



Israel Yearly Insight 2020

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January

Japanese investments in Israel surge in 2019

Number of deals nearly doubles previous year's, worth a total of \$100 million more, report by Harel-Hertz Investment House shows

By [SHOSHANNA SOLOMON](#) Times of Israel

Japanese investments in Israel surged in 2019, with 53 new deals amounting to \$815 million, according to data released by **Harel-Hertz Investment House**. This is the largest number of investments in deal terms since at least 2001, according to the data.

In 2018, there were 28 deals valued at some \$710 million, the data showed. 2017, with 37 deals and more than \$2 billion invested by Japanese firms in Israel, was the record year in terms of deal valuations. Mega deals that were inked that year included the sale of pharmaceutical firm NeuroDerm to Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma for \$1.1 billion in cash, in one of the biggest-ever purchases of an Israeli firm outside the tech field, and the \$627 million acquisition of a 22% stake in geothermal energy firm Ormat by Japan's ORIX.

Since the year 2000, Japanese investments in Israel have totaled over \$7.2 billion in 233 investment deals, the data showed. The level of investments surged after 2015, following high-level visits by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to Japan in May 2014 and Japanese leader Shinzo Abe's visit to Israel in January 2015. In May, El Al, Israel's flagship airline, said it would start offering direct flights to Tokyo from March 2020.

For years, Israel-Japan trade stuttered and was kept under wraps, with the very conservative Japanese reluctant to embrace Israel because of traditional fears of upsetting its Arab oil suppliers, or because of cultural differences.

Japan, the world's third-largest economy, is home to some of the largest manufacturing and automotive companies. As the world moves toward digitalization and software, these firms are now scouting overseas for tech solutions to help them maintain their edge over global competitors, and Israel has become a popular hunting ground for them.

The top five investors in the 2001-2019 period were the Japanese multinational conglomerate SoftBank Group, with 15 investments totaling some \$1.1 billion; financial services firm SBI and its

units, with 19 deals totaling \$231 million; Mitsui Group and its units, with 20 deals totaling \$167 million; and Hitachi and telecommunications firm Nippon Telegraph and Telephone (NTT), with 10 deals each totaling \$36.3 million and \$36 million respectively, the data showed.

Harel-Hertz said that while until 2015 Japanese investors in Israel were limited to a few large trading and industrial firms, this pool of investors is today diversified, and includes car manufacturers, financial institutions, insurance companies and small and medium-sized venture capital firms.

In 2019, the 53 investment deals were made by 34 companies, of which 24 were first-timers in Israel, Harel-Hertz said. Most of these players were strategic investors rather than purely financial ones.

Of these, most of the investments went to the information technology and cybersecurity sectors, 31%, and 18% to the life-sciences sector. The last two years have seen a jump in interest in the automotive and fin-tech fields, the data showed.

Harel-Hertz said the data provided is for those deals that were made public, and there may be more deals that were kept under wraps for business purposes.

SBI invests \$20m in core banking-API integration firm OpenLegacy

Japan's SBI Holdings has invested \$20 million in OpenLegacy Technologies, an Israeli- American software firm that smooths API integration of core banking systems.

Citi, FIS and BNP Paribas-Cardif are among the clients for OpenLegacy's platform, which helps them to create microservices-based APIs to extend their core banking systems to the digital world, including the web, mobile and cloud.

The system let companies create APIs without the typical cost, staff, time and risk, bypassing complex middleware and connecting directly to the core banking system, automatically generating the APIs, and offering a variety of deployment options both on-premises and in the cloud.

About OpenLegacy

OpenLegacy accelerates the delivery of innovative digital services from legacy systems in days versus months. Our microservices-based API integration and management platform reduces manual effort by automating API creation, bypassing middleware complexity, while improving API performance and thereby staff efficiency. Our software directly accesses and extends business logic to web, mobile, or cloud innovations in the form of Java objects, Rest APIs, or SOAP. Most importantly, this process is not only fast, easy, and secure, but also unintrusive to existing system architectures. Business and IT teams can therefore quickly deploy to market the digital demands of their customers, partners, and employees without ever having to modernize or replace their core systems.

Founded in 2014 by CEO Romi Stein and CTO Roi Mor, Open Legacy has 85 employees, 35 of them in its Tel Aviv and Petah Tikva offices.

Mitsubishi Motors Enlists Israeli Startup as Japan Plays Catch Up on Connected Cars

By Reuters Jan. 5, 2020

TOKYO — Mitsubishi Motors Corp has signed on to Israeli startup Otonomo's car-data marketplace as Japanese automakers race to make up ground on U.S. and European rivals to provide in-vehicle connected services.

The first Japanese auto manufacturer to join a platform like Otonomo's, Mitsubishi Motors will get access to a network of some 100 retailers, insurers and others who will pay for the data and provide revenue-generating services such as parking apps, on-demand car washing and subscription-based refueling.

The initiative will roll out this year in the United States and Europe, with Japan following later, the companies said. They did not disclose the financial terms of the deal.

The Japanese have lagged in providing connected-car services, with just 30 percent of vehicles sold last year equipped with embedded connectivity, compared with more than half in the United States and Europe, according to consultancy SBD Automotive.

It could be a costly missed opportunity. McKinsey & Co. predicts the market for in-vehicle data will swell to as much as \$750 billion by 2030.

In addition, the Japanese brands risk losing touch with an increasingly connected consumer globally.

"It is about understanding customer behaviors: how they use their cars and how they maintain them," Mo Al-Bodour, a Detroit-based analyst at SBD, said by email.

"This has implications that range from current customer relationships to how future products should be designed."

Other Japanese manufacturers have so far focused on building their own platforms.

Toyota has a subscription-based service called T-Connect, which offers things like real-time traffic information and links to a human operator for help with restaurant booking or getting assistance in the event of an accident.

3D Imaging Sensor Company Vayyar Partners With Japan's Aisin

Vayyar develops 3D imaging sensors that can see through human tissue, most man-made surfaces, and barriers such as smoke and steam

Adi Pick17:5907.Calcalist

Israeli 3D imaging sensor company Vayyar Imaging Ltd. has signed a partnership agreement with Tokyo-listed automotive parts company Aisin Seiki Co. Ltd., the former announced Tuesday. As part of the agreement, the two companies will jointly develop short-range exterior sensors for vehicles.

Financial terms of the deal were not disclosed.

Founded in 2011, Vayyar develops sensors that can see through human tissue, most man-made surfaces, and barriers such as smoke and steam using low-power radio wave technology. Initially focusing on early-stage detection of cancer, the company has since developed a multipurpose sensor that can be used across various industries.

In November, the company announced it had raised a [\\$109 million series D](#) funding round, bringing the company's total equity raised to date to \$188 million.

Emendo Biotherapeutics Raises \$61 Million to Advance Next Generation Genome Editing Therapeutics

NEW YORK--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Jan 15, 2020--

Emendo Biotherapeutics, a leader in next-generation gene editing using synthetic biology to address untreatable diseases, today announced a Series B investment totaling \$61 million led by **AnGes, Inc.**, a **Japan-based biopharma**, reflecting its strategic interest in partnering with Emendo on the development of specific indications.

“This financing provides a strong foundation from which we can accelerate our proprietary OMNI gene editing platform towards a broad clinical pipeline for addressing devastating untreatable diseases,” said Dr. David Baram, President & CEO, Emendo Biotherapeutics. “We are grateful for such strong support from so many high-quality investors and strategic partners including AnGes, OrbiMed Advisors, OrbiMed Israel Partners and **Takeda Ventures** who share our vision to translate this powerful science into transformative medicines.”

Emendo Biotherapeutics is pioneering OMNI, a next-generation allele-specific gene editing platform that uses synthetic biology to expand what is possible in genome-editing. In 2019, Emendo granted an option to Takeda to use the OMNI nuclease gene editing program for two research and development targets. Emendo received an undisclosed investment from Takeda Ventures that was converted in the Series B.

Emendo’s OMNI technology enables precision gene editing while maintaining high efficiencies, uniquely addressing dominant indications such as Severe Congenital Neutropenia (SCN), caused by mutations in the neutrophil elastase gene ELANE. Dominant indications represent the vast majority of genetic diseases which until now have been untreatable.

About AnGes

AnGes is a Tokyo and Osaka, Japan-based biopharmaceutical company focused on the development and commercialization of gene-based medicines including gene therapy and oligonucleotide molecules. AnGes’ lead product HGF plasmid, which received conditional approval in Japan in 2019, is a DNA plasmid which encodes the human Hepatocyte Growth Factor (HGF) gene, an angiogenic (new blood vessel growth) factor for critical limb ischemia

(CLI). The company is also developing NF-kB Decoy oligonucleotide for the treatment of inflammatory diseases. For more information please visit www.anges.co.jp.

About Emendo

Emendo Biotherapeutics is transforming the landscape of genome-editing based medicine through its use of novel CRISPR nucleases, advanced cutting-edge protein engineering platforms, diverse pipeline of clinical programs and extensive intellectual property portfolio.

Alma, a Sisram Medical Company, Receives Excellence Award for "Outstanding Business Performance in Japan"

NURNBERG, Germany, Jan. 9, 2020 /PRNewswire/ -- Alma, one of the top five global leaders of energy-based medical and aesthetics solutions, today announced it has been recognized with an Excellence Award for its "outstanding business performance in Japan" in 2019.

The annual "Excellence Award" was bestowed on Alma by the **Israel-Japan Friendship Society and Chamber of Commerce** - Israel's leading organization for Japan-related matters and a registered non-profit organization that aims to encourage knowledge of Japan and its culture in Israel.

The award recognizes Alma's exceptional contribution to the bilateral commercial and cultural relationships between Israel and Japan. In the Japanese market, Alma leverages proven technologies, innovation, quality assurance and clinical evaluation to develop and provide safe, high quality and reliable energy-based medical aesthetics treatment products and services. Acknowledging Japan's premium quality industrial components, Alma has been working closely with Japanese suppliers, one of which is its largest long-term supplier for treatment systems' display screens. In addition, Alma and its Japanese distributor have established an "excellence center" where treatment providers can experience its products and treatments hands-on. With this strong upstream support, the Company intends to continue expanding its presence in the Japanese market.

Alma received the award during a ceremony on Jan. 8 in the honorable presence of the Ambassador of Japan in Israel, Mr. Koichi Aiboshi, as well as Mr. Ofir Akunis, Minister of Science & Technology of Israel; Mr. Adiv Baruch, Chairman of Israel Export Institute; Mr. Aharon Aharon,

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CEO of Israel Innovation Authority; and other governmental and industrial leaders of Japan and Israel.

"The Japanese market is an important segment of our Asia Pacific and global practice", said Lior Dayan, CEO of Alma. "This award marks the Japanese market's recognition of our high-quality products and services. We will continue to develop high-quality innovative products and services to cater the Japanese market with a mission of enhancing quality of life."

About Alma

Alma is a global innovator of Laser, Light-based, Radiofrequency, Plasma and Ultrasound solutions for the aesthetic and surgical markets. We enable practitioners to offer safe and effective procedures while allowing patients to benefit from state-of-the-art, clinically proven technologies and treatments.

World's First Micromarket Using Hitachi LiDAR And Shekel Product Aware Debuts At NRF 2020 Vision

by [Emily Jed](#): 1/13/2020

NEW YORK CITY -- [Shekel Brainweigh](#) Ltd., a leader in advanced weighing technology, and Hitachi unveiled Capsule, which it describes as the world's first framework for a cost-effective autonomous micromarket solution based on [Hitachi's LiDAR sensors](#) and Shekel's Product Aware Shelves at NRF 2020 Vision: Retail's Big Show, wrapping up today at New York City's Jacob K. Javits Convention Center. The two companies are showcasing the first fully operational autonomous store in Shekel's booth #5880 and Hitachi's booth #5882 throughout the event.

"Micromarkets are the fastest growing segment of convenience shopping. We see them exploding in high-traffic areas, such as workplaces, campuses, train stations and airports," said Thomas Hylas, sales and marketing manager for Hitachi America Ltd. "Deploying the joint Shekel-Hitachi solution enables retailers and micromarket operators to provide the 24/7 frictionless shopping experience consumers demand without sacrificing accuracy, performance or profitability."

In a recent consumer survey commissioned by Shekel, nearly 50% of respondents indicated their biggest frustrations with micromarkets and standard vending machines were a limited selection and the lack of fresh products. Additionally, 41% of respondents specified that if they could return

items and purchase more than one item at a time, they would be more open to using a micromarket over vending machines.

“For retailers, Capsule is extremely cost-effective, highly accurate, privacy compliant, and future proof,” said Shekel Brainweigh Ltd. general manager for retail innovation Udi Wiesner. “Capsule allows retailers to provide consumers with a wider variety of products including food and beverage choices and the ability to purchase multiple items in the same transaction without ever having to visit a checkout station. These are exactly the features consumers demand in grab-and-go and express shopping environments.

Capsule is a modular, integrated, cost-effective framework for autonomous micromarket that revolutionizes the way shoppers purchase items. It acts as an autonomous shopping solution, a real-time inventory management platform and provides privacy-compliant LiDAR shopper-tracking technology.

To enter, shoppers are identified using a secured payment method and tracked while shopping by Hitachi’s proven LiDAR technology. Consumers can shop for any item in the store, which are registered with Shekel Product Aware shelves and management system that is automatically integrated to any retailer’s POS. They leave the store without checking out through traditional self-checkout machines or via store cashiers. Since all administrative processes are automated, such as calculating and paying for purchases, shoppers experience true frictionless shopping that streamlines their time in store.

Hitachi’s 3D LiDAR technology enables low latency and bandwidth shopper tracking along his or her in-store journey in high resolution regardless of lighting conditions and without compromising privacy. Shekel’s Product Aware technology, based on IoT load sensors, embedded software and cloud-based AI and machine learning, identifies products at the industry’s highest accuracy standards.

The first of its kind joint solution dramatically reduces the retailers’ total cost of ownership by making setup and ongoing operating costs affordable, improves accuracy and enables frictionless shopping for an enhanced customer experience. The first Capsule store is expected to be fully operational in Q1 2020.

“**Autonomous micromarkets** must demonstrate availability, accuracy of operations, and provide a superior user experience for shoppers,” Wiesner said. “Our joint solution with Hitachi gives retailers flawless identification and tracking of shoppers in an autonomous store area so

consumers can collect products from shelves, be automatically charged, and leave the store without ever needing to use a checkout device.”

Shekel Ltd. is a well-established technology market leader revolutionizing the retail industry for more than 40 years. The company combined physics, electronics and software expertise to develop digital scale technology. This technology, first implemented into self-checkout systems by its retail partners, gave Shekel the reputation as an innovator for solutions to the global retail market. Following the last years of disruption in the retail market, the company has reinvented itself embracing the newest technologies of IoT and data analytics to enhance and enlarge its offering to the retail market, enabling retailers to adapt to the dramatic changes taking place.

In November 2018, the company launched on the Australian Stock Exchange as Shekel Brainweigh

Fujitsu and Upstream Security announce partnership for vehicle cyber security

January 17, 2020

Fujitsu Limited and **Upstream Security**, cutting-edge security solution provider for connected vehicles, have announced a partnership for vehicle cyber security. The companies will collaborate in the development of security operations solutions for connected vehicles.

Vehicle security

As more vehicles are connected to the network, they are increasingly prone to the growing risk of cyber-attacks. International and domestic committees such as UNECE/WP.29 (The UNECE World Forum for Harmonisation of Vehicle Regulations) have already started discussing regulation and standardization of cyber security for connected vehicles.

Car manufacturers and fleet operators need to address and protect against vehicle data loss and unlawful vehicle application control while developing solutions for security operations. Upstream C4 is a cloud-based automotive cyber security solution that leverages AutoThreat Intelligence, the industry's first automotive threat feed. Driven by data, the solution protects connected vehicles and smart mobility services against cyber security threats.

The new joint solution will blend Upstream C4 with Fujitsu's data processing tech, as well as its ICT-SOC (Security Operation Center). It will allow smart cars to detect threats to the vehicle,

which will be increasingly important as more and more car manufacturers introduce in-car digital assistants and other connected features.

By integrating such a solution with Fujitsu's ICT-SOC (ICT- Security Operation Center) solution and big data processing technology, the two companies will develop a comprehensive connected vehicle security solution that can detect the threats not only in vehicle side but also in the center side. The solution will be gradually rolled out during 2020 for car manufacturers and other mobility companies in Japan, North America, and Europe.

Connected vehicle security solution

"Fujitsu will strengthen partnership with Upstream to realize safety and security for the mobility business," said Junichi Azuma, Corporate Executive Officer, and EVP, Head of Private Enterprise Business in the Technology Solutions Business at Fujitsu Limited. "Fujitsu has positioned cyber security as one of the focus areas which bolster our customer's digital transformation. Together with Upstream, we will contribute to the realisation of a trusted mobility society in which everyone can rest assured by leveraging our security technologies and experience in the ICT field."

"The partnership with Fujitsu is strategic for Upstream to increase our footprint in the Japanese market," said Yoav Levy, CEO and Co-Founder of Upstream Security. "Our mission is to protect every connected vehicle on the planet by detecting security incidents and remediate them before they become a real threat to the safety and security of drivers and passengers alike."

Terilogy launches full-scale sales of Israeli TechSee's next-generation visual customer assistance solution using augmented reality and AI

Partnering with two major partners toward the coming of the 5G era-

This partnership was initiated and supported by HIH Harel-Hertz Investment House Ltd

[Terilogy Co., Ltd.](#)

January 30, 2020 15:10

Terilogy Co., Ltd. (Headquarters: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo; President and Representative Director: Akihiko Abe; hereinafter "Terilogy") and Israeli TechSee Augmented Vision Ltd. (Headquarters: Hertzelia, Israel; TechSee Inc.) will begin full-scale sales of next-generation visual customer assistance solutions utilizing AR (Augmented Reality) and AI (Artificial Intelligence).

In addition, with the aim of expanding sales of the solution used in the world's most advanced contact centers, Customer Relations Telemarketing Co., Ltd. (Head office: Osaka City, Osaka, President: Daisuke Uehara) and MX Mobiling Co., Ltd. (Head office: Koto-ku , Representative Director: Yoriaki Nagao).

Recently, with the development of IoT technology, smart devices have spread rapidly around the world, and new business opportunities for companies have arrived.

On the other hand, the contact center department, which receives daily inquiries from customers, is required to respond to huge inquiries about various products.

In Japan, in particular, it is not easy to secure agent staff at the contact center due to the shrinking workforce, and it is a major issue how to provide efficient customer support without reducing customer satisfaction.

Under these circumstances, TechSee's "**TechSee Live Contact Center**" (hereinafter "TechSee") uses AR (Augmented Reality) and AI (Artificial Intelligence) technology through customers' smartphones without downloading dedicated applications. This eliminates visual gaps between customers and contact center agents, reduces contact center costs and increases customer satisfaction.

Furthermore, by introducing the computer vision AI (artificial intelligence) "EVE" (optional) developed by TechSee, it automatically recognizes products that have been trained by "EVE" in advance, and contacts relevant information, manuals, operation guides, etc. Presented to the center agent, the agent can also send that information to the customer. With the advent of the 5G era, which realizes high-speed, large-capacity communications, Terrology believes that such visual customer assistance solutions will become fully popular in Japan.

- **Visual support**

Through the customer's smartphone, the problem in front of the customer is shared with the contact center agent. Close the visual gap. The AR (Augmented Reality) function makes it possible to share pointers and provide kind and accurate support.

- **No special application required**

Downloading / installing a special application is **not required** for your smartphone. Just click the link sent by SMS from the agent, you can share the situation.

- **Visual Guide**

Agents can add visual guides to images and send them to customers. This makes problem solving smoother.

- **OCR scan (optional) The**

OCR function reads alphanumeric characters such as serial numbers and IDs and converts them to text.

- **Smart Assist (optional)**

Automatically recognizes learned products and displays related information, manuals, and operation guides.

[Advantage of introduction]

The situation in front of the customer can be shared at the contact center through a smartphone, and the situation can be solved quickly with a visual guide.

- Increase the resolution rate (FCR * 1) in the primary call
- Reduction of technician dispatch rate
- Reduce contact center costs, including technician dispatch costs

- Stress reduction for both customers and agents
- Improve customer satisfaction by solving problems quickly

Sales partner As of January 30, 2020

- **BPO Partner (BP)**

Provide visual support service utilizing TechSee as an option of its own contact center BPO

Customer Relations Telemarketing Co., Ltd.

Launch of the industry's first full-scale visual support service

- **Solution Enabling Partner (SEP)**

Leverage its own integration capabilities and promote the provision of solutions using

TechSee.

MX Mobiling Co., Ltd.

technical cooperation related to AR / AI take advantage of solutions developed with an eye to 5G era, and, started offering to for user support areas in the telecommunications industry and distribution industries and manufacturing industries, etc.

Israel Electric inks deal to help safeguard Tokyo Olympics from cyberattack

IEC signs agreement with Japanese energy utility to secure critical infrastructure during games, also launches new set of cybersecurity tools at Cybertech 2020 confab in Tel Aviv

By [SHOSHANNA SOLOMON](#) 30 January 2020

Israel Electric Corporation (IEC), the nation's main electricity provider, has signed an agreement with a leading energy utility in Japan to help it secure infrastructure against cyberattacks during the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and further, the chairman of the Israeli utility told a gathering of officials, entrepreneurs and investors at a cybersecurity conference in Tel Aviv.

"A Japanese top energy utility corporate, and IEC have signed a collaboration agreement for cyber services, including support at the Tokyo Olympics," Yiftah Ron-Tal, of the IEC, said at the

Cybertech 2020 conference on Wednesday, without disclosing the name of the Japanese corporation.

Yosi Shneck, the head of cyber entrepreneurship and business development at the Israeli firm, said the idea behind the deal was to help the Japanese company secure its critical infrastructure during the Olympic games and for additional cooperation even after the games are over.

The Israeli energy firm has similar cooperation agreements with an electricity producer in Canada and a European utility, he explained in an interview with The Times of Israel on the sidelines of the conference.

On Wednesday, Israel Electric launched a suite of new cybersecurity products and services that include both software and hardware to protect the energy industry from cyberattacks.

The products “don’t replace” the traditional cybersecurity solutions available in the market, Shneck explained, but create “an additional layer that sits on top” of other products, and increase the ability of organizations that use industrial control systems to protect their infrastructure from cyberattacks.

The IEC was subject to an average 11,000 suspected cyber events per second in 2019, and is one of the most targeted organizations for cyberattacks in the world, Ron-Tal told the conference attendees Wednesday.

This huge exposure to cyberattacks has caused the IEC to develop its latest set of cybersecurity tools that’s marketing globally, Shneck told The Times of Israel.

Traditional cybersecurity tools used by the IEC were not enough to secure its infrastructure, he added. “They didn’t solve our problem of being totally protected,” he said. When the firm simulated attacks and tried to penetrate its systems, it “always succeeded.” And that’s how the latest suite of products was developed.

At the first level, the software creates for the top management of the firm — those people who generally don’t understand the enormity of the threat posed — a clear picture of what has been compromised. “We create what we call a cyber battle picture,” that is not a snapshot at a certain point of time, but a “continuous risk assessment of the firm.”

The products are also able to gather information about vulnerabilities stemming from the supply chains of the firm and calculate the “butterfly effect” of events happening around the world on the firm, he said.

The systems also use artificial intelligence and machine learning tools that are able to prioritize cybersecurity events and decide whether the incidents are false or a real alarm, he said.

February

S. Korea, Japan hold Middle East policy talks

All Headlines 17:29 February 10, 2020

SEOUL, Feb. 10 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and Japan held working-level policy consultations on a volatile Middle East in Seoul on Monday, the foreign ministry said, in a sign of their continued diplomatic cooperation despite their row over trade and wartime history.

Hong Jin-wook, the ministry's director-general for Africa and Middle East affairs, met his Japanese counterpart, Katsuhiko Takahashi, for the talks held annually by the two sides since 2014.

Their meeting came amid tensions in the Middle East caused by a confrontation between the United States and Iran earlier this year and a controversy over U.S. President Donald Trump's proposed peace plan for the region, which critics said has tilted in favor of Israel's interests.

"The two sides have shared the understanding that peace and stability in the Middle East is directly linked to stability for the whole of the international community, including Northeast Asia," the ministry said in a press release.

"The two countries, which have similar perspectives regarding Middle East issues, have agreed to continue communication and cooperation," it added.

Last Thursday, the two countries held a separate director general-level meeting to discuss the dispute surrounding the issue of Japan's wartime forced labor. But they made little progress in addressing the row.

Seoul has used the talks to call on Tokyo to retract export curbs that are seen as retaliation for 2018 South Korean Supreme Court rulings ordering Japanese firms to compensate victims of forced labor during Japan's 1910-45 colonial rule.

Tokyo claims that all reparation issues stemming from its colonization of the peninsula were settled in a 1965 pact that normalized bilateral ties.

Intuition Robotics Raises \$36M in Series B Funding to Empower the Creation of Digital Companions™ that Generate Enduring Human-Machine Relationships

- New type of human-robot relationship demonstrated through ElliQ®, the sidekick for happier aging, validates far broader applications for cognitive AI agent technology - Investors back company to bolster its cognitive AI agent and broaden its availability far beyond its current automotive customers

February 13, 2020

RAMAT GAN, Israel, Feb. 13, 2020 /PRNewswire/ -- [Intuition Robotics](#), developer of digital companion™ technologies, announced today that it has raised \$36M in Series B funding co-led by **SPARX Group** and OurCrowd, bringing the company's total funding to \$58M. Additional investors in the round include: **Toyota AI Ventures, Sampo Holdings**, iRobot, Union Tech Ventures, Happiness Capital, Samsung Next, Capital Point and Bloomberg Beta. Intuition Robotics currently employs 85 people with offices in Israel, San Francisco and Greece.

Intuition Robotics will use the new funding to fuel its mission to create enduring relationships between humans and machines through digital companion agents that influence users' behaviors and emotions, starting with improving the lives of older adults. The company will invest in advancing its technology, cognitive AI capabilities and tools, and plans to expand the availability of its digital companion into domains beyond longevity and automotive.

"This investment will fuel the evolution of agents from utilitarian digital assistants to full-fledged digital companions that are at our side, anticipating our needs and seamlessly, proactively improving our lives by helping us achieve certain outcomes," said Dor Skuler, CEO and Co-Founder of Intuition Robotics. "Our cognitive AI technology has the potential to transform the way people and machines interact through empathetic relationships built on trust, exhibiting highly personalized and delightful experiences that amplify our customers' brands."

"Intuition Robotics is creating disruptive technology that will inspire companies to re-imagine how machines might amplify the human experience," said Jim Adler, Founding Managing Partner at [Toyota AI Ventures](#), who will join the company's Board of Directors. "I'm proud to join the company's board and partner with management on this exciting journey."



"In the future, robots will provide a more proactive, empathetic, and personalized user experience," said Colin Angle, CEO of Series B investor iRobot. "Intuition Robotics is redefining what's possible through cutting-edge technology and deep insights regarding how people and machines interact."

Intuition Robotics defines a digital companion agent as the natural evolution of the digital assistant, replacing utilitarian voice command with a bi-directional relationship that is based on empathy, trust and anticipation of needs. This relationship is possible through the cognitive agent technology developed by Intuition Robotics allowing proactive, multi-modal, personalized interactions, expressed through a distinct character, handcrafted per agent implementation and customer.

Generating proactive AI agents that users accept has been long-sought by the industry, and Intuition Robotics' approach of creating a cognitive, goal-driven agent – whose behavior is triggered by contextual understanding and adaptation after learning from its user – creates a non-deterministic, nonlinear experience. The cognitive agent uses a unique approach that combines state-driven policies defined by experts with hierarchical reinforcement learning. This allows the agent to be successfully proactive from the get-go, while it studies its user and drifts towards a more personalized experience over time.

Over the last 12 months, ElliQ, the social companion robot that aims to reduce loneliness and social isolation, has spent over 10,000 days in older adults' homes in the US. A majority of users are 80-90 years old and have each spent at least 90 consecutive days with ElliQ. The company observed a surprising sense of attachment towards ElliQ. Older adults refer to ElliQ as an entity that is almost lifelike rather than a device. ElliQ engages them proactively in activities and conversation to promote their well-being. Currently, ElliQ users participate in an average of eight interactions per day, at least two of which are actions initiated proactively by ElliQ, totaling in six minutes of net interaction (excluding consumption of media and content) per day.

In addition, Intuition Robotics is collaborating with leading automotive customers such as Toyota Research Institute (TRI). The automotive industry is going through discontinuity. On one hand, sophisticated sensors and the beginning of autonomy are rapidly burgeoning, yet on the other, the in-car experience hasn't drastically changed, while automakers face fierce competition from large tech companies to take ownership of the future in-car experience. A revolutionized human machine interface (HMI) in the car is on the horizon, providing automakers the unique opportunity to become early adopters of digital companion agent technology.

About Intuition Robotics Intuition Robotics enables the creation of relationships between humans and machines that influence behaviors and emotions through digital companion agents,

powered by the company's cognitive AI engine, Q. The company offers Q to 3rd parties, starting with automakers, to transform their products into dynamic, white labeled digital companions. Q also powers ElliQ®, the company's internal product aimed at improving the lives of older adults.

The company was founded in 2016 and is based in Israel, with offices in San Francisco and Greece. Intuition Robotics' investors include: SPARX group, Toyota AI Ventures, OurCrowd, Samsung NEXT, iRobot and Venture Capital firms from California, Israel, Japan and Asia.

Vintage Investment Partners, Verizon Ventures, Maersk Growth, PepsiCo and NTT DOCOMO Ventures join the other top tier investors backing Wiliot's postage stamp sized computer

This latest investment round brings Wiliot's B Round of funding total up to \$70m as Wiliot preps for mass production of its battery-free Bluetooth sensor tags, powered by recycling radio waves

SAN DIEGO, Feb. 18., 2020 /PRNewswire/ -- One year on from revealing the very first engineering samples of the Wiliot chip behind closed doors at the National Retail Federation show in New York, Wiliot was demonstrating this technology in action at NRF 2020 in its own booth and on the stands of Avery Dennison, SATO Corporation and Aruba, a Hewlett Packard Enterprise company.

"We have come a long way in the last year," said Tal Tamir, CEO of Wiliot. "Twelve months ago, conditions had to be perfect for the very first tags to work. Now we demonstrate Wiliot tags on bottles of wine, boxes of pizza and on envelopes. We are understanding how these tiny sensors embedded into products and packaging can change the way things are made, distributed, sold, used and recycled. By having a multiprocessor compute engine that powers itself, we have the security and flexibility to bring sensing and connectivity to things that previously couldn't be connected to the Internet of Things. Privacy is key if you are to connect products to the internet and nothing short of a system of this kind can make sure only the right people can see this information."

This latest investment round was led by Vintage Investment Partners and will provide the resources for Wiliot to support its customers' pilot projects and the growing development of Wiliot's Cloud components. Alan Feld, Founder & Managing Partner of Vintage Investment Partners said "Investing in Wiliot was a clear choice considering the huge market for and disruptive power of their technology. They bring an experienced team with a proven ability to execute, as we saw when we invested in the founders' previous company."

Wiliot Cloud enables IoT applications integrated with billions of products to scale. It is also key to managing security and privacy. A machine learning component delivers 'Sensorless Sensing'. This eliminates expensive, bulky, on-tag sensors, by shifting the analytics to a cloud system that can learn and improve over time.

Wiliot is running an early access program as part of an invitation only, controlled release of pre-production versions of the product with over 20 world leading brands.

"Entrepreneurial partners like Wiliot are part of PepsiCo's ongoing global effort to work collaboratively with startups as we advance our ambitions to become faster, stronger, and better," said Jim Andrew, Executive Vice President, SodaStream, Beyond the Bottle, and New Ventures, PepsiCo. "Wiliot's deep technology solution offers numerous use case possibilities, including the potential to better serve our partners by getting the right product, to the right place, at the right time."

"Wiliot's technology will create an expansive opportunity for how products are tracked and industries are managed," said Merav Rotem Naaman, Managing Director of Verizon Ventures. "The company's cloud-connected, battery-free Bluetooth tag enables a process that is more cost-efficient and consumer-centric, connecting new classes of 'things' to the internet - at scale."

"As a pioneer of a new category of battery-free Bluetooth sensor tags, Wiliot has the potential to significantly grow the opportunity for connectivity services for a much bigger Internet of Things and this has a high affinity for the NTT Group's IoT business initiatives. Since we expect it can contribute to creating new values, we decided to invest in Wiliot," said Takayuki Inagawa, President and CEO, NTT DOCOMO Ventures.

"We see technologies like Wiliot's as being part of a shift in the way supply chains are organized," said Rasmus Winther Moelbjerg of Deloitte. "Historically, production and distribution were driven by forecasting models that could often be wrong. We see a future where 'demand signals' that communicate using existing infrastructure in real time from the store and even from consumers' homes as they use products. By having an active compute element built into products and packaging that can sense temperature and usage while securely managing a unique digital ID for each product, there is the potential to run much leaner supply chains, consumption based business model, that reduce capital employed and carbon footprint while delivering a better experience to customers."

About Wiliot

Wiliot is a cloud and semiconductor company making a computer the size of a postage stamp that powers itself by harvesting the radio energy that surrounds us. Our vision is to connect everything important to the internet, changing the way things are made, distributed, sold, used, and recycled. The company has a research and development team based in Israel, its operations team in Germany and business development headquarters in San Diego, California.

About Avery Dennison

Avery Dennison is a global materials science company specializing in the design and manufacture of a wide variety of labeling and functional materials. The company's products, which are used in nearly every major industry, include pressure-sensitive materials for labels and graphic applications; tapes and other bonding solutions for industrial, medical, and retail applications; tags, labels and embellishments for apparel; and radio frequency identification (RFID) solutions serving retail apparel and other markets. Headquartered in Glendale, California, the company employs more than 30,000 employees in more than 50 countries. Reported sales in 2019 were \$7.1 billion.

About Grove Ventures

Grove Ventures specializes in early-stage, deep technology investments. We invest in people first and are committed to creating value by utilizing our cross-industry interpersonal networks, strategic partnerships and extensive industry experience. Grove's team, built of veteran entrepreneurs, company builders and experienced investors, supports start-ups throughout their inception and growth to become exceptional technology companies.

About NTT DOCOMO Ventures

NTT DOCOMO Ventures, the NTT Group's corporate venture capital firm, aims to accelerate innovation for creation of new services, disruptive technologies and innovative processes serving as a primary channel for startup companies and venture communities on behalf of the NTT Group, Japan's leading ICT service provider. We proactively enhance cooperation with exceptional entrepreneurs on a worldwide scale by providing capital from our corporate venture funds and vast business development opportunities with the NTT Group companies.

Strauss Group to buy Mitsui Alimentos' coffee business in Brazil

3C will acquire the business the quotas of Mitsui Alimentos in Brazil from Mitsui & Co in Japan and Mitsui & Co (Brasil).

<https://www.drinks-insight-network.com/> 18 Feb 2020

Israeli food and beverage company **Strauss Group** has brokered a deal to fully acquire the domestic coffee business of **Mitsui Alimentos** in Brazil.

Strauss Group executed this deal through its Tres Coracoes (3C) joint venture in Brazil.

The Israeli food and beverage company owns 3C through its Strauss Coffee unit together with Sao Miguel FIP, owned by the Lima family.

3C will acquire the business the quotas of Mitsui Alimentos in Brazil from Mitsui & Co in Japan and Mitsui & Co (Brasil).

Under the agreement, 3C will pay a consideration of BRL210m (\$48m) for Mitsui Alimentos's domestic coffee business.

Strauss Coffee CEO Zion Balas said: "The acquisition of Mitsui Alimento's R&G coffee business in Brazil follows acquisitions made in the country in the past few years and establishes our position as the leading coffee company in Brazil.

“Strauss Group and its local partners, the Lima family, will continue to develop and grow the 3C joint venture organically as well as through further acquisitions that are relevant and complementary to our core business.”

Through this acquisition, the company intends to strengthen its position in the coffee market in the country.

Since 1974, Mitsui Alimentos’s roast and ground coffee businesses have been operating in Brazil as part of Mitsui Alimentos.

However, Mitsui Alimentos’ coffee green beans export business will not be part of the deal.

Strauss Group CEO Giora Bardea said: “The coffee company is one of Strauss’s four major pillars and will continue to be one of the Group’s key growth drivers in the future.

“Our excellent partnership with the Lima family is today solidifying 3C joint venture’s leadership in the coffee business in Brazil and is a strategic anchor for the coffee company.”

Completion of the deal is subject to the approval by the Brazilian antitrust authority Administrative Council for Economic Defense (CADE).

Last February, [Givaudan partnered with The Kitchen, food technology incubator of Strauss Group](#) to expand its innovation ecosystem further by connecting with Israel-based food business people.

Driivz to help Ennet to deliver smart charging in Japan

The Ennet Corporation has selected Israeli software specialist Driivz to bring intelligent EV charging services to Japan. Driivz will provide smart charging software that includes platform modules as well as an app that will help the Japanese utility to broaden the services. More specifically, Ennet has developed a smart charging service called EnneEV for local governments and companies to help increase the electric car share in Japan that is currently at no more than 0.5%. The company belonging to the NTT Group has commissioned Driivz to deliver its tools as part of EnneEV.

In this case, the Driivz suite entails the trademarked SmartChain Energy Manager and operations management modules and also a white-labelled app in the Japanese language for electric car drivers.

In the backend, the service will enable Ennet to analyse the power usage patterns of its customers, identify peak demand and manage charge loads accordingly, also for fleets. The functions also include remote start and stop charging.

Yuji Kawagoe, President of Ennet, pointed out the company had been using “the latest technology and artificial intelligence to provide energy efficiency services and data analysis for several years”. When it comes to smart charging, however, the utility trusts in Driivz’ system, which is already managing “tens of thousands of EV chargers in the North American and European markets,” the executive added.

. Based in Tel Aviv, Driivz claims its cloud-based platform supports over 120 types of EV chargers and includes billing capability, roaming interoperability and is vehicle-to-grid enabled.

Anchora Medical announces closing of a \$4.5M financing round led by HOYA Corporation

Anchora Medical is developing a single-use suturing device for the approximation of soft tissue during Minimally Invasive Surgery (MIS)

YOKNEAM, ISRAEL (PRWEB) FEBRUARY 26, 2020

Anchora Medical ("Anchora"), a portfolio company of Alon Medtech Ventures ("Alon Medtech"), announced today closing of a \$4.5 million financing round led by HOYA Corporation ("HOYA") (ADR: HOCOPY, TYO: 7741), a key strategic investor, and Tal Capital. The funds will be used to complete Anchora's family of single-use laparoscopic suturing devices.

HOYA, a global medical device and high technology company, and Tal Capital, a US-based hi-tech investment company, join current investors Alon Medtech and Dr. Shimon Eckhouse in their support of the company.

Anchora's single-use suturing device for the approximation of soft tissue during MIS incorporates tiny stainless-steel smart anchors threaded on a surgical thread to create either running or interrupted sutures in tissue.

"The recent investment, led by HOYA, is a robust validation of our technology, and it will allow us to move toward commercialization," said Yoni Epstein, Anchora CEO. "It is an honor to have such a global leader joining our team."

Dr. Shimon Eckhouse, Anchora's Chairman, adds: "This partnership with HOYA is an excellent indication of the innovation and significance of Anchora's solution for the advancement of modern surgical technologies. We are confident that HOYA's leadership position in the global minimally-invasive surgical market will play a critical role in bringing Anchora's exciting technology to surgeons and patients around the world."

"Our investment in Anchora further complements HOYA's aim of partnering with innovative minimally-invasive surgical companies to complement our Life Care medical device divisions. We are excited about the progress and novel advancements that Anchora has made with its laparoscopic suturing products. Timothy Gehlmann, President and CEO of HOYA's Microline Surgical division, has joined Anchora as a board member and we look forward to the company's continued successes. Additionally, we welcome the opportunity to continue our venture capital partnering activities with the flourishing medical device industry in Israel," said Augustine Yee, HOYA's Chief Legal and Corporate Operating Officer.

About Anchora Medical

Anchora Medical is a privately held medical device company based in Israel. Its platform technology is devoted to changing suturing in endoscopic procedures. Its approximation device is a unique single-use device for the approximation of soft tissue during MIS. The device incorporates tiny stainless steel anchors threaded on a surgical thread.

JR East, Kinokuniya & Muroo Co. Ltd Partner with Infarm to Power Urban Farming Expansion To Japan

Agreement marks the first expansion of Berlin-based urban farming company to Asia, offering produce freshly-harvested at JR East-owned Kinokuniya retail locations in Tokyo starting in summer 2020. An additional distribution partnership with Muroo Co. Ltd will drive Infarm's national expansion in Japan through 2021.

TOKYO, Feb. 26, 2020 /PRNewswire/ -- East Japan Railway Company (JR East) announced today a partnership with Infarm - the world's most advanced and rapidly growing urban farming platform - to deliver a range of fresh produce grown and harvested at Kinokuniya retail stores starting summer 2020.

The first such agreement in Asia, the JR East partnership includes a declaration of capital investment in Infarm that will introduce the company's produce to Japanese consumers, freshly-grown and harvested in Tokyo locations of JR East food retail arm, Kinokuniya Co. Ltd.

An additional agreement with national food distributor Muroo Co. Ltd will support a phased expansion for the Berlin-based company across Japan in 2021. Together, the trio of agreements will drive Infarm's growth in Asia's most developed market, and will be supported by Infarm Japan, the company's new affiliate in the region.

"Japan's densest cities represent both the challenge and the potential of distributed, modular urban farming for cities around the world. Our partnership with such strong allies as JR East, Kinokuniya and Muroo Co. not only mark Infarm's entry into a nation known globally for the care and quality of its food culture, but accelerates our ability to build an ecosystem of partners worldwide who together will be able to feed the 7 billion living in cities by 2050, with fresh, sustainable food," commented Erez Galonska, co-founder and CEO of Infarm.

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

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

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

"Infarm offers an innovative, consumer-centered approach to urban farming that can contribute to the dynamic conversation about how we think about the relationship between technology and sustainable food here in Japan. As one of Infarm's early stage investors and managing director of Infarm Japan, I'm excited about the opportunity we have to partner with others across our food industry, as we work together to build a better future," commented Ikuo C. Hiraishi, Managing Director, Infarm Japan.

Founded in 2013, Infarm is one of the world's largest urban farming platforms harvesting and distributing more than 250,000 plants each month across its network. Infarm currently operates across Denmark, France, Germany, Luxembourg, the United Kingdom, the United States and Switzerland where it has deployed more than 600 farms in stores and distribution centers. Since 2013 the company has raised more than 100 million USD, most recently with a 2019 Series B funding round led by European venture capital firm, Atomico.

About Infarm

Founded in 2013 by Osnat Michaeli and the brothers Erez and Guy Galonska in Israel, Infarm combines highly efficient vertical farms with IoT technologies and Machine Learning, to offer an alternative food system that is resilient, transparent, and affordable. The company distributes its smart modular farms throughout the urban environment to grow fresh produce for the city's inhabitants. With cutting edge R&D, patented technologies, and a leading multi-disciplinary team, Infarm was founded on a visionary mission: helping cities become self-sufficient in their food

production while significantly improving the safety, quality, and environmental footprint of our food.

Trend Micro made a strategic partnership with Snyk

Trend Micro made a strategic partnership with the developer-first security company Snyk to help businesses cope with potential vulnerabilities without interrupting the software delivery process.

The alliance integrated open source vulnerability intelligence from Snyk with Trend Micro's comprehensive ability to detect vulnerabilities for teams operating in a DevOps environment. Snyk helps enterprises in detecting and fixing the vulnerabilities and license violations in open source dependencies.

Earlier, The Japanese cybersecurity company Trend Micro signed an agreement on scientific and technical cooperation with **Kazakh security firm T&T Security**, to support a government initiative known as the "Concept of Cyber Security" or "Kazakhstan Cyber Shield." The new partnership is intended to develop and implement local projects in the field of information security in Kazakhstan

The company claimed that its security solutions platform is built on a comprehensive, proprietary vulnerability database, and maintained by security veterans in Israel and London.

March

Marubeni Corporation announces investment with ePlane to drive innovation in aerospace industry

Posted on [March 24, 2020](#)

ePlane, an advanced, AI-driven, B2B sourcing and business intelligence platform for the aerospace parts and repair markets, has announced the investment led by major Japanese trading and investing company, **Marubeni Corporation**, and current investors totaling \$9M

ePlane is changing the way companies in the aerospace industry are conducting business. The revolutionary online platform enables users to trade aircraft parts, locate repair services, and improve supply chain bottlenecks and the cost structure of its users. The aviation maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) market is impressive. With an \$80 billion global MRO market and an expected growth to \$116 billion by 2029, the industry is ready for more efficient, modern, and effective methods to improve the way it transacts.

By bringing efficiency to the MRO industry, ePlane has catapulted it into the 21st century, providing centralized sourcing, BI, and a marketplace for buying, selling, repairing, loaning, and exchanging aircraft parts. The platform digitizes the procurement process, syncing enterprise resource planning (ERP) systems and custom inventories, to ensure that inventories are most up to date in real time.

The platform's unique Autopilot feature utilizes an AI algorithm to match buyers and sellers based on needs, available inventory, past transactions, and required timeframe, even automatically sending Requests for Quotes (RFQs) to appropriate sellers. This enhanced automation tool eliminates the need to send each request manually, significantly saving on time and labor.

Founded in 2016 and launched into full service in 2018, ePlane already receives over \$50m in monthly demands from over 4,000 major companies in the Aerospace industry. Each of the network's 6,000 end users are screened and verified to ensure a safe and reliable buying experience. The proper documentation and serial number for each part are also provided in the listing to ensure the highest quality of every purchase.

Marubeni sees ePlane as the most innovative company in the aerospace industry, recognizing their ongoing organic growth. The projected growth of the Aerospace industry over the next years is rapidly increasing, and the need to bring new technologies and methods to the market is critical. Marubeni strongly believes ePlane is the future of the industry.

“We are delighted to see Marubeni joining us and see this partnership as an important one to the ongoing growth and success of ePlane. This is a strategic step,” said Benny Shabtai, one of ePlane’s initial investors and board members who previously sold mobile instant-messaging, voice and video calling app, Viber, to Japanese tech giant Rakuten.

ePlane is building a leading edge B2B company that brings immediate benefits to the Aerospace community by delivering the industry the tools and insights to make fast and efficient decisions and manage the growing demands of the next decade. The platform fosters intelligence tools for companies that will allow them to become smarter. Digitization is a must for operations at this scale, and those who don’t embrace the digital transformation will not be able to provide the required level of service in this new tech-fueled climate. Marubeni is committed to innovation and the investment in ePlane will ensure objectives are met.

Anagog Raises \$10 Million in Series C Funding Round

The round was co-led by **IN Venture**, Israel's corporate venture capital arm of Sumitomo Corporation, part of **Sumitomo Corporation Global Venture Group**, as well as existing investor and VC firm, MizMaa, and is joined by Continental, the international automotive supplier, tire manufacturer, and industry partner.

The Series C investment will help Anagog bolster its global sales and delivery capabilities as well as leverage the funds to support the core R&D team - including several new product innovations that will be revealed in the coming months. As the industry currently grapples with unclear changes ahead, these additions will serve as the missing link needed to provide accurate views of real-time and real-world customer insight as they emerge out of the current crisis.

At the same time, this will offer richer, contextual services that create a unique and enhanced user experience. It will be pivotal in further setting Anagog apart from competition and serving as a catalyst to disrupt the way companies reach and connect with their core audiences, now and in the future.

Anagog is reinventing real-world personalization. As a global pioneer of edge-AI, Anagog utilizes its **JedAI suite** of products to enable mobile phones to understand users' real-world behaviors (microsegments) and real-time context (micro-moments). Their patented privacy-by-design approach allows the phone to pull hyper-personalized and contextualized offerings from the marketer's cloud without disclosing the user's personal data. Accordingly, companies can craft the most personal customer experience for each individual customer and significantly increase engagement. (Anagog 31.03)

Protalix Biotherapeutics Announces Feasibility Study with Kirin Holdings on the Production of a Novel Complex Protein

CARMIEL, Israel, March 16, 2020 /PRNewswire/ -- **Protalix BioTherapeutics, Inc.** (NYSE American: PLX) (TASE: PLX), a biopharmaceutical company focused on the development, production and commercialization of recombinant therapeutic proteins produced by its proprietary **ProCellEx® plant cell-based protein** expression system, announced today that it has agreed to conduct a feasibility study with **Kirin Holdings Company, Limited** (Kirin) to evaluate the production of a novel complex protein utilizing ProCellEx®. Kirin will provide research funding for Protalix scientists to conduct cell line engineering and protein expression studies on the target protein.

Upon successful completion of the study, Kirin and Protalix anticipate holding discussions regarding the licensing of the ProCellEx technology and expression cells to Kirin for the continued development of the product.

"We are pleased to announce this project with Kirin, which marks the start of a positive new relationship between our two companies," said Dror Bashan, President and Chief Executive Officer of Protalix. "This new study provides Protalix with another great opportunity to apply our scientific expertise and our proprietary ProCellEx protein expression technology in the study and

production of a new and novel complex protein. We look forward to working with the scientists at Kirin on this exciting new project."

"The ProCellEx platform is of significant strategic interest for Kirin, and our advanced expertise in plant cell culture technology aligns well with their overall corporate vision," continued Mr. Bashan. "We look forward to the success of this feasibility study, and to the possibility of further collaboration with Kirin in their pursuit of creating a more prosperous world for future generations."

About Protalix BioTherapeutics, Inc.

Protalix is a biopharmaceutical company focused on the development and commercialization of recombinant therapeutic proteins expressed through its proprietary plant cell-based expression system, ProCellEx[®]. Protalix was the first company to gain U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval of a protein produced through plant cell-based in suspension expression system. Protalix's unique expression system represents a new method for developing recombinant proteins in an industrial-scale manner.

Protalix's first product manufactured by ProCellEx, taliglucerase alfa, was approved for marketing by the FDA in May 2012 and, subsequently, by the regulatory authorities of other countries. Protalix has licensed to Pfizer Inc. the worldwide development and commercialization rights for taliglucerase alfa, excluding Brazil, where Protalix retains full rights.

Protalix's development pipeline consists of proprietary, potentially clinically superior versions of recombinant therapeutic proteins that target established pharmaceutical markets, including the following product candidates: pegunigalsidase alfa, a modified version of the recombinant human α -Galactosidase-A protein for the treatment of Fabry disease; OPRX-106, an orally-delivered anti-inflammatory treatment; alidornase alfa for the treatment of Cystic Fibrosis; and others. Protalix has partnered with Chiesi Farmaceutici S.p.A., both in the United States and outside the United States, for the development and commercialization of pegunigalsidase alfa

INSIGHTEC has received a Pre-Market Approval (PMA) for its Exablate Neuro from the Japanese Ministry of Health Labor and Welfare (MHLW).

Haifa, Israel - January 23, 2020 – INSIGHTEC, a global medical technology innovator of incisionless surgery, has received a Pre-Market Approval (PMA) for its Exablate Neuro (Device name: MR guided Focused Ultrasound Surgery system – ExAblate 4000, Approval number: 22800BZI00040000) from the Japanese Ministry of Health Labor and Welfare (MHLW). The approval for Exablate Neuro now extends to targeting the thalamus for treating Tremor-dominant Parkinson's Disease, and the Globus pallidum for treating advanced Parkinson's Disease patients suffering from mobility, rigidity, or dyskinesia symptoms.

“This approval adds focused ultrasound as an incisionless surgical option to treat Parkinson's disease,” commented Professor Takaomi Taira, Director of Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery, Department of Neurosurgery, Tokyo Women's Medical University (TWMU), Tokyo, Japan. “Parkinson's patients now will be able to choose a less invasive treatment option.”

Exablate Neuro uses focused ultrasound waves to precisely target and ablate tissue deep within the brain with no incisions. The treatment has less risk of surgical site infection (SSI) and is less invasive compared to existing invasive surgical procedures, as the treatment does not require skull perforation or implanted devices. There are 10 Exablate Neuro treatment centers in Japan currently treating essential tremor patients.

The Exablate Neuro device received approval by MHLW for the treatment of medication-refractory essential tremor in [December 2016](#), and has National Health Insurance coverage since [June 2019](#).

Parkinson's disease (PD) is a progressive neurodegenerative disorder with a decrease of dopamine neuron cells in the substantia nigra. The number of PD patients in Japan is about 120,000, based on the survey by MHLW in 2013. Parkinson's disease is classified as a designated intractable disease for additional financial support by the government.

Tremor, rigidity, slowness of movement and postural instability are the cardinal features of PD. When medication is not fully effective, stereotactic surgical treatments can be considered. Exablate Neuro is one of the surgical treatment options.

“Expanding the approved clinical indication to include Parkinson’s disease is a major milestone signaling adoption of focused ultrasound treatment in Japan.” said Yair Bauer, Country Manager, INSIGHTEC Japan.

“We are very pleased with what this news means – advancing treatments for more patients, through more applications for focused ultrasound in Japan,” commented Maurice R. Ferré MD, INSIGHTEC CEO and Chairman of the Board of Directors. “Additional clinical applications contribute to the momentum around the world to move focused ultrasound toward a standard of care.”

About INSIGHTEC Japan K.K.

INSIGHTEC Japan K.K. is a subsidiary of INSIGHTEC LTD. The company is the regulatory market approval holder of Exablate Neuro (ExAblate 4000) and its distributor in Japan. Founded in 2005, its mission is to provide incisionless treatments for neurosurgery indications, in order to significantly improve the quality of life for patients in Japan.

About INSIGHTEC

INSIGHTEC® is a global medical technology innovator transforming patient lives through Incisionless Neurosurgery using MR-guided focused ultrasound. The company's award-winning Exablate® Neuro is used by neurosurgeons to deliver immediate and durable tremor relief for essential tremor patients. Research for future applications in the neuroscience space is underway in partnership with leading academic and medical institutions. INSIGHTEC is headquartered in Haifa, Israel, and Miami, Florida, with offices in Dallas, Tokyo and Shanghai.

Tower's SiGe Technology Adopted by Renesas for its Market Leading SATCOM RFICs

(Tower Semiconductor 04.03)

Tower Semiconductor announced that their SiGe BiCMOS platform was selected for the development and production of Renesas Electronics' market-leading beamforming and amplifier RFICs for phased array antenna applications.

By leveraging Tower Semiconductor's high-performance SiGe BiCMOS technology, Japan's Renesas is able to achieve unprecedented levels of integration. For example, the Renesas 8-ch transmit IC has a footprint of only two square millimeters per transmit channel and consumes less than 100 mW, while delivering 10 dBm of output power. Several design parameters had to be pushed to their limits to achieve these results and required a close collaboration between the companies to ensure the accuracy of design models and first-pass success. During early development, the Renesas design team also took advantage of the flexibility and customization of the Tower Semiconductor process offerings to identify the optimal compromise between cost and performance.

Tower Semiconductor, the leading foundry of high value analog semiconductor solutions, provides technology and manufacturing platforms for integrated circuits (ICs) in growing markets such as consumer, industrial, automotive, mobile, infrastructure, medical and aerospace and defense. Tower Semiconductor's focuses on creating positive and sustainable impact on the world through long term partnerships and its advanced and innovative analog technology offering, comprised of a broad range of customizable process platforms such as SiGe, BiCMOS, mixed-signal/CMOS, RF CMOS, CMOS image sensor, non-imaging sensors, integrated power management and MEMS.

April

Israel among first to try experimental Japanese coronavirus drug

The hospitals plan to test the drug on a total of 80 patients at Hadassah, Sourasky, Poriah Hospital in Tiberias and Soroka Hospital in Beersheba, together with researchers from Hebrew University.

By LAHAV HARKOV J POST

APRIL 6, 2020 1

Israel is among the first countries to receive an experimental Japanese drug to treat coronavirus, for testing at hospitals throughout the country, the Foreign Ministry announced on Monday.

Testing in China has found the flu medicine **Avigan**, produced by **Japan's Fujifilm Holding Corp.**, as helpful in treating COVID-19 in its early stages, shortening the time that the patient is sick and preventing the illness from becoming more severe.

Israel received a first shipment of the drug in recent days, after weeks of work by Israeli **Ambassador to Japan Yaffa Ben-Ari**, together with Prof. Ran Nir-Paz, an infectious disease expert from Hadassah Medical Center in Jerusalem and Dr. Esti Sayag, a deputy director-general of Sourasky (Ichilov) Medical Center in Tel Aviv.

The committee on clinical trials on humans met in Hadassah on Monday to review a number of promising drugs being tested on coronavirus patients and authorized experimenting with Avigan.

The hospitals plan to test the drug on a total of 80 patients at Hadassah, Sourasky, Poriah Hospital in Tiberias and Soroka Hospital in Beersheba, together with researchers from Hebrew University.

Nir-Paz explained that the medicine, developed for pandemic influenza, is meant to shorten the duration of the illness, and thus decrease the likelihood of other patients in the hospital catching coronavirus.

“The medicine is being used in the frontlines of care in Japan,” he said. “The goal of Israeli research is to examine if the medicine is effective for this indication.”

Sayag said that Avigan seems the most promising out of the drugs being tested for treating coronavirus patients in early days of the infection, and can thus help flatten the curve of patience and allow hospitals to provide better care to those in worse condition.

Foreign Minister Israel Katz praised the work of the embassy in Tokyo, the Foreign Ministry and Health Ministry for “successfully bringing this groundbreaking research to Israel.”

“In this challenging time, the Foreign Ministry is on the frontlines of the battle against coronavirus and is leading, together with other ministries, Israel’s efforts to find necessary medical supplies and medical solutions to the virus,” Katz said.

Ben-Ari said she will continue working to get more doses of Avigan to Israel to help prevent infected people’s condition from deteriorating. She thanked Fujifilm for recognizing the high level of medical research conducted in Israel.

Japanese media reported on Sunday that Japan plans to stockpile 2 million doses of Avigan, as opposed to its current level of 700,000. Tokyo also plans to prioritize the clinical trial process of the drug so it can be formally approved to be used in treating coronavirus patients.

Chartered Group and MAFAT mark a major milestone between Japan and Israel,

Corporate Japan gaining access to advanced Israeli technology

SINGAPORE, April 17, 2020 /PRNewswire/ -- For the first time, one of the most advanced and innovative defense technology organization in the world (The Israel Ministry of Defense Directorate of Defense Research and Development – DDR&D, aka "MAFAT") and private equity firm (Chartered Group, Headquarters: Singapore, Chairman: Eyal Agmoni) will help develop dual-use technologies in a wide range of diverse deep-tech fields including the enhancement of human capabilities, photonics, advanced energy development and autonomous systems, among others

Israel is recognized as a leader in advanced technologies, and investments from Japan in Israel have surged in recent years. With an ever-increasing number of delegations from leading Japanese firms scouting for Israeli startups and innovations, there was a need to

create a vehicle where Japanese corporations could have access to technologies otherwise not available to them.

Collaboration between Chartered Group and MAFAT for the incubation & acceleration of unique technologies in a wide range of deep-tech fields with dual-commercialization potential in Japan & Israel.

Chartered Group contacted MAFAT in order to collaborate and enhance its investments in dual-use technology companies. Working together will significantly lower the development risks and enable MAFAT to increase the number of technological solutions available to the Israeli defense system by leveraging developments from the private sector. An example is Chartered Groups' investment in InnerEye Ltd., a company developing systems and solutions for combining human intelligence and artificial intelligence ("AI"), for applications and markets where human expertise and knowledge compliments the AI computing power.

Chartered Group is forming a new Singaporean fund named: **Japan Israel High Tech Ventures 2 LP ("JIHTV2")**, which will invest primarily in private equity and equity-related investments, principally in Israeli-related technology companies. JIHTV2 is targeting \$500 million in capital commitments. The new fund will facilitate cooperation, co-investment and incubate companies in Japan. Mr. Eyal Agmoni, Chairman of Chartered Group says "With this new venture we will attract Japanese conglomerates to have access to a lot of new technologies they do not normally have access to. We will invest and incubate the companies in Japan which will significantly shorten their time to market, and with the collaboration with MAFAT we hope the portfolio to go-to-market quicker with higher probabilities for exit".

MAFAT and JIHTV2 will together allocate resources for scouting and analysis of investments in dual-use technologies. Together they will allocate US\$50M for this joint initiative. The principal dual-use technologies to be developed by this fund include:

1. Super user enhancement of human capabilities: brain-machine interface, exoskeleton, advanced sensors, human monitoring
2. Energy: high density batteries, remote charging, hybrid solutions, high power lasers
3. Autonomous systems: ground robotics, autonomous algorithms, flight concepts

Leveraging the unique Israeli innovation R&D methodologies and Chartered's access to Japan market

Dr. Daniel Gold, the Head of MAFAT, says, "we see the collaboration with Chartered Group as a huge opportunity to extend our dual-use deep-tech R&D for the benefit of both Israel and Japan. We would like to increase our interaction with the Japanese market and to develop fruitful collaborations which will hopefully lead to larger scale government to government projects."

Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Co. (MSI) and Nexar announce partnership

Nexar announced a partnership with Japanese insurance giant Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Co. (MSI) to put Nexar tech into hundreds of thousands of vehicles in Japan. In the coming months, Nexar will also roll out a curbside mapping pilot in Europe with one of the world's largest automotive manufacturers.

Nexar cofounder and CEO Eran Shir said, "Our vision-based technology is bringing automated safe-driving alerts to our users, while at the same time generating on-demand roadway insights that are being used right now by our public and private sector partners. As we look to expand beyond the US into new markets, we are realizing the future that we set out to build - a connected network that can actually make our roads more efficient and save lives."

About Nexar

Nexar is a vision-based software company building the world's first safe-driving network. When drivers pair Nexar-powered smart dash cams with the Nexar app, they join a connected vehicle network that uses computer vision and sensor fusion to see hazards on the road, and alert those in the surrounding area. Using anonymous, aggregated data captured from this network, Nexar has developed a portfolio of vision-based data services for public and private sector partners to make roadways safer and more efficient. This includes the Nexar CityStream platform, which supports construction zone and road inventory monitoring, and now Nexar Virtual Camera.

Secret Double Octopus, a Global Leader in Passwordless Authentication, raises \$15M to Help Companies Eliminate Passwords and Secure Remote Workforce

Sony Financial Ventures, KDDI, and Global Brain join JVP - Jerusalem Venture Partners as investors in the company. Secret Double Octopus' revolutionary Passwordless Authentication solution eliminates password-related pains by remodeling employee authentication, delivering unprecedented enterprise security.

TEL AVIV, Israel, April 30, 2020 /PRNewswire/ -- [Secret Double Octopus](#) the pioneer of Passwordless Enterprise Authentication, today announced the closing of a \$15 million Series B round to address the rapidly growing need for Passwordless Authentication and remote-access security in enterprise environments.

The financing round included Sony Financial Ventures, KDDI, and Global Brain as well as prior investors Jerusalem Venture Partners ("JVP") ,the company's largest investor and one of the world's most experienced cybersecurity investors, Benhamou Global Ventures ("BGV"), Liberty Media, Iris Capital and Yaniv Tal.

Secret Double Octopus offers a rare combination in the cyber security domain of increased security, lower total cost of ownership and improved employee user experience and productivity.

Secret Double Octopus is considered a global leader in password elimination solutions. Its proprietary phone-as-a-token tech prevents unauthorized use of a system and prevents identity theft. The company specializes in passwordless authentication for the enterprise, delivering security solutions that allow companies to leverage biometrics, mobile devices, and FIDO security keys to protect company assets. The Octopus Authentication Server allows employees to forego a password when logging into workstations, cloud services, legacy applications, and other common workplace tools. It also offers similar support for on-premises Active Directory systems.

Particularly now, as many workers use unsecured Wi-Fi networks and personal devices to connect to their corporate networks and assets, organizations must quickly maneuver to enable access to corporate applications and workstations in a highly secure method. Removing passwords prevents credentials theft, Man-in-the-middle attacks, identity theft, phishing and other forms of popular attack vectors. Furthermore, moving to Passwordless Authentication reduces Helpdesk and password management costs and minimizes IT operations.

"We see great value in the unique approach taken by Secret Double Octopus and are excited to be a part of this funding round along with other distinguished investors," said **Naoki Kamimaeda, Partner at Global Brain Corporation**. "We look forward to supporting Secret Double Octopus as it strives to eliminate passwords from user authentication and continues to secure enterprise remote access with its state-of-the-art, passwordless technology."

"Turning enterprises to passwordless environments represents a dramatic shift in organizations' cyber defense posture, dramatically limiting some of the world's most threatening attack vectors," said **Yoav Tzruya, General Partner at JVP**. "SDO's traction to-date, with both enterprise customers, as well as mid-market demand, combined with the company's open partnership approach, teaming up with world leaders in Identity Management, CASB, VPN and SSO verticals, positions the company as a category leader."

"This investment is further proof of the market need for our innovative product. It is now more important than ever to implement simple, fast solutions like ours that bolster security while simultaneously increasing employee productivity by eliminating the hassle and costs associated with password management," said **Raz Rafaeli, CEO and Co-Founder of Secret Double Octopus..**

About Secret Double Octopus

Secret Double Octopus delights end-users and security teams by replacing passwords across the enterprise with the simplicity and security of strong passwordless authentication. Its unique, innovative approach provides users with a simple experience and a consistent way to access applications while providing stronger protection against cyber-attacks. From being named a Gartner "Cool Vendor" in 2016, its 4th generation platform is now serving mid-sized to Fortune 50 customers around the globe.

I-Tech Hankyu Hanshin Co., Ltd. and Terilogy Co., Ltd. provide Israeli TechSee's visual customer assistance service to cable TV operators and energy retailers.

Start accepting applications from today-Supporting continuation of support operations in an emergency-

28.04.2020

I-Tech Hankyu Hanshin Co., Ltd. (Headquarters: Fukushima-ku, Osaka; President: Masaaki Shimizu; hereinafter "I-Tech Hankyu Hanshin") and Terilogy Co., Ltd. (Headquarters: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo; President: Akihiko Abe; hereinafter "Terilogy") Is a real-time application of AR (Augmented Reality) and AI (Artificial Intelligence) of Israel TechSee Augmented Vision Ltd. (Headquarters: Herzleria, Israel, Eitan Cohen, CEO & CO-Founder, hereafter "TechSee"). The next-generation solution "Visual Customer Assistance Service" that realizes customer support through image sharing is scheduled to start to be offered to cable TV operators and energy retailers soon, and applications will start from today.

Background

In customer support work, voice support is the main focus, and it may take a lot of time and stress for both the customer and operator, such as not being able to fully understand the local situation and taking longer than necessary to resolve the problem.

In such a situation, by using the "visual customer assistance service" that take advantage of the visual (image) in addition to voice, improve customer satisfaction and problem-solving rate, realized cost savings by reducing the response time can be I will. It is also expected as a tool for instructing recovery in an emergency because it can quickly grasp the local situation

Advantages

- **Visual support:** Understanding the situation with images, and sharing the pointer with the AR function
- **No special application required** Just click on the SMS received from the operator
- **Visual guide:** The operator can add a guide to the image to support it.
- **Two-way chat** Simple chat messages can be exchanged with customers.
- **OCR scan (optional):** Automatically recognizes alphanumeric characters such as serial numbers and IDs

I-Tech Hankyu Hanshin has provided the next-generation customer management system "i-PLAT" and "call center service" to cable TV operators and energy retailers.

Outline of I-Tech Hankyu Hanshin

Aitec Hankyu Hanshin is an information service business company that belongs to the Hankyu Hanshin Toho Group, and in addition to the solution business including call center services, it is broadly expanding into social system business, Internet business, medical system business, and system development outsourcing business.

Trade name: I-Tech Hankyu Hanshin Co., Ltd.

Representative: Masaaki Shimizu, President and Representative Director

Established: July 1987

Location: 1-31 Ebie, Fukushima-ku, Osaka

Business description: Solution business, Internet business, social system business, medical system business, system development contract business (technical service business)

* For more information, please visit <https://itec.hankyu-hanshin.co.jp/> .

Outline of Terilogy

Terilogy is a technology value creator that handles leading-edge solutions and home-developed products in the United States and Israel, with four core solutions: enterprise network, broadband access, security, and network management.

Trade name: Terilogy Co., Ltd.

Representative: Akihiko Abe, President

Established: July 1989

Location: 1-13-5, Kudankita, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo

Business activities: Import and sales of overseas hardware and software products, sales of network-related products, system consulting and construction, education, etc.

※ For more information, [Http://Www.Terilogy.Com](http://www.Terilogy.Com) please visit.

Overview of TechSee

TechSee revolutionizes the customer experience space by providing the world's first intelligent visual engagement solution with artificial intelligence and augmented reality. TechSee enables companies around the world to reduce costs while providing a better customer experience.

TechSee is headed by industry experts with many years of experience in mobile technology, computer vision, machine learning and big data.

Headquartered in Tel Aviv, with offices in New York and Madrid.

Harel-Hertz Investment House Ltd (HH) represents Terilogy in Israel and has connected TechSee with Terilogy.

May

Japan's Sumitomo Corp. Announces \$100 Million Israel Focused Fund

IN Venture will be run by Eyal Rosner and Eitan Naor and has already led a \$10 million funding round in Anagog, an Israeli startup developing location analytics technology

Calcalist 06.05.20

Japan's Sumitomo Corp. has launched a new \$100 million investment fund geared to investments in Israel, named IN Venture.

Sumitomo, which is celebrating 100 years of activity, employs around 67,000 people in 135 countries around the world. The Nasdaq traded conglomerate has close to 1,000 subsidiaries. Sumitomo is a Fortune 500 company with an annual profit of \$2.9 billion. The corporation is active in numerous industries, including steel, air travel, transport, energy, telecommunication, minerals, and chemicals.

Toshikazu Nambu, Executive Vice President of the corporation, launched the fund in Israel shortly before a mandatory two-week quarantine for anyone entering the country was implemented by the Israeli government.

The fund will be run by Eyal Rosner (55) and Eitan Naor (57). Rosner is a former chairman and director of administration for the Alternative Fuels Initiative in the Israeli Prime Minister's Office. Naor is the former CEO of ECI Telecom subsidiary ECTel and former CEO of TTI Telcom, while also previously serving as Amdocs VP of Customer Care and Billing.

In March, IN Venture led a \$10 million funding round in Anagog Ltd., an Israeli startup developing location analytics technology.

"Your way of life forces you to find solutions and that impressed us," Nambu told Calcalist when asked why Sumitomo opened a fund in Israel. "Our wish is to not only connect from a financial standpoint but to also find significant collaborations. This is my first time doing business in Israel."

What exactly are you looking for?

"Our focus is on infrastructure, including smart cities, digitization, health care, cyber, IT, energy, and mobilization. Right now the world is divided into countries, but in the future, the world will be divided into regions, counties, and cities. Each city will have its own platform and expertise. Each city will have a different character and every citizen will choose where they want to live and who to pay taxes. Tokyo will compete with New York, which will compete with Tel Aviv. In order to be a good city that attracts people, you will have to excel at something. For example, Tel Aviv is very good at tourism. Our basket of products will be able to assist cities in a wide range of fields, for example high-speed internet, efficient hospitals, industry and energy, and smart transport. That, in my mind, is the definition of a smart city."

What about transport - will we really not be driving cars in the next decade?

"Last month I was in the U.S. and I rode a self-driving Tesla. It was amazing to ride on the highway at an average speed faster than I would have driven myself. Right now there are some regulatory issues, but it is being worked on across the world, including by Chinese manufacturers. Insurance companies will have to come up with a solution for self-driving cars, but the solution for this will have to come from the government."

The New Israeli State-Owned Company Developing Secret Rocket Technology

‘Tomer’ is meant to act as a center of national expertise in the field of rocket propulsion, including the tech behind the Arrow missile and Shavit launcher

Tomer is in talks with several companies in Japan and the U.S., negotiating the direct sale of its rocket engines for foreign projects. The entry into the Japanese market is the result of a memorandum of understanding signed last year between the defense ministries.

Udi Etzion Ctech 31.05.20

On paper, it sounds just like another startup. A young company developing advanced technology, being managed with great secrecy. In fact, "Tomer" is a company owned by the government of Israel that is meant to act as a center of national expertise in the field of rocket propulsion.

Tomer was set up in advance of the privatization of state-owned Israeli arms manufacturer IMI Systems Ltd. (Israeli Military Industries). The Ministry of Defense feared that the company could be sold to foreign owners together with classified technologies so it set up a new state-owned company, that wouldn't be part of the privatization, to safeguard them. Ultimately, it was Israeli defense contractor Elbit Systems Ltd. that acquired IMI back in November 2018, paying what was at the time approximately \$495 million (NIS 1.8 billion), while also agreeing to make an additional payment of about \$27 million (NIS 100 million) contingent upon IMI meeting certain agreed-upon goals. Despite Elbit being a major contractor for the defense ministry, the decision to set up Tomer stood.

According to information seen by Calcalist, Tomer ended 2019, its first full year as an independent company, with sales of NIS 330 million (approximately \$94 million), mainly to the local conglomerates Israel Aerospace Industries Ltd. (IAI), Rafael Advanced Defense Systems Ltd. and Elbit. It completed the year with a NIS 10 million (\$2.85 million) profit and has standing orders reaching the sum of NIS 750 million (\$214 million).

Tomer employs 540 people, many of them engineers in the fields of physics and chemistry. The company manufactures the long-range Arrow missile, Elbit's artillery and aerial rockets, and the first and second stage engines of Shavit, Israel's satellite launcher which places the IDF's spy

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satellites in space. According to foreign sources, the Shavit launcher is based on the Jericho ballistic missiles that can reportedly carry nuclear warheads.

The decision to set up Tomer as a new state-owned company rather than a subdivision in the ministry of defense was based on the reasoning that the rocket launchers can also be sold to private clients and not just be used for projects of the Israeli defense system. To date, the company is still not selling directly to clients abroad, but for example in an instance when Elbit sells rockets to a foreign country, the engines of those rockets are produced by Tomer.

Tomer is currently in talks with several companies in Japan and the U.S., negotiating the direct sale of its rocket engines for foreign projects. The entry into the Japanese market is the result of a memorandum of understanding signed last year between the defense ministries of Israel and Japan which opened the usually closed Japanese market to Israeli companies.

In the meantime, Tomer is working to improve the veteran Shavit satellite launcher that would allow it to carry heavier loads into space. The Shavit rocket is currently known to carry the Ofek satellites, that weigh around 350 kilograms. The ability to send heavier objects into space would allow the construction and launching of improved satellites containing cameras with higher resolution and a better quality radar.

The company is also considering entering the field of hypersonic speeds, developing a propulsion system that can operate both in and out of the atmosphere and sustain speeds that greatly exceed the speed of sound, Mach 5 and above. Modern defense systems currently struggle to contend with the threat of hypersonic missiles. Russia has already unveiled such a system and the U.S. is believed to be working on one.

"We achieved all our work plans in our first year," said Tomer CEO, Mordechai Ben-Ami. "Even during the times of the coronavirus (Covid-19) the company reorganized in a very short timeframe to work in shifts while maintaining social distancing and all the regulations."

The ministry of defense has approved a \$290 million budget for Tomer to refurbish its manufacturing and development equipment.

KYB Corporation Partners With REE Automotive to Develop Next-Generation Modular EV Platform

TEL AVIV, Israel, May 20, 2020 /PRNewswire/ -- **REE Automotive (REE)** and **KYB Corporation (KYB)** announced today a strategic partnership to develop suspension capabilities for future electric vehicle (EV) platforms. Automotive Tier 1 supplier KYB's unparalleled semi-active and active suspension systems will boost REE's next-generation EV platform, which delivers complete design freedom and cost-effective, scalable solutions in e-mobility. The combined expertise of REE, a pioneering technology company and leader in electric vehicle platforms, and KYB, a leading global hydraulics manufacturer, will reshape the movement of goods, people and services by revolutionizing electric vehicle design.

REE's partnership with KYB further expands REE's global manufacturing capabilities. It also ignites a new level of suspension technology within the REEcorner™ architecture solution, which integrates all drivetrain vehicle components (steering, braking, suspension, e-motor) into the wheel. The REEcorner™ combines with the REEboard™ – a completely flat platform – allowing complete freedom of design, improved performance and safety, and modular applications for any vehicle type – from last mile delivery to heavy duty shipping.

The KYB-REE partnership marks the first time KYB has formally collaborated on EV platforms with a technology company. "KYB has vast experience in developing and manufacturing advanced suspension systems, and we are excited to partner with REE Automotive and share its revolutionary EV vision by engineering a suspension subsystem that supports the needs of tomorrow's mobility ecosystem," said Kazunori Masumoto, General Manager of Engineering Headquarters at KYB Automotive Component Business Division .

REE's Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer Daniel Barel said, "REE is delighted to welcome KYB to our unique network of global strategic automotive partners, bringing world-class expertise in advanced suspension systems. KYB's technology will play a crucial role in the rapid development of our next-generation EV architecture, which reinvents the electric vehicle with a completely flat, scalable and fully modular platform, ready to carry the future of e-mobility."

About REE Automotive: Next-Generation EV platform - Ready to carry the future of e-Mobility

REE Automotive is a pioneering technology company reinventing e-mobility. Unrestricted by legacy thinking, REE has developed the next generation EV platform which is completely flat, scalable and modular providing customers full design freedom to create the broadest range of EV, and Autonomous vehicles for current and future applications, including last mile delivery, MaaS, light to heavy duty EV logistics and robo taxis. REE has developed two core innovations; the REEcorner™ integrates all traditional vehicle components (steering, braking, suspension, e-motor) into the arch of the wheel and the REEboard™ which is a completely flat and modular platform. REE's approach is cost efficient and offers multiple customer benefits, including vehicle design freedom, package efficiency, increased energy efficiency, faster development time, ADAS compatibility, reduced maintenance and global safety standard compliance. REE is supported by a network of Tier 1 partners providing access to 320 global production lines making REE the next generation EV platform, ready to carry the future of E-Mobility.

For images, please visit: https://bit.ly/REE_KYB

About KYB group

KYB group are a group company with 47 company in 23 countries worldwide. KYB is a \$3.7 billion global hydraulic equipment manufacturer with over 15,000 employees, supplying products all over the world. In supplying suspension that is one of main products to car manufacturers, KYB is one of the world's largest suppliers and also sell full range of suspensions for the aftermarket.

Mitsubishi UFJ invests \$20m in B2B payment co Fundbox

In the high of the Corona pandemic: MUFG Innovation Partners has tripled its investment in Fundbox's Series C round, bringing total equity funding in the round to almost \$200 million.

en.globes.co.il - on May 26, 2020

Israeli B2B payment and credit network company developer **Fundbox** has raised \$20 million from MUFG Innovation Partners, the corporate venture capital arm of Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group, Japan's largest financial group and the world's fourth-largest bank holding company. With this financing, MUFG Innovation Partners has tripled its investment in Fundbox's recent Series C round, bringing the total equity funding in the round to almost \$200 million.

"We are pleased with how Fundbox's advanced data science and technology capabilities have contributed to its superior portfolio performance, especially during COVID-19," said Akihiko Okamoto, Managing Director & Chief Investment Officer for MUFG Innovation Partners. "Even in the face of these extraordinary economic conditions, the strength of the business has been impressive. Our team has great confidence in Fundbox."

While COVID-19 has had a wide-scale negative impact on many Fintechs, Fundbox has gained strong positive momentum by continuing to grow its customer network, originating credit for existing customers, and enabling faster payments for B2B suppliers. Despite a modest increase in losses early in the pandemic, key portfolio health indicators are now back at, or better than, pre-crisis levels.

Fundbox founder and CEO Eyal Shinar said, "Our investments in real-time data access, machine learning, and rigorous credit management have helped us react very quickly to this unexpected crisis while continuing to serve the majority of our customers. The funding and support from sophisticated strategic investors like MUFG will enable us to continue investing in our technology platform and customer experience, allowing us to exit this pandemic and economic crisis stronger than ever before."

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FLUX Strategic Alliance with Global Ad Security Leader GeoEdge in Japanese Market

[FLUX Co., Ltd.](#)

May 14, 2020 12:00

FLUX Co., Ltd. (Shibuya-ku, Tokyo: Representative Director Motoharu Nagai, hereinafter "FLUX") has added its own platform "FLUX Header Bidding Solution" to its global leader in ad security services, GeoEdge.Inc (Tel Aviv, Israel: CEO Amnon Siev, We are pleased to announce that Geo Edge) will participate.

The participation of GeoEdge this time is part of FLUX's efforts to solve major issues in publisher ad operations such as security and quality control of creatives. Publishers using the "FLUX Header bidding Solution" will be able to control the quality of security and creative through the tools provided by GeoEdge. Advancing the management of displayed advertisements enables active operation of floor prices and further addition to SSP / DSP header bidding, which leads to improved profitability of the entire site owned by the publisher.

In addition, publishers will be able to more strictly manage advertisements of competitors, advertisements that infringe intellectual property rights, fake advertisements, and other advertisements that users and advertisers will suffer, and the site branding itself Also works positively.

The greatest feature of the mounting side this time is that it is possible to mount the GeoEdge tag inside the "FLUX Header bidding Solution" tag, which minimizes the engineering man-hours on the publisher side.

About GeoEdge

GeoEdge is based on the philosophy of "Protect the integrity of the digital advertising ecosystem and to preserve a quality experience for users. We have provided cutting-edge security solutions to help publishers maintain high-quality advertising. GeoEdge aims to create a world where publishers can improve advertising revenue and user experience without being affected by advertising quality.

Through this partnership, GeoEdge would like to work with Japanese publishers to solve problems such as preventing malware infection and reducing problematic creatives.

Comment from GeoEdge CEO Amnon Siev

This time, we are very pleased to partner with FLUX, the largest header bidding provider in the Japanese market. I think that the synergies created by this initiative between FLUX and GeoEdge will be extremely useful in achieving the "combining profitability and advertising quality" issue that publishers have faced in ad operations.

FLUX CEO Motoharu Nagai Comment

We are very pleased to partner with GeoEdge, the world leader in ad security. Through this partnership, we would like to contribute to publishers not only in the profit maximization function that we have provided in the past, but also in the security field. This is part of FLUX's current "Publisher Marketplace" initiative, and we plan to continue integrating various advertisers and cutting edge tools into our platform.

SMART Medical Systems Launches its G-EYE® 760R Colonoscope in the European Endoscopy Market Through FUJIFILM Europe, Under Strategic Distribution Partnership With FUJIFILM Corporation, to Provide Synergetic Colonoscopy Solution in Fight Against Colon Cancer

SMART's G-EYE® 760R colonoscope, incorporating its G-EYE® Balloon Technology designed to increase the detection of cancerous polyps in colonoscopy, will become available by FUJIFILM Europe with its state-of-the-art ELUXEO system, as part of the newly formed strategic distribution partnership with FUJIFILM Corporation.

RA'ANANA, Israel, Feb. 6, 2020 /PRNewswire/ -- SMART Medical Systems Ltd., a developer and manufacturer of innovative endoscopy products, announced a strategic distribution partnership empowering Fujifilm to commercialize SMART's G-EYE® endoscope in Europe. The G-EYE® endoscope is a conventional colonoscope onto which SMART's G-EYE® balloon is integrated. Withdrawal of the G-EYE® endoscope in the colon with the balloon moderately inflated centralizes the image in the colon lumen and flattens colonic folds. This effect is designed to provide enhanced visualization of the colon and was proven in numerous clinical studies to enable substantial increase in the detection of cancerous polyps which are the precursors of colon cancer (e.g., GIE Vol.89, No.3, 2019, p545-553).

The flagship product to be commercialized under the new partnership is the G-EYE® 760R colonoscope, integrating the G-EYE® Balloon Technology with Fujifilm's ELUXEO system, and yielding a highly optimized colonoscopy system for screening, diagnostic and therapeutic colonoscopy.

"Our new partnership with Fujifilm is a solid and strategic relation substantiating our common efforts of making the G-EYE® balloon endoscope available to more hospitals and practitioners, starting in Europe," said Gadi Terliuc, SMART's CEO. "We are excited to make the product available by Fujifilm and gain market share with a clear focus on colonoscopy."

About SMART Medical Systems

SMART Medical Systems is a pioneer in the development and manufacture of innovative medical devices in the field of gastro-intestinal (GI) endoscopy. Its proprietary technology enhances the performance and capabilities of existing endoscopy equipment, in an intuitive and cost-effective manner. SMART's CE Marked and FDA cleared NaviAid™ product family is commercially distributed in key global markets. With its new partnership with Fujifilm adding to its already existing alliance with **PENTAX Medical**, SMART's G-EYE® colonoscopy solution (CE Marked, pending FDA clearance) is currently adopted by two of the three industry leaders in GI endoscopy imaging. SMART is headquartered in Israel, and operates in the United States through its wholly-owned subsidiary, SMART GI Inc.

June

Japanese FM Motegi emphasizes his country's support for two-state Middle East peace solution

TOKYO: Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi stressed that the Japanese government has supported and will continue to support a two-state solution for Israel and Palestine, effectively rejecting Israel's annexation plans for the West Bank.

In replying to Arab News Japan question, Motegi said at a press conference at the foreign ministry Tuesday that the issues between Palestinians and Israelis "should be solved through negotiations and our position has not been changed."

Israel currently plans to annex the part of West Bank containing the Jordan Valley, but Japan stands against that and opposes the annexation of disputed territories in principle and has shown concern about such a trend spreading internationally, as it could have implications for Tokyo's claims to islands disputed by Russia, China and South Korea.

Japan is traditionally supportive of Palestinian rights to their land based on the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and has accused Israel of violating international law by expanding settlements into occupied Palestinian territory.

Japan's Astroscale expands into geostationary satellite life extension with new acquisition

Darrell Etherington@etherington / June 3, 2020

Orbital spacecraft sustainability company Astroscale has acquired the IP, most assets and staff of an Israeli company called Effective Space Solutions (ESS) in order to broaden its service offering to include servicing geostationary (GEO) satellites, as well as low Earth orbit (LEO) debris removal.

Astroscale, founded in Japan in 2013 with a mission of addressing the growing problem of orbital debris and sustainable space operations, is also setting up an office in Israel as part of this deal.

Already, Astroscale has offices in the U.K., the U.S. and Singapore, and this new arrangement will make it even more of a global company. The operation in Israel will focus on the GEO satellite life extension aspect of the business, which is what ESS was working on previously. Satellite life extension is actually something that a number of companies are looking to develop and bring to market, including orbital “gas station” company Orbit Fab, as well as larger legacy industry companies like Maxar.

Extending the life of GEO satellites with on-orbit servicing is potentially a very lucrative industry, as it would mean that companies can get a lot more usable life, and revenue, out of their considerable investments in building the expensive, large and pricey to launch spacecraft to begin with.

GEO satellites provide crucial communications and navigation infrastructure, including via GPS, as well as satellite internet networks and long-distance Earth imaging and observation capabilities. On-orbit satellite servicing could mean that these investments, which can range into the billions, can operate long beyond their intended lifespan, and could even eventually be updated with new hardware, sensors or other capabilities as more modern equipment than they launched with becomes available.

Launch costs are often the most expensive part of deploying any orbital spacecraft, so the potential of repurposing existing on orbit assets through life extension efforts could change the fundamental economics of doing business in space.

Effective Space Solutions, located in Israel, developed a satellite servicing vehicle known as Space Drone which is not yet in operation. Astroscale is acquiring the intellectual property associated with Space Drone and is hiring engineers and executives from the program.

Arie Halsband, founder and CEO of Effective Space Solutions, will serve as managing director of Astroscale Israel in Tel Aviv.

Astroscale will be taking on and continuing to develop ESS’ Space Drone program, which is not yet at the point where it’s actually launching orbital space servicing missions, but the work of the Israeli company will definitely give Astrocale a leg-up in terms of building out its own orbital servicing ambitions.

ChargeAfter teams up with MUFG Innovation to expand POS usage

Company platform offers financing options from multiple lenders in a single application.

SUNNYVALE, Calif. – Point-of-sale financing platform ChargeAfter has recently partnered with MUFG Innovation Partners, a corporate venture capital fund based in Japan. The partnership will help to increase ChargeAfter’s growth by accelerating the onboarding of new lenders and merchants to its platform.

ChargeAfter provides e-commerce and omnichannel retailers in the home furnishings and other industries with the ability to offer personalized financing options from multiple lenders in a single application. Company analysis shows the platform approves 85% of all applications.

“Consumers submit a simple, four-data-point credit application at checkout,” said Meidad Sharon, ChargeAfter CEO. “Our decision-making engine then processes the credit request across our lender network to find personalized, approved financing offers for the consumer which leads to high take rates, approvals, and sales for the merchant.”

Meidad said working with MUFG, a top-10 ranked global bank, enables ChargeAfter to further the company’s mission to democratize and socialize credit by making payments quick, convenient, safe, and accessible.

The company’s vision is to help consumers gain access to financing options that best fit their backgrounds and needs, and that are available to them wherever and whenever they are ready to purchase whether that’s online, mobile, in-store or over the phone. The company’s other investors include Synchrony, Visa, and Mitsubishi Bank.

A new survey from Bankrate showed that 63% of Millennials currently do not have a credit card and only 50% of Gen Z consumers have a credit card according to a recent survey by TransUnion.

“These people require and need alternative payments; they are looking for ‘buy now and pay later’,” said Jeffrey Tower, ChargeAfter vice president of marketing and business development.

“The way that plastic credit works is no longer relevant to the way consumers work today. Since

credit scores are standardized, they don't allow for personalized benefits. Our goal is to take the world of retail and e-commerce payments into the next decade.”

Tower said the company's investors are the power behind the platform since ChargeAfter is not itself a lender but provides the necessary technology with a matching engine built on artificial intelligence.

“Our platform doesn't take consumers to a subdomain, it keeps them on the retailer's website, which helps to create loyalty,” Tower said. “We also have a robust back end so merchants can see all shoppers who made a purchase.”

Home furnishings companies currently working with ChargeAfter include Cardi's Furniture and Mattress, based in New England, and Luma Sleep, based in Florida

Binah.ai raises \$13.5 million

Binah.ai's technology analyzes a video of the upper cheek skin region of a human face to extract a large set of vital signs and mental stress measurements

SOMPO INSURANCE VC and GITV among investors in this round

Tel Aviv-based medtech startup Binah AI Ltd. has raised \$13.5 million in a series B funding round, the company announced Wednesday. The round was led by Maverick Ventures Israel, with participation from existing investors including Esplanade Ventures, Sompo International, GiTV, and iAngels.

Ctech 10.06.2020

Binah.ai's technology analyzes a video of the upper cheek skin region of a human face to extract a large set of vital signs and mental stress measurements. The video can be taken with any camera-equipped device, including a smartphone, a tablet, and an in-car camera.

Founded in 2016, Binah.ai the company has raised \$17.5 million to date.

In April, Binah.ai announced hospitals in the Canadian city of [Montreal will use its technology](#) to assist patients battling coronavirus (Covid-19).

The investment funds be used to speed up Binah.ai's ambitious strategy and growing global market demand for its vital signs monitoring solution with increased sales and marketing efforts.

TriEye, Denso team to evaluate CMOS-based SWIR camera

The evaluation of TriEye's SWIR camera by Denso will demonstrate the product's ability to deliver mission-critical image data under a wide range of scenarios

Semiconductor startup TriEye (Tel Aviv, Israel), whose shortwave-infrared (SWIR) sensing technology enhances visibility in adverse weather and night time conditions, has launched its Sparrow CMOS-based [SWIR camera](#). The company has partnered with global automotive supplier Denso (Kariya, Japan) to evaluate the camera.

The evaluation of Sparrow by Denso will demonstrate the product's ability to deliver mission-critical image data under a wide range of scenarios, made possible by leveraging the physical properties of the SWIR spectrum. The sensor is particularly effective in low-visibility conditions such as identifying black ice, dark-clothed pedestrians, and cyclists, all under low-light or other common low visibility conditions—detection scenarios that are paramount for the automotive industry.

TriEye aims to solve the low-visibility challenge on the roads by making SWIR cameras affordable and accessible for the global mass market. The release of the Sparrow camera marks a major milestone towards that goal. The company is expected to launch the first samples of its Raven CMOS-based SWIR HD camera later in 2020.

TriEye's SWIR camera can be integrated as a standard visible camera and can reuse existing visible image AI algorithms, which saves the effort of recollecting and annotating millions of miles. The camera will allow [advanced driver-assistance systems \(ADAS\)](#) and [autonomous vehicles \(AVs\)](#) to achieve unprecedented vision capabilities to save lives on the roads.

Indium gallium arsenide (InGaAs)-based SWIR cameras have not been used for mass-market applications due to their high costs and large form factor. Based on a decade of nanophotonics research, TriEye enables the fabrication of a CMOS-based HD SWIR sensor at scale, which is small in size and said to be 1000X lower in cost than current technology.

In addition to the evaluation by TriEye's automotive customers, the company has already delivered samples of the Sparrow to its nonautomotive customers.

This achievement follows other major milestones announced by TriEye in the past year, including a \$19 million Series A funding round led by Intel Capital, with the participation of Porsche Ventures and Grove Ventures, as well as a collaboration with Porsche AG.

Enlivex Announces Allowance of New Japanese Patent Application Covering ALLOCETRA Immunotherapy

Nes-Ziona, Israel, June 18, 2020 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- [Enlivex Therapeutics Ltd.](#), a clinical-stage immunotherapy company, today announced that the Japan Patent Office (JPO) has issued a notice of allowance for a patent application covering ALLOCETRA™, the company's immunotherapy product candidate. Upon issuance, the new patent will provide additional intellectual property protection around methods of using ALLOCETRA™ and pharmaceutical compositions comprising the same. The company expects the new patent to issue in Japan during the third quarter of 2020.

ABOUT ALLOCETRA™

ALLOCETRA™ was designed to provide a novel immunotherapeutic mechanism of action that targets life-threatening clinical indications that are defined as “unmet medical needs”. Such clinical indications include organ dysfunction and acute multiple organ failure associated with sepsis and COVID-19, as well as solid tumors, which can be treated via modulation of the tumor microenvironment.

ABOUT ENLIVEX

Enlivex is a clinical stage immunotherapy company, developing an allogeneic drug pipeline for immune system rebalancing. Immune system rebalancing is critical for the treatment of life-threatening immune and inflammatory conditions which involve hyper-expression of cytokines (Cytokine Release Syndrome) and for which there are no approved treatments (unmet medical needs), as well as solid tumors immune-checkpoint rebalancing.

SONY-Altair's new business: AI DSP Engines

17 June, 2020 <http://techtimes.com/news/>

Sony has announced sensors for IoT cameras, equipped with a new DSP processor for AI computing, developed by Altair. Until now, Altair was mainly involved in IoT connectivity

Hod Hasharon-based Altair Semiconductor (owned by Sony) has secretly expanded its operations beyond the IoT sector and entered the Artificial Intelligence (AI) chips market. This came to light last month, when Sony announced new image sensors for smart control systems . The component is built of two chips embedded in stacked configuration inside a single package (Multi Chip Module) consisting of a Sony image sensor, and a DSP processor developed by Altair, which is responsible for a neuronal network inference operations.

This new family of smart image sensors is currently consists of two components: IMX500 and IMX501. When installed in a security camera, street camera, or other IoT devices, the logic circuit processes and sends only the inference itself to the network center. Thus, it saves considerable processing and communication resources and enables a given device to function as a smart sensor without compromising the privacy of the people being photographed.

A smart camera equipped with the visual-logic sensor can enumerate the number of people in the store and transmit the information without having to send their images to the cloud. It can discern congestion patterns in various complexes, and even track customer behavior in the store – based only on analyzing their movements – and without having to identify the customers themselves.

The images are sent back in a variety of configurations (see below): pure decoded information without visual elements, an image in various formats, or only the relevant visual area. From Sony's point of view, this constitutes an entrance to a major market characterized by a very large growth. As far as Altair is concerned, this is a very surprising development, since so far the company has focused on communication solutions for IoT devices and not on the development of DSP or artificial intelligence processors.

Altair's core activity is focused on IoT connectivity chips, with its flagship product being the ALT1250 chipset, which includes a modulator and a modem for supporting Cat-M1 standard and the NB-IoT standard. It features an RF front end circuit that supports all LTE bands, an RFIC circuit, a power management unit (PMU), memory, amplifier circuits, filters, an antenna switch,

global navigation satellite system (GNSS), hardware-based security, an eSIM circuit and an internal micro controller unit (MCU) that allows customers to develop unique applications.

A new strategy for both Altair and Sony

Sony's announcement positions it in a massive market and transforms it into a hybrid IoT-image-sensors player. The move can secure orders for Altair in very large quantities. However, it can also hint at a new Altair strategy that can develop in two interesting directions: the first is the integration of ALT1250 technologies into Sony's future image sensors – alongside the recently unveiled AI processor.

The other direction is independent: integrating the artificial intelligence processor into its next-generation connectivity chip – a kind of ALT1250 reinforced with artificial intelligence. An IoT connectivity chip embedded with artificial intelligence has many advantages – from providing artificial intelligence to 'dumb' cameras – thus allowing enhanced communication management capabilities – and even enhancing the current-generation ALT1250 security system.

OTI Expands Its Business in Japan

OTI's TRIO-IQ state-of-the-art platform achieves dual certification for FeliCa & EMV

OTI receives additional P.O. for 5,000 cashless contactless payment systems

YOKNEAM, Israel, June 30, 2020 /PRNewswire/ -- [On Track Innovations Ltd.](#) (OTI) (OTCQX: OTIVF), a global provider of near field communication (NFC) and cashless payment solutions, today announced that it has completed successfully all requirements of EMV together with the Japanese FeliCa standard for TRIO-IQ state-of-the-art platform. In addition, OTI recently received an additional purchase order for 5,000 cashless contactless payment systems for the Japanese market.

Yehuda Holtzman, CEO of OTI, commented, "We are very pleased with this new purchase order from the vast Japanese unattended retail market. We look at this new order as a reassurance of OTI's continued and growing foothold in Japan." Mr. Holtzman also commented on the dual certification for FeliCa & EMV achieved: "The TRIO-IQ is a state-of-the-art platform and its unique features address well the Japanese's market needs. We see this certification and

the new purchase order as a reflection of OTI's technology leadership and the Japanese market's acceptance of OTI's state-of-the-art products."

About OTI

30 YEARS OF INNOVATIVE CONTACTLESS PAYMENT SOLUTIONS

OTI (OTCQX: OTIVF) is the pioneer and leading developer of cutting-edge cashless payment solutions incorporating NFC (Near Field Communications) technologies. For nearly 30 years, OTI has built an international reputation for reliability and innovation by providing operators and integrators with innovative technology and solutions based on our extensive global IP portfolio.

We have deployed hundreds of thousands of payment solutions to Automated Retail, Self-Service Kiosk, Micro-Markets, Unattended Vending, EV charging stations, coin-op Pulse, Mobile, IoT Wearables, smart ATM, fuel management systems and mass transit e-ticketing.

OTI operates through a global network of regional offices, supporting clients, partners & franchisees with its unique cashless payment solutions.

Israeli Foretellix Co. Ltd. forms a business alliance with Virtual Mechanics (VMC) Co. Ltd

Leaders in safety validation and simulation testing sign cooperation agreement to bring coverage-driven verification of ADAS and automated driving systems to Japanese automotive industry

Harel-Hertz Investment House consulted and arranged this agreement.

Tel Aviv, Israel – July 2nd, 2020 – [Foretellix](#), an Israel-based start-up with a mission to enable measurable safety of automated driving systems, announced today a new collaboration with [Virtual Mechanics Corporation \(VMC\)](#) to promote the adoption of the Foretify™ platform for advanced driver assistance systems (ADAS) and Autonomous Vehicle testing in Japan.

Developed by Foretellix, the Foretify™ platform, provides intelligent verification automation and analytics of automated driving systems. The platform includes:

1. Measurable Scenario Description Language (M-SDL) used to describe both scenarios and coverage goals at a very high-level
2. Automation to generate “combinations of combinations” of valid scenario variants along with monitors to check and track scenario coverage and KPI's
3. The ability to aggregate coverage data from across all testing platforms (e.g. street driving, test tracks, simulation, X-in-the-loop)
4. Analytics and metrics for developers to know where they are, what to do next and when they are finished.

“We are excited to work with VMC to deliver Foretify™ to the Japanese market. We understand the value of working closely with a strong local partner to support our customers in Japan” said Ziv Binyamini, CEO and co-founder of Foretellix.

VMC has over 20 years of experience and established relationships in the Japanese automotive industry. “Foretify™ is a unique technology that significantly reduces physical testing and dramatically increases development efficiency and safety. VMC is pleased to work with Foretellix

to accelerate ADAS and Autonomous Vehicle technology safety validation in Japan,” said Eiji Takita, VMC president and CEO.

About Foretellix

Foretellix’s mission is to enable ‘measurable safety’ of autonomous vehicles, enabled by a transition from ‘quantity of miles’ to ‘quality of coverage’.

Foretellix was founded by a team of pioneers in measurable verification and validation, with a highly automated and proven coverage driven methodology broadly adopted in the semiconductor industry. They have adapted and tailored their approach for the safety verification and validation of autonomous vehicles.

Foretellix’s Foretify™ Technology includes an open, high-level Measurable Scenario Description Language (M-SDL), intelligent and scalable automation, analytics and metrics. This includes the functional coverage metrics required to make a compelling ‘safety case’ to consumers, developers, insurance companies and regulators. To learn more, visit www.foretellix.com/.

About VMC

VMC is working on vehicle dynamics simulation software to simulate driving in a virtual environment and its application technology. Leading customers, the developer and partner companies, VMC plays a pivotal role in innovation, allowing customers to expedite their research and development. To learn more, visit: <https://vmc.jp/foretellix/>

July

Study: despite Covid-19, Japanese investment in Israeli tech is on the rise

The total volume of Japanese investments in the first half of this year amounted to \$472.3 million, up from \$412 million in H1 2019

Meir Orbach 13:4021.07.20

A new study by **Harel-Hertz Investment House Ltd. (HIH)**, a boutique strategy and business development consulting and investment banking firm found that the first half of 2020 saw a 15% increase in Japanese investments in Israeli tech companies.

The total volume of Japanese investments in the first half of this year amounted to \$472.3 million compared to \$821 million during all of 2019 and \$412 million in the first half.

The first six months of 2020 saw 25 investments compared to 35 investments in the first half of 2019, meaning many of the investments were larger than in the previous year. The average investment this year stood at \$14.88 million compared to \$11.8 million in 2019.

Total foreign investment in Israeli tech companies in the first half of 2020, amounted to \$5.2 billion, according to a recent report by IVC and ZAG-S & W. Japan maintained a significant 9% of total investments (compared to about 10% in all of 2019).

Ziv Tetruk, HIH's director of IT, Semiconductors and Business Development activities, said that the clear change in Japanese investment patterns in Israel arised from increasing involvement of Japanese venture capital funds located in Israel, with funds such as SBI JI Innovation, Corundum Open Innovations and the Sumitomo Group's new dedicated fund responsible for 12 of the 25 investments completed this year.

Investment segmentation indicates a continuation of investment patterns from the previous year, with 24% going to life science companies, 28% to cyber and IT security, 12% to fintech and targeted services, 15% to the field of semiconductors and the rest to automotive and media companies.

HIH, which is considered an expert in the Japanese market, expressed great concern over the ongoing lockdown of Israel that prevents the ability to conduct in-person visits. Elchanan Harel, HIH's founder and president, said he believes that the second half of 2020 may be affected by the continued travel ban to and from Israel put in place due to the Covid-19 outbreak. He said that while the Japanese are very interested in Israeli technology and there is a great appreciation for its tech sector, investors' inability to meet target companies, conduct field tests and meet in person with intended partners, delays their decision-making process. Moreover, the uncertainty and lack of a clear timetable for improvement as the second wave of the pandemic intensifies is causing Japanese companies to limit their activities overseas, including in Israel.



Kenneth Grossberg (left) Elchanan Harel and Atsushi Mizuno. Photo: Orel Cohen

Of the Japanese entities that invested in Israel this year, only two were made by companies for which this was their first investment in Israel, and one of them was signed in early February.

Most Japanese investments in the first half of the year were initial investments, while a third of them were.

Mobileye and WILLER Partner on Self-Driving Mobility Solutions for Japan, Southeast Asia

Associated Press |

JERUSALEM & OSAKA, Japan--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Jul 7, 2020--

Mobileye, an Intel Company, and WILLER, one of the largest transportation operators in Japan, Taiwan and the Southeast Asian region, today announced a strategic collaboration to launch an autonomous robotaxi service in Japan and markets across Southeast Asia, including Taiwan. Beginning in Japan, the companies will collaborate on the testing and deployment of autonomous transportation solutions based on Mobileye's automated vehicle (AV) technology.

"Our new collaboration with WILLER brings a meaningful addition to Mobileye's growing global network of transit and mobility ecosystem partners," said Prof. Amnon Shashua, Intel senior vice president and president and CEO of Mobileye. "We look forward to collaborating with WILLER as we work together for new mobility in the region by bringing self-driving mobility services to Japan, Taiwan and ASEAN markets."

"Collaboration with Mobileye is highly valuable for WILLER and a big step moving forward to realize our vision of innovating transportation services: travel anytime and anywhere by anybody," said Shigetaka Murase, founder and CEO of WILLER. "Innovation of transportation will lead to a smarter, safer and more sustainable society where people enjoy higher quality of life."

Together, Mobileye and WILLER are seeking to commercialize self-driving taxis and autonomous on-demand shared shuttles in Japan, while leveraging each other's strengths. Mobileye will supply autonomous vehicles integrating its self-driving system and WILLER will offer services adjusted to each region and user tastes, ensure regulatory framework, and provide mobility services and solutions for fleet operation companies.

The two companies aim to begin testing **robotaxis** on public roads in Japan in 2021, with plans to launch fully self-driving ride-hailing and ride-sharing mobility services in 2023, while exploring opportunities for similar services in Taiwan and other Southeast Asian markets.

For Mobileye, the collaboration with WILLER advances the company's global mobility-as-a-service (MaaS) ambitions. Since announcing its intention to become a complete mobility provider, Mobileye has begun a series of collaborations with cities, transportation agencies and mobility technology companies to develop and deploy self-driving mobility solutions in key markets. The agreement with WILLER builds on Mobileye's existing MaaS partnerships. Examples include the [agreement](#) with Daegu Metropolitan City, South Korea, to deploy robotaxis based on

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Mobileye's self-driving system, and the [joint venture](#) with Volkswagen and Champion Motors to operate an autonomous ride-hailing fleet in Israel. The collaboration with WILLER greatly expands and strengthens the company's global MaaS ambition.

WILLER aims to unify user experiences across countries in the region; it released a MaaS app in 2019 and enabled a QR-code-based payment system this year. WILLER has partnered with Kuo-Kuang Motor Transportation, the largest bus operator in Taiwan, and Mai Linh, the largest taxi company in Vietnam, as well as invested in Car Club, a car-sharing service provider in Singapore. WILLER also partners with 150 local transportation providers in Japan. On top of these partnerships, WILLER will provide self-driving ride-hailing and ride-sharing services in the region and provide the best customer-ride experiences together with Mobileye.

The collaboration between WILLER and Mobileye will add a new transportation mode to the existing range of transportation services, including highway buses, railways and car-sharing. Adding self-driving vehicles, on-demand features and sharing services will improve customer ride experiences and address social challenges such as traffic accidents, congestion and, especially, the shortage of drivers and the challenges resulting from Japan's aging society. Together Mobileye and WILLER will accelerate the social benefits of self-driving transportation solutions that contribute to higher quality of daily lives, making society smarter, safer and more sustainable.

About Mobileye

Mobileye is the global leader in the development of computer vision and machine learning, data analysis, localization and mapping for advanced driver-assistance systems and automated driving. Mobileye's technology helps keep people safer on the road, reduces the risks of traffic accidents, saves lives and aims to revolutionize the driving experience by enabling autonomous driving. Mobileye's proprietary software algorithms and EyeQ® chips perform detailed interpretations of the visual field in order to anticipate possible collisions with other vehicles, pedestrians, cyclists, animals, debris and other obstacles. Mobileye's products are also able to detect roadway markings such as lanes, road boundaries, barriers and similar items; identify and read traffic signs, directional signs and traffic lights; create a RoadBook™ of localized drivable paths and visual landmarks using REM™; and provide mapping for autonomous driving. More information is available in Mobileye's [press kit](#).

About WILLER

WILLER was established in 1994 to provide society- and community-centric transportation services. WILLER pursues cutting-edge technology and marketing strategies to better customers' ride experiences and create innovative values for society and local community. In Japan, WILLER has the largest intercity bus networks and operates a railway in Kyoto and operates unique

restaurant buses that offers local cuisine area by area. Besides Japan, WILLER operates car-sharing services in Singapore and ride-hailing taxis in Vietnam.

Cybellum Announces a Strategic Design Partnership on Vehicle-level Cybersecurity With Renault-Nissan-Mitsubishi's Innovation Lab in Tel Aviv

TEL AVIV, Israel, July 8, 2020 /PRNewswire/ -- Cybellum, a leader in Automotive Cybersecurity Risk Assessment solutions, today announces a strategic partnership with The Alliance Innovation Lab Tel Aviv. Following a successful POC of Cybellum's solution, done by the Innovation Lab, the two will cooperate to build innovative cybersecurity technologies to be implemented in the automotive market.

The Alliance is working on four major areas of innovation in order to develop the mobility of the future: electrification, connected vehicles and services, autonomous driving, and new mobility services. As part of this effort, one of the main focus of the Alliance Innovation Lab Tel Aviv is cybersecurity.

Today, most of the risk assessment in the automotive industry is conducted manually or using tools on a single component level. This methodology can't scale and only provides partial information. An entire vehicle is a very complex system composed of over a hundred connected components, with a complex interconnection.

This strategic cooperation will focus on vehicle-level risk assessment, taking into account the architecture of the vehicle model and the automated assessment of a vehicle's complex mesh of software and hardware.

"Our collaboration with Cybellum will bring to the market the first solution that can calculate the risk of a vulnerability in the full vehicle context, help the Alliance brands to manage the risk accurately, save time and be competitively prepared for upcoming regulations," said Eldad Razi, Cyber Security Leader at the Alliance Innovation Lab.

Cybellum automotive risk analysis solutions automatically detect a wide range of vulnerabilities in in-vehicle ECUs and other automotive software. Using upcoming developments from the new

cooperation, Alliance companies will be able to use the [Cybellum solution suite](#) to gain full, ongoing visibility to their cybersecurity exposure at the vehicle level and get the necessary guidance on risk remediation.

"We are happy to collaborate with the Alliance Innovation Lab Tel Aviv. Their expertise of current and future vehicle architectures together with the importance of security as a significant part of it creates a shared vision of how automotive software lifecycle should evolve to meet the new market realities. This will help us drive our business forward, and with it, improve the safety of car drivers worldwide," said Slava Bronfman, Cybellum CEO.

About Cybellum

Cybellum empowers automotive OEMs and suppliers to identify and remediate security risks at scale, throughout the entire vehicle life cycle. Our agentless solution scans embedded software components without needing access to their source code, exposing all cyber vulnerabilities. Manufacturers can then take immediate actions and eliminate any cyber risk in the development and production process, before any harm is done, while continuously monitoring for emerging threats impacting vehicles on the road. Cybellum already partners with 10 leading OEMs and Tier-1 suppliers worldwide.

About the Alliance Innovation Lab Tel Aviv

The Alliance Innovation Lab Tel Aviv aims to advance the state-of-the-art mobility, with a focus on vision sensors, cybersecurity, and data & AI. Its mission is to identify and test Israeli technologies that could be implemented in future cars and services offered by the Alliance member companies. The Lab collaborates with the local innovation ecosystem through joint prototyping efforts. To date it has led more than 15 collaborative projects and POCs with Israeli start-ups. The Lab, located in Park Atidim TLV, builds on a unique 1600 m2 facility which provides startups with space to test technologies with real vehicles, as well as on a team of engineers permanently located in Israel.

Israeli agtech company Taranis raises \$30 million

Taranis has developed AI that uses drones to capture high-definition images of crops, thus detecting risk factors and facilitating more informed decisions about cultivation

By CYBERTECH JULY 22, 2020

Israeli startup Taranis, which uses drones to closely monitor crops, announced July 21 that it has raised \$30 million for further development of its AI-powered agricultural technology.

The fundraising was led by the venture capital arm of Singapore's **Kuok Group** and tech investment fund **Vertex Growth** that is backed by **Singapore's Temasek Holdings**.

New investors in this round include **strategic investor Hitachi Ventures** as well as **Mitsubishi UFJ Capital**, Micron Ventures, UMC Capital, La Maison, Mindset Ventures, iAngels, and Gal Yarden. Existing investors Vertex Ventures Israel, Viola, Finistere, and OurCrowd also continue their support.

Taranis has raised \$60 million to date.

Taranis has developed artificial intelligence that uses drones to capture high-definition images of crops, even insects on leaves, from the air, detecting risk factors such as water damage or insect infestations and thus facilitating more informed decisions about cultivation. The AI system is said to analyze the images and aggregate data from smart irrigation systems, sensors and satellite images.

According to Taranis, its system can cover an area of about 400,000 square meters in six minutes. The Kuok Group is the company's first client in Asia.

In an interview with Calcalist, Taranis co-founder and CEO Ofir Schlam said "We started raising the money at the end of February and the most serious talks were held in March at the height of the coronavirus crisis. We got a lot of offers from prominent investors but eventually chose to stick with Vertex."

"The U.S. went into shock from mid-March through early April, but then we went back to work and the farmers went back to work. Our industry is one of the few that benefited from the crisis," said Schlam, a former software developer for an elite IDF intelligence unit.

“We’ve been tracking Taranis for two years and we haven’t seen anyone who could take high-resolution pictures while on the move,” said Hock Chuan Tam, managing director of Vertex Growth. “They have solved that technical problem, allowing them to scout a field very quickly. That’s the magic.”

“With Taranis’ support, growers, retailers, cooperatives, and crop consultants can detect, analyze, and treat crop issues at their earliest signs, taking preventive measures with unprecedented precision and gaining a higher degree of control over their crop yield than ever before.”

Taranis, which is said to have nearly 20,000 customers worldwide, plans to use the capital to monitor more types of crops as it expands into Asia. The company’s technology is currently used for monitoring sugar cane, cotton, corn and soybean fields among others.

MusashiAI: World-First Technological Advances and Proof of Concept Agreements in Commercial Launch of Robotic Employees

July 27, 2020 4:11 AM EDT

NEVE ILAN, Israel & TOYOHASHI, Japan--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- **MusashiAI**, a JV between Israeli **SixAI** and Japanese **Musashi Seimitsu** (a Honda Motor Corporation affiliate company), is announcing the commercial availability of its autonomous visual quality control inspector, autonomous forklift driver and disruptive mobile robots fleet management system.

Live trials from December 2019 confirm that MusashiAI’s unique autonomous robotic visual inspector exceeds the speed, accuracy, and stamina of human workers in a world-first technological advance. The autonomous forklift driver exceeds modelled expectations with unparalleled efficiency, cost-effectiveness and safety standard, using unique technology that combines ‘birds-eye’ view cameras above the factory floor and a central processing unit.

In additions to its initial commitment with advance payment of \$10 million, Musashi Seimitsu is willing to expand the deployment of MusashiAI’s autonomous quality control inspectors and autonomous forklift drivers in its factories globally, subject to the company meetings certain development milestones.

The company has also secured a POC for the quality control inspector with one of the world's largest bearing manufacturers and three POCs for the autonomous forklift drivers and central management system with leading Israeli retail and FMCG groups starting Q4 this year. These agreements mark the first time the robots are being tested outside of the Musashi Seimitsu group.

An advanced form of deep learning which parallels the way the human brain absorbs and assimilates information was central to MusashiAI's latest robotic models. Redeploying and switching robots between tasks is now much easier. These improvements are which the company anticipates will be essential for many socially-distanced industrial settings amidst the on-going COVID-19 pandemic.

Ran Poliakine, co-founder of MusashiAI said:

"Our vision is that the robots integrate easily onto production floors where there will still be some human workers, but others will be released from the drudgery of visual inspection and forklift driving. To our knowledge, no-one else offers visual robots which surpass the skills of human workers as ours do. Our OPEX model means clients can deploy robots when and where they need them, without extensive CAPEX.

"The interest from Musashi Seimitsu coupled with our latest finalised POC trials with a world-leading manufacturer and three leading Israeli logistics companies is a great sign of confidence in our technology and the gifts it brings to the future of humanity. I am excited about the company's next steps."

Trobix Bio completed Series A funding by a leading Japanese/Singapore fund

Jul. 30, 2020,

NETANYA, Israel, July 30, 2020 /PRNewswire/ -- **Trobix Innovation Ltd. (Trobix Bio)**, an Israeli-based biotechnology company developing therapies to remove the threat of antimicrobial resistance, announces the closing of a US \$ 3 Million Series A funding from its lead investor, **Chartered Opus**. The funding will be used to advance the company's antimicrobial resistance platform technology and to further the pre-clinical development of the its lead product, TBX101.

"I am grateful to Chartered Opus for their confidence in our technology and their trust in our team", said Dr. Adi Elkeles, Founder & CEO of Trobix Bio. "Antimicrobial resistant threatens to

undermine the achievements of modern medicine, and Trobix Bio is committed to developing products that can effectively tackle this imminent threat", he added.

"The Covid-19 pandemic stresses the urgent need to tackle the global challenges of infectious diseases, and the global need for a solution to the threat of antimicrobial resistance was there from day one", says Eyal Agmoni, Chairman of Chartered Group. "Trobix Bio is set to revolutionize the landscape of phage-based nanomedicine by introducing its game-changing, precision particle disruptive technology. We are very happy with the progress made by the team and are glad to be part of this unique venture".

About Trobix Bio

Trobix Bio is a preclinical biotechnology company, developing therapies to remove the threat of antimicrobial resistance, a global crisis strongly evidenced nowadays during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Trobix Bio leverages its ActiSense™ and GoTrap™ technologies to develop phage-based products that can effectively deliver DNA to a wide range of bacterial pathogens, and actively sensitize these pathogens to antibiotics. The company's lead product, TBX101, aims to treat patients carrying gut antimicrobial resistant bacteria, resulting in an antibiotic sensitive gut microbiome. Trobix Bio's precision medicine technology minimizes resistance development to TBX101.

About Chartered Opus

Chartered Opus is a production platform for investment products combining structural and technological innovations to a new methodology in Structured Products. Opus is the preferred investment vehicle for the Chartered Group High-Tech division. In the past two years, Chartered group grew its high-tech portfolio to about 30 companies all with disruptive technologies, including being the anchor investor for TAU Ventures at Tel Aviv University.

Teva Announces New Strategic Focus in the Japanese Market

July 30, 2020 06:00 UTC

- **Japan Business Venture shifts focus to specialty assets and a portfolio of select generics that meet patients' medical needs**
- **Remains positioned to address unmet patient needs in core therapeutic areas**
- **Will divest majority of current non-differentiated generics portfolio, as well as local manufacturing**
- **Business venture remains committed to serving its Japanese patients and healthcare professionals**

TEL AVIV, Israel--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- **Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd.** (NYSE and TASE: TEVA), who holds (through its Japanese affiliates) with Takeda a joint business venture (the "BV") in the Japanese market, announced today a new strategy for its local commercial operations. Nearly five years since its inception, and following an in-depth review of market opportunities, the BV's new strategy will focus on commercializing a selection of complex generics, specialty assets and other pipeline opportunities.

This shift will include a divestment of the majority of the BV's generic and operational assets to **Nichi-Iko Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.** This transaction is expected to close by early 2021.

The BV will retain approximately 20 generic molecules and several pipeline assets, as well as its robust portfolio of authorized generics, LLPs and specialty assets. The BV will seek to address unmet patient needs with products from its portfolio and pipeline and will continue to combine Teva's deep marketing expertise, commercial and medical excellence, coupled with financial rigor, with Takeda's leading brand reputation and strong distribution presence in Japan.

Gianfranco Nazzi, Executive Vice President, International Markets Commercial, said: "The **Teva and Takeda business venture** has always aimed to address the wide-ranging needs of patients and healthcare professionals in Japan. Our new strategy will allow each of the parties to leverage its core strengths, and ultimately better serve the Japanese patients. For Teva, and in line with the company's strategic objectives, the new model presents a chance to drive better performance by focusing our Japan business on a portfolio of select generics and pipeline of

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specialty assets, while continuing to put patients and healthcare professionals at the center of our strategy."

About Teva

Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd. (NYSE and TASE: TEVA) has been developing and producing medicines to improve people's lives for more than a century. We are a global leader in generic and specialty medicines with a portfolio consisting of over 3,500 products in nearly every therapeutic area. Around 200 million people around the world take a Teva medicine every day and are served by one of the largest and most complex supply chains in the pharmaceutical industry. Along with our established presence in generics, we have significant innovative research and operations supporting our growing portfolio of specialty and biopharmaceutical products.

Teva files for Ajovy approval in Japan, where it is changing strategy

Ajovy is under development in Japan by Otsuka as part of a May 2017 [exclusive license agreement](#) for development and sales of the drug in Japan, which generated an upfront payment of \$50 million to Teva.

30-07-2020

Israel-based Teva Pharmaceutical Industries (NYSE: TEVA) announced that its partner, Otsuka Pharmaceutical (TYO: 4578), has submitted an application to the Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency of Japan to obtain manufacturing and marketing approval in Japan for Ajovy (fremanezumab) injection for the preventive treatment of migraine.

"This is an exciting milestone that delivers on our global mission to improve patients' lives by advancing potential new treatment options," said Gianfranco Nazzi, executive vice president, international markets at Teva, adding: "Driven by the aspiration to bring high-value products to patients, we are pleased to be one step closer to making Ajovy available as a treatment option to patients in Japan living with migraine."

Ajovy is under development in Japan by Otsuka as part of a May 2017 exclusive license agreement for development and sales of the drug in Japan, which generated an upfront payment of \$50 million to Teva.

Ajovy is the first and only long-acting anti-CGRP subcutaneous injection approved in the USA and European Union that is designed for the preventive treatment of migraine and offers both quarterly and monthly dosing options.

August

Japan welcomes Israeli pause in sovereignty declaration of West Bank

KYODO NEWS - <https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2020/08/95>

The Japanese government welcomed on Friday Israel's agreement to suspend declaring sovereignty over the occupied West Bank as a result of normalization of diplomatic relations between Israel and the United Arab Emirates in a U.S.-brokered deal.

Calling the temporary halt of declaration of sovereignty, a "positive move," Press Secretary **Tomoyuki Yoshida** said in a statement Japan "welcomes it as a first step toward easing of tensions and stabilization in the region."

According to the press secretary, Japan also "appreciates" efforts by the United States, led by President Donald Trump, to broker the deal, announced Thursday. As part of the deal, Israel has agreed to suspend the annexation of areas of the occupied West Bank, according to Trump.

"The Middle East peace issue should be resolved by negotiations between parties concerned and not through violence or unilateral acts," Yoshida said.

He reiterated Japan's stance "to continue to support a two-state solution whereby Israel and a future independent Palestinian state live side by side in peace and security."

Increased investment in start-ups even in Corona, Israel

6:31 am, August 7, 2020 NHK

While companies are being hit hard by the spread of the new coronavirus, Israel's investment in startups is growing, and interest in the latest technologies to respond to lifestyle changes such as cybersecurity is high. I am trying to see you.

In Israel, there are many startup companies that deal with the latest digital technology, and an increasing number of Japanese companies have local bases in an attempt to collaborate with them.

Under these circumstances, JETRO-Japan External Trade Organization summarized the investment amount of Israeli start-up companies from inside and outside the country, and it was found that from January to July, it was only \$5.5 billion (about JPY 580 billion in Japanese yen). (Yen), which is an increase of about 85 billion yen compared to the same period last year.

With the increase in opportunities to work at home due to the spread of new coronavirus infection, interest in cyber security technology is increasing, and technology for remote medical care is also attracting attention. It means that there is a strong interest in the fields related to changes in the.

Masato Ebara, Director of JETRO Tel-Aviv Office, said, "To overcome the difficult situation, it is indispensable for Japanese companies to utilize digital technology, and it is desirable to incorporate Israeli companies and grow."

MUFG taps Israeli AI to hunt for Asian unicorns

Banking data and subscription numbers aid in search for diamonds in the rough

SHIKO UEDA, Nikkei staff writer August 6, 2020

TOKYO -- Japan's **MUFG Bank** will use artificial intelligence to screen Asian startups for financing, looking beyond balance sheets to forge relationships with promising businesses who otherwise may not yet qualify for bank loans.

MUFG Bank will launch a 50-50 joint venture in Singapore with **Liquidity Capital, an investment fund based in Israel** that has a track record of incorporating AI into its operations. The venture will house a \$80 million fund, financed entirely by MUFG Bank, which will start operating by the end of the year.

MUFG has previously invested in Liquidity Capital's technology via its corporate venture arm, Mitsubishi UFJ Innovation Partners Co

In a press release on Friday, MUFG Bank said that the JV will be called Mars Growth Capital. The bank's JV partner is Israel's Liquidity Capital, a two-year-old firm that has a credit-scoring artificial intelligence (AI) platform that it says is able to forecast revenues.

Mars Growth will be 50:50 owned by MUFG Bank and Liquidity Capital. The JV will establish a debt fund, in which MUFG Bank will serve as a limited partner, with an initial capital commitment of US\$80 million. Mars Growth and the fund will both be set up this year, and business is also expected to kick off this year.

The fund will finance e-commerce, education and health care startups. Using AI, the fund will analyze companies' bank accounts, subscription numbers, accounting data and other information to screen them for loans. Such a comprehensive screening process is still rare, MUFG Bank says.

Startups often fall into the red as business expands. Because banks usually make decisions on loans based on corporate balance sheets, this makes it difficult for them to receive financing.

MUFG Bank, a flagship unit of Japanese megabank **Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group**, hopes that its new AI-based operation will help it cultivate relationships with up-and-coming businesses in Southeast Asia and India early on.

The group is already working on expanding beyond conventional banking in emerging Asian markets. MUFG Bank is investing about 78 billion yen (\$740 million) into ride-hailing startup Grab as early as this year, and will launch joint, smartphone-based financial services.

Liquidity Capital to Invest More Than \$500 Million This Year in Tech Companies

<https://pulse2.com/> Amit Chowdhry

Liquidity Capital — a provider of unlimited unsecured, non-recourse, and no dilution growth capital — announced a plan to fund over \$500 million of growth capital to technology startups throughout 2020.

Liquidity Capital's proprietary data integration tool Liquidity Dynamics is powered by machine learning algorithms and it enables smarter investing by forecasting the future business trends of its investments. By utilizing verified historical data sets and industry-recognized predictive methodologies, Liquidity Dynamics is able to assess opportunities and risks to serve its investments. Plus this allows Liquidity Capital to work with startups side-by-side, taking on all financial risk.

"We've established ourselves as the industry's go-to firm for non-dilutive growth capital thanks to tremendous results in 2019," said Ron Daniel, Co-Founder & CEO at Liquidity-Capital. "With continued support from Meitav Dash Ltd. and Mitsubishi UFJ Fund Services, anything is possible for 2020 and beyond."

Liquidity Capital specifically funds tech startups that demonstrate over \$3 million in ARR and 30% year-over-year growth with an average ticket size of \$10 million to \$30 million.

The firm was founded by career entrepreneurs Daniel, Oron Maymon, and Yaron Sela. And Liquidity Capital is backed by Mitsubishi UFJ Fund Services and is part of Meitav Dash Ltd., which the leading Israeli institutional investment house.

“Liquidity Capital is overturning the traditional credit analysis and credit management model that incumbent financial institutions around the world have been committed to for over 100 years,” explained **Akihiko Okamoto, Mitsubishi UFJ Fund Services Managing Director and Chief Investment Officer**. “Even in Japan where the financial culture leans more conservative, we are extremely excited to be involved with Liquidity Capital as they upend the equity financing model for growth-stage startups.”

So far the fund portfolio includes , among others: Infinidat. XJet. eZbob ,Gefen Technologies

Mobility insurance company Bambi Dynamic secures series A funding

The funding round was led by MS&AD Ventures, the venture capital arm of Japan’s largest insurance and financial services provider MS&AD Insurance Group, and included existing investor The Phoenix Insurance Company Ltd. (The Phoenix), one of the largest insurance companies in Israel.

With mobility changing around the world, customers can now get insurance on existing and future transportation models

James Spiro16:0013.08.20

Israel-based Bambi Dynamic Ltd. has announced the launch of its new platform dedicated to mobility insurance products. The news comes following the closing of a series A round led by **MS&AD Insurance Group** and existing investor **The Phoenix Insurance Company**, one of the largest insurance companies in Israel. The investment brings its total to \$6 million.

As our transportation methods change to include micro-mobility and other means, the company’s ‘Bambi Insurance Platform’ (BIP) provides full-scale personalized mobility products. Its cloud-based software allows insurers and mobility service providers to offer their customers easy-to-use digital products covering models including personal and commercial vehicle insurance, Mobility-as-a-Service (MaaS), ride-hailing services, car-sharing, e-scooters, and any future models.

The premiums are determined by individual user data, time or distance driven, and user safety scores.

“The digital revolution is sweeping industries across the board, and the insurance industry is no exception,” said Moshe Pinto, CEO and co-founder of Bambi Dynamic. “We are honored to have secured funding from MS&AD Ventures and The Phoenix and to have partnered with The Phoenix to help catalyze the growing shift from legacy auto insurance to the next generation of customer-centric products for insurance and mobility companies.”

Bambi has partnered with The Phoenix to improve its solution and expand its userbase. Its first product, ‘The Phoenix Drive’, is a pay-as-you-go private vehicle insurance solution that offers personalized features specific to BIP, such as tracking of driving information and adjusted premium rates according to unique characteristics. It is estimated that the MaaS market will reach \$271 billion by 2027.

“Bambi’s technology enables us to offer our customers game-changing personal and commercial auto insurance products, and provides us with a competitive advantage for meeting the complex technological and logistical needs insurers must adopt to address the ever-evolving mobility ecosystem,” said Ron Shvili, Executive VP, Chief Technology, Information systems and Innovation Officer at The Phoenix Insurance Company Ltd.

Bambi Dynamic was founded in 2017 by Pinto and Zion Madmon, who currently serves as its chairman.

Israel’s Binah.ai has partnered with four Japanese companies

The four companies operate in the healthcare, insurance, and network infrastructure industries

James Spiro 16:33 12.08.20

Israeli medical technology startup Binai.ai has partnered with four different Japanese companies, all announced this week. NTT Data, Alm (MySOS), Macnica Networks, and Sompo will all adopt its technology and tools in different ways.

Binah.ai has developed a Vital Signs Monitoring Tool which can be applied on any device equipped with a camera using signal processing and artificial intelligence. Its solution can be used as a health and wellness monitoring solution and removes the need for wearables when measuring heart rate, mental stress, blood pressure, or breathing rate.

NTT Data adopts Binah.ai's technology to capture face data for the Health Data Bank. Using non-contact vital data acquisition technology, the information provided by NTT Data will try to solve the problems of industrial health post-Covid-19 for more than 400,000 people by 2022.

Alm's **MySOS** will use Binah.ai's non-contact vital sign measurement technology to provide information to medical institutions during an emergency. It will also be able to monitor suspected infection rates among new Covid-19 patients.

Macnica Networks provides security measures and solutions for networks all over Japan. Using Binah.ai, it will use the solution for its customers and contribute to the realization of "prevention and reinfection spread and economic activity" during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Finally, **SOMPO**, which is part of Himawari Life Insurance, will offer an app to allow insurance policyholders to perform health checkups via their smartphones. Using Binah.ai's solution, customers will be able to record a short video of their faces, and the app will analyze stress levels and the risk of lifestyle-related diseases. The free service will be used by 90,000 people in its first year.

"We're proud to continue developing, and creating Collaborations with advanced companies all over the world," said David Maman, Founder, and CEO of Binah.ai. "We see great success with the Japanese market that is strategic for us. We're thrilled with every success we achieve in this very demanding and high-standard market and looking forward to keep growing and reaching more markets worldwide."

Binah.ai was founded in 2016 by Maman, Michael Markzon, and Konstantin Gadlin. To date, it has raised \$14.5 million by notable investors such as Maverick. Its offices are located in Ramat Gan, Israel.

Nikko Global Wrap and Fintica extend R&D collaboration after successful PoC trial

Following Fintica's successful Proof of Concept trial for Nikko Global Wrap, the two extended R&D collaboration on proprietary Market Regime Classification Technology for Global Financial Markets.

Fintica's next generation AI is leveraged to analyze and categorize market regimes, in support of dynamic asset allocation and investment decisions.

TEL AVIV, Israel, and TOKYO, Aug. 17, 2020 /PRNewswire/ -- Fintica AI, Ltd. announced today the successful execution of a Proof of Concept (PoC) for leading international Japan-based asset management company, Nikko Global Wrap, part of Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group. Following the successful trial, Nikko Global Wrap confirmed plans to leverage advanced market regime classification capabilities, harnessing Fintica's proprietary autonomous artificial intelligence engines.

Nikko Global Wrap is a major Tokyo-based, international asset management company with over JPY2.3 trillion (approx. USD21.5bn) under management. The company is a proven global leader in integrating advanced technologies. From financial engineering, to data science and machine learning, Nikko Global Wrap actively utilizes financial big data capabilities to ensure customer success and deep traction within the markets.

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

The collaboration announcement comes at a time of significant market turbulence, with companies around the world seeking to greatly improve their ability achieve a deeper

understanding of changing market structures and conditions, and implement a pro-active and effective investment strategy management.

About Fintica AI, Ltd.:

Fintica's AI technology revolutionizes financial industry domains by deploying next generation Autonomous AI, enhancing predictive analytics for Wealth & Asset Managers, Hedge Fund, Financial markets Infrastructure and Global Data Vendors www.fintica-ai.com.

About Nikko Global Wrap:

Nikko Global Wrap is a unique Japan-based asset management company, with global reach and a local presence. They are committed to making every endeavor solely to fulfill clients' needs and to develop a long-term, trust-based relationship with their clients to secure the long-term growth of the business. www.wrap.co.jp.

Elderly monitoring system installed in Israel's hospitals, amid pandemic

Israel's EchoCare join forces with SMK Corporation

“As elderly people become more isolated as a result of social distancing, there is an increased need to monitor them without the burden of wearables or privacy-invading cameras.”

By JERUSALEM POST STAFF AUGUST 23, 2020

A non-invasive, radar-based system is being installed in Israeli hospitals and care centers as the need to monitor vulnerable elderly patients from afar has grown during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The remote senior care monitoring, which has been internationally trialed, comes from an Israel-based start-up company called EchoCare Technologies, according to the [Calcalist](#).

The company started manufacturing its a non-wearable home care system based on radar technology for [elderly](#) people due to a rise in demand, as healthcare systems become overwhelmed, social distancing and various lockdown measures were put in place and general health threats increased.

"COVID-19 has emphasized the need for solutions like the ECHO system," EchoChare CEO, co-founder and vice president of R&D Rafi Zack said in a statement.

“As elderly people become more isolated as a result of social distancing, there is an increased need to monitor them without the burden of wearables or privacy-invading cameras.”

The radar technology automatically detects and alerts users of emergency or abnormal behaviors.

Adapting to life during the pandemic, Israel's healthcare system has begun installing the device in COVID-19 departments in hospitals with internal medicine departments to help monitor respiratory distress among older patients, according to the *Calcalist*.

The device can be hung from the ceiling so as to not interfere or intrude on any additional respiratory assistance tools if required.

However, before the device was installed in Israel hospital, it was trialed in both Japan in Australia. EchoCare was used with Japanese electronics manufacturer SMK Corporation and Australian aged care provider Lifeview, the *Calcalist* reported. Both trials were successful in monitoring a user's status in situations such as personal care time, sleeping time and breathing ability.

Israeli chipmaker Hailo launches a Japanese subsidiary

The new launch comes following the news of a recent \$60 million series B funding round

James Spiro 10:49 31.08.20 Ctech

Israeli AI chipmaker **Hailo Technologies Ltd.** has opened up a Japanese subsidiary, and in doing so has appointed former Sony executive **Hiro Uchida** as its president. The expansion comes following a \$60 million Series B round in which the Japan-based **NEC joined as a strategic investor.**

The new establishment, which is wholly-owned by Hailo, will be located in Tokyo and is largely a response to the growing demand in Asia-Pacific markets. Such markets include automotive, smart cities, retail, industry 4.0, and more.

“We look forward to expanding Hailo's presence in the Asia-Pacific region, which continues to show significant growth in the AI sector,” said Orr Danon, CEO of Hailo. “Our new subsidiary in

Japan will enable us to strengthen relationships and collaborations with our Japanese-based customers and partners, and to create new opportunities together.”

“Many of the world’s leading companies integrating Artificial Intelligence into their edge devices are based in Japan, and we are excited to empower their products with our groundbreaking Hailo-8 Deep Learning chip,” he added.

Hailo’s deep learning processor helps the performance of edge devices by featuring up to 26 tera operations per second (TOPS). The chip helps edge devices run more sophisticated deep learning applications that could previously only operate via the cloud.

“I am excited to be part of Hailo’s team and am looking forward to building a strong foundation to lead our business development in this pivotal arena,” said Hiro Uchida in a statement. “There is no doubt that deep learning at the edge will be embedded in almost all of the products and services we use on a daily basis, while providing us with improved safety and better quality of life.”

Uchida comes from 30 years of industry roles, including helping build Sony’s corporate venture capital fund, Strategic Venture Investment. He has served in multiple management positions within Sony and at tech companies like SiTime KK and Tessera Technologies.

Founded in 2017 by Danon, Avi Baum, and Hadar Zeitlin, Hailo is an AI-focused chipmaker based in Israel. Its deep learning processor was designed to fit in multiple smart machines, helping companies rethink the architecture of their devices. To date, the company has raised almost \$88 million, according to Crunchbase data.

Yaskawa Israel has developed a robot for corona testing

September 1, 2020

The first robot was installed in the main laboratory for corona tests in the IDF. Yasqua Israel CEO Arik Dan: "After handing over the first systems to laboratories in Israel, we will start handling inquiries from health ministries and health institutions from all over the world."

The Israeli R&D center of the Japanese company YASKAWA (YASKAWA Electric Corporation) has completed the development of a robotic system for performing corona tests. According to the president and CEO of Yaskawa Israel, Arik Dan, "After the delivery of the first systems to laboratories in Israel, the company will begin handling inquiries from health ministries and health institutions from all over the world, who are interested in the product."

The system developed in Israel is based on a robotic arm with 6 axes and external components, which perform part of the testing process automatically and without human contact. The test process includes sampling of 96 field test tubes in each test round and preparation for PCR . The robot makes it possible to increase the output up to about 2,800 tests per day. The robot replaces manual labor of laboratory workers.

The robot is more accurate and faster than them, prevents human errors and reduces the risk of subsequent laboratory workers in contact with the samples. Dan: "The robotic system developed in Israel accelerates the rate of testing by hundreds of percent. Through it, Israel will be able to perform more tests a day. This may be a turning point in dealing with the epidemic, because as the number of tests increases, it is easier to make decisions on a national scale. And stop the contagion chain. "

Yaskawa Electric was founded in 1915 and focuses on automation, control and industrial robotics. Yaskawa robots are integrated into most of the automotive production lines in the world. The company produces about 40,000 robots a year for use in a variety of industries: electronics, chips, machinery and more. Yaskawa Israel was established in 1997 and operates from Afek Park near Rosh HaAyin. Since 2001, it has served as a major development hub of the global company. In recent years, Yaskawa has been investing in Israeli technology companies through a corporate venture capital fund that focuses mainly on the fields of artificial intelligence, 3D printing, robotic rehabilitation and the like.

INSIGHTEC MR-Guided Focused Ultrasound Receives reimbursement from Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare for the Treatment of Parkinson's Disease

HAIFA, Israel and MIAMI, Sept. 1, 2020 /PRNewswire/ -- INSIGHTEC®, a global medical technology innovator of incisionless surgery, today announced that it has received national reimbursement from the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) for treating Parkinson's Disease.

Parkinson's Disease is a progressive neurodegenerative disorder with an incidence in Japan of 1 in 100 people above the age of 60, based on a survey conducted by MHLW. INSIGHTEC's 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.

"Parkinson's Disease patients now have a new incisionless surgical treatment option, focused ultrasound," commented Professor Takaomi Taira, Director of Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery, Department of Neurosurgery, Tokyo Women's Medical University (TWMU), Tokyo, Japan. "Using focused ultrasound we can precisely target and treat the brain regions which contribute to improvements of the patient's symptoms."

Exablate Neuro is approved for targeting the thalamus for treating Tremor-dominant Parkinson's Disease, and the globus pallidum for treating advanced Parkinson's Disease in patients suffering from mobility, rigidity, or dyskinesia symptoms.

"Japan is the first country in the world to cover focused ultrasound for Parkinson's Disease with nationwide public health insurance," commented Maurice R. Ferré MD, INSIGHTEC CEO and Chairman of the Board of Directors. "This is a major milestone for patients with Parkinson's Disease across Japan."

The Exablate Neuro device received MHLW approval for the treatment of medication-refractory essential tremor and National Health Insurance coverage in June 2019 and received a pre-market approval (PMA) for the treatment of Parkinson's Disease in January 2020. There are currently 12 medical institutions in Japan performing the MR-guided focused ultrasound treatment for essential tremor on a routine basis.

"This extended coverage by the National Health Insurance provides an incisionless treatment option for Parkinson's Disease patients," said Yair Bauer, Country Manager, INSIGHTEC Japan. "This adds to the existing coverage for treatment of tremor from essential tremor and Parkinson's Disease," he added

About INSIGHTEC Japan K.K.

INSIGHTEC Japan K.K. is a subsidiary of INSIGHTEC LTD. The company is the regulatory market approval holder of Exablate Neuro (Exablate 4000) and its distributor in Japan. Founded in 2005, its mission is to provide focused ultrasound treatments for neurosurgery and women's health indications, in order to significantly improve the quality of life for patients in Japan. For more information please visit: www.insightec.com/JP

About INSIGHTEC

INSIGHTEC is a global medical technology innovator transforming patient lives through incisionless brain surgery with MR-guided focused ultrasound. Research for future applications in the neuroscience space is underway in partnership with leading academic and medical institutions. INSIGHTEC is headquartered in Haifa, Israel, and Miami, with offices in Dallas, Shanghai and Tokyo.

September

Japan-Israel Summit Telephone Talk

September 7, 2020

On September 7, commencing at 5:30 p.m. for approximately 25 minutes, Mr. ABE Shinzo, Prime Minister of Japan, held a summit telephone talk with H.E. Mr. Benjamin NETANYAHU, Prime Minister of the State of Israel. The overview of the talk is as follows.

1. Prime Minister Netanyahu, while caring about Prime Minister Abe's health condition, expressed his pleasure in having worked together for the development of bilateral relations and achieved significant progress over the last eight years, and conveyed his high regard for Prime Minister Abe's contributions to date.
2. In response, Prime Minister Abe explained that he was stepping down from his position as Prime Minister. He expressed his gratitude for his cooperation for tangible achievements such as the growth in the number of Japanese companies working in Israel and the increased people-to-people exchange between the two countries. He also referred to the honest exchange of views they had held on the situation in the region, including the Middle East Peace, and the two leaders shared the view that both countries would continue to cooperate in easing tensions and stabilizing the situation in the region.
3. The two leaders affirmed that close cooperation will continue toward the development of bilateral relations.

OPTAGE and NanoLock to Enable Nationwide IoT Security in Japan

New cybersecurity service is founded on Israeli innovator's patented tech to increase security of connected devices.

NITZANEI OZ, Israel and OSAKA, Japan, Sept. 9, 2020 /PRNewswire/ -- **NanoLock Security**, the market leader of ironclad protection for IoT and connected edge devices, today announces its commercial collaboration with **OPTAGE**, a leading Japanese service provider and subsidiary of the **Kansai Electric Power Company** to power a new nationwide service offering to cyber-protect, update, and manage connected devices across Japan.

The daughter company of **KEPCO**, a **Kansai area electricity company**, OPTAGE provides network solutions and data center services to a wide variety of companies, from enterprises to SOHOs. For their new offering, OPTAGE has chosen the solution from Israeli cybersecurity innovator, NanoLock Security as the foundation for their managed service. As a cyber company well-known for its powerful technology that can work with all devices regardless of CPU or operating system, NanoLock brings innovative and patented device-level protection and management to OPTAGE's new service, providing device monitoring, alerts, and version upgrades, as well as enabling secure over-the-air updates. A new kind of managed cybersecurity service, OPTAGE's offering will increase the security of IoT and connected devices while also reducing operational costs for device makers, OEMs, utilities, and industrial companies across Japan.

With the IoT security market in Japan targeted to value \$1.5 billion (¥170B) by 2025, the industry is in dire need of a service that can protect the rapidly growing infrastructure of connected devices from rising cybersecurity threats. This new service, offered by OPTAGE and founded on NanoLock Security's powerful security-as-service protection and management solution, is targeting millions of connected devices nationwide in Japan, including smart meters, smart locks, routers, and cameras. Serving device-makers and organizations in Japan, the service offering is predicted to target millions of devices by 2023, providing robust protection to increase security in Japan.

"This new service from OPTAGE commences a revolution in IoT security for Japan," says **Toshiro Tachibana, Representative Director, OPTAGE Inc.** "The Japanese-Israeli collaboration between OPTAGE and NanoLock has created a new embedded security-as-a-service that will improve the way device makers and organizations protect, update, manage, and future-proof their connected devices, and we are thrilled to collaborate with NanoLock on this new approach to IoT security."

"Our collaboration with OPTAGE proves that our solution isn't just for cyber protection; rather the NanoLock solution empowers service providers to create new managed security-as-a-service offerings, enabling them to offer new services and build new revenue streams," says Eran Fine, CEO, NanoLock Security. "With the service quality of OPTAGE leveraging the cyber power of NanoLock, this new solution is a 'best service, best security,' one-of-a-kind technology."

"The cooperation between a leading company in the Japanese market and an Israeli technology is an impressive model that we believe in and are active in the background to assist its success," says Yafa Ben-Ari, Israeli Ambassador to Japan. "The need for advanced cyber solutions for the IoT world, such as NanoLock's offering, and the ability of these two companies to bridge the cultural and geographical gaps, is the basis for a successful and impressive cooperation."

Noa Asher, Minister and Head of Economic Mission at the Israel Embassy in Tokyo added, "We have been assisting NanoLock in the Japanese market for a few years now and have witnessed the interest of Japanese device manufacturers and system integrators in NanoLock's unique solution. We are happy to congratulate NanoLock and OPTAGE for their partnership and believe that together they could be leaders of the IOT market in Japan."

The new service offering from OPTAGE, founded on NanoLock's solution, will be commercially available for products in Japan in Q1 2021, and pilots with Japanese customers are expected during 2020.

About NanoLock Security

NanoLock Security is an ironclad, device-level protection and management solution that is disrupting edge device security with IoT and connected devices protection against outsider, insider, and supply chain cyberattacks, by securing the entire chain of vulnerability, from the device to the cloud. NanoLock's solution provides secured and managed firmware updates,

reliable status and alerts, and unique forensic data—all with a lightweight, zero power, processing, and memory footprint. Protecting critical edge devices against a wide range of persistent attacks, NanoLock's robust protection and device-level visibility and control are crucial to the success of industries like smart cities, utilities, automotive, industrial, and more. NanoLock is working with major utilities, industrial companies, and large ecosystem partners in Japan, Spain, Switzerland, Singapore, Netherlands, the U.S., and Israel.

NanoLock is headquartered in Israel with offices in the US, Europe and Japan.

Yokohama investing US\$165 million in new India OTR tyre factory

Mumbai, Sep 13 (PTI) Off-highway tyre-maker Alliance Tire Group (ATG), owned by the Japanese major Yokohama Group, is setting up its third plant in the country in Visakhapatnam with an investment of USD 165 million (around Rs 1,240 crore).

The proposed USD 165-million plant will add over 20,000 tonnes per annum (55 tonne per day rubber weight) capacity to the 2.3-lakh-tonne annual production from two India plants and will be commissioned by the first quarter of 2023.

The plant will generate around over 600 new jobs, adding to its 5,500-strong headcount, Nitin Mantri, chairman of Yokohama India and director of ATG, told PTI on Sunday. ATG has one plant at Dahej in Gujarat with an annual capacity of 1.3 lakh tonne (360 tonne per day) and another at Tirunelveli in Tamil Nadu with an annual capacity of 1 lakh tonne.

The group has a 45,000-tonne plant in Israel as well where it has its main R&D centre as well. The TN facility also has an R&D centre. These two plants produce all the three key off-highway tyre brands of ATG—Alliance for agricultural machinery, Galaxy for construction & industrial machinery, and Primex for forestry machinery and over 90 per cent of the production is exported to over 120 countries.

The new plant will also be for off-highway tyres only." Yokohama has since the acquisition of ATG in 2016 invested over USD 200 million in India so far, he said. Asked about India's contribution to the group's total production and USD 650 million revenue (in 2019), he said the country contributes 50 per cent each to both. With over 90 per cent of its India output exported,

The privately held ATG offers 3,000 types of tyres globally including in the US and Europe and has under-5 per cent global market share. The new plant, with a daily capacity of 55 tonne (rubber weight) will come up in the special projects zone at Atchutapuram industrial park near the Visakhapatnam port.

The Yokohama Group has eight off-highway tyre plants across four countries -- Japan, India, Israel and Vietnam. The six-decade-old ATG specializes in design, development, manufacturing and marketing of agriculture, forestry, construction, industrial, earthmoving, mining and port tyres serving 120 markets across all the continents under the Alliance, Galaxy and Primex brands. ATG's India connection began in 2007 when the Mahansaria family, in partnership with Warburg Pincus acquired the Israel firm then known as Alliance Tire Company and began India production in 2009. In 2014, Warburg sold its stake to KKR. In July 2016, ATG was acquired by The Yokohama Rubber Company of Japan for about USD 1.1 billion.

Google's CapitalG leads \$250 million round for small business insurer Next Insurance

The round was made at a valuation of over \$2 billion and brings the company's total funding raised to date to \$631 million

Japanese insurer MS&AD Insurance Group Holdings joins as new investor in Next

Meir Orbach17:2023.09.20

CapitalG, the independent growth fund of Google parent company Alphabet Inc., has led a \$250 million series D round for small business insurer Next Insurance Inc., the latter announced Wednesday.

The round was made at a valuation of over \$2 billion and brings the company's total funding raised to date to \$631 million.

The company's current valuation represents a significant leap compared to a valuation of around \$1 billion at the time of Next Insurance's identical [series C round](#) last year.

Additional participants in the current round include insurtech-focused venture capital fund FinTLV, Israel's Bank Hapoalim, Psagot Investment House, Japan's MS&AD Insurance Group Holdings

Inc., and existing investors German insurance company Munich Re Group and Group 11. Israeli insurer Migdal Insurance and Financial Holdings Ltd. invested \$10 million in the round.

Many of Next Insurance's previous investors—including Redpoint Ventures, TLV Partners, Ribbit Capital, American Express Ventures, and Zeev Ventures—did not participate in the current round.

Next Insurance was founded in 2016 by Israeli entrepreneurs Nissim Tapiro, Guy Goldstein, and Alon Huri. Goldstein was among the co-founders of fintech startup Check Inc., which was acquired by software giant Intuit Inc. in 2014. Huri and Tapiro were both top executives at the company.

In 2020, Next Insurance increased its workforce by 50% to 350 employees worldwide, 150 of them in Israel, according to the company's statement. The company intends to hire 200 additional people within the next 12-18 months for its offices in Palo Alto, California, Austin, Texas, and Kfar Saba in central Israel.

At this point, Next Insurance preferred to continue to raise private funds over becoming a public company, as this strategy fits the company's financial needs for the next few years, Huri, who serves as the company's chief technology officer, said in an interview with Calcalist. "We are not currently considering an initial public offering (IPO)," he said, "our focus is on establishing a big company."

The company's strategy has been to raise money whenever it can and this time the opportunity presented itself far more quickly than it initially anticipated, Huri said. "This is a very complex time for small businesses and we have felt that in several ways and have seen a drop in sales, which was less drastic than we feared," he said.

The recovery was swift, Huri said, as the coronavirus (Covid-19) crisis improved the way people perceive online activity. "Once they started to do their day-to-day shopping online," he explained, "people realized they can also buy insurance online and that is when we saw a significant rise in revenue, peaking at \$750,000 in one day."

A part of Next Insurance's DNA is that it is client-oriented, Huri said. "As soon as the pandemic started we started examining what we could do for them and decided to lower the premium for all existing customers to help them survive the crisis," he said.

Next Insurance has more than 100,000 customers in all 50 U.S. states. The company currently offers six types of insurance, including general liability, professional liability, commercial auto, and workers' compensation coverage.

"Next Insurance is modernizing insurance for small business owners—making it fast and simple to get broad, customized coverage," CapitalG Partner Sumi Das said in a statement. "We believe that there is an opportunity to use technology to transform the small business insurance experience in the U.S. and build a national insurance leader," he said. "Next Insurance has the right team and capabilities to capitalize on this vision and is well on its way to doing so," he added.

"We aspire to help businesses thrive by delivering phenomenal insurance products and experience," Goldstein said in a statement. "Insurance is a market primed for a new approach," he said, "one that believes it is a social good and cares for its customers."

Next Insurance stated it intends to expand its existing product offerings and introduce new products in 2021 to serve the specific needs of small businesses in industries including accounting, construction, fitness, and retail

Skylo and Sony introduced a Satellite Terminal for IoT

10 September, 2020

It enables IoT devices to be connected to satellite communications network via modem and cellular protocol. Skylo's VPE, Moshe Noah: "Our network allows any sensor to be connected to the satellite"

[Skylo](#) and [Sony Semiconductor Israel](#) (formerly Altair), have developed a new type of technology that allows to connect to IoT devices at very remote sites, using a combination of cellular and satellite technologies, and to implement fifth-generation narrowband communication protocol (5G-ready NB-IoT). The development has taken place in the last two years as part of a collaboration between Sony Semiconductor Israel and Skylo's Israeli Development Center.

This technology allowed Skylo to launch a unique communications network that connects IoT devices to satellite communications using simple cellular modems and NB-IoT protocol. The concept addresses the need to connect IoT devices located in remote sites and without access to a cellular network. Skylo's VP of Engineering and the director of its R&D center in Israel, Moshe Noah, told Techtime: "Satellite communications is an exclusive [a high-class] and expensive commodity. Our solution brings it to the consumer level".

Cellular communication was designed for Humans – not machines

Founded in 2017 by a group of researchers led by Dr. Andrew Kalman, Skylo has developed compact 8x8 inch communications terminals which serve as a kind of hot spot through which IoT devices are connected to the company's satellite communications network. "Through our network, any sensor can be connected to the satellite, and from there to the cloud."

The solution is based on the NB-IoT protocol implemented by Altair cellular IoT chip set. Through this collaboration, the two companies have been able to create a bridge between cellular communications and satellite communications. According to Skylo, it reduces satellite connectivity costs by 95%: the price of the Skylo's satellite communications terminal, Skylo Hub, is only \$100, and its usage fee is \$1 per connected device.

Vice President of **Sony Semiconductor Israel**, Dima Feldman, said that the collaboration resulted in "an entirely new IoT category in the field of connectivity between machines." According to Noah, "The topology of cellular communications was built around people, but it fails to provide a continuous communications infrastructure when it comes to machines or sensors that monitor, for example, gas pipelines or fishing vessels."

Israel-based volumetric video capture company TetaVi raises \$6 million in Series A funding

Adways Inc, Japan. becomes Strategic Investor

September 30, 2020 – [TetaVi Ltd](#), a developer of AI-based volumetric video capture technology, has today announced the close of a USD \$6 million Series A financing round. The funding, from new and existing investors, brings TetaVi's total funding to USD \$11.3 million. Investors **included REDDS Capital. Adways Inc and Angel investor Aaron Stone.**

The company has stated that the funds will be used to expand TetaVi's studio network, widen its geographic reach and advance new products that address the future of consumer volumetric video capture.

Commenting on the company's investment, Gilad Talmon, TetaVi's CEO, said: "We view this latest funding round, raised during a time of significant financial uncertainty, as a vote of confidence by our existing and new investors in the growth of the immersive experience market and our ability to cater to its evolving needs." Talmon added, "The funding will allow TetaVi to enhance our current capture studio offering and will enable us to add highly qualified personnel required in order to widen the scope of our volumetric video capture solutions."

Volumetric video is a process that captures a real 3D space and can be viewed from any angle in an augmented reality (AR) or simulated virtual reality (VR) environment, creating immersive and interactive realistic 3D content. TetaVi noted that while a greater number of companies are incorporating 3D content into their platforms, the video capture and development process can often be slow, expensive and time-consuming.

The company's technology comes bundled as an end-to-end solution, including cameras, software-as-a-service, a portable studio, post-production and training, enabling customers to generate 3D digital holograms for a range of applications.

"TetaVi's technological innovations are well-timed given rapidly increasing demand for immersive and interactive applications that amplify consumer experiences with brands and content broadly," said Aaron Stone, Angel Investor, TetaVi Board member, and Senior Partner at Apollo Global Management. "We are excited to support the team as they accelerate their expansion and bring volumetric video to a mass audience."

TetaVi stated that production studios using its solution are able to prepare immersive media, enabling accurate and portable AR, VR and XR production up to 50-70% times faster than traditional methods. The company added that a range of customers from industries including media and entertainment, telecoms, sports, music and fashion are using its technology to enhance their respective offerings and deepen engagement among their customers and users.

"This strategic investment will strengthen TetaVi's relationships within APAC, an important region for spearheading the company's advancement," said Sean Lee, Global Business Strategy Executive Officer at Adways Inc. "We are witnessing immersive media, virtual entertainment and concerts becoming part of the mainstream culture and we have chosen to invest in TetaVi because of its market approach and technological progress."

“TetaVi’s ability to sustain significant growth over the last several months has reinforced our belief that the company has truly built something unique and disruptive,” said Stephan Ibaraki, Chairman and Managing General Partner at REDDS Capital and Founder of AI for Good. “We are pleased to be leading this round and look forward to working closely with the TetaVi team as it expands its global footprint.”

TetaVi’s R&D center is located in Tel Aviv, Israel, and the company has commercial studios in New York and Los Angeles, US and Tokyo, Japan. For more information on the company,

Itamar Medical’s WatchPAT™ 300 Home Sleep Apnea Testing Device Receives Approval in Japan

CAESAREA, Israel, Oct. 01, 2020 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- [Itamar Medical Ltd.](#) (NASDAQ and TASE: [ITMR](#)), a leading medical device and digital health company focused on the diagnosis of sleep apnea and other respiratory sleep disorders, announced that its flagship WatchPAT™300 Home Sleep Apnea Testing (HSAT) device has been granted PMDA approval for use in the Japanese market, effective September 14, 2020.

Japan represents the second largest potential patient market for Itamar Medical behind the U.S, where the company currently operates. The WatchPAT™300, an easy-to-use, non-invasive HSAT device, will be made available in Japan through Philips Japan Co., Itamar Medical’s exclusive Japanese distributor since 2014.

Itamar medical is the manufacturer of advanced, FDA cleared, and clinically-validated HSAT devices centered around the unique Peripheral Arterial Tonometry (PAT®) technology used in diagnosing several forms of sleep apnea. This technology can also be used in the diagnosis of sleep apnea in patients with cardiovascular comorbidities in which it poses a significant and independent risk factor. Sleep apnea affects approximately one billion people worldwide and Itamar Medical is passionate about providing an easy access solution to address the roughly 80% patient population that remain undiagnosed and untreated.

About WatchPAT™

WatchPAT™, the FDA-approved flagship product developed by Itamar Medical, is used for diagnosing Sleep Apnea at patients home. The WatchPAT is an easy-to-use Watch-like device

alternative to traditional in-lab polysomnography tests with unique abilities to score test results automatically, as well as produce a full sleep apnea diagnosis report. It provides a variety of respiratory indices, distinguishes between sleep and wakefulness, and provides a complete context of sleep architecture that includes the analysis of apnea events in each of the sleep stages such as light sleep, deep sleep and REM sleep. The WatchPAT also records snoring volume and body position information throughout the night. The FDA-cleared Central PLUS Module also enables specific identification of Central Sleep Apnea (CSA) events.

About Itamar Medical Ltd.

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

October

Dai-ichi Life Holdings joins Axell's innovation hub to connect to Israeli technology - showing a commitment to innovation despite the unprecedented times

Japanese life insurer, Dai-ichi Life Holdings has become Axell's latest innovation hub member as the two organizations broker a deal to connect Japan with Tel Aviv's thriving innovation community.

Dai-ichi Life Holdings is one of the largest insurers in Asia with an estimated 343 billion yen of capital stocks, over 30 million policies in force globally and employing +50,000 financial agents.

The company is working on its "Connect 2020" strategic direction, which aims to build strong relationships with customers, communities, and diverse business partners. Key to Dai-ichi's mid-term strategy is to leverage its global network as a competitive advantage. The deal with Axell supports this vision by connecting Japan to Israel's thriving FinTech and InsurTech ecosystem to bring new capabilities to the Group.

Headquartered in Tel Aviv, Israel, Axell is an innovation builder for insurance and finance and accelerates the digital transformation of financial services incumbents by co-creating new digital products and services.

Dai-ichi Holdings Director, **Vice Chairman, Hideo Teramoto** said he believes Axell has the capability to support the innovation strategy for the insurer.

"I think Axell, led by Moshe Tamir, has a very strong ability to act as a bridge between Dai-ichi and the Israeli innovation and insurance market. I'm really looking forward to doing business with Axell." "We are very pleased to have the opportunity to access the Israeli market where many advanced technologies are being developed day-by-day." "The world is facing a very difficult situation with COVID-19 but I'm confident the cooperation of both companies will produce great results. I have a lot of expectations looking forward to the future

Present at the virtual signing ceremony was Axell's Founder and CEO, Moshe Tamir former Global Head of Digital Transformation at Generali, one of the world's largest insurance companies and former Deputy CEO and CMO of Migdal Insurance. .

Today, Axell works with numerous global insurance clients, including; Generali, TAL Australia, Discovery south Africa, Maccabi health services, and Ayalon from Israel with distribution networks across Europe, North America, Asia, and the Middle East.

"A key strategic advantage of Axell's value proposition is our deep understanding of global financial services markets, which are universally being impacted by COVID-19," said Mr Tamir.

"However; we believe the challenges presented by the pandemic are actually an opportunity for corporations to transform into the digital future."

"Dai-ichi have shown outstanding commitment to innovation and continuous growth in this partnership and we very much look forward to a successful future together,"

Moshe Tamir CEO and Founder at Axell

Israeli-Japanese fund Aristagora to invest \$60 million in tech startups

By Reuters Staff

TEL AVIV (Reuters) - **Aristagora VC**, a new Israeli-Japanese venture capital fund focused on seed-stage technology companies, said on Tuesday it has raised its first fund of \$60 million.

The fund will invest \$500,000 to \$1.5 million as an initial investment in each selected initiative and will support its portfolio companies' growth through next-stage funding rounds. The fund will serve as a feeder for later-stage investments in Israel and abroad.

One of the fund's active general partners, **Takeshi Shinoda**, manages private equity and investment activities in Tokyo and Singapore, so the fund will also help its portfolio companies make connections in Japan and other Asian markets.

"Demand among Asian investors in general, and Japanese investors in particular, for exposure to Israeli technologies and innovation is on the rise," said managing partner **Anat Tila Cherni**.

Gideon Ben-Zvi, chairman of the fund's investment committee, said professional investment entities have been reluctant to invest in early-stage companies.

“This trend has only been exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic and we believe that there is a real need for a fund like ours,” he said.

Spark Capital and MUFG Innovation Partners invest \$20 million in Liquidity Capital

Liquidity Capital, which is a subsidiary of Meitav Dash, will see its valuation rise to \$100 million

James Spiro 12:1722.10.20

American venture capital fund, Spark Capital, and MUFG Innovation Partners Co. Ltd. (MUFG) are investing \$20 million in Israel-based Liquidity Capital, a subsidiary of Meitav Dash. The investment round will bring its valuation to approximately \$100 million and the investors have been allocated 20% holdings in Liquidity's share capital.

The new funds are primarily designated to accelerate the development of technology already being developed by Liquidity and help expand its business in Asia and the U.S. While Meitav Dash is not selling any of its holdings, the new investors mean that it will no longer hold a controlling share, which now stands at 44.6%. Despite this, they are expected to make between \$20-25 million profit from the deal.

“I am honored and proud that two of the world's leading financial institutions are joining Liquidity as equity investors, said Ron Daniel, Liquidity's CEO. “With the support of our new partners, Spark and MUFG and with Meitav Dash, that has invested in Liquidity since its foundation, we will be able to continue and lead the financial industry transformation.”

As part of the transaction, Liquidity has granted Spark Capital a license to use its technology. In return, Spark Capital has granted Liquidity the right to participate in future portfolio investments. “This investment is a significant vote of confidence in Liquidity's uniquely developed technology,” added Ilan Raviv, Meitav Dash's CEO. “The alliance with global financial institutions will enable Liquidity to extend its global deployment, as well as continue to accelerate the development of the self-proven technology.”

Founded in 2017, Tel-Aviv-based Liquidity Capital is a provider of unlimited unsecured, non-recourse, no dilution growth capital. In February, it announced that it would invest a total of \$500

million into technology startups throughout 2020. Spark Capital is a U.S.-based venture capital firm responsible for the early-stage funding of startups including Twitter, Oculus, Cruise, and Slack.

IceCure to distribute cancer-freezing tech in Thailand via Japan's Terumo Corp

Japanese medical devices firm gets exclusive rights to the Israeli firm's product in Thailand for 6 years for \$7.2 million, expanding an existing accord

By [SHOSHANNA SOLOMON](#) 1 October 2020

[IceCure Medical Ltd.](#), an Israel-based maker of a [tumor-freezing](#) technology, said Thursday it has expanded a strategic partnership with Terumo Corp. giving the Japanese medical devices firm exclusive rights to IceCure's product in Thailand for six years for a total of \$7.2 million.

The firm, whose shares are traded on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, develops and markets an advanced liquid-nitrogen-based cryoablation therapy for the treatment of tumors (benign and cancerous) by freezing them, with the main focus on breast, kidney and lung cancers. Its minimally invasive technology, which does not require surgery, is a safe and effective alternative to hospital surgical tumor removal that is easily performed in a relatively short procedure, the company said.

The system is marketed and sold worldwide, after receiving approval from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Europe's CE mark. The Thai government has given its approval to market the firm's ProSense cryoablation system to treat benign and malignant tumors in the breast, lung, kidney, bone and additional indications, the company said in a statement.

The new agreement, which is expected to be finalized by the end of the year, will grant Terumo exclusive rights to distribute IceCure's product in Thailand for six years, with an option to extend the agreement for an additional six years.

Thailand, with population of 70 million people, is the third significant country in which Terumo and IceCure collaborate. The two firms signed in September 2019 an accord giving Terumo the

distribution rights to Japan and Singapore. Terumo and IceCure are exploring further collaborations in other countries as well, IceCure said in a statement.

“Thailand, along with Japan and Singapore, are key geographies for IceCure in Southeast Asia, and with approximately 170,000 new cases of cancer every year, we believe patients will greatly benefit from IceCure’s ProSense cryoablation system,” said Eyal Shamir, IceCure’s CEO, in the statement. The agreement extension with Terumo is part of the company’s plan to increase its global reach by collaborating with strategic distributors, he added.

Tokyo-based Terumo Corp. is a medical device manufacturer with approximately \$6 billion in sales and operations in more than 160 nations. Founded in 1921, the company develops, manufactures and distributes medical devices including products for use in cardiothoracic surgery, interventional procedures and transfusion medicine. The company also manufactures syringe and hypodermic needle products for hospital and physician office use. Terumo’s shares are listed on the Tokyo Stock Exchange.

Harel-Hertz consulted IceCure penetrate the Japanese and initiated its Japan entry to Kameda Hospital

Foresight: Eye-Net Mobile Signs Distribution Agreement with Leading Japanese Trading House Cornes Technologies

NESS ZIONA, Israel--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Oct 2, 2020--

Foresight Autonomous Holdings Ltd. (Nasdaq and TASE: FRSX), an innovator in automotive vision systems, announced today that its wholly owned subsidiary, Eye-Net Mobile Ltd., signed a distribution agreement with Cornes Technologies, a leading Japanese trading house founded in 1900. According to the agreement, Cornes Technologies will promote and assist in the integration of the Eye-Net™ cellular-based accident prevention solution suite in products and applications of third parties in Japan. Cornes Technologies, a renowned trading company, plays a significant role in establishing and developing commercial links and trade between Japan and the rest of the world.

The distribution agreement with Cornes Technologies was signed following the recently announced pilot projects with leading Japanese multinational companies for possible integration of the Eye-Net Protect solution into advanced dashboard cameras and IoT services. Several additional Japanese companies have expressed interest in Eye-Net Mobile's cellular-based accident prevention solutions.

“The Japanese technology market is very versatile and addresses multiple verticals such as micro-mobility, smart devices, automotive manufacturers, telecommunication companies and smartphone manufacturers, as well as third-party application providers. Characterized by early adopters of new technologies, we believe that the Japanese technology market is a suitable target for Eye-Net Mobile's solution. Moreover, we are confident that Cornes Technologies will utilize its extensive experience and relationships in this market to assist in current engagements and further market penetration,” said Dror Elbaz, COO and Deputy CEO of Eye-Net Mobile.

The Eye-Net Protect V2X solution is designed to protect the most vulnerable road users in real time — including pedestrians, cyclists, scooter drivers and car drivers — by providing collision

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alerts when road users have no direct line of sight. An SDK configuration allows Eye-Net Mobile to integrate its solution into leading location-based products such as wearable devices, dashboard cameras, navigation aids, infotainment systems, third-party applications and other smart devices.

About Foresight

Foresight Autonomous Holdings Ltd. (Nasdaq and TASE: FRSX), founded in 2015, is a technology company engaged in the design, development and commercialization of sensors systems for the automotive industry. Through the company's wholly owned subsidiaries, Foresight Automotive Ltd. and Eye-Net Mobile Ltd., Foresight develops both "in-line-of-sight" vision systems and "beyond-line-of-sight" cellular-based applications. Foresight's vision sensor is a four-camera system based on 3D video analysis, advanced algorithms for image processing, and sensor fusion. Eye-Net Mobile's cellular-based application is a V2X (vehicle-to-everything) accident prevention solution based on real-time spatial analysis of clients' movement.

The company's systems are designed to improve driving safety by enabling highly accurate and reliable threat detection while ensuring the lowest rates of false alerts. Foresight is targeting the Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS), the semi-autonomous and autonomous vehicle markets and predicts that its systems will revolutionize automotive safety by providing an automotive-grade, cost-effective platform and advanced technology.

Itamar Medical's WatchPAT™ 300 Home Sleep Apnea Testing Device Receives Approval in Japan

October 01, 2020 06:00 ET | Source: Itamar Medical Ltd.

CAESAREA, Israel, Oct. 01, 2020 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- **Itamar Medical Ltd.** (NASDAQ and TASE: ITMR), a leading medical device and digital health company focused on the diagnosis of sleep apnea and other respiratory sleep disorders, announced that its flagship WatchPAT™300

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Itamar medical is the manufacturer of advanced, FDA cleared, and clinically-validated HSAT devices centered around the unique Peripheral Arterial Tonometry (PAT®) technology used in diagnosing several forms of sleep apnea. This technology can also be used in the diagnosis of sleep apnea in patients with cardiovascular comorbidities in which it poses a significant and independent risk factor. Sleep apnea affects approximately **one billion** people worldwide and Itamar Medical is passionate about providing an easy access solution to address the roughly **80%** patient population that remain undiagnosed and untreated.

About WatchPAT™

WatchPAT™, the FDA-approved flagship product developed by Itamar Medical, is used for diagnosing Sleep Apnea at patients home. The WatchPAT is an easy-to-use Watch-like device alternative to traditional in-lab polysomnography tests with unique abilities to score test results automatically, as well as produce a full sleep apnea diagnosis report. It provides a variety of respiratory indices, distinguishes between sleep and wakefulness, and provides a complete context of sleep architecture that includes the analysis of apnea events in each of the sleep stages such as light sleep, deep sleep and REM sleep. The WatchPAT also records snoring volume and body position information throughout the night. The FDA-cleared Central PLUS Module also enables specific identification of Central Sleep Apnea (CSA) events.

About Itamar Medical Ltd.

Itamar Medical is a medical technology company focused on the development and commercialization of non-invasive medical devices and solutions to aid in the diagnosis of respiratory sleep disorders. Itamar Medical commercializes a digital healthcare platform to facilitate the continuum of care for effective sleep apnea management with a focus on the core sleep, cardiology and direct to consumer markets. Itamar Medical offers a Total Sleep Solution to help physicians provide comprehensive sleep apnea management in a variety of clinical environments to optimize patient care and reduce healthcare system costs. The Company's key product, WatchPAT, is commercially available within major markets including the US, Japan, and

Europe. Itamar Medical is a public company traded on the Nasdaq and on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchanges, and is based in Caesarea, Israel with U.S. headquarters based in Atlanta, GA.

BlackSwan Technologies Launches World's First AI Operating System, Raises \$28 Million in Funding to Pioneer Next Generation of Enterprise Software

MS&AD Venture Fund co-leads round of \$28m

October 13, 2020

TEL AVIV, Israel--(BUSINESS WIRE)--[BlackSwan Technologies](#) launches as the world's first enterprise AI operating system, enabling any company to leverage the most advanced artificial intelligence for an unprecedented level of operational efficiency and data-driven decision making. Since it began offering its technology to a limited customer base earlier this year, BlackSwan Technologies has generated tens of millions of dollars in revenue through multi-year contracts with many leading businesses. The company has also established a groundbreaking partnership with Deloitte to provide leading global banks an AI-powered platform that is already proven to increase revenue and drive efficiencies.

BlackSwan Technologies was recently recognized in [Gartner's 2020 Hype Cycle for Emerging Technologies](#) report as a pioneer in "bringing AI closer to human learning and intelligence." The company's signature Platform as a Service (PaaS), ELEMENT, accomplishes this by combining multiple AI technologies — including machine learning, natural language processing, deep learning, neural network and data operation facilities — into a single platform.

Unlike other enterprise AI offerings, ELEMENT does not require well-organized data sets, countless hours of data normalization or technical in-house expertise to implement. ELEMENT's Low code/No code, cloud-agnostic system includes several advanced enterprise applications including for Risk Management, Compliance, Lead Generation, Personalization and Market Intelligence. The platform also allows users to build enterprise applications up to 60 times faster and at a fraction of the cost of market alternatives. ELEMENT is designed to continuously learn and evolve with the enterprise and has a completely customizable structure with a simple, drag-and-drop interface, democratizing the development and execution of large, industrial enterprise applications.

“We believe this represents a true paradigm shift in enterprise software, eliminating all barriers to digital transformation so that enterprises can easily harness big data and artificial intelligence to generate immediate and actionable business insights,” said BlackSwan’s founder and CEO Michael Ouliel. “Our aim is to completely disrupt the enterprise software market by finally making the world’s most advanced artificial intelligence available to any company.”

BlackSwan Technologies is also announcing it has raised a new **Series A financing round of \$28 million led by investors Prytek, FinTLV and MS&AD Ventures**. The new funding will be used to accelerate growth, continue developing new advanced AI applications and expand the BlackSwan Technologies team.

While other enterprise software companies offer targeted products that address only a small portion of an organization’s AI needs, ELEMENT’s end-to-end system transforms raw data into actionable insights that companies can leverage to identify opportunities, reduce costs and manage risk. Leading financial institutions have already seen incredible success with the platform. For example, a top-15 global bank was able to reduce the cost of onboarding a corporate client from +\$2,000 to \$150 by leveraging ELEMENT to address the entire compliance process.

Ouliel conceptualized the idea for BlackSwan Technologies while reflecting on his years as an Israeli intelligence officer and consultant for Oracle. He realized that existing data processing systems were leaving large and complex organizations exposed to unforeseen risks due to the limited scope of data they could access and understand. With ELEMENT, he designed a platform that enables companies to harness and organize data, reveal non-obvious relationships, identify unseen risks, reveal overlooked opportunities and predict the future by harnessing the full potential of data to detect far-reaching risks and opportunities. Now available widely across industries, BlackSwan Technologies’ pioneering AI operating system is poised to lead a new era of digital transformation.

About BlackSwan Technologies:

BlackSwan Technologies is a PaaS/SaaS product company. Its Flagship software ELEMENT is an operating system powering the rapid development of enterprise AI applications that mimic the cognitive functions of human intelligence. ELEMENT can be used by enterprises across multiple industries to collect and organize data, gain competitive intelligence, improve compliance, drive

new business opportunities and make predictions – all while cutting costs and improving efficiencies. BlackSwan's ELEMENT is trusted by some of the largest global organizations.

BlackSwan Technologies is based in Tel Aviv, Israel with offices in the United States, United Kingdom, Poland and Germany.

A new destination for the export of Israeli avocados - Japan

[Navit Sommer](#)

Posted 16:19 , 20.10.20 :

For the first time, Israel received a permit from the Japanese authorities to export avocados to the country

The approval process with the Japanese authorities was lengthy, for fear of the Japanese infiltrating the Mediterranean fly into their territory .Only after they were convinced that all preventive measures would be taken, the avocado would be approved to come from Israel . In Japan, a single avocado is sold for over \$ 3.

This is an export of avocados of the "Haas" variety, which ripens around November, and the expectation is that the first shipment will arrive in Japan this coming winter .Unlike in Israel, the Japanese do not combine avocado with sushi, but recognize it as a superfood for home consumption.

To date, Japan has imported avocados mainly from Mexico, Peru, Chile, the USA and New Zealand. Israel is one of the leading exporters of avocados, which is now considered one of the most profitable industries in agriculture, alongside the export of dates.

The price of a ton of avocado at the port gate in Europe reaches 2,300 euros .Avocado exports are on the rise due to the increase in consumption abroad and the expansion of growing areas in Israel.

In the last decade, the volume of avocado exports has doubled .In 2019, Israel exported 69,000 tons of avocados, which accounted for about 55% of the crop.

In Israel, avocados are grown on an area of about 120,000 dunams, while in recent years about 10,000 dunams have been added, most of them from the Haas variety .This year,

due to the heat, the industry lost 20,000 tons of avocados .The total avocado crop in Israel is about 125,000 tons, of which about 45% is for local consumption.

Reuven Dor, chairman of the Avocado Growers' Table at the Plants Council, said that the approval of the export agreement involved meeting strict standards of fruit quality, which is considered the most meticulous in the export market to Japan. Of about 100 tons of avocados to Japan, with the goal of reaching about 2,000 tons a year" .

Yaron Belhassan, CEO of the Fruit Growers Association, noted that "now avocado growers in the country will be able to export to another destination, the Japanese market, which places Israeli agriculture as a leader in avocado growing in the world .An Israeli consumes an average of 8-9 kilos of avocados a year, with the peak consumption of avocados being in December, January and February .In October, a kilo of avocado is sold to a consumer in Israel at an average price of NIS 15-19 per kg, while the price per farmer is about NIS 7 per kg.

The contacts with Japan were managed by the Ministry of Agriculture .Yaakov Poleg, senior vice president of trade and international cooperation at the ministry, said: "The Ministry of Agriculture sees great importance in opening new markets and encouraging agricultural exports from Israel, and we will continue to work to open additional destinations and expand existing markets".

Thermal imaging co Adasky raises \$15m

en.globes.co.il - on October 22, 2020

The company is developing and manufacturing thermal imaging (LWIR) systems for automotive and pedestrian safety.

Kyocera keeps-on its investment support

Israeli thermal imaging startup [Adasky](#) has announced that it has raised \$15 million as part of a Series B financing round from existing shareholders Kyocera Corporation and Sungwoo-Hitech Co. Ltd. The company is developing and manufacturing thermal imaging (LWIR) systems for automotive and pedestrian safety and the new funds will help fulfil demand and advance the company's shift toward mass production.

The company's high-resolution LWIR thermal imaging solutions are designed and manufactured in-house, end-to-end, and will be applied to vehicle safety systems for ADAS/AV solutions and smart city infrastructure (V2I).

Adasky offers three solutions based on its core technology: Viper - a small, solid-state, and cost-effective LWIR thermal camera, designed for vehicle perception safety systems; Sharp Vision - a high-resolution thermal camera and software for stationary V2I and smart city roadway applications; and Viper-R - thermal cameras adapted due to Covid-19 for elevated body temperature screening in crowded places.

Adasky CEO Yakov Shaharabani said, "I'm very grateful for our partners and their continued support and belief in ADASKY's team and vision, especially in times of global uncertainty. We welcome this new investment as further validation of ADASKY's ingenuity and technological capabilities."

"Drivers cannot rely on current ADAS to prevent collisions, especially when it concerns pedestrians at night. ADASKY is developing the right solution. We are excited to continue our support to ADASKY in its mission to save lives" said Mun Yong Lee, President of Sungwoo Hitech.

Aura Air and J-Tec Corporation from Osaka sign a major distribution agreement

October 19, 2020

The first significant distribution agreement reported by the company, which has developed a compact facility that identifies and purifies viruses in enclosed spaces, including the corona virus

Aura Smart Air ([Aura Air](#)), which developed a technology for identifying and purifying air pollution, including corona virus, has signed an exclusive distribution agreement with **J-TEC Corporation Japanese** marketing company products in the domestic market in the amount of \$ 30 million for a period of three years. Last month the company reported that it had installed an air purification facility in the reception hall of the King of Spain. The company has developed a 38 cm by 38 cm home accessory which is based on sensors, an electronic circuit and an air purification system, capable of purifying the air in an average room at a rate of 2.5 times per hour. The sensors check all the particles in the air, detect unusual effects or a dangerous increase in pollution, purify the air and return it to the room. According to the company, the device allows people to stay in enclosed spaces without fear. In a joint experiment conducted by the company

with Sheba Hospital, results were obtained according to which Ora Air's solution succeeded in destroying the virus by 99.9%.

The system performs real-time measurement of generic parameters such as temperature, humidity, amount of carbon dioxide, organic gases and more, and also compares the air inside and outside the room. The technology has other applications besides corona virus monitoring. The electronic control system knows how to analyze the findings and compare them to different scenarios that make it possible to produce a complex situation. For example, it detects a fire in a room even before there is smoke, by detecting a high level of burnt plastic molecules and carbon dioxide that characterize the phenomenon. The device includes a suction and inhalation system that allows you to scan all the air in the room.

It activates a purification system based on several stages: filtering large bodies using a physical filter, exposing the air passing through it to UV-C radiation, which is ultraviolet radiation used to decompose gases and destroy biological materials by destroying genetic material (DNA and RNA), transferring The air through another filter that absorbs very small particles that includes copper-based technology that prevents the growth of bacteria in the purification accessory itself. In the final stage the unit produces positive and negative ions in the air returned to the room. They improve air quality and harm biological pollutants.

Mass production in Israel

The company was founded by the two brothers Aviad and Elder Schneiderman, after being discharged from long service in the army. It currently employs about 12 people. Is one of the portfolio companies of the Highroad innovation platform specializing in urban technology. Last month, it raised about \$ 3 million, from investors such as Merhavia and AI Electronics , which is a major investor in the company. AI Electronics is also the owner of Shiratech and is responsible for the production of Ora Air's systems. Their final assembly is done in the company's new production line that opened last month at Beit El Industries in Caesarea.

Although the first sales only started in 2020, the company is in full-scale mass production for corporate customers such as schools, train stations, offices and large entities in Israel and Europe. Recently she has also started making sales to individuals through her website. Meanwhile, it is known that today it is launching a new and unique product: a personal purification system that looks like a portable accessory that purifies air with a volume of 10 cubic meters around the user. It includes the filter that destroys the corona, and allows people to protect the air they breathe Crowds, such as planes, buses and the like.

KDDI Selects Zadara to Provide Enterprise Multi-Cloud Storage Services

Wed, October 28, 2020, 2:00 PM GMT+2-3 mins read

Japan-Based Telecom Leader Expands Cloud Services With Zadara's 100% OpEx Storage-as-a-Service Platform to Enterprise Customers

[Zadara, Inc.](#), the cloud services provider and leader in enterprise storage-as-a-service, today announced that [KDDI Corporation](#), one of Japan's largest telecommunications providers, has added Zadara's cloud storage to its product portfolio. KDDI will leverage Zadara's storage-as-a-service (STaaS) platform to provide its enterprise customers with a 100% OpEx storage solution as a fully managed service – with no significant up-front expenses.

"KDDI is excited to launch Zadara Cloud Storage in Tokyo. Since Zadara's cloud storage is provided as a service, it is continuously upgraded to the state-of-the-art technology," said Toru Maruta, Executive Officer, Head of Product Management, Service Planning and Development Division for KDDI. "We are equally excited to partner with Zadara who brings a vast knowledge of the storage industry and a world-class engineering team. We believe this partnership will help us accelerate the 5G-enabled cloud service experience to our customers in Japan."

A Global Fortune 500 company, KDDI Corporation provides a broad range of services – including data centers, networks, content delivery and system integration – to customers worldwide. Founded in 1984, KDDI has grown to become one of Japan's largest telecom organizations delivering broadband networks to business customers, and also has more than 40 million users on their [au mobile](#) carrier business.

The partnership with Zadara will enable KDDI to provide its network customers with a storage solution that is easily scalable and provides high availability with no planned downtime. A main benefit of the Zadara STaaS model is that it removes the guesswork about how much storage is needed. At any time, customers can simply dial-up or dial-down the amount of storage they need on demand, without any penalties or hidden fees. Zadara's technology platform offers enterprise-class speed, security and scalability. The solution supports any data type, any protocol and any location.

Zadara Cloud Services prevents cloud lock-in and enables KDDI customers to benefit from:

- **True Multi-Cloud Experience:** Leveraging the best features of each public cloud using the same data set

- **Security and Governance:** Offering best-in-class security and governance thanks to dedicated, cloud-adjacent resources; soon available in multiple regions
- **Simultaneous Access:** Avoiding time-consuming and expensive data transfers among clouds

"As flexibility has increasingly become business-critical, consumption-based infrastructure solutions are in demand," said Zadara CEO Nelson Nahum. "We are pleased that KDDI has selected Zadara's Cloud Services to provide essential storage infrastructure solutions – and we look forward to expanding our relationship with them in the future."

KDDI's new STaaS offering will be available for its customers starting as early as November 2020. Zadara's cloud storage offering is expected to be rolled out to enterprise customers in Japan by 2021.

About Zadara Storage

Since 2011, Zadara's Cloud Platform (ZCP) simplifies operational complexity through automated end-to-end infrastructure provisioning of compute, storage and network resources. With solutions available on-premises and through cloud and colocation providers, Zadara's turnkey hardware/software, combined with its pay-only-for-what-you-use model, helps companies be more agile without sacrificing the features and functionality that enterprises demand. Zadara operates worldwide, including clouds at hundreds of data centers at public- and private-cloud partner collocations, supported by an expert team that provides services and support 24/7. Zadara is headquartered in Irvine, California, with locations in London, Tokyo, Yokneam (Israel) and Bangalore.

Rakuten Mobile Taps Zadara's Storage-as-a-Service Platform

Zadara Storage, the leader in enterprise, software-defined storage solutions, on Monday announced it has partnered with Rakuten Mobile to offer Zadara's universal set of storage solutions for Rakuten's platforms and services, including the Rakuten Communications Platform.

The mobile carrier leverages Zadara's storage-as-a-service platform, which provides a fully managed data management solution designed for any data type, any protocol and for any cloud environment.

Zadara's software-defined storage platform enables Rakuten Mobile to: Simplify data management operations with the ability to store any data type – block, file, object – from a single system
Ensure data availability, performance and security
Enable infinite, on-demand scalability
Deploy and expand infrastructure and services quickly

Rakuten Mobile selected Zadara to offer a broad, flexible, cloud-based storage solution. Rakuten Mobile needed storage in the form of a large grid, where disk capacity would not be stranded in one storage array when it was needed for another. In one platform, Zadara provides all three storage types and related protocols for Rakuten Mobile, including block storage (iSCSI, FC), file storage (NFS, CIFS/SMB) and object storage (S3 & Swift). With Zadara's unique storage-as-a-service model, and native support for RESTful API and Kubernetes orchestration, Rakuten Mobile's storage needs are fully managed by Zadara's expert 24x7 support to reduce technology and operational risk and burdens.

Tareq Amin, Representative Director, Executive Vice President and CTO of Rakuten

Mobile: Zadara has a strong track record providing storage solutions with impressive scalability, performance and uptime that are tailored for Rakuten Mobile's cloud-native virtualized architecture.

November

Israel's IDI Insurance and Japan-based MSI launch 'The HUB' to promote innovation

The partnership will help the two nations develop innovative solutions for the insurtech spaces in Israel and Japan.

James Spiro 14:59 03.11.20 Ctech

Israel's direct insurance company **IDI Insurance** has partnered with Japanese-based insurance company **Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance (MSI)** to create a new innovation hub in Israel. Opening this week, it will be tasked with advancing innovation in the insurtech space in Israel via new products and solutions for both countries.

'**The HUB**', which will soon be renamed to **GDH TLV** to align itself with sister hubs in Tokyo and Singapore, will be managed by Raz Bartov, IDI's VP Technology and Innovation out of offices in Petah Tikva. It will focus on finding and fostering startups that help the direct and digital insurance sector.

"We want to work on improving the customer journey, the issue of underwriting, claim-handling, and operational efficiency," Bartov told CTech when discussing the potential solutions fostered in The HUB relating to insurance. "The tech is relevant to AI, machine learning, and data in general. (There's also) fraud detection, cybersecurity, process automation... and something to do with connected cars in the future," he later teased.

The HUB's Japanese staff will consist of up to five people who are expected to arrive in Israel as soon as the coronavirus (Covid-19) restrictions are lifted. They will provide access to its technological infrastructure and marketing channels inside and outside of Japan, whereas IDI is helping them with their "knowledge, experience and connections" on the ground.

"The collaboration with the MSI Group is strategic, since it regularizes the processes of identification, channels it into an orderly path, and increases the chances of finding solutions which will enable us to develop competitive advantages," said Kobi Haber, CEO of I.D.I Insurance

Company Ltd., in a statement. “MSI is one of Japan’s leading groups and we feel honored to cooperate with them. This collaboration will bring added value to the Groups' business. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Batia Tocaty for the introduction and for leading the collaboration,” he added.

“We have been aggressively developing our digitalization globally as well as in Japan,” added **Shinichiro Funabiki, Director, CDO, Executive Vice President of MSI**. “Since Israel is one of the centers of innovation in the world, IDI is the most valuable partner to enable us to prove the effectiveness of the latest digital technology and implement it into our group’s operation in a very efficient manner.”

IDI Insurance was founded in 1994 and based on a vision that insurance services should be provided to customers directly, without a broker. Today, it is one of the largest insurance companies in Israel and offers car, home, life, travel, and mortgage insurance. MSI was founded in 2010 as a merger of Aioi, MSI, and Nissay Dowa Companies and is considered the largest insurance company in Japan and the fifth-largest non-life insurance group in the world.

Israel’s OurCrowd Announces Japan’s ORIX \$60 Million Investment

ORIX’s First collaboration with Israeli Venture Capital Cooperation across a wide variety of industries, with focus on bringing Israeli tech to Japanese multinationals

November 19, 2020

TOKYO & JERUSALEM--([BUSINESS WIRE](#))--[OurCrowd](#) today announced that [ORIX Corporation](#) (“ORIX”) invests a strategic \$60 million in OurCrowd, Israel’s most active venture investing platform. This is ORIX’s first collaboration with Israel’s startup sector, with OurCrowd planning to provide the diversified financial services giant access to a wide variety of innovative technologies and companies.

Under the terms of the agreement, ORIX and OurCrowd will collaborate in agreed focus areas and will establish financial products and investment opportunities suited for the Japanese and

global markets. This will include curated access to both venture capital funds and individual portfolio companies on a deal-by-deal basis.

CEO of ORIX UK, Kiyoshi Habiro said, "We are excited about investing in OurCrowd, Israel's most active venture investor and one of the world's most innovative venture capital platforms. We intend to be active partners with OurCrowd and help them accelerate their already impressive growth, while bringing the best of Israeli tech to Japan's large industrial and financial sectors."

Over the past several years, Japan-Israel trade has increased significantly with Japan becoming one of the largest investors in Israeli tech and with over 90 Japanese companies now active in Israel. ORIX and OurCrowd will work to further increase cooperation between the two countries and enhance opportunities for Israeli startups throughout Asia.

OurCrowd CEO Jon Medved said, "ORIX is a global leader in diversified business and financial services who will strengthen OurCrowd in many ways. We are enthusiastic about the potential to further transform the venture capital asset class together and provide a strong bridge for our innovative companies to the important Asian markets."

Established in 1964 from its start in the leasing business, ORIX has advanced into neighboring fields and is presently undertaking a wide range of businesses such as corporate finance, industrial/ICT equipment, environment and energy, automobile-related, real estate-related, private equity investment and concession, banking and life insurance businesses. Since entering Hong Kong in 1971, ORIX has been operating its businesses globally by establishing locations in 37 countries and regions across the world.

The OurCrowd community consists of almost 60,000 registered investors from over 183 countries. Rated "the most active venture investor in Israel" by Pitchbook, OurCrowd has more than \$1.5 billion in commitments and has made investments in more than 220 companies and 23 funds. OurCrowd already has had many exits, including the IPOs of Beyond Meat and Lemonade, the acquisition of JUMP Bike by Uber, the acquisition of Briefcam by Canon, the acquisition of Argus by Continental, the acquisition of Crosswise by Oracle, the acquisition of Replay by Intel, and many more.

Nomura International plc acted as Adviser to OurCrowd in connection with the transaction.

About ORIX

ORIX Corporation (TSE: 8591; NYSE: IX) is a financial services group which provides innovative products and services to its customers by constantly pursuing new businesses.

Established in 1964, from its start in the leasing business, ORIX has advanced into neighboring fields and at present has expanded into lending, investment, life insurance, banking, asset management, automobile related, real estate and environment and energy related businesses. Since entering Hong Kong in 1971, ORIX has spread its businesses globally by establishing locations in 37 countries and regions across the world.

Going forward, ORIX intends to utilize its strengths and expertise, which generate new value, to establish an independent ORIX business model that continues to evolve perpetually. In this way, ORIX will engage in business activities that instill vitality in its companies and workforce, and thereby contribute to society.

About OurCrowd: OurCrowd is a global venture investment platform that empowers institutions and individuals to invest and engage in emerging companies. Rated by PitchBook as the most active venture investor in Israel, OurCrowd vets and selects companies, invests its capital, and provides its global network with unparalleled access to co-invest and contribute connections, talent and deal flow. OurCrowd builds value for its portfolio companies throughout their lifecycles, providing mentorship, recruiting industry advisors, navigating follow-on rounds and creating growth opportunities through its network of multinational partnerships. With \$1.5 billion of committed funding, and investments in more than 220 portfolio companies and 23 venture funds, OurCrowd offers access to its membership of almost 60,000 individual accredited and institutional investors, family offices, and venture capital partners from over 183 countries to invest alongside, at the same terms. OurCrowd's portfolio is diversified across sectors and stages, ranging from seed and series A through late stage and pre-IPO firms. OurCrowd portfolio companies have been acquired by some of the most prestigious brands in the world, including Microsoft, Uber, Canon, Oracle, Nike, and Inte

The new collaboration between Japan's NTT DATA and Sompo Digital Lab will help the companies collaborate with Israeli startups

James Spiro 12:07 17.11.20

Japanese firms are on the hunt for Israeli talent now more than ever

Japanese tech giant NTT DATA and insurance company Sompo have announced their intention to collaborate with Israeli startups. Sompo, which has been operating in Israel since 2018, will greet NTT DATA into Startup Nation as they seek partnerships in quantum cryptography, secure computation, IoT sensor devices, and video content analytics.

"The collaboration between NTT DATA and Sompo is part of a strategic move by both companies that includes expanding into new domains by creating joint ventures with growing tech companies," explained Yinnon Dolev, Head of Sompo Digital Lab Israel. "We believe that through this collaboration, we will be able to improve the services we provide to millions of clients worldwide."

The collaboration was officially announced during the Japan Israel Open Innovation Summit held virtually in October. The two companies are issuing a call for proposals for Israeli companies that will perform a proof of concept (POC) with the intention to build long-term, strategic partnerships with the two Japanese firms and potential capital investment.

Since arriving in Israel in 2018, Sompo has invested more than \$20 million into Israeli startups and established collaborations with companies like Intuition Robotics, Nexar, Guardian, Sensifree, and Binah.ai. With the addition of NTT DATA to the game, Dolev will oversee the search for technologies pertaining to Fintech, Agritech, cyber, and Medtech and healthcare - two industries currently being put under increased pressure due to Covid-19.

NTT DATA was founded in 1988 and today is traded on the Tokyo Stock Exchange with a market cap of \$18.6 billion. Sompo Holdings, Inc., founded in 2001, is considered one of the leading Japanese insurance firms. It has 440 employees and is traded at a market cap of \$14.8 billion.

The current call for proposals is underway and Israeli startups are encouraged to apply before the deadline of December 12, 2020

7-Eleven Convenience Stores on the Way to Israel

Zen Read [TheMarker](#)

7-Eleven, the U.S.-based international chain of convenience stores famous for its Slurpee frozen drinks and long operating hours, is coming to Israel.

The apparel retailer Fox and Electra Consumer, a unit of the [Elco Group](#), have reportedly received rights to operate the chain in Israel and plan to announce shortly they have signed a memorandum of understanding to develop and operate stores in Israel. They will operate 7-Eleven as 50-50 joint venture partners.

Founded in Texas in 1927, 7-Eleven today counts more than 71,000 stores in 17 countries around the world and does about \$8 billion in annual turnover. After 70% of the company was acquired by its **Japanese affiliate Ito-Yokado in 1991**, 7-Eleven became a wholly owned subsidiary of Seven-Eleven Japan. Japan has more 7-Eleven locations than anywhere else in the world, or a third of the total.

In Israel, the two companies are looking to open 250 outlets in the first several years. Although both Fox and Electra are experienced retailers – [Fox](#) under its own name and other local and international brands while Electra sells appliance and electronics through its Machsanei Hashmal and Shekem Electric stores – 7-Eleven will mark their first foray into grocery retailing.

Israeli retailers have been feeling the pinch of [internet competition](#) and the coronavirus lockdowns. The food segment, however, has largely avoided these pressures.

Rakuten adds to its international rollcall of suppliers for more automation

Mobile Europe 03 NOVEMBER 2020

Israel's RADCOM and France's Infovista join the Japanese cloud-native operator with global ambitions.

French company Infovista describes itself as “the leading provider of network planning, testing, performance and application control solutions”.

It said it is collaborating with Rakuten Mobile “to deliver the first carrier-grade, cloud-based platform for radio network planning, optimisation and modelling to support the rapid roll-out of Rakuten Mobile’s end-to-end cloud-native 5G mobile network across Japan”.

Integrated planning on-demand

The strategic radio network planning solution, made available as Rakuten Communications Platform (RCP) NEO by Rakuten Mobile, is intended to directly contribute to the agility, high performance and scalability of the cloud-native network.

Infovista said this “on-demand” radio network planning solution was built for deployment in Rakuten Mobile’s RCP, and uses microservices architecture with open Application Programming Interfaces (APIs).

It will enable Rakuten Mobile’s engineering teams to use advanced planning and design features to reduce the time and cost of network deployment, through extensive automation and integration with other applications within RCP.

Planetary solution

The solution is based Infovista’s award-winning Planet software: the joint solution runs entirely on Linux and all microservices are delivered as Docker containers for high availability and scalability, and to readily integrate into the orchestration and automation provided by RCP.

These capabilities allow Rakuten Mobile to manage its planning database, automatically generate coverage, interference, throughput and other analysis and, in turn, enable capabilities such as auto-commissioning of sites and automation of other workflows.

Automated end to end

RADCOM offers monitoring tech for cloud-native networks. The company announced will implement its containerized assurance solution, RADCOM ACE, and its load-balancing wizardry

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to provide automated, end-to-end assurance for Rakuten Mobile's recently launched Non-Stand Alone (NSA) 5G service and its Stand Alone (SA) 5G service launch, expected in 2021.

RADCOM ACE will be integrated into the RCP to monitor services end-to-end.

Eyal Harari, CEO of RADCOM, said, "Following a successful partnership during Rakuten Mobile's full-scale commercial launch of the world's first fully virtualized mobile network, we are excited to also support their 5G launch"

combustion engine developer Aquarius raises \$10 million from Japanese giant TPR

Aquarius, which has developed a two sided free piston linear 10kg engine, is planning on going public on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange in the coming weeks

Meir Orbach13:3025.11.20

Shortly before it goes public on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange (TASE), Israeli combustion engine developer Aquarius Engines (AM) Ltd announced on Wednesday that it has raised \$10 million from Japanese giant TPR, which manufactures functional engine components. In addition to the investment, the company also signed an agreement with TPR aimed at enhancing the performance of its pistons.

Aquarius has recently filed a prospectus with the TASE and is planning to go public in the coming weeks.

The new investment takes the company's total funding to \$37 million, with Israeli energy corporation Paz Group, Marius Nacht, and Musashi Seimitsu among its investors. Aquarius is headquartered in Rosh Haayin and has development centers in Germany and Poland.

Aquarius Engines was founded in 2014 by chairman Gal Fridman, Ariel Gorfung (CEO) and Shaul Yaakoby (CTO). The company has developed a two sided free piston linear engine (FPLE) which weighs only 10kg. The engine can be used as an onboard power generator in a vehicle or as a stand-alone electricity generator. It is a single linear piston that blasts to and fro inside a valveless 800cc cylinder, generating power from electromagnetic coils with each stroke and with very low emissions.

The new investment will allow the company to accelerate the development and marketing of its product.

"The energy world is undergoing a revolution over the past two decades," said chairman Gal Fridman. "The demand for non-polluting energy goes hand in hand with our vision and is slowly becoming a reality. TPR's investment and our strategic partnership with them is a big vote of confidence in our technology which brings change to an industry that hasn't seen much of it in many years."

This is **TPR group** first investment in Israel, Aquarius has previously gained investment from **Musashi Seimitsu**

TPR Co., Ltd. engages in the manufacture and sale of functional engine components. It operates through the TPR Group and Faltec Group segments. The TPR Group segment manufactures and sells piston rings, cylinder liners, valve seats, aluminum and industrial plastic products, and industrial rubber seals in Japan, Asia, North America, and other regions. The Faltec Group segment handles automotive parts, which includes roof rails, aero parts, radiator grilles, and related services such as automobile inspection and equipment maintenance. The company was founded on December 3, 1939 and is headquartered in Tokyo, Japan

CEVA's High-Performance DSP Solution to Power Renesas' Next-Generation Automotive SoC

ROCKVILLE, Md., Nov. 11, 2020 /PRNewswire/ -- CEVA, Inc. (NASDAQ: [CEVA](#)), the leading licensor of wireless connectivity and smart sensing technologies, today announced that Renesas has licensed a new, high-performance CEVA DSP to power its next-generation automotive System-on-Chip (SoC).

"We are honored that Renesas, a world leading automotive semiconductor supplier, has selected our leading-edge DSP solution for its next-generation automotive SoC," said Gideon Wertheizer, CEO of CEVA. "Automotive manufacturers are continually adopting more cameras, radars and other sensors throughout the car to ensure a safer and more automated driving experience. Our leading-edge DSPs along with our software framework and stringent safety support are set to play a pivotal role in deploying these complex systems."

"In active safety and self-driving applications, DSP processing is a key IP for processing and segmenting sensor data generated by sensors on vehicles," said Naoki Yoshida, Vice President

of the Automotive Digital Products Marketing Division at Renesas. "CEVA's automotive DSP solution helps us achieve the underlying processing capabilities required for the technological advances of our next-generation automotive SoC customers."

CEVA's DSP-based solutions for the automotive market target the most demanding sensor processing and AI workloads associated with automated driving and electrification. The NeuPro-S and SensPro products have been licensed by multiple automotive semiconductors and OEMs to power a variety of intelligent processors ranging from ADAS systems (Imaging, Driver Monitoring Systems, Intelligent Cameras, Radar, V2X Communications) battery management, and powertrain platforms. For automotive infotainment and in-cabin sensing, CEVA offers a range of sound, vision and sensor fusion hardware and software solutions that enhance the user experience and safety of occupants.

About CEVA, Inc.

CEVA is the leading licensor of wireless connectivity and smart sensing technologies. We offer Digital Signal Processors, AI processors, wireless platforms and complementary software for sensor fusion, image enhancement, computer vision, voice input and artificial intelligence, all of which are key enabling technologies for a smarter, connected world. We partner with semiconductor companies and OEMs worldwide to create power-efficient, intelligent and connected devices for a range of end markets, including mobile, consumer, automotive, robotics, industrial and IoT. Our ultra-low-power IPs include comprehensive DSP-based platforms for 5G baseband processing in mobile and infrastructure, advanced imaging and computer vision for any camera-enabled device and audio/voice/speech and ultra-low power always-on/sensing applications for multiple IoT markets. For sensor fusion, our Hillcrest Labs sensor processing technologies provide a broad range of sensor fusion software and IMU solutions for AR/VR, robotics, remote controls, and IoT. For artificial intelligence, we offer a family of AI processors capable of handling the complete gamut of neural network workloads, on-device. For wireless IoT, we offer the industry's most widely adopted IPs for Bluetooth (low energy and dual mode), Wi-Fi 4/5/6 (802.11n/ac/ax) and NB-IoT.

DENSO takes a stake in Envoy, an EV startup serving the commercial real estate industry's mobility needs

Through the investment, DENSO aims to create new revenue streams by offering the benefits of Mobility-as-a-Service to businesses

Investment allows DENSO to create new revenue streams, deliver the benefits of mobility-as-a-service to businesses

KARIYA, JAPAN, Nov 13, 2020 – (JCN Newswire) – DENSO, a leading mobility supplier, today announced it has taken a stake in Envoy Technologies, an electric vehicle (EV) startup based in Culver City, California, that offers mobility services to the commercial real estate (CRE) industry. Through the investment, DENSO aims to create new revenue streams by offering the benefits of Mobility-as-a-Service (MaaS) to businesses, helping them move employees, customers and things more efficiently and safely.

Founded in 2017 by real estate and tech entrepreneurs Aric Ohana and Ori Sagie, Envoy partners with CRE industry leaders to offer onsite mobility services like electric carsharing and EV charging for apartments, offices, and hotels. Envoy's Mobility as an Amenity service is a turn-key solution that includes technology to reserve and access vehicles, driver insurance, maintenance, and electric vehicle chargers. Even in the face of a global pandemic, the company has experienced record utilization amounting to more than 1.25 million electric miles driven. Envoy is currently available in 10 states and 14 markets in the U.S.

"Early on, we realized that the world's transition to electric mobility will significantly impact our built world. With investors like DENSO, along with others from commercial real estate, mobility, and energy, we are poised to accelerate that transition sustainably," said Aric Ohana, Envoy's co-founder and CEO

"DENSO's global reach and involvement in all things mobility will provide Envoy the ability to scale with its products and services, and standardize electric mobility as well as related energy solutions within communities around the world," added Ori Sagie, Envoy's co-founder and Executive Chairman.

By taking a stake in the company, DENSO will strengthen Envoy's ability to propose and implement mobility services, identify the requirements and functions of vehicles used in EV carsharing services, and create new business models that link commercial properties with mobility.

"As mobility needs change, DENSO continues to change along with them," said Yoshifumi Kato, a senior executive officer at DENSO Corporation. "Collaborating with Envoy allows us to combine our expertise in electrification and fleet management with their knowledge of commercial real estate, helping us both improve mobility for businesses so they can accomplish their goals more seamlessly."

DENSO has long been focused on the MaaS market, and it is a key part of the company's Second Founding, a strategic shift that has pushed DENSO into new mobility areas. In support of this, DENSO has actively built strategic partnerships in and outside Japan to meet the needs of an array of mobility providers. These have included taking stakes in MaaS Global, a Finland-based developer of Whim* the world's first full-fledged MaaS service, and Bond Mobility, which offers micromobility services in urban environments.

DENSO continues to seek additional partnerships and innovations in MaaS to help create transportation solutions that are safer, more secure and greener for all.

Foretellix teams up with Japanese automotive conglomerate Denso

The world's second-largest mobility supplier will use Foretellix's Foretify platform and the newly announced ADAS & Highway solution to advance safety in its new products

CTech13:0617.11.20

DENSO Corporation, the world's second-largest mobility supplier, has selected technology developed by Israeli startup Foretellix for its next-generation automated driving and ADAS (advanced driver-assistance systems) solutions.

Denso is a \$47.6 billion global mobility supplier that develops advanced technology and components for nearly every vehicle make and model on the road today.

The collaboration between the companies followed a successful Proof-of-Concept. Denso will use Foretellix's Foretify platform and the newly announced ADAS & Highway solution to advance safety in its new products. The Foretellix advanced coverage driven verification platform is also set to reduce both development costs and time-to-market for Denso's new ADAS and automated driving solutions.

"The Foretify platform allows for a significant reduction in cost of failure by identifying bugs, edge cases and unknowns early in the development cycle. Foretify reduces unnecessary recalls, as well as lowering the cost of testing by providing unparalleled productivity gains through automation. It also allows for a reduction in time to deployment of ADAS and automated driving functions by utilizing proven coverage driven methodologies," read the Foretellix press release.

The recently released ADAS and Highway solution provides an out-of-the-box library of scenarios, test suite and a reference verification plan designed to safely deploy current and future generation automated driving functions.

"DENSO considers the quality and safety of its ADAS and autonomous vehicles of the utmost importance," said Tasuku Hayakawa, Manager of DENSO AUTOMOTIVE Deutschland GmbH. "Following a successful pilot earlier this year, DENSO Germany decided to collaborate with Foretellix and to use the Foretify platform with a number of DENSO's ADAS solutions. We see the potential of Foretellix's intelligent verification platform to enable DENSO to ensure safety as we scale from ADAS solutions to advanced driving solutions."

"It's a privilege and an honor to work with DENSO Corporation, a leader in advanced driving systems," said Ziv Binyamini, CEO and co-founder of Foretellix. "We share a common vision on the importance of uncompromising quality and safety. We look forward to working together, combining the power of DENSO's scale and experience with Foretellix's coverage driven verification technology."

Denso's 200 facilities worldwide produce thermal, powertrain, mobility, electrification, and electronic systems, with the company employing over 170,000 people across the globe.

Macnica launches "BrainTech" initiative to accelerate social implementation of AI Providing Inner Eye solution from Israel

Macnica, Inc., a total service / solution provider for semiconductors, networks, cyber security, and AI / IoT (hereinafter referred to as Macnica, head office location: Yokohama City, Kanagawa Prefecture, President: Kazumasa Hara, capital 11,194 million yen) Has started the "BrainTech" initiative to accelerate the social implementation of AI, and is the solution of InnerEye Ltd. (hereinafter referred to as "**Inner Eye, Inc.**", Headquarters: Israel Herzliya CEO: Uriantoman"), which is the world leader in "BrainTech". Announced to provide. These two companies have signed this contract after exhibiting at an event sponsored by the embassy.

■ What is

Brain Tech? "Brain Tech" is a coined word that combines Brain and Technology, and refers to technologies and services based on brain science. It is a new initiative that connects things and the human brain, and is attracting attention as a technology that plays an important role in promoting social innovation and digital transformation. In 2013, former President Obama of the United States and former President Shimon Peres of Israel launched the project, and various results have been produced. Similarly, various brain science researches have been conducted in Japan, and the results of the researches have been announced as services.

■ About Inner Eye Solution Inner Eye's solution,

which provides an epoch-making "BrainTech" platform that allows AI to learn the judgment of a person based on the activity status of the person's brain, is EEG (It is possible to grasp the situation of brain activity through an electroencephalograph) and let AI learn human recognition and judgment in a short period of time

Inner Eye's technology is a combination of brain waves and AI, and by combining the human brain and AI, it can be generated in a short time even if there is not enough teacher data, and human knowledge, experience, cans, etc. Can be converted into data by the power of technology.

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He wants to accelerate the social implementation of AI with "BrainTech," which understands the activities of the human brain and utilizes that knowledge in business.

Tokyo's Hello Kitty Land employs use of Israeli technology to remain open

Leveraging artificial intelligence, signal processing and machine vision capabilities, the Binah.ai developed technology that can transform cameras into a vital signs monitoring tool.

By ZACHARY KEYSER

NOVEMBER 21, 2020 04:18 [Jerusalem Post](#) > [Israel News](#)

Hello Kitty Land in Tokyo, Japan will stay open amid the coronavirus with a little assistance from Israeli technology made by [Binah.ai solutions](#).

Tel Aviv start-up Binah.ai's main project revolves around a video-based health monitoring system using facial recognition software, which had began the early stages of its development months before the coronavirus outbreak.

However, along with the onset of the pandemic, Binah.ai decided to transition its development for use in preventing the spread of COVID-19 - as many other medical software and tech start-ups have also done as the world looks for new solutions to return to normalcy.

"The spread of the corona virus around the world has led to a sharp increase in demand for non-contact medical diagnostic technologies, with the aim of locating and preventing possible exposure to the coronavirus," said CEO of Japanese insurance giant **SOMPO Innovation Lab** Israel Yinon Dolev.

SOMPO will be employing Binah.ai's technology into use within the leisure and entertainment industries in Japan by motoring the health of workers amid the pandemic, hoping to filter entrances into the workplace, malls and even theme parks.

SOMPO developed an application using [Binah.ai's technology](#) named Health Checker, which allows smartphone users to check vital signs using photographs taken of a subject by the phone.

Leveraging artificial intelligence, signal processing and machine vision capabilities, the Binah.ai developed technology that can transform cameras into a vital signs monitoring tool, late last year.

The company's solution monitors an individual's heart rate within seven seconds, oxygen saturation within 10 seconds, respiration rate within 30 seconds, and heart rate variability within 45 seconds. Within 90 seconds, the app can also assess mental stress levels.

The technology, as explained by the company, relies on the simple and long-established optical technique of photoplethysmography, often used in pulse oximeters or "finger clips" to measure blood flow. Rather than shining a light beam into body tissue, the company's technology analyzes the reflection of light that returns to the camera from the cheeks.

The system has already been put into place at the Sanrio Puroland theme park, or Hello Kitty Land. It closed in February amid the initial coronavirus outbreak and subsequent spread, but reopened its gates once again in July.

The software at the moment is intended and used specifically for park employees to check themselves daily, SOMPO hopes to extend the software into widespread testing for park guests as well - then to parks, stadiums, etc. across Japan in the coming months.

"We are pleased to begin this collaboration at the Sanrio Puroland Amusement Park using Binah.ai technology, and believe that the collaboration will help the entertainment and leisure industry in Japan return to routine," said Dolev. "Beyond that, we are constantly working to expand our business portfolio and create collaborations with startups that offer smart and unique technologies in the fields of medical devices and cybersecurity, all with the aim of improving the services we provide to our millions of customers worldwide."

"The coronavirus crisis underscores the importance of using innovative technologies that help the medical world deal with the extreme and returning to routine," said CEO of Binah.ai David Maman. "We welcome the collaboration with SOMPO and believe that artificial intelligence has the power to create creative solutions that will help us lead a routine life in the shadow of the coronavirus."

December

EmendoBio Gene Editing Company Acquired by AnGes, Inc.

EmendoBio Inc | Dec 15, 2020

– EmendoBio to operate as an independent subsidiary of AnGes with full access to AnGes’ global development resources to accelerate development and manufacturing capabilities for EmendoBio’s dual OMNI™ genome editing technology platforms
– Acquisition significantly expands AnGes’ global leadership, broad capabilities in genetic medicine as well as its pipeline and platforms

NEW YORK, TEL AVIV and OSAKA – December 15, 2020 – EmendoBio Inc., a leader in next-generation novel nuclease discovery and gene editing technologies, today announced that AnGes, Inc., a commercial stage Japanese biopharmaceutical company focused on gene-based medicines, has completed the acquisition of EmendoBio at a valuation of US \$250 million. EmendoBio is now an independent wholly-owned subsidiary of AnGes, and will continue to maintain its business operations at its facilities in New York, NY and Tel Aviv, Israel. The acquisition was completed on December 15, 2020.

David Baram, Ph.D., President and Chief Executive Officer of EmendoBio, commented, “This transaction underscores the potential of EmendoBio’s novel technology platforms, the promise of our product candidates, and the value that our employees, strategic partners and founding investors, OrbiMed and Takeda Ventures, Inc. have created within the company. The alliance with AnGes brings new resources and synergies to our operations that will accelerate product development, partnerships and commercial opportunities in the years ahead.”

“We are extremely proud of the EmendoBio team and its work to develop proprietary technology platforms to enable high precision gene editing throughout the genome,” said Carl Gordon, Managing Partner and Co-Head of Global Private Equity at OrbiMed. “This alignment with AnGes builds on an already strong foundation to accelerate research and development of a broad therapeutic pipeline to address many devastating diseases.”

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Ei Yamada, President and CEO of AnGes, Inc., remarked, “The acquisition of EmendoBio represents a key step in AnGes’ strategy to focus on innovative medicines for diseases with high unmet medical needs by identifying unique combinations of genetic medicines and therapeutic modalities based on cutting edge science. This transaction positions AnGes to expand its pipeline and partnerships and introduce gene editing capabilities by leveraging EmendoBio’s proprietary platforms, team of seasoned scientists and researchers and its valued relationships with academic collaborators and scientific advisors.”

“This acquisition brings together innovation leaders in genetic medicine to both accelerate promising research and expand global reach to address significant areas of unmet need in healthcare,” said Rob Woodman, Ph.D., Senior Partner at Takeda Ventures, Inc. “As a founding investor of EmendoBio, we look forward to EmendoBio and AnGes achieving new levels of momentum in the years ahead.”

EmendoBio is pioneering its OMNI™ technologies, a next-generation novel nuclease discovery platform and a nuclease optimization platform that incorporates sophisticated protein engineering and directed evolution capabilities. EmendoBio is leveraging these platform technologies to expand opportunities in genome-editing based drug development, by engineering high precision editing, including allele-specific editing, while maintaining high efficiencies. EmendoBio’s unique approach transforms the landscape of genetic medicine by enabling previously undemonstrated levels of precision gene editing and target specific optimization to make any gene targetable, unlocking a way to treat a broad range of genetic diseases including many previously considered untreatable.

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP served as legal counsel to EmendoBio.

About EmendoBio

EmendoBio is a next generation CRISPR gene editing company leveraging dual proprietary technology platforms to enable high precision gene editing throughout the genome. EmendoBio’s novel nuclease discovery platform broadens the targetable range of the genome while its target-specific optimization platform enables highly precise editing, including allele specific editing, while maintaining high efficiencies. The capabilities of the OMNI technology platforms, along with deep expertise in genomic medicine, protein engineering and therapeutic development, provide EmendoBio with a unique advantage when addressing indications within hematology, oncology,

ophthalmology and other disease areas. For more information please visit us at www.emendobio.com.

About AnGes

AnGes, Inc., a biopharmaceutical company founded in December 1999 focuses on the development of gene-based medicines. In March 2019, AnGes obtained conditional and time-limited approval for its lead product, Collatogene® (Hepatocyte Growth Factor, HGF, plasmid gene therapy), for the treatment of Lower Limb Ischemic Ulcers. In September 2019, AnGes commenced the commercialization in Japan of Collatogene®. Collatogene® is the world's first marketed drug using Plasmid DNA. AnGes is currently focusing on the development of DNA vaccines for COVID-19 and Hypertension, Tie2 tyrosine kinase receptor agonist for COVID-19 treatment, and NF-κB decoy oligonucleotide for Chronic Discogenic Lumbar Back Pain. Furthermore, AnGes acquired EmendoBio to expand its capabilities in Genome Editing Technologies in December 2020.

KUBOTA INVEST IN AGRITECH COMPANY SEETREE SYSTEMS

Israel's SeeTree Systems has raised \$30 million in a series B funding round led by the **International Finance Corporation (IFC)**, the private-sector arm of the **World Bank Group**. Other investors in the round include **Orbia Ventures**, which owns 80% of the shares of Netafim (jointly with Kibbutz Hatzerim; **Citrosuco**, one of the world's largest orange juice producers; and **Kubota, a Japanese manufacturer specializing in tractor and agricultural equipment**. Existing investor Hanaco Ventures, which led the company's series A round, participated in the recent funding as well.

SeeTree's system identifies the health and growth rates of every tree in a farmer's grove and enables the creation of personalized cultivation plans for each tree or cluster of trees. SeeTree collects ultra-highresolution images captured by drones and multi-spectral sensors, tree and soil samples and analyzes the data through the platform's machine-learning algorithms. Ultimately farmers receive an easy-to-use product with features such as tree health, pest, and disease tracking.

About SeeTree

[SeeTree](#), a leading player in the agriculture tech space, was founded in September 2017 by former intelligence officers and serial entrepreneurs to bring technology disruption into the world of tree farming. The company's headquarters are in Tel Aviv with offices in California and Brazil,

and 120+ employees are comprised of global experts in artificial intelligence, operations, and agronomy. SeeTree offers farmers an end-to-end service to manage and optimize the health and productivity of their trees. SeeTree has raised over \$45 million from leading venture capital firms to take on the challenges that farmers continue to experience across the globe and was built from the ground up with the needs of farmers in mind.

Tatsuta Electric Wire & Cable Invest in Copprint Technologies Ltd.

TATSUTA Electric Wire and Cable Co., Ltd. (“TATSUTA”) based in Osaka, Japan, purchased Bridge Finance (a type of Convertible Bond) issued by Copprint Technologies Ltd. (“Copprint”), a leading ink startup based in Jerusalem, Israel.

TATSUTA’s “2025 Long-Term Vision,” a long-term management plan for the years 2017 to 2026, is to achieve net sales of 100 billion yen and operating income of 10 billion yen by the end of March, 2026, and this investment in Copprint is in line with this vision to exploit new business fields.

We have been investing in ACI’s Convertible Note since July 2020, so this is our second investment in a start-up company.

Copprint produces Nano Copper inks with excellent characteristics, such as high conductivity, snap sintering available based on copper nanoparticles manufacturing and formulation technologies as its core technology. The products are expected to be electric conductive material in the field of printed electronics.

Going forward, TATSUTA and Copprint will work together to contribute to Copprint’s growth through joint product development and marketing activities as strategic partners.

TATSUTA also aims to develop new technologies and products in the field of functional pastes by integrating with existing technologies and to build a collaborative relationship with Copprint for establishing a future joint base in Asia.

TATSUTA continues to focus on next generation technology and will invest and support promising startups for further growth.

Startup uses blockchain tech to track food products' journey from farm to store

BrandMark, a joint venture set up with Japanese blockchain expert EMURGO, wants consumers to gain insights into goods they buy by monitoring production, delivery processes

By [SHOSHANNA SOLOMON](https://www.timesofisrael.com/20/12/2020) <https://www.timesofisrael.com/20/12/2020>

Israeli-Japanese firm **Brandmark** is using blockchain technology to help food manufacturers showcase the source of their products and allow consumers to understand where the goods they buy came from and what processes they have undergone.

Blockchain technology is revolutionary in the high level of security it provides: it is a distributed ledger that enables the sharing of control over information between multiple organizations. Blockchain replicates the database identically across all participating stations, and thus verifies one truth across the entire network. If one node on the network reports something else, the other nodes will not accept this difference, flagging a discrepancy. Bitcoin — often associated with blockchain — is one implementation of blockchain in the field of currency, but there are many uses for the technology.

Brandmark, which is a joint venture between Israel's Blackbird Ventures and Japan's blockchain technology firm EMURGO Ltd., is now using this technology to increase transparency for consumers — revealing to them via the simple scanning of a barcode the journey products have made from the field or manufacturer to the store shelf.

The platform helps customers “tell their story in a different manner,” said Michael Bar-Zeev, Brandmark's VP of business development. Instead of just stating how the product was made and its origins, producers can provide consumers with “factual proof” about how the product reached the point of sale — from the farm to the processing plant and the distributor.

All these details will be on the product's barcode, which can be scanned by smartphone.

As supply chains nowadays are global, transparency and traceability — the ability to trace the history, distribution and location of products and services — is key. Environmental and social concerns have put the spotlight on global conglomerates regarding how their products are made: the levels of emissions in the manufacturing process, sustainability efforts, the possible use of

child labor. Producers can back up claims for their products by showing ingredient sourcing, certification labeling data and quality assurance procedures,

“We can help them show the world the good work they did: their level of social responsibility, fair trade, environmental concern, waste and emissions,” said Bar-Zeev. “We can give them the full picture.”

“Where demand is high and urgency is high, that is where we will be,” Bar-Zeev said. More and more industries are “understanding the great need” to tell the story of their product’s origin and using it as a marketing tool.

Indonesian coffee producers, olive oil producers and Israeli cosmetics firm Ahava are among Brandmark’s customers, as is McDonald’s, to trace the vegetables used in its stores. The company is in talks with Nestlé S.A., Burger King, Angel Bakeries and Cannabis Hydroshop, it said.

How does it work? Farmers get equipped with computers and they input information about the crop, what conditions it was grown in, and when it was harvested. At each stage of the product’s journey, from field to distributor to store shelf, each partner in the process provides input about the product.

The coffee traceability platform, for example, connects all the data in the supply chain, starting at the coffee bean farm and covering the different processes the coffee beans undergo, through the roasting process, until they arrive at the customer’s home. Coffee producers will be able to provide this information to the consumer, who simply scans the barcode or clicks on a link sent by text message. The app will provide details including the item’s quality, origins, conditions, freshness, and expiration date.

“Anyone can always cheat, of course,” said Bar-Zeev. But because there are so many players in the chain — each independent of the another and each reporting their own bit of information — the chances of someone being able to cheat are lower, he said. The firm also deploys or works with partners to deploy hardware such as cameras, sensors, thermometers, DNA tests and satellite imagery to gather proof of the processes along the line.

Bar-Zeev, Gilad Waksman and real estate entrepreneur Daniel Rosenfeld are the co-founders of Blackbird Ventures, which set up Brandmark as a joint venture with Emurgo in August.

Brandmark currently provides the platform to a number of Indonesian coffee producers, and is in talks with large food companies, including Nestlé S.A., Burger King, Angel Bakeries and Cannabis Hydroshop, the company said.

Tech giants such as IBM and other firms also use blockchain to help track the origins of products. The IBM Food Trust platform, for example, offers “end-to-end product traceability,” where authorized users can “find and trace the path of their organization’s food product instances along the supply chain.”

The advantage of Brandmark, said Bar-Zeev, is its strong blockchain roots and its sole focus on the platform. “We come from blockchain,” he said. “We have the advantage that we come from the field and are not just entering the field.”

Either way, he said, competition is good. “There is so much work, there is no single body that can deal with this amount of work.”

EMURGO has offices and manages projects in Singapore, Japan, the US, India, and Indonesia.

Israeli Air Purifier Could Bring Japan’s Karaoke Industry Back to Life

MAYA MARGIT 12/23/2020

Aura Air signs \$30 million deal to supply Japanese market with air purifying system, which has proven to be 99.99% effective in killing COVID-19

An air filtration and disinfection system developed in Israel that kills viruses could bring Japan’s ailing karaoke industry back to life.

Tel Aviv-based startup Aura Air has signed a \$30 million deal with Japanese distributor **J-TEC** to supply the Japanese market with its advanced technology, which is specially designed to purify air in closed spaces. The company’s system has proven to be 99.99% effective at eliminating COVID-19 particles, among other pathogens.

Oren Eliyasov, business development director at Aura Air, told The Media Line that the agreement with J-TEC **includes the Japan Karaoke Box Association** and other major clients in Japan, such as SMBC Trust Bank and JTB Corporation, one of the largest travel agencies in the country.

“The karaoke association says that there are 100,000 [karaoke] rooms all over Japan,” Eliyasov said. “Currently, most of them are closed due to the coronavirus pandemic.”

Karaoke, which means “empty orchestra” in Japanese, was developed in the Land of the Rising Sun in the 1970s and quickly spread around the world as a popular form of entertainment. In Japan, it has long been a favorite outing for groups of friends and families.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, however, many karaoke bars in the country have reduced operations or shut down entirely as the industry struggles to stay alive. Karaoke nights generally take place in small crowded rooms, an ideal setting for spreading the novel coronavirus.

Aura Air’s device monitors air quality 24/7 and constantly purifies it, Eliyasov said.

“Basically, we found out that we’re capable of reducing the coronavirus by 99.99%, which gives a lot of confidence to clients and those who would come and sing in the karaoke rooms,” he explained.

Aura Air uses a combination of four filters to completely change the air in a standard-sized room every 2.5 hours. It has a pre-filter to catch large particles and dust, a patented multilayered HEPA filter that includes a carbon-infused fabric, UVC LED lighting to neutralize bacteria and viruses, and a Sterionizer device that produces positive and negative ions to purify air.

Founded more than three years ago, the startup recently completed a month-long pilot of its system in Sheba Medical Center at Tel Hashomer in Israel, and also installed its technology in the reception halls of the King of Spain’s Zarzuela Palace.

According to Aviad Shnaiderman, co-founder and CEO of Aura Air, the system is already in use in more than 50 countries, in their hospitals, clinics, educational institutions and public transportation.

“We conducted several clinical tests in hospitals, labs and in universities in Israel,” Shnaiderman told The Media Line. “We proved that we are able to destroy a lot of viruses, bacteria and fungi.”

The COVID-19 pandemic has helped to accelerate Aura Air’s sales worldwide.

“The coronavirus helped us to educate and raise awareness of indoor air quality,” he said. “It did a fast-forward for everything that we believe in and that we claim.”

What distinguishes the company’s system from others on the market, Shnaiderman added, is that it provides a measurement of pollutants in real-time and that it uses a unique process to filter and disinfect the air.

“It’s an IoT (internet of things) product for smart homes and smart buildings,” he said, explaining: “It connects to the internet, mobile phones and other smart devices and applications.”

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