvatinib), it has been announced.

Eisai will partner with the **Neopharm group** to ensure the drug is made available to eligible patients in Israel, the company said in a statement.

Lenvatinib is indicated for the treatment of adult patients with progressive locally advanced or metastatic, differentiated (papillary, follicular, Hürthle cell) thyroid carcinoma (DTC) refractory to radioactive iodine (RAI).

According to research by the International Agency for Research on Cancer, the incidence of thyroid cancer has increased in Israel over the past few decades with experts estimating the number of people living with the condition to be in the region of 750.

The figures reveal there has been a marked increase in thyroid cancer incidence in a number of Israeli subpopulations, the highest being in Jewish women.

Efi Shnaidman, general manager of Neopharm in Israel, said: "We welcome the chance to continue to work in partnership with Eisai to bring an important new treatment option to people living with advanced thyroid cancer across Israel."

Lenvatinib is an oral molecular tri-specific targeted therapy that possesses a potent selectivity and a binding mode different to other tyrosine kinase inhibitors. In trials, it demonstrated a statistically significant prolonged progression-free survival in RAI refractory DTC versus placebo.

The relation between EISAI and NEOPHARM were initiated by HAREL-HERTZ

Gaprise to represent WALKME in Japan

WalkMe provides a platform that plugs into existing products, and a business can use it to create their own ideal walk-throughs the service in question. (It's a little like the little animated assistant Clippy in Microsoft Word in that respect.) The service is charged in buckets, Adika tells me, based on how much the site or software is used.

With many implementations aimed at cutting down the usage of live customer support, the cost-savings can be significant. One minute of support by phone can cost a company \$4, and Adika claims that using WalkMe can bring down the number of support calls by 31 percent.

WalkMe Inc, founded in 2011, launched the WalkMe guidance and engagement platform in April 2012 with the vision to transform the world's online user experience into one that was simple, effortless and efficient.

Today, WalkMe's platform is used by over 700 enterprise service providers and SaaS vendors, including many Fortune 500 companies.

Challenge finalist: CandorMap (Israel)

Patent data is a gold mine of information for new businesses. Retrieving it, however, can be like finding a needle in a haystack. **CandorMap** has developed technology that makes the process a snap, earning it the nickname the "Google of intellectual property and patents" by the Pioneers jury.

Using big-data and text-mining technology, the company arranges patents from around the world on an interactive map according to their similarities. Users can navigate the map to retrieve all the information they are seeking. Beyond just enabling efficient searches, the

system also extracts business information and market trends, helping identify risks and opportunities.

Assaf Thon, the company's founder and CEO, has over 20 years of management experience in the intellectual property industry. While serving as CEO of a startup that developed nanomaterial technologies and products, he saw an opportunity for a new business model relating to IP that would serve users better in terms of transaction costs and growth. "This led me to realize that patents are an ever-growing data source covering almost every aspect of innovation," Thon said.

Challenge finalist: Routrek Networks (Japan)

There is no lack of agricultural problems today. Globally, water and food shortages loom large. Locally, to cite Japan as an example, farmers are growing older and fewer in number. It was with these challenges in mind that **Routrek Networks** developed its **ZeRo.agri** automated watering and fertilizing system for greenhouses, which the company says can increase crop yields by an average of 20%. The system uses sunshine and soil sensors to monitor crop growth, and a special algorithm to determine precise water and fertilizer needs.

By combining big-data solutions with an automated **irrigation system provided by an Israeli company**, "we can reduce overall water usage in agriculture by at least 50%," the company said.

The system is already in use at more than 20 farms in Japan. "I expect [it] to help nurture new farmers in Japan by appealing to those with little experience in agriculture," said CEO Shinichi Sasaki.

Sasaki is also eyeing the global market: In March, the company plans to begin using the system to grow tomatoes in China and Vietnam on a trial basis.

CEO: *Shinichi Sasaki*

<http://www.routrek.co.jp/>

April

FOLLOWING EARTHQUAKES, ISRAAID SENDS RELIEF TEAMS TO JAPAN, ECUADOR

The Israeli international relief organization **IsraAID** has sent a delegation to southern Japan, where more than 50 people were killed and thousands injured following two strong earthquakes in the Kumamoto province last Thursday.

The Israeli relief delegation in Japan comes after another IsraAID delegation was dispatched to Ecuador, where another earthquake killed more than 70 people and injured hundreds on Saturday.

In addition to distributing food, the IsraAID volunteers are offering medical and psychological assistance to the affected communities.

“In addition to the dozens of volunteers of IsraAID who are working hard to provide support to the teams on the ground IsraAID plans to provide ongoing support to both countries and regions in need,” the organization said in a statement, the *Jerusalem Post* reported.

“The devastation is beyond words and tens of thousands of people are taking shelter in the more than 600 evacuation centers,” added Yotam Polizer, IsraAID’s Asia director.

In a statement posted to Facebook, the organization said it would provide much-needed supplies and trauma care to those in need, “as well as open child friendly spaces in the affected area to offer a safe place for women and their children.”

Japan's keizai Doyukai business leaders come to learn Israeli 'chutzpah'

In a sign of ever growing bond, Japan Association of Corporate Executives picks Israel as first destination to learn key to innovation.

By Arutz Sheva



Rivlin with the Japanese business leaders

Mark Neyman/GPO

President Reuven Rivlin on Sunday met with a visiting delegation from the Keizai Doyukai, the Japan Association of Corporate Executives, as the leading captains of industry from the Land of the Rising Sun spend time in the Jewish state.

Leading the 16-strong delegation of corporate presidents and executives from Japan's largest businesses is Dr. Yoshimitsu Kobayashi, chairman of the Keizai Doyukai and chairman of Mitsubishi Chemical Corporation.

The delegation is currently in Israel with a goal of learning how Israeli innovation developed and what has caused its success.

In a significant step, members of the organization chose Israel as the first destination for a trip by the Keizai Doyukai outside of Japan.

"It is a great pride for us that you chose to visit us as a first destination," Rivlin told the Japanese executives. "Some of you have been here in the past and even studied here. Everyone knows that Israel isn't rich in natural resources, and despite that, we merit to enjoy our greatest resource, the human mind."

"Innovation and initiative is the Israeli way to make the impossible possible. For us, Israelis and Japanese, there is a lot in common in this topic as well. It is a great joy to cooperate with you."

As indicated by Rivlin, aside from showing the power of Israeli innovation, the decision to first visit Israel also highlights the growing bonds between Israel and Japan.

The two nations have [become key allies](#) through a rapid series of mutual agreements and meetings that were set off in May 2014 when Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu held an official visit to Japan. The visit was reciprocated in January 2015, when Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe made an historic visit to the Jewish state.

Dr. Kobayashi, chairman of the Keizai Doyukai, thanked Rivlin for his hospitality and said, "I studied here and I visited Israel several times and I dreamed of returning - this morning we realized a dream."

"There is nothing more important than the human mind, and therefore Japan and Israel can together bring good and innovation to the world."

Kobayashi added that during a visit to an Israeli company on Sunday morning, the delegations were given their answer as to the source of Israel's success in the field of innovation.

"In Israel, there is no such thing as impossible, thanks to Israeli *chutzpah*," he said with a smile, using a Hebrew term meaning both audacity and insolence.

Drugmaker Takeda takes a friendlier approach to generics

HIROYUKI KITAZAWA and KENJI ASADA, Nikkei staff writers

TOKYO -- In a strategic about-face, Japan's [Takeda Pharmaceutical](#) has teamed up with Israeli generic drug company [Teva Pharmaceutical Industries](#) to manufacture and sell Takeda products no longer covered by patents.

Generic-drug makers have long been a thorn in Takeda's side, as cheaper versions of off-patent products cut into its market share. The company's "if you can't beat them, join them" approach highlights the growing challenges facing companies involved in new drug development.

From foe to friend

The joint venture was formed on April 1, the start of a fiscal year in Japan. To help get the partnership off to an amicable start, its employees received booklets on the two companies' histories and operations, as well as cookies bearing their corporate logos.

Under the deal, Takeda has transferred operations of about 30 of its off-patent products, including hypertension treatment Blopess, to the Israeli company. Sales from these drugs totaled 125 billion yen (\$1.15 billion) in fiscal 2014, accounting for about 20% of Takeda's total sales of prescription drugs in Japan. In exchange, it has gained a 49% stake in Teva Pharma Japan from Teva Pharmaceutical.

Takeda has been working to globalize its operations in recent years. In 2011, it acquired Swiss pharmaceutical company Nycomed, and Christophe Weber, a former executive of U.K. drugmaker GlaxoSmithKline, became president in 2014.

These moves have raised concern among Takeda's Japanese business partners. To ease their anxiety, Weber reassured a group of Japanese drug wholesalers at a meeting in March that Takeda will not leave Japan to expand into global markets. The country remains Takeda's biggest source of revenue.

Rise of generics

Even though generic drugs use the same ingredients as off-patent treatments, they are less expensive, as the makers do not have to recoup development costs. This means that generics often eat into the market share of once-patented drugs. Domestic sales of Takeda's Blopess, for instance, dropped 40% on the year in April-December 2015, as its patent had expired.

To curb Japan's ballooning medical expenses, the government aims to increase the market share of generic drugs to 80% or more by fiscal 2020 from about 60% now. This could signal a tougher time ahead for manufacturers of new drugs.

Masato Iwasaki, the Takeda director in charge of negotiations with Teva, noted the sharp rise of generic drugs in the U.S. and elsewhere and became convinced that Japan, where off-patent drugs continue to sell well, will not be able to buck that trend for much longer. For that reason, he said, he has been looking to "separate off-patent drugs since four years ago."

Searching for a partner that could give Takeda the best possible deal, Iwasaki set his sights on Teva. Although the Israeli company boasts sales of over 2 trillion yen worldwide, surpassing those of Takeda, Teva has suffered a number of setbacks in its Japan business.

In 2008, Teva joined hands with midtier Japanese pharmaceutical maker Kowa. to break into the Japanese market, but the two companies soon ended their joint venture due to a difference in their strategies. Looking to make a comeback, Teva bought Japan's third-biggest generics maker, Taiyo Pharmaceutical Industry, in 2011, but had to stop selling nearly 100 products due in part to concerns over supply stability.

Hospitals and drugstore operators, afraid of running out of stock, grew cautious about doing business with Teva. As a result, Teva, too, was looking for a new partner in Japan, said Shaul Mukhtar, senior vice president of Teva Japan & South Korea. Takeda's strong

brand recognition and sales network could catapult Teva to the top of Japan's generic market, Mukhtar said.

For its part, Takeda will receive profits in proportion to its investment ratio, plus sales commissions in exchange for providing access to its distribution network. What's more, the company will continue to produce even those off-patent drugs that are transferred to Teva. Takeda will benefit from the entire operations of the joint venture, Weber said.

Nevertheless, the transfer of off-patent drugs will likely hurt Takeda's bottom line, with a sales decline of about 50 billion yen expected for fiscal 2016.

Teva has a majority stake in the joint venture and has appointed a new president who will take office in late April. Continued diligence on Takeda's part is a must, however, as any problems with product quality or supply at the joint venture would inevitably hurt Takeda's own corporate brand.

MediWound's NexoBrid to be Available in Japan through Kaken Pharmaceuticals Co., Ltd.

By GlobeNewswire, April 26, 2016,

YAVNE, Israel, **MediWound Ltd.** (Nasdaq:[MDWD](#)), a fully-integrated biopharmaceutical company bringing innovative therapies to address unmet needs in severe burn and wound management, announces the signing of an agreement granting **Kaken Pharmaceuticals Co., Ltd. (KAKEN)** (Tokyo Stock Exchange:4521) exclusive rights to develop and distribute NexoBrid® in Japan for the treatment of severe burns.

Sales of NexoBrid in Japan will commence after KAKEN completes the local research and development requirements and obtains local regulatory approval from the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW), which are expected to be granted within two years, or possibly longer.

"We are particularly pleased to partner with KAKEN for the development and distribution of NexoBrid in Japan as they share our commitment to improving quality-of-life by bringing superior pharmaceuticals to address patients' needs. KAKEN has nearly 70 years of experience in the Japanese pharmaceuticals market, strong local presence and a history of partnering with leading pharmaceutical companies. The introduction of NexoBrid in Japan will provide burn specialists with a new minimally invasive treatment for severe burns, that significantly decreases surgical excision and grafting, leading to reduction in the long-term incidence of scarring in severe burn patients," stated Gal Cohen, President and Chief Executive Officer of MediWound. "We look forward to

working closely with KAKEN towards a successful market entry in this important market."

This agreement with KAKEN follows similar distribution agreements for NexoBrid in Latin America, Asia Pacific, India and CIS regions, and is in line with MediWound's strategy to expand the reach of NexoBrid to severe burn patients worldwide.

About NexoBrid

NexoBrid is an easy-to-use, topically-applied product that removes dead or damaged tissue, known as eschar, in approximately four hours without harming the surrounding healthy tissues. NexoBrid received marketing authorization from the European Medicines Agency for the removal of eschar in adults with deep partial and full-thickness thermal burns, is commercially available in Europe and Israel and will be launched in Argentina in the coming months. Representing a new paradigm in burn care management, NexoBrid demonstrated in clinical studies, with statistical significance, its ability to non-surgically and rapidly remove the eschar earlier than other modalities, without harming viable tissues. The removal of eschar or "debridement" is a critical first step in the successful healing of severe burns and chronic and other hard-to-heal wounds. With the current standard of care, burn eschar is removed either with existing topical agents that have been found to be minimally effective or that take a significantly longer period of time to work, or by resorting to non-selective surgery, which is traumatic and may result in loss of blood and viable tissue necessitating further surgical treatments.

About Kaken Pharmaceuticals

KAKEN is a specialty pharmaceutical company in Japan with strong experience in developing and commercializing novel pharmaceuticals and medical devices in the fields of orthopedics, dermatology and surgery. KAKEN has concentrated its R&D resources in inflammation/immunology (dermatitis, rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis), pain relief and fungal infection areas.

About MediWound Ltd.

MediWound is a fully-integrated biopharmaceutical company focused on developing, manufacturing and commercializing novel therapeutics based on its patented proteolytic enzyme technology to address unmet needs in the fields of severe burns, chronic and other hard-to-heal wounds. MediWound's first innovative biopharmaceutical product, NexoBrid, received marketing authorization from the European Medicines Agency as well as the Israeli and Argentinian Ministries of Health, for removal of dead or damaged tissue, known as eschar, in adults with deep partial and full-thickness thermal burns and was launched in Europe and Israel, with plans for a launch in Argentina.

NexoBrid represents a new paradigm in burn care management, and clinical trials have

demonstrated, with statistical significance, its ability to non-surgically and rapidly remove the eschar earlier and, without harming viable tissues.

SoftBank to offer AI-based cybersecurity service

TOKYO -- [SoftBank Group](#) will shortly launch a service that will help clients thwart cyberattacks by using artificial intelligence.

The company has established a joint venture in Japan with **Cybereason**, a U.S. cybersecurity firm based in Boston, in which Softbank has invested roughly \$50 million. The Boston firm will provide the service in Japan through the venture, targeting manufacturers, financial institutions and government-related agencies that handle sensitive information.

SoftBank will handle sales, pitching the service to Japanese prospects. The joint venture will provide Japanese-language customer support. SoftBank has contributed more than 50% of the project's 200 million yen (\$1.8 million) capital. The enterprise aims to generate 4 billion yen in sales in the year ending March 2018.

As methods of cyberattacks continue to become more sophisticated, it is no longer sufficient to simply install security software in each personal computer. The service to be offered by the venture will help reduce the possibility of information leaks by detecting suspicious activities, such as transfers of files containing secrets to offsite servers. Fees will be set based on factors including the client's number of employees and personal computers.

Cybereason was established by people formerly associated with the Israeli military, which is said to possess the highest level of information security technology in the world. Cybereason also has ties with major U.S. defense contractor Lockheed Martin.

Fintech Startup BlueVine Captures \$40 Million During Series C Funding Round Led By Menlo Ventures and new Investor RAKUTEN FINTECH Fund

[BlueVine](#), an online provider of working capital financing to small businesses, announced on Wednesday it has closed \$40 million in funding, bringing the company's total funding to \$64 million to date.

This Series C funding was led by an investment from Menlo Ventures, with additional participation from new investor Rakuten FinTech Fund, follow-on investments from



Lightspeed Venture Partners, 83NORTH, Correlation Ventures and private investors, as well as a new debt facility from Silicon Valley Bank.

Eyal Lifshitz, CEO and founder of BlueVine, shared:

“We are thrilled to welcome **Menlo Ventures and Rakuten FinTech** Fund to our esteemed group of investors and to embark on our next phase of growth. BlueVine has ushered factoring into the modern age while bringing much-needed transparency, efficiency and speed to the industry. With this capital infusion, our team is excited to work with more SMB owners to solve their cash-flow challenges on a greater scale.”

BlueVine will use this investment to bolster its management ranks, develop new features and fuel expansion into new verticals. BlueVine saw a 12x increase in funded invoices in 2015, and is on track to fund more than \$200 million in working capital in the next year. Since launching in March 2014, BlueVine’s cloud-based invoice factoring service has helped thousands of small businesses obtain quick, easy access to funds they need to purchase inventory, cover expenses or expand operations.

Tyler Sosin of Menlo Ventures explained:

“BlueVine is bringing automation and a modern web experience to factoring, a massive market that has yet to be optimized by technology. We’re excited to partner with BlueVine to make working capital more accessible to the more than 20 million small businesses across the country.”

BlueVine also announced it has increased its maximum credit line from \$150,000 to \$250,000 for qualified businesses. This represents a 5x increase in BlueVine’s maximum credit line since its previous funding round in January 2015. The company, which offers credit lines starting at \$5,000 with simple, transparent pricing, enables small businesses to get paid within 24 hours instead of waiting for Net 15, Net 30, Net 60 or Net 90 payment cycles.

Rakuten’s Oskar Mielczarek de la Miel, managing partner of the **Rakuten FinTech Fund**, added:

“We are very impressed with BlueVine’s disruptive technology and how it financially empowers the small business community.”

MUV Interactive and Silicon Technology Announce the Launch of Smart Wearable, BIRD In Japan

HERZLIYA, Israel, April 5, 2016 /PRNewswire/ --

MUV Interactive, a developer of innovative technologies for active human sensing, in partnership with **Silicon Technology**, a leader in electronics distribution in Japan, announced the launch of the wearable **BIRD**, an intuitive device worn on the tip of the finger. **BIRD** transforms any surface into a multi-touch interface with 3D interactive capabilities. **BIRD** communicates with the user's computing devices, enabling rich interaction with anything from displayed content and smart home appliances to IOT devices and drones. **BIRD** will be sold through Silicon Technology with partners including, SoftBank Service & Commerce, Synnex Infotec, Ricoh Japan, CSE, Eizo-system, Gakuei System, and Dospara later this year.

BIRD is the first device to integrate the entire spectrum of interactive methods - including touch, remote touch, gesture control, mouse functionality and hover - into a single tiny wearable. This gives users the flexibility to interact with each type of digital content in the most intuitive way.

Silicon Technology recently held a press conference on March 24, 2016 for the launch with many members of the press including, inter alia, PC Watch, Akiba PC Hotline, ASCII, ITmeida and BCN as well as several channel partners, local corporations and academic institutions. The press conference featured a live demo of Bird by creator and CEO Rami Parham.

"We are incredibly excited to see **BIRD** launch in the great country of Japan and to work with MUV Interactive," said Daigoro Shihodo, CEO of Silicon Technology. "Delivering the most innovative solutions to our clients is our top priority and I am confident that **BIRD** will take the corporates and educational markets by storm. We cannot wait to see how the Japanese nation flies with **BIRD**!"

"As country that loves high tech, innovation and great invention, Japan is absolutely a natural choice for this exciting launch. We are confident that, along with the help of our partners, **BIRD** will be a huge success and change the landscape of interaction and cooperation with digital content within the education and corporate sectors in Japan," said Rami Parham, CEO of MUV Interactive.

Masatoshi Morishita, General Manager of MUV Interactive, added: "Silicon Technology, with its many terrific partners, is a great master distributor for MUV Interactive. Together, we have the scale, infrastructure, reputation, experience and complementary high technology portfolio to make BIRD a success in Japan. We are very happy that our partners recognized the quality, effectiveness, novelty and design quality of our flagship product, **BIRD**."

About MUV Interactive

Founded in 2011, MUV Interactive is an Israel-based developer of innovative technologies for wearable interfaces. The company's first product, BIRD, is a wearable device that transforms any surface into a multi-touch interface with 3D interactive capabilities. MUV's multi-disciplinary development team includes industry veterans from Intel, N-trig, Broadcom, Flextronics, Microsoft, IBM, the IDF Intelligence Corp and Technion-Israel Institute of Technology. The company has been named a "Cool Vendor in Human-Machine Interface" by Gartner, received 2 prestigious Frost & Sullivan 2015 Awards for Technology Innovation in Human Machine Interface and New Product Innovation in the Wearable Interfaces Industry and a "2015 Top 100 Europe Winner" by Red Herring. MUV is venture backed, and has raised \$4.5M and has three patents pending in fifteen countries, including the U.S.

E-commerce search engine co Twiggle raises \$12.5m from NASPERs & Yahoo Japan

10/04/2016, Globes

The funding will be utilized to drive the Tel Aviv-based company's aggressive global expansion plans.

Israeli digital commerce search engine company [Twiggle](#) has closed a \$12.5 million series A financing round led by South African global internet and entertainment **group Naspers (JSE:NPN) and with participation from new and existing investors including Yahoo Japan, State of Mind Ventures and Sir Ronald Cohen**. The funding will be utilized to drive the company's aggressive global expansion plans.

Twiggle uses advanced techniques in data science, artificial intelligence, machine learning and natural language processing to power the next generation of digital commerce. The company was founded in 2013 by CEO Dr. Amir Konigsberg and CTO Dr. Adi Avidor.

Dr. Konigsberg said, "Search is an incredibly complicated medium and this complexity has led to a situation of incremental growth and sub-standard optimization. Twiggle is infusing search with an entirely new approach that will allow digital commerce giants to redefine the

shopper's experience, increasing revenues and enabling digital commerce to reach its full potential. We are especially thrilled to have Naspers join us on this journey. They have extensive experience in building some of the world's most powerful global digital commerce brands and their network enables Twigggle to access the prominent players in the industry from the very beginning."

Naspers Ventures CEO Larry Illg said, "Twigggle is setting a new industry standard for ecommerce search and discovery, redefining the sector with a search platform that will bring unparalleled precision and accuracy. This investment is yet another example of our commitment to utilizing our broad network to help identify and support the most exciting digital startups.

NTT Electronics Partners with VideoFlow to Deliver Reliable Broadcast Quality Video over Any IP Network

April 12, 2016

YOKOHAMA, Japan & ROSH HA'AYIN, Israel--([BUSINESS WIRE](#))--NTT Electronics a leading supplier of codec solutions, and VideoFlow a global provider of Digital Video Protection (DVP) solutions, announced today they are partnering to enable the delivery of high reliability, low delay professional-quality video over any IP network.

Committed to providing customers with a reliable and cost-effective solution for video delivery over IP, various NEL encoders now leverage **VideoFlow's DVP Controlled Adaptive Rate (CAR)** technology to ensure continuity of service over unmanaged IP connections. The DVP constantly probes the connection's bitrate capacity. In the event of a change, DVP adapts the NEL MVE5000 encoder bitrate in real time to be slightly below the network capacity, thereby avoiding congestion. The MVE5000 responds to the DVP's commands in a seamless manner, adapting the video bitrate on-the-fly with no interruption to the service.

"We are very excited to work with VideoFlow," said Hisashi Ibaraki, General Manager of the Digital Video & Systems Business Group of NTT Electronics. "They have a highly advanced product portfolio for the video over IP market, and we believe this powerful partnership will provide our valued customers with an extremely efficient and reliable solution to broadcast live video over IP."

The MVE5000 encoder is the newest NEL encoder to benefit from the partnership with VideoFlow. Now, broadcasters looking to deliver live video over IP can choose among the MVE5000 and NEL's HVE9x00 encoder family. The MVE5000 is already the encoder of



choice for many major broadcasters, and the addition of VideoFlow's CAR technology has accelerated the evaluation of this encoder for professional live broadcasts over IP. In addition, MVE5000 can bring users the super low latency, seamless protection switching and multiple FEC functions required to enhance the robustness of the transmission system. NEL will be showcasing this solution at the NTT Group booth at SU5021 and the VideoFlow booth SU10113 during NAB2016 in Las Vegas.

"We are proud to partner with NTT Electronics, which is widely known for their industry-leading products for the contribution market," said Adi Rozenberg, CTO of VideoFlow. "Through this partnership, customers will continue to benefit from NEL's high quality codec products, while VideoFlow's nine layers of video quality protection will enable them to reach 4½ nines (99.995%) service availability over IP connections."

About VideoFlow

VideoFlow is a leading provider of products that enable a secure, uninterrupted and reliable live video broadcast over any IP network. By boosting the reliability of IP networks through patent-pending technology and a rich built-in feature set, VideoFlow's Digital Video Protection (DVP) product line has made service continuity an affordable reality. These products allow customers to accelerate ROI through lower operational costs and new revenue streams.

NTT Electronics

NTT Electronics is a market leader in the fields of digital video, photonics, security, and safety. As a member of the NTT Group, one of the world's leading telecommunications companies, NTT Electronics develops and supplies LSI devices and equipment incorporating superior, state-of-the-art technology for video processing and communications.

Pluristem Continues to Strengthen its Position in Japan – Granted Two Key Cell Therapy Patents

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

HAIFA, Israel, April 13, 2016 -- [Pluristem Therapeutics Inc.](#) (Nasdaq:PSTI) (TASE:PLTR), a leading developer of placenta-based cell therapy products, today announced that the Japan Patent Office has granted the Company two key patents addressing: 1) Pluristem's core technology of three-dimensional expansion methods for producing therapeutic cell

products derived from placental or fat cells; 2) the use of placenta-derived cells grown with this 3D technology to treat disorders of the hematopoietic system, such as disorders caused by exposure to radiation or chemotherapy, and failed engraftment of hematopoietic stem cell transplants. Pluristem continues to strengthen its IP position in order to support the current negotiations with pharmaceutical companies in Japan regarding potential partnerships for the development and commercialization of its PLacental eXpanded (PLX) cells. Pluristem recently received clearance for its protocol for a Phase 2 trial in critical limb ischemia targeting marketing approval in Japan, via Japan's accelerated regulatory pathway for regenerative medicines.

Patent No. 5733894, titled "Methods for Cell Expansion and Uses of Cells and Conditioned Media Produced Thereby for Therapy", covers three-dimensional methods of growing adherent placental or adipose cells, and the cells produced by the claimed methods.

Patent No. 5766041, titled "Pharmaceutical Composition for Enhancing Subject Hematopoietic System", addresses pharmaceutical compositions containing placental stromal cells grown using 3D culturing methods for supporting engraftment of hematopoietic progenitor cells, thus enabling treatment of disorders of the hematopoietic system by promoting the recovery of the immune system and bone marrow function.

"These latest patent grants in Japan fortify our intellectual property position globally, and specifically in the Japanese market, where we are in active negotiations with potential pharmaceutical partners," stated Pluristem Chairman and CEO Zami Aberman. "Our proprietary process and technology for growing placenta-derived cells within a 3D microenvironment make large scale, cost effective cell therapy production a reality, and IP protection of these methods in Japan is a key asset. The use of these cells to treat disorders of the hematopoietic system is an important indication for PLX cells that is now protected in Japan."

About Pluristem Therapeutics

Pluristem Therapeutics Inc. is a leading developer of placenta-based cell therapy products. The Company has reported robust clinical trial data in multiple indications for its patented PLX (PLacental eXpanded) cells. The cells release a cocktail of therapeutic proteins in response to inflammation, ischemia, hematological disorders, and radiation damage. PLX cell products are grown using the Company's proprietary three-dimensional expansion technology. They are off-the-shelf, requiring no tissue matching prior to administration.

Pluristem has a strong intellectual property position; Company-owned and operated, GMP-certified manufacturing and research facilities; strategic relationships with major research

institutions; and a seasoned management team.(©EconoTimes 2015. All Rights Reserved.)

i4drive Partners With Ricoh to Develop Display Equipment for Automotive Use as Part of the Japan-Israel Cooperation Program

OKYO, April 26, 2016 /PRNewswire/ -- [i4drive](#), an Israeli-based company specializing in Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS) announced today that they are partnering with Ricoh Company, Ltd. (OTCMKTS: RICOY), a global leader in electronics manufacturing, to develop special display equipment for automotive use. i4drive technology will be integrated into Ricoh's high level optics display to increase driver safety and enhance the driving experience.

This collaboration will be carried out as part of the Japan-Israel Cooperation Program which is supported by NEDO (New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization in Japan) and OCS (Office of the Chief Scientist of Israel).

The display equipment will be available for car manufacturers and aftermarket vehicles. In addition to driver safety, it will offer a wide range of capabilities, including in-vehicle infotainment, assistance and connectivity. The market for advanced driver assistance systems (ADAS) has grown substantially in recent years and is expected to reach USD 60 billion by 2020.

"The collaboration with Ricoh is another important step for i4drive in expanding its product offering to new markets and industries. We welcome the cooperation between the two companies," stated Adi Goren, Founder and CEO of i4drive.

"We are very pleased to partner with i4drive," commented Dr. Teruaki Mitsuya, Executive General Manager of Imaging Core Technology at Ricoh. "With their technology we can deliver powerful products to the automotive industry. I am confident that this cooperation will bear fruits."

About Ricoh

Ricoh is a global technology company that has been transforming the way people work for more than 80 years. Under its corporate tagline – *imagine. change.* – Ricoh continues to empower companies and individuals with services and technologies that inspire innovation, enhance sustainability and boost business growth. These include document management systems, IT services, production print solutions, digital cameras, and industrial systems. Headquartered in Tokyo, Ricoh Group operates in over 190 countries. In the financial year ending March 2015, Ricoh Group had worldwide sales of 2,231 billion yen (approx. 18.5 billion USD).

About i4drive

i4drive develops computer vision and machine learning technology for automotive, fleet management and insurance telematics applications. The proprietary software-based algorithms can be seamlessly integrated to standard or dedicated cameras, sensors and hardware platforms. i4drive's wide range of products offer driver safety, assistance and analytics to OEMs and Tier 1 suppliers, fleets, mobile operators and insurers. The company was established in 2014 by Adi Goren, Reuven Ulmanky and David (Dudi) Cohen, Israeli police commissioner (Ret.).

Radware's New Japan-Based Scrubbing Center Extends Regional Cloud Security Services to Asia Pacific

New Japan Scrubbing Center Expands Radware's Total Scrubbing Capacity Worldwide to More Than 2Tbps -

[NewswireToday](#) - /newswire/ - Tel Aviv, Israel, 2016/04/

Radware®, a leading provider of cyber security and application delivery solutions ensuring optimal service level for applications in virtual, cloud, and software-defined data centers, today announced the opening of a new scrubbing center in Japan. This new location brings Radware's total global Cloud DDoS protection capacity to more than 2Tbps.

"Our new cloud security scrubbing center in Japan will minimize attack mitigation time for customers of Radware's cloud security services in the region," said Haim Zelikovsky, Vice President of Cloud Business for Radware. "Radware's Japanese customers will benefit from strong in-country DDoS scrubbing capabilities. The scrubbing center will support the whole Asia-Pacific region and will allow us to expand our cloud security services to include

a full range of cloud WAF and DDoS protection services, including our ‘battle proven’ Emergency Response Team (ERT), which provides 24/7 DDoS protection services and mitigates attacks for many of our enterprise customers.”

Radware’s cloud security services include a full range of cloud WAF and DDoS protection services.

Cloud DDoS Scrubbing service: Radware’s cloud-based DDoS protection service provides volumetric DDoS attack mitigation and Internet pipe saturation defense to Radware customers that are currently using Radware’s Attack Mitigation System (AMS) with end-to-end attack mitigation (on-premises and in the cloud). This scalable DDoS protection service automatically engages once AMS detects imminent pipe saturation.

Cloud WAF service: Radware’s Cloud WAF provides full enterprise-grade WAF protection, with full coverage from all OWASP top 10 attacks. The service implements both negative and positive security models by utilizing its unique ability to automatically adapt to the continuously changing threat landscape and defensible online assets. Built with state-of-the-art machine learning technologies, Radware’s Cloud WAF Service automatically detects application domains, analyzes potential vulnerabilities, and assigns optimal protection policies. The service continuously monitors and analyzes application usage patterns, and generates granular baselines for legitimate traffic. This allows rapid detection and mitigation of zero-day attacks, and continuous fine-tuning of security policies due to changing application usage patterns.

About Radware

Radware® (radware.com), is a global leader of application delivery and cyber security solutions for virtual, cloud and software defined data centers. Its award-winning solutions portfolio delivers service level assurance for business-critical applications, while maximizing IT efficiency. Radware’s solutions empower more than 10,000 enterprise and carrier customers worldwide to adapt to market challenges quickly, maintain business continuity and achieve maximum productivity while keeping costs down.

Radware encourages you to join our community and follow us on: Facebook, Google+, LinkedIn, Radware Blog, SlideShare, Twitter, YouTube, Radware Connect app for iPhone® and our security center DDoSWarriors.com that provides a comprehensive analysis on DDoS attack tools, trends and threats.

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countries. All other trademarks and names are property of their respective owners. The Radware products and solutions mentioned in this press release are protected by trademarks, patents and pending patent applications

Far East Asia is discovering Israeli red grapefruit

Despite logistic and regulatory hurdles, the Far East Asia market has become an attractive alternative, both in the size of the market and especially in the prices it can yield. Early data from this season shows more than double the amount of exports from Israel to East Asia countries.

The last few years have seen a downturn for Israeli red grapefruit; both prices and demand in Europe have been low and the lower exchange rate of the Euro has cut into profits. The Russian market has also decreased significantly due to the economic situation in the country and the drastic drop of the Ruble.

With those destinations struggling, the focus of the exports has shifted to other regions, of which East Asia has been most prominent. The vast majority of the fruit sent to that region is going to Japan, South Korea, and China. Israeli exporters have been sending grapefruit to China for many years, but the quantities of fruit sent there have doubled, while Japan and South Korea only began receiving exports in recent years but are already reaching large quantities.

Red Grapefruit exports to Far East countries (in tons)

	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Japan	-	-	-	21	329
South Korea	-	91	455	1,053	2,048
China	1,086	1,333	805	800	1,623
Total	1,086	1,424	1,260	1,874	4,000

These increases have been achieved despite many logistical and regulatory hurdles. Growers and exporters have worked together with the Israeli Citrus Council to register plots that are designated for the East Asian market, including the requisite testing and licensing. Additionally, Israeli companies have made their presence known in conferences and expos in Asia to develop relationships with importers.

Zvi Alon, the CEO of the Israeli Plants Council, which includes the Citrus Council, has stated that his company is making assisting exporters in these markets a top priority.

"The council is investing heavily in the research and development, especially in the citrus industry. This is critical to the continued growth of the sector and the development of new markets like the Far East. We intend to continue pushing the trend of recent years and doing what we can to support Israeli citrus exporters."

Copyright: www.freshplaza.com

Yamanashi camps bring together Israeli, Palestinian students

KYODO, STAFF REPORT
APR 5, 2016

Mari Murahashi, 50, has spent the last nine years bringing together Israeli and Palestinian students at camps in Japan. She sees it as a small step toward mutual understanding.

Peace Field Japan, an award-winning Tokyo-based nonprofit organization, has invited four high school girls each from Israel and the Palestinian territories to join Japanese students at a two-week camp in Kosuge, Yamanashi Prefecture, every summer since 2007.

In March, it won the Japan Foundation's annual Prize for Global Citizenship. The foundation said the group's activities have helped to lay the foundation for international mutual understanding and therefore have enormous significance for society.

"Our activity is a small . . . grass-roots campaign and it feels so great to be recognized," said Murahashi, a Peace Field Japan executive board member.

At last summer's camp, 12 Israeli and Palestinian high school girls and female Japanese high school and university students stayed in the countryside around Kosuge. They jumped into the headwaters of the Tama River, made zori cloth sandals and planted seeds to grow soba (buckwheat), used in making noodles.

During the camp, the students, who embrace different beliefs, traditions and cultures, exchanged opinions and listened to each other, according to Murahashi. "Having learned about each other's lives as they really are and the importance of their living environment, they deepened mutual understanding," she said.

At one point in the camp, the Israelis and Palestinians were not getting on too well even though they had not spoken about the long-standing Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Yet they shed tears when they left Japan, appreciating the rare opportunity to talk with each other.

"I was happy to have been able to create a bond with people from different nations," said a participant from Israel, according to the NPO's website. "I learned through this program that verbal communication isn't the most important (tool) when making friends."

Another Palestinian participant said the people at the camp had been like a “second family.” “I hope someday we will all meet again. Next time, I would like to return as one of the staff.”

The participating Japanese students, meanwhile, served as a bridge between the Israeli and Palestinian students and got a first look at the reality of friction in the Middle East. One of the Japanese students quoted on the website said the biggest change after taking part had been the feeling that conflicts in the Middle East were now became more personal.

Some of them later told Murahashi that they will try to work for international organizations in the future.

Murahashi had plenty of experience of international problems. She worked at the Japan External Trade Organization for more than six years and lived in Israel for four of them, where she accompanied her husband, a fellow JETRO employee, on his assignments in the country.

It was in Israel that she got involved in environmental education as a volunteer, an experience that helped form the basis of her current project.

May

Herzliya to issue tender for two islands



31/05/2016,

Japanese delegations that visited Israel last month said that the islands for housing and an airport were feasible.

The Herzliya municipality will soon issue an international tender to examine the feasibility of building artificial islands along Israel's coastline. The tender will include consideration of two islands: one for housing and the other for an airport for internal flights. Japanese delegations that visited Israel last month said that the islands were feasible. At the same time, the Tel Aviv municipality is preparing another plan for an artificial island on which an international airport and other infrastructure will be built.

An airport on an artificial island is common in wealthy and densely populated areas in the Far East. Almost all the airports built in recent years in Hong Kong, Macau, and Japan are on artificial islands. Discussion of such an artificial island in Israel began 20 years ago, when Israel and the Netherlands signed a memorandum of intent for cooperation in the construction of artificial islands in the Mediterranean Sea.

Nothing has happened since then other than talk. In 2002, the government approved the construction of two artificial islands off the Mediterranean coast: one for an airport off the Tel Aviv shore and one residential island opposite Bat Yam. In 2006, then-Minister of Transport Shaul Mofaz declared that his ministry would promote the construction of an artificial island, and that the feasibility check would take place in the first quarter of 2007. In 2012, the government approved the forming of an inter-ministerial steering committee for considering the technological feasibility of an island.

The Herzliya and Tel Aviv municipalities are now going into higher gear by planning construction of artificial islands on which an airport will be built. Herzliya city engineer Mike

Sacca told "Globes" that the municipality's vision was to build two islands: one three kilometers from the shore and the other four kilometers away, between the Herzliya marina and the Apolonia site. He added that 40,000 housing units, hotels, and a stadium would be built on one of the islands, while an airport for internal and commercial flights would be built on the other. "There is no alternative to building islands," Sacca declared. "We need an airport and more housing units. There isn't enough room for this on land."

Sacca estimates the cost of building the two islands at NIS 4 billion with Herzliya municipality having already invested NIS 650,000 in planning and feasibility tests.

Tel Aviv council member Etai Pinkas says that Tel Aviv is considering building islands directly west of the Glilot interchange. Road 5 would be extended along a bridge one kilometer into the Mediterranean to islands holding an international airport and a desalination plant.

Published by Globes [online], Israel business news - www.globes-online.com - on May 31, 2016

Israeli Food Exports Gain Popularity as Economic Ties Expand in East Asia

by **TheTower.org Staff** | 05.30.16

As Israel's economic ties expand across East Asia, so does the popularity of the Jewish state's food products.

Costco stores throughout Japan hosted an Israeli food festival last week, featuring pita, matza, Wissotsky teas, Angel cookies, Adafresh spices, Hanasich tahini, and a variety of Israeli wines. The festival was sponsored by the Israel Export Institute and the economic attaché of the Israeli Ministry of Economy office in Tokyo.

"In 2015, the government decided to take steps to strengthen the economic relations between Israel and Japan. The Israeli and Japanese prime ministers held reciprocal visits over the past several years under this framework," Ohad Cohen, exports manager for the Ministry of Economy, **told** Ynet. "We've seen great interest for Israeli products and technological cooperation from Japanese companies in a variety of fields including the medical, communications, pharmaceutical, and automation fields," he added.

The initial contacts between dozens of Israeli and Japanese companies has led to over \$1 million in exports.

Yahoo Japan and Alibaba invests \$5-10 million in Israeli e-commerce search revolutionary Twiggle

Geektime and others

Twiggle's groundbreaking technology works with e-commerce giants to make the online shopping experience more natural

Coming a little over a month after the news broke of their sizeable [Series A](#), Israel-based Twiggle announced today that they have secured a follow-on investment from the e-commerce giant Alibaba and Yahoo Japan

While the exact amount of the deal is unlikely to be disclosed, this second tranche of their Series A is believed to be somewhere in the \$5 to 10 million range. When added to the \$2.2 million seed and the \$12.5 million from the first part of the round that came from strategic investor Naspers, along with State of Mind Ventures and Sir Ronald Cohen, their total funding to date comes into the very respectable vicinity of \$20 million.

[Twiggle](#) was co-founded in December 2013 by CEO Dr. Amir Konigsberg, previously one of the members of Google's emerging markets operations and former managing director of MySupermarket.com, and Dr. Adi Avidor, a former engineering tech lead at Google.

The company's groundbreaking technology works with e-commerce giants to make the online shopping experience more natural, allowing consumers to describe what they are looking for in real human language and receive results that are actually relevant.

This can mean searching Amazon for the "smartphone with the best battery" and seeing smartphones with highly rated batteries. If you try this now, you will likely just see a set of external batteries. Go try it. I'll wait.

Okay, so that was painful. Right?

Are you ready for something different?

Market validation from strategic investors

Speaking on the participation of strategic investors like [Alibaba](#) and Naspers, Konigsberg tells *Geektime* that, "They saw the value and huge potential for the industry and therefore wanted to be part of this, hence we thought it was a fantastic idea to put this together."

"For a startup funding round to get to such significant voices in the Internet and e-commerce world, participating together in the same company is a very big validation of the market fit of our product and the enthusiasm for the type of solution we have," he says, adding that, "It's very rare to have two such large strategic companies participating in the same round."

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While there may have been a slowdown in some parts of the industry from VCs over the past two quarters, particularly in the U.S., Konigsberg says that they have not felt the ripples affecting the interest on their side of the pond.

“We are having a lot of interest from top tier VCs,” Konigsberg tells Geektime. “But the interesting thing about strategic investors is that in many cases they see game changing companies that beside bringing a sizeable return on investment for their own money, can actually bring value either to their own portfolio of assets or larger strategic considerations.”

This round was primarily a strategic investor one, even with the participation of State of Mind Ventures. As Konigsberg sees it, working with the strategic investors opens up the gateway to important networks where they will be able to deploy their product down the road.

They want to demonstrate their value within the sphere of the strategic investors’ interests.

Konigsberg says that they want to show value very quickly, and believes that partnering with such large and strategic groups will help them reach their goals. He adds though that they are working to scale up in a manageable and well thought out manner, preferring to work with a limited number of clients at first, making sure that they do the job right before expanding out more extensively.

Post funding planning

Konigsberg tells Geektime that on the technology development side they want to scale their infrastructure to deal with what he terms “copious amounts of data.” Since they are dealing with the rapidly expanding collection of e-commerce data, contending with hundreds of thousands of searches a second, they understand the need to ramp up their abilities to take on this Herculean task of handling them quickly.

In particular, he notes that in order to better work with the product data, they need to create large amounts of metadata that describe the items listed in their clients’ databases. The magic behind Twigg’s innovation is its capacity to understand the characteristics of the products, and then match them with the way that humans actually think and speak when searching for them.

Konigsberg says that improving their [machine learning](#) technology to take on the complexities contained in this mission will be of huge importance.

To this end, they plan on doubling the size of their R&D team in Israel by the end of the year and expanding their support capabilities to deploy their product with their large-scale clients.

This year they will scale their product to work with two to three partners, but plan on expanding to more the following year. "We want to turn this technology into a fully scalable product," he says. To this end, they have brought on Noa Ganot, the former Head of Product at eBay's structured data program.

Along with Ganot, Twigg is bringing to their Board of Directors a legend in the pioneering of search, Dr. Udi Manber. Having previously served as the Chief Scientist at Yahoo, Founder and CEO of Amazon's search unit A9, and then finally becoming the Head of Search at Google, he will add even more value to the team's pool of knowledge and creativity.

Why Twigg excites a not-so-enthusiastic online shopper

It is hard not to get excited about Twigg's growth and innovation. Even as someone who is not much of an online shopper, their work is significantly improving the way that we interact with technology and the internet et large.

Twigg's machine learning is bringing us towards a future where [AI](#) could actually become far more effective and relevant to our lives, with integration that could reach beyond just finding the right kind of battery for my camera.

Until then, Twigg should be one of the top companies to watch as they start working with the world's leading e-commerce platforms, hopefully sooner rather than later.

Altair Semiconductor Achieves NTT DOCOMO 4G LTE Chipset Interoperability Test (IOT) Completion

Leading Japanese Mobile Services Provider Certifies Altair's FourGee-3800 Chipset for Use on DOCOMO's network

Altair Semiconductor May 31, 2016

[Altair Semiconductor](#) (altair-semi.com), a leading provider of LTE chipsets, today announced that its FourGee-3800 chipset has successfully completed chipset Interoperability Test (IOT) on the network of [NTT DOCOMO](#), INC., Japan's largest mobile services provider.

This is Altair's latest carrier certification, following validation from multiple carriers including AT&T, Verizon Wireless and Korea Telecom.

"Completing this IOT process with NTT DOCOMO is a strategic milestone," said Eran Eshed, Co-founder and VP of Worldwide Sales and Marketing for Altair. "Completing IOT

with a top-tier carrier like DOCOMO serves to significantly expand Altair's global presence, while providing customers with access to multiple new markets.

"Providing LTE service for M2M applications in industrial sectors is one of our commitments, and with our nation-wide LTE network coverage, the LTE single-mode chipset is becoming a realistic low-cost alternative to be used for those applications," said Toshiyuki Futakata, Senior Manager of Radio Access Technology Group, Communication Device Development Department at NTT DOCOMO. "We welcome Altair's chipset, which is the first Cat-4 single mode LTE chipset to complete our chipset IOT, to provide attractive options to anyone who is interested in devices geared to be used in our network."

Altair's portfolio includes chipsets that support a wide range of LTE categories and use cases, from cutting edge, high-speed broadband to ultra-low power, IoT optimized products. Altair's FourGee-3800 chipset is integrated in numerous end products including CPEs, gateways, VoLTE devices, portable hotspots and IoT modules.

About Altair Semiconductor

Altair Semiconductor, recently acquired by Sony Group, is a leading provider of single-mode LTE chipsets. Altair's portfolio covers the complete spectrum of cellular 4G market needs, from supercharged video-centric applications all the way to ultra-low power, low cost IoT and M2M. Altair has shipped millions of LTE chipsets to date, commercially deployed on the world's most advanced LTE networks.

[SundaySky SmartVideo Helps Nikkei Inc. Advance Digital Media Market](#)

World's largest financial newspaper is the first media company to leverage personalized video to lift paid subscriptions

June 01, 2016

[SundaySky](#), powering personalized video engagement for leading brands, today announced that Nikkei Inc., the world's largest financial newspaper, is launching a SmartVideo program to engage customers with multi-touch, personalized video. By using SundaySky SmartVideo as part of its customer relationship management (CRM) strategy, Nikkei aims to convert free users to paid subscribers, drive digital feature usage and content, and grow its customer-focused big data strategy.

With a daily circulation of approximately 3 million subscribers, 37 bureaus across the world and 1,300 local and international reporters, Nikkei is one of the most influential voices in the global financial market. Like many brands today, the publication is striving to drive digital-first adoption, and with its SmartVideo program, is the first media company to use personalized video for data-driven storytelling with its customers.

Yoshihiro Hirata, managing director at Nikkei, said, “Personalized, data-driven video helps us engage our customers on a one-to-one basis and educate them on the digital features and content we offer that best align with their subscriptions, interests and reading behaviors. SundaySky is a perfect fit to help our company take on this new digital medium and go from broadly sharing news to our millions of readers to disseminating personalized video messages to audiences of one.”

Nikkei’s big data strategy is powerful, and the company uses rich customer data to understand consumer behavior. This data will be critical in the company’s SmartVideo deployment, as its existing advanced data warehouse and business intelligence tools will help strengthen personalized video campaigns. Nikkei’s video initiative for CRM will center on three touch points, including a personalized welcome video for new subscribers, an educational video about Nikkei’s online features based on the subscriber’s 30-day usage data and an upgrade offer encouraging readers to convert to paid subscriptions. Over time, this strategy will expand to include additional touch points.

Jeff Hirsch, chief marketing officer at SundaySky, said, “Nikkei is changing the game for global media companies by adopting personalized video to change customer behavior. The company’s big data strategy was already progressive, and its customer data will help tailor its video campaigns and offer true value to individual subscribers. As digital media continues to evolve, Nikkei’s eye for trends and personalization will help it continue to lead the financial news market.”

About SundaySky

SundaySky is transforming the relationship between brand and customer through personalized video. Our platform, built on proprietary SmartVideo technology, combines the power of video with personalized storytelling at scale to foster long-term customer relationships. The SmartVideo Platform lets marketers communicate to an audience of one and easily create, manage and optimize real-time personalized video programs throughout the customer lifecycle.



AT&T, Citi, Comcast and other industry-leading brands partner with SundaySky to engage prospective and current customers, resulting in higher revenue, lower costs and deeper loyalty. SundaySky is headquartered in New York City with offices in Tel Aviv and Tokyo.

SundaySky, Dentsu Unite to Enhance Customer Experience in Japanese Market

Partnership broadens SundaySky's footprint in Japan, enables brands to deliver personalized video experiences to customers

[SundaySky](#), powering personalized video engagement for leading brands, today announced a partnership with Dentsu, Japan's largest advertising agency and parent company of the Dentsu Group companies, to leverage SundaySky's [SmartVideo Platform](#) to deliver one-to-one video experiences to joint customers. The relationship will enable Dentsu to propose personalized video engagement solutions for its 6,000 clients, supported by SundaySky's leading technology and deep domain expertise in the space. Partnering with Dentsu further advances SundaySky's position in Japan and underscores the business value of SmartVideo, which has been widely embraced by Japanese consumers less than a year after SundaySky established its presence and deployed SmartVideo in the market.

Today, brands recognize that broad marketing solutions for mass audiences are not as effective as communication at an individual level. To create one-to-one engagement, enterprises need to embrace technology that leverages customer data to inform their marketing and advertising strategies and create meaningful engagement opportunities. SundaySky's SmartVideo Platform gives companies the tools they need to execute a data-driven, personalized storytelling strategy across their organizations, no matter where the customer is in the buyer journey.

"In less than a year in the Japanese market, we have seen tremendous demand for our personalized video engagement platform," **Shmulik Weller, CEO** of SundaySky, said. "Our relationship with Dentsu is an indicator of both SundaySky's burgeoning presence in Japan and the demand for meaningful, personal interaction between brands and their customers."

"SundaySky's approach to personalized storytelling, powered by sight, sound and motion, is superior to other personalized video providers we have seen in the marketplace," said Keigo Aoki, director of Business Development Office, Business Creation Center at Dentsu Inc. "As the leading agency in Japan, we wanted to partner with the pioneer and leader in



this space. SundaySky emerged as the clear choice for our company. The result will be a win-win for our joint clients.”

SundaySky’s SmartVideo Platform revolutionized the personalization of video and continues to evolve as it is employed by industries such as e-commerce, telecommunications and healthcare in a multitude of use cases. SundaySky is data-source-agnostic, accessing data from customer relationship management (CRM) solutions, product catalogs, data management platforms (DMPs) and other sources to create personalized video experiences, influencing consumer behavior change across the customer lifecycle. The partnership with Dentsu, the fifth largest holding company in the world, is proof that consumers around the world welcome personalized communications throughout their brand engagements.

June

Israel honors Japan's 'Schindler' who saved thousands of Jews in WWII

Japanese diplomat Chiune Sugihara's actions saved five times as many people as Oskar Schindler

Jerusalem Post 7 June 2016

Israel honored Japan's "Schindler" by naming a street after the Japanese diplomat who issued thousands of exit visas to desperate European Jews, against his government's orders.

Chiune Sugihara helped about 6,000 Jews escape war-torn Lithuania, the advancing Nazis and an almost certain death with his actions during World War Two.

Sugihara began issuing the visas in late July 1940, writing them day and night until he closed the consulate about a month later. Even as he left, he was writing visas and handing them out the window as his train pulled away, bowing and apologizing to those who still remained on the platform.

Within a year, almost all the Jews in Lithuania had been killed.

The Mayor of Netanya, Miriam Fierberg-Ikar unveiled the new street sign in an official ceremony in the presence of Sugihara's son, Nobuki Sugihara.

One of those helped to escape by Sugihara, Itshak Tarashansky, said the diplomat gave them visas even though they did not have a clear destination.

"He was not particular about them (Jews) having a visa to go on, because that is a principle before you give a transit visa, the traveller has to have a destination to go past the transit country, but Mr Sugihara was not particular that he gave transit visas freely and we got our visas for continuing later in Japan," Tarashansky said.

At a reception later, Nobuki Sugihara thanked the Israeli people.

"I thank you very much for the street by my father's name. My father ones showed refugees the way to escape from Holocaust and this street now show young people the future next to this very meaningful planetarium," he said.

Sugihara's actions saved five times as many people as Oskar Schindler, made famous in the film "Schindler's List."

Sugihara was later asked to resign by Japan's Foreign Ministry for defying the rules of a government then allied with Germany and that a year later was at war with the United States. He died in obscurity in 1986

Japanese philanthropist to dedicate planetarium in Netanya

Rikoho Madaramé, 79, largely funded the \$3 million science and space center • "I have a special place in my heart for the Jews," he says • Meanwhile, NASA Administrator Charlie Bolden arrives in Israel, after asking world to unite to send people to Mars.

The city of Netanya was set to dedicate a \$3 million science and space center on Monday. The 1,000-square-meter (11,000-square-foot) Madaramé Planetarium and Meditation Center was largely funded by Japanese businessman and philanthropist Rikoho Madaramé, 79, who arrived in Israel on Sunday with his wife and daughter. Madaramé is described by city officials as an "Israel lover" who has long felt connected to the Jewish people.

Speaking with **Israel Hayom**, Madaramé spoke about his unlikely bond with the city.

"During the 1970s, I met American-Jewish business people. We connected, and for the first time I learned about the Holocaust and the suffering of the Jewish people," he said.

"Over the years I made more and more Jewish friends, both inside and outside Japan, and I met Elad Levy, who was an attaché at the Israeli Embassy in Japan. When I asked him where I should invest in Israel, he suggested Netanya. Why? Because the attaché's daughter lives there, and because it was a great city. I then got to know the mayor and I came to visit, and I fell in love, just as he said I would. Now I just have to check out the hummus and my visit is complete. Everyone asks me, not only in Japan, why I am engaging in philanthropy in Israel, and my answer never changes: I have a special place in my heart for the Jews and the state. It is a sentiment that I cannot explain, even to myself."

Asked why he chose to build a planetarium, he noted that the desire to know more about the universe is shared by every human being.

"Anywhere you go, you'll find people looking at the sky at night. And regardless of their location, they see the same thing. My philosophy is very simple: all humans should be equal, because at the end of the day, we are all very similar," he said.

Madaramé is expected to attend the dedication ceremony along with Science, Technology and Space Minister Ofir Akunis, Mayor Miriam Feirberg-Ikar and Japanese Ambassador to Israel Koji Tomita. On Tuesday, he will attend a street-naming ceremony in the city honoring Chiune Sempo Sugihara, the World War II Japanese vice consul in Kovno (today

Kaunas), Lithuania, who saved the lives of thousands of Jews by issuing transit visas for them. Sugihara was declared as one of the Righteous Among the Nations for his heroic actions. His son and representatives of the Jews he helped save will also attend the ceremony.

When Madarama became involved in a project honoring Sugihara, he discovered that some of the Jews Sugihara had helped save now live in Netanya.

Japan, Israel defense officials eye joint research on drones, unmanned fighters: sources

Kyodo

The defense authorities of Japan and Israel are making preparations toward initiating joint research on unmanned surveillance airplanes, Japanese government sources and bilateral diplomatic sources said.

The preparations are in the final phase and the two governments have already sounded out the defense industry of the two countries about the feasibility of participating in the project, the sources said.

Such an arrangement has become possible under Japan's eased arms export principles in 2014 updates. Japan's previous principles banned the country from exporting arms to a state that may potentially become a conflict country. With its Palestinian issue, Israel fell under this category.

Japan's National Security Council would decide on whether to give the green light to the joint study by the Acquisition, Technology & Logistics Agency of the Defense Ministry and the SIBAT defense cooperation department of Israel's Defense Ministry, they said.

The council is likely to endorse the plan because the administration of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has been reinforcing relations with Israel, they said.

The Japanese acquisition agency hopes to also conduct joint study on unmanned attack planes and unmanned fighters with Israel, according to the sources.

The source said concerns exist about the project prompting protest from Arab countries.

Israel is known to have the world's top-level technology for unmanned spy planes and the aircraft are used in attacks on the Gaza area of the Palestinian autonomous region and on Lebanon.

The envisioned joint study is aimed at incorporating Japanese sensor technology in Israel's reconnaissance plane technologies, according to sources.

The Israeli and Japanese companies that have been asked about the feasibility of taking part declined comment. **The companies include Israel Aerospace Industries Ltd. and Elbit Systems Ltd. of Israel, and Mitsubishi Electric Corp. and Fuji Heavy Industries Ltd. of Japan**, according to the sources.

Japanese defense officials have decided to introduce the Global Hawk unmanned surveillance aircraft currently used by the U.S. forces.

But it is looking into Israeli technologies because Israeli unmanned reconnaissance planes are much cheaper, according to the sources.

The Abe Cabinet endorsed a new set of three principles on eased arms export control in April 2014 after Japan had long maintained the three-principle arms export ban rule.

Israeli startup Interlude raises \$50-100m from Sony

20/06/2016,

Interlude CEO Yoni Bloch tells "Globes" about the aim of the new strategic cooperation with Sony Pictures Entertainment.

Last week Sony Pictures Entertainment (SPE) announced that it had invested in Israeli startup [Interlude](#). No financial details were disclosed but CEO and cofounder Yoni Bloch has said, "We are talking about tens of millions of dollars."

Sources believe that the investment is \$50-\$100 million and in addition Sony and Interlude will collaborate in developing entertainment content that will be distributed on Interlude's platform.

With offices in New York and Tel Aviv, Interlude is a media and technology company that is pioneering a new kind of video that responds to a person's emotions and interests. The company has raised \$38.2 million to date including an \$18.2 million financing round in December 2015 from Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios, Warner Music Group, Samsung, Sequoia Capital and Intel Capital. The company, which has developed the Eko interactive storytelling platform, has 60 employees, half of them in Israel.

Bloch, 34, began his musical career when he was 21. He has recorded three albums and produced albums for other singers and even managed a stint as a guest judge on the Israeli TV talent show A Star is Born. Then in 2009 he decided to pursue a career in high-tech and he founded Interlude with CTO Tal Zubalsky and Barak Feldman.

The Eko platform changes audience passivity by enabling creators to easily script and craft stories that can be shaped by the viewer based on a range of options and their preferences.

Bloch said, "This is a language that most young producers have been waiting for. They have been looking for a new language and through our technology they can realize it."

Globes: What is the aim of the cooperation with Sony?

Bloch, "To produce interactive series that exploit technology to tell a story that couldn't be told in a linear way."

What is new at the company since your last financing round?

"The company has grown particularly on the technology side. Our videos play on iPhones and Androids and through virtual reality. Our most recent strategic fund raising ensures that the world's best quality content producers work and invest in content on our medium."

Published by Globes [online], Israel business news - www.globes-online.com - on June 20, 2016

NTT Docomo invests in SundaySky

Video startup SundaySky just raised a \$30 million investment

SundaySky CEO: We've seen significant, rapid growth in adoption of SmartVideo as a strategy for leading global brands.

Israeli startup [SundaySky](#), which powers personalized video engagement for leading brands, today announced it has closed a \$30 million Series D financing round. New investor Viola Private Equity led the round and was joined by existing investors Carmel Ventures, Globespan Capital Partners, Norwest Venture Partners, Comcast Ventures and others. NTT DOCOMO Ventures - the venture capital arm of NTT DOCOMO, Inc., Japan's leading mobile operator and a SundaySky customer - also participated as a strategic investor. The company has raised \$67 million to date include the latest financing round.

The funding will scale global growth, support continued product innovation and a rapidly expanding customer base as SundaySky builds upon its position as the pioneer in the personalized video engagement market.

The company was founded in 2006 by CEO Shmulik Weller and CTO Yaniv Axen. Headquartered in New York, the company's technology development center is in Ramat Hahayil, Tel Aviv.

By 2020, SundaySky expects all Fortune 500 business-to-consumer companies will adopt data-driven, personalized video storytelling to engage with and communicate to their customers. SundaySky has seen year-over-year SmartVideo program growth of 130% and is on track to reach 1 billion cumulative SmartVideo views by the end of the year, as companies respond to growing consumer demand for relevant and personalized experiences. Enterprises that implement SmartVideo at one stage of the customer lifecycle - such as video billing, acquisition or onboarding - are now adopting it for multiple applications across their businesses for holistic SmartVideo strategies.

Weller said, “This funding underscores the maturity of the personalized video engagement category, and SundaySky’s leadership in it. We’ve seen significant, rapid growth in adoption of SmartVideo as a strategy for leading global brands, and with the investment from Viola Private Equity, we will continue to execute on our mission of offering one-to-one communication through a storytelling medium that is highly targeted, measurable and scalable.”

The company is expanding its board of directors, adding two members with extensive leadership in building publicly traded technology companies. Following this round Viola Private Equity General Partner Ayal Shiran will join the company’s board of directors. In addition, Rami Hadar, former president and CEO of Allot Communications Ltd. (NASDAQ, TASE: ALLT) will assume the role of executive chairman. “As the creator of the personalized video engagement market category, SundaySky has changed how brands interact with consumers, making one-to-one personalized communication possible,” said Ayal Shiran, general partner of Viola Private Equity. “With SundaySky’s proven technology, veteran executive team and impressive blue-chip customer list, the company is positioned to accelerate growth and advance its solution, now more than ever. We believe in SundaySky’s vision of personalized video becoming the primary engagement medium between a brand and an individual.”

Japanese Automaker, Daihatsu, Collaborates With Local Designers to Offer Car Design Customization Using Stratasys 3D Printing

Carmaker worked with top Japanese designers to create unique, customizable automotive exterior ‘Effect Skins’ for their ‘Copen’ 2-door convertible

MINNEAPOLIS & REHOVOT, Israel--([BUSINESS WIRE](#))—[Stratasys Ltd.](#) (Nasdaq:SSYS), the 3D printing and additive manufacturing solutions company, says automaker Daihatsu Motor Co., Ltd, (Daihatsu) is one of the first manufacturers to deliver on the 3D printing vision of mass customization of end-use parts, collaborating with Stratasys and top local designers.

In the last three years, 3D printing has expanded from prototyping to factory tooling to short run production, with the expectation that it would be used also for mass customization of consumer products. Based in Ikeda, Osaka, Japan, Daihatsu partnered with 3D printing solutions company Stratasys, Kota Nezu from industrial design company Znug Design, Inc. and 3D creator Sun Junjie to turn the vision into reality. Designers created 15 “Effect Skins” – intricate geometric and organic patterns in 10 different colors that are 3D printed using

Stratasys Fortus 3D printers. Customers can adjust the parameters of the designs themselves, exponentially increasing the numbers of options and allowing “one-off” customization for each consumer.

The skins may be ordered for front and rear bumpers and fenders.

The Effect Skins are 3D printed on Fortus® Production 3D Printers from Stratasys using ASA thermoplastic which is very durable, UV resistant and aesthetic. “What would have taken two to three months to develop can now be produced in two weeks,” says Mr. Osamu Fujishita, General Manager, Corporate Planning Department, Brand DNA Office, Daihatsu Motor Co., Ltd.

The traditional manufacturing method of reducing costs is mass production of identical parts to take advantage of economies of scale. But this Effect Skins project illustrates the power of 3D printing when it comes to creating on-demand product parts with high customizability and rich design properties. “This project would not have been possible with traditional manufacturing or tooling methods,” explains Mr. Kota Nezu, Znug Design.

“We believe on-demand production [with 3D printing] offers definite benefits to supply chain efficiencies,” adds Osamu Fujishita. “And it allows easy access for customers.”

The Effect Skin project is being tested in 2016 in select markets with plans for commercialization in early 2017.

For more than 25 years, [Stratasys Ltd. \(NASDAQ:SSYS\)](#) has been a defining force and dominant player in 3D printing and additive manufacturing – shaping the way things are made. Headquartered in Minneapolis, Minnesota and Rehovot, Israel, the company empowers customers across a broad range of vertical markets by enabling new paradigms for design and manufacturing. The company’s solutions provide customers with unmatched design freedom and manufacturing flexibility – reducing time-to-market and lowering development costs, while improving designs and communications. Stratasys subsidiaries include MakerBot and Solidscape, and the Stratasys ecosystem includes 3D printers for prototyping and production; a wide range of 3D printing materials; parts on-demand via Stratasys Direct Manufacturing; strategic consulting and professional services; and the Thingiverse and GrabCAD communities with over 2 million 3D printable files for free designs. With more than 2,700 employees and 800 granted or pending additive manufacturing patents, Stratasys has received more than 30 technology and leadership awards

Mitsubishi Corp Bidding for Red – Dead Sea pipeline tender

Bidders in the \$800 million tender include Chinese, Lebanese, Egyptian, Japanese, Korean, Canadian and Israeli companies.

International concerns are showing interest in Israel and Jordan's Red-Dead Sea pipeline.

According to news sources, 17 groups of Israeli and international companies yesterday bid in the tender for construction and operation of the project.

The project is designed to save the Dead Sea, whose level has been falling year by year, and arrange the division of water between Israel and Jordan. The parties signed a letter of intent as early as December 2013 in the World Bank headquarters in New York. Under the agreement, the first pipeline to be laid will be 200 kilometers long. It will pipe water from the Red Sea to the Dead Sea, and its route will pass through Jordanian territory. Work on laying the pipeline is scheduled to take three years.

A desalinization facility and power station on the Jordanian side

Some of the water passing through the pipeline will be sent to a desalinization plant in Aqaba, Jordan with an annual capacity of 65-85 million cubic meters. The plant will also serve Israel, which will buy water from it and supply it to the Arava region and Eilat. In exchange, Israel is undertaking to supply water from Lake Kinneret (the Sea of Galilee) to northern Jordan. The desalinization plant will be built and operated according to the build, operate, and transfer (BOT) model. The company that wins the tender will operate the plant for 25 years, after which ownership will pass to the state. The tender also includes the construction of a 10-megawatt hydroelectric power plant on the Jordanian side.

Israel and Jordan last December published a tender for carrying out and operating the project, and 94 companies purchased the tender documents. Bidders had until yesterday to submit their candidacy, and the list of bidders is being published today. Four of the 17 bidders are Israeli companies. **Tahal** has joined forces with Spanish company **Abengoa**,

GES is cooperating with a subsidiary of Chinese company PetroChina,. Another company is IDE, owned in equal parts by **Israel Chemicals** (TASE: ICL: NYSE: ICL) and **Delek Group Ltd.** (TASE: DLEKG). Quite a few Chinese companies, some of them government companies, also bid in the tender, including water corporation **Hutchison** and government company **Sinohydro**, which is making a joint bid with an Italian company, Chinese government construction company **CSCEC** (the third largest in the world), which is cooperating with South Korean companies and a Japanese company, and the Shanghai national electricity company, which is entering the tender on its own.

Other interesting candidates are **Lebanese company Butec**, which is bidding together with international company **Veolia**, and **Egyptian company Orascom**, which is bidding

together with **Spanish company Cobra**. Other bidders are from Canada, Austria, Spain, and France. Japanese company Mitsubishi is also making a bid.

DTC signed a reseller agreement with the United States Zerto, Inc. to provide a new data protection of virtualization / cloud era

[AttoPress](#) 12 May 16 **Digital Technology Co., Ltd.** (Headquarters: Tokyo Arakawa-ku Higashinipori, President: Ito Tatsumi, following **DTC**) is a data protection software maker of virtualization and cloud environment there Zerto.Inc (headquarters: Boston, MA, USA, CEO: Ziv Kedem, following Zerto) has entered into a reseller agreement.

In recent years, the system use that leverage virtualization and cloud the spread, where the operation will be application also has come to play an important business to be directly connected to the business. Therefore data protection and flexible data migration of applications in virtualized and cloud environment has become an important theme.

On the other hand, however, the environment is complicated, we have become very costly in order to realize the transition of application protection and freedom of data at the level that customers demand.

DTC, has been engaged in a number of virtualization and cloud, the construction and support of hybrid cloud environment. From the background that simple and protection cost-effective applications and free data migration is required in that, in addition to the line-up the diesel To virtual replication product of Zerto, the expansion of solutions that specializes in application protection in the virtualization and cloud we will. Zell To virtual replication provides a hypervisor-based replication solution that provides protection of flexible data protection and workload that does not depend on the platform. In order to operate replication in the hypervisor-based, you can storage capabilities and virtual OS, efficient and simple data protection does not depend on the application.

In addition, diesel To virtual replication, to achieve a private order to increase the work efficiency of the user, the public, and the movement of the flexible data protection and workload even for anywhere in the hybrid cloud environment. For example, VMware and different replication / migration between hypervisor environments, such as Hyper-V environment, by replication / migration to the Amazon Web Services can be performed simply and efficiently, the user is free to select the infrastructure, data to achieve protection will be able to promote business. In DTC, to strengthen further response to the solutions for virtualization and cloud, as the center Soell To virtual replication, the Company provided

its own data protection and migration service plus solutions also plans to go future . In addition, we expect the shipment to the first year in the DTC 50 user.

In the beginning of 2015, Zerto has decided to invest strategically to Asia, including Japan. to build a partnership with Japanese customers, Japan is we feel that is what makes us understand this is now a very important market for Zerto. , we feel that from the already large number of customers in Japan has gotten you for your interest in our technology. In partnership with this time of the DTC, Japanese customers, will be possible if you use a business continuity and disaster recovery solution for the virtual environment of Zerto than DTC.Martin Andrew, Director APJ Zerto

About Digital Technology

Digital Technology Co., Ltd. (DTC) is headquartered in Arakawa-ku, Tokyo, Ltd. DTS (listed on the Tokyo Stock Exchange, Head Office: Minato-ku, Tokyo, President: Koichi Nishida a 100% subsidiary of), is a system integrator that specializes in IT infrastructure. Sells, construction, maintenance and operation of multi-vendor hardware, including security products, has a trading track record and more than 1,000 companies and government agencies, universities and research institutes. Other security-related products, and virtualization hybrid cloud infrastructure construction, has strengths in sales and construction of high-performance storage products, with strong partnerships with leading hardware vendors, system integration adapted to a variety of customer needs the offers. In addition, is also on imports and sales of the latest technology through foreign affiliates, taking advantage of the direct connection with overseas manufacturers, we deliver quickly the state-of-the-art technology to Japanese customers. URL: [Http://Www.Dtc.Co.Jp/](http://www.dtc.co.jp/) Blog: [Https://Www.Dtc.Co.Jp/column/](https://www.dtc.co.jp/column/)

About Zerto

Zerto is, by providing a scalable business continuity (BC) software solutions , it supports the non-stop operation of 24 hours a day, 365 days a year with respect to corporate iT and cloud iT. Through a "Zerto Cloud Continuity Platform", the organization has to provide protection public, private, and the seamless movement of virtualized workloads across each cloud environment of the hybrid. Is the flagship product of Zerto "Zerto Virtual Replication (diesel To virtual replication)" it has been widely used as a standard for application protection in the cloud and virtual data center

July

3rd Japan-Israel Call for Proposals

Japan-Israel R&D Cooperation Program

Launch Date: May 25, 2016 | Phase 1 Deadline: August 25, 2016

Israeli and Japanese companies engaged in collaborative R&D projects are invited to apply for financial support through the Japan-Israel R&D Cooperation Program

MATIMOP, on behalf of the Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS) in Israel, and NEDO, on behalf of the Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) in Japan, invite Israeli and Japanese companies to submit joint proposals for industrial research and development projects under the current Call for Proposals (CFP). Phase I joint applications for funding under the current CFP are due no later than August 25, 2016.

CRITERIA

In order to apply to the current CFP, joint projects must meet the following criteria:

- At least one science and technology company from each of the respective countries should express a desire to cooperate in the research and development of a new product or a new process.
- The project may involve more than one company from each side; academic/research entities are eligible to join as sub-contractors only.
- The product should be highly innovative with significant commercial potential. The joint industrial R&D project should aim at the development of products/processes leading to commercialization in the global market.
- Companies and projects from the technology fields including new energy, energy conservation, smart community, environment and resource conservation, robot technology, machinery systems technology, electronics, Information and Telecommunications, materials and nanotechnology, biotechnology, agricultural machinery, medical devices and water treatment are eligible to apply
- The project partners should agree in advance on the IP rights and on the commercialization strategy of the product or process
- The project should demonstrate the contribution of the participants from both countries
- The project must be balanced between participants and significant to both partners.
- The maximum project period is three years.

For full details on the Call for Proposals, including terms of funding and eligibility requirements, please read the attached **Guidelines** document. Details in Japanese are available on the [NEDO website](#).

HOW CAN I APPLY?

1. Read completely the attached [CFP Guidelines Document](#)
2. Express interest in applying by emailing hadas@matimop.org.il

3. Fill out a Bilateral Cooperation Form (Phase I Application) together with your partner and prepare the Letter of Intent re: IP plan.
4. Apply! Israeli and Japanese companies should submit their Bilateral Cooperation Form + Letter of Intent via email to the Israeli and Japanese Program Managers by August 25, 2016: hadas@matimop.org.il ; international@ml.nedo.go.jp
5. Israeli companies are requested to also submit their application online via the MATIMOP website login page. In order to get a username and password to access the online application system, Israeli companies should create a company profile or ask the program manager for their login details.

PARTNER MATCHING ASSISTANCE

The current call for proposals is open to companies that already have identified partners and have a mature project plan. However, MATIMOP and NEDO can assist companies in identifying potential partners for R&D projects for this and future calls for proposals. Please browse the Japan-Israel Partnerships Catalogs to identify potential partners. Let us know if you find a relevant company and we would be happy to connect you. In addition, please fill out a Company Profile Form to receive dedicated assistance and to enter the catalog and MATIMOP partner search database.

Japan tempted by Israeli drone offer, but must consider U.S. too

THE ASAHI SHIMBUN

July 20, 2016 at 10:10 JST



Japan is caught between a rock and a hard place in deciding whether to go with U.S. or Israeli technology in its purchase of next-generation drones for aerial surveillance.

The rock, of course, is the United States with which Japan has an iron-clad security alliance. The hard place is Israel, meaning that the product on offer is of great interest to

Japan's Defense Ministry--although there are concerns that dealing with Tel Aviv in military matters could invite an unwanted backlash.

The natural choice for Japan is to purchase unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) from the United States, its long-time military ally.

However, the Global Hawk UAV that the Pentagon has pitched to Tokyo comes with costly maintenance obligations.

Israel has a long history in developing UAVs and is able to provide the SDF with relatively inexpensive equipment as part of a joint development project.

This puts Japan in an awkward position as it is clearly tempted by the Israeli technology but fearful of the diplomatic consequences that would inevitably ensue if it strengthened ties with a nation that many Arabs in the Middle East consider a sworn enemy.

Still, Defense Ministry officials showed considerable interest in what Israel has to offer at Eurosatory 2016, one of the world's largest weapons fairs, which was held June 13-17 in Paris.

For the first time, the Defense Ministry's Acquisition, Technology and Logistics Agency set up a booth at the exhibition where 1,500 or so companies from more than 50 nations exhibited their wares.

Midway through the exhibition, on the morning of June 15, a closed-door meeting was held between Toru Hocchi, who heads the equipment policy department at the agency, and a high-ranking official of the Israeli Defense Ministry.

Japanese officials were interested in the Heron TP UAV developed by Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI).

A source close to the discussions said that Israel pointed to the advantages of the Heron as a joint manufacturing project with Japan. Drones would not be equipped with a black box that prevents Japan getting its hands on sensitive technological data. Japan would also be able to install its own sensors.

According to Japanese government sources, the Defense Ministry began showing interest in Israel's medium-sized UAV three years ago.

In April 2014, the government approved three principles on the transfer of defense equipment which made possible, under certain conditions, the export of weapons as well as international joint development and manufacture of defense equipment.

In 2015, a group of Defense Ministry and SDF officials visited a number of sites in Israel to see the drone in action.

The Israeli Air Force allowed The Asahi Shimbun to visit a unit that operates the Heron UAV. The control room for the vehicle was located next to the runway. Each UAV was operated by a two-man crew, with the superior officer actually steering the UAV while the subordinate handled intelligence-gathering.

The image from the onboard camera was clear. The 26-year-old senior officer said, "This can distinguish between an armed terrorist and ordinary citizen from a high altitude."

IAI and about 20 other Israeli companies participated in a trade fair held in Tokyo in October 2015 that showed off the latest in anti-terrorism equipment.

A high-ranking official of the Israeli Defense Ministry said, "We have operated UAVs for 40 years and can boast the world's top class technology along with the United States."

A high-ranking Israeli military officer added that Israel was eager to cooperate with Japan because of its advanced technology and said it was willing to share the improved technology and experience accumulated through years of military tactical and strategic use.

One reason the Defense Ministry is thinking about a possible joint development project with Israel is the many issues that have arisen since the government decided in 2014 to purchase three U.S. Global Hawk UAVs.

Preparations are now being made for the first flight of the UAVs by the end of fiscal 2019.

But in the corridors of the Defense Ministry and in SDF circles a number of high-ranking officers are privately whispering that the Global Hawk could turn into a white elephant.

Initially, the Global Hawk, built by Northrop Grumman, was expected to be the ace in the hole for around-the-clock surveillance of nuclear weapon and missile development by North Korea as well as maritime advances by China.

However, as negotiations continued with U.S. officials, it became clear to Japanese officials that all sorts of restrictions on operations were being mounted in addition to the high cost.

Of greatest concern is the low frequency of operations. The Global Hawk flies at high altitude where weather conditions are severe. That means more time is needed for inspection and maintenance.

A high-ranking Defense Ministry official said each Global Hawk can only fly two to three times a week. Major gaps could appear in the surveillance network during an emergency if a certain number were undergoing long-term maintenance work.

The U.S. side has also said that initially only video functions of the onboard sensor will be provided. The sensors are capable of tracking the progress of naval vessels and gathering an enemy's radio signal information, but this technology will not be provided at the outset.

The cost of operating UAVs is also expected to rise far beyond initial expectations.

As much of the technology incorporated into the unmanned craft is super-sensitive for the United States and will not be shared with Japan, technicians from the United States will have to constantly be on site for maintenance work. Regular maintenance work will require sending the UAVs back to the United States.

Accessing data accumulated during UAV flights could also be problematic. The data is transmitted to the ground through satellite communications. But some of it may have to be handled by the United States for confidentiality reasons.

Estimates by the Defense Ministry put the annual cost for maintaining and managing the Global Hawk at more than 10 billion yen (\$97.4 million).

While the Israeli Heron may not have the capabilities of the Global Hawk, a wider range of technology can be made available to Japan and the costs are much cheaper.

A source close to the discussions between Japan and Israel said, "If the Global Hawk is considered to be a luxurious Ferrari, the Heron is more like a family vehicle that is less expensive and easier to use."

Due to Japan's security alliance with the United States, a review of the Global Hawk purchase would be highly unlikely, but the joint development project with Israel could serve the function of filling in the gaps that might appear from operating the U.S. UAV.

The Defense Ministry is not the only entity attracted to the advanced levels of technology offered by Israel. In 2014, a delegation from Keidanren (Japan Business Federation) visited Israel, and in April this year a mission from Keizai Doyukai (Japan Association of Corporate Executives) visited the nation dubbed the "Silicon Valley of the Middle East."

Those developments mark a major shift in stance among Japanese businesses which traditionally have focused on the Arab nations along the Persian Gulf.

For Israel, Japan represents a potential major market.

According to Israeli Defense Ministry officials, weapons exports in 2015 totaled \$5.7 billion and the Asia-Pacific region ranked No. 1 in terms of importer nations with a total of \$2.3 billion.

Expanding sales routes is a major priority for defense companies as international competition heats up.

A high-ranking Israeli Defense Ministry official said, "We need new partners and Japan is a genuine candidate."

However, due to the long dependence on the United States for sophisticated defense equipment, it remains to be seen if any joint development project with Israel on UAVs becomes a reality.

(This article was written by Takashi Watanabe in Paris and Kuniichi Tanida in Tokyo.)

[Israeli IoT startups delegation head to Japan for investor roadshow](#)

11 Internet of Things startups will meet Fujitsu, NEC and Hitachi officials

A delegation of 11 Israeli companies from the field of the Internet of Things will be part of an investors' roadshow that will take place in Tokyo and Osaka. More than 200 meetings have been set up for the startups, including with Japanese conglomerates Fujitsu, NEC and Hitachi, the Israel Innovation Authority, which is leading the delegation, said.

The Internet of Things refers to the technologies that make physical objects communicate and interact with people and other objects and exchange or collect information once they are fitted with electronic devices or sensors or via software.

There are some 330 startups in Israel in the field of the Internet of Things (IOT) — one in 20 of all startups in Israel — ranging in size from seed stages to revenue generating companies, the authority said.

"The field of IOT is one of the most coveted fields in the global startup industry, expected to comprise 20-30 billion devices by 2020," Avi Hasson, the chairman of the Israel Innovation Authority, said. "This is one of the fastest-growing fields in recent years, with funding and investment in such companies having doubled over the past five years, from \$768 million in 2010 to more than \$1.9 billion in 2014".

Israeli startups HeraMed, which makes a home fetal-monitoring system and Power Tags, which has created disposable wearable devices to allow real-time tracking of people and assets, are among the companies that will be pitching their technologies to Japanese customers and investors this week.

Israel and Japan signed an R&D cooperation accord in 2014 that aims to boost cooperation on industrial R&D between Israeli and Japanese companies and to tighten business ties. The agreement is a platform for bilateral government funding of joint R&D projects between companies from both countries, the authority said.

Wacom launches a start-ups Hackaton

(InkAthone) at Tel Aviv University

Wacom Is a world leader in creativity and in partnership with StarTAU is challenging Talented coders and creative thinkers to build a technology that incorporate Wacom's tech for a better world.

The event takes place at the Tel Aviv University on July 18-19th Wacom is. **looking for startups who can incorporate Wacom's Tech** into their own solution.

The Prize is Awesome. At the end of the 1st Offline InkAthone, **the top Award Winner will be invited to the CES 2017 Conference.**

The lucky Winner will be flown out to San Las-Vegas for the opportunity to pitch at the conference to some of the largest companies, Accelerators and Investors in the world, while meeting with leading entrepreneurs and industry leaders.

Wacom Co., Ltd. engages in the development, manufacture, and sale of tablet components. Its operations are carried out through the following business segments: Brand Product, Component, and Other. The Brand Product segment involves the manufacture, development, and sale of pen tablets and other related software. The Component segment provides electronic pens, multi-touch sensors, and touch panel parts and modules. The Other segment includes CAD (Computer-aided Design) software for electrical and mechanical engineering. The company was founded on July 12, 1983 and is headquartered in Kazo, Japan

SBI HODINGS joins Vertex VC , Invests in INDEGY

Indegy Lands \$12M in Series A Financing to Protect Critical Infrastructures from Cyber Threats

Indegy, the industrial cyber security company, today announced that it has closed a \$12M Series A round of financing led by **Vertex Ventures Israel with participation from Silicon Valley-based Aspect Ventures, SBI Holdings of Japan as well as previous investors Shlomo Kramer and Magma Venture Partners**. The company has raised \$18M to date to market its cyber security technology that protects industrial control systems (ICS) used in the energy, water utility, petrochemical, pharmaceutical and manufacturing sectors, from cyber threats.

The funds will be used to scale Indegy's sales and marketing operations in North America, Europe and Asia, as well as R&D in Israel. As part of the financing, Aviad Ariel of Vertex Ventures will be joining Indegy's Board of Directors. Theresa Gouw, co-founder and managing partner of Aspect Ventures backed her firm's investment in the company.

According to a recent report by accounting and consulting firm BDO USA, 9 of 10 (92 percent) manufacturers surveyed cited cyber security concerns in their U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) disclosures in 2016. Indegy's platform can discover changes to devices used to operate industrial processes and equipment that may indicate an attack, before damage can be done. Unlike IT security products designed for use in enterprise networks, Indegy's platform is purpose built for protecting ICS environments.

"Raising our Series A round with investors in both Israel and Silicon Valley provides strong validation for our technology and business, especially in a climate where many security start-ups are struggling to get funded," said Barak Perelman, CEO of Indegy. "This new round of financing will provide the working capital we need to scale our resources to meet accelerating customer demand in a rapidly growing market."

Indegy was recently selected by Network World as a Hot Security Startup to Watch, is one of the 10 Most Promising Cyber Security Startups according to Forbes Israel and is a 2016 TiE50Winner.

"Industrial infrastructures are the next battleground in the cyber security war," said Aviad Ariel, General Partner of Vertex Ventures. "Indegy has developed a unique approach for protecting critical infrastructures that provides much needed visibility and control. We were really impressed with the technology and management team."

“Unlike IT security products that are being retrofitted for use in industrial IOT networks, the Indegy platform was built from the ground up to ensure operational safety and reliability, and is already in use in real-world customer deployments,” said Theresia Gouw, co-founder and managing partner of Aspect Ventures. “We’ve only seen the tip of the industrial cyber security iceberg so far, and believe the company is positioned to become a dominant player in what will be a very big market.”

Indegy secures ICS used across all critical infrastructure sectors. The Indegy platform is natively designed for ICS networks and provides unprecedented visibility and control to ensure operational safety and protect against cyber attacks, malicious insiders and operational mistakes. It monitors all ICS network activity with a unique focus on proprietary control-layer protocols, and detects industrial control configuration changes in real-time. The platform enables ICS engineers and security staff to quickly pinpoint the source of problems and effectively respond to prevent operational disruptions and physical damage.

About Indegy

Indegy provides real-time situational awareness, visibility and security for Industrial Control Systems (ICS) used across critical infrastructures -- energy, water utilities, petrochemical plants, manufacturing facilities, etc. The Indegy platform monitors control-layer activity to ensure the reliability of ICS networks and protect against cyber attacks, malicious insiders and operational mistakes. The company was named one of the 10 Most Promising Cyber Security Startups by Forbes Israel, is a TiE50 winner and Network World Hot Security Startup to Watch

Optimal+ Selected by Renesas Electronics to Enhance Global Manufacturing Operations

Agreement includes complete suite of big data solutions to address yield, quality and efficiency

July 12, 2016

HOLON, Israel--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Optimal+™, the leader in big data solutions for manufacturing operations in the semiconductor and electronics industries, today announced the deployment of its full suite of software solutions from the company's Semiconductor Operations Platform™ at Renesas Electronics Corporation (TSE: 6723, “Renesas”). The solutions include: Global Ops, for product yield and efficiency improvement; Escape Prevention and Outlier Detection, for quality and RMA management;

and TTR, to increase overall test efficiency through adaptive test. Collectively, these solutions will enable Renesas to enhance their global manufacturing operations to maximize equipment utilization and efficiency while delivering the highest quality products to their customers.

Optimal+ delivers the industry's leading enterprise solution that measurably improves semiconductor and electronics product yield, productivity and quality through early detection. The company's solutions enable a paradigm shift in the manufacturing data infrastructure of semiconductor and electronics companies to provide rapid, actionable intelligence that can be used to optimize every measurable link in the global manufacturing supply chain.

"The performance of manufacturing operations at Renesas was among the best we have seen in all of our customer engagements," said Gil Levy, VP of Pre-Sales at Optimal+. "However, during our pilot project we were still able to identify many opportunities to improve product yield, throughput and quality due to our ability to deliver faster time-to-data and our automated rules capability. We demonstrated an average time of five minutes from 'end of run' to 'loaded data' that was ready for analysis. As a result, our automated rules and analytics identified specifically how Renesas could increase their product yield, improve OEE and enhance quality through lower DPPM."

From test and yield engineers to product managers and C-level executives, data generated throughout manufacturing operations is an invaluable source of information to ensure quality, prevent unnecessary waste and maximize capital equipment efficiency. Optimal+ delivers this information in a global, unified view and with unprecedented speed to address the manufacturing challenges faced by semiconductor and electronics companies.

"Renesas is one of the top semiconductor companies in the world, and we are delighted that they have selected Optimal+ to help them optimize their manufacturing operations," said Dan Glotter, founder and CEO of Optimal+. "Our mission is to be the trusted partner for semiconductor and electronics companies, enabling them to maximize yield, quality and productivity by providing a complete platform to collect, analyze and take action on their global, distributed manufacturing data."

About Optimal+

Optimal+ is a global supplier of Manufacturing Intelligence software solutions, enabling any semiconductor or electronics company to seamlessly aggregate, organize and act upon the global manufacturing data generated across their distributed supply chains to

measurably improve yield, quality and productivity. The company's real-time, big data analytics solutions are deployed in virtually every major foundry and OSAT currently serving the semiconductor ecosystem, processing over 35 billion chips every year on behalf of its customers and is ushering in an era of unprecedented supply chain visibility that translates into strong and measurable ROI.

Cashless revolution in the vending machine, Israeli NAYAX landing in the Japanese market

Nayax Ltd. co-founders Mr. Yair Nechmad and Mr. David Ben-Avi announced this afternoon at the Nayax Headquarters in Tel Aviv, Israel, the opening of a new office in Japan.

"We are looking forward to working with Mr. Hiroshi Matsumoto, who will be acting as the General Manager of Nayax K.K. He comes with significant experience in business development, sales operations, and IT companies in Japan, and worldwide. We believe that the Japanese market will enjoy Nayax's cashless payments solutions, telemetry systems, and management & monitoring suite. Nayax strives to increase our customers' sales by helping operators communicate with their consumers and streamline their operations" says Mr. Nechmad. Contributing to the process was I.J. Business Do Ltd., a consulting and business development company that specializes in Japanese market.

Israeli NAYAX to provide a cashless settlement service of unmanned automatic vending machine for is, to full-scale start-up in Japan this autumn.

In Japan, cashless is in strong trend. Management companies do not think they'll be snapped up quickly, but it's tailwind for us. In addition, it is expected to be large demand for telemetry functions provided by the Company. Japanese management company, has fallen to the labor shortage. If you know such as the reduced condition of products of vending machines in the remote by telemetry function, efficiency can be achieved. It will also lead to the resolution of the challenges faced by Japanese companies.

Unique elements that should be considered is present. For example, East Japan Railway also (JR East) electronic money and maker of one of them. It will have to be well supported

With cashless and mobile payments and telemetry systems dominating the automated and vending machines industry, it is a pivotal moment for Nayax Ltd. to establish a strong presence in Japan, where there are already 5.52 million vending machines, selling everything from cold drinks, coffee and snacks, to flower bouquets and socks. According to the Japan National Tourism Organization, vending machine annual sales reach almost 6.95 trillion yen (58.3 billion USD).



This announcement comes at a time when Japan is looking forward to hosting the 2020 Summer Olympics in the capital city Tokyo. Establishing Nayax K.K. will help local vending machine operators get ready for the increased levels of international tourism, which means cashless payments with international credit cards and mobile payments using smart phones.

Nayax Ltd. is a global leader in cashless payment solutions and telemetry systems, with offices worldwide. For more information, please visit Nayax.com.

August

Japan, Israel defense officials eye joint research on drones, unmanned fighters: sources

KYODO

The defense authorities of Japan and Israel are making preparations toward initiating joint research on unmanned surveillance airplanes, Japanese government sources and bilateral diplomatic sources said.

The preparations are in the final phase and the two governments have already sounded out the defense industry of the two countries about the feasibility of participating in the project, the sources said.

Such an arrangement has become possible under Japan's eased arms export principles in 2014 updates. Japan's previous principles banned the country from exporting arms to a state that may potentially become a conflict country. With its Palestinian issue, Israel fell under this category.

Japan's National Security Council would decide on whether to give the green light to the joint study by the Acquisition, Technology & Logistics Agency of the Defense Ministry and the SIBAT defense cooperation department of Israel's Defense Ministry, they said.

The council is likely to endorse the plan because the administration of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has been reinforcing relations with Israel, they said.

The Japanese acquisition agency hopes to also conduct joint study on unmanned attack planes and unmanned fighters with Israel, according to the sources.

The source said concerns exist about the project prompting protest from Arab countries. Israel is known to have the world's top-level technology for unmanned spy planes and the aircraft are used in attacks on the Gaza area of the Palestinian autonomous region and on Lebanon.

The envisioned joint study is aimed at incorporating Japanese sensor technology in Israel's reconnaissance plane technologies, according to sources.

The Israeli and Japanese companies that have been asked about the feasibility of taking part declined comment. The companies include Israel Aerospace Industries Ltd. and Elbit Systems Ltd. of Israel, and Mitsubishi Electric Corp. and Fuji Heavy Industries Ltd. of Japan, according to the sources.

Japanese defense officials have decided to introduce the Global Hawk unmanned surveillance aircraft currently used by the U.S. forces.

But it is looking into Israeli technologies because Israeli unmanned reconnaissance planes are much cheaper, according to the sources.

The Abe Cabinet endorsed a new set of three principles on eased arms export control in April 2014 after Japan had long maintained the three-principle arms export ban rule.

Japanese drug co Takeda seeks investments in Israel

24/08/2016, INTERVIW GLOBES

Takeda Pharmaceuticals is looking for startups dealing with diagnostics and digital technologies.

Leading Japan-based drug company Takeda Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd. has recently held a two-day event in Israel, aimed at scouting for new digital healthcare firms. Two representatives of Takeda International, Chief Digital Officer Bruno Villette and Head of Europe, Middle East and Africa Stephanie Bova, who is involved in the Takeda Digital Accelerator, have joined Takeda's Israel office manager, Arie Kramer, in order to get acquainted with Israel's leading technologies.

Like many drug companies, Takeda is highly interested in digital technologies that could be utilized in the drug sector. In some cases, it has acted to buy the technology, in other it is only a user. However, it has often formed partnerships with startup companies, enabling the development of technologies beneficial to both the drug company and the consumer. In such cases, the startup brings its digital and consumer-related know-how, while the drug company contributes its knowledge and experience in the field of healthcare, as well as its understanding of the consumer's behavior as a patient.

Takeda, which recently marked its 200-year anniversary, is traded at a market cap of \$35 billion. In the past few years, it has focused on the fields of oncology, the digestive system and the central nervous system (the brain and the spinal cord). It founded its Israel office two and a half years ago.

Reminders for prescriptions

What kind of cooperation is Takeda already conducting?

Bova: "We maintain a consumer service program. Once you undergo a diagnosis, you are able to log in to an application that provides reminders regarding prescription renewals, recommendations on living with the disease, games teaching how to contend with the illness in a way that will be easier to memorize and less oppressive.

"We are currently developing a doctors' portal, which will enable doctors to find medical information regarding our drugs and the diseases that we treat. We have discovered that 7% of doctors will visit drug company websites, but 50% will be willing to ask questions in

a forum under the auspices of a drug company. People seek to receive information when they want it and not when you want to provide it."

Villetelle: "We try to provide extensive in-company education for managers and employees concerning the way digital means could be integrated into our communication with people, and we have many cooperation venues."

The partnership scouting event has been held in cooperation with Start-Up Nation Central Ltd. In the past, Takeda had been aided in scouting for technologies in Israel by the Israeli fund [OrbiMed Advisors LLC](#), its partner in the FuturRX incubator.

"We have been searching for technologies related to our core medical operations and to capabilities such as diagnostics, customer support in taking medicine and general patient service. In the future, we will also examine FinTech solutions that could help with our economic interface with hospitals and doctors, as well as cyber solutions. We will be pioneers in these fields."

What interesting projects have you seen?

Bova: "We have met with a company named Data2Life. What I liked about them is their capability to simultaneously examine data from social networks and patient communities, as well as more structured information from medical records, in order to provide advance warning regarding drug side effects, based on the intersection between symptoms appearing in the records and conversations between patients. They compete with well-established companies in this field in the US, and are doing it better. They are already running a pilot with Clalit Health Services.

"Another company does not even deal with healthcare. They have developed an incredible technology identifying terrorists in social networks. They are able to predict, with a 70% certainty, compared with 30% using existing means, whether a person is planning a terrorist attack. We are trying to understand how this capability could be implemented in the world of healthcare.

"Another excellent company, EIMindA, is capable of mapping neural networks in the brain that operate in different situations. In a clinical trial we are running, we are testing whether their technology could be used to improve the way brain treatment drugs are being developed and tested."

Predicting epidemics

What are currently the hottest, most futuristic global developments in the field of digital healthcare?

Bova: "We have been interested in the field of augmented and virtual reality. For example, enabling a person to experience how his body looks and functions from the inside and how the drug operates there, as well as in artificial intelligence in the field of epidemic prediction, stock shortages, predicting side effects and etc."

What parameters, other than technology, are you examining in such companies, when you consider cooperating with them?

Bova: "We want to understand what competition these companies are facing, although some do not have competitors."

Villetelle: "We are trying to understand the companies' chances of survival, since we will not offer our clients a product that is likely to suddenly disappear. Obviously, we also look into their team, and see if they have anyone in the organization who could become involved enough in the project to push it forward."

Villetelle: "It feels that two days have not been enough. There are some amazing things here. Israel is the startup nation, but it also the health data nation. You started building your databases several decades ago (the personal digital records maintained by healthcare services), and this is a unique asset. We believe that better information leads to better decisions, and thereby to better results."

Kremer: "We have enjoyed seeing companies not only presenting the technology itself, but also showing a fair understanding of the market. Some of the companies are already in contact with healthcare services, which constitutes an important initial demonstration of feasibility which is unique to Israel."

TowerJazz and TPSCo Announce a New State of the Art CMOS Image Sensor Technology based on Stacked Deep Photodiode

August 23 2016

MIGDAL HAEMEK, Israel, and UOZU CITY, Japan, Aug. 23, 2016 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) TowerJazz, the global specialty foundry leader, and TowerJazz Panasonic Semiconductor Co., Ltd. (TPSCo), the leading analog foundry in Japan, today announced a new state of the art CMOS Image Sensor (CIS) technology flow based on stacked deep photodiode, allowing customers to achieve very high Near Infrared (NIR) sensitivity and realize extremely low cross-talk while keeping low dark current characteristics, using small pixels and high resolution. Sensors with this pixel structure can perform even in very low light conditions. This new CIS technology will be available in TowerJazz and TPSCo's worldwide fabs, including the companies' advanced 12" fab in Uozu, Japan.

This solution targets 3D gesture recognition and gesture control for the consumer, security, automotive and industrial sensors markets.

According to marketsandmarkets.com, the gesture recognition and touchless sensing market is expected to grow from \$5.15 Billion in 2014 to \$23.55 Billion by 2020, at a CAGR of 28.2% between 2015 and 2020.

Near Infrared (NIR) is becoming more and more popular in 3D gesture recognition applications and in automotive active vision applications for better visibility in harsh weather conditions. These applications are using a Near IR laser as a non-visible, coherent light source. Each pixel can accurately measure the time it took for the light to exit the laser, reach the object and reflect back to the sensor, thus allowing calculation of the distance of any object in the scene, creating a 3D image. In general, it is extremely difficult to achieve both high sensitivity (high quantum efficiency) and high resolution (low “cross-talk” between pixels) using Near IR, both of which are the most important requirements for imaging.

Current solutions generally use a thick epi on p-type substrate to achieve high sensitivity, but this creates high cross talk (low resolution) and high dark current values. The novel pixel structure developed by TowerJazz and TPSCo has a stacked deep photodiode, providing both high sensitivity and low cross talk at NIR. This allows very low dark current values, especially at elevated temperatures, required in the automotive market.

“The tremendously fast growth of 3D gesture application in the consumer market such as PC and mobile as well as in the automotive area will allow us to attract many customers with this technology that is the best the market has to offer,” said Dr. Avi Strum, Senior Vice President and General Manager, CMOS Image Sensor Business Unit, TowerJazz.

The process was developed on TPSCo’s 65nm CIS technology on 300mm wafers in its Uozu, Japan fab and is already in production for leading edge automotive and security sensors. It will also be available for new designs in TPSCo’s 110nm fab in Arai, Japan and in TowerJazz’s 180nm fab in Migdal Haemek, Israel.

About TowerJazz

Tower Semiconductor Ltd. (TSEM, TASE: TSEM) and its fully owned U.S. subsidiaries Jazz Semiconductor, Inc. and TowerJazz Texas Inc., operate collectively under the brand name TowerJazz, the global specialty foundry leader. TowerJazz manufactures integrated circuits, offering a broad range of customizable process technologies including: SiGe, BiCMOS, mixed-signal/CMOS, RF CMOS, CMOS image sensor, integrated power management (BCD and 700V), and MEMS. TowerJazz also provides a world-class design enablement platform for a quick and accurate design cycle as well as Transfer Optimization and development Process Services (TOPS) to IDMs and fabless companies that need to expand capacity.

Israel's cybersecurity industry targets Japan pre-Olympics

The Yomiuri Shimbun

9:11 pm, September 05, 2016

By Michinari Nishida / Yomiuri Shimbun Staff Writer

The number of information technology companies in Israel is increasing. Since the nation was established, it has fought wars with nearby Arab countries and faced terrorist threats, and consequently has world-leading cybersecurity technology.

An Israeli company was entrusted with countering cyber-attacks at the Rio de Janeiro Olympics. Ahead of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics, both the public and private sectors in Israel have started marketing activities for exporting the country's cybersecurity technologies to Japan, where there is a shortage of human resources in the field.

During the Rio Olympics, there were concerns over possible cyber-attacks that would interfere with the management of the Games, as well as terrorist attacks. The Israeli company KELA was in charge of cybersecurity for the Games and afterward, a KELA official said the company's staff faced more serious threats than had been anticipated.

KELA monitors communications on the "dark net" (see below), including exchanges among hackers. If the company's staff find insider information regarding corporations, or the personal information of individuals being secretly traded, it notifies relevant clients.

KELA monitored the Rio Games' official website around the clock for cyber-attacks, and also watched for communications implying plans for terrorist attacks. It notified the Brazilian government of anything suspicious.

Now that the Rio Olympics has finished, Israel aims to sell its cybersecurity technologies to Japan, where the Tokyo Olympics will be held in four years' time.

In January, Israel formed a consortium to promote cyber defense technologies to Japan. The Israel Cyber Companies Consortium (IC3) was established under the initiative of Israel's Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Economy and Industry, and the National Cyber Bureau. IC3 consists of seven Israeli companies, including KELA and the state-run Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI).

Executives of member companies are scheduled to visit Tokyo in September to demonstrate the excellence of their technologies to people associated with the Japanese government and companies.

At an exhibition for IT-related businesses held in Tokyo in May, IC3 opened a booth for the first time and attracted the attention of visitors. An IT engineer of a major Japanese electronics manufacturer carefully listened to explanations about KELA's technologies, saying, "It's interesting, as there are no other examples like these."

Akio Ogiso, a representative of KELA's Japan office, said, "It's impossible to completely prevent cyber-attacks. It's important to minimize damage by taking action before information leaks."

Measures against cyber-attacks will be required for the Tokyo Olympics. These include preventing intrusions into the computer systems of the organizing committee and other related organizations; preventing sabotage activities that aim to paralyze traffic networks and other infrastructure; and gathering information about possible terrorist attacks. Cooperation in the cybersecurity field between Japan and Israel got into full gear in 2014, when Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu held a meeting.

An IC3 official explained that Israel cannot export its cyber technologies to all countries because of security reasons, but that it can cooperate with Japan, an ally of the United States.

It is said that there are 100,000 cyber-attacks a day against Israel. The Israeli government places importance on advanced cyber technologies, as well as military power.

Israel is believed to have conducted cyber-attacks that rendered the Syrian military's air defense radar networks unusable when carrying out airstrikes on Syria in 2007. Israeli cyber-attacks are also believed to have put the centrifuges at Iran's nuclear plant out of control in 2010.

These high-level capabilities are supported by the country's education system and military. Some high schools have cyber-defense classes.

After graduating from high school, both men and women are required to do military service, in principle. Talented people are assigned to elite cyber-affairs corps. After finishing military service, they are dispatched by the government to universities and companies to be developed into experts.

Although Israel's cyber technologies were developed for military purposes, they have been transferred to civilian-use fields and have grown into a promising export industry. Last year, Israel's cyber-related exports totaled \$3 billion (about ¥300 billion).

A high-ranking Israeli government official said: "We can provide advice for the Tokyo Olympics. We welcome cooperation with Japan."

■ Dark net

The dark net refers to parts of the internet that cannot be accessed through ordinary search engines. They can be accessed only with special communication methods and using specific software. Use of the dark net has increased each year, and much of the activity is believed to be criminal in nature.

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Domestic supply of high-level experts insufficient

Israel regards Japan as a promising market for exporting its cyber defense technologies because IT engineers with high-level expertise are in short supply in Japan.

Recently, a drill for developing cyber-related human resources was held in a building in Tokyo's Gotanda district. A computer program called TAME Range, developed by IAI, was used. The price in Japan for a TAME Range package is said to be about ¥200 million.

The participants formed teams of four. One team leader, who was watching a screen, gave the instruction: "An employee's personal computer is showing signs of snooping for information in other PC terminals around it. Confirm this."

The relevant team members checked, and soon found suspicious activity. The scenario was that a terminal of a company's internal network had been hacked, making it possible for the hacker to remotely control the network.

This drill used a targeted threat, the same type as the one used in last year's cyber-attacks on the Japan Pension Service.

A similar threat is traded among hackers in black markets for about ¥5,000. Work to counter this type of cyber-attack is designated by the IAI as Level 1, the easiest among three levels.

The drill lasted for five days and participation cost ¥700,000. During the drill, participants learned how to cope with cyber-attacks aiming to breach corporate systems and send fraudulent emails with computer viruses installed.

According to an estimate by the Information-Technology Promotion Agency, an independent administrative institution, there are about 265,000 people tasked with coping with cyber-attacks in Japan. That is 80,000 lower than the number deemed necessary. Out of those, 160,000 are seen as having insufficient skills.

Dai Nippon Printing Co., which possesses the selling rights for TAME Range in Japan, has held such drills eight times, inviting mainly IT engineers in the private sector. However, the company said that less than 10 percent of the participants were able to successfully handle Level 1 tasks.

"In many cases, methods of cyber-attack used overseas enter Japan some years later. Preparations are important," said Sanjay Agnani, who is in charge of the drills.

September

Abe offers condolences to Israel for Peres' death

KYODO

SEP 29, 2016

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe offered his condolences on the death of former Israeli Prime Minister and President Shimon Peres, calling the 1994 Nobel Peace Prize winner a "great leader."

Abe expressed his respect for the Israeli leader's efforts to forge peace in the Middle East, saying in a statement Wednesday that "the Oslo (Peace) Accords would not have been achieved without the devotion of Mr. Peres."

Peres met Abe in 2007 during a visit to Japan as deputy prime minister to launch a Tokyo-led initiative intended to build confidence between Israelis and Palestinians called the "Corridor for Peace and Prosperity."

"I continue to admire the role he played as a great bridge between Japan and the Middle East," Abe said.

Peres, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his role in the signing of an interim Israeli-Palestinian peace deal in 1993, died Wednesday. He had been hospitalized since Sept. 13 after suffering a stroke. His state funeral will be held Friday in Jerusalem

Japan, Israel to join on cybersecurity for Tokyo Olympics

TOSHIHIRO NAKANISHI, Nikkei senior staff writer

September 23, 2016 7:00 pm JST

TOKYO -- Japan is to sign a memorandum of understanding with Israel on technological cooperation as part of its efforts to step up cybersecurity ahead of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

The signing could take place this year.

While Japan wants to boost its defenses against cyberattacks in the runup to the 2020 games, Israel is seeking to strengthen its presence in Asia's cybersecurity market.

Until several years ago, nomads could be seen herding sheep in Beer Sheva, in southern Israel, a city whose name appears in the Old Testament. But Beer Sheva has been changing dramatically.

The Israeli government two years ago set up CyberSpark, a special information-technology zone, on the campus of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in Beer Sheva. The school is known for its science and technology prowess.

CyberSpark is meant to bring together people from the government, the military and international companies. Together, it is hoped these specialists forge a strategic hub for cyber-related technological development.

The modern complex houses the offices of Germany's Deutsche Telekom and other companies. Military engineers have also been moving to CyberSpark from Greater Tel Aviv.

CyberSpark has become a place where competent people with military, industrial and academic backgrounds fuse their ideas together, said Shelly Gotman, a former brigadier general of the Israeli air force who currently serves as a top executive of Leidos Holdings' Israeli subsidiary.

Deceiving hackers

In August, Leidos, a U.S. defense-related company, acquired Lockheed Martin's information systems unit, which has a research and study facility in Israel.

Israel has long been in conflict with Palestinians, its neighbors and terrorists. To cope with security threats, it has focused on developing military technologies.

But in recent years the main battlefield has shifted to cyberspace, where Israel purportedly comes under attack tens of thousands of times a day.

Under these circumstances, Israel is scrambling to beef up its technological capabilities, with Unit 8200, the military's elite intelligence organization, playing a central role. Israel now leads the world in cyber-related technologies.

Go back to 2010 for an example. A cyberattack that year paralyzed Iran's nuclear facilities. It began with a computer virus that is said to have been created by Unit 8200 and the U.S. National Security Agency.

In Israel, many people, like Gotman, join the business world by utilizing the experiences and personal connections they accumulate while serving in the military. This has helped the country's cybersecurity industry blossom.

Illusive Networks was founded by three former Unit 8200 officials. It has developed unique software that protects client companies from online attacks by deceiving hackers.

Still rising

Hackers who break into the computer systems of companies using the software think they are stealing real data. The hackers' movements are then detected and recorded. Countermeasures are quickly taken.

Other Israeli cybersecurity companies are in the global spotlight. Last year, CyActive was acquired by PayPal, the U.S.-based online payments giant.

CyActive's anti-malware packages now form a command center that directs PayPal's war against hackers.

Investment in Israel's high-tech sector totaled \$4.5 billion in 2015, increasing for a seventh year in a row and doubling from two years earlier. Cyber-related investment also grew in 2014 and 2015.

Foreign investors accounted for 80% to 90% of overall investment in Israel's high-tech sector in those two years. Foreign investors are mainly from the U.S. and Europe, but Asian investors are also gradually increasing in number.

The Israeli government has set its sights on Asia as a future destination for its cyber defense and technology exports and as a source of investment partners, said Ohad Cohen, a senior government official. One reason for this is that Israel is sending a smaller percentage of its overall exports to Europe, whose investment role is also diminishing.

Cohen, who heads the Foreign Trade Administration at the Israeli Ministry of Economy, also said Israel is now addressing the challenge of diversifying its trade partners by reducing its heavy reliance on the U.S. and Europe.

According to Cohen, 15% of Israel's exports went to Asia 15 years ago. The number has since nearly doubled and is still rising.

Golden opportunity

Israel has stationed more commercial officers in Asian countries such as China and India, Cohen said. It has also set up new trade offices in Vietnam, the Philippines and elsewhere in the region.

CyberSpark CEO Roni Zehavi on Sept. 5 began a visit to Japan, which he sees as an attractive market for Israel's anti-hacker technologies ahead of the 2020 Olympics.

"Israeli companies were involved in the cyber defense project of Rio de Janeiro [during this summer's Olympics]," Zehavi said. Citing the threat of cyberattacks in 2020, Zehavi said, "I am very happy to collaborate with Japan."

Japan's Financial Services Agency next month will carry out a large-scale joint exercise to prepare for possible cyberattacks; 80 financial institutions will participate.

Some banks are gearing up for the exercise by adopting countermeasures offered by Israeli cybersecurity companies.

CyberArk Software has already set up a Japanese subsidiary. Other Israeli cybersecurity companies are expected to consider doing the same.

Cyber defense cooperation between Japan and Israel started after a 2014 summit between their prime ministers, Shinzo Abe and Benjamin Netanyahu.

The Tokyo Olympics will likely provide a golden opportunity for Israel to enhance its presence in Asia's cyber defense market.

Japan to create Jericho pipeline for Palestinian goods to Arab world

Japan and Israel invested a total of \$350 million to expand the Jericho Agro Industrial Park.

Jerusalem post

Japan wants to turn dusty West Bank city of Jericho into a pipeline for Palestinian goods to the Arab world.

It has pumped \$300 million into a new complex in Area A, known as the Jericho Agro Industrial Park or, as the Japanese have dubbed it, the "Corridor for Peace and Prosperity."

Israel has added \$50 million to the project, according to Deputy Minister for Regional Cooperation Ayoub Kara.

"Development of the industrial zone is expected help empower [Palestinian] trade ties and strengthen the regional economy," Kara said.

The idea is to open up an economic line between the Palestinian territories and the larger Arab world, Kara said.

As an example of how the project can be a oasis in an otherwise hostile environment between Israelis and Palestinians, representatives from both government are expected to attend a ceremony in Jericho to mark the park's expansion.

Kara is expected to represent Israel at the ceremony, which will also be attended by Japan's Deputy Foreign Minister Kentaro Sonoura. Israel's Ministry for Regional Cooperation said it is still unclear who the Palestinian and Jordanian representatives will be.

The project, which is being developed by the Palestine Real Estate Investment Company (PRICo.) and the Palestine Investment Fund (PIF), was first created in 2012 and ground was broken in 2014.

Two factories are already operational at the site and another eight are expected to open their doors by the end of the year. Another 38 companies have signed leases with the industrial park, of some 1,115 dunams.

The park is now set to develop a second section of the project, so that dozens of additional businesses can join.

As part of the expansion, a new road will be built parallel to Route 90 in the Jordan Valley to allow for the fast transport of goods to Jordan through the nearby Allenby Border Crossing.

The road will run parallel to Route 90, and will be partially in Area A of the West Bank and partially in Area C.

The scope of the project is very large and will generate capital to upgrade the infrastructure in the area, Kara said.

Construction of the next phase of the project had been frozen, he explained. It was bogged down in technical issues, such as the construction of the road.

“But with some luck, determination and help from the Japanese, we have made it happen,” he said.

A similar joint Japanese, Jordanian, Palestinian and Israeli meeting was held in Jericho in 2013 to mark the start of the project

State Minister Sonoura Attends the Fifth Ministerial-Level Meeting of the Four-Party Consultative Unit for the “Corridor for Peace and Prosperity”

September 7, 2016

On September 7, Mr. Kentaro Sonoura, State Minister for Foreign Affairs, attended the Fifth Ministerial-Level Meeting of the Four-Party Consultative Unit for the “Corridor for Peace and Prosperity” in Jericho, Palestine, during his visit. The overview of the meeting is as follows.

1. The meeting was attended by H.E. Mr. Hussein al-Sheikh, Minister of Civil Affairs of the Palestinian Authority, H.E. Mr. Tzachi Hanegbi, Israeli Minister at Prime Minister Office, and H.E. Dr. Saleh Al-Kharabsheh, Jordanian Secretary General of the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation. State Minister Sonoura served as Chair.

2. At the meeting, they shared the recognition on the current state of the construction of the Jericho Agro-Industrial Park (JAIP), a flagship project of the “Corridor for Peace and Prosperity” aiming to encourage the development of the Palestinian economy through regional cooperation, and discussed future efforts and initiatives.

3. State Minister Sonoura mentioned that 10 years have passed since the inauguration of the initiative of the “Corridor for Peace and Prosperity”, and welcomed the steady progress being made with the concept, including the fact that two Palestinian companies have begun operating at the JAIP. State Minister Sonoura expressed his hope that the four parties will continue to work together to move the initiative forward.

4. The four parties reaffirmed the importance of cooperation for further progress in the initiative which would contribute to the development of the Palestinian economy and peace and prosperity in the region. Lastly, a Chairman’s summary was adopted, and the meeting ended.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, at the Opening Remarks for the Fifth Ministerial-Level Meeting of the Four-Party Consultative Unit for the “Corridor for Peace and Prosperity”,

7 September 2016

It is my great pleasure to visit Palestine again as the State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, and to open the Meeting of the Four-party Consultative Unit for the “Corridor for Peace and Prosperity” Initiative, which will take place for the first time in three years.

Junichiro KOIZUMI, then Prime Minister of Japan, first visited here in 2006 to propose the concept “Corridor for Peace and Prosperity”, and then Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs Taro ASO established the framework in 2007 in which these four parties meet regularly.

Ten years have passed since then. In the intervening years, the Middle East Peace Process has experienced a series of ups and downs. Peace conferences have alternated with conflicts such as the Gaza war while peace negotiations have both broken down and resumed apace.

Even under such circumstances, we, the four of us, have cooperated to steadily develop the Palestinian economy, based on this concept.

Today, we can see significant progress. The flagship project, Jericho Agro-Industrial Park (JAIP), has increased employment after it commenced operations last year. I would like to express my sincere gratitude and respect for their patient effort and dedication by the parties concerned. Cooperation with Jordan will be increasingly important for the distribution of JAIP products in near future.

I would like to reiterate the importance of an independent Palestinian economy in achieving a two-state solution. I am confident that today's meeting, its outcome and further progress of JAIP will become a guiding light for the citizens of Israel and Palestine as well as all concerned parties in the international community who aspire to create peace.

Thank you very much, Shukran jazilan, Toada rava and Arigatou gozaimashita.

Japan MoD says 'no collaboration' with Israel on UAVs

Jon Grevatt, Bangkok - IHS Jane's Defence Industry
12 September 2016

The Japanese Ministry of Defense (MoD) has rejected reports that it is mulling a programme with Israel to jointly develop unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).

Various reports in Japan had suggested that the two governments were preparing a programme to jointly research, develop and produce UAVs, and that final approval of the programme was being sought from Japan's National Security Council, which has the power to veto any proposed defence export or industry collaboration.

The collaborative programme would reportedly have been between the Japanese MoD's Acquisition, Technology & Logistics Agency (ATLA) and the Israeli Ministry of Defense's Defense Export and Defense Co-operation Agency (SIBAT).

Humavox Partners with Asahi Kasei to Make Wireless Charging Mainstream

Humavox and AKM partner to enable easier implementation of wireless charging within the smallest of electronics, including any wearables, hearables, and IoT devices, allowing high quality wireless charging chip-sets to enter the commercialized phase

September 29, 2016

KFAR SABA, Israel--([BUSINESS WIRE](#))--[Humavox](#), a wireless charging innovator, and [Asahi Kasei Microdevices Corporation](#) (AKM), a designer and manufacturer of high performance electronics operating under the Japanese Asahi Kasei Corporation, are partnering to create a wireless charging chip-set smaller than ever before. Together they will provide mass production of high quality chips with Humavox's unique radio-frequency (RF) based wireless charging technology, in order to expand wireless charging availability to the masses for countless devices, including wearables, hearables, and IoT devices.

This cooperation signals a significant step in Humavox's progression into the commercial space, making the company's chips highly accessible and available to various device

manufacturing clients. As a tier-one semiconductor, AKM will enable higher availability and easier integration of Humavox's proprietary technology. Moreover, AKM's specialty in RF promises quality chip-sets for small devices that currently lack a feasible wireless charging solution.

"Having AKM, a giant semiconductor company, want to use their facilities and know-how to design and produce our technology, is a great indication that there is a market need for our wireless charging platform," said Omri Lachman, CEO & Co-Founder of Humavox. "We are looking forward to cooperate in order to make wireless charging chip-sets widely available and suitable for countless devices."

As part of the collaboration, by the first quarter of 2017, Humavox's development partners and selected companies will be able to evaluate the chip-sets. This option will be made available first and foremost to Humavox's current customers in the wearable space (e.g. earbuds and hearables, etc.) and AKM's customers. By the third quarter of 2017, the chip-set is intended to be fully commercialized for widespread use.

"We believe in Humavox's revolutionary RF-based wireless charging solution that provides device manufacturers with an exceptionally small form factor for implementation and users with a unique user experience," said Kimio Ueda, Ph.D., Vice President of AKM. "That is why we see such great value in this technology, and are excited to be the first to manufacture these chip-sets and sell them to interested companies."

With Humavox's [wireless charging technology](#), any 3D container can become a wireless charger, so that any bowl, drawer, or bag, can serve as a charging unit for your device. With nearly no volume or design constraints, each station can be tailor-made to the customer's preferences and the device's look and feel, to seamlessly blend into the wearable user's life.

AKM specializes in RF IC, supporting the integration of Humavox's wireless charging technology in any device. The company is committed to providing optimum solutions with advanced sensing and mixed signal technologies for the consumer, personal communication, and automotive markets.

About Humavox

Humavox is an innovative developer of groundbreaking technology in the field of wireless power. With its ETERNA platform, Humavox uses near-field radio frequency (RF) technology, and provides users with a simple and intuitive charging experience ("drop & charge"). The technology can be implemented in the smallest of devices, such as wearables and IoT devices. Humavox was founded in 2010 by Omri Lachman and Asaf Elssibony, and is based in Israel.

About Asahi Kasei Microdevices

Asahi Kasei Microdevices (AKM) is a Japan-based leading supplier of sophisticated IC products featuring analog/digital mixed-signal technology, and a variety of advanced sensing devices based on compound semiconductor technology. AKM's broad portfolio covers a wide range of end products including mobile communication, smartphones, automobiles, industrial equipment and infrastructural equipment.

AKM has continued to provide customers with optimum solutions all over the world for over 30 years.

2nd Murata Hackathon to Be Held in Israel: Seeking New Ideas in IoT

September 05, 2016

Overview

Murata Electronics Europe B.V. is partnering with Samurai Incubate Inc. (Headquarters: Shinagawa, Tokyo; CEO: Kentaro Sakakibara) to host the 2nd Murata Hackathon, an event that seeks new business ideas in IoT, from September 14-15 in Israel.

*What is a "hackathon"?

A hackathon, coined by combining the words "hack" and "marathon," is an event in which engineers come together to compete in teams and give shape to ideas. Participants write programs and develop applications over the course of several days.

Summary

With the world of the Internet of Things or "IoT" expanding at a rapid pace, there is demand for the birth of unprecedented and innovative products. Murata is therefore targeting the creation of new business in IoT and following last year's event, it will host the 2nd Murata Hackathon in Israel. The event is aimed at developing new applications by integrating Murata's state-of-the-art parts, especially sensors and communication modules, with original ideas from Israel, a country known for its software development expertise.

Details of Hackathon

Name	2nd Murata Hackathon in Israel			
Organizer/Partner	Organizer: Murata Electronics Europe B.V.	Partner: Samurai Incubate Inc.		
Dates	September 14-15, 2016			
Location	Tel Aviv, Israel			
Conditions for participation	Entry in teams (2-5 members)			
Number of teams accepted	15 teams			

Schedule	Entries	open:	June	2,	2016
	Entry	deadline:	August	31,	2016
	Hackathon: September 14-15, 2016				
URL	https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfNBu_w6ifRHEDwGRHMmZuZk0EGeN9SgsBy57PYYkSN38lsQg/viewform				

Eleven teams participated in last year's 1st Murata Hackathon. The winner, Israeli startup The Elegant Monkeys (TEM), has entered into an agreement with Murata to pursue joint development in the healthcare sector.

The Elegant Monkeys comment on winning the 1st Murata Hackathon

The Elegant Monkeys is excited to start a highly ambitious and strategic cooperation with Murata, made possible as a result of winning their 1st Israeli Hackathon last year. We believe that the combination of Japanese top-quality hardware innovation alongside the Israeli software and algorithm expertise, will lead to a new industry standard of products. Although we cannot elaborate at this time, this joint venture is a big step for the Israeli-Japanese collaboration towards global technological advancements.

About The Elegant Monkeys

TEM is an Israeli-based startup company, specializing in Software, Mobile, IoT (Internet of Things) and Healthcare Technologies. TEM is pursuing the vision of translating human emotions to digital signals in order to improve quality-of-life for the modern society through technological innovations

About Samurai Incubate Inc.

As one of Japan's leading incubators, Samurai Incubate Inc. has launched many proactive efforts under its mission of changing the world through "Go Action! Go Change!," including its Samurai Startup Island (Tokyo) and Samurai House (Israel) co-working spaces for incubation, Samurai Venture Summit events to support entrepreneurs (held in Japan and North America along with ASEAN, Israel, and more), and an investment fund.

Auto parts co DENSO chooses Autotalks V2X device

27/09/2016, [Globes correspondent](#)

The Israeli company will provide the Japanese company with its V2X communications platform.

Israel's flourishing high-tech vehicle systems sector has scored another major success today. Global auto parts supplier DENSO has selected [Autotalks'](#) next generation V2X communications and infrastructure device. DENSO, which pioneers V2X ECU will put Autotalks' chipset at the center of its global V2X platform for car-makers mass market projects. Prototyping phase has already started towards an unprecedented high-volume SOP (Start Of Production) in 2019, targeting the North America market.

V2X Communication connects vehicles to other vehicles (V2V), infrastructure (V2I), motorcycles (V2M) and pedestrians (V2P) within wireless range for safety and mobility applications. It adds a new layer of confidence and certainty for drivers as it helps prevent car accidents. It complements the information of other sensors, especially in situations of non-line-of-sight, rough weather or poor lighting conditions. The pivotal mass-deployment of V2X demonstrates the importance of the technology and the belief that it will achieve a dramatic improvement in road safety.

Based in Kfar Netter near Netanya, Autotalks' next generation devices embed a mobility optimized modem, support dual-antenna with optimal and flexible RX/TX diversity, perform line-rate message ECDSA verification of the entire link capacity and embed an ultra-low-latency V2X HSM. In addition, Autotalks' next generation was designed for cryptoagility and scalability, and is capable of operating at a high temperature range. All these advantages combined, coupled with a rigorous benchmark, crowned Autotalks' next generation as optimal for DENSO's global mass market V2X platform.

Autotalks CEO Hagai Zyss said, "Autotalks is proud to cooperate with DENSO on a truly secure mass market optimized V2X system. This cooperation not only validates Autotalks' technology superiority, but also shows Autotalks' capability to satisfy DENSO's quality policies and support demands for high-scale mass market projects."

Hitachi among 6 bids in Israel Railways electrified cars tender

Siemens, Alstom, Stadler, Hitachi, Skoda, and Bombardier are competing in the NIS 3 billion tender.

Six companies have submitted bids in the Israeli Railways tender for the procurement of 330 electrified two-storey railway cars: Siemens, Alstom, Stadler, Hitachi, Skoda, and Bombardier. The cars to be purchased will have 1,700 passenger seats, and will account for 37% of the 520 railway cars now operated by Israel Railways. The new cars are slated to cost NIS 3 billion.

The tender is part of the NIS 13 billion Israel Railways electrification program. The new cars are scheduled to arrive in Israel in late 2019, where they will be maintained by the winning company in a garage it will build in Ashkelon. Simultaneously with buying the new cars, Israel Railways is converting diesel cars to electricity in order to use them on the high-speed Tel Aviv-Jerusalem railway line scheduled to open in late 2017.

The advantages of electrified railway cars are quietness and environmental friendliness, greater speed and shorter travel times, more seats on each train, improved acceleration and braking capability, and substantial savings on maintenance and energy.

Israel Railways CEO Boaz Tsafrir said, "Israel Railways is preparing for one of the most momentous changes since it was founded - converting the railway network to electricity

and operating electrical trains. The project will completely change Israel Railways' operations, with a significant upgrade in the railway experience for both passengers and the public located near the railway tracks. High-speed, environmentally friendly, and quiet electrified trains will provide better service to passengers on new and existing lines, and enable Israel Railways to continue increasing the number of its customers and providing a real alternative to private vehicles."

Israel to host first Japanese Film Festival in October

Along with the Japanese Film Festival there will be arts programs highlighting Japanese culture.

Jerusalem Post 28 Sept 2016

The first Japanese Film Festival, called the Aki-Nu (Autumn) Festival, will be held from October 18-30 at the cinematheques in Holon, Tel Aviv, Haifa, Herzliya and Jerusalem.

The festival was created and programmed by the Holon Cinematheque and will present the best of contemporary Japanese cinema.

The artistic director of the festival is Roni Mahadav-Levin, director of the Holon Cinematheque, and the festival is supported by the Japan Foundation and the Japanese Embassy. The festival will present nine films in many genres, including fiction, documentary, animation, suspense and horror. There will also be special arts programs highlighting Japanese culture, among them an exhibit at the Design Museum Holon.

Among the films in the festival will be *After the Storm* by Hirokazu Koreeda, who made last year's *Our Little Sister*, a look at a washed-up writer who seeks redemption with his family; Kiyoshi Kurosawa's *Creepy*, about a detective's search for a missing family; and Kôji Fukada's *Harmonium*, about two friends whose lives have changed.

The opening event will be held at the Holon Cinematheque on October 18 in the presence of the Japanese ambassador to Israel, Koji Tomita, and Holon Mayor Moti Sasson.

October

Israel, Japan move to form direct commercial flight paths

New deal will allow 14 direct flights weekly between the two countries • Deal also allows Israeli cargo flights via Japan to third country • "The skies to the Far East continue to open," Transportation Minister Yisrael Katz says.

Israel Hayom 27 October 2016

Israel and Japan on Thursday signed an agreement to form new, direct commercial flight paths between the two countries.

Transportation Minister Yisrael Katz and Japanese Ambassador to Israel Koji Tomita signed the deal in Jerusalem in a ceremony attended by Transportation and Foreign Ministry officials, representatives from the Civil Aviation Authority, and the Japanese deputy ambassador and commercial attache.

The deal will allow Israeli airlines to operate direct flights to any destination in Japan, including the country's main gateway, Narita International Airport in Tokyo. Japanese airlines will be able to operate direct flights from Tokyo to Israel.

The agreement, signed after intense negotiations in Tokyo in 2015 between Israeli Civil Aviation Authority officials and their Japanese counterparts, renewed and upgraded an existing commercial flight agreement between the two countries, signed in 2000.

According to the new deal, up to 14 new direct flights will become available between the two countries each week.

The agreement also allows Israeli airlines to operate cargo flights from Ben-Gurion International Airport to a third country via Japan, as well as to sign code-share agreements with third-party airlines.

Most major airlines worldwide have code-share partnerships with other airlines, as these are considered a key tool in expanding an airline's passenger base and extending its service to new markets.

The deal follows the announcement this week by Hong Kong-based [Cathay Pacific](#), considered one of world's best airlines, that it will begin operating direct flights between Hong Kong and Tel Aviv in March 2017.

"The skies to the Far East continue to open and Israeli passengers have everything to gain," Katz said Thursday. He said deals with Asian airlines are pursued "as part of the Transportation Ministry's policy to increase the liberalization of the aviation industry in Israel."

Fujitsu opens its Business Centre in Israel

Fujitsu the world fifth largest Computers and IT concerned officially inaugurated its Business Centre on October 31st 2016.

A special delegation consisting of Michael Keegan SVP Head of EMEA Product Business, Shuhai Oyake Head of Global Products Business Acceleration. Juan. M. Porcar, VP Head of Eastern Europe, Russia & CIS and Africa, Dave Hazard VP Sales Operation and Channels EMEA.

Mr. Raanan Biber was appointed as Israel Country Manager. Mr. Biber was previously Head of Dell Russia and in the last three years served as Country General Manager - VMware Israel.

The newly established Centre was opened with an inauguration conference in which Fujitsu's vision and business partners were presented to professional audience. Fujitsu intends to provide commercial comprehensive services in the Cloud, Big Data, and IT and to position itself as one of the leading players in the Israeli market.

Yaskawa Robotics to invest in Israeli Start-ups

Yaskawa, more than 100 years and manufactures industrial robots, is setting up a fund of tens of millions of dollars to invest in local startups, especially in the fields of artificial intelligence, cyber and Big Data. After that in 2013 it invested in ReWalk Yokneam Illit

[Nimrod cliff](#)

19/10/16,
07:09

Japanese robotics company Yaskawa (Yaskawa) is seeking additional investments in Israel, after investing in robotics Israeli ReWalk, in 2013, is now setting up a fund worth tens of millions of dollars to invest in Israeli startups a number of areas "Erik Dan, CEO and President of Yaskawa Israel, the local branch of the company told Calcalist.

Yaskawa is interested to invest in projects ranging from initial seed until the later stages, the amounts of hundreds of thousands to millions of dollars, when the goal is to find solid companies can perform strategic cooperation (technological, business or marketing) not just financial. This is an unusual step for the company, although in recent years acquired a number of startups around the world intact but so far has not made many investments in the form of funding for part-time holdings. According to Dan, Yaskawa has already begun talks in recent days with a number of startups.

Interests of the fund, he says, include robotics, motion control, Artificial Intelligence, Big Data, Internet of things, cyber, 3D printing, clean energy, information technology. The decision in which it will invest in companies together with corporate managers in Japan. "Yaskawa is a very conservative society prefers to do as many things shy and non disclosed,, but recently it reveals more open, and very interested in Israel following the tightening of relations between governments and the understanding that you can achieve a lot of synergy between the Japanese performance capabilities of Israeli creativity," says Dan. "The Japanese are very good at matters such as production technology of high efficiency and reliability, and they understand that you can earn original ideas and rapid work pace of Israeli entrepreneurs and engineers." About the cultural gap between Israel and Japan, he said, "there is an understanding in recent years Japanese industry Israelis are reliable people you can count on, is also associated with maturation of the technology industry in Israel. Israeli entrepreneurs today are looking more long term and are less nonsense".

ReWalk Yokneam Illit, formerly known as the Organization, engaged in the development of robotic systems and wear on the body and help the disabled to go and recover. At the end of 2013 Yaskawa took part of the investment round totaling \$ 17 million in the company, the last year before the IPO after the Nasdaq. Today it is worth about \$ 69 million after prolonged drop in share value. "The company is thinking long-term. Robotics is a field very complicated for anyone looking for instant success in the field for which it is not, "replies discusses how managers react Yaskawa difficulties of ReWalk.

Yaskawa, ranked second in the world installations of industrial robots, was established in 1915 as a company which manufactured electric motors, and expanded over the years to its practice areas and focused on starting in the 70 automation of factories and other types of industrial robots. It currently has 15 thousand employees, produces 25 thousand robots per year, recorded in 2015 revenues of \$ 3.6 billion Tokyo Stock Exchange and trades at a current value of \$ 4 billion. In recent years, it expanded into other areas such as medical rehabilitation, clean energy and mechanized farming, with the framework of strengthening presence in the country is also planning to expand trials of new technologies that will take place in Israel, as a pilot project in the field of solar energy has already started to leave.

"Israel has very interesting startups in fields such as artificial intelligence, some of them veterans of Unit 8200, or the field of 3D printing which see quite a few ideas to move away from the path of special fields than usual," Dan gives examples of companies which he directs. "We are also open to companies at very early stages, but I want to see at least the beginning of the realization of the idea. Entrepreneur come up with an idea on paper only and have not started to think about how he realizes that technology is less suited us."

NTT Data to comb globe for fintech startups

TOKYO NIKKEI -- Japanese IT services provider [NTT Data](#) is launching a campaign to identify startup companies across the world, with a focus on financial technology, or fintech.

The Tokyo-based developer of backbone systems for financial institutions and government agencies sees demand softening in Japan amid a population decline and industry realignment. While making big acquisitions such as the IT services unit of Dell, it also seeks to tap new technologies and business models from startups to ramp up overseas operations.

By investing in and partnering with fintech and other startups abroad, NTT Data aims to rake in 10 billion yen (\$100 million) in revenue in five years.

To search for candidate companies in the U.K., NTT Data has joined Innovate Finance, a nonprofit fintech support association that has the city of London as its lead sponsor. The organization, which helps startups raise venture capital and refers them to potential business partners, boasts a wealth of information and membership that includes such financial services giants as Barclays, HSBC and MasterCard. The Japanese company will supply the association with information about startups back home as well.

NTT Data will hold business model idea contests for startups in 10 countries this fiscal year, including Canada, Singapore, Israel and China.

The competition previously was held only in Japan. The [Nippon Telegraph and Telephone](#) unit also aims to build cooperative relationships with startup support groups in other countries.

PointGrab's Sensing Solution for Smart Buildings Boosted by \$7M Strategic Investment from Philips Lighting , ABB and Mitsubishi UFJ

CogniPoint edge-analytics sensors add key functionality to office space management

October 25, 2016 04:00 AM Eastern Daylight Time

HOD HASHARON, Israel--([BUSINESS WIRE](#))--PointGrab today announced a US\$7 million strategic investment to support its advanced sensor technology for smart buildings. The investors include new partners - Philips Lighting, the global leader in lighting, Mitsubishi UFJ Capital Co. Ltd (MUCAP), a venture capital arm of MUFG, Japan's largest financial group, in addition to existing investors ABB Technology Ventures (ATV) and others.

PointGrab's edge-analytics smart sensing solution, CogniPoint™, provides industry-leading occupant activity analytics to enable effective building space management and enhance buildings' operational efficiency. By embedding state-of-the-art deep learning neural networks technology into cost-effective, miniature and connected optical sensing devices, PointGrab's CogniPoint sensing solution provides unprecedented analytics precision in the detection of occupants' locations, count, and movements. This technology improves energy efficiency, optimizes the use of space and improves safety and security.

"CogniPoint's ultra-intelligent edge-analytics sensor technology will be a key facilitator for capturing critical data for building operations optimization, energy savings improvement and business intelligence," said Itamar Roth, Chief Business Officer, PointGrab. "We welcome our new partners and value their significant contribution in fulfilling our strategy of enabling truly intelligent buildings."

Jacques Letzelter, Global Segment Leader, Office & Industry, Philips Lighting, said: "PointGrab has developed truly industry-leading sensor technology. Being a strategic investor gives us a strong competitive edge at a time when our customers are demanding people counting for space optimization. Incorporating this functionality in our connected lighting systems will enable us to address a larger market and further capitalize on our position as the lighting company for the Internet of Things."

"PointGrab's CogniPoint solution complements ABB's technology as a pioneer in building automation solutions," says Dr. Kurt Kaltenegger, Group Vice President, Head of Technology, ABB Technology Ventures. "We expect this collaboration to bolster development efforts and expedite new product introduction."

"Edge-computing like the CogniPoint solution is a new trend in the cloud computing era," said Muneki Handa, President of MUCAP. "With this investment, the synergistic effects between PointGrab's smart analytics solution and MUCAP will greatly benefit the Japanese market."

PointGrab has installed CogniPoint smart sensors in numerous customer sites as part of ongoing collaboration projects. The CogniPoint solution will be available in early 2017.

About PointGrab, Inc.

PointGrab is a leading machine learning and computer vision company that provides smart sensing solution to the building automation industry. The company applies its superior deep-learning technology to the building automation ecosystem, where opportunities to gather data are abundant, but efficient, real-time analytics are lacking. The company is fast growing and supported by world leading engineering company ABB, the global leader in lighting, Philips Lighting, and sector expert EcoMachines Ventures of London, and applies a joint development and market approach with global leading lighting and engineering companies.



About ABB Technology Ventures

ABB Technology Ventures (ATV) is the corporate venture capital arm of the ABB Group (NYSE: ABB), investing into high potential industrial automation and energy technologies, aligned with ABB's mission. Typical investments are in sectors like robotics, artificial intelligence, IoT and smart grid.

ABB (ABBN: SIX Swiss Ex) is a pioneering technology leader in electrification products, robotics and motion, industrial automation and power grids serving customers in utilities, industry and transport & infrastructure globally. After more than four decades at the forefront of digital technologies for industry, ABB is writing the future of industrial digitalization. With an installed base of over 70,000 control systems connecting 70 million devices across all customer segments, ABB is ideally positioned to drive the Energy and Fourth Industrial Revolutions. ABB, whose heritage spans more than 130 years, operates in over 100 countries with about 135,000 employees.

About Philips Lighting

Philips Lighting (Euronext Amsterdam ticker: LIGHT), a global leader in lighting products, systems and services, delivers innovations that unlock business value, providing rich user experiences that help improve lives. Serving professional and consumer markets, we lead the industry in leveraging the Internet of Things to transform homes, buildings and urban spaces. With 2015 sales of EUR 7.5 billion, we have approximately 36,000 employees in over 70 countries.

About Mitsubishi UFJ Capital

Mitsubishi UFJ Capital (MUCAP) has been supporting venture businesses since 1974, during the early days of venture capital in Japan. As a member of MUFG which is Japan's largest financial group, MUCAP have remained resolute and committed in the face of drastic changes in the industry environment over this time, and have helped over 850 ventures to achieve their IPO. MUCAP focus is domestic with selective cross border investments; mainly in the fields of IT, Electronics, High Technology and Healthcare.

SoftBank to Provide High-Speed LTE Services Using Gilat's Satellite-Based Cellular Backhaul Technology

Commercial Services to Remote Areas in Japan Expected in 2016 Based on Successful Field Trial of Gilat's SkyEdge II-c Capricorn VSAT Network

SoftBank Corp. ("SoftBank"), a subsidiary of SoftBank Group Corp. (TOKYO:9984) providing mobile communication, fixed-line communication and Internet connection services to customers in Japan, and Gilat Satellite Networks Ltd. ("Gilat") (NASDAQ:[GILT](#)) (TASE:[GILT](#)), a worldwide leader in satellite networking technology, satellite mobility solutions and services, announced today that SoftBank intends to provide high-speed LTE services using Gilat's satellite-based cellular backhaul technology following a successful

field trial. This technology makes it possible for SoftBank to cost-effectively offer high-speed mobile communication services in remote areas where it is difficult to install fixed-line facilities and base stations. SoftBank expects to offer commercial services in Japan, based on this technology, within 2016.

SoftBank has already succeeded in providing cost-efficient 3G mobile communications in Japan, where it is difficult to build facilities for fixed-line and mobile communications, by using satellite communications as backhaul. SoftBank contributed to the development of Gilat's SkyEdge II-c high-speed satellite communications platform early on, and conducted verification work along the way. The latest trials demonstrated FTP downlink rates of up to 100Mbps using actual mobile handsets, which until now have been very difficult to achieve.

Yasuyuki Imai, SoftBank's Executive Vice President and Head of the Technology Unit commented, "With this technology, we will be able to also offer high-speed LTE services in mountainous regions, remote islands and other areas in Japan where it is difficult to install fixed-line backhaul cost-effectively and quickly. We already have satellite-based backhaul in those regions, but now we will be able to offer our customers LTE speeds. We also expect to see the application of this technology to the mobile network of our group company Sprint in the US. Our hope is that this technology will help play a role in bridging the digital divide."

Dov Baharav, Gilat's Chairman of the Board and Interim CEO commented, "Gilat is the pioneer in delivering 4G satellite-based cellular backhaul for mobile network operators and our new technology allows for quick time to market and complete 4G service coverage. We are excited to be working with a leading global carrier like SoftBank to help them deliver high-speed mobile communication services in a variety of regions."

About SoftBank Corp.

SoftBank Corp., a subsidiary of SoftBank Group Corp. (TOKYO:9984), provides mobile communication, fixed-line communication and Internet connection services to customers in Japan. Leveraging synergies with other companies in the SoftBank Group, SoftBank Corp. aims to transform lifestyles through ICT and expand into other business areas including IoT, robotics and energy.

About Gilat

Gilat Satellite Networks Ltd (NASDAQ:[GILT](#)) (TASE:[GILT](#)) is a leading provider of products and services for satellite-based broadband communications. Gilat develops and markets a wide range of high-performance satellite ground segment equipment and VSATs, with an increasing focus on the consumer and Ka-band market. In addition, Gilat enables mobile SOTM (Satellite-on-the-Move) solutions providing low-profile antennas, next generation solid-state power amplifiers and modems. Gilat also provides managed network and satellite-based services for rural telephony and Internet access via its subsidiaries in Peru and Colombia.

With over 25 years of experience, and over a million products shipped to more than 90 countries, Gilat has provided enterprises, service providers and operators with efficient and reliable satellite-based connectivity solutions, including cellular backhaul, banking, retail, e-government and rural communication networks. Gilat also enables leading defense, public security and news organizations to implement advanced, on-the-move tactical communications on board their land, air and sea fleets using Gilat's high-performance SOTM solutions. Gilat controlling shareholders are the FIMI Private Equity Funds.

Israel's first Japanese film fest coming to a cinema near you

The Aki-Nu (Autumn) Festival, is running until the end of the month at the cinematheques in Holon, Tel Aviv, Haifa, Herzliya and Jerusalem.

Jerusalem Post 20 October 2016

The first Japanese film festival in Israel, called the Aki-Nu (Autumn) Festival, is running until the end of the month at the cinematheques in Holon, Tel Aviv, Haifa, Herzliya and Jerusalem. The dates and selection are slightly different at each cinematheque.

The festival was created and programmed by the Holon Cinematheque and will present the best of contemporary Japanese cinema.

The artistic director of the festival is Roni Mahadav-Levin, director of the Holon Cinematheque, and the festival is supported by the Japan Foundation and the Japanese Embassy. The festival will present nine films in genres such as fiction, documentary, animation, suspense and horror. There will also be special arts programs highlighting Japanese culture, among them an exhibition at the Design Museum Holon.

Some of the films will have subtitles in English and Hebrew, while others will have titles only in Hebrew, so check with the theater before you go.

The festival will feature two recent films by Kiyoshi Kurosawa, one of Japan's most acclaimed directors. The 2016 film *Creepy*, as its title suggests, is a horror/thriller, based on a bestselling novel about a homicide detective who retires to the suburbs to go into teaching, only to be drawn back into the world of crime when a colleague asks him to help in the case of the disappearance of an entire family. When it turns out that his pushy new neighbor may be the prime suspect in the case, things get especially, well, creepy.

Journey to the Shore is a 2015 film by the prolific Kurosawa about a woman whose husband was believed to have drowned but who returns to invite her on a mysterious journey.

While many Japanese directors make movies that are in the thriller, supernatural or crime genres, Hirokazu Koreeda has bucked this trend with his touching, low-key character-driven films.

Among his recent successes are *Our Little Sister* and *Like Father, Like Son*. His latest film, *After the Storm*, will be shown at the festival. It tells the story of a former bestselling writer who struggles with a gambling addiction and works as a detective to try to support his family. The movie, which is also being screened at the Haifa International Film Festival, has earned praise from around the world.

Mipo Oh is the rare female director from Japan.

Her movie *Being Good* tells the stories of several people struggling to cope with different situations: a teacher adjusting to a new school; an overwhelmed mother; and an elderly person with dementia. Set against a background of the student protests in the late 1960s, Hitoshi Kazaki's *A Cappella* tells the story of a young woman who takes part in the political upheaval but escapes to a cafe that features live music when the protests turn violent. There, she falls in love, but the romance turns out to be as turbulent as the political struggles going on around her.

The *Murder Case of Hana & Alice*, by Hitoshi Yazaki, is an anime movie about teenagers coping with first love and bullying, and then find themselves on the trail of a murderer. This quirky story is quickly on its way to becoming an international cult film, and it is the follow-up to a previous movie about these characters.

Kôji Fukada's *Harmonium* is a thriller that looks at a family whose calm life is disrupted when a man who had known the father in prison comes to visit.

Until October 31 at the cinematheques in Holon, Tel Aviv, Haifa, Herzliya and Jerusalem

OriginGPS and TDK Announce Collaboration to Shrink GNSS Footprint for Wearables

OriginGPS Provides Reference Designs of Spider Modules to Pair Its Miniature GPS and GNSS Modules with TDK's Ultra-Slim Antennas

TDK, one of the largest manufacturers of electronic components in the world and OriginGPS, a leading manufacturer of miniature Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) modules, announced today a new collaboration. As part of this collaboration, customers utilizing OriginGPS Spider modules will receive increased support to integrate TDK antennas into their designs. Existing reference designs coupled with TDK's extensive Electromagnetic (EM) simulation capabilities will allow customers to maximize GNSS performance.

"TDK is one of the most well-respected names in the RF industry, so it goes without saying that we're very excited to be working with them to provide best-in-class location modules to their customers," said Gal Jacobi, CEO of OriginGPS. "By joining designs of our products

with TDK's small form factor chip antennas, customers will be able to get a firsthand understanding of how our GNSS solutions pack the world's smallest footprint and add functionality to a wide range of wearables and other Internet of Things devices that require low profile miniaturized chip antennas."

This collaboration pairs OriginGPS' smallest GNSS receiver modules, including the recently unveiled [Multi Micro Spider](#), with the smallest chip antennas by TDK to deliver a "mini + mighty" solution for wearables that represents the best of both worlds: combining TDK's specialized RF simulation capabilities with OriginGPS' GNSS expertise and support.

The new collaboration also benefits OriginGPS customers. Those who purchase Spider product line modules for their wearables can now use them in conjunction with TDK antennas to meet specific requirements while minimizing design time, and receive TDK's support for best-in-class antenna matching and simulations.

"The combination of TDK's small chip antennas along with OriginGPS' GNSS receiver modules provides customers the best solution to miniaturize their products," said Tuomo Katajamäki, Product Manager, RF Components of TDK. "Now customers can effectively see for themselves the advanced location capabilities that are possible by pairing OriginGPS' GNSS modules with our omni-directional antennas, creating a unique solution for wearable applications that balances efficiency with our small form factor."

About TDK Corporation

TDK Corporation is a leading electronics company based in Tokyo, Japan. It was established in 1935 to commercialize ferrite, a key material in electronic and magnetic products. TDK's portfolio includes electronic components, modules and systems marketed under the product brands TDK and EPCOS, power supplies, magnetic application products as well as energy devices, flash memory application devices, and others. TDK focuses on demanding markets in the areas of information and communication technology and consumer, automotive and industrial electronics. The company has a network of design and manufacturing locations and sales offices in Asia, Europe, and in North and South America. In fiscal 2016, TDK posted total sales of USD 10.2 billion and employed about 92,000 people worldwide.

About OriginGPS

OriginGPS is a world-leading designer, manufacturer and supplier of miniaturized GNSS modules ("Spider" family), antenna modules ("Hornet" family) and antenna solutions. OriginGPS introduces unparalleled sensitivity and noise immunity by incorporating its proprietary Noise Free Zone technology for faster position fix and navigation stability even under challenging satellite signal conditions.

November

2 Israelis to Receive Emperor's 'Order of Rising Sun' Medal From Japanese Government for Bolstering Cultural Ties

Two Israelis will be among 96 foreign recipients of this year's "Order of the Rising Sun" medal from the Japanese government,

According to the report, Prof. Meron Medzini and architect Arie Kutz will be awarded the honor in an upcoming ceremony at the home of Japanese Ambassador to Israel Koji Tomita.

Medzini, 84 — an associate professor of East Asian studies at Tel Aviv University and the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and a former director of Israel's Government Press Office — is being granted the honor for his contribution to the promotion of Japanese studies in Israel.

Kutz, 63, Friendship Society chairman at the Israel-Japan Chamber of Commerce, was granted the award for his work in advancing relations and mutual understanding between the two countries. Kutz is also a lecturer of Japanese architectural history at Tel Aviv University's East Asia Studies Department.

"This is a surprise, wonderful joy and contentment," Kutz said of receiving the decoration The Order of the Rising Sun — established in 1875 by Emperor Meiji and the first national decoration awarded by the Japanese government — is bestowed upon individuals who have made unique contributions in international relations, the promotion of Japanese culture, social welfare or environmental protection. The badges of honor are bestowed by the bureau of medals in the Japanese prime minister's office, in the name of Emperor Akihito, who has served in that role since the death of his father in 1989.

The emperor is the ceremonial head of the country's constitutional monarchy. Israel's relations with Japan, which began in 1952, but were only made official in 1963 with an exchange of ambassadors, have been warming since 2015, when declining oil prices made trade relations with Arab states and Iran less crucial for the Asian economic powerhouse.

Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) between the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Research Council Secretariat, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan (the MAFF/AFFRCS) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the State of Israel (the MARD) on the support for joint research in Agriculture science.

On 30th of November 2016, witnessed by H.E Ms. Ruth Kahanof, Ambassador of Israel to Japan, a MOC - aimed at supporting joint research in Agriculture science between both countries, was signed between Mr. Masamichi Saigo (Director General of the MAFF/AFFRCS) and Mr. Avi Perl (Chief scientist of the MARD).

On May 2014, in a joint statement on the occasion of the visit of Prime Minister Netanyahu in Japan, both countries confirmed the importance of cooperation in the agriculture and fishery industries, including an exchange of agricultural research institutes, and on January 2015, the Israeli government approved a strategy for a reinforcing of the economic cooperation between Israel and Japan.

On April 2015, an exchange between researchers of both countries was agreed upon at the meeting of Mr. Saigo and H.E Ambassador Kahanof. In response to this, a Japanese mission visited Israel to explore the possibility of joint research. They visited agricultural research institutes and exchanged opinions with Israeli researchers and then concluded that discussion will proceed in various fields.

On 30th November, at the MAFF/AFFRCS office, a MOC- aimed at supporting joint research in Agriculture between both countries was signed between Mr. Saigo - Director General, Mr. Perl - chief scientist, who visited in Japan to participate in the NARO-ARO International symposium, and H.E Ambassador Kahanof.

The conclusion for this cooperation is based on the joint statement of 2014 and is expected to be one of the efforts to strengthen cooperation between both countries in the agriculture and fishery industries. Specific cooperative themes are currently being discussed between both countries.

BroadSoft Japan KK Deploys AudioCodes Business Connectivity Solution

BroadSoft Japan KK, a subsidiary of [BroadSoft, Inc.](#), selected AudioCodes Business Connectivity Solution to support its software as a service BroadCloud call control platform and UC-One application.

BroadSoft Japan KK delivers cloud PBX and unified communication services in Japan that enable businesses to migrate to the cloud while keeping their current phone numbers.

AudioCodes (NASDAQ: AUDC), a leading provider of voice networking solutions that enable enterprises and service providers to transition to all-IP voice networks, today announced that BroadSoft Japan KK, a subsidiary of BroadSoft, Inc., has selected AudioCodes' Business Connectivity Solution to enable on-premises connectivity for its software as a service BroadCloud call control platform and UC-One application offering in Japan. Japan is an important market for both BroadSoft and AudioCodes, and the selection of the AudioCodes Business Connectivity solution in Japan demonstrates the strength of the AudioCodes and BroadSoft relationship.

The AudioCodes Business Connectivity solution includes the Mediant session border controller (SBC) platforms, the Mediant gateway platforms and Mediant multi-service business routers (MSBR), enabling connectivity to virtually any ISDN interface and interoperability with virtually any IP-PBX, enabling businesses to extend the life of existing equipment while moving to a fully functional cloud environment. The Mediant platforms also support BroadSoft PacketSmart monitoring probe, enabling quality of service monitoring at the customer premises.

"We are excited to deploy AudioCodes to address local survivability for businesses in Japan," said Jim Weisser, BroadCloud Japan General Manager. "Our joint solution enables businesses that are migrating to cloud telephony to do so without having to change their existing phone numbers. The initial deployments in Japan will connect ISDN BRI and PRI lines that terminate at customer premises."

"Our cooperation with BroadSoft cloud PBX and UC services is an important step in the development of the relationship between BroadSoft and AudioCodes," said Lior Aldema, COO and VP of Global Sales at AudioCodes. "AudioCodes has significantly expanded its presence in the Japanese market recently and we are delighted to have been selected by BroadSoft for its SIP trunk service in Japan. AudioCodes SBCs, gateways, ATAs and IP phones have also successfully completed interoperability for each of BroadSoft BroadCloud® and BroadWorks® platforms."

AudioCodes is a Platinum Plus sponsor at BroadSoft Connections 2016, taking place from November 13-15 in San Antonio, Texas. Click [here](#) for more information. Follow AudioCodes' social media channels:

AudioCodes invites you to join our online community and follow us on: [AudioCodes Voice Blog](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [YouTube](#).

To download AudioCodes' investor relations app, which offers access to its SEC filings, press releases, videos, audiocasts and more, please visit Apple's [App Store](#) for the iPhone and iPad or [Google Play](#) for Android mobile devices.

About AudioCodes

AudioCodes Ltd. (NASDAQ, TASE: AUDC) designs, develops and sells advanced Voice-over-IP (VoIP) and converged VoIP and Data networking products and applications to Service Providers and Enterprises. AudioCodes is a VoIP technology market leader, focused on converged VoIP and data communications, and its products are deployed globally in Broadband, Mobile, Enterprise networks and Cable. The Company provides a range of innovative, cost-effective products including [Media Gateways](#), [Multi-Service Business Routers](#), [Session Border Controllers \(SBC\)](#), [Residential Gateways](#), [IP Phones](#), [Media Servers](#), [Value Added Applications](#) and [Professional Services](#). AudioCodes' underlying technology, VoIPerfectHD™, relies on AudioCodes' leadership in DSP, voice coding and voice processing technologies. AudioCodes' High Definition (HD) VoIP technologies and products provide enhanced intelligibility and a better end user communication experience in Voice communications

Israel's RT LTA Displays Its Skystar 180 Aerostat, A Solution For Public Security And Counter-Terror Missions In Seecat, Japan

The Skystar systems already accomplished more than 1 million operational hours worldwide.

The Israeli-based aerostat company, [RT LTA Systems](#) Ltd., displays the Skystar 180 aerostat for the first time at Seecat, the Special Equipment Exhibition & Conference for Anti-Terrorism in Tokyo, Japan.

The Skystar 180 is a small sized, mobile aerostat designed for tactical mid-range surveillance and public safety, as well as for police and military applications. The Skystar systems are currently in operation and are optimal for both land and maritime use.

The Skystar 180 system was in use in The Winter Olympic games that took place in Canada at 2012, in Brazil during the 2014 FIFA World Cup, securing the Copacabana Fan Fest, and in France during the Paris climate summit (COP 21), protecting the world leaders who attended the summit.

The Skystar 180 system was also deployed during Pope Francis visit in Africa on 2015, and Pope Francis visit in Jerusalem on May 2014.

Furthermore the system was used twice to support the VIP security in the G8 Summit (Russia, Canada).

In addition to public safety security, the Skystar 180 system is also optimal for border protection missions, and is being used continuously by the IDF on the border with the Gaza Strip.

In 2014, the Skystar 180 system was chosen to be one of the approved technologies for purchase in the annual AEWE (Army Expeditionary Warrior Experiment) conducted by the US Army.

Based on a towable trailer, the system has a stabilized day/night electro-optical payload suspended from a helium filled aerostat, tethered to a ground system. It operates continuously at wind velocity of up to 40 knots, and can lift a payload of up to 20kg, providing surveillance coverage from an altitude of up to 1,000 ft. for up to 72 hours, after which it is brought down for a 30-minute helium refill. Only 2 people are required to fully maintain the system.

RT LTA was chosen as one of the 5 most influential companies in the field of aerostats, according to the Market and Markets survey.

RT LTA Systems was established by former military intelligence and current CEO Rami Shmueli, Who served as the head of the balloons department in the IDF 8200 unit. The company headquarters and production lines are based in Yavne, Israel, and its American subsidiary company, RT Aerostat Systems, is located in Texas.

At July 2016 RT established a subsidiary company named "Aero-T", which specializes in the development and manufacture of large aerostats. Aero-T's first product, the SkyGuard1, is a large aerostat in a Blimp shape, which can carry payloads of up to 90 kg, reach altitudes of up to 1,000 meters, and operate continuously for 7 days without maintenance.

Rami Shmueli, RT's CEO: "I am certain that the Skystar systems are an ideal solution for securing the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, as they provide persistent surveillance for long periods of time at a very minimal cost. No other defense system, manned or unmanned, is as cost effective as aerostats, and I am convinced that the eastern countries can benefit much from using our solutions".

Medinol receives approval from the Japanese PMDA to begin clinical study on novel DES

Medinol, a developer of Interventional Cardiology devices, announces the receipt of a Clinical Trial Notification (CTN) from the Pharmaceutical and Medical Devices Agency (PMDA) in Japan to initiate its regulatory approval study for EluNIR™ Stent System (known

as BioNIR™ in the study), a novel elastomeric Drug Eluting Stent. The study, named JNIR, is designed to confirm the safety and efficacy of EluNIR in the Japanese clinical environment. The expected enrollment will be 100 patients and the results will be added to those from the patients already enrolled in [BIONICS](#), the EluNIR Pivotal Study for FDA clearance.

“This is excellent news for interventional cardiologists in Japan. The unique design features of Medinol’s Drug Eluting Stent System are extremely promising. We are hopeful that the JNIR trial will enable access for cardiology patients to the safest and most efficacious treatment to date,” said Dr. Shigeru Saito, MD, FACC, FSCAI, FJCC, FAPSIC, Director of Cardiology & Catheterization Laboratories and Vice President of ShonanKamakura General Hospital and the Primary Investigator for JNIR

The BIONICS clinical trial is a 1:1 randomized study comparing the EluNIR Stent System to Medtronic’s Resolute Integrity™ Stent System and has enrolled 1,919 patients in the U.S., EU, Canada and Israel. The primary endpoint of the study is target lesion failure (TLF), determined at 12 months after the procedure. The twelve month clinical results were presented at TCT 2016 in the opening Late Breaking Trials session on October 30th, and it was announced that EluNIR met its primary endpoint and demonstrated TLF rates of 5.3% compared to 5.3% for Resolute ($p=0.0012$ for non-inferiority). More details about the BIONICS results are available [here](#). The data will be submitted to the FDA for U.S. approval of EluNIR for the treatment of patients with narrowing or blockage of their coronary arteries.

“Medinol strives to develop innovative products that solve complicated cardiovascular problems, and the EluNIR Stent System is a prime example,” said Dr. Yoram Richter PhD, Chief Scientific Officer of Medinol. “We believe that it will serve as a significant advancement in patient treatment options based on stent and elastomer coating design improvements and overall deliverability. Medinol is excited to introduce EluNIR in Japan so that even more patients around the world will benefit from its technology.”

There are several aspects of the EluNIR stent that differentiate it from other products currently available. EluNIR is coated with an elastomer that maintains a smooth and uniform stent surface designed to prevent the cracking or peeling that may occur with brittle polymers used in other DES. The stent is comprised of cobalt chromium and manufactured and coated in flat panels utilizing Medinol’s patented QualitySurface™ Technology and contains the drug ridaforolimus, a Rapamycin analog, intended to prevent restenosis. The EluNIR design is based on the clinically proven NIRxcell™ stent architecture intended to enhance conformability, scaffolding and radial strength. The delivery system is unique, featuring a distinctive spring tip that is simultaneously more pushable and flexible than conventional plastic tips used on other delivery systems. EluNIR is an investigational device and is not available for commercial sale.

About Medinol

Medinol LTD, headquartered in Israel, with U.S. Commercial offices in Parsippany, NJ is dedicated to the science of cardiovascular intervention. For over 20 years, in-house research, development, and manufacturing have continuously raised the bar for quality and performance of stenting systems. In 2014 Medinol established its first sales office in the US and launched its first product sold directly to hospitals, a bare metal stent called NIRxcell™. With over two million stents deployed to date, Medinol's cutting-edge cardiovascular intervention technology continues to demonstrate extraordinary clinical results, and their products constantly stretch the limits of innovation

NRGene and Japan's Kazusa DNA Research Institute Fully Reveal the Complex Genome of Strawberry Using Illumina Data

NRGene has assembled the octoploid, heterozygote genome of the commercial strawberry in only two weeks using reads produced on Illumina sequencers

NESS ZIONA, Israel and CHIBA, Japan, November 3, 2016 /PRNewswire/ --

[NRGene](#), a globally recognized leader in genomic analysis, is the first ever to assemble the complex genome of a commercially grown strawberry.

Most plant, animal, and human genomes are diploid - containing two variants from each gene. The strawberry genome contains eight nearly identical copies of each gene, making the accurate phasing of each something that has never been done before - until NRGene's DeNovoMAGICTM 3.0.

The octoploid, heterozygous [strawberry genome](#) was assembled using reads produced on Illumina sequencing technology and assembled by NRGene's cloud-based DeNovoMAGICTM 3.0 software package in only two weeks.

"It's exciting to see how NRGene's analysis, combined with data from Illumina sequencers, can be used to quickly and affordably assemble complex genomes, like that of the strawberry," said Ryan Rapp, Associate Director, Agrigenomics for Illumina. "We hope that this technology will make genomics accessible to agricultural researchers worldwide, helping to improve the food supply to make it more sustainable and efficient."

NRGene's [DeNovoMAGICTM](#) 3.0 delivers complete, highly accurate genome assemblies in the form of long, phased sequences using Illumina-based reads. As more genomes are generated, NRGene's [PanMAGICTM](#) is used to compare the complete genome sequences of multiple individual samples to capture the broad genomic diversity, better pinpointing positive traits across all varieties.

"With the data from NRGene, strawberry breeders will be able to accelerate the release of better performing strawberry varieties, creating hardier, more disease-resistant varieties with longer shelf lives," says Sachiko Isobe, head of the plant genomics and genetics laboratory at Japan's Kazusa DNA Research Institute.

[NRGene](#) has delivered the first bread wheat, Emmer wheat, and durum wheat genomes; dozens of new maize, soybean, cotton, and canola genomes; and is delivering more accurate versions of previously mapped genomes built on older, more inefficient technologies.

"The strawberry assembly demonstrates that even the most complex genomes can be mapped quickly and accurately," says Gil Ronen, CEO of NRGene. "The ultimate value in our technology is that it can be deployed to analyze and assemble any genome across all species."

The project was done in cooperation with Japan's Kazusa DNA Research Institute and supported in part by Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

About NRGene

[NRGene](#) is a genomic big data company developing cutting-edge software and algorithms to reveal the complexity and diversity of crop plants, animals, and aquatic organisms for supporting the most advanced and sophisticated breeding programs. NRGene tools have already been employed by some of the leading seed companies worldwide as well as the most influential research teams in academia.

[InfinityAR Raises \\$18M in a Round Led by Strategic Partner Alibaba Group and SUN CORPORATION of Japan](#)

November 29, 2016 09:16 AM Eastern Standard Time

PETACH TIKVA, Israel--([BUSINESS WIRE](#))--[Infinity Augmented Reality](#) a leading company developing a software-based Augmented Reality engine, announces that it has closed an \$18 million Series C financing round. The round was led by the [Alibaba Group](#), the largest online and mobile commerce company in the world in terms of gross merchandise volume, with participation from InfinityAR's existing Series B investor, [SUN CORPORATION](#), a large Japanese public company.

The funds will allow InfinityAR to finance additional research and development of its product offerings at a faster pace, as well as marketing activities such as the establishment of a customer integration and support group.

"This is about so much more than the funds raised - it is about the strategic partnership," said Motti Kushnir, CEO of InfinityAR. "With Alibaba's endorsement, InfinityAR will further

cement itself as a leading developer in the augmented reality space. We are very excited to partner with one of the world's leading companies."

"This investment represents our commitment to support development in augmented reality (AR)," said Ethan Xie, Senior Director of Alibaba Group. "InfinityAR is a leading developer of AR technologies and its proposition as an open platform aligns with Alibaba's approach of providing infrastructure support for participants in the ecosystem."

InfinityAR has pioneered its solution for augmented reality headsets by using standard, off the shelf, mobile cameras and IMU to efficiently map the environment while also enabling Inside-Out Marker-less Orientation and Positional Tracking (SLAM) for the augmented reality world. This combination makes InfinityAR's engine the perfect solution for enabling all glasses with the ability to understand their surroundings. InfinityAR's engine enables vendors of AR headsets to reduce their cost, reduce motion to photon latency, and reduce power consumption, by way of using the inside-out SLAM approach.

About InfinityAR

InfinityAR's vision is about creating a new digital environment that will allow people to naturally interact with augmented content in their physical surroundings. InfinityAR's augmented reality development engine enables accurate 3D digital scene representation of one's current physical environment, using basic, affordable hardware. It is designed to turn any device into a powerful content augmentation platform, so developers can quickly and easily introduce applications with rich AR experiences to market. InfinityAR is a private Nevada company.

Orchestra from Jerusalem to tour Japan

BY [CHIHO IUCHI](#)

SPECIAL TO THE JAPAN TIMES

NOV 16, 2016

Classical music fans in Japan are set for a treat when the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra conducts its first tour of this country from Nov. 19 through Dec. 4.

Throughout its 80-year history as a leading orchestra, the JSO has played a crucial role in shaping the cultural climate of Israel.

Its colorful sound has attracted fans and musicians alike, as seen in the fact that some of the world's most cherished artists have collaborated with the orchestra, including Polish-American pianist Arthur Rubinstein (1887-1982), German-born American conductor Otto Klemperer (1885-1973), and violinists Yehudi Menuhin (1916-1999) and Isaac Stern (1920-2001), to name just a few.

The meticulous performances of the orchestra's string section stand out in particular, reflecting the strong Jewish tradition of playing such instruments.

Led by Russian conductor and cellist Dmitry Yablonsky on this occasion, the upcoming tour will feature various collaborations with Japanese musicians.

Conductor Tomomi Nishimoto is scheduled to perform at 10 concerts nationwide that will also feature the great Jewish composer Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 5. Additionally, she will collaborate with Yablonsky on Antonin Dvorak's Cello Concerto.

Yablonsky will handle the baton in Tsu, Mie Prefecture, on Nov. 19 and in Tokyo on Nov. 24, where he'll collaborate with well-known pianist Ingrid Fujiko Hemming.

In addition to the touring schedule, there will be a performance with a different program in Tokyo on Nov. 21 under the baton of Hisayoshi Inoue, who was a pupil of the late Israeli conductor Gary Bertini (1927-2005), the former musical director of the JSO.

"Traditionally, Jewish people love playing string instruments, especially the violin, and have passed on their skills for generations. There are so many prominent Jewish violinists," Inoue says. "With various historical backgrounds and with the circumstances of the moment, many musicians have moved into Israel."

Inoue will perform Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's magnificent yet rarely played Piano Concerto No. 2 with up-and-coming Japanese pianist Tomohiro Adachi.

"I was very inspired by our performing together. It was really worth going," says Adachi, who was in Jerusalem a couple of days for the rehearsals. "It's a big challenge for me, but I will do my very best to perform this extraordinary concerto with the JSO in Japan."

Nishimoto spent several days in Jerusalem conducting the JSO earlier this month. She visited the Old City district and says, "While passing the many pilgrims, I recognized people's feelings and could look back on human history."

It's a sentiment she hopes to convey to her audience on the Japan tour.

MK Bar to present diplomatic plan in Japan

Jerusalem Post November 13th

Bar was invited to present his plan in his capacity as head of the Knesset's pro-two-state-solution caucus. He will be speaking at an international leadership conference at the parliament.

The Labor Party's secretary-general, Deputy Knesset Speaker Hilik Bar, will present his diplomatic plan on Wednesday to the Japanese parliament, the Diet.

Bar was invited to present his plan in his capacity as head of the Knesset's pro-two-state-solution caucus. He will be speaking to the parliament at an international leadership conference.

"The Japanese are excited to hear that there is a caucus in favor of ending the conflict and a plan that gives hope for two states for two peoples," Bar said. "I tell them that there is no other solution."

Bar said he has not lost faith in the two-state solution following the election of US President-elect Donald Trump and that he does not accept the eulogies for the never-formed Palestinian state delivered by Bayit Yehudi MKs following Trump's victory.

"If Trump cares about Israel as he says he does, he should want the conflict to end," Bar said. "There are two solutions: One state or two. One state would end the Zionist dream, while two would guarantee Israel's future as a Jewish democratic state with a Jewish majority."

The Labor MK's visit to Tokyo is part of a long series of presentations to legislatures and universities that have invited him to discuss his plan since he presented it in the Knesset in July 2015.

He has presented it at the European Parliament in Brussels, the United Kingdom's House of Commons, the United Nations in Geneva and several state legislatures in the US, as well as Harvard University.

Bar's diplomatic outline calls for Israel to recognize a Palestinian state.

Borders would be determined based on pre-1967 lines, with land swaps to account for settlement blocs, and the two sides would negotiate on Jerusalem, security arrangements, the refugee issue, etc.

The recognition and approval of "Palestine" joining UN institutions will be conditional on it not undermining the need to negotiate and Palestinians recognition of Israel.

The plan also stipulates that when there is a Palestinian state, Jews may securely live in it as residents or citizens, thus creating an option for Israelis not to be expelled from their homes.

Palestinian citizens would have "privileged access" to places of worship, tourism, academia and trade in Israel, and vice-versa.

The outline also deals with Israel's relations with Diaspora Jewry. It says the government should give world Jewry an "advisory status on issues of national importance and matters of foreign policy" and educate them in Hebrew, Jewish history and Zionism to strengthen

their Jewish identity, while still promoting the Zionist idea of “the negation of the Diaspora” and encouraging them to move to Israel.

Japan pledges \$11.4m for mosaic conservation project in Hisham's Palace in Jericho

Project is part of wider programme to support cultural heritage in Palestine and Jordan Valley

by [Aimee Dawson](#) | 23 November 2016



The mosaic floor at Hisham's Palace. Courtesy of the Palestinian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities

Conservation work has begun on one of the Middle East's largest mosaics. The project to restore the nearly 1,300-year-old, 827 sq. m carpet mosaic in the hammam (public bath) at Hisham's Palace complex near Jericho, in Palestine's West Bank, is expected to cost at least ¥1.235bn (around \$11.4m).

The project, funded by the Japanese government, launched on 20 October with a ceremonial unveiling of the mosaic, which has been hidden under protective layers of fabric, soil and sand since it was excavated in the 1930s. As well as the actual conservation of the mosaic, the initiative also includes a new structure that will be constructed to protect

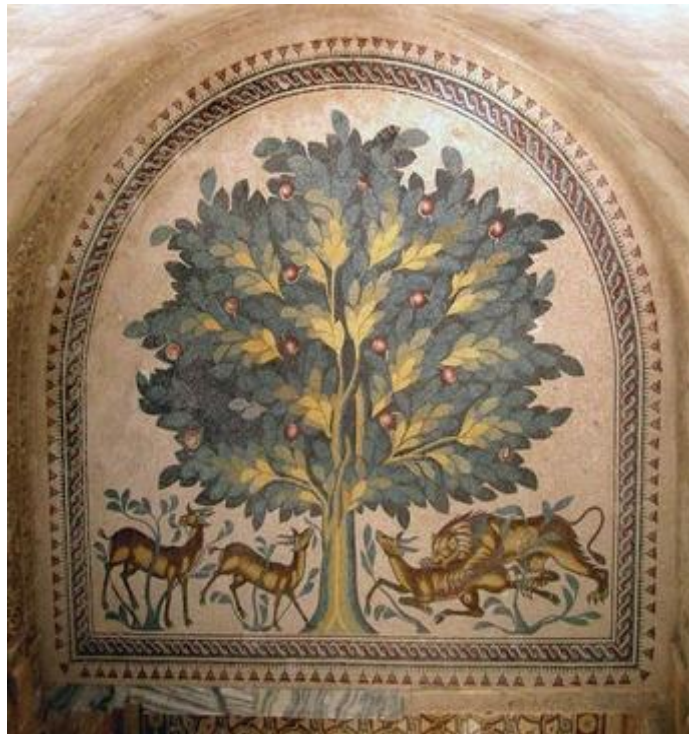
the site from the elements. “The [conservation] phase will continue for at least two months and the floor will be covered partially during this period,” says a spokesman for the Palestinian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities.



Rendering of the new Hisham Palace complex. Courtesy the Palestinian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities



The mosaic floor at Hisham Palace in the 1930s. Courtesy the Palestinian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities



The Tree of Life mosaic in the audience room of the bath house at Hisham's Palace, Jericho. Photo: Tamar Hayardeni (Tamarah), via Wikimedia Commons

The palace complex was built in around AD734 during the Umayyad period. It is renowned for its hammam—one of the largest in the region—as well as for its elaborate decoration, which includes stucco carvings, sculptures and, of course, mosaics. Its Tree of Life mosaic, which depicts a lion attacking a gazelle under a fruit tree, is considered to be one of the most accomplished of its period. According to the Ministry of Tourism in Jericho, Hisham's Palace is visited by around 200,000 tourists a year. The hammam, which is currently not part of the palace tour, will be open to visitors once the project is finished.

The project is part of a wider Japanese programme to assist tourism development and sustainable economic growth in Palestine and in the Jordan Valley. The Asian country's collaboration with Palestine began in 2010 and has included training courses in tourism and cultural heritage. According to the Palestinian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, building work on the site will start in May 2017. A spokeswoman from the Japanese embassy in Israel says that works are due to be completed in September 2018.

Visit of Israel Ministry of Health Mission

01.11.2016

As economic and scientific cooperative relations between Japan and Israel in various routes, Prof. Itamar Grotto, Associate Director General, and Prof. Avi Israeli, Chief Scientist of Israel Ministry of Health visited Japan from 12 – 15 Sept.

The mission visited the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED), the Institute of Medical Science in the University of Tokyo (IMSUT), the Center of Open Innovation Network for Smart Health (COINS) in the Innovation Center of NanoMedicine (iCONM), the Center Center for iPS Cell Research and Application in Kyoto University (CiRA), and the Center of Medical Innovation and Translational Research in Osaka University (COMIT) looking for future potentials in collaboration with Japan in medical research.

Both professors also gave a lecture titled "the Israel Health System: from Innovation to Improved Health" in the IMSUT Gakuyukai Seminar and spoke on Israel's current status in life science and regenerative medicine. Representatives from Israeli life science companies, Pluristem Therapeutics and TEVA Group, joined and introduced their medical technologies.

Also, as Israel's aging society advances, which Japan is a leading country in the field, the mission visited an elderly home Zenkoukai's "Santafe Garden", which incorporates robotics to its elderly care.

Further, the mission visited Dr. Yasuhiro Otomo, Japan's leader in CBRNE research at Tokyo Medical and Dentist University and the Disaster Medical Center where Japan DMAT Secretariat is located as the mission wished to learn from Japan's experiences in disaster measures.

December

METI Vice Minister visit Israel

Mr. Ikuro Sugawara, Vice Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, visited Israel and Palestinian Authority on December 19 to 20, 2016. During his visit, Vice Minister Sugawara met the Director General of Ministry of Economy and Industry, Mr. Amit Lang.

Japan falls in dollar GDP ranking

Japan is now ranked 20th one place behind Israel

6:46 pm, December 23, 2016

Jiji Press TOKYO (Jiji Press) — Japan fell to 20th in dollar-based nominal gross domestic product per capita in 2015 among the 35 Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development members, down from 19th in the previous year, the Cabinet Office said Thursday.

Overtaken by Israel, Japan sank to its lowest place since data became available in 1970. Japan's per capita GDP fell 9.6 percent from the previous year to \$34,522, down for the third consecutive year.

The figure represents a 9.6 percent plunge from 2014. Japan was overtaken by Israel, which placed 20th in 2014. In yen terms, per-capita GDP expanded 3.4 percent to 4,178,000 yen

The country's economy grew, but its dollar value decreased due to the yen's weakness.

Luxemburg ranked top, followed by Switzerland. The United States came in fifth place.

Meanwhile, Japan's total nominal GDP decreased 9.7 percent to \$4,383.6 billion.

Japan accounted for 5.9 percent of the world's GDP, down 0.2 percentage point. The United States retained top spot with a global share of 24.2 percent and nominal GDP totaling \$18.04 trillion, followed by China with a share of 14.8 percent and nominal GDP of \$11.01 trillion.

Israel's IAI, Elbit join Japan's Mitsubishi. Fuji for UAV Research

Israel Aerospace Industries, Elbit Systems of Israel and Mitsubishi Electric, Fuji Heavy Industries of Japan are the companies included in the joint research on unmanned surveillance airplanes by the two nations.

The preparations for the joint research are in the final phase and the two governments have already sounded out the defense industry of the two countries about the feasibility of participating in the project, Japanese government sources and bilateral diplomatic sources were quoted as saying by Japan Times.

According to Defense World, such an arrangement has become possible under Japan's eased arms export principles in 2014 updates. Japan's previous principles banned the country from exporting arms to a state that may potentially become a conflict country. With its Palestinian issue, Israel fell under this category.

Japan's National Security Council would decide on whether to give the green light to the joint study by the Acquisition, Technology & Logistics Agency of the Defense Ministry and the SIBAT defense cooperation department of Israel's Defense Ministry, but is likely to endorse the plan because the administration of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has been reinforcing relations with Israel.

The Japanese acquisition agency hopes to also conduct joint study on unmanned attack planes and unmanned fighters with Israel, according to the sources.

The source said concerns exist about the project prompting protest from Arab countries as Israel is known to have the world's top-level technology for unmanned spy planes and the aircrafts are used in attacks on the Gaza area of the Palestinian autonomous region and on Lebanon.

The envisioned joint study is aimed at incorporating Japanese sensor technology in Israel's reconnaissance plane technologies, according to sources.

Dronomy, the Construction Drone-Software Start-up, Secures Investment Led by Mitsui Fudosan's "31VENTURES" of Japan

[Marketwired](#) Dec 9, 2016, 2:30 AM

TEL AVIV, ISRAEL Dronomy, a software start-up focused on building knowledge into construction projects through analysis of data collected by drones, announced today it had secured funding from Mitsui Fudosan's corporate venture capital fund "31VENTURES Global Innovation Fund I", jointly operated by Global Brain Corporation.

The construction market is estimated by the World Economic Forum at almost \$10 trillion, while drone-based solutions for the construction market are estimated by Goldman Sachs

to accumulate to over \$11 billion in the next five years. Construction companies, developers and sub-contractors are starting to realize the benefits of using unique technological solutions as part of their business processes to reduce ever-occurring project delays, cost overruns and disputes, which can account for a significant percentage of a project's overall costs. Dronomy captures unique and frequent project data using autonomous drones, and analyzes it into actionable information that is shared over the cloud to all relevant project stakeholders.

"We are proud to have Mitsui Fudosan, through its CVC arm 31VENTURES, among our investors," says Ori Apehek, Dronomy's CEO. "We are consistently receiving extraordinary feedback from customers who experience what our solution can do for them. This is now ratified by one of the world's largest players in our market. Our ability to make consumer drones fly low and close in construction sites, capture the right visual data, translate it into knowledge, and appropriately deliver this knowledge is what makes us different."

"It did not take us long to realize the outstanding business potential of Dronomy, which led us to making our first-ever investment in an Israeli technology company," explains Akira Sugawara, General Manager of 31VENTURES. "The construction market, its challenges and the opportunities it encapsulates are well known to us. We were impressed to see how Dronomy and its remarkable team understand and address these challenges."

This funding round will allow the company to launch its solution into international markets and to ramp-up its customer acquisition, starting in Q1 2017. The company's existing investors, including Battery Ventures, Lool Ventures and Oryzn Capital, have also participated this funding round.

About Dronomy

Dronomy was founded by two physicists who were enthusiastic to make drones fly autonomously. The company has quickly identified the gap in the ability of construction companies to frequently and accurately monitor their construction sites. With Dronomy, mapping, monitoring, inspecting and sharing site details becomes part of the daily site routine. Construction companies can build knowledge into their projects and execute site monitoring missions so easily and safely that it becomes a daily routine, reducing costs and project delays. Dronomy is powered by a highly experienced and enthusiastic team with expertise in construction, drones, computer vision, software and 3D modeling, and is backed by top-notch VCs and private investors.

About Mitsui Fudosan's Venture Co-creation Department "31VENTURES"

Mitsui Fudosan is a leading real estate developer in Japan. Mitsui Fudosan has been accelerating its efforts in co-creation with startups for the ultimate goal to create new industries both to strengthen Mitsui Fudosan's business and to expand the scope of its operations. In April 2015, Mitsui Fudosan established the Venture Co-creation Department, 31VENTURES, to achieve co-creation of new industries together with startups by providing

fully integrated venture capital services, "Finance," "Support" and "Community," for ambitious startups.

Phytech closes series A round

DECEMBER 28, 2015 1:57 AM

Syngenta Ventures and Mitsui Europe invest in PHYTECH

Smart tech agriculture technology firm Phytech, based near the border with Gaza, gets unspecified investment

LONDON & BASEL, Switzerland & TEL AVIV, Israel–(BUSINESS WIRE)–December 28, 2015–

Phytech, a global leader in Ag analytics and data management solutions, announced today the closing of an investment led by existing investors, Syngenta Ventures and Mitsui & Co Europe.

Phytech's PlantBeat™ technology is a simplified, alert-driven mobile platform which combines predictive algorithms and data analysis tools that integrate continuous crop health and supportive environmental data, distilled into real-time recommendations. Phytech is helping growers in their day-to-day farming decisions impacting both the quality and yield of their crops, while reducing water usage.

Phytech's technology is deployed by world leading growers in the U.S, Brazil, Australia and other markets and in a large variety of specialty crops and row crops, directly and through partnerships with global leading CP partners.

The investment will fund the expansion of Phytech's technology platform and support the company's continuing commercialization globally.

"We believe that the support of leading global strategic investors such as Syngenta and Mitsui would allow Phytech to significantly enhance its decision support, cutting edge technology and innovation as well as its commercial development", says Sarig Duek, Phytech's CEO.

Dr. Michael Lee, Managing Director at Syngenta Ventures – "Syngenta's ambition is to bring greater food security in an environmentally sustainable way to an increasingly populous world by creating a worldwide step-change in farm productivity. In working towards our ambition, we put the grower at the center of everything we do. Phytech's grower centric solutions join our breadth of technologies in crop protection, seeds, traits and seed treatment, providing the grower with integrated offers and broad-based innovation for the future".

"Investing in Phytech meets our consistent strategy for innovative technology and new business development" says Mr. Masato Hisamune, SVP & DOO of Innovation and Corporate Development Division at Mitsui & Co. Europe. "We would like to provide Phytech

with services and solutions that meet their diverse needs, optimizing Mitsui's global marketing networks and extensive business experience."

About Phytech: Phytech is a leading Precision Ag analytics company, focused on helping farmers to optimize yields by transforming real-time plant data into actionable, yield-enhancing recommendations. Phytech's proprietary PlantBeat™ platform combines continuous plant monitoring hardware, spatial imaging, hyper-local climate information, agronomic modeling, data analysis and web and mobile software applications that help farmers improve profitability by making better informed in-season operating decisions.

About Syngenta Ventures: Syngenta Ventures is the venture capital arm of Syngenta. The firm invests globally in innovative businesses whose purpose helps "Bringing plant potential to life".

The firm's mission is to accelerate the rate of innovation in agriculture to support Syngenta's vision of increasing farm productivity by growing more crops from fewer resources..

About Mitsui & Co. Europe: Mitsui & Co. Europe Plc is the subsidiary company of Mitsui & Co., Ltd., one of the most diversified and comprehensive trading, investment and service enterprises in the world, with 140 offices in 66 countries as of August 1, 2015. Utilizing our global operating locations, network and information resources, Mitsui is multilaterally pursuing business that ranges from product sales, worldwide logistics and financing, through to the development of major international infrastructure and other projects in the following fields: Iron & Steel Products, Mineral & Metal Resources, Infrastructure Projects, Integrated Transportation Systems, Chemicals, Energy, Food Resources, Food Products & Services, Consumer Services, IT & Communication and Corporate Development Business. Mitsui is actively taking on challenges for global business innovation around the world.

Novocure's Optune® (NovoTTF-100A) Approved in Japan for the Treatment of Newly Diagnosed Glioblastoma

Optune is the first MHLW-approved therapy in more than a decade to demonstrate statistically and clinically significant extension of survival in newly diagnosed GBM patients

December 19, 2016

ST. HELIER, Jersey--([BUSINESS WIRE](#))--Novocure (NASDAQ: NVCR) announced today that the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) has approved Optune® (NovoTTF-100A) – Novocure's Tumor Treating Fields (TTFields) delivery system – in the treatment of adult patients with supra-tentorial glioblastoma (GBM) following maximal safe surgical resection and radiation therapy. Novocure will prepare to submit an application for public reimbursement of Optune for newly diagnosed GBM in Japan.

“The Japanese MHLW’s approval of Optune represents an important milestone for Novocure, enabling us to treat more patients who suffer from this aggressive disease,” said Novocure CEO Asaf Danziger. “Optune in combination with temozolomide has been clinically proven to extend survival in patients with newly diagnosed GBM, and we look forward to making Optune available to newly diagnosed GBM patients in Japan.” Novocure established commercial operations in Japan in March 2015 after the MHLW approved Optune for the treatment of recurrent GBM. Approximately 1,500 patients are diagnosed with GBM in Japan each year.

“This approval is a significant moment for newly diagnosed GBM patients in Japan,” said Ryo Nishikawa, MD, PhD, President of the Japanese Society of Neuro-Oncology and Professor of Saitama Medical University International Medical Center. “Optune provides patients with an additional treatment option, one that has been proven to extend survival.” The MHLW’s approval of Optune for the treatment of newly diagnosed GBM was supported by Novocure’s phase 3 pivotal EF-14 trial results, which showed significant extension of both progression free and overall survival in newly diagnosed GBM patients receiving Optune with temozolomide compared to temozolomide alone. Optune is the first MHLW-approved therapy in more than a decade to demonstrate statistically and clinically significant extension of survival in newly diagnosed GBM patients.

“We have been eagerly anticipating this day,” said Shungo Matori, Novocure’s General Manager Japan and Representative Director of Novocure K.K. “Newly diagnosed GBM patients have experienced an unmet need for better treatment options. We are dedicated to making Optune available to all GBM patients who can benefit from our therapy in Japan.”

About Novocure

Novocure is a commercial-stage oncology company developing a novel, proprietary therapy called Tumor Treating Fields, or TTFs, for the treatment of solid tumor cancers. Novocure’s commercialized product, Optune, is approved for the treatment of adult patients with glioblastoma. Novocure has ongoing or completed phase 2 pilot trials investigating TTFs in non-small cell lung cancer, pancreatic cancer, ovarian cancer and mesothelioma.

Headquartered in Jersey, Novocure has U.S. operations in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, Malvern, Pennsylvania, and New York City. Additionally, the company has offices in Germany, Switzerland and Japan, and a research center in Haifa, Israel.

Approved Indications

In Japan, Optune (NovoTTF-100A) is approved in the treatment of adult patients with supra-tentorial glioblastoma (GBM) and is used following maximal safe surgical resection and radiation therapy.

The Japanese Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare Approved Exablate Neuro System for the Treatment of Essential Tremor

TOKYO and HAIFA, Israel, December 20, 2016 /PRNewswire/ --

[INSIGHTEC](#), the leader in MR-guided Focused Ultrasound (MRgFUS) therapy, announced today that the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (MHLW) has approved its Exablate Neuro system for the non-invasive treatment of essential tremor in patients who have not responded to medication.

Exablate Neuro uses focused ultrasound waves to precisely target and ablate tissue deep within the brain with no incisions. The treatment is performed under Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) guidance for real-time treatment monitoring. The approval was granted based on data from a randomized, double-blind clinical study conducted in eight medical centers in North America and Asia. The study demonstrated the safety and efficacy of non-invasive thalamotomy with Exablate Neuro.

"Results of this study show that Exablate Neuro is safe and effective for treating essential tremor. Finding the most effective way to manage tremor symptoms and improve the quality of life is crucial for patients," said Professor Takaomi Taira MD, Tokyo Women's Medical University. "Patients treated showed immediate tremor control, allowing them to regain ability to perform daily tasks such as eating and writing," he concluded.

"INSIGHTEC is committed to the Japanese neurosurgery market," said Yair Bauer, Country Manager, INSIGHTEC Japan. "Following the MHLW approval, INSIGHTEC Japan can develop its market presence and offer essential tremor patients a non-invasive solution to improve their quality of life," he added.

Earlier this year, Exablate Neuro was also approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Health Canada for the treatment of essential tremor. Exablate Neuro also has approvals in Europe and Israel. Exablate Neuro is registered in Japan under the name Exablate 4000.

About Essential Tremor

Essential tremor is the most common movement disorder, affecting more than 3 million people in Japan, and millions more worldwide. Hand tremor is the most common symptom, but tremors can also affect the head, arms, voice, legs, and torso. The cause of this disease is still unknown but it has a strong hereditary attribute. Patients often have trouble performing everyday tasks such as eating, dressing, writing, holding objects and even speaking.

About INSIGHTEC Japan K.K.

INSIGHTEC Japan K.K. is a subsidiary of INSIGHTEC LTD. The company is the distributor of Exablate in Japan and the regulatory market approval holder of Exablate Neuro (Exablate 4000). Founded in 2005, its mission is to provide non-invasive treatments for

neurosurgery, oncology and women's health indications, in order to significantly improve the quality of life for patients in Japan.

About INSIGHTEC LTD

INSIGHTEC is the world leader in MR-guided Focused Ultrasound (MRgFUS). The company's non-invasive therapy platforms, Exablate and Exablate Neuro, are transforming treatment for various indications in neurosurgery, oncology and women's health. A growing number of renowned physicians are realizing the clinical value of MRgFUS in more than 80 leading medical centers around the world

Pluristem and Sosei CVC to Establish a New Corporation for the Commercialization of PLX-PAD in Japan

Pluristem and Sosei CVC will establish a new corporation which will pursue the clinical development and commercialization of PLX-PAD in Japan

The first indication to be developed will be Critical Limb Ischemia (CLI)
Japan's regulatory agency has already agreed on the study design of a 75-patient clinical trial in CLI for potential conditional marketing approval under an accelerated pathway
Initial funds of \$11 million will be invested into the new corporation by Sosei RMF1 and partners

HAIFA ISRAEL, TOKYO JAPAN December 20, 2016 -- Sosei Corporate Venture Capital Ltd., (Subsidiary of Sosei Group Corporation, a Tokyo Stock Exchange Mothers listed company), and Pluristem Therapeutics Inc. (NasdaqCM: PSTI, TASE: PSTI), a leading developer of placenta- based cell therapy products, today announced the signing of a binding term sheet for the establishment of a new Japanese corporation (NewCo) for the clinical development and commercialization of Pluristem's PLX-PAD cell therapy product in Japan. Following completion of fund-raising, the parties plan to establish NewCo in Japan. Pluristem will own 35% of NewCo in return for its contribution of a perpetual license to commercialize PLX-PAD for Critical Limb Ischemia (CLI) in Japan. All proprietary rights related to PLX-PAD will be exclusively owned by Pluristem. Sosei CVC's investment fund, Sosei RMF1, together with additional Japanese investors, will raise and invest approximately \$11 million, equivalent to approximately ¥1.3 billion, in return for ownership of 65% of NewCo.

The first indication to be developed by NewCo will be CLI. The design of a 75-patient study of PLX-PAD in CLI was previously agreed upon with Japan's Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency (PMDA) under an accelerated regulatory pathway for regenerative medicine. This single study may lead to early conditional marketing approval and early reimbursement. Future marketing activities are planned to be undertaken by NewCo. The parties plan to enter into a definitive agreement no later than March 31, 2017.

"We are eager to begin the joint development of PLX-PAD in critical limb ischemia with the goal of commercialization, and believe that our cooperation could lead to an efficient and successful entry into Japan's substantial market," said Toshimi Miyoshi, Director, Sosei CVC. "The NewCo is expected to be a meaningful investment by Sosei RMF1 into the regenerative medicine space, and will support our goal to stimulate the biotechnology industry in Japan," Miyoshi concluded.

About Japan's Conditional Time-limited Approval for Regenerative Medicine Products

Japan's Act on the Safety of Regenerative Medicine went into effect in November 2014. Its purpose is to facilitate faster commercialization of cellular therapies and other regenerative medicine treatments. Per the Act, these therapies can receive conditional, time-limited approval for marketing, and be eligible for reimbursement, upon proof of safety and a signal of effectiveness but prior to verification of efficacy. Safety and efficacy need to be confirmed via collection of observational data from treated patients after the conditional approval.

About Pluristem Therapeutics

Pluristem Therapeutics Inc. is a leading developer of placenta-based cell therapy products. The Company has reported robust clinical trial data in multiple indications for its patented PLX (PLacental eXpanded) cells and is entering late-stage trials in several indications. The cell products release a range of therapeutic proteins in response to inflammation, ischemia, hematological disorders, and radiation damage. PLX cell products are grown using the Company's proprietary three-dimensional expansion technology. They are off-the-shelf, requiring no tissue matching prior to administration.

Pluristem has a strong intellectual property position; Company-owned and operated, GMP-certified manufacturing and research facilities; strategic relationships with major research institutions; and a seasoned management team.

About Sosei CVC and RMF1

Sosei Corporate Venture Capital (Sosei CVC) is the corporate venture arm of Sosei Group Corporation, a Tokyo Stock Exchange Mothers listed company. Along with its partners, Sosei CVC currently manages Sosei RMF1, a ¥2 billion fund focusing on investing in companies with innovative regenerative medicine technology.

S. SCHNITZER DIAMONDS WINS 2015 EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR BUSINESS WITH JAPAN

08.12.16, 11:02 / [Israel](#)

The Israel-Japan Friendship Society and Chamber of Commerce marked 60 years of activity in an event held in Dan Tel Aviv Hotel on Tuesday night (November 6). The event was attended by dignitaries, Israel [Diamond](#) Exchange President Yoram Dvash and Japan ambassador to Israel Koji Tomita and his wife Noriko.

The evening included cocktails and dinner, as well as traditional Japanese music and dances. The recipients were then called to the stage to receive the Excellence Award for Business with

Japan. Among the recipients were S. Schnitzer Diamonds , Laline and Teva. An additional award, named after late President Shimon Peres, was given to the start-up company Elegant Monkeys. Olympic medalist Yarden Gerbi was also presented with an award.

Shmuel Schnitzer, Chairman of the Israel Diamond Institute Group of Companies (IDI), who also serves as the Chairman of the Award Committee, remarked that the Excellence Awards are presented to “companies which exemplify a model for excellence in trading with Japan, and which activities have an added value, technological advancement or breakthrough”.

Karamba Security Announces Asgent will Introduce Autonomous Security to Protect against Cyberattacks in Japan

ANN ARBOR, Mich. and HOD HASHARON, Israel and TOKYO, Dec. 05, 2016 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- At a press conference held last week in Tokyo, [Asgent](#), Inc. (JASDAQ:[4288](#)), a Tokyo Stock Exchange-traded pioneer in network security and operations management solutions, announced that it has contracted with [Karamba Security](#) to introduce its Autonomous Security technology to the automotive and Internet of Things (IoT) markets in Japan.

“By reselling and distributing Karamba Security technology, Asgent is putting Japanese manufacturers at the leading edge of global efforts to protect vehicles and Internet of Things devices from cyberthreats,” said Takahiro Sugimoto, CEO and founder of Asgent. “Applications not only include the connected car but also smart home devices such as security systems and cameras monitoring a baby’s room to appliances and lighting. Each of these seemingly innocent devices could be turned into an attack vector if not properly protected. Asgent and Karamba take seriously the responsibility to save lives and preserve people’s safety.”

“We are excited to have Asgent as our VAR in Japan,” said Ami Dotan, Karamba Security co-founder and CEO. “We know Asgent from our previous companies, we have been following them for the last decade, and we were impressed with their deep technological and business expertise. Asgent can provide local support to the strong demand we have been experiencing for Karamba’s Autonomous Security in Japan.”

Karamba’s products will be provided to automotive and electronic device manufacturers for embedding in electronic control units (ECUs). Autonomous Security enables ECUs to autonomously protect themselves in run time and prevent cyberattacks. Karamba’s software is seamlessly embedded in the ECU’s operating system, blocking hackers from compromising connected cars and IoT devices and using them for nefarious purposes.

The people using these connected devices and vehicles should be able to trust that they are adequately protected from malicious actors trying to do physical harm via hacking.

Connectivity introduces risks and vulnerabilities, as demonstrated by the massive DDoS attack that completely halted internet access to popular websites in recent weeks. The botnet attack was carried out using compromised security cameras, routers and other connected devices. Karamba Security's technology could prevent these types of hacks from occurring in the future.

Unlike enterprise technologies, whose greatest cybersecurity risk is data loss, the risk from a hacked connected car or other internet-connected device can be as serious as the loss of life. Autonomous Security is necessary to secure systems while avoiding enterprise cybersecurity pitfalls that may endanger peoples' lives. It does that by adhering to the following criteria:

- Cyberattack prevention is done locally on the controller itself
- Zero-day prevention; blocks new malware without requiring updates to the security policy
- Returns no false positives that may impede the car's or IoT device's proper operation
- Negligible performance impact that doesn't interfere with real-time decisions

Karamba's Autonomous Security approach works by automatically locking down the controller according to factory settings. It blocks operations outside of factory settings at the controller level and avoids the risks of false positives inherent in other approaches. False positives can lead to legitimate commands failing to execute, consequently risking lives.

Karamba's Autonomous Security products would have prevented all potentially mass hacks published by white hat hackers, including the [Corvette](#) and [Tesla attacks](#).

The company has raised \$5 million (in two rounds, five months apart from each other) from Fontinalis Partners, YL Ventures and Glenrock Capital.

About Asgent

Asgent, Inc. (4288:JASDAQ) is a Developer and Distributor of pioneering Network Security solutions for enterprise and medium-sized organizations. With an eye on the future and a reseller base of more than 100 Systems Integrators, we command an impressive reputation for creating markets for new products and for making overseas and domestic network security products best-sellers in Japan. By providing 24 hours a day/7 days a week, first and second level pre- and post-sales technical support to our distribution channel, we create an extremely high level of product trust and confidence. Asgent is an extremely reliable partner for profitable business relationships. In addition, Asgent provides security services such as Managed Security Services (MSS) via SOC, risk assessment, vulnerability testing, incident response, etc.

About Karamba Security

Karamba Security is a leader in Autonomous Security. Karamba's software products suite hardens the electronic control units (ECUs) of connected and autonomous cars and IoT devices, preventing hackers from manipulating and compromising those ECUs. Karamba's Autonomous Security prevents cyberattacks with zero false positives, no connectivity requirements and negligible performance impact

Jordan receives \$254M soft loan from Japan

December 22nd, 2016 -

[Jordan and Japan](#) signed a \$254 million soft loan agreement to improve the government's public service reform efforts.

The loan, to be extended through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), will go towards supporting the government's "Financial Sector, Business Environment and Public Service Reform Policy".

"The loan is a direct support to the state budget and will contribute to bridging the 2016-2017 financial gap in the budget, which could help alleviate the financial challenges facing Jordan, especially after the huge influx of Syrian refugees," Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Imad Fakhoury said at the signing ceremony.

The loan, to be repaid over a 30-year period with a 10-year grace period and an interest rate of 0.2 per cent, is the third to be extended by Japan in support of the Kingdom's financial sector, after two previous loans worth \$315.8 million.

"The first payment of the loan, amounting to \$85 million, will be referred to the Treasury before the end of this year, while the rest will be extended in the last quarter of next year," according to Fakhoury, who noted that the loan came after His Majesty King Abdullah's visit to Japan in November.

Commending [Japan's continuous support](#) to the Kingdom, he voiced Amman's appreciation for Tokyo as a key partner in pushing the development process forward and for its efforts in supporting Jordan with the "spillover of the regional crises and the Syrian refugee influx".

Fakhoury signed the loan agreement with Japan's Ambassador to Jordan Shuichi Sakurai and JICA's representative in Jordan.

"I strongly hope that the new loan will mitigate Jordan's financial burdens, promote economic stabilisation and support Jordan's development efforts," said Sakurai, noting that his country is aware of the tremendous pressure Jordan is facing.

[In 2016, Japan extended two grants](#) worth \$26.03 million to Jordan to support the Kingdom's humanitarian role towards the refugees. The grants were used to purchase equipment for the ministries of water and municipal affairs, in addition to enhancing security measures at the borders.

Since 1999, Jordan has received more than \$1.021 billion in support from Japan, of which \$491.12 million was in grants and the rest in soft loans.

JICA has also been extending technical support to the Kingdom