



Israel-Japan Yearly Insight Report

2023

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President

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Israel – Japan January 2023

Japan seeks Israel cooperation on two-state solution.

January 20, 2023 at 1:41 pm

On January 20th, commencing at 5:40 PM for 15 minutes, Mr. HAYASHI Yoshimasa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, held a telephone talk with H.E. Mr. Eli COHEN, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel. The overview is as follows:

At the outset, Minister Hayashi extended his congratulations on Minister Cohen's assumption and mentioned that it is very encouraging that Minister Cohen, who is familiar with Japan, has been appointed as the Israeli Foreign Minister. In response, Minister Cohen expressed his appreciation

Expressing concern over recent unilateral measures in Palestinian Territory, Japan on Friday sought cooperation from Israel in reaching a two-state solution,

"Japan is concerned about recent unilateral measures resulting in the escalation of tensions," Japanese Foreign Minister, Hayashi Yoshimasa, told his Israeli counterpart, Eli Cohen, in a phone conversation today.

Yoshimasa explained Tokyo's approach of assisting Palestinians "in order to achieve a two-state solution."

Yoshimasa "asked for the cooperation of Israel," said a statement from Japan's Foreign Ministry.

Cohen, the statement added, "stated that Israel respects the status quo with regard to holy sites."

The two sides also discussed situations in Ukraine and East Asia, with Yoshimasa saying Tokyo "would like to strengthen cooperation with Israel" while touching upon "the importance of maintaining and strengthening the free and open international order based on the rule of law."



Fintech co PayEm raises \$20m, and \$200m in credit. Mitsubishi financial Group lead the round.

24 Jan, 2023 [Globes correspondent](#)

PayEm has developed an “all-in-one” spend and procurement management platform offering smart procurement solutions, AP automation, expense reimbursement and smart credit cards.

Israeli spend and procurement management platform **PayEm** announced today the completion of a \$20 million Series A financing round, and \$200 million in credit financing from **Viola Credit, Mitsubishi Financial Group, Collaborative Fund and others.**

With offices in Tel Aviv and San Francisco, PayEm was founded by CEO Itamar Jobani and CTO Omer Rimoch.

Jobani said, "This is a significant milestone in the company's growth. Our new warehouse credit facility allows us to scale our credit cards operation and support larger customers with our fast-growing payments platform. In addition, the new equity funding will enable us to continue building our platform. With the current macroeconomic conditions, it's never been more important for companies to have an efficient and clear lens into their financial health. We're pleased to be that single source of truth for them as they may navigate turbulent times and supply chain issues, and simply need to do more with less."

PayEm has developed an "all-in-one" platform offering smart procurement solutions, AP automation, expense reimbursement and smart credit cards. PayEm focuses on mid-market companies that are struggling to balance between improving their financial oversight while enabling employees to do their work easier and faster, providing them the tools to request and execute their spending. PayEm is helping those companies by offering easy to use procurement workflows combined with world class payments and spend management capabilities. PayEm also has unique features such as supporting multinational entities and cross border payments.



ANA Cargo to add capacity to WebCargo.

15 / 12 / 2022 By Damian Brett

Japan's largest cargo carrier ANA Cargo will add its capacity to online booking portal WebCargo early next year as the platform continues to expand its presence in Asia.

WebCargo said that the launch is scheduled for the first quarter of 2023 and would give its forwarder users access ANA Cargo's capacity offering on a fleet of over 200 aircraft across many of the airline's 130 routes across five continents.

Kenichi Wakiya, executive vice president of ANA Cargo, said: "ANA Cargo continues to improve customer experience with the implementation of digital technology.

"The expansion of our e-booking network through Webcargo's platform is a large step that moves us forward to this goal."

The carrier also offers **its capacity through the cargo.one booking portal.**

ANA is the second carrier from the Asia region that WebCargo has announced in recent weeks.

At the start of December, the platform announced that **China Southern Air Logistics** will **become the first Chinese carrier** to offer China import bookings on the WebCargo platform.

Meanwhile, earlier this week 7LFreight, which is a WebCargo owned North American rate management and quoting platform, announced the addition of Less-Than-Truckload (LTL) capabilities to its platform in addition to air cargo.

Founded in 2012, Jerusalem based Freightos is the online marketplace for international sea and air freight. It operates a platform that allows exporters and importers to compare shipping rates between suppliers in the world trade arena.



NTT's Innovation Lab in Israel brings local innovation to Japan.

Daily Tzipi 03/01/2023

NTT **Innovation** Laboratory Israel, in collaboration with the economic representative office of the Ministry of **Economy and Industry** in Japan, held an exclusive exposure event this week, attended by 23 Israeli companies.

The event, which took place in Tokyo, was attended by about 100 people from 17 companies from the NTT Group, who came to hear about the State of Israel, the technological ecosystem in Israel, the activities of the NTT Israel Innovation Center, and the activities of the Israeli startups. The event included presentations by all Israeli companies, pre-coordinated B2B meetings and business networking.

Among the companies that were presented at the event were: **Risquipide, Amdocs, Live-U, Cyclo, Spark-Beyond, Seablum, Ultrared, Iron Skyles, WSC Sports**, and others.

Noa Asher, CEO of NTT Israel's Innovation Lab: "NTT Israel's Innovation Lab was established to promote and find Israeli startups for collaborations and investments. The event is an exceptional opportunity for NTT's representatives to get acquainted with the Israeli ecosystem and the technological capabilities that exist in Israel, as well as to establish possible collaborations with Israeli start-ups."

Daniel Kolber, Economic Axis of the Ministry of Economy and Industry in Japan: "The economic representative office of the Ministry of Economy and Industry in Japan serves as the gateway for Israeli companies to the Japanese market. We are delighted to have the opportunity to collaborate with NTT's Innovation Lab in Israel, and together create exposure and business opportunities for Israeli companies."

NTT's Innovation Lab in Israel operates under the holding company of the entire NTT **Group** (Japan's telecom company that operates in more than 80 markets around the world and is considered one of the top five IT companies in the world) to integrate Israeli technologies into services and products developed by NTT, as well as to locate products and technologies that can be distributed and marketed to NTT customers around the world. The



Innovation Lab is managed by Asher, With a focus on cybersecurity, digital health, artificial intelligence and robotics.

Waterfall Security Announces Cybersecurity Collaboration with Yokogawa

Waterfall Team January 10, 2023

Rosh Ha'Ayin, Israel – January 10, 2023 – Waterfall Security Solutions, the leader in OT cybersecurity, is pleased to announce a collaboration agreement with Yokogawa Electric Corporation, a leading provider of industrial automation and test and measurement solutions. This new collaboration will make Waterfall's industry-leading Unidirectional Gateway cybersecurity products and technologies available to Yokogawa's customers globally. In a world where cyber threats to industrial operations continue to become more powerful and more pervasive, making unidirectional protections available more widely will dramatically improve industrial security programs and preparedness.

“Operational and technical reliability is a key focus at Yokogawa. Our collaboration with Waterfall will improve the security posture of Yokogawa customers and will enable better protection of critical industrial infrastructures from targeted ransomware and nation-state attacks,” said **Iijima Katsunori, General Manager of Cyber Security Management at Yokogawa Electric**. “Yokogawa is proud and excited to support this initiative with Waterfall to better serve the security needs of our joint customers.”

“Our global collaboration with Yokogawa is driven by a shared commitment to secure critical infrastructures around the world,” said **Lior Frenkel, CEO and Co-Founder at Waterfall**.

“Waterfall and Yokogawa have been aligned globally for many years. Together, we bring to our mutual customers strong unidirectional protections to meet modern cybersecurity challenges. We look forward to continuing our close cooperation in the years ahead.”

Waterfall's Unidirectional Gateways and related products are proven to integrate easily and reliably with Yokogawa products, both in Yokogawa laboratories and in the field. Existing customers already benefit from Waterfall installations that support Yokogawa platforms, including Exaopc, Exaquantum, and CI Server.



With the new agreement in place, Waterfall and Yokogawa will be working on joint commercial engagements and bundles to their mutual end-customers. Additionally, they will work hand in hand on on-going technical validations in the Yokogawa laboratory environment. The two will also share in marketing activities and events showcasing the two technologies.

In an increasingly digitized world, strong cyber defenses speed the development and adoption of technological innovations. Strong unidirectional security also enables and simplifies Yokogawa's customers' compliance with industrial cybersecurity best practices world-wide, including IEC 62443, France's ANSSI, NERC CIP, the IIoT Security Framework, CENELEC TS 50701, and many more. The new Waterfall Security and Yokogawa collaboration agreement makes all these benefits available to Yokogawa customers world-wide.

About Waterfall Security Solutions

Waterfall Security Solutions' unbreachable OT cybersecurity technologies keep the world running. For more than 15 years, the most important industries and infrastructure have trusted Waterfall to guarantee safe, secure and reliable operations. The company's growing list of global customers includes national infrastructures, power plants, nuclear generators, onshore and offshore oil and gas facilities, refineries, manufacturing plants, utility companies, and more. Waterfall's patented Unidirectional Gateways and other evolutionary products combine the benefits of impenetrable hardware with unlimited software-based connectivity, enabling 100% safe visibility into industrial operations and automation systems.

About Yokogawa

Yokogawa provides advanced solutions in the areas of measurement, control, and information to customers across a broad range of industries, including energy, chemicals, materials, pharmaceuticals, and food. Yokogawa addresses customer issues regarding the optimization of production, assets, and the supply chain with the effective application of digital technologies, enabling the transition to autonomous operations. Founded in Tokyo in 1915, Yokogawa continues to work toward a sustainable society through its 17,000+ employees in a global network of 122 companies spanning 61 countries. For more information, visit the Yokogawa [website](#).

Teleoperation startup Otopia nets \$14.5 million Series A

In Ventures (Sumitomo) Makes Follow-up investment. The Israeli startup's teleoperation software can remotely assist, guide, and even safely control fleets of autonomous vehicles and machines.

Meir Orbach 10.01.23

Israeli startup Otopia announced on Tuesday that it has raised \$14.5 million in its Series A funding round. The round included participation from ComfortDelGro, one of the world's biggest public transport companies, AI Alliance Fund, and existing investors such as MizMaa Ventures, IN Venture, and Next Gear Ventures.

Otopia was founded in 2018 by CEO Amit Rosenzweig with the aim of enabling autonomy in multiple industries such as mobility, logistics, freight, last-mile delivery, agriculture, and construction. The company's teleoperation software can remotely assist, guide, and even safely control fleets of autonomous vehicles and machines.

NTT Data selects Israeli company for 1st project of its new Global Automotive Security Test Center

[Mandi Kogosowski](#) | 24/01/2023

Japanese multinational IT giant NTT Data Corporation has selected C2A Security, an Israeli developer of an automotive-grade DevSecOps platform, for the first project of its new Global Automotive Security Test Center. C2A Security will collaborate with Marelli, a top automotive sector supplier.

The solution will be presented at an NTT Israel event, which will take place during the Cybertech Global TLV conference next week in Tel Aviv.



C2A Security's selection was facilitated by [NTT Innovation Laboratory Israel](#) (NTT Israel), which works to integrate Israeli technologies into the services and products developed by NTT, locate products that can be distributed and marketed to NTT's customers worldwide, and find business collaborations and investment opportunities in Israeli companies.

Launched in Italy, the center will deliver security tests on connected cars to secure and protect the systems of such vehicles from cyberattacks for clients in all 50+ countries where the group operates.

"We want to apply our expertise in cybersecurity to the connected car sector," said Marco Garelli, Head of Automotive at NTT DATA Italy. "Thanks to our Global Automotive Security Test Center, NTT DATA will be an international reference point to protect connected cars from cyber-attacks and ensure the drivers' safety."

In line with the new Automotive Cybersecurity European regulations, the test center offers innovative solutions to protect connected vehicles against cyberattacks, and will be able to respond to the ever-changing cyber threat landscape.

The solution involves the automatic generation of "System Level Fuzz Testing," a technology aimed at uncovering bugs and vulnerabilities for car ECU software. According to NTT, the project covers anomaly detection of communication between ECUs and showcases innovation with artificial intelligence algorithms that can identify any attacks in progress and send alerts to a control center.

"NTT DATA is a strong partner that trusts our holistic approach to protect connected vehicles as the right solution for their new global test center," said Roy Fridman, C2A Security's CEO. "We're thrilled to offer NTT customers a seamless and automated system-level validation tool in order to find ahead of time critical bugs and vulnerabilities."

"The NTT Israel Innovation Lab was established to promote and find Israeli startups for collaborations and investments," said Noa Asher, CEO of the NTT Israel Innovation Lab. "This project is an extraordinary opportunity for NTT Data to become a leading service provider in the connected cars arena based on an Israeli technology."

NTT Israel focuses on the fields of cyber security, digital health, artificial intelligence and robotics. Its core goal is to integrate Israeli technologies into the services and products developed by NTT,

as well as to identify products and technologies that can be distributed and marketed to the group's customers worldwide.

7-Eleven opens first convenience store in Israel

As the first of many locations planned, the retailer has established its first foray in the country at the Dizengoff Center Mall in Tel Aviv.

January 12, 2023 www.petroplaza.com/news/31787

Israel has welcomed its first 7-Eleven store located in Tel Aviv, at the Dizengoff Center Mall. Electra Consumer Products Ltd., Master Franchisee of 7-Eleven International – **the joint-venture of 7-Eleven, Inc. and Seven-Eleven Japan – established** the site in the country's second largest city and largest metropolitan area.

The single-story Tel Aviv store will feature the brand's signature retail environment and serve a variety of international products and beverages. These include bean-to-cup coffee, Slurpee and Big Gulp drinks, as well as local delicacies created to appeal to the surrounding neighborhood.

"Our entrance into the country brings Israeli customers a one-stop-shop solution with quality fresh food and convenience needs, via a store format not currently prevalent in the market. We are excited to provide citizens and tourists alike with world-class convenience," said Ken Wakabayashi, Co-CEO of 7-Eleven International.

Customers can enjoy a selection of fresh kosher foods developed specifically for Israeli taste preferences. Offerings include fresh sandwiches, traditional salads, legume salads, and sausages with locally sourced sauces and toppings. The store will also feature a variety of local hot food products such as Zaatar Pita, Kube and Fatayer.

7-Eleven's entrance to Israel accompanies the signing of a 20-year master franchise agreement last year between 7IN and Electra Consumer Products to develop and operate branded stores in Israel. Under its agreement with 7IN, Electra intends to expand 7-Eleven stores over the next five to six years throughout Israel, starting with the Tel Aviv metropolitan area.



Cyabra Supports SNS analysis and information work Israeli companies enter Japan.

[The Nikkei Business Daily](#) January 12, 2023

Israeli startup Cyabra that analyzes SNS (social networking site) will enter the Japan. We have developed AI (artificial intelligence) that analyzes posts in Japanese. The company has several government agencies, including the U.S. State Department, as its clients, and has been working on "cognitive warfare" measures to change mental states and behaviors through information operations and cyberattacks. As the US-China confrontation over Taiwan intensifies, the threat of cognitive warfare will increase in Japan as well.

The tools provided by Cyabra have a collection and analysis function for posts containing specific topics. Two AIs are involved in the analysis.

One is to reveal an automatic program "bot" from the account activity history and an organization "troll farm" for the purpose of information manipulation. In a lawsuit filed by U.S. entrepreneur Elon Musk before his acquisition of Twitter, Musk asked him to publish the results of a survey on the percentage of bots in Twitter.

Another AI uses natural language analysis to automatically determine whether a post is negative or positive. Until now, the service was mainly provided in Western languages such as English and French, but now it is possible to analyze sentiment in Japanese. Hundreds of thousands of conversations on SNS were analyzed by about 10 Japanese speakers and loaded into the AI as training data.

Chief Executive Dan Brahmy said, "For example, we can analyze 10 million propaganda posts, track down dozens of accounts from which they spread, and then ask social media to delete their accounts."

In August ~ September 2022, Cyabra conducted a trial analysis in Japanese to coincide with the visit of then-US House Speaker Pelosi. Thousands of accounts have spread claims that the U.S. supports "one China," which Taiwan considers part of China, and that Pelosi's visit harms U.S. interests, 10 percent of which were bots or other fraudulent accounts.

In July '22, the company signed an Japan agency agreement with security firm **Terilogy Works**. Usage fees vary depending on search volume and the level of support of Cyabra analysts.



"Japan is in a very important geopolitical position, and there is no doubt that the recognition war will escalate in the future," Brahmy said.

The company has dozens of customers around the world, including private companies such as Warner Bros. Discovery, a media company. In Warner's case, he uses it to analyze accounts that unfairly criticize new movie crew and actors.

Software updates, from - NTT DATA and Aurora Labs in a first-of-its-kind collaboration. enables efficiency increases of up to 25 times.

January 18, 2023 NTT DATA Corporation

Munich | Bad Homburg | Tel Aviv, 17. January 2023 – [NTT DATA](#), a global digital business and IT services leader, and [Aurora Labs](#), an automotive artificial intelligence (AI) company, today announced their global strategic cooperation in the Automotive Industry, with first joint projects in production and logistics. Companies benefit from intelligent combination of AI technology and 5G for scalable and agile over-the-air (OTA) software updates with superior efficiency and end-to-end security including the 5G transport layer.

NTT DATA and Aurora Labs' intelligent 5G over-the-air update is based on a self-learning artificial intelligence (AI) technology by Aurora Labs and built-in self-optimization. With the combination of AI, which significantly reduces the amount of data that needs to be transmitted, and 5G connectivity, a 25-fold increase in efficiency is achievable and updates of 5000 nodes (cars) per radio cell are possible compared to 1000 end nodes in 4G networks. These revolutionary services help reduce time and cost while also lowering kW/Bit to deliver on our joint commitment to sustainability.

Public 5G networks are currently rolled out in area-wide. To supplement this, companies can now build their own 5G network that can be restricted to a dedicated building, factory or lot, providing independent 5G that only authorised subscribers are able to connect to. Private 5G networks provide advanced reliability: uninterrupted connectivity, low latency and high bandwidth. The combination of a self-contained network with software update files created by Aurora Labs' proprietary, non-open-source algorithms results in unparalleled security. Built for evolution and



scalability, NTT DATA's solutions are designed to grow with the client's demand - achieving continuously increasing speeds and coverage to meet the customer's over-the-air update needs without increasing the cost of hardware such as antennae, base stations or device memory.

Aurora Labs' AI-based Vehicle Software Intelligence (VSI) solutions are being used by global automotive and device manufacturers to continuously collect actionable data and obtain a deep understanding of the changes made to the vehicle's software. Integrating the VSI solution early into the software development lifecycle streamlines the development process and creates the industry's smallest update files. Aurora Labs' AI-based Vehicle Software Intelligence offers significant economic benefits to the auto industry with a clear cost-effective value proposition, saving up to 98% of device hardware and data transmission costs for software updates.

"The key to meeting society's future mobility needs is to provide the automotive industry with highly efficient, reliable and secure solutions. Through our partnership with Aurora Labs, we combine technological innovation with our industry expertise to meet users' needs for better quality of service in a safe and sustainable way", said Stefan Hansen CEO and Chairman of the Management Board NTT DATA DACH.

"Distributing updates to thousands of vehicles quickly, securely, and reliably via wireless connections is far from trivial, especially as data volumes continue to grow. The AI capabilities of Aurora Labs, the industry experience and the 5G expertise of NTT DATA. have resulted in a solution that scale for future growth," said Kai Grunwitz, CEO NTT Ltd. Germany.

"Current OTA update solutions cannot support the data required to manage the software lifecycle of Infotainment (IVI) and ADAS systems. OTA is crucial after the first launch of new vehicles to stabilize the software during the first 12 months. The capability to iterate fast requires data size efficiency and robust networks. We believe that partnering with NTT DATA. is a game changer for addressing software agility in development, production and on the road," said Zohar Fox, CEO of Aurora Labs.

"Through this strategic cooperation we will continue to innovate, accelerating the means of doing business while supporting our clients in tackling the intricacies of delivering seamless and connected vehicle experience," said Noriyuki Kaya, Chief Digital Assets Officer (CDAO) of NTT DATA Inc.

About NTT Ltd.

As part of NTT DATA, a USD 30 billion IT services provider, NTT Ltd. is a leading IT infrastructure and services company serving 65% of the Fortune Global 500 and more than 75%

of the Fortune Global 100. We lay the foundation for organizations' edge-to-cloud networking ecosystem, simplify the complexity of their workloads across multi-cloud environments, and innovate at the edge of their IT environments where networks, cloud and applications converge. We offer tailored infrastructure and ensure consistent best practices in design and operations across all of our secure, scalable and customizable data centers. On the journey towards a software-defined future, we support organizations with our platform-delivered infrastructure services. We enable a connected future.

About Aurora Labs

Aurora Labs is pioneering the use of AI and Software Intelligence to solve the challenge of automotive software development. Aurora Labs brings AI-based Vehicle Software Intelligence to the entire lifecycle of a vehicle from software development to testing, integration, quality control, continuous certification and on-the-road over-the-air software updates. Aurora Labs focuses on the embedded systems that are key to the development of the software-defined vehicle and enables automotive manufacturers to more efficiently manage software costs and the resources required to develop and manage new vehicle features and mobility services.

The Company's products have been adopted on customer platforms around the world, and with a commitment to conform and meet ISO-26262/ASIL-D and ASPICE-L2, will be in vehicles in coming car models. Aurora Labs, founded in 2016, has raised approximately \$100m and has been granted 93 patents. The Company is headquartered in Tel Aviv, Israel, with offices in Germany, Japan, Sweden, North Macedonia, the UK, and the US.

Cybertech Global 2023: Japanese ambassador to Israel discusses increasing cooperation.

A special event titled “NTT – Your Gateway to Japan and the World” took place at Cybertech Global 2023

[Mandi Kogosowski](#) | 31/01/2023

Japan enthusiasts gathered for a special event at Cybertech Global 2023, titled “NTT – Your Gateway to Japan and the World,” powered by NTT.

The Ambassador of Japan to Israel, H.E. Mizushima Koichi, expressed his joy in seeing the enthusiasm and cooperation between Israel and Japan. “I believe that this year, the year of the rabbit, will be another great year to our business relations, with the contribution of many active actors like NTT,” said the ambassador.

The ambassador said that 2022 will be remembered as Japan’s breakthrough year, referring to its new national security strategy adopted in December, and said he believes it will open the door to even more cooperation with Israel, especially in the field of cyber security.

“I have no doubt that more and more Japanese companies will start to work with their counterparts in Israel, and vice-versa,” concluded the ambassador.

Noa Asher, CEO of the NTT Innovation Lab Israel, noted at the top of the event that the corporation invests \$3.6 billion dollars a year in R&D. “It’s a very innovative company always looking to expand, and this is why Israel is such an important place to work with.

“Israel-Japan economic revolution started about a decade ago. Before 2014 there was limited investment, a small number of joint ventures. About 100 Japanese invested in Israel in the past year,” added Asher, who has headed the Innovation Lab since its establishment in July 2021.

Kazu Yozawa, CEO of NTT Security Holdings, provided an overview of the company’s structure and goals. “The mission of NTT holdings “is to work as one team, continuously developing and utilizing innovative methodologies and automation tech, providing trusted cyber intelligence to protect NTT Group, our clients and the global community.”

Regarding Israeli startups, Yozawa said that “We want to collaborate with startups that have the latest technology services and intelligence, mainly in the following three areas: support of people and operations – unknown threat detection, for example, evolving industrial structure - healthcare, connected world and more; and new standard - active defense, supply chain management, national security, etc.)

Yozawa also talked about NTT’s expansion into space, and the wish to develop a space data center. “I don’t know yet what we could produce and process, but it will be very interesting,” he said.

Teachers from Gaza Strip Observe Peace Education Classes in Hiroshima

Nhk 18/01/2023

Teachers from the conflict-ravaged Gaza Strip have visited an elementary school in the atomic-bombed city of Hiroshima to observe a peace education class.

Seven Palestinian teachers are currently in Japan at the invitation of the Japanese Foreign Ministry to learn about peace education. They visited Tenma Elementary School in Hiroshima on Wednesday.

In the class, fifth graders presented their views on stories of atomic-bomb survivors told by their teacher.

The students were told that one of the survivors lost her family in the bombing. She avoided family photos thereafter because she had taken one with her family shortly before the bombing.

The Palestinian teachers listened intently while taking notes.

They then spoke about their own experiences in Gaza. The teachers told the Japanese students that schools are destroyed, and children are killed in Israel's attacks on Gaza, but they manage to keep classes going.

One of the students says he was impressed with how children in Gaza continue their studies despite such tragic experiences.

One of the Palestinian teachers, Ola Alaila, says the way the class was held was as if someone was conducting a symphony orchestra. She adds that when she returns to Gaza, she would like to ask her students about their thoughts on peace.

The Gaza Strip has been under an economic blockade by Israel. Repeated clashes between Israel's armed forces and the Palestinian Islamic group Hamas, which effectively controls the area, have resulted in many casualties of civilians and others.



Young Palestinians and Israelis invited to Japan by Foreign Ministry

ARAB NEWS JAPAN January 30, 2023 21:49

Four Israelis and four Palestinians were invited to Japan as part of Japan's efforts to realize a "two-state solution."

TOKYO: Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs is hosting a group of Palestinians and Israelis as part of the 2022 Israeli-Palestinian Joint Youth Invitation Program.

Four Israelis and four Palestinians were invited to Japan as part of Japan's efforts to realize a "two-state solution" by establishing a future "Palestinian state" alongside Israel.

The program with the youths "aims to provide a forum for building mutual trust and deepen understanding of Japan's efforts toward peace in the Middle East, foreign policy, economy and culture."

The invitation program is now in its 23rd year and more than 220 people have been invited from Israel and Palestine.

During their stay, the delegation will visit the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, exchange opinions with the students, and tour Tokyo and local cities, including Kyoto and Hiroshima



Israel – Japan February 2023

Israel, Japan agree to deepen economic, security ties.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spoke on Monday with his Japanese counterpart Fumio Kishida.

(February 13, 2023 / JNS) Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spoke on Monday with his Japanese counterpart Fumio Kishida, who extended condolences for last week's [murder](#) of three people by a terrorist in Jerusalem.

The two leaders discussed the importance of advancing bilateral relations, in particular by deepening economic and security ties.

Netanyahu and Kishida also paid tribute to this year's [70th anniversary](#) of the establishment of diplomatic relations between their countries.

The Israeli premier invited Kishida to visit Israel.

Jerusalem and Tokyo agreed in November to move towards signing a [free trade agreement](#), which then-Prime Minister Yair Lapid said would entail “discounts for products and goods from Japan for the benefit of the Israeli market and increasing Israeli exports to Japan, the third-largest economy in the world.”

The last FTA Israel signed was its first with an Asian country. On Sept. 27, it ratified a free trade agreement with [South Korea](#).

Then-Israeli Minister of Defense Benny Gantz and Japanese Minister of Defense Yasukazu Hamada [signed](#) a “Memorandum for Defense Cooperation” at the Japanese Ministry of Defense in August.

The following month, Tokyo [announced](#) plans to deploy Israeli- and U.S.-made attack drones in 2023 to defend isolated islands. The American-made Switchblade and the Israel Aerospace Industries' Harop drone are expected to be deployed.



Japanese investments in Israel in 2022 amounted to \$1.558 billion.

A significant decrease from the peak investments in 2021, Japanese investment accounts for 12.8% of foreign investment and 10% of all investments in Israeli high-tech

Japanese investments in Israel totaled \$1.558 billion in 2022 compared to \$2.945 billion in 2021. A sharp drop equivalent to a drop in all investments in Israeli high-tech. Last year's investment is \$500 million higher than Japan's total investment in 2020.

Japan's investments make up, despite the decline, 12.8% of all foreign investments and 10% of the total investment in Israeli high-tech. (compared to 15.8% and 12% in 2021)

According to a study conducted by the Advisory Company **Harel-Hertz Investment House**. The decline in investments is due to the following reasons:

1. The war in Ukraine and with it, the price of raw materials increased sharply.
2. The continued impact of the coronavirus pandemic, which has caused many difficulties in manufacturing processes, the supply of critical parts, the collapse of the supply chain and shipping has added to negative sentiment in the industry and in the financial markets in Japan.
3. The dramatic devaluation of the YEN against the major currencies in general and against the dollar in particular – a devaluation of about 40% during 2022 – reduced motivation for overseas investment and encouraged an increase in domestic investment in Japan.

The number of Japanese investments decreased more moderately, which amounted to 67 investments compared to 93 investments in the previous year – a decline of 28%. This moderate decline in investment can be explained in transition to the early stages (SEED and A).

Of the 67 investments, 42 were initial investments in new companies and 25 were follow-on investments.

Another characteristic of Japanese investment is the prominent component of strategic investments. About half of the investments were made by industrial companies seeking to develop shared technologies and achieve future advantages over their competitors with the help of Israeli entrepreneurship.

Investment classification is also characterized by the transition to new industries, there has been a significant increase in the Cleantech, Agritech and Foodtech industries. In the traditional



industries, too, there are changes when there is a decline in cyber and that of Semiconductors, and stability in the field of life sciences.

The activity of the Japanese-Israeli funds is particularly impressive, almost all of the funds raised new funds or set up follow-up funds (Sumitomo, Marubeni, Corundum), the most prominent of which is the Liquidity CAPITAL, which, itself raised about \$2.0 billion, but since the activity of this fund is not necessarily in Israel (the US, Gulf States, Singapore) We could not fully include this in the local statistics.

Harel-Hertz expects investment recovery in the coming year, mainly in light of the initial and significant interest in Israeli Security and Defense technologies. Cooperation in this field will be a step up in bilateral relations, as investments will be directed to mature industries (and not just start-ups), and therefore to investments in large amounts and long-term collaborations.

Another development that may accelerate investment and economic cooperation is the mutual willingness to enter into discussions about a **free trade agreement** (FTA) and upgrade the double taxation avoidance treaty.

The opening of Japan, after three years of closure -COVID. The inauguration next month of **ELAL's** direct flights to Tokyo is a renewed opportunity for growth of the Tourist industry, and of the opening of new Japanese offices in Israel as well as the establishment of Israeli presence in Japan.

Liquidity Group reaches unicorn status with new \$40 million investment from Japan's MUFG.

The fintech company, which provides unlimited unsecured, non-recourse, no-dilution growth capital, saw its valuation rise by 75% in less than a year to \$1.4 billion.

Golan Hazani 12:43, 20.02.23

Israeli-founded fintech company Liquidity Group has raised another \$40 million from Japanese banking giant MUFG Bank at a valuation of \$1.4 billion.

Founded in 2018, Tel Aviv-based Liquidity is a provider of unlimited unsecured, non-recourse, no-dilution growth capital. The company was founded by Ron Daniel, who also serves as the CEO. Meitav Dash, MUFG, and Spark are all partners in the company.

Liquidity announced in May of last year that it had signed an agreement to set up a massive \$2 billion investment fund in partnership with MUFG Bank and American venture capital firm Spark Capital. MUFG invested \$1.25 billion of the initial sum and then added another \$250 million last October.

Liquidity's value rose by 75% in the latest round, with the company being valued at \$800 million when American giant Apollo invested in it last April.

The latest funding brings Liquidity's equity fundraising to a total of \$120 million. MUFG owns 12.5% of Liquidity's shares (fully diluted). The bank will be able to sell the purchased shares back to Liquidity if the company does not go public within an agreed period of time, which is believed to be two years. Liquidity is targeting an IPO on Nasdaq or the Tokyo Stock Exchange at the end of 2024.

The Meitav investment house, which invested in Liquidity in 2018 when it was founded at a valuation of \$1 million, will see its holdings fall to 33.3% but will remain the largest shareholder in the company. Meitav will register a profit of several tens of millions of shekels from the latest transaction. The American venture capital fund Spark holds 18% of the company's shares. CEO Ron Daniel owns slightly less than 10% of the shares.

Liquidity is a credit-oriented fintech platform that invests, syndicates, and automates growth and middle-market lending for businesses around the world, providing capital mainly to later-stage technology companies.

According to Daniel, it is able to predict the business situation of the borrowing company with unprecedented accuracy. It provides loans through six funds it manages (five debt funds and one equity fund). It also raises funds for these funds (\$2.5 billion in total to date and Daniel aims for the amount to reach approximately \$7 billion), among others from its shareholders, such as MUFG and Apollo.

Liquidity's headquarters are located in Israel, but it has offices in other countries and last November it even launched a development center in Abu Dhabi, with the help of the local investment center.

According to Daniel, the development center in Abu Dhabi is "an amazing platform. The employees pay 0% income tax and they allow us to bring talent from anywhere in the world. In Israel, it is almost impossible to bring talent from outside Israel. In the Emirates, I get a work permit for any programmer I want within two weeks. We currently have 40 employees in Abu Dhabi and I plan to reach 100 employees."

The company also has a development center in Israel with 70 programmers.



Japan's ORIX invests in theDOCK's Navigator II maritime and supply chain fund

James Spiro 13:17, 07.02.23

Japanese diversified multinational financial group ORIX has announced that it will invest an undisclosed sum into Navigator II, an investment fund managed by Israeli venture capital firm theDOCK, which focuses on maritime innovation. It is understood that the final closing of Navigator II brings the fund to \$30 million. The fund has already accomplished five deals, including co-leading [Hoopo's \\$10 million Series A](#) alongside ZIM.

"We are thrilled to welcome ORIX as an investor in theDOCK's second fund," said Hannan Carmeli, Managing Partner at theDOCK. "This investment will not only provide additional capital to support our portfolio companies, but also bring valuable expertise and strengthen our global network. The financial services expertise of ORIX is interwoven into the maritime world hence we look forward to cooperating in order to drive innovation and growth in all aspects of the shipping sector.

Navigator II invests in startups developing technologies that address the issues of shipping, ports, and supply chain. The investment from ORIX is a sign of the increased interest of Japanese leaders in Israeli innovation and highlights the potential relationship between large corporations and emerging startups.

"We are excited to join theDOCK's second fund," added Ryujiro Tokuma, Executive Officer at ORIX. "theDOCK has a strong track record of identifying and investing in innovative companies that are driving the digital transformation of the maritime and supply chain industry. We believe that this investment aligns with ORIX Group's sustainability efforts and commitment."

ORIX was established in 1964 and is a financial services group that provides products and services to its customers by pursuing new businesses. It started as a leasing business and has since expanded into other areas, such as lending, investment, life insurance, banking, asset management, automobile-related, real estate, and environment and energy-related businesses. It has locations in 28 countries.

theDOCK invests in early-stage companies that are focused on reducing carbon emissions and improving efficiency in the maritime and supply chain industry.



Earth & Beyond Ventures raises \$125m for Israeli startups - Kyocera one of the founding Investors .

9 Feb, 2023 [Globes correspondent](#)

The Israeli fund will be investing between \$500,000 and \$2M in seed and pre-seed deep-tech, aerospace and satellite engineering companies.

Israeli early-stage venture fund [Earth & Beyond Ventures](#) has launched with commitments of \$125 million to invest in Israeli deep-tech, aerospace, and satellite engineering startups. The fund will be investing between \$500,000 and \$2 million in seed and pre-seed companies.

Backed by global technology, manufacturing, and space industry conglomerates, Earth & Beyond Ventures is the first fund of its kind in Israel to focus specifically on supporting deep technology innovations with dual purpose space and terrestrial applications, and aims to boost Israel's emerging commercial space ecosystem. The new fund's backers include materials and manufacturing giant Corning Inc. (GLW), **Japanese electronics giant Kyocera Corp (KYOCY.PK)**, electronic connectivity components manufacturer Samtec, Inc. and Israeli satellite communication services and solutions provider Spacecom (SCC.TA). The fund's general partners include Daniel Recanati, Doron Zauer, Dr. Israel Biran, and Ofer Asif. The group is also backed by the Israel Innovation Authority.

Earth & Beyond Ventures CEO Baruch Schori said, "Israel's achievements in the development of innovative technologies are world-renowned, but many don't realize that Israel was one of the first countries to design, build and launch its own satellite, a feat which requires tremendous cross-disciplinary expertise and know-how. Together with our investors and partners in the ecosystem, our job at Earth & Beyond Ventures is to identify and support the deep technologies and ideas that can become powerful applications not just here on earth, but in space as well."



Israeli nuclear fusion co NT-Tao raises \$22m.

1 Feb, 2023 16:26 [Globes correspondent](#)

The company's optimal plasma regime yields a fusion reaction that is 1,000,000x stronger, resulting in significantly more efficient energy production for a clean energy future.

Honda invested for the first time in the company.

Israeli nuclear fusion energy company **NT-Tao** today announced the completion of a \$22 million Series A financing round led by Delek US and NextGear Ventures, with participation from Honda, OurCrowd and the Grantham Foundation. The latest investment brings NT-Tao's total funding to \$28 million.

The company, which was founded by CEO Oded Gour-Lavie, chief scientists Doron Weinfeld and CTO Boaz Weinfeld, is pioneering a new approach to fusion, combining the latest in advanced technologies that will provide access to a compact and scalable fusion solution for all energy needs. This new funding will enable NT-Tao to continue to expand its team, accelerate prototype developments in the pipeline and build its new research facility.

Gour-Lavie said, "NT-Tao is rapidly headed towards developing a high-density, compact fusion reactor to provide the cleanest form of sustainable energy to mitigate the pending climate crisis. We're proud to be the first Israeli fusion energy company pioneering the next generation of fusion energy to enable an era of limitless power and global energy security. With the support of industry-leading investors, NT-Tao is moving at a rapid pace of development to ensure that the commercialization of fusion energy becomes a reality."

NT-Tao has invented a "Critical Angular Momentum Plasma Stabilizer," a core component of its proprietary Super Stabilized Confined Plasma (SSCP) technology. Combining this with NT-Tao's unique ultra-fast heating technology will enable the company to work at a density that is 1000x higher than other leading solutions. This optimal plasma regime yields a fusion reaction that is 1,000,000x stronger, resulting in significantly more efficient energy production, for a clean energy future.



NTT Security CEO: "The increase in Japan's defense budget is an opportunity for Israeli cyber companies"

Japan recently announced an increase in its defense budget so that within five years it will be the third largest in the world.

"Israel is important to us. There are many companies here which specialize in cyber. NTT Israel is trying to team up with local startup companies. There is also the potential for acquisitions and investments," said Kazu Yozawa, CEO of NTT Security.

Meir Orbach 12:32, 05.02.23

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida recently announced an increase in the Japanese defense budget from 1% of the country's GDP to 2%. This means that within five years the budget will be the third largest in the world after China and the U.S. In an interview with Calcalist, Kazu Yozawa, CEO of NTT Security, the Japanese giant's cybersecurity subsidiary, says that this is a golden opportunity for Israeli cyber companies. "We work here with many Israeli cyber companies through our innovation center. Our ongoing work with the Japanese government allows us to connect the new contracts with many Israeli companies that offer good solutions for the needs of the Japanese economy."

Kazu believes that in the near future we will see an Israeli company be acquired by the Japanese giant. "Israel is very important to us. There are many companies here that specialize in cyber. We founded NTT Israel about a year and a half ago, and we are trying to team up with local startup companies. There is also potential for acquisitions and investments. We have invested in 11 companies in Israel and if it is possible to acquire companies, we will do this. We are actively looking for the acquisition of companies that will offer complementary services to a company in Israel - any type of company. At the same time, we are also looking for service or cloud companies.





Kazu Yozawa and Noa Asher.

(Photo: Udi Goren)

“We also make investments in companies for minority holdings valued at several millions of dollars, as well as more significant investments. We usually prefer to start with a company through cooperation and initial sale of a product rather than a purchase. We are in the process of selling technology either to us or to our customers with around 20 Israeli companies.”

NTT's cyber company has about 500 employees and is profitable with revenues of about \$200 million. A large part of the income comes from activities with the Japanese government and giant corporations. Another part of the company's activity that Kazu manages is the security of all the activities of the Japanese giant.

Kazu speaks of three main cyber threat types in Japan: a politically motivated attack resulting from world events - Russia, Ukraine, Taiwan and North Korea; an attack by hackers for criminal purposes; and activists, of which he notes: "we have much less of the latter type, but we feel a significant increase in the first two.”

The Japanese communications corporation NTT, ranked among the 100 most profitable companies in the world, established an innovation lab in Israel a year and a half ago. It was established with the aim of cooperating with Israeli companies and academic institutions in the development of cutting-edge technologies in various fields, which will support NTT and its many customers around the world in dealing with contemporary challenges. The laboratory focuses on the fields of cybersecurity, digital health, artificial intelligence and robotics, with the aim of locating Israeli technologies, merging them with NTT, and marketing them to its customers around the world.

The NTT Corporation, one of the five leading business IT solution providers in the world with approximately 1,000 subsidiaries, is a large and leading player in the global communications market, and is part of the Fortune 100, with over \$100 billion in annual sales, more than 330,000 employees worldwide, and operations in over 80 countries. The innovation laboratory in Israel is managed by Noa Asher with a professional team, which works to promote collaborations with



academic bodies in Israel in order to find new areas of interest, potential research and development projects, and added value for the corporation's customers.

About six months ago, NTT's innovation lab in Israel expanded its activities and launched an offensive cyber lab and recruited cybersecurity researchers and hackers. The employees of the cyber lab joined an international team, which includes professional hackers from around the world, whose goal is to challenge the security capabilities of NTT, which manages complex technologies and provides business solutions in a variety of industries around the world. The innovation lab in Israel intends to expand its technological capabilities in the coming year, recruit additional relevant employees and promote activity in the field of R&D.

Japan's Hosiden Corporation Collaborates with Valens Semiconductor and Joins the Expanding MIPI A-PHY Ecosystem

HOD HASHARON, Israel, Feb. 23, 2023 /PRNewswire/ -- Valens Semiconductor (NYSE: VLN), a premier provider of high-speed connectivity solutions for the automotive and audio-video markets, today announced that Hosiden Corporation (6804:JP), a comprehensive electronic component manufacturer, and a global player in the automotive equipment component industry, has completed the validation of Hosiden's connectors and cables with Valens Semiconductor's VA7000 chipset, the first in the industry MIPI A-PHY-compliant chipset family. This new milestone further demonstrates the strong momentum the MIPI A-PHY standard and the VA7000 are gaining in the automotive market in Japan.

Hosiden, uniquely positioned as an automotive Tier 1 and Tier 2 company, manufactures and sells high-speed connectors for use in high-speed digital signal transmission, and for Electric Vehicles (EV). The company also serves the medical and industrial markets.

Due to harness density and length, today's car architecture has been pushed to its limits of space, weight, and complexity. The ability to use unshielded cables and low-cost simple connectors in a plug and play format using Valens Semiconductor VA7000 MIPI A-PHY compliant chipsets delivers reduced total system cost and an efficient solution for car makers.



"We are happy that Hosiden has joined the growing MIPI A-PHY ecosystem in Japan. This is an important milestone and follows the validation by the Japan Automotive Software Platform and Architecture (JASPAR) organization of the MIPI A-PHY specification for its network of Japanese OEMs and Tier 1s announced just a few months earlier," said **Gideon Kedem, Senior Vice President and Head of Automotive at Valens Semiconductor**. "Valens Semiconductor's VA7000 offers an unmatched combination of high-speed connectivity, bandwidth, enhanced EMC, and error free links with fundamentally zero latency, all of which are key to the evolution of ADAS and in-vehicle time sensitive applications."

"We are excited to be part of the innovative MIPI A-PHY ecosystem, which we believe will be an important step in Hosiden's journey as we pursue the development of growth markets and customers on a global scale, by proposing new products and technologies enabled by this advanced standard," said **Mr. Hayato Kondo, R&D Section Manager at Hosiden Corporation**. "We intend to continue to support our customers through highly original technologies and high-value-added products, which meet the growing demands for ADAS. As a manufacturer of automotive electronic equipment components, our collaboration with Valens Semiconductor will enable us to boost our focus on ADAS, support EMC requirements, and lower cars' weight, by allowing us to deploy coax cables and connectors."

About Valens Semiconductor

Valens Semiconductor pushes the boundaries of connectivity by enabling long-reach, high-speed video and data transmission for the Audio-Video and Automotive industries. Valens' HDBaseT® technology is the leading standard in the Audio-Video market with tens of millions of Valens' chipsets integrated into thousands of products in a wide range of applications. Valens' Automotive chipsets are deployed in systems manufactured by leading customers and are on the road in vehicles around the world. Valens is a key enabler of the evolution of ADAS and autonomous driving and its advanced technology is the basis for the MIPI A-PHY standard for high-speed in-vehicle connectivity.



Astroscale Raises U.S. \$76 Million, Continuing to Lead the Growing On-Orbit Servicing Sector

Additional funding increases the total amount raised to more than \$376 million and will boost global technology development and company growth.

TOKYO, Feb. 27, 2023 /PRNewswire/ — Astroscale Holdings Inc. (“Astroscale”), the market leader in satellite servicing and long-term sustainability across all orbits, has closed a Series G round with more than U.S. \$76 million in funding from new investors **Mitsubishi Electric, Yusaku Maezawa, Mitsubishi UFJ Bank, Mitsubishi Corporation, Development Bank of Japan, and FEL Corporation.**

With the closing of this round, Astroscale has raised a total of approximately U.S. \$376 million since establishment, demonstrating strong investor confidence in its stability, success and market leadership in the on-orbit services sector, despite the extremely challenging global economic climate.

“We are pleased with the interest we received from our investors, which conveys a vote of confidence in Astroscale’s vision and potential,” said Nobu Okada, Founder & CEO of Astroscale. “On-orbit servicing is a necessary infrastructure for a sustainable and growing space economy, and the key to reducing risk and increasing returns for satellite operators. We are on a mission to make on-orbit servicing routine by 2030, and these funds will significantly contribute to further innovative technology development, global expansion and increased capacity to meet the growing demand.”

“Mitsubishi Electric is working to promote the use of space in the security sector, which strongly connects with Astroscale’s efforts to build a sustainable space economy for future generations,” said Masahiko Arai, General Manager of the Defense Systems Division of Mitsubishi Electric. “We are excited to invest in Astroscale and looking forward to cooperate and merge our collective expertise in supporting their business strategy and development of innovative technologies.”

The global economy is more dependent on satellite services than at any time in history, and this dependence is only rising. The number of space debris objects in low-Earth orbit is exponentially increasing, posing a threat to all who benefit every day from these services. These risks, and the wasted value and opportunity inherent in single-use space operations, have driven Astroscale to



pioneer on-orbit services such as end-of-life removal of satellites, active debris removal, in-space situational awareness and satellite life extension.

Astroscale has a variety of missions and projects underway around the world:

Astroscale Japan is under contract with JAXA for Phase I of the [Commercial Removal of Debris Demonstration Project \(CRD2\)](#), which will characterize an upper stage rocket body in orbit. It was also selected as a contract partner for a technology study in Phase II of CRD2, which would involve removing a large-scale debris object from orbit.

Astroscale UK is developing an active debris removal mission, [Cleaning Outer Space Missions through Innovative Capture \(COSMIC\)](#), in partnership with the UK Space Agency, and plans to demonstrate the [ELSA-M servicer](#) in 2024 in partnership with OneWeb, the UK Space Agency and the European Space Agency.

Astroscale U.S. and [Astroscale Israel](#) teams are global leaders in building the technology and mission plan for [Life Extension services](#). The Astroscale U.S. team is also working with several U.S. government agencies, including the Air Force Research Laboratory and Space Force, on R&D for satellite servicing.

A previous mission, End of Life Services by Astroscale-demonstration (ELSA-d), successfully demonstrated a series of key technologies required for space debris removal in [2021](#) and [2022](#), a milestone for on-orbit servicing and an unprecedented achievement for a commercially funded mission in LEO.

To develop its services and meet increasing demand from customers, Astroscale is expanding its workforce and has opened new facilities in the [UK, U.S., and Israel](#), with a global headquarters facility set to open in Tokyo later this year. Astroscale has been able to attract high quality talent from around the world, and its global team has grown by 63% to over 400 members since its last funding round in November 2021.

About Astroscale

Astroscale is the first private company with a vision to secure the safe and sustainable development of space for the benefit of future generations and is dedicated to on-orbit servicing across all orbits.

Founded in 2013, Astroscale is developing innovative and scalable solutions across the spectrum of on-orbit servicing, including life extension, in situ space situational awareness, end-of-life, and active debris removal, to create sustainable space systems and mitigate the growing and hazardous buildup of debris in space. Astroscale is also defining business cases and working with government and commercial stakeholders to develop norms, regulations, and incentives for the responsible use of space.

Headquartered in Japan, Astroscale has an international presence with subsidiaries in the United Kingdom, the United States, and [Israel](#). Astroscale is a rapidly expanding venture company, working to advance safe and sustainable growth in space and solve a growing environmental concern.

Rakuten Mobile and RADCOM Partner to Drive Network Automation and Closed-Loop Optimization for 5G.

Telecom industry's first Network Data Analytics Function (NWDAF) in production

TEL AVIV, Israel, Feb. 28, 2023 /PRNewswire/ -- **RADCOM Ltd.** (Nasdaq: [RDCM](#)) announced today that it has partnered with Rakuten Mobile in Japan to deliver closed-loop automation using AI-powered 5G analytics that automatically analyzes the network and takes corrective actions to enhance the customer experience and prevent service degradations, revolutionizing operational workflows and driving towards achieving network autonomy. Our continued collaboration is part of a strong partnership driving operational and assurance innovation to deliver zero-touch, customer-centric network automation.

"5G network complexity has increased the need for automation and advanced AI-driven analytics," said **Sharad Sriwastawa, chief technology officer of Rakuten Mobile, Inc.** "By deploying RADCOM's innovative 5G analytics, we can automatically prevent a drop in service quality or connectivity issues to ensure our customers receive top-quality services, helping our transition to a more intent-based approach to network operations that automatically ensures a superior customer experience without needing manual intervention."



"We are thrilled to be deploying this solution with Rakuten Mobile. This is the result of our close partnership as we innovate and build new use cases that revolutionize how networks run to save resources while ensuring great customer experiences," added **Rami Amit, chief technology officer of RADCOM**. "By deploying this pilot solution, Rakuten benefits from a carrier-grade NWDAF to automatically ensure an unparalleled focus on service quality while saving costs and making operations more efficient."

RADCOM NWDAF will be commercially available to telecom operators worldwide through the Rakuten Symphony Symworld™ marketplace. The innovative solution addresses the challenges of monitoring complex 5G networks and complies with Releases 16 and 17. It also offers additional use cases, such as RAN optimization. It integrates advanced AI/ML-based analytics and automates telco-specific workflows while providing a range of use cases, from simple and complex tasks to supporting zero-touch autonomous intent-based networking.

Driven by Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML), RADCOM's 5G Network Data Analytics Function (RADCOM NWDAF) enables Rakuten Mobile to automatically detect and prevent degradations in the customer experience for multiple use cases such as mitigating signaling storms, proactive O-RAN optimizations, and preemptive network traffic load optimization.

About RADCOM

RADCOM (Nasdaq: [RDCM](#)) is the leading expert in 5G ready cloud-native, network intelligence solutions for telecom operators transitioning to 5G. RADCOM Network Intelligence consists of RADCOM Network Visibility, RADCOM Service Assurance, and RADCOM Network Insights. The RADCOM Network Intelligence suite offers intelligent, container-based, on-demand solutions to deliver network analysis from the RAN to the core for 5G assurance. Utilizing automated and dynamic solutions with smart minimal data collection and on-demand troubleshooting, and cutting-edge techniques based on machine learning, these solutions work in harmony to provide operators with an understanding of the entire customer experience and allow them to troubleshoot network performance from a high to granular level while reducing storage costs and cloud resource utilization.



CTC CONCLUDES AGENCY AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL'S ASOCS

CTC provides "CYRUS", a local 5G software product that realizes cost reduction by using general-purpose servers.

ITOCHU Techno-Solutions Corporation (hereafter, CTC) concluded a sales agency agreement with **Israel's ASOCS** on the 1st, and started offering "CYRUS" (hereafter, Cyrus), a software product for building local 5G base stations.

Cyrus is a software product that operates on a virtual machine built on a general-purpose server and has the functions of the DU (radio signal processing unit) and CU (data processing unit) that make up a base station. By procuring general-purpose servers according to the application and flexibly sizing them according to the scale of the network, it is possible to reduce the introduction and operation costs.

Since the software license is billed according to the scale of use, the system can be easily expanded as the number of users increases and the area expands, optimizing operating costs. In addition, Cyrus complies with Open RAN, and the specifications of RAN, which is responsible for the radio access network, have been standardized. Since the interface is standardized, interconnection with RUs (radio equipment) other than ASOCS products is possible, and flexible configuration can be selected according to the application.

CTC also provides network design, construction, testing and maintenance. At the base station establishment stage, we support the preparation of license application documents and the creation of reports to the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, realizing smooth introduction of local 5G. After opening, we will measure the reachable range and radio field strength of the radio, respond to license change applications due to configuration changes after operation, and operate stable local 5G in accordance with the guidelines formulated by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications. to support In addition, in January 2022, a dedicated space was opened in the CTC Heiwajima Logistics Center to enable local 5G technical verification, enabling verification with multiple configurations before building a commercial environment.

The price of Cyrus starts from 10 million yen (excluding tax) per year and is offered as a subscription. CTC will expand to telecommunications carriers that provide local 5G services and



to the manufacturing and construction industries that are considering introducing local 5G, aiming for sales of 2 billion yen for 30 companies in three years.

Laureates of Israel's 2023 Wolf Prize for Science and Art announced.

The Wolf Prize is considered the most prestigious award in the field after the Nobel Prize and was granted to residents of eight countries,

TWO from JAPAN: Prof Hiroaki Suga, -Chemistry and Mr. Fujiko Nakaya - Art

The names of the 2023 Laureates of the Wolf Prize for Science and Art were announced at the Israeli Presidential Residence on Tuesday, with the winners spanning five different countries.

Israel's Wolf Prize - considered the most prestigious award in the field after the [Nobel Prize](#) - was granted to eight residents of five countries: the United States, Canada, Brazil, Japan, and the United Kingdom. The winners will attend the award ceremony in June 2023 at Israel's parliament (Knesset)

The Wolf Foundation, which presents the awards, was founded in 1975 by the late Dr. Ricardo Wolf, inventor, diplomat, and philanthropist, alongside his wife, who donated their own capital to establish the foundation. The prize is given to scientists and artists for achievements "in advancing science and art for humanity and friendship between peoples, regardless of race, religion, gender, geographical location or political view."

The Wolf Prize is awarded to **Hiroaki Suga**, The University of Tokyo, Japan, for developing RNA-based catalysts that revolutionized the discovery of bioactive peptides.

Hiroaki Suga is awarded the Wolf prize for developing an exceptionally innovative in-vitro selection system for cyclic peptides as inhibitors of protein-protein interactions. He invented an RNA-based catalyst, flexizyme, that transcends natural mechanisms and vastly expands the range of amino acids that can be incorporated with ribosomal machinery. Suga's strategy enables



rapid construction and screening of enormous cyclic peptide libraries. His unique discovery has established a new approach to medicinal chemistry and generated new tools for drug discovery

Fujiko Nakaya, one of Japan's leading artists, is awarded the Wolf Prize for being a longtime pioneer of work that intermingles the realms of art, nature, science, and technology. Her sculptures, films and videos, installations, and paintings, produced over a seven-decade career, engage fundamental subjects such as the environment, perception, and communication. Nakaya's early concern with the artistic potential of natural resources, her embrace of nascent technologies, and her exploration of human interaction with our planet, have proven remarkably prescient. Half a century after she first developed the concept of fog sculptures, she continues to astonish audiences with the magic of work made at the junction of art and nature, poetry and science. At heart Nakaya is an experimentalist who disregards predetermined categories and, in so doing, expands the definition and experience of art.

Japan expresses serious concern about Israeli plans to legalize outposts and build new settlements.

TOKYO, Thursday, February 16, 2023 - The Government of Japan yesterday expressed its serious concern about the announcement by the Government of Israel on February 12 regarding the authorization of nine settlement outposts and the plan to approve new settlement construction, according to a statement by the **government Press Secretary Ono Hikariko**.

"Settlement activities are in violation of international law and undermine the viability of a two-state solution. Japan strongly urges the Government of Israel not to implement the measures and to totally freeze its settlement activities," said the Press Secretary.

Japan also called to refrain from actions that exacerbate tensions.

"As the situation surrounding Israel and Palestine witnesses continued clashes and violence resulting in a number of casualties, Japan once again calls for refraining from actions that exacerbate tensions," concluded the statement.



Palestinian President Abbas meets Japanese Foreign Ministry Vice-Minister in Ramallah

RAMALLHA, Sunday, February 19, 2023 (WAFA) – The President of the State of Palestine, Mahmoud Abbas Sunday evening met the Japanese Parliamentary **Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Takaji Kei** and his accompanying delegation at the presidential headquarters in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

The President affirmed the depth of bilateral relations between the two countries and peoples, and the keenness of the State of Palestine to develop them, thanking Japan for its political and economic stances and support for the Palestinian people.

The Japanese official renewed his country's positions in support of the Palestinian people and the achievement of peace on the basis of the two-state solution based on international legitimacy, stressing Japan's continuation in providing economic support to the Palestinian people to build their national capabilities.

Japan-funded project for rehabilitation of electricity network completed in Jenin-area village.

The completion of a project funded by the Government of Japan for rehabilitation of electricity network.

RAMALLAH, Sunday, February 26, 2023 (WAFA) - Ambassador for Palestinian Affairs and Representative of Japan to Palestine, Nakashima Yoichi, today visited Faqqua village in Jenin Governorate to celebrate the completion of a project funded by the Government of Japan through Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP).

The Government of Japan extended a grant of \$107,475 to Faqqua Village Council to improve the residence access to sufficient electricity for using electric appliances by installing two electric adapters and connecting the new adapters and the existing main cable with the new underground cables (1335m), in addition to the rehabilitation of 2000m of cables.



Upon the completion of the project, 600 people who use electricity in Faqqua village benefit from the project.

In his speech, Yoichi emphasized Japan's firm commitment to supporting Palestinian people from a human security perspective as well as the importance of implementing social and economic development projects needed for Palestinian communities.

Since 1993 the Government of Japan has extended its official development assistance to approximately USD 2.3 billion, to the Palestinians. GGP projects have been formulated in collaboration with the Palestinian Authority through the Ministry of Finance and Planning since 2010

Israel – Japan March 2023

Japan-Israel Summit Telephone Talk

On March 14, commencing at 2:45 p.m. for approximately 10 minutes, Mr. KISHIDA Fumio, Prime Minister of Japan, held a Summit Telephone Talk with H.E. Mr. Isaac HERZOG, President of the State of Israel. The summary of the talk is as follows.

1. The two leaders recognized the remarkable development of relations between the two countries, which marked their 70th anniversary last year. They also welcomed the inauguration of the first ever commercial direct flight between Japan and Israel, and expressed hope that this will serve as an opportunity to invigorate exchanges between the two countries.
2. President Herzog explained the situation regarding the reform of the judicial system in Israel. In response, Prime Minister Kishida expressed his hope that the current situation will be settled as soon as possible in a way that strengthens democracy in Israel.
3. On the Middle East Peace, Prime Minister Kishida expressed his concern over unilateral measures by both sides and stated that Japan hopes to contribute to easing tensions toward the achievement of a two-state solution, and the two leaders confirmed that they will continue to work together.
4. In addition, the two leaders discussed bilateral relations and concurred that they will continue to work closely together for further strengthening the relationship between Japan and Israel.



EL AL Israel Airlines launches route from Tel Aviv to Tokyo



EL AL Israel Airlines has launched a twice-weekly service between Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion Airport and Tokyo's Narita International Airport. The route will initially be operated on Wednesdays and Saturdays between 1 March and 30 November 2023, with the 787-9

Visitors from Israel to Japan were 44,120 in 2019, and those from Japan to Israel 26,100

.H2Pro and Sumitomo Corporation to partner on high efficiency production of green hydrogen and green ammonia.

Under the agreement, Sumitomo Corporation will integrate H2Pro electrolyzers at the multiple hundreds of MW level, creating a significant scale-up opportunity for the breakthrough technology.

Calclist: The value of the agreement is estimated at about \$250 million until the end of the current decade.

CAESAREA, Israel, March 8, 2023 /PRNewswire/ -- Israeli cleantech company H2Pro announces its agreement with Japanese Fortune Global 500 conglomerate Sumitomo Corporation (SC) to



partner on a variety of green hydrogen initiatives. H2Pro, which develops the breakthrough 95% efficient E-TAC electrolyzer system, is forming partnerships worldwide with forward-thinking industrial players to integrate green hydrogen into their clean energy transition plans. Under the agreement, SC will integrate H2Pro's E-TAC electrolyzers at the hundreds of MW scale, primarily for use in green ammonia projects. The agreement between H2Pro and its investor-turned-partner is a critical strategic move for H2Pro to scale its technology.

In the initial phase of this agreement, Sumitomo and its partners will collaborate with H2Pro on operations for H2Pro's technology pilot and demonstration, and will supply H2Pro with various manufacturing equipment through its extensive network. In turn, H2Pro will provide Sumitomo with data to support Sumitomo's strategic planning for its pipeline of green hydrogen projects. By the second half of this decade, Sumitomo plans to incorporate H2Pro's electrolyzer technology, both within and outside the Sumitomo Corporation Group, toward the production of several hundred tons of green hydrogen per day.

Talmon Marco, CEO of H2Pro said "As H2Pro scales from a breakthrough technology startup to a commercial-scale manufacturer, a partnership such as this with Sumitomo Corporation is invaluable." He continued, "From pilot system deployment to the eventual integration of our commercial class system into their pipeline, we will benefit tremendously from Sumitomo's operations expertise and diverse industrial experience. We are confident this partnership will help us bring E-TAC to the world and make affordable green hydrogen a reality this decade."

Green hydrogen, which does not emit carbon dioxide when utilized, is becoming widely accepted as a critical tool for achieving net zero. Integrating green hydrogen into hard-to-abate sectors like steel, ammonia, refineries, heavy transport and aviation is crucial. Additionally, green hydrogen will play a vital role in energy storage and as a clean molecule for renewable energy export. Through its energy efficient, cost-effective systems, H2Pro will make green hydrogen accessible to both existing and emerging hydrogen markets and applications.

Japan, which lacks continuous access to local renewables such as solar and wind, will rely heavily on green hydrogen and ammonia to augment its clean energy supply as it decarbonizes multiple sectors. SC's Energy Innovation Initiative is investing in revolutionary decarbonization solutions with a focus on clean fuel production and storage.

"Green Hydrogen will play a critical role in Japan's decarbonization strategy"

explained Mr. Yoshihiko Ichikawa, General Manager of SC's Hydrogen Business Department. "At Sumitomo Corporation, we are preparing for this transition by working to employ the most efficient means of green hydrogen production into our clean energy pipeline. Our partnership with H2Pro propels this vision forward."

About H2Pro



H2Pro is accelerating the global transition to net zero by enabling affordable green hydrogen this decade. H2Pro's E-TAC (Electrochemical - Thermally Activated Chemical) technology solves the key challenges of traditional electrolysis by time-separating hydrogen and oxygen generation. E-TAC reaches its unparalleled 95% efficiency (compared to 60-70% efficiency of alternative methods) by avoiding the inefficient electrochemical Oxygen Evolution Reaction, replacing it with a Thermally Activated Chemical (TAC) reaction that doesn't consume power or heat. Additionally, as hydrogen and oxygen are generated at separate times, an expensive membrane is not required. Combined with low-cost, mass-produced electrodes, E-TAC systems benefit from a safe and easily scalable design at a greatly reduced cost.

Headquartered in Caesarea, Israel, H2Pro was founded in 2019 based on years of research conducted at the Technion, Israel Institute of Technology. H2Pro has raised over 100 Million USD. It is backed by leading investors and strategic partners, including Bills Gates' climate fund Breakthrough Energy, Temasek Holdings, ArcelorMittal, CSN, Sumitomo Corporation, and Yara Growth Ventures. H2Pro's 0.4MW pilot systems will launch in 2023 and its commercial production line will begin manufacturing in 2024 via its first factory in Tziporit, Israel.

About Sumitomo Corporation

Sumitomo Corporation ("SC") is a leading Fortune 500 global trading and business investment company with 111 locations in overseas countries/regions and 20 locations in Japan. The entire SC Group consists of approximately 900 companies and more than 70,000 personnel. SC conducts commodity transactions in all industries utilizing worldwide networks, provides related customers with various financing, serves as an organizer and a coordinator for various projects, and invests in companies to promote greater growth potential.

3D asset visualization and management platform startup Hexa raises \$20.5M Samurai Incubators among investors in Hexa.

BY **DUNCAN RILEY** MARCH 2ND 2023

3D asset visualization and management platform startup [Hexa](#) today announced it has raised \$20.5 million in new funding to support further expansion.

Based in Israel, Hexa, incorporated as Fitix Visualization Ltd., offers a technology stack that digitizes products such as furniture and fashion using existing 2D images and artificial intelligence

to create a 3D model known as a “digital twin” of the physical object. The digital twin can then be deployed on websites, social media and augmented reality applications.

The interactive models created using Hexa’s tech allow consumers to control the model and inspect the asset from any angle. Hexa provides storage, management, distribution and analysis of the models its customers create.

Hexa believes the internet will increasingly become 3D and that these 3D spaces in the metaverse need to be populated with dimensional objects, furnishings, displays and merchandise. The company claims that product pages will increasingly use 3D representations, replacing traditional 2D pictures and thumbnails. Hexa’s 3D tools guide brands and retailers as they create, manage, distribute and analyze 3D projects.

“We are convinced 3D content will be at the heart of all online and offline retail,” Hexa co-founder and chief executive Yehiel Atias said in a statement. “You have to make it easy to use, inexpensive and fast to return on your investment.”

Hexe already counts Macy’s Inc., Logitech International SA, Unity Technologies Inc. and Crate & Barrel among dozens of clients that use its 3D platform for making, managing and deploying 3D assets. The models can be moved onto any web page, social media site or game engine with a snippet of code, with support for parallel processing and loading at the maximum frames per second without sacrificing computational power.

Point72 Ventures LLC, Samurai Incubate Inc., Sarona Asset Management Inc. and HTC Corp. were investors in Hexa’s Series A round. Including the new funding, Hexa has raised \$27.2 million to date.

ULTRA-RED and Dentsu Kokusai Service Conclude New Partnership

TEL AVIV, Israel, Feb. 28, 2023 /PRNewswire/ -- ULTRA-RED Ltd. (Headquarters: Tel Aviv, Israel, CEO: Eran Shtauber, hereinafter referred to as ULTRA-RED), which provides the market's first fully automated CTEM (Continuous Threat Exposure Management) platform has announced today that ULTRA-RED has made a domestic distributor agreement with Information Services International-Dentsu, Ltd. (Headquarters: Minato-ku, Tokyo, President and CEO: Ryoichi Nawa, hereinafter referred to as ISID), targeting a wide range of industries such as finance and



manufacturing, we will further strengthen our sales structure for the Japanese market by leveraging ISID's specialized wide range of business know-how and strengths in system construction capabilities.

Comment from ULTRA-RED Ltd. CEO Eran Shtauber

We welcome that ISID has officially started handling ULTRA-RED. Together with our existing customers and ISID, we believe our technology and capabilities will fundamentally change the way security teams deploy and manage complete CTEM programs.

With ULTRA-RED, security teams can validate their organization for vulnerabilities, misconfigurations, and other serious security threats/issues in just three clicks. We are looking forward to all the new possibilities that will arise in collaboration with ISID.

Comment from ULTRA-RED JAPAN Ltd. President Doron Levit

We are thrilled to further solidify ULTRA-RED's foothold, expand into multiple new markets, and partner with such an amazing and strong company. This new partnership will enable ISID to offer ULTRA-RED's ground-breaking advanced technology to manage and maximize the benefits of a complete CTEM program on a day-to-day basis.

About ULTRA-RED

ULTRA-RED is the first and only CTEM provider.

We bring to the table a completely new approach to cyber security by utilizing unmatched scanning depth for attack surface mapping and combining it with cyber intelligence enrichment.

ULTRA-RED's Features

ULTRA-RED has a development base in Israel, one of the world's leading cyber powerhouses, and provides military-level security solutions developed by engineers of the Israeli military's world-class cyber force of 8,200 unit.

Utilizing the experience and knowledge cultivated in the cyber force and making full use of automated attack simulation technology, it is possible to demonstrate the presence or absence of vulnerabilities inherent in the organization and the effectiveness of intrusion, and to continuously manage them.

ULTRA-RED has the following features compared to other EASM solutions, providing asset managers with appropriate information and response procedures, and making decisions based on real risks.

Assured Allies secures \$42.5M Series B to help Americans ‘successfully age’.

[Christine Hall@christinemhall](mailto:Christine.Hall@christinemhall) / March 7, 2023

MS&AD Ventures makes a follow-up investment in this round B.

[Assured Allies](#), an insurtech company focused on retirement savings, announced today the closing of \$42.5 million in Series B funding.

It's a pretty significant Series B size given the challenging fundraising environment for insurtech companies noted by several of my colleagues in recent stories.

All said, Assured Allies joins with insurtech companies around the world that did manage to secure some decent funding recently, including [Equisoft](#), [Naked Insurance](#), [Turaco](#) and [Acko](#).

The round was co-led by FinTLV Ventures and existing investor Harel Insurance, which were joined by new and existing investors, including Lumir Ventures, Hamilton Lane, New Era Capital Partners, MS&AD Ventures, Core Innovation Capital, Poalim Equity, EquiTrust Life Insurance Co., Akilia Partners and Samsung Next. It brings the company's total capital raise to \$65 million.

The new funding follows a year where Assured Allies secured partnerships with several leading long-term care insurance carriers and saw 300% growth in the number of members using Assured Allies' platform to, as co-founder and CEO Roe Nahir describes, "successfully age."

He said as more Americans live longer and about 10,000 adults turn 65 every day, this means that more will need long-term care, an aspect of care that is well known as being a huge financial burden. Depending on the state you live in and the kind of care, [the average cost for long-term care](#) could start around \$5,000 per month and go up from there.

Nahir and Afik Gal, a medical doctor, started Assured Allies in 2018 after their own experiences as caregivers to aging family members. The company uses technology like machine learning and predictive analytics, along with science-of-aging and essential human support to offer retirement products and programs.

Its first product, launched in 2020, was AgeAssured, which partners with long-term care insurers to reduce disability and support easier aging-at-home capabilities. It has been proven to reduce the cost of long-term insurance claims by roughly 20%, Nahir told TechCrunch. NeverStop, its second



product, came in 2022 and uses artificial intelligence and science to create and underwrite retirement products.

Nahir explained that there is an “aging economy paradox” where older Americans have accumulated \$80 trillion in assets, but also have a lot of real hard problems, like depression and loneliness. While there are lots of companies out there with good solutions, few large insurance companies are addressing it, which is where Nahir feels Assured Allies stands out.

“I believe that part of the problem is that this population are the last adopters of new technologies and so the go-to market is challenging for these companies,” Nahir said. “In order to sell something to an 80-year-old user, you should have partnerships with 100-year-old companies. You need very strong staying power because people won’t trust you with a pension or a policy if they don’t know you.”

Nahir intends to deploy the new capital, which was secured this year, into further growth of Assured Allies’ products and expansion of the company’s carrier and partner network.

DNX VC, Samsung Next Invests in Mitiga, Brings Total Funding to \$45M.

Financing will help support increasing customer demand while continuing to transform incident response for cloud and SaaS environments.

March 14, 2023

NEW YORK, March 14, 2023 – [Mitiga](#), the cloud and SaaS incident response leader, today announced the completion of its \$45 million Series A Round, bringing total funding to \$45 million, led by **ClearSky Security**, with participation from **Samsung Next** and existing investors **Blackstone, Atlantic Bridge and DNX**. This news comes on the heels of Mandiant’s former President/COO, [John Watters](#), joining Mitiga as an independent board member.

"When we founded Mitiga, we had one goal in mind — to help organizations accelerate their responses to the rising tide of cloud and SaaS attacks," stated Tal Mozes, co-founder and CEO, Mitiga. "We knew we could do it better than traditional incident response (IR) solutions because they're reactive by nature, and tremendously time-consuming. Our proactive and automated approach enables organizations that experience cloud and SaaS breaches to respond immediately and recover faster than any other solution on the market. We are thrilled to include Samsung Next as one of our investors and look forward to our next growth phase in 2023 and beyond."



Mitiga will use the investment to accelerate its growth, helping to meet the high demand for cloud incident response services from the overwhelming number of organizations that now rely on cloud and SaaS environments—because today's harsh reality is that cloud attacks are inevitable. Mitiga's modern approach offers cloud-driven companies a new level of cyber and organizational resilience. By enabling ongoing readiness and compressing the investigation time from weeks or months to hours, Migita's solution reduces incident-related damage and gets customers back to business fast.

About Mitiga

Mitiga is the cloud and SaaS incident response leader. In a world filled with cloud risks, we help organizations return to business as usual 90% faster than traditional incident response. Our IR2 solution provides instant answers to the most burning breach-related questions, enabling teams to speed investigations, minimize impact, and enhance cyber resilience against future attacks. Mitiga's approach leverages automated insights from our leading-edge SaaS platform and combines them with support from Mitiga's world-leading cloud incident responders. The result not only accelerates and improves incident response, but it also minimizes enterprises' breach-related costs through a subscription-based model that makes cloud and SaaS IR expenditures more predictable.

Kardome Receives Japanese Auto Fund Investment.

Automotive Fund's investment in the voice technology startup is its first outside Japan. Kardome will use the capital to expand its business there.

Tel Aviv, Israel, March 08, 2023 --([PR.com](#))-- Automotive Fund Co., Ltd., based in Tokyo, Japan, announced it has invested \$1 million in Israeli voice technology startup Kardome.

Kardome is a voice technology startup headquartered in Israel. Its spatial hearing software vastly improves existing voice recognition systems. The software can differentiate who is talking in crowded, noisy environments and outperforms standard voice user interface algorithms.

Automotive Fund, a subsidiary of the automotive information platform MarkLines, is Japan's first dedicated to the automotive industry. Its investment in Kardome is also its first outside Japan.



The venture capital fund expects that the need for accurate speech recognition in noisy environments will increase with the growing use of robo-taxis and self-driving cars. Understanding that Kardome's technology will be necessary for further developing voice user interfaces, Automotive Fund has invested in the voice tech startup.

About Automotive Fund Co., Ltd.

Automotive Fund Co., Ltd. is a subsidiary of Japan-based MarkLines, an automotive Information platform for all vehicle manufacturers, suppliers, and companies within the automotive industry.

Kohoku Industry, and Ariel Photonics, Israeli company and laser development for medical and industrial use

[Shiga](#)

March 3, 2023 Nikkei

[Kohoku Industry Co., Ltd.](#) has signed a business partnership agreement with Israeli company Ariel Photonics for the development of a laser device using a special optical fiber. Combining Kohoku Kogyo's optical fiber manufacturing technology and Ariel's development capabilities, we will develop laser devices for medical use such as vascular surgery, metal processing, analysis and measurement. We aim to commercialize the product in three years and achieve sales of 10 billion yen in five years.

The optical fiber used in the laser device has dozens of regularly arranged holes in a cross section as thick as a human hair. Depending on the number, size, and arrangement of the holes, they can pass amplified light or widen the range of wavelengths. A base material (20 mm in diameter and 400 mm in length) with holes like a lotus root is made, and gas is injected to maintain the holes while slowly stretching it to a length of 7 to 8 km at an ultra-high temperature.

Kohoku Kogyo's superiority lies in its unique technology called the slurry casting method for making the base material of optical fibers. At the head office factory in Nagahama City, Shiga Prefecture, quartz glass powder and resin are evenly mixed, poured into a mold with holes secured with wires, and fired. Compared to the conventional manufacturing method in which holes are drilled in cylindrical quartz glass, it is possible to arrange various and precise holes.



Ariel is a laser device research and development company founded in 2007, headed by laser physicist Vladimir Kripkin. It is said that it has a development cooperation relationship with several large companies in the civil and defence fields in Europe and the United States. Kohoku Kogyo will invest 1.5 billion yen in research and development in five years to develop a new laser device. Part of the 5.6 billion yen procured with the listing in 2021 will be used.

Kohoku Kogyo is a niche top company with over 50% of the global market share for the component called "optical isolator", which is essential for optical submarine cables. Together with the lead terminals used in information communication equipment and aluminum electrolytic capacitors for automobiles, we have established two pillars of our business. President Futoshi Ishii says, "We have started joint research with Kinki University on the placement of optical fiber holes, and we have established a path to develop the laser equipment business as a third pillar through collaboration with Ariel."

ITOCHU Techno-Solutions Corporation Launches Local 5G Software CYRUS Cutting Costs through Multipurpose Server Usage and Accelerating Corporate Adoption of Local 5G

Mar 01, 2023 ITOCHU Techno-Solutions Corporation

ITOCHU Techno-Solutions Corporation (headquartered in Minato-ku, Tokyo; Ichiro Tsuge, President and CEO) has concluded a distributorship agreement with **ASOCS Ltd.** (headquartered in Israel; Gilad Garon, CEO; hereinafter "ASOCS") and will provide CYRUS, a virtualized local 5G*1 / Private 5G base station or vRAN, starting today. Initial costs can be cut by building base stations that combine with multipurpose servers. The service is provided as a subscription at a cost of 10 million yen (excl. taxes) per year. The goal is to achieve 2 billion in sales to 30 companies in three years by expanding to telecommunications operators offering local 5G services to manufacturers and construction companies considering introducing local 5G.

In recent years, there has been an increase in the number of companies and local governments that require local 5G, meaning their own 5G communications infrastructure. Meanwhile, a local 5G base station, which consists of an RU (radio unit), a DU (distributed unit), and a CU (centralized unit), usually requires hardware and software from the same vendor, so that initial and operating costs became high as there is little freedom in hardware choice and sizing. Moreover, a license to



set up and know-how to operate radio stations in accordance with the Radio Act, thus making the initial barriers to entry high.

CYRUS is a software product that runs on a virtual machine constructed by the commercial off-the-shelf(COTS) server, having the functions of the DU and CU that consist of the base station. COTS servers are procured according to use and sized flexibly to match network size, thereby making it possible to cut initial and operating costs. Since the pricing of the CYRUS software license is determined by usage size, the system can easily be expanded if the number of users increases or the coverage area becomes bigger, which makes it possible to optimize operating costs.

Moreover, CYRUS is Open RAN² based with standardized specifications for radio access networks. As the interface is standardized, it is possible to mutually connect with RUs of products that are not from ASOCS, which makes it possible to opt for a flexible structure according to usage.

ITOCHU Techno-Solutions Corporation also provides network design, construction, trials, maintenance, and so forth. We smoothen the process to introduce local 5G by assisting with documents for license application and reports to the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications when setting up the base station. Once set up, ITOCHU Techno-Solutions Corporation helps to ensure stable operation of the local 5G in accordance with Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications guidelines³ by measuring radio range and signal strength as well as supporting applications to change the license if the structure needs to be changed during operation. Moreover, ITOCHU Techno-Solutions Corporation created a space dedicated to verifying local 5G technology at the ITOCHU Techno-Solutions Corporation Heiwajima Logistics Center (Ota Ward, Tokyo) in January 2022, which makes it possible to verify several structures before setting up in a commercial environment.

ITOCHU Techno-Solutions Corporation will continue to increase the number of options for local 5G products based on Open RAN, expand operational maintenance, remote monitoring services, and contribute to the further spread of local 5G.



Electreon, Toyota and Denso cooperate on wireless charging.

<https://www.electrive.com/2023/03/27/>

Israeli company **Electreon** is joining forces with **Toyota** and component manufacturer **Denso** to develop a vehicle receiver based on Electreon's existing technology. The receiver will make it possible to retrofit electric vehicles with wireless charging capabilities.

Moreover, the companies say they want to integrate "wireless technology into new cars released to the market" and help shape "the standardization of wireless EV charging." The parties will sign a more detailed joint development agreement in the coming months.

"This partnership will make wireless charging accessible to a diverse and wide range of drivers and will demonstrate the many benefits of wireless charging as a cost-effective clean solution for charging EVs as well as a catalyst in reducing EVs' carbon footprint," says Electreon CEO and co-founder Oren Ezer.

During the technology evaluation at Electreon's headquarters in Beit Yanai, Israel, the Israeli company showed off its know-how by wirelessly charging a RAV4- PHEV.

Founded in 2013, Electreon has been [developing](#) a system to charge EVs while in full motion using copper coils laid beneath the asphalt to transfer energy from the electricity grid to the road and to manage communication with approaching vehicles. Receivers are installed on the floor of the vehicles to transmit the energy directly to the engine and the battery while the vehicles are on the go, doing away with concerns about limited driving range and short battery lifespans.

I-PEX and Teramount Announce Collaboration on Detachable Fiber Interconnect for Silicon Photonics.

KYOTO, Japan & JERUSALEM--([BUSINESS WIRE](#))--I-PEX, a leader in the field of high-frequency and high-speed transmission connectors and Teramount Ltd, the leader in silicon photonics fiber packaging, today announced they are collaborating to advance silicon photonics optical detachable connectivity for data centers and for other high-speed datacom and telecom applications.



The ever-growing demand for high bandwidth, low power and low latency in networking and advanced computing applications has led to growing adoption of silicon photonics, and for a continuous need to connect more and more optical fibers to silicon chips. That connectivity needs to be reliable, reworkable, serviceable, and cost-effective, which creates a huge challenge. The collaboration between I-PEX and Teramount will provide a breakthrough solution of detachable fiber to chip connectivity based on Teramount's self-aligning optics technology and I-PEX's ultra-precision plug and holder systems.

"Detachable fiber connectivity to silicon photonic chips is a game changer for the industry. We have recently seen a growing number of customers who are interested in Teramount's Detachable Photonic Plug for their silicon photonics applications, as it enables a new era of serviceable and reliable fiber connectivity solutions" said Hesham Taha, chief executive officer. "I-PEX is a leader in the connector industry, and we are thrilled to partner with them to advance our technology to high volume industrial grade level manufacturing"

"We are very pleased to support the realization of Teramount's ground-breaking Detachable Photonic Plug concept with I-PEX's ultra-precise design and manufacturing capabilities" said Koichi Fujii, general manager, marketing of I-PEX. "We look forward to working with them to help penetrate silicon photonics solutions into data centers and other applications"

About I-PEX:

I-PEX is a unique and high-quality manufacturer of the world's most advanced connectors, sensors, complex molded parts, and other products based on the ultra-precision manufacturing process that has been perfected over the past 60 years. I-PEX, as an innovative product development and engineering solutions expert, is committed to exceeding the customer expectations around the world through global teamwork, aiming to be the company that our customers choose first

About Teramount

Teramount changes the world of optical connectivity by offering a novel solution for connecting optics to silicon for data center, advanced computing, sensors and other datacom and telecom applications. Its innovative PhotonicPlug solution provides scalable connectivity of fibers to photonic chips and aligns photonics with standard semiconductor high-volume manufacturing and packaging capabilities. Teramount office is located in Jerusalem Israel.



eToro secures \$250M at a \$3.5B valuation after scrapping SPAC, seeing slower growth.

Softbank Vision 2 and ION Group Co Lead this round of investment.

Mary Ann Azevedo Tue, March 21, 2023

After calling off its plans to go public via a SPAC at [a \\$10.4 billion valuation](#) in 2022, trading platform eToro has secured \$250 million in funding at a \$3.5 billion valuation.

The money is not a typical equity round: It comes by way of an **Advanced Investment Agreement (AIA)**, eToro founder and CEO Yoni Assia told TechCrunch. The company had secured the AIA in early 2021 as a kind of backstop from current backers in the event that its proposed SPAC fell through. Investors include **ION Group, Social Leverage, SoftBank and Spark Capital**.

An AIA is an agreement where an investor (or investors in this case) pay in advance for shares that will be allocated at a later date, sometimes at a discount, according to Ken Smythe, founder and CEO of Next Round Capital Partners — a capital markets and VC secondaries firm. The company came to an agreement with investors, according to eToro, that the investment would be converted two years after the signing of the agreement based on the following conditions: that it had not pursued the SPAC transaction or raised any additional capital.

The SPAC, clearly, never took place; and the company has not raised an equity round since 2018. Nevertheless, the company had a number of setbacks around the SPAC that called higher valuations into question. In March 2021, the Tel Aviv, Israel-based company had announced it would go public via a merger with Betsy Cohen-backed FinTech Acquisition Corp. V in [a \\$10.4 billion deal](#). Then in January 2022, the company's valuation got slashed [by over 15%](#), to \$8.8 billion. By early July, the two parties had mutually agreed to [terminate](#) the deal after the deadline for eToro to go public under the SPAC arrangement expired on June 30, 2022.

The company's latest financing follows a challenging, and busy, year for the 16-year-old fintech company -- which is a competitor to Robinhood in the U.S. Its funded accounts totalled 2.8 million by the end of 2022, up modestly from 2.4 million in 2021 but still significantly higher than the 1 million it had in 2020. Notably, eToro saw a significant decline in commissions, which Assia said was "similar to revenues" and totalled \$631 million in 2022, down 49% versus 2021 and up just 5% from the \$605 million in revenue it notched in 2020.

The steep decline was largely due to a drop in crypto commissions, according to Assia.



This effectively means that eToro has only grown slightly in terms of revenues since 2020. It also means that it is growing at a far slower pace than projected. At the time of its SPAC filing, the company [projected revenue](#) of nearly \$1.2 billion in 2022.

The company struck an upbeat tone concerning its uneven growth: “At eToro we need no reminder that markets are cyclical. The diversified nature of our multi-asset product offering ensured that commissions from equities and commodities partially offset the decrease in commissions from cryptoassets in 2022,” said eToro CFO Meron Shani in a written statement. “It’s also worth noting that we were not impacted by the liquidity concerns which plagued many in the crypto industry.” Currently, its commissions by asset class are made up of: 48% equities, 27% commodities, 19% crypto assets and 6% currencies. Today, eToro has 31.4 million registered users (a cumulative number which includes anyone who has ever opened and retained an eToro account), operates in more than 100 countries and has \$5.8 billion in assets under administration. Etoro is currently EBITDA profitable, according to Assia, and has generated more than \$400 million in profits over the past five years. (For reference, the company reported \$114 million worth of EBITDA in 2017, and \$193 million in 2018 in its SPAC presentation.)

During the year, eToro says it -- among other things -- expanded its U.S. investment offering to include U.S. stocks and ETFs, completed an expansion of eToro Money across the United Kingdom to the entire EU and [acquired Gatsby](#) -- a commission-free options and stock-trading app aimed at younger traders -- and portfolio management platform Bullsheat.

It also implemented [a workforce reduction](#) of about 6%, or approximately 100 people, in July and cut marketing spend. Presently, it has about 1,500 employees.

Today, over two-thirds of its clients are located in Europe and the U.K., 13% in Asia-Pacific, 12% in the Americas and 4% in the Middle East and Africa. Last year, it secured an in principle approval to operate as a broker in [Abu Dhabi](#).

Despite the company’s recent struggles, Assia maintains that the company has seen its clients “HODL [hold on for dear life] around crypto,” buying and holding more crypto at the end of 2022. He added that so far this year, the company has seen “an improvement” in total commissions and profitability compared with the previous quarter “with higher engagement and trading activity” from its users.

Etoro plans to use its new capital to grow the business and invest in the product globally and “in key markets,” Assia said. It also intends to scale its business in the U.S.

One thing it didn’t have to worry about? The Silicon Valley Bank crisis. Etoro doesn’t have any material financing exposure to the bank, the executive said.



First-ever Israeli national pavilion to be inaugurated in Japan Defence exhibition.

March 14, 2023 *By World Israel News Staff*

“Despite the physical distance between Israel and Japan, we share many similarities as technology-oriented and innovation-driven nations,” said Yair Kulas, who is leading the Israeli delegation.

The Israel Ministry of Défense’s first-ever national pavilion in Japan will be inaugurated Wednesday at the DSEI Japan defence exhibition taking place March 15-17,.

SIBAT, the Israel Ministry of defence’s International Defence Cooperation Directorate, is leading the delegation of Israeli defence industries participating in the event. The national pavilion will be inaugurated by the head of SIBAT, Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Yair Kulas, who will meet with various Japanese counterparts during the week.

Fourteen Israeli defense industries will be presenting their technological solutions at the exhibition, including, for example, unmanned aerial systems, land systems, rocket and missile systems, and communication and targeting technologies.

“We are happy to participate in the DSEI defense exhibition and to inaugurate Israel’s first national pavilion in Japan, constituting an additional step in deepening our defense cooperation, Kulas said. “Despite the physical distance between Israel and Japan, we share many similarities as technology-oriented and innovation-driven nations. The Israeli defense industries participating in the exhibition each bring their own unique technological solutions to the table here, many of them the leading of their kind in the world.”

The Israeli defense industries participating in the defense exhibition include: Copterpix, CTI-INTL Solutions, [Elbit](#) Systems, Gate Technologies, IAI-[Israel Aerospace Industries](#), Magna BSP, Manta Air, Ophir Optronic Solutions, Orbit Communication Systems, [Rafael Advanced Defense Systems](#), RT LTA Systems, Smartshooter, Steadicopter, and Trekace Technologies.



Elbit Systems signs memorandum of understanding with Japanese firms.

In December 2022, Japan announced its biggest military build-up since World War II.

By JERUSALEM POST STAFF Published: MARCH 16, 2023

[Israeli defense company Elbit Systems](#) signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) Wednesday with Japanese defense companies **Nippon Aircraft Supply (NAS) and Itochu Aviation** at DSEI Japan to promote mutual cooperation on a range of solutions between the companies.

This cooperation will address the growing Japanese interest in the field of defense. As part of the MOU, Elbit Systems will provide the main components, technology and knowledge to NAS and Itochu, while Itochu will lead the marketing of the products in Japan and NAS will provide the capabilities for local integration, manufacturing, testing and maintenance.

The MOU signing ceremony took place during the DSEI Japan trade fair, with Israel's Ambassador to Japan Gilad Cohen, President and COO of NAS Osamu Matsushita, Itochu Aviation's Mashahiro Takita and Executive Vice President International Marketing and Business Development of Elbit Systems Ran Kril in attendance.

The agreement between [Elbit Systems](#), Itochu Aviation and NAS, demonstrates the recent process of deepening relations between Israel and Japan, relations that are based on mutual interests and shared values," said Gilad Cohen. "This cooperation shows the unique synergy between the two countries and the integration of cutting-edge Israeli technologies and the impressive industrial abilities of Japan," Cohen continued.

"We are excited to collaborate with Elbit Systems, which has advanced technology and combat-proven systems – especially in terms of autonomous capabilities and communication," said Takita.



SCADAfence Broadens Global Presence Via Strategic Funding from Three Major Investors.

Fujitsu, Mitsubishi Electric and Brasil's Prosegu Join as new Investors.

JAPAN'S GLOBABRAINS VC MAKES FOLLOW UP INVESTMENT

PR Newswire Wed, March 29, 2023

The new investment will support SCADAfence's continued growth and assist in strengthening existing strategic partnerships and extending the platform's reach into new markets and verticals. TEL AVIV, Israel, March 29, 2023 /PRNewswire/ -- SCADAfence, the global technology leader in OT & IoT cyber security today announced that it has closed an additional funding round with an investment from Fujitsu (through a fund managed by its subsidiary Fujitsu Ventures Limited), Mitsubishi Electric and Prosegur corporations.

As cyber threats targeting OT networks surge and nation-state-backed threat actors become increasingly prevalent, governments worldwide are enacting legislation to bolster cyber protections for critical infrastructure. In this rapidly evolving landscape, **SCADAfence has emerged as the top choice for organizations seeking to fortify their OT security posture.** This new funding round will enable SCADAfence to continue scaling its global reach into new markets, increasing sales and support teams in key regions, and building stronger collaborative relationships with its strategic partners.

Expanding Into New Markets With Strategic Partners

Fujitsu, one of the world's leading technology companies with customers in over 100 countries, is going to bring SCADAfence's products into OT security services of Fujitsu Uvance, their new global business brand that aims to provide innovative solutions that address business challenges and solve societal issues. This strengthened collaboration will help Fujitsu to accelerate to enhance its services to support digitalization of IT-OT converged environment.

"The need for OT security has never been greater, and SCADAfence is one of the most important partners for Fujitsu in this area, offering industrial and critical infrastructure organizations the solutions that they need to protect facilities and employees while expanding connectivity and accelerating digital transformation," said Koji Arai, VP, Head of Uvance Hybrid IT of Fujitsu. "We have been very impressed with their understanding of OT security and their strong initiatives to tackling this global challenge."



Mitsubishi Electric has confirmed plans to integrate SCADAfence's products into their factory automation suite, thereby delivering a seamless experience for end-users and instantly elevating their OT security offering to best-in-class.

"SCADAfence has stood out in the past several years as the most comprehensive and effective OT cyber security solution provider in the marketplace," said Hiroshi Sakakibara, Executive Officer, CDO, Vice President, Corporate Business Innovation of Mitsubishi Electric. "Our decision to increase investment in their future is a testament to SCADAfence's success thus far and their robust, mature product line."

After making its second investment in SCADAfence, Prosegur will be including SCADAfence as part of their managed services offerings across several regions including Spain, Portugal, Brazil, and the U.S. By integrating SCADAfence's products into their managed services offering, Prosegur will be providing customers with a unified offering that combines robust technology and expert services to help them stay ahead of the ever-evolving threat landscape.

"We believe SCADAfence is uniquely qualified to secure complex OT networks and global critical infrastructure and has brought to market a complete solution that some of the world's most recognized brands are relying on for visibility, security, and compliance," said David Fernández of Prosegur.

"As a leader in the OT cyber security industry, SCADAfence has experienced unprecedented growth by making the forging of key strategic partnerships that capitalize on the synergies between our solutions and those of our partners a key strategy," said SCADAfence CEO Elad Ben-Meir.

"This is why we are thrilled to be announcing that Fujitsu, Mitsubishi Electric and Prosegur are providing additional strategic support to our company."

This new investment will allow us to rapidly expand into new markets and strengthen our position as the go-to provider for critical infrastructure security. By leveraging the power of strategic partnerships, we are confident that we can continue to deliver innovative cybersecurity solutions to our customers and stay ahead of the evolving threat landscape."

This investment not only underscores our belief in the power of strategic partnerships, but also demonstrates our partners' confidence in our vision and capabilities. With this new infusion of capital, we are poised to take our growth to the next level, solidifying our position as the go-to provider for critical infrastructure security.

About SCADAfence

SCADAfence is the global technology leader in OT & IoT cyber security. The SCADAfence platform enables organizations with complex OT networks to embrace the benefits of industrial IoT by reducing cyber risks and mitigating operational threats. The non-intrusive platform provides full coverage of large-scale networks, offering best-in-class detection accuracy, asset discovery and governance with minimal false-positives. SCADAfence delivers proactive security and visibility to



many of the world's most complex OT networks, including the largest manufacturing facility in Europe. SCADAfence enables organizations in manufacturing, building management and critical infrastructure industries to operate securely, reliably and efficiently.

Some of the existing investors in SCADAfence include Jerusalem Venture Partners (JVP), Global Brain, HCS Capital and Rapid7

Production of copper nano-ink Tatsuta Electric Wire that facilitates electronic circuit printing.

Kansai

February 22, 2023

Tatsuta Electric Wire & Cable Co., Ltd. has jointly developed copper nano-ink with an Israeli company that can easily print electronic circuits on printed circuit boards. Conventionally, it was necessary to pressurize and sinter the substrate in a special gas such as hydrogen after printing. Production will start within the year and will be supplied to Asian countries including Japan.

Printed circuit boards are usually made through the steps of exposure, development, etching, and plating, and a large amount of water, electricity, and chemicals are used in this process. If we can switch to copper nano-ink printing, the cost and environmental impact will be greatly reduced. This development has the potential to revolutionize the way substrates are produced.

The prototype is a copper nano ink developed by **Coprint Technologies (Jerusalem)**, an Israeli startup. With the prospect of market development in sight, we acquired additional subscription rights to shares. The amount and investment ratio in the event of conversion are not disclosed.

Copper nanoink consists of nano-level (1 nanometer = 1/1,000,000,000 meter) copper particles. After printing the electronic circuit, the particles are bonded together by sintering. Since TATSUTA Electric Wire can be sintered at 200 degrees Celsius or less within one minute, ordinary paper can also be used as a base material.

Mass production equipment will be installed in the Tatsuta Electric Wire factory in Kyoto Prefecture. Starting with a monthly production capacity of 2 tons, the company aims to triple the production capacity within 30 years. Produced in parallel with Coprint's home base of Israel. In



terms of sales, Coprint is in charge of Europe and the United States, and Tatsuta Electric Wire & Cable is in charge of Asia including Japan.

Tatsuta Electric Wire & Cable holds nearly 80% of the global market share for electromagnetic shielding films for smartphones. The company's performance tends to be influenced by smartphone production trends, and it is looking for new sources of revenue to follow. In June, through a takeover bid (TOB), it is expected to become a wholly owned subsidiary of JX Metals, a subsidiary of [ENEOS Holdings](#) .

Japanese medical team visits Israel to study emergency preparedness.

The visiting experts gained “a great deal of new knowledge,” stated Hiroshima University professor Tatsuhiko Kubo.



A delegation of medical staff from Japan, including the CEO of the Agency for the Management of Medical Disasters, along with researchers, expert doctors and public-health experts visited Israel to learn about its Emergency Operations Centers. March 6, 2023. Credit: Courtesy.

(March 8, 2023 / JNS) A nine-member Japanese medical delegation of researchers, physicians and public health experts, which included the CEO of the governmental Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT), visited Israel in late February to learn from colleagues about emergency preparedness.

The trip afforded the Japanese experts “a great deal of new knowledge,” [Tatsuhiko Kubo](#), a professor in Hiroshima University’s public-health department, stated in a release. “The visit was excellent and we wish to maintain this relationship,” he said.

Meetings like this allow colleagues to learn from each other's experiences, stated Eilat Shanar, deputy director general of blood services at Magen David Adom (MDA). "We learned a lot from the lectures and methods of operation presented by the members of the Japanese delegation," she said.

Shanar and Israeli colleagues shared Magen David Adom's "extensive experience" as "Israel's National Rescue Organization in responding to emergency situations in Israel and especially to multi-casualty incidents."

The Japanese delegation was specifically interested in MDA's [Blood Services Center in Ramla](#), which was "built to ensure the safety and security of the blood supplies along with the safety of the workers in various emergency situations," stated Shanar.

Israel's health and foreign affairs ministries collaborated on the trip, which included site visits to MDA's national operations center in Kiryat Ono and the Ramla blood bank. At the latter, a joint Israeli-Japanese disaster and emergency-risk management conference—in its third iteration—was broadcast live to hundreds of senior Israeli health officials. Talks were given by MDA, the health ministry and visiting Japanese speakers.

Marubeni and Ishikari City, Hokkaido Collaborate on Demand Transportation from Israel.

[Regional synthesis](#)

March 9, 2023

Ishikari City in Hokkaido and [Marubeni](#) have set out to overcome the weaknesses of cities that do not have railroads with demand transportation. Utilizes the system of an Israeli company, **MOOVIT**, with which the company has a business tie-up. The factories in Sapporo and Ishikari will be connected to secure transportation for commuters. We will prepare a lifestyle route for residents and connect it to the revitalization of the city.

It connects Sapporo Municipal Subway Asabu Station and JR Teine Station to the Ishikari Bay New Port area in Ishikari City, where many companies' factories and warehouses are located. About 40 parking spots were provided. [Hokkaido Chuo Bus](#) will deliver commuters who



make a reservation in advance . The fare is 400-800 yen depending on the distance. The service started in October 2022, and by January 23, 2023, a total of 390 people had used it.

Route buses run within the Ishikari Bay New Port, but there are cases where the bus stop is far from the company. Of the approximately 20,000 people who work here, 70% commute from Sapporo, and 70% use their own cars. For the rest, use the shuttle bus provided by your workplace. Every time companies change their employees' work shifts, they have to revisit their routes.

Access to transportation is a bottleneck for Ishikari City, which is trying to attract companies. We paid attention to the point that, although fixed-route buses require a notification of the establishment of a bus stop, which takes time, in the case of demand transportation, a new bus stop can be established in about two weeks.

Marubeni has customized the system for Ishikari City based on the system of **Moovit Up Global**, an Israeli company with which it has a business tie-up. Moovit, a subsidiary of [Intel](#), operates a route search service in more than 110 countries and approximately 3,500 cities around the world. In addition to trains and buses, we offer a combination of bicycles and ride sharing.

Services for residents will be operated by two jumbo taxis from a local taxi company. The price is 300 yen for adults. Children are half price.

Ishikari city's demand transportation app shows the arrival time of the vehicle

If you make a reservation with the **smartphone app "Itsumo"**, you can know the estimated arrival time. The location of the reserved car is displayed on the map, and you can wait indoors until the car arrives in the cold winter.

It also supports route searches outside the demand traffic area. When you search for a route from your home to Sapporo Station, the optimal route including demand traffic will be displayed.

Kenichi Kamikubo, who is in charge of transportation at the Ishikari City Planning Division, said, "Some users say they were able to get around thanks to the shortened commuting time and the service. By using the app to provide local information, the quality of life can be improved. I hope it will lead to improvement."



Two projects funded by Japan inaugurated in Salfit Governorate

SALFIT, Monday, March 6, 2023 (WAFA) - Hattori Takashi, Deputy Representative of Japan to Palestine, yesterday attended in the villages of Bidya and Masha in the Salfit Governorate the completion of two projects funded by the Government of Japan through Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP).

The Government of Japan extended a grant of \$90,000 to Bidya Village Council to ensure the resident's safety by replacing the exciting aerial main cables with 1800-meter underground cables, and prevent accidents related to old cables such as electrical power failure or conflagration. Upon the completion of the project, 13,000 people who use electricity in Bidya village benefit from the project.

Also, The Government of Japan extended a grant of \$90,000 to Masha Village Council to ensure the resident's safety by replacing the exciting aerial main cables, about 4500 meters, with new ones, besides underground cables, about 720 meters, and prevent accidents related to old cables such as electrical power failure or conflagration, also improve resident's access to sufficient electricity by installing electrical adapter and 73 wooden poles.

Upon the completion of the project, 3,100 people who use electricity in Masha village benefit from the project.

In his speech, Takashi emphasized Japan's firm commitment to supporting Palestinian people from a human security perspective as well as the importance of implementing social and economic development projects needed for Palestinian communities.

Since 1993 the Government of Japan has extended its official development assistance to approximately \$2.3 billion to the Palestinians. GGP projects have been formulated in collaboration with the Palestinian Authority through the Ministry of Finance and Planning since 2010



Jordanian FM. Safadi, Japanese PM talk ties, region

By JT - Mar 14,2023 – Jordan Times

AMMAN — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister Ayman Safadi and Planning and International Cooperation Minister Zeina Toukan on Tuesday met with Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida over ways to enhance cooperation between the two countries.

The group likewise discussed several regional and international issues of mutual interest.

During the meeting, Safadi conveyed His Majesty King Abdullah's greetings to Emperor Naruhito and the prime minister, as well as His Majesty's eagerness to strengthen the historical partnership between the two countries, according to a Foreign Ministry statement.

Kishida stated that he looks forward to King Abdullah's visit to Japan next month to discuss ways to enhance relations between the two countries and expand cooperation in various fields.

The Japanese prime minister reiterated his country's appreciation for its relationship with Jordan and for the Kingdom's key role in promoting security and stability in the region.

He also commended the Kingdom's great humanitarian role in hosting Syrian refugees, stressing Japan's readiness for broader cooperation with Jordan on many economic, investment, educational and defence projects.

Safadi reiterated the Kingdom's interest in increasing cooperation with Japan and expressed his appreciation for Japan's support and contributions to joint development programmes, including projects related to the energy and water sectors, among others.

The foreign minister also stressed the importance of Japan's support for refugees and UNRWA.

Safadi and Kishida discussed several regional and international issues, foremost of which was the Palestinian cause, where Safadi praised Japan's position in support of the two-state solution.

Safadi warned of the seriousness of the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories and stressed the need to halt Israel's unilateral actions and create the necessary political grounds for reaching an end to the conflict based on the two-state solution.

Talks also went over the current status of the "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" region, where Safadi reaffirmed the Kingdom's support for Japan in its efforts to resolve pending issues with North Korea, including the issue of kidnapped Japanese people.



As part of his meeting, Safadi and the speaker of the Japanese house of representatives, Hosoda Hiroyuki, discussed ways of expanding bilateral cooperation in various areas, enhancing the strategic partnership between the two countries, several issues of mutual interest, recent regional and international developments and efforts to solve crises.

Safadi and Toukan also met with Chairman of the Japanese Jordanian Parliamentary Friendship Committee Tanaka Kazunori and several of its members, where they reviewed relations between the Kingdom and Japan, the important role of parliamentarians' in boosting ties and several issues of mutual interest.

Safadi and Toukan also held discussions with the chairman of the Japan External Trade Organisation, Sasaki Nobuhiko, on ways to expand Japanese investments in Jordan and enhance cooperation between Jordanian and Japanese companies.

Meanwhile, the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan hosted Safadi at a session about Jordanian Japanese relations, the Middle East peace process, global refugee crises and the latest regional developments.



Israel – Japan April 2023

Business and pleasure: Israel and Japan sign a new visa agreement.

Visa applicants must meet a number of basic requirements including a clean criminal record, medical insurance and having a way to support themselves.

JERUSALEM POST STAFF Published: APRIL 28, 2023

Israel and Japan signed an agreement on Wednesday creating a "holiday-work" visa which will allow Israelis to both travel and work in Japan for one year at a time.

Per the agreement, people between the ages of 18-30 from Israel and Japan will be able to get a visa valid for up to 12 months which will allow them to work, study the language and participate in vocational training programs during their visit. . It is an employment-based non-immigrant visa.

Members of Israel's high-tech sector are of particular interest, according to a joint press statement issued by representatives from the two nations. Additionally, Israeli high-tech, cyber, health, and agriculture personnel will be able to obtain work visas for Japan.

Visa applicants face a number of basic requirements including a clean criminal record and medical insurance.

SoftBank invests another \$100 million in cyber unicorn Cybereason, replaces CEO. The new investment will make the Japanese conglomerate Cybereason's leading shareholder

Meir Orbach 16:30, 03.04.23

SoftBank is investing another \$100 million in Cybereason. The new investment will make the Japanese conglomerate Cybereason's leading shareholder.

The investment is believed to have been made at a similar valuation to the company's previous funding round. Cybereason was valued at roughly \$3 billion when it raised \$275 million in 2021.



In addition, Cybereason announced that Eric Gan will serve as the company's new CEO, replacing current CEO and Co-Founder Lior Div, who will transition to the role of advisor. Last October, Cybereason laid off 200 employees, accounting for 17% of its workforce. That was the second round of layoffs at the company, which sacked around 100 employees in June. Cybereason is active in over 50 countries across the world, employing a total of 1,500 people prior to the crisis.

According to Div, the company registered excellent results in the last quarter and met all of its sales goals. Div explained that he decided to step down as CEO as the role has become more operational than entrepreneurial and he preferred to move on and make room for someone with expertise in managing companies of such size.

As an Executive Vice President of SoftBank, Eric Gan has a long history with Cybereason, starting with SoftBank Corp.'s initial investment in Cybereason in 2015. Prior to SoftBank, Gan co-founded eAccess, a telecommunications company. Before eAccess, Gan was an analyst and managing director for Goldman Sachs.

"I have watched Cybereason grow from its earliest stages to a leader in the cyber industry as evidenced by its recent position as a leader in the Gartner Magic Quadrant for EPP and its record-breaking MITRE ATT&CK results. I look forward to supporting Cybereason's next stage of global growth and scale," said Gan.

Cybereason was recently named a Leader in the 2023 Gartner Magic Quadrant for Endpoint Protection Platforms, as well as being listed in CNBC's 10th Annual CNBC Disruptor 50 list of the most innovative privately held global companies.

Cybereason, which competes with other cybersecurity players like CrowdStrike and SentinelOne, builds artificially intelligent software and offers a variety of services including ransomware protection and prevention of malware attacks. Cybereason's software is installed across computers, mobile phones, and other tech systems. The company also created a subsidiary focusing on preventing malicious operations targeting U.S. government agencies.

The company was founded in 2012 by three Israeli partners, Lior Div, Yonatan Striem-Amit, and Yossi Naar. It has raised around \$850 million from investors to date.

NYK to install Orca AI platform across its fleet.

April 19, 2023, by Jasmina Ovcina Mandra

Japanese shipping heavyweight Nippon Yusen Kabushiki Kaisha (NYK) Group plans to install Orca AI platform across its fleet, which includes bulk carriers, tankers and containerships.

The move is being announced on the back of a two-year cooperation between NYK and Orca AI, developer of a unique automated situational awareness platform.

The deal is being pursued as NYK seeks to bolster the safety of its fleet and empower its crews to make better real-time decisions while navigating congested oceans as well as getting a better understanding of navigational challenges facing the fleet and how they are being managed.

“Orca AI demonstrated that the safety of shipping operations can be improved by automating the task of target detection in low visibility in congested waters,” **Captain Jun Nakamura**, manager of the autonomous ship team at NYK Group, said.

“The platform serves as an automated lookout and recognizes dangerous targets and other vessels that may be overlooked by the human eye, reducing the probability of incidents at sea.”

“We are excited to partner with tech leaders such as NYK, deepening our collaboration with the company and supporting its ongoing aim to be a central player in the shipping industry’s digital revolution,” **Yarden Gross**, CEO and Co-founder of Orca AI, added.

The partnership began in August 2020 when NYK and MTI Co., Ltd, installed a trial version of Orca AI’s platform on a ship operated by the NYK Group. Since then, the NYK Group and Orca have also completed a successful autonomous voyage trial in congested waters near Japan’s east coast through the Designing the Future of Full Autonomous Ships (DFFAS) consortium, which includes 30 Japanese firms.



The NYK trial – known as the MEGURI2040 Project and supported by the Nippon Foundation – was carried out on Suzaku, a 749 gross tonne autonomous containership fitted with Orca's artificial intelligence and deep-learning technology. Traveling from Tokyo Bay to the port of Tsumatsusaka in the Ise Bay, the vessel achieved 40 hours of navigation with complete autonomy for about 98% of the voyage.

CropX closes \$30m Series C in round led by Aliaxis to expand digital farm management solutions and pursue additional acquisitions.

NTT Finance joins as new investor in the company.

BRUSSELS and TEL AVIV, Israel, April 19, 2023 /PRNewswire/ -- **CropX Technologies, a leader in digital agronomic farm management, today announced the completion of a Series C financing round with \$30 million in funding. The funding round was led by Aliaxis SA, a world leader enabling access to water and energy through inventive fluid management solutions.**

The funding will be used to build on the two pillars of CropX's growth: the continued development of innovative capabilities for its agronomic farm management system, and the acquisition of companies with complementary technologies and market reach. Through this partnership, Aliaxis and CropX will continue to collaborate closely in the field of data-driven precision irrigation. Additional investors in the round include Edaphon, Finistere Ventures, **NTT Finance Corporation**, OurCrowd, Reinke Irrigation, Yair Shamir, and Victrix.

Food production accounts for roughly 70 per cent of total freshwater withdrawals globally and efficient water usage in agriculture is clearly becoming more and more important. Users of CropX's irrigation planning are able to conserve irrigation water and boost yields. In addition to irrigation, the CropX system also optimizes the use of energy and fertilizers, supports farmers in adopting more sustainable farming practices, and is becoming a one-stop-shop for crop management. CropX now has over 100 employees in the US, the Netherlands, Israel and New Zealand and a large research and development department.



CropX CEO Tomer Tzach comments: *"Completing this funding is a huge endorsement from our investors of the value that we bring to our customers and shareholders, and the positive impact we are making on farms around the world. This round follows CropX's January acquisition of California-based precision irrigation company Tule Technologies, our fourth acquisition. We are proud to be one of the consolidation leaders in ag-tech as we bring a complete, powerful and simple solution to farms and agribusinesses."*

About CropX Technologies

CropX Technologies is one of the fastest growing providers of agribusiness farm management solutions in the world, deployed in over 60 countries and across all arable continents. The CropX Agronomic Farm Management System synthesizes data from the earth and sky to offer advanced soil and crop intelligence and a suite of digital decision and planning tools, all on an easy-to-use app capable of tracking multiple farms and fields. CropX is backed by the world's leading agribusinesses and VCs, who recognize that CropX's precision ag technologies set new standards for best practices in environmental sustainability and farm productivity.

Japanese manufacturing leader Musashi Seimitsu and Israeli AI innovation powerhouse SIXAI partner for global launch of Industry 4.0 solutions

Musashi Seimitsu and SIXAI partner to combine Japanese industrial experience and Israeli innovation. 634AI deploys its MAESTRO platform globally with one of the largest autonomous robot orders and Musashi AI launches global rollout of visual inspection robot for automakers.

NEVE ILAN, Israel and TOYOHASHI, Japan, April 25, 2023 /PRNewswire/ -- 634AI, the Israeli developer of an integrated solution combining an autonomous mobile robot (MAESTRO Autonomous Mobile Robot) and related AI control systems (MAESTRO Floor manager, MAESTRO Guard, MAESTRO Intelligence), and Musashi AI, a Japan-based software designer of



visual inspection robots for industry, will work together to deploy their proven solutions to customers globally.

634AI and Musashi AI are joint ventures between Musashi Seimitsu Industry, a global tier-1 auto part manufacturer, and SIXAI, an Israeli innovation specialist in integrating deep tech and AI into traditional mobility, logistics and manufacturing industries through creating JVs with established industry leaders.

At an event in Toyohashi, Japan, the companies showcased the latest "go live" versions of their solutions, both of which, after extensive real-world testing, have benefitted from refinement and evolution, resulting in easily deployable and reliable solutions.

Now ready for global roll-out, the two companies will leverage their sales teams and global locations as they work to deliver solutions to additional customers.

Unlike earlier industrial robots, both 634AI and Musashi AI's solutions are designed to work alongside human workers to fill skills shortages, streamline workflows, and improve safety. In contrast to many other robotics companies, both firms have designed their solutions to be uncomplicated to retrofit into existing 'brownfield' facilities, as opposed to requiring newbuild sites. This retrofitting capability enables more industrial users to integrate the solutions into their operations, benefitting from Industry 4.0 faster, as well as increasing the addressable market for 634AI and Musashi AI.

MAESTRO is 634AI's vendor-agnostic AI-powered platform. Its central control system streamlines indoor operations, enabling the safe and efficient navigation of autonomous mobile robots in real world industrial and logistics settings. It tracks human and robot workers and other assets in real time, generating actionable insights and compliance reports. The platform utilizes off-the-shelf, ceiling-mounted cameras for continuous floor awareness with its proprietary computer vision and deep learning algorithms detecting and classifying objects, before tracking and locating them with incredible accuracy as well as understanding the full context of activities on the floor.



Anat Kaphan, CEO of 634AI, said: "MAESTRO represents the next generation of indoor industrial mobility, and 634AI is dedicated to helping as many customer organisations as possible. ."

Musashi AI's Visual Quality Control Inspector has already successfully proven itself in Musashi Seimitsu manufacturing plants. Combining artificial intelligence and cutting-edge optics, the visual inspector machine can identify defects in manufacturing lines at a rate and accuracy surpassing human workers. Musashi AI has already received orders for 56 units from 19 other companies, including Toyota Motor Corporation.*.

Murata Sota, CEO of Musashi AI, said: "Both visual inspection and forklift driving are two vital jobs in any industrial setting – but it can be repetitive and difficult work. By automating these areas, we can improve employees' workdays and increase overall business efficiency.."

Both solutions represent major advancements in industrial robotics, allowing AI-powered technologies to work seamlessly alongside human workers, improving safety and workflows.

About Musashi Seimitsu Industry Co., Ltd:

Musashi Seimitsu Industry Co., Ltd. is a global auto parts Tier 1 company for automobiles and motorcycles, whose headquarters is located in Toyohashi, Japan. It has 35 manufacturing sites in 14 countries spreading across Europe, North and South America, China, and Southeast Asia. Musashi specializes in designing, developing and manufacturing powertrain products such as differential assemblies, planetary gear assemblies, transmission gears and assemblies, and reduction gears for xEVs, which are supplied to global major OEMs and Tier 1s. Linkage and suspension products are also strategic products of Musashi. Musashi implements AI on manufacturing sites under the philosophy of "more human-friendly work" and is also working on manufacturing innovation. Musashi is listed on the first section of Tokyo Stock Exchange (TYO: 7220). Website: <http://www.musashi.co.jp/en>

About SIXAI:



SIXAI, which was established by the entrepreneur Ran Poliakine, is engaged in making Israeli and international technologies accessible to the world of traditional industry, with a focus on AI technologies. The company identifies problems in the world of industry and provides them with technological solutions through development, integration and acquisition of companies in the local and international market, mainly in the fields of artificial intelligence (AI), robotics, green energy, cyber and fintech. The company has a strategic partnership with the Japanese corporation Musashi Seimitsu. In addition, the company has signed an exclusive agreement with the Israeli Aerospace Industries (IAI) - to establish a joint corporation whose goal is to locate military technologies and convert them to civilian uses, as independent start-up companies. The company's offices are located in the technology incubator established by Ran Poliakine in Neve Ilan, Israel. Website: <https://www.sixai.tech>

About Musashi AI:

In order to accelerate AI technology and implementing it at manufacturing sites, as well as global expansion, Musashi AI was established in July 2019 as a joint venture between Musashi Seimitsu Industry Co., Ltd. and SIXAI Ltd., which is represented by Ran Poliakine, an Israeli technology pioneer and founder of Poliakine Innovation. Musashi AI will work together with leaders who share the same ideas for innovation to build a new ecosystem for Industry 4.0. Musashi AI Web Site: <https://musashi-ai.com>

About 634AI:

634AI was founded to enable the greater resilience and business continuity of organizations in an ever-changing world. Our mission is to simplify industrial mobility and allow safer, smarter operations – for everyone, everywhere. The company developed MAESTRO, an integrated AI-powered platform that streamlines management of anything mobile on an industrial floor.

On the current developments surrounding Israel and Palestine (Statement by Press Secretary ONO Hikariko)

April 10, 2023 MOFA

1. Regarding the current developments surrounding Israel and Palestine, the Government of Japan strongly condemns all forms of violence over the past week, and expresses its serious concern over the growing tensions on the ground. As we have entered the season of holy days for both Muslims and Jews, it is all the more important to respect the sanctity of the holy place.
2. Japan supports a two-state solution regarding the Middle East Peace and is convinced that the problems people in the Middle East face can never be resolved by violence, but only through negotiations and efforts to build mutual trust among the parties to the conflict. Japan urges all the parties concerned to exercise maximum restraint and refrain from violence and provocative actions in order to avoid further escalation of the situation.



Israel – Japan May 2023

ANA and El Al to join hands on Japan-Israel flights.

Exclusive: Japanese airline to form first post-COVID international tie-up

MASAHISA YUZAWA, Nikkei staff writer

-- **All Nippon Airways and El Al Israel Airlines** will join forces on flights between Japan and Israel in the first international tie-up by a major Japanese air carrier of the post-COVID era, Nikkei has learned.

The two airlines have agreed on the terms of the deal, which includes code-sharing and cross-honoring rewards miles, and will soon make their partnership official, people familiar with the matter said.

Code-sharing on flights between Japan and Tel Aviv is expected to begin as early as the spring of 2024 in Japan.

The move shows how airlines are coming out of a defensive crouch to try to capture resurgent global demand for travel.

El Al started direct service between Tel Aviv and the Tokyo area's Narita Airport in March 2023.

Before COVID-19, visitors from Israel to Japan had increased for eight straight years through 2019. In 2019, there were about 44,000 -- double the number in 2015.

El Al is not a member of any global airline alliance, such as the Star Alliance to which ANA belongs. The ANA Holdings unit, whose main domestic rival is Japan Airlines, seeks to encourage Israeli visitors to Japan to use its domestic network through its partnership with El Al.

Japan-Israel exchanges are deepening. A bilateral investment pact entered into force in 2017, and the two countries decided in 2022 to launch a joint study group on the possibility of an economic partnership agreement.



Israel is home to high-tech companies in semiconductors, autonomous driving and other sectors. Hundreds of global companies have established R&D hubs in Israel.

Fujitsu establishes new center in Israel to strengthen data and security technologies.

Fujitsu Limited

On May 15, our new branch in Tel Aviv was formally opened by **Seishi Okamoto, EVP of Fujitsu Research**, in front of an invited audience of VIP guests, including the Japanese Ambassador Koichi Mizushima, Ayelet Nahmias-Verbin, Chairperson of the Israel Export Institute, Gilad Majerowicz, Chairman of the Japan Israel Chamber of Commerce and Professor Yuval Elovici, Director of Ben Gurion University (BGU).

The opening event took place at FRE Israel's new offices, based in the prestigious Point Azrielle Center in Tel Aviv.

Fujitsu Limited revealed in November 2022, plans to open a new center for research and development in Tel Aviv, accelerating the recruitment of world-class talent to advance innovation in the field of Data and Security, an urgent priority for businesses and society in an era of increasing connectivity and uncertainty.

From April 2023, the newly established location in Tel Aviv will allow Fujitsu to further enhance its presence in Israel with a team composed of experts recruited from Israel alongside researchers from Japan and Europe. This team will be dedicated to strengthening security technology for communications networks as part of Fujitsu's global strategy for Data and Security, one of 5 key technology areas under the company's global R&D strategy.

With the establishment of the "Fujitsu Cybersecurity Center of Excellence in Israel" at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (Ben-Gurion University) in 2021, Fujitsu took its first steps to tapping into

the innovative potential of Israeli tech talent to embark on research to make AI technology more secure.

Visiting Israel to oversee the establishment of the new center, Fujitsu Limited CTO Vivek Mahajan commented “As one of the world’s most technologically advanced countries, Israel offers Fujitsu a concentration of talent and an environment to sustain innovation like few other places. I look forward to recruiting more local researchers to join our team in Tel Aviv and contribute to our mission of delivering security and trust for network technologies, as well as further deepening collaboration with Ben Gurion University. I anticipate that our newly established teams in Israel will work with our global research network to play a central role in leading the development of Fujitsu's future security and AI technologies.”

During his stay in Israel, Fujitsu CTO Vivek Mahajan will be the guest of the Foreign Trade Administration at the Ministry of Economy and the Israel Export Institute, participating as a speaker at the HLS&CYBER conference and exhibition 2022. He is expected to speak in a panel centered on the theme: Shaping the Future: AI & Robotics in Law Enforcement.

Overview

- **Location** : Tel Aviv, Israel
- **Staff** : Approximately 10 researchers
- **General Manager** : Dr. Adel Rouz (Fujitsu Research of Europe Ltd. CEO)
- **Research Overview** :

In a borderless world in which the real and digital increasingly converge with developments like Web 3.0 and the Metaverse, ensuring trust for all connected people, data, and systems represents a key priority for technology companies. Fujitsu is currently developing IDYX technology ⁽¹⁾, CDL technology ⁽²⁾, and transparent trust technology ⁽³⁾ to help realize this kind of trust on a global scale in the data and security space.

The new research center will initially focus on R&D on the following two themes :

1. As the borderless world evolves, the complexity of society will further increase. To build relationships with new, diverse stakeholders across the globe, it will be important to ensure reliable information that serves as a basis for trust in the digital space. To this

end, Fujitsu is working to develop new technologies that can secure trust based on physical information in real space, such as data sources. By combining the expertise of Ben-Gurion University and other institutions in cyber and network security with our company's trust technology and know-how, we will conduct research on realizing trust for new network security that combines real-world and digital technologies and deploy the results globally.

2. Fujitsu will contribute to solving societal issues by globally implementing technologies that are expected to be used in a wide range of situations, including autonomous driving, self-checkout, as well as public safety, including anti-attack technologies for object detection AI, which recognizes information such as the position and type of a specific object from video data, while promoting synergies between local experts and researchers from Europe and Japan.

Gentex Announces Investment and Collaboration Agreement with ADASKY KYOCERA Makes a follow up investment

May 01, 2023 08:00 ET | Source: [Gentex Corporation](#)

ZEELAND, Mich., May 01, 2023 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Gentex Corporation (NASDAQ: GNTX), a leading supplier of digital vision, connected car, dimmable glass, and fire protection technologies, today announced that it has closed an agreement with ADASKY as the lead investor in a Series B round of financing and has also established a commercial, engineering, and manufacturing collaboration agreement to help bring ADASKY's proprietary technology to market.

"opThe investment round of financing and the collaboration agreement with Gentex will help secure the transition of ADASKY from an early growth company to a global leader in automotive thermal sensing. ADASKY's proprietary LWIR (Long Wave Infrared) sensors are becoming well-known in the industry for their market-leading performance based on their superior size-to-performance ratio, solid state technology, high reliability, and "shutterless" constant operation design. As advanced sensing systems create the path for passenger and pedestrian safety, thermal sensing will fill the existing gaps in that technology so that ADAS and vision-based systems can operate more reliably in low light and in all-weather situations.



“After several years of investigation, research, and dialogue with the ADASKY team, we became very convinced that now was the time for Gentex to help accelerate the technology’s growth and development curve as well as the commercialization of the ADASKY technology. Over the last few years, we have been investing heavily into our sensing capabilities and the ADASKY technology was a great fit to complement our existing suite of sensing products,” said Gentex President and CEO, Steve Downing. “However, the last piece of the analysis always comes down to ‘fit’ between organizations, especially when it comes to collaboration agreements, and I am personally very excited about the cultural similarities of our organizations and our ability to work together as a team,” concluded Downing.

“Gentex is exactly the right strategic partner for ADASKY to complement our existing shareholders. We have the same excellence-driven engineering and innovation focus that will help propel us to expand markets and applications. With Gentex’s global footprint and capability, we will be able to meet the demand we are seeing for our thermal camera,” said ADASKY CEO, Yakov Shaharabani. “We are thrilled to explore new opportunities with Gentex in the automotive market and in other industries and verticals. ADASKY and Gentex share the same spirit of addressing extreme challenges with determination and innovation,” concluded Shaharabani.

About ADASKY

ADASKY develops and manufactures intelligent, high-resolution thermal sensing systems (LWIR) for vehicle safety and perception applications and smart city roadway solutions. Thermal vision systems can see at night the same as during daylight and are not limited by blinding lights or harsh weather conditions, filling gaps in existing sensor suites.

Foretellix Raises \$43 Million in Series C First Closing

New strategic investors include Nvidia and **Woven Capital Toyota’s Growth Fund**

TEL-AVIV, Israel and SUNNYVALE, Calif., May 2, 2023 /PRNewswire/ -- Foretellix, the leading provider of safety-driven verification and validation solutions for Automated Driving Systems and Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS), announced today it had raised \$43 million in the first closing of its Series C funding round led by 83North, bringing its total raised capital to over \$93 million. Woven Capital, the growth fund of Toyota, and NVIDIA joined the financing round, along with Artofin VC. All major existing shareholders participated, including MoreTech,

Nationwide, Volvo Group VC, and Jump Capital. Foretellix will use the funding to accelerate the development of its expanding product portfolio and fuel expansion across new geographies.

"We are thrilled to have Woven by Toyota and NVIDIA as strategic partners," said Ziv Binyamini, Foretellix CEO and Co-Founder. "Foretellix is addressing the largest barrier for safe large-scale deployment of automated driving systems. The new funding will help us to address the growing demand for our solutions, extend our worldwide reach, and accelerate our vision for achieving safe autonomy."

"At Woven by Toyota, we're on a mission to deliver the world's safest, most intelligent, and human-centric mobility solutions," said George Kellerman, Vice President, Investments and Acquisitions for Woven by Toyota, and Managing Director of Woven Capital. "Verification and validation technology plays a critical role in ensuring the safety and performance of innovative autonomous systems that are accelerating the future of mobility. Foretellix is a leading player in this space, and we are excited to work together to advance automated driving technologies."

Foretellix's Safety-Driven Verification & Validation (SDV) Platform – Foretify™ is used by Automotive, Trucking, and Mining customers, including Volvo Group, Torc – a Daimler Truck subsidiary, and many others, to accelerate the development and deployment of their Automated Driving Systems. Foretellix established partnerships with major simulation companies, including IPG, NVIDIA, dSPACE, VIRES, AI Motive, and Cognata, providing its customers with a comprehensive verification and validation (V&V) solution.

The Foretify platform is used by engineers at OEMs, Tier-1 suppliers, and Autonomous Vehicle (AV) stack providers throughout the AV/ADAS development cycle. The platform consists of multiple products:

Foretellix led the ASAM OpenSCENARIO® 2.0 (OSC2.0) standard development revolutionizing how safety is developed and tested in Automated Driving Systems. Foretellix contributed key syntax and concepts to ASAM, and it continues to lead further enhancements of the standard. The Foretify platform is the industry's first solution offering native OSC2.0 support.



About Foretellix

Foretellix is the leading provider of safety-driven verification and validation solutions for Automated Driving Systems and ADAS. Foretellix's Foretify™ platform helps automotive, trucking, and mining customers to ensure safety, reduce development costs, and accelerate time-to-market. Foretellix is headquartered in Israel, with offices in the US, Europe, and Asia. For more information, visit <http://www.foretellix.com>

MUFG to launch venture debt funds worth \$400 million for Japan, Europe

REUTERS/Thomas Peter 08 May 2023 03:11PM

TOKYO : **Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group Inc (MUFG)** said it would launch two new venture debt funds worth \$400 million in total for Japanese and European startups, reflecting strong funding demand as the market for initial public offerings remains dull.

The debt funds, **with \$250 million for Europe** and 20 billion yen (\$148.35 million) for Japan, will be created through **Mars Growth Capital**, a Singapore-based joint venture between **MUFG and Israeli financial tech firm Liquidity Capital**, the top Japanese lender said on Monday.

With a rise in interest rates and market volatility hurting investment flows and demand for new stock listings globally, demand for venture debt has risen among startups.

Since its inception in 2021, Mars has provided debt financing to 30 middle and later stage startups in Asia through two existing funds worth \$750 million in total.

"We've seen very strong needs for debt financing in the (startup) market," Ryutaro Hiroshima, co-CEO of Mars, said at a briefing. "We've decided to expand our business to meet such demand."

Debt financing is also in high demand as it allows startups to raise funds without diluting their existing shareholder equity or ownership, MUFG said.

The new Europe fund will take over its capital from the existing funds, while the Japan fund will take in fresh money from MUFG and other investors.



Offering debt to startups with no proven track record of stable revenue involves higher risks for lenders, but Mars controls such risks with its artificial intelligence-driven credit scoring model that forecasts future cash flows from real-time financial and accounting data.

If Mars' portfolio firms eventually choose to go public, MUFG plans to support their IPOs with its U.S. alliance partner Morgan Stanley.

The Japanese lender said it is also studying the feasibility of expanding the Mars business to the United States.

Shizen International :ISRAEL ENERGY TECH STARTUP COMPETITION

We take action for the blue planet.: Shizen International is looking for an Israeli energy-tech startup that will inspire us and join in our efforts.

We're going to hold a competition in Tel Aviv, Israel in late June, 2023 and then bring the finalist startups to our head office in Fukuoka, Japan to launch our collaboration with the winner. We are offering a tailor-made prize package which could potentially include mentorship, support for commercialization, opportunities to expand your network in Japan and worldwide, Japanese visa fast-tracking and investment.

Are you part of an innovative, inspiring, and disruptive start-up that can meet human needs for energy while also protecting the environment?

We're particularly eager to find startups in the following areas:

Energy management systems

Solar PV component and system innovations

Floating solar technologies

Innovation in wind power generation

Innovation in small hydropower, biomass, and other renewable energy systems

Energy storage technologies

Battery integration technologies

Grid technologies

Energy efficiency

Operation and maintenance technologies
Energy forecasting and trading systems
Remote monitoring
Corporate PPA innovations

About Shizen Energy Group.

Shizen Energy Inc. provides renewable energy project development services. The Company mainly builds and operates solar, wind, small hydroelectric, and other renewable energy power plants. Shizen Energy offers services in Japan.

Summing over 1 GW in projects (developed and built), the group has its own construction company, asset manager, and O&M provider. Overseas, Shizen operates either as a Developer, or as an Independent Power Producer.

Global Brain has invested in StructShare Technologies Ltd., a digital procurement platform for specialty contractors in the construction industry.

May 26, 2023

Global Brain has invested in **StructShare Technologies Ltd.** (StructShare), a digital procurement platform for specialty contractors in the construction industry, through its GB-VIII Growth Fund Investment Limited Partnership (GB-VIII).

The round was led by KOMPAS, an early-stage venture capital firm focused on the built environment and construction digitization. There was also participation by first-time contech investors SeedIL, and CEMEX Ventures, the corporate venture capital arm of the multinational building materials company.

The construction industry heavily relies on specialty contractors, also known as trade contractors or subcontractors, spanning diverse trades such as plumbing, electrical, drywall, concrete, HVAC, and mechanical systems. With hundreds of thousands of subcontractors operating in the United States alone, the market remains highly fragmented. Digitalization efforts for material procurement have lagged behind, leading to manual workflows, operational



inefficiencies, and significant losses due to misplaced materials and billing errors. The material procurement undertaken by subcontractors in the United States alone exceeds \$500 billion annually, underscoring the significant impact that improving procurement operations can have on the industry.

To address these challenges, StructShare connects all parties such as field workers, project managers, accounting, procurement, warehouse, and suppliers involved in the procurement of materials on a single platform to realize the digitalization of procurement operations. StructShare's market leadership position in the United States and widespread recognition within the industry highlight the credibility of its solutions.

Global Brain has decided to invest in StructShare, highly recognizing its well-balanced management and team with deep knowledge of the construction and tech industries, as well as its products built with a thorough understanding of construction field operations. Global Brain will support the company's future expansion into other countries and the establishment of new revenue streams through functional enhancements.

Launched in 2021, StructShare has developed a software solution that enables trade contractors to take control of the entire procurement cycle. By automating all procurement processes in the field, office and warehouse, StructShare reduces costs and material waste, prevents purchasing mistakes, and enables full control over spend and inventory.

Arik David, Co-Founder of StructShare, said: "We are extremely proud of the team and look forward to continuing to facilitate the transition of efficient commerce in the construction industry. The fresh funding will help us to expand our platform and continue to scale our footprint in the US and beyond."



Asahi Kasei leads a Strategic Investment in CASTOR's Intelligent Manufacturing Optimization Software

Tel Aviv, Israel. May 16, 2023

CASTOR, a leading software startup in the Additive Manufacturing industry, announced that it has secured funding from Asahi Kasei, the Japanese multinational corporation, to support its mission to empower manufacturers to optimize their production processes for greater efficiency and sustainability.

Asahi Kasei's investment in CASTOR's intelligent manufacturing optimization software marks Asahi Kasei's first involvement in the 3D printing industry presenting the company's commitment to supporting the Additive Manufacturing market and advancing the industry's integration of advanced technologies to increase efficiency sustainability and productivity.

In addition to Asahi Kasei's investment, existing investors such as Xerox, Spring Ventures, Evonik Venture Capital, Jeremy Collier, TAU Ventures, and Chartered Group have also contributed to the funding round.

CASTOR Software optimizes manufacturing processes with its advanced supply chain software. Using advanced proprietary algorithms, CASTOR automatically identifies mechanical components suitable for Additive Manufacturing, leading to a reduction in time, cost, and CO2 emissions compared to traditional manufacturing methods.

"We are excited to have the support of Asahi Kasei and our other investors," said OMER BLAIER, CO-FOUNDER & CEO of CASTOR. "This investment will enable us to continue our efforts in developing and expanding our software solutions, which aim to assist manufacturers in optimizing their production processes for greater efficiency and sustainability. We look forward to collaborating with our investors to bring our technology to a wider audience and serve more industries worldwide."

"The Asahi Kasei Group is committed to supporting a sustainable future through their investment in CASTOR's innovative software solutions for identifying opportunities to implement additive manufacturing. We see the software is a key enabler to promote Industry 4.0, which focuses on the integration of advanced technologies to increase efficiency and productivity. Castor's mission aligns with Asahi Kasei's goal the implementation of additive manufacturing in the industry in a more efficient and sustainable method." said Takashi Morishita, President of CVC at Asahi Kasei.



Asahi Kasei's investment in CASTOR Software demonstrates its commitment to the further development of advanced manufacturing technologies and its recognition of the potential of CASTOR's software. This strategic partnership will allow CASTOR to leverage Asahi Kasei's global resources and expertise to accelerate its growth and impact in the industry.

Israel-Japan Conference

"Trade between Israel and Japan is growing...but we can do more".

"In recent years, Japan has steadily increased its involvement in the Israeli economy. Trade between Israel and Japan has grown to more than \$4 billion dollars a year," said Calcalist Publisher Yoel Esteron at the start of the Israel-Japan Conference

Yoel Esteron 09:09, 30.05.23

Calcalist, the leading economic newspaper in Israel, has been acting for years as an ambassador of the Israeli business community, and especially of Israeli technology and innovation around the world. We create unique meetups both in Israel and in important capitals around the globe.

Since we founded Calcalist about 15 years ago, we have held hundreds of conferences in Israel and the Western Hemisphere. Tel Aviv, New York, Silicon Valley, London, Berlin, Paris. But this is the first time we've landed in Tokyo, or in the Far East, and it is so exciting. It took us many months to prepare for this conference. It was not easy, but it was inspiring to build the necessary bridge between Israelis and Japanese.

Japan has fascinated me for many years. I traveled in Japan in the past and was mesmerized by the tradition and culture. I have been reading with great pleasure the prominent Japanese authors for years. In my opinion, Haruki Murakami is one of the greatest authors in the world. Therefore, our first Israel-Japan conference is a dream come true for me.

It was just a couple of months ago that we celebrated the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Israel.

In recent years, Japan has steadily increased its involvement in the Israeli economy. Trade between Israel and Japan has grown to more than \$4 billion dollars a year. Japanese companies have invested a total of \$13 billion dollars in Israeli high-tech since 2000. In the last year,



Japanese investments in Israel were about 13% percent of foreign investments in Israel. At the same time, almost 100 Japanese companies are currently operating in Israel.

It is very impressive. It is very encouraging. But we can do more.

That is why I was happy to hear about two months ago that the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Economy agreed with their Japanese counterparts on starting a process that could lead to a free trade agreement between the countries. That could be huge.

I hope that this conference is only the first step of our activity at Calcalist to bring together the business communities of Japan and Israel. We want to hold such an event in Israel soon, in a few months. We're working on it.

I want to thank our many partners, Israelis and Japanese alike, who worked tirelessly to make this conference a reality. Special thanks to Discount CEO Uri Levin. Thank you team Calcalist, you are the best, and thank you to everyone that is here. Arigatou Gozaimasu.

Israeli envoy gifts Sumo champion with Shofar from Israel

Ambassador Gilad Cohen says the ceremony exposed millions of Japanese to Israel's culture, tradition and exports and express the friendship between the two nations.

Ynet, May 29th 2023.

In a show of friendship between Israel and Japan, Israeli envoy Gilad Cohen presented the winner of a prestigious Sumo competition with a gift from the government of Israel, the Foreign Ministry said.



Cohen presented 31-year-old **Terunofuji Haruo** with a shofar mounted on a wooden stand made from an olive tree which will remain with the Sumo association and be presented to every future winner, along with a supply of Israeli dates and wines.

Sumo wrestling is an ancient tradition, and the Tokyo competition is considered one of the most important in that country. It culminates with a ceremony to award a prize, seen by millions on live television and tens of thousands of spectators in the arena.

"The prize we awarded to the competition winner is an expression of the great friendship between our countries," Cohen said. "I am pleased that millions of Japanese were exposed to Jewish tradition. This was an excellent opportunity also to contribute to Israel's exports. The people of Japan value Israeli culture and tradition and the responses we have received were moving," he said.



CELEBRATING 70 YEARS OF PARTNERSHIP AND SOLIDARITY: JAPANESE PRINCESSES VISIT AMMAN NEW CAMP TO SHOW SUPPORT FOR UNRWA AND PALESTINE REFUGEES

31 May 2023

Today, Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado and Her imperial Highness Princess Tsuguko of Takamado, accompanied by the Japanese Ambassador to Jordan, H.E. Jiro Okuyama, visited Amman New Camp to show their support for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) and Palestine Refugees living in the camp. The Japanese royals were warmly welcomed by the UNRWA Director of Health, Dr. Akihiro Seita, the Acting Director of UNRWA Affairs in Jordan, Mr. Olaf Becker, and the Director-General of the Department of Palestinian Affairs (DPA), H.E. Eng. Rafiq Kherfan.

This was the second time that Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado visited a Palestine Refugee camp in Jordan, having previously visited Baqa'a Camp in 1996 with her late husband, His Imperial Highness Prince Takamado. The visit coincides with the 70th anniversary of the partnership between Japan and UNRWA and highlights Japan's continued commitment and support to UNRWA and Palestine Refugees.

The Princesses were joyfully received with songs performed by students at the UNRWA ANC Preparatory Girls School No.2 where they were briefed about Palestine Refugees, UNRWA services and Amman New Camp. They also learned about the UNRWA education programme, challenges such as learning loss and improving the mental health among students and how UNRWA is making efforts to address them.

During a lively tour inside the school, the Princesses had an interactive dialogue with UNRWA Student Parliamentarians, who talked about their roles as student representatives of the school and their community, challenges they face in their education, and their ambitious aspirations for the future.

At the UNRWA health centre, the Princesses were briefed about the health program and how UNRWA has been protecting the health and wellbeing of the Palestine Refugees. This includes the innovative e-health services, the Maternal and Child Health Mobile Application (e-MCH), and the "Your Health" Non-Communicable Diseases Mobile Application (e-NCD).



In expressing their gratitude for Japan's support, UNRWA officials emphasized that this support is vital and enables the Agency to keep essential services uninterrupted and demonstrates the international responsibility and solidarity with Palestine Refugees.

"We are deeply honored by the visit of Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado and Her Imperial Highness Princess Tsuguko of Takamado and very grateful for Japan's unwavering support for UNRWA and the Palestine Refugees," said Olaf Becker. "This visit underscores the strong partnership between Japan and UNRWA and the shared commitment to work together for Palestine refugees," he added.

2023 marks the 70th year anniversary of the support from Japan to UNRWA. The generous contribution this year includes US\$ 5 million for Jordan Field to enhance the human security of Palestine Refugees in Jordan, specifically for food security and the provision of basic health care and education services.

ENDs-

Notes to Editors

- Japan has offered over US\$ 1 billion to the Palestinian Refugees since they started supporting UNRWA.
- Over the past five years, Japan has contributed nearly US\$ 200 million to UNRWA and Palestine refugees, including for the Japanese Supplementary Budget, the Emergency Grant Aid for the Syria EA winterization purposes, the Emergency Grant Aid for Gaza, emergency aid to help Gaza cover the increasing cost of food, and more. In 2022, Japan ranked as the 6th largest donor the UNRWA.



Israel – Japan June 2023

Mizuho signs MoU with Israel Export and International Cooperation Institute

May 31, 2023

Mizuho Bank, Ltd. (President & CEO: Masahiko Kato) and the Israel Export and International Cooperation Institute (CEO: Nili Shalev, "IEICI") have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), paving the way for expanding cooperation especially in areas of start-up investment.

IEICI is a premier gateway for doing business with Israeli companies. Established and funded by both the government and the private sector, IEICI's expertise in technology and product scouting, joint ventures and strategic alliances with Israeli companies spans more than half a century. IEICI offers access to relevant businesses and government resources. With in-depth knowledge and experience in Israel's leading industries, IEICI provides the information necessary to connect, negotiate and do business with Israeli companies.

Mizuho considers Israel to be a central player in bringing innovative technologies for sustainable development and well-being to the world. This MoU will help fulfill the objectives of both parties – Israel will gain opportunities to attract investment from Japan for its start-ups, whilst Mizuho will be able to diversify its advisory services for its clients to provide them with opportunities to invest in and build partnerships with Israeli start-ups.

The agreement underscores Mizuho Bank's commitment to furthering the suite of services it offers to clients. And by expanding investment matchmaking opportunities, Mizuho hopes to also positively contribute to the Israeli economy.



About Israel Export and International Cooperation Institute (IEICI)

A non-profit organization established and funded by the government of Israel and the private sector, IEICI has been facilitating business relations, joint ventures and strategic alliances with Israeli and overseas companies for over half a century. For additional information about IEICI,

Toshiba Digital Solutions and Classiq to Collaborate on Gate-based Quantum Computing

June 11, 2023

TEL AVIV, Israel--([BUSINESS WIRE](#))--**Toshiba Digital Solutions Corporation** (Toshiba Digital Solutions) and **Classiq Technologies Ltd.** (Classiq) signed a technology collaboration agreement in the gate-based quantum computing.

Quantum computers are next-generation technologies that have the potential to efficiently solve problems that conventional computers could not solve or take a very long time to solve based on the principles of quantum mechanics. Quantum computers can be broadly classified into two types which are the Ising machine type and the gate-based universal computer. While the Ising machine is specialized in solving combinatorial optimization problems, the gate-based is intended for general-purpose applications. Although the gate-based is still in the development stage, it is expected to be applied to various fields such as AI (machine learning), optimization and simulation in the future. However, software development in gate-based quantum computing requires advanced expertise about quantum circuit design.

Toshiba Digital Solutions is offering quantum technologies such as Quantum Key Distribution*1 and SQBMTM *2 that is a quantum-inspired optimization solution based on the Simulated Bifurcation Machine on conventional computers. Furthermore, Toshiba Digital Solutions has a wide variety of AI technologies including Toshiba analytics AI



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“SATLYSTM” *3 and development achievements and is applying them to industrial fields.

Classiq delivers a user-friendly gate-based quantum computing software platform*4 that enables both beginner and expert designers to rapidly generate, analyze, and execute quantum circuits.

In the agreed technology collaboration, utilizing the know-how cultivated in technological development of quantum and AI, Toshiba Digital Solutions will conduct technical evaluations of quantum AI*5, etc. by using the Classiq platform. And based on the results, Toshiba Digital Solutions will explore various use cases that the gate-based quantum computing will enable to solve in the field of energy, social infrastructure, smart manufacturing, carbon neutrality, and circular economy, etc. where Toshiba Group has many years of experience. Classiq will support TDSL’s use case exploration and optimize the platform for these industrial use cases.

Based on this collaboration, Toshiba Digital Solutions and Classiq will work together to create new value by leveraging the gate-based quantum computing for industrial customers across the businesses they serve.

Shunsuke Okada, President and CEO of Toshiba Digital Solutions Corporation said, "We are excited to have the opportunity of technology collaboration with Classiq. We will create new value through QX (Quantum Transformation) together by combining Classiq platform and Toshiba Group’s quantum technology, AI, and IT knowledge cultivated over many years."

Nir Minerbi, Classiq CEO said, "We’re excited to collaborate with Toshiba Digital Solutions, a global technology leader. Classiq’s state-of-the-art quantum software platform combined with Toshiba Digital Solution’s deep AI, IT knowledge and advanced technological expertise will be leveraged to explore and architect sophisticated quantum algorithms enabling an industrial Quantum Transformation (QX)."

About Classiq

Classiq is the leading quantum software company, providing an end-to-end platform for designing, executing, and analyzing quantum software. Built for organizations that want to accelerate their quantum computing programs, Classiq's patented software automatically converts high-level functional models into optimized quantum circuits for most quantum computers and cloud providers. Customers use the Classiq platform to build software they could not create otherwise, bypassing the quantum assembly level. Due to its functional descriptive approach, Classiq also makes it easy to upskill domain experts with little quantum experience and integrate them into high-performing quantum teams. Backed by powerful investors such as HPE, HSBC, Samsung, Intesa Sanpaolo, and NTT, Classiq raised \$63 million since its 2020 inception, built a world-class team of scientists and engineers, and distilled decades of quantum expertise into a groundbreaking software development platform. Classiq equips customers with what they need to take full advantage of the quantum computing revolution.

About Toshiba Digital Solutions Corporation

As the driver of Toshiba Group's digital solutions business, Toshiba Digital Solutions Corporation delivers system integration and digital service solutions that support companies in accelerating their digital transformation, and also plays a central role in Toshiba's transition to become one of the world's leading cyber-physical technology companies, with advanced capabilities extending from manufacturing to AI

Onebeat Raises \$10M in Additional Funding Magenta Venture Partners lead the round

<https://www.finsmes.com/June 7, 2023>

Onebeat, a Tel Aviv, Israel-based AI-enabled retail-tech company, raised \$10M in additional funding.

The round was led by Magenta Venture Partners, joined by AnD Ventures, INcapital Ventures, J-Ventures, Surround Ventures and Wilson's Bird Capital.

The company intends to use the funds to continue to expand its retail platform, business operations and new business growth plans.

Founded in 2018 by Dr. Yishai Ashlag (CEO) and Avihai Shnabel, Onebeat provides a SaaS, AI-enabled solution that offers flexibility and inventory visibility to mid-market retailers looking to cut costs and expand margins.

The company was born out of Goldratt Consulting, an international firm known for its supply chain expertise and creator of Theory of Constraints (TOC), a management philosophy introduced by Dr. Eliyahu M. Goldratt in his 1984 book entitled The Goal, which is geared towards helping organizations continually achieve their goals.

During the last twelve months, Onebeat has more than doubled its client base, partnering with over 170 retailers across 26 countries and various retail sectors, including fashion, footwear, jewelry, pharmacy and beverage, among others. In addition, the company works with some of the world's foremost, well-respected global retail leaders, such as Calvin Klein, American Eagle, Crocs and the retail division of TATA Group, just to name a few.

KDDI Deploys DriveNets Network Cloud: The First TIP DDBR-Compliant Deployment and First Disaggregated, Cloud-Native IP Infrastructure Deployed in Japan

RA'ANANA, Israel, June 7, 2023 /PRNewswire/ -- [DriveNets](#) – a leader in cloud-native networking solutions –announced today that Japanese telecommunications provider [KDDI Corporation](#) has successfully deployed DriveNets Network Cloud as its internet gateway peering router.

DriveNets Network Cloud provides carrier-grade peering router connectivity across the KDDI network, enabling KDDI to scale its network and services quickly, while significantly reducing hardware requirements, lowering costs, and accelerating innovation. Additional applications will be deployed on DriveNets Network Cloud in the future.



"KDDI prides itself on deploying the most advanced and innovative technology solutions that allow us to anticipate and respond to the ever-changing usage trends, while providing considerable value to our customers," said Kenji Kumaki, Ph.D. General Manager and Chief Architect, Technology Strategy & Planning, KDDI Corporation. "DriveNets Network Cloud enables us to quickly scale our network as needed, while controlling our costs effectively."

"While many of Japan's service providers have been aggressively pursuing the virtualization of network functions on their 4G and 5G networks, disaggregation of software and hardware in service providers' routing infrastructure is just getting started," said Ido Susan, DriveNets' co-founder and CEO. "I am extremely proud that our Network Cloud solution was selected by KDDI, a leading innovative service provider, and is already deployed in their network, supporting the needs of KDDI's customers."

Leading the trend toward disaggregation

The deployment of DriveNets Network Cloud on the KDDI network is the culmination of several years of testing and verification in KDDI's labs. It also reflects the growing adoption of disaggregated architectures in service provider networks around the world.

"The move to disaggregated networking solutions will continue to be a prevailing trend in 2023 and beyond as savvy service providers try new technologies that can enable them to innovate faster and reduce costs. We are now seeing this technology also adopted in other high-scale networking environments, such as AI infrastructures," said Susan.

Compared to traditional routers that are comprised of software, hardware and chips from a single vendor, a [DDBR](#) solution combines software and equipment from multiple vendors, allowing service providers to break vendor lock and move to a new model that enables greater vendor choice and faster scale and introduction of new services through modern cloud design.

In addition to KDDI, DriveNets is already working with other service providers in Asia Pacific to meet the growing interest in its disaggregated networking solutions in the region. In mid-2021, the company [established](#) a Tokyo-based subsidiary to enhance its presence in the region.



DriveNets offers an architectural model similar to that of cloud hyperscalers, leading to better network economics and faster innovation. DriveNets Network Cloud includes an open ecosystem with elements from leading silicon vendors and original design manufacturers (ODMs), certified by DriveNets and empowered by our partners, which ensure the seamless integration of the solutions into providers' networks.

About DriveNets

DriveNets is a leader in cloud-native networking software and network disaggregation solutions. Founded at the end of 2015 and based in Israel, DriveNets transforms the way service and cloud providers build networks. DriveNets' solution – Network Cloud – adapts the architectural and economic models of cloud to telco-grade networking. Network Cloud is a cloud-native software that runs over a shared physical infrastructure of white-boxes, radically simplifying the network's operations, increasing network scale and elasticity and accelerating service innovation. DriveNets continues to deploy its Network Cloud with Tier 1 operators worldwide and has raised more than \$587 million in three funding rounds.

Sakata Seed Corporation has established a new branch office in the City of Rehovot, Israel

Jun 08, 2023 compant Press release

Sakata Seed Corporation (President: Hiroshi Sakata, Headquarters: City of Yokohama, Kanagawa Pref. JAPAN) has established a branch in Israel as part of its global strategy.

The name of the branch is the “Sakata Seed Corporation, Israeli Branch Office”, and it is located in the City of Rehovot. The branch will gather a wide range of information on cutting-edge technologies related to agriculture and horticulture in Israel and on breeding and business conditions in the Middle East. Operations has begun on June 4th, 2023.

Israel is home to many start-up companies, universities, and research institutes that create innovative technologies related to the agricultural and horticultural industries,

and its technological capabilities are well regarded around the world. Many companies in Israel lead the world in the development of breeding techniques and have attracted the attention of the seed industry.

Our Group has 19 research stations in 12 countries around the world, including Japan, and has established a global research organization. We have been collecting materials for breeding crops in various climates around the world and we have been developing varieties on research farms. Now that we have established a branch in Israel, we will actively gather information on cutting-edge technologies and develop breeding techniques in conjunction.

This is the fourth location for the Group in the Middle East, following the Sakata Middle East Office (in Jordan; a representative office was established in 1998), Sakata Turkey (in Turkey; a local subsidiary was established in 2011), and McAVET (in Jordan; a local subsidiary was acquired in 2017). The establishment of this new branch will enhance our research efforts in the Middle East and further enhance our global organization by increasing cooperation with our offices overseas.

JETRO visited the branch on June 6 to hear from them. Satoshi Yamanaka, General Manager of the Israel Branch, commented, "This is the first time for our overseas bases to open a branch specializing in innovation, and we would like to first build relationships with key players in the ecosystem, such as research institutes, and actively introduce Israel's excellent technologies to each department of our company."

In addition, Senior Researcher Tsuneatsa Itai said, "It is widely known in the agricultural field that the Israeli ecosystem has excellent technological capabilities, and in the course of actually advancing technology exploration work, there are many companies that seem to match our business, and we feel once again that we are getting a good response."

IINO announces investment in maritime VC fund managed by theDOCK.

IINO Kaiun Kaisha, Ltd. (IINO) announces its investment in the maritime funds managed by **theDOCK**✂, an Israel based venture capital (VC) firm, in furtherance of IINO's adoption and support in maritime innovation. IINO sets "Creation of Economic and Social Value" as core objectives in its mid-term management plan FY2023-2025,



“The Adventure to Our Sustainable Future.” By partnering with theDOCK, IINO aims to identify promising technologies that improve its operation for the Creation of Economic Value, while contributing to the development of innovative technologies that address industry’s challenges, typified by the carbon neutrality by 2050 and energy transformation toward that, for the Creation of Social Value.

Through the strategic investment to maritime VC funds, IINO will build stronger cooperation with maritime startups and like-minded maritime innovators across the world for the attainment of more efficient and sustainable shipping.

theDOCK: Israel based VC firm focusing on Maritime, Supply Chain, and Offshore sectors. As located in Israel, a start-up nation, theDOCK primarily investing in Israel’s startups to delivery its technology to maritime sector.

This is the third investment theDock VC receives from Japanese investors, following investments made by **NYK LINES and ORIX.**

Predictive Medication Procurement - NTT & Schneider Children’s Medical to optimize pharmaceutical stocks.

Once medications reach their expiration date, unused doses are thrown away. These pharmaceuticals are often toxic and pose a risk to our environment. This also represents a significant loss of capital.

To address this issue, [NTT Innovation Laboratory Israel](#), NTT [Nihilent](#) and [NTT Ltd.](#) have collaborated with [Schneider Children's Medical Center of Israel](#) to develop a predictive pharmaceutical procurement tool.

As a result of this project, Schneider Children's Medical Center of Israel intends to collaborate with neighboring hospitals to further optimize pharmaceutical stock. Additionally, the hospital has the opportunity to share medications that are close to expiration to help save lives.

Through this lightweight solution, we can significantly reduce the environmental impact of discarded medications, that could have otherwise been made available to those in

need, all while saving hospitals and pharmacies hundreds of thousands of dollars every year.

This project won a top award at our 10th [#NTT](#) Group [#Sustainability](#) conference.

Recent developments in Israel and Palestine (Statement by Press Secretary ONO Hikariko)

June 21, 2023

1. Japan expresses its serious concern over the plans of the Israeli government to advance process for construction of over 4,000 settlement housing units in the West Bank, as well as the amendments made to settlement approval procedures that could expedite settlement expansion.
2. Settlement activities are in violation of international law and Japan has repeatedly called upon the Israeli government to fully freeze those activities. The move on the Israeli side this time clearly goes against efforts by the international community to stabilize the situation and to create a political horizon towards a two-state solution.
3. Amid the deteriorating security situation, as exemplified by the recent clashes in Jenin, it is essential for all the parties concerned to refrain from unilateral actions including settlement activities and provocative behaviours in order to prevent further escalation. Japan strongly condemns the terror attack on June 20 that killed 4 Israelis in the West Bank and the following rampages against Palestinians on the same day. Recalling the importance of the Aqaba and Sharm El Sheikh communiqués, Japan strongly calls on all the parties concerned to take concrete steps to ensure de-escalation.



Israel – Japan July 2023

State Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Nakatani Visits Israel and Jordan.

Meti press release 23July 2023

From July 10 (Monday) to July 13 (Thursday), State Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Nakatani visited Israel and Jordan. In Israel, he held a meeting with Minister of Economy, Trade, and Industry Barkat, exchanged opinions with local start-up companies, experts in the field of cyber security, and Japanese companies operating locally. In Jordan, he also met with his relevant ministers and participated in the Jordan-Japan Business Forum.

“We exchanged opinions on possible joint research on the Japan-Israel Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), overseas dispatch programs for entrepreneurs, etc., the possibility of cooperation in the field of cyber security, and the Osaka-Kansai Expo. They also confirmed that they will continue to work together to develop economic relations between Japan and Israel.”

(2) Meeting with Dr. Gold, Director General of Defense Research and Development, Ministry of Defense (July 10)

In the field of cyber security, we exchanged opinions on how to utilize dual-use technology and how to collaborate with start-up companies.

(3) Opinion exchange with Israeli startups (July 10)

We pitched and exchanged opinions with several Israeli startup companies in fields such as cyber security, the environment, space, and drones, and discussed the possibility of collaboration with Japan.

(4) Exchange of opinions with local Japanese companies (July 10)

We met with Japanese companies operating in Israel and exchanged opinions on how to develop business in Israel and issues to be addressed.

(5) Meeting with Mr. Portnoy, Director General of Israel's National Cyber Directorate (July 11)



We discussed how to strengthen cooperation between Japan and Israel in the future, such as Israel's cyber policy and cyber human resource development.

(6) Meeting with Prof. Yuval Ben-Gurion University, visit to cyber security-related facilities (July 11)

We exchanged opinions on research on cyber security at Ben Gurion University and cyber security measures for systems using AI.

They also visited **Israel's National CERT** (Cyber Emergency Response Team) and INCL-Lab (The National Lab for Infrastructure, Energy, Industrial Control Systems & Cybersecurity), and exchanged opinions on cooperation with private companies and human resource development in cyber security measures.

Chevron mulls floating LNG plant near Israel to supply Asia, Europe

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Business/> July 25th 2023.

Annual production capacity expected to reach several million tons. Figure equates to about six years of demand in Japan, the world's largest LNG importer.

HOUSTON, U.S. -- Chevron is considering building a floating liquefied natural gas (LNG) plant in the eastern Mediterranean Sea to export gas to Europe and Asia.

The U.S. oil major will also begin trading LNG from the U.S. Gulf of Mexico as it aims to expand its presence in natural gas, which emits less greenhouse gases than coal.

In 2020, Chevron bought U.S. oil company Noble Energy, which had stakes in large offshore gas fields off the coast of Israel discovered around 2010. The gas is supplied via underwater pipelines to Israel, which plans to ramp up gas-fired power and phase out coal-fired power by 2025.

The largest gas field among them -- known as Leviathan -- has recoverable reserves of 605 billion cubic meters (around 440 million tonnes of LNG equivalent). That figure equates to about six years of demand in Japan, the world's largest LNG importer. Israel



alone cannot consume that amount of gas, and so Chevron has been mulling the option to liquefy the surplus gas for export.

Freeman Shaheen, the company's head of global gas, told Nikkei that the eastern Mediterranean area is "being supplied really well, so [there's] going to be another development. We're looking at floating LNG in that market."

LNG carriers from the eastern Mediterranean can arrive within days to Europe, where the LNG market has expanded rapidly since Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Shaheen said the LNG could also be shipped to Pakistan, India, and southern China via the Suez Canal.

Shaheen did not offer details about the plan's timing, but export is likely to begin in the late 2020s at the earliest, as the construction of a floating LNG plant could take years.

The project could cost in the tens of billions of dollars. Annual production capacity is expected to be several million tonnes.

Producing LNG at an existing onshore plant in Egypt could also be an option, via a new pipeline to the country. But such a move could require lengthy negotiations with the companies that own the plant.

Additionally, Chevron will also increase its trading of U.S. LNG made from shale gas. The company will increase its portfolio in the Gulf of Mexico by purchasing the super chilled gas from other LNG companies and selling it to Europe and Asia. Chevron announced in June that it plans to procure a total of 4 million tonnes per year from U.S. companies Cheniere Energy and Venture Global LNG.

By buying from other companies, Chevron is able to swiftly expand the volume it handles. "[Customers] are getting a partner that's supplying from [our] portfolio," said Shaheen. "Sometimes it may come from the U.S., Equatorial Guinea, East Med, or Australia. You get that basket and we can provide the flexibility."



Meanwhile, oil and gas companies in the U.S. are taking measures to reduce the greenhouse gas emitted when they produce and transport shale gas. "Now we have to make it cleaner -- and we are working to make it cleaner," Shaheen said.

Shale basins such as the Permian Basin in west Texas have reduced the use of flares, where excess gas is burned at the production site. Companies have also installed devices to detect methane leakages at gas facilities.

Regarding the Japanese market, Shaheen said, "Japanese companies are very reliable customers. We tremendously value Japan."

Chevron ships LNG from Australia to Japanese companies such as JERA -- Japan's largest power generation company -- and Tokyo Gas.

While Japanese utilities are planning to burn hydrogen to generate power, thereby reducing LNG demand in the long run, Shaheen said: "it takes all types of energy going forward. LNG is going to have a key role to play.

Marubeni: Partnership Agreement with Orca AI Ltd. : An Israeli Company Developing the Leading Situational Awareness Platform for Vessels

Jul. 04, 2023, Marubeni Corporation

Marubeni Corporation (hereinafter, "Marubeni") has entered into a partnership agreement for sales (hereinafter, the "Partnership Agreement") of the leading situational awareness platform for vessels (hereinafter, the "Platform") with Orca AI Ltd. (hereinafter, "Orca AI"), the company responsible for developing the Platform.

The Platform acts as a fully automatic watch-keeper, powered by computer vision and deep learning algorithms, that automatically recognizes, detects, and tracks other vessels and targets that may pose a risk to a vessel and measures the distance between these risks and that vessel.

Information acquired from existing navigational equipment can be superimposed, and displayed in an integrated manner, on a monitor located on the vessel's bridge. The Platform is operational on a 24/7 basis, prioritizing risks and presenting these via a user-friendly interface. This facilitates enhancements to the situational awareness of the seafarer during challenging navigation situations, including navigation in congested waterways and low visibility conditions. Orca AI has accumulated over 20 million nautical miles worth of marine visual data to date from its customers through vessel-installed cameras capable of uninterrupted 24/7 recordings (hereinafter, "SeaPod"). Orca AI has the capacity to improve performance by deploying AI analysis to the accumulated big data.

In recent years, improvements in the maritime communication environment have led to the development and widespread use of a variety of digital tools. Installation of the Orca AI platform is expected to reduce the workloads of seafarers, while also lessening the risk of collisions and improving the safety of vessel operations. It is additionally anticipated that situational awareness technology will become an essential element in facilitating future autonomous and automated vessel operations.

Marubeni has already started verification of the Platform on a vessel owned by the Marubeni Group and is furthermore committed to supporting additional improvements to this system from a user standpoint.

Through this Partnership Agreement, Marubeni will actively contribute to resolving social and environmental issues and achieving sustainable growth in the shipping industry by combining the Marubeni Group's global network with Orca AI's technological prowess.

Sompo: Japanese insurance giant is establishing a cyber center in Israel.

The company, which is traded on the Tokyo Stock Exchange according to a value of 15 billion dollars, is expanding the activity of its innovation laboratory in Israel and is also establishing a local software development group .The cyber center will be headed by Rotem Metok and the software group will be led by Diaa Sharidi.

[Meir Orbach](#) 20.07.23

The Japanese insurance giant Sumpo is opening a cyber center and a software development group in Israel as part of the expansion of the company's innovation lab in Israel, Calcalist has learned .The purpose of the cyber center is to develop capabilities that will help Sumpo secure its

products against cyber threats and provide solutions to the various units of the company around the world .The Cyber Center will be headed by Rotem Metok, Head of Cyber Security at Sompo Israel..

In addition, the company is establishing a software development group in Israel for the fields of insurance and health based on feedback from the company's customers, which will be headed by Diaa Sharidi, the Chief Technology Officer (CTO) of the Innovation Center in Israel.

Sumpo is one of the three largest insurance companies in Japan, operating in 30 countries and traded on the Tokyo Stock Exchange at a value of 15 billion dollars .In 2018, the company established its innovation center in Tel Aviv (the other two are in Tokyo and Silicon Valley) under the leadership of CEO Yanon Dolev. The center, which employs 20 people, leads commercial collaborations with Israeli start-ups such as Plank, Parametrics, Geox and Isisand.

"Establishing the cyber center and the development group is part of our trend of expansion into new avenues, alongside the collaborations we create with the various startups," says Dolev .

Memorandum of understanding between the OIST-Lifetime Ventures Fund and the Global Health Equity Fund to expand partnerships with Healthtech entrepreneurs in Japan.

The OIST-Lifetime Ventures Fund and the Global Health Equity Fund (GHEF) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to increase access to holistic health innovation in low and middle-income communities through partnering with Japanese startups.

The MOU formalizes the cooperation between GHEF, launched by OurCrowd in collaboration with WHO Foundation, and the OIST-Lifetime Ventures Fund, established by Lifetime Ventures in collaboration with the Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology (OIST) and provides a strategic framework to achieve GHEF's objectives through knowledge exchange and market access by leveraging networks with Japanese entrepreneurs addressing global human and planetary health problems.

The GHEF is a unique financial-first impact venture capital investment fund, focusing on breakthrough technology solutions that can impact healthcare globally. It aims to fuel innovation and

increase investment in the health sector, with the shared goals of delivering competitive returns to investors and ensuring equitable access to medical care. GHEF aims to impact health equity.

Geetha Tharmaratnam, WHO Foundation Chief Impact Investment Officer, said on the announcement, *“The imperative of investing in innovative healthcare that is accessible globally, requires the ability for capital to operationalize innovative solutions emerging from dynamic academic institutions, like OIST. Tackling health inequity can only be successful when you find partners who share the same vision - to build a healthier future for all. The GHEF works to create the conditions for access to health innovation faster and in a more equitable way. This MOU is a mark of the commitment of the GHEF to identify and scale high impact healthcare startups which will allow for collaboration with Japanese startups early in their journey for the benefit of health outcomes in low and middle-income communities.”*

Dr Morris Laster, GHEF General Partner said, *“We are thrilled to join forces with the OIST-Lifetime Ventures Fund, reinforcing our commitment to fostering global health equity and sustainable progress. By pooling resources, we are able to tap into Japan's flourishing innovation landscape, a critical sourcing hub for groundbreaking healthtech startups. We aim to propel these pioneering technologies and services to global prominence, particularly benefiting low and middle-income countries. This partnership is more than an investment alliance; it is a testament to our common vision for a healthier, fairer world. Our collaboration will serve as a powerful conduit for change, a vehicle for innovative solutions that champion accessibility and equality in healthcare.”*

“Lifetime Ventures is thrilled to partner with OurCrowd and the WHO Foundation to help our healthtech portfolio startups to expand their distribution network to where their product is most needed. Through this collaboration, we aim to address global health challenges and promote equitable access to healthcare, including and especially with the commercialization of OIST research outcome,” said Ryosuke Kimura, General Partner of Lifetime Ventures. Lifetime Ventures is a pre-seed/seed-focused venture capital firm based in Yokohama and Okinawa, Japan investing in exceptional entrepreneurs addressing global human and planetary health problems.

Gil Granot-Mayer, Executive Vice-President, OIST Innovation, commented that *“OIST is delighted by the OIST-Lifetime Ventures Fund developing global networks with prominent players worldwide to increase funding opportunities. The initiative is aligned with OIST's ambition to foster innovation from Okinawa to Japan and the world.”* OIST was founded in 2011 by the Government of Japan to contribute to science and technology worldwide, attract leading researchers from Japan and abroad to conduct high-quality research, advance the development of a world-class research hub, and nucleate a knowledge cluster that will catalyze technology transfer and industrial innovation in Okinawa, Japan.



OurCrowd is a leading global venture investing platform for accredited investors with extensive investment experience in technology companies and the formation and management of investment funds. In collaboration with the WHO Foundation, OurCrowd has established the Fund, a financial-first impact investment fund focusing on breakthrough and accessible solutions that enable global health for all and which seeks to invest in companies that are related to medical care and mitigation of health risks through technologies such as AgTech, FoodTech, and energy transition. The WHO Foundation was created as an independent Swiss foundation affiliated with but independent of WHO to marshal new resources from philanthropists, foundations, businesses, and individuals to support its mission: promote health, keep the world safe, and serve the vulnerable

Aisin and Vayyar Join Forces to Prevent Vehicular Heatstroke Tragedies in Japanese Kindergarten Buses

4D imaging radar sensors to be deployed as part of government initiative to stop hot vehicle incidents.

KARIYA, Japan and TEL AVIV, Israel, July 17, 2023 /PRNewswire/ -- Global Tier 1 automotive supplier Aisin and Vayyar, the leading Tier 2 in 4D imaging radar, are partnering to deploy advanced sensors in Japanese kindergarten buses to prevent children dying from vehicular heatstroke after being left behind.

In the wake of the latest such incident, the tragic death of a three-year-old child in Shizuoka Prefecture, central Japan, who passed away after spending five hours alone on a bus on a sweltering day in September last year, the Japanese government moved quickly to draft emergency legislation.

Child Presence Detection (CPD) technology will now be required in tens of thousands of buses serving kindergartens, nursery schools, hybrid "kodomoen" facilities, schools for special needs education, and day care centers for children with disabilities.



Aisin is deploying sensors based on Vayyar's radar-on-chip in kindergarten buses as part of the government program to install alert systems in all buses in the national fleet.

"Vehicular heatstroke has claimed the lives of thousands of children around the world and the time for concerted global action has arrived," said Tomo Taguchi, President of Vayyar Japan. "We are honored to play a part in that effort, alongside our trusted partners at Aisin."

The radar sensors are robust in all light conditions and avoid privacy issues, while being sensitive enough to detect every child, even if lying on the floor.

"Aisin's strong partnership with Vayyar is central to our in-cabin strategy for the passenger vehicle domain, as we seek to protect every life on the road," said Shunsuke Hayakawa, Project General Manager at Aisin. "Child Presence Detection on kindergarten buses is essential and urgent and requires the industry-leading technology that we are currently industrializing."

The Aisin-Vayyar in-cabin platform is currently being evaluated by multiple automotive OEMs for additional safety features, from Seat Belt Reminder to Airbag Suppression, over the next few years.

About AISIN Group

AISIN is the world's fifth largest Tier One supplier of automotive components and systems such as transmissions, brakes, navigation systems, chassis, body, engine-related parts, electronics, and intelligent parking systems. A \$32 billion company, AISIN is the largest manufacturer of automatic transmissions in the world and employs more than 120,000 team members at more than 200 consolidated companies.



Israel's Sygnia to enhance LAC's Cyber Emergency Center's incident response capabilities.

The well-known Japanese managed security service provider enters partnership to address the escalating threat of cyber incidents with Sygnia's advanced technology and global incident response expertise

[Cybertech](#) [Israel Defence](#)

Sygnia, an Israeli developer of cyber services and technology, which provides high-end consulting and incident response support for organizations worldwide, announced a strategic partnership with LAC Co. Ltd., to enhance the incident response capabilities of LAC's Cyber Emergency Center.

The partnership will help LAC speed up their Cyber Emergency Center's response services for security-related incidents by leveraging Sygnia's Velocity XDR technology, global incident response expertise, and ransomware negotiation capabilities.

As the cyber threat landscape becomes more complex and sophisticated, companies are increasingly vulnerable to state and non-state actors using advanced techniques and tools to compromise critical assets. In light of these challenges, companies affected by cyber-attacks often struggle to find reliable and responsive managed security service providers (MSSPs) to handle incident response and recovery. This can put their operations and business continuity at risk.

LAC's partnership with Sygnia will enhance the Cyber Emergency Center's capabilities and technologies, allowing it to be equipped to provide effective incident response and recovery services to a growing number of clients, even in the face of the most advanced cyber threats.

"We are excited to partner with LAC, a well-respected name in the Japanese cybersecurity industry, to enhance their Cyber Emergency Center's incident response capabilities," said



Ram Elboim, CEO of Sygnia. "Our global incident response expertise and advanced technology, combined with LAC's experience, will provide existing and new clients with more efficient and impactful solutions when impacted by cyber-attacks."

"Together with Sygnia's world class team and technology, we are not just addressing the incident response challenges of today's cyber threat landscape, we are proactively building the resilient infrastructure necessary to protect our customers' critical assets and operations, now and in the future," said Itsuro Nishimoto, President of LAC Co., Ltd.

Local pride: Israeli youth teams wins gold, 10 medals in Math and Physics Olympiads

International competitions held in Japan brought a total of 11 medals to the Israeli delegates an honor the ambassador to Tokyo says exemplifies 'the brilliant minds that grow in our nation'.

Ynet July 19th 2023

Israel's youth team won a gold medal in the International Mathematical Olympiad held in Japan earlier this month while more medals were won by the team competing in the Physics Olympiad also held in the Land of the Rising Sun. In total the brilliant young Israelis returned home with 11 medals.

The Physics Olympiad games were held in Tokyo, while the Math Olympiad took place in the Chiba Prefecture, adjacent to the Japanese capital. A total of 80 nations were represented with 400 competitors in all.

It was Itamar Nir, a student from the central Israeli town of Rehovot, who brought home the gold, but every member of the Israeli delegation managed to secure much-honored silverware.

"This is without a doubt a fine achievement, and it seems Japan is our lucky charm," said Gilad Cohen, Israeli ambassador to Japan. "Through these achievements, we strengthen



the ties between our nations. The source of our power here stems from goals achieved in math, physics, science and technology.



Israeli ambassador Gilad Cohen with the Israeli youth team to the Physics Olympiad

(Photo: Israeli embassy in Japan)

In a tweet, Gilad said, "These young high school students exemplify the brilliant minds that grow in our nation, for them, we have today a leading Innovative country."

Israel – Japan August 2023

Holding of the second joint research meeting on a possible Japan-Israel Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)

August 4, 2020

On August 2nd and 3rd, the second meeting of a possible Japan-Israel Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) Joint Research was held online.

1. From the Japanese side, Mr. Hideaki Konagaya, Director, Middle East and African Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and other officials from the public, private, and academic sectors, and from the Israeli side, Mr. Carolyn Yelms, Director of the Bilateral Agreements Division, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, and others. Public and private sector officials attended.
2. At this meeting, based on the discussion at the first joint research meeting held in March this year, a meaningful exchange of opinions was held regarding individual fields that could be included in a possible EPA.
3. Both Japan and Israel shared the view that they will continue to steadily advance joint research.

Israel's MediWound announces launch of biologic drug NexoBrid in Japan

02 August 2023 | News

Kaken Pharmaceutical launches NexoBrid under an exclusive marketing and distribution agreement

Israel-based biopharma firm MediWound has announced that its strategic partner, Kaken Pharmaceutical has launched NexoBrid in Japan for the treatment of deep partial thickness and full thickness burns in adults and paediatric patients. Kaken Pharmaceutical, a top ranked Japanese pharmaceutical company, has the exclusive marketing and distribution rights for NexoBrid in Japan.



NexoBrid is indicated for the removal of eschar in deep partial and full thickness thermal burns. The current standard of care is primarily based on non-selective, expensive, and potentially disfiguring surgical excisions. NexoBrid offers burn specialists with an alternative of a single 4-hour topical treatment, after which the dissolved eschar is removed, leaving a clean wound bed ready for healing.

“As one of the top healthcare markets worldwide, Japan holds special strategic importance. Over 6,000 patients are treated for severe burns in Japan every year, with a majority of these patients undergoing eschar removal as a critical first step. NexoBrid can now be a non-surgical treatment option for these patients,” stated Ofer Gonen, Chief Executive Officer of MediWound.

NexoBrid (concentrate of proteolytic enzymes enriched in bromelain) is a topically administered biological product that enzymatically removes nonviable burn tissue, or eschar, in patients with deep partial and full-thickness thermal burns within four hours of application without harming viable tissue. NexoBrid is approved in over 40 countries, including in the United States and in the European Union where it has been designated as an orphan biologic drug.

Intuition Robotics Raises \$25M in Additional Funding

FUNDING WAS led by Woven Capital, the growth fund of Toyota, with participation from Toyota Ventures.

RAMAT GAN, Israel, Aug. 29, 2023 /PRNewswire/ -- [Intuition Robotics](#) announced today that it has secured a first closing of a new funding round amounting to \$25 million, \$20M in venture capital and \$5M in venture debt, and led by Woven Capital, the growth fund of Toyota, with participation from Toyota Ventures, OurCrowd, Western Technology Investment, and additional investors. The funding will help the company meet surging demand for its AI care companion ElliQ across government aging agencies and healthcare organizations. It will also allow the company to deepen integrations into the healthcare system and help aging populations better connect with others, and better access much-needed products and services while reducing costs.



Loneliness is an epidemic that can cause serious harm to health, with the [U.S. Surgeon General recently advising](#) that experiencing loneliness can increase the risk of death equivalent to smoking 15 cigarettes a day. The U.S. healthcare system is increasingly seeking solutions, with [legislation recently introduced](#) to create a national policy to promote social connection and address soaring rates of loneliness.

Intuition Robotics has pioneered [ElliQ](#), an AI companion designed to enhance the lives of older adults by combating loneliness and promoting healthy and independent living. In an era dominated by groundbreaking technologies, ElliQ has consistently demonstrated its ability to engage users over time and positively impact the lives of older individuals with its proactive suggestions and conversational capabilities. ElliQ provides companionship and support for older adults through daily health check-ins, cognitive and physical activities, connection to family and friends, and more using a simple and intuitive interface.

"Intuition Robotics is advancing the future of mobility for aging populations by offering human connection and access to goods and services that they couldn't obtain otherwise," said **Nicole LeBlanc, a partner at Woven Capital** who is also joining the company's board of directors. "The company is leading the way by providing a field-proven solution that delivers strong results, improving social infrastructure and serving overlooked markets in unique, thoughtful, and powerful ways. These are precisely the values behind the future of mobility that Toyota is bringing to life, making Intuition Robotics a natural fit for Woven Capital."

The funding round comes on the heels of a successful commercial launch with government agencies across the United States. Intuition Robotics has initiated programs to distribute ElliQ at no cost to end users with the New York State Office for the Aging, the Area Agency on Aging of Broward County, the Olympic Area Agency on Aging, and California's Agency on Aging in Area 4. In addition, the company signed its first agreement with a Managed Care Organization focusing on Medicare beneficiaries.

The latest advancements in Generative AI and the prevalence of transformers and Large Language Models (LLMs) have allowed Intuition Robotics to integrate rich and continuous conversational experiences into ElliQ. By leveraging these advancements, ElliQ has deepened its conversational abilities, allowing for an even deeper relationship to evolve between ElliQ and the user. The company has developed technology that chooses the areas where to integrate multiple LLMs seamlessly into the experiences such as sparking the creativity of the users by painting with ElliQ through the use of DALLE2, augmenting scripted conversations, and achieving deeper contextual understanding. This is done with guardrails and algorithmic control on the integrity of the experience.

"We've seen the direct impact that loneliness has had on our aging community, but we've also seen the positive results our AI and technology have on the older adult population. Beyond the groundbreaking results in reducing loneliness - ElliQ is also seeing an impact on health, wellness, and behavior change," said Dor Skuler, CEO and Co-founder of Intuition Robotics. "The latest advancements in AI have advanced ElliQ's conversational capabilities to become even more contextual, personalized, and goal driven. We're proud to be at the forefront of harnessing this technology for the benefit of our users. We are excited to utilize this new funding to deploy more ElliQ devices out into the world, further increase its accessibility, expand partnerships, and gain a deeper understanding of the role ElliQ can play in the healthcare ecosystem. We are grateful for the support of Woven Capital and our additional investors as we continue our mission to empower older adults to live happier, healthier, and more independent lives at home,"

"Since we first invested in Intuition Robotics in 2017, we've been inspired by the team's mission to empower older adults using AI. It's exciting to see the progress they've made over the years – from ElliQ's initial development and testing to the commercial deployment and now a growing number of partnerships," said **Jim Adler, founder and general partner of Toyota Ventures**. "We share the company's vision of using technology to amplify the human experience and look forward to seeing how ElliQ will continue to enrich the lives of older adults."



About Intuition Robotics

Intuition Robotics is on a mission to empower older adults to live happier, healthier, and more independent lives at home. The company's award-winning product, ElliQ®, is a proactive care companion for older adults. ElliQ helps keep users healthy, engaged, and informed, while alleviating the effects of loneliness and social isolation. Intuition Robotics has won several awards for its work with ElliQ including Fast Company's Most Innovative Companies and the CES Best of Innovation award. The company was founded in 2016 and investors include: Woven Capital, Toyota Ventures, Samsung NEXT, iRobot, OurCrowd, Terra Ventures and Venture Capital firms from California, Israel, Japan, and Asia.

MITSUI SUMITOMO INSURANCE Venture Capital Joins NT-Tao's Series A Funding Round.

The asset management VC of the Japanese insurance conglomerate joined the compact fusion energy company with a deferred investment, pursuing decarbonization and innovation in the energy sector.

TEL AVIV, Israel, Aug. 31, 2023 /PRNewswire/ -- [nT-Tao](#), the compact fusion energy company setting a new standard for the future of clean energy, today announced that MITSUI SUMITOMO INSURANCE Venture Capital, the Japanese asset management arm of Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Company, has joined the Series A funding round in a deferred investment for an undisclosed sum. nT-Tao [announced](#) its Series A round in February of this year, closing \$22M in funding led by Delek US - a Fortune 500 downstream energy company - Next Gear Ventures and Mayer Cars & Trucks Group, with additional participation from Honda, the Grantham Foundation, the lead investor in the company's seed round, J-IMPACT, East Innovate (the VC arm of East Alpha) and OurCrowd. These new funds enable nT-Tao to continue to develop and test its Compact Fusion Reactor, expand its team of physicists, and pursue other regional and global partnerships.



nT-Tao is pioneering a compact and scalable nuclear fusion solution aimed at significantly reducing reliance on fossil fuels and overcoming the limitations of existing renewable energy sources. Leveraging the strengths of both tokamak and stellarator technologies (two competing approaches used in nuclear fusion research to confine plasma within magnetic fields to facilitate the fusion reactions), nT-Tao has developed its Compact Fusion Reactor and is currently in the experimental phase of C1, the first of its Series C prototypes.

"We are excited to have MITSUI SUMITOMO INSURANCE Venture Capital join us on our mission as we continue to partner with companies dedicated to solving the climate crisis," said Oded Gour-Lavie, CEO and Co-Founder of nT-Tao. "This marks the second strategic investment in nT-Tao from a Japanese conglomerate, and we look forward to expanding our partnerships in Japan and beyond, as we accelerate research and development of our compact fusion energy solution."

"Fusion energy is the future of clean energy, and as a company that is dedicated to sustainable growth and addressing climate change, it is our responsibility to help enable that future," said Ryosuke Ide, Investor of MITSUI SUMITOMO INSURANCE Venture Capital. "We are impressed with what nT-Tao has achieved in such a short amount of time and the scientific approach they are taking and are excited to be a part of their journey to bring the cleanest form of energy to humanity."

nT-Tao's unique approach includes a proprietary magnetic chamber topology that dramatically reduces energy loss and effectively maintains core temperature, enabling the creation of a Super Stabilized Confined Plasma. Additionally, nT-Tao's unique power supply technology is expected to enable plasma heating at densities orders of magnitude higher than other approaches. This, coupled with its significantly reduced pulse length, leads to an astounding increase in the rate of ion collisions, yielding greater overall efficiency which results in a much smaller fusion reactor footprint.

nT-Tao's Compact Fusion Reactor design - the size of a shipping container - will be scalable and easily integrated into a multitude of settings and power requirements. Once commercialized, its versatile design and independent solution will make it adaptable for everything from industrial facilities to small towns and off-grid locations.

About MITSUI SUMITOMO INSURANCE Venture Capital



MITSUI SUMITOMO INSURANCE Venture Capital is a Japanese venture capital firm, a wholly-owned asset management VC subsidiary of Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Company. The firm invests in domestic and foreign startups that have innovative technologies and business models with high growth potential addressing global social issues such as climate change, mainly in the areas of Climate tech, AI, fintech, and healthcare.

About NT-Tao

NT-Tao is disrupting the global energy sector by engineering a compact and scalable nuclear fusion energy technology with the goal of achieving commercialization this decade. The company's proprietary ultra-fast plasma heating method will enable it to reach significantly higher densities than other fusion reactors, thereby making its fusion reaction orders of magnitude more effective and resulting in significantly greater efficiency of energy production than other leading solutions. Co-founded by Oded Gour-Lavie, Doron Weinfeld, and Boaz Weinfeld, emerged from stealth in 2022 and is headquartered in Israel. For more information, visit www.nt-tao.com

Beamr and J21 Corporation Expand Partnership to Distribute Beamr's Video Cloud Service in Japan

August 08, 2023

Herzeliya, Israel, Aug. 08, 2023 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Beamr Imaging Ltd (NASDAQ: BMR), a leading provider of video encoding solutions, announced today that J21 Corporation, a business development corporation in Japan that is also engaged in marketing, product distribution, technical support and press relations for its partners in the Japanese market, will distribute the Beamr Video Cloud Service and products in Japan. This collaboration marks an important milestone in Beamr's expansion strategy, aiming to establish a strong foothold in the Japanese market and better serve its growing customer base.



Through the expansion of this longstanding partnership, J21 will serve as a point of contact for Beamr's cloud service in Japan, capitalizing on its extensive reach, deep industry knowledge, and strong customer relationships. By adding Beamr's cloud service into their offerings, J21 will provide its customers with a comprehensive solution for optimizing their video content.

"As a leading distributor in Japan, we are committed to bringing the most advanced and impactful solutions to our customers. we are excited about the transformative possibilities it offers for optimizing visual content", said Toshikazu Kishimoto, CEO of J21 Corporation.

"We are delighted to expand our collaboration with J21 to further strengthen Beamr's presence in Japan," said Sharon Carmel, CEO of Beamr. "Japan is renowned for its technological advancements, making it a key market for our products. This partnership will empower us to better serve our customers, expand our market share, and drive innovation in the cloud industry."

About Beamr

Beamr (Nasdaq: BMR) is a world leader in content adaptive video solutions. Backed by 53 granted patents, and winner of the 2021 Technology and Engineering Emmy® award and the 2021 Seagate Lyve Innovator of the Year award, Beamr's perceptual optimization technology enables up to a 50% reduction in bitrate with guaranteed quality.

About J21 Corporation

J21 Corporation provides global technology companies with a unique opportunity to enter into the Japanese market and explore their business opportunities. J21 Corporation distributes Mobileye, Ituran and many other global companies in Japan.

Secret Double Octopus and KDDI Digital Security Sign Agreement to Offer Passwordless Authentication Service in Japan.

Strategic Partnership adds SDO's Award-Winning Passwordless MFA to KDDI Digital Security's Managed Security Services

MENLO PARK, Calif.--([BUSINESS WIRE](#))--Secret Double Octopus, the leading provider of workforce and desktop MFA solutions, announced the expansion of its strategic relationships with KDDI Digital Security (KDDI Group) out of Japan. Under the terms of the agreement, KDDI Digital Security will add SDO's FIDO2-compliant passwordless authentication solution to its managed security services.

In recent years, the spread of remote work and cloud computing have created an authentication sprawl, with organizations having to manage multiple authentication solutions in their workplace. In addition, many organizations continue to use passwords, which expose those organizations to a growing spate of attacks against credentials. The use of enterprise workforce passwordless solutions targets both problems by taking the password out of the hands of end users and consolidating MFA access around one universal experience.

KDDI Digital Security is a leading provider of managed enterprise security services in Japan, where according to [Statista](#) cybersecurity spending is set to grow at a rate of 9% through 2028. **In Feb of 2023, KDDI announced its partnership with Secret Double Octopus to offer traditional MFA** to customers of its managed remote access VPN services. Beginning August 1st, KDDI Digital Security began offering SDO's full [passwordless MFA](#) solution to its customers in the Japanese market.

"We are very excited to extend our partnership with Secret Double Octopus and take this important step in our security offerings. We would like to grow to become a leading provider of passwordless services in Japan and provide corporate clients with a safer



and more secure work environment,” said Masamichi Suga, President of KDDI Digital Security. “There is growing recognition that passwords are a major source of data breaches and successful security attacks, and it is time for enterprise organizations to have proven, easy-to-deploy choices to modernize their authentication.”

“We are excited to expand our partnership with the KDDI Group to include our passwordless technology,” said Raz Rafaeli, Co-Founder and CEO of Secret Double Octopus. “KDDI is an innovator that previously incorporated our MFA technology into the KDDI Flex Remote Access service and will now offer our full end-to-end passwordless solution. we look forward to working with them to help Japanese organizations embrace a future of more secure and frictionless authentication.”

About KDDI Digital Security

The company provides comprehensive support to customers by meeting various security-related needs, from security consulting to the provision of various security products and security monitoring and operations.

About Secret Double Octopus

Secret Double Octopus is a leader in next generation workforce authentication solutions. The Octopus platform offers organizations the ability to move to a higher security and more frictionless authentication platform for traditional and passwordless MFA. The Octopus platform is differentiated in 3 key areas: 1) completeness, 2) ease of deployment without requiring change to infrastructure and 3) flexibility for the passwordless journey. Organizations from Fortune 100 to small-sized companies use the Octopus platform to authenticate their employees every day for better security, better productivity and lower cost. The company has been designated a Gartner "Cool Vendor" and more recently named "Best-in-Class" passwordless provider by AITE Group in 2021



Rescana to collaborate with TrendMicro under IS-US Bird program.

TEL AVIV, Israel, Aug. 17, 2023 /PRNewswire/ -- While the cybersecurity industry experienced record-breaking investments and continuous growth in recent years, most cyber companies have focused on developing solutions for banking and insurance companies, defense, eCommerce, and other verticals with generous budgets. Yet, cybersecurity requirements on the national level are growing at a rate faster than industry can support. Many companies, utilities, and small and medium-size ports and airports, have a constant need to adopt such enhanced cybersecurity solutions, though they must keep pace with the increasing number and complexity of requirements.

To address these challenges, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate (S&T), the Israel National Cyber Directorate (INCD), and the Israel-U.S. Binational Industrial Research and Development (BIRD) Foundation, established the BIRD Cyber Program, a joint initiative to enhance the cyber resilience of vulnerable critical infrastructure in both the United States and Israel. The program is managed by the BIRD Foundation.

- Under this program **Rescana** (Tel-Aviv, Israel) and **Trend Micro** (Irving, Texas) to develop an operational cyber threat intelligence capability to inform cyber risk maritime decision-making.

About the BIRD Foundation:

The [BIRD \(Binational Industrial Research and Development\) Foundation](#) encourages and facilitates cooperation between U.S. and Israeli companies in a wide range of technology sectors and offers funding for selected projects. The BIRD Foundation supports projects without receiving any equity or intellectual property rights in participating companies or their projects. BIRD funding is repaid as royalties from sales of products that were commercialized as a result of BIRD support. The Foundation provides funding of up to 50% of a project's budget, beginning with R&D and ending with



the initial stages of sales and marketing. The Foundation shares the risk and does not require repayment if the project fails to reach the sales stage.

Cybellum Partners with M-ISAC to Help Improve Medical Device Cybersecurity for Japanese Medical Device Manufacturers and Healthcare Delivery Organizations.

TEL AVIV, Israel, Aug. 29, 2023 /PRNewswire/ -- [Cybellum](#), the leading provider of the Product Security Platform that enables manufacturers and suppliers to continuously detect, manage, and remediate cyber threats and security vulnerabilities in line with regional compliance standards, announced today that it has joined Japan's Medical Information Sharing and Analysis Center ([M-ISAC Japan](#)).

Cybellum's membership in the organization will allow it to participate in research projects that can help shape the future of medical device cybersecurity. The Japanese government is committed to maintaining the highest cybersecurity standards, and this organization brings together nearly 200 member organizations that share information on real-time threats. This shared intelligence can be used to create situational awareness, inform risk-based decision-making, and mitigate threats. By sharing information, this organization helps to increase the resilience of global healthcare and public health critical infrastructure.

The Product Security Platform by Cybellum empowers medical OEMs and suppliers to automatically and efficiently identify, handle, and reduce vulnerabilities on a large scale. Through this platform, product security teams can easily compile and manage SBOMs, validate compliance, and manage vulnerabilities in a unified manner. As a result, medical OEMs and suppliers can swiftly adhere to medical cybersecurity regulations, significantly reducing risks with greater speed and effectiveness than ever before.



"As medical devices have become more complex and connected, they have become a new target for hackers," said David Leichner, CMO of Cybellum. "These hackers may seek to harm patients, damage brands, or make financial gain. Cybellum is committed to supporting medical product security efforts worldwide. Our partnership with M-ISAC will help us to share information and collaborate with other organizations in Japan to continue to protect patients and healthcare delivery organizations around the globe from cyberattacks."

Cybellum's joining of M-ISAC Japan follows their acceptance into the Health ISAC Navigator program in March of 2022, which has proven to be a successful partnership.

About Cybellum

Device manufacturers such as Jaguar Land Rover, Supermicro, Danaher, and Faurecia use Cybellum's Product Security Platform and services to manage the main aspects of their cybersecurity operations across business units and lifecycle stages. From SBOM to Vulnerability Management, Compliance Validation, and Incident Response, teams ensure their connected products are fundamentally secure and compliant – and stay that way.

Convention lets Israelis celebrate anime, manga in Jerusalem.

Animatsuri was held at the International Convention Center in Jerusalem by the Association for Manga and Anime in Israel in cooperation with the Japanese embassy.

By [GADI ZAIG](#) AUGUST 28, 2023 JPOST



COSPLAYERS DRESS UP as characters from 'Avatar The Last Airbender' at Animatsuri in Jerusalem, on August 24, 2023.

Israelis got a chance to dress up as their favorite anime character last week, as hundreds of fans attended Animatsuri, an [anime and manga convention](#) in Jerusalem that celebrates Japanese popular culture.

For those unfamiliar, cosplay is referred to as “the practice of dressing up as a character from a movie, book, or video game; anime refers to computer animation originating from Japan. Manga refers to comics or graphic novels that also originate from Japan.

The event was held at the International Convention Center in Jerusalem (ICC) by the Association for Manga and Anime in Israel (AMAI), a nonprofit organization promoting Japanese culture in Israel. AMAI has been working for over the past 15 years to promote anime and manga in this country.

The convention also had film screenings, a manga library, lecture sessions on Japan and popular culture, and karaoke events. The event, held in cooperation with the Japanese Embassy of Israel, was attended by thousands of Israelis of all ages and backgrounds. The convention was very family-friendly, with some attendees bringing their children along to experience the event together.

The cosplay spectacle at Animatsuri

Cosplayers came in costumes from numerous famous anime television series such as *Demon Slayer*, *Attack on Titan*, *One Piece*, *Chainsaw Man*, and others. Despite the convention mainly focusing on anime and manga, cosplayers were spotted wearing

costumes from other intellectual properties outside of Japan. For example, Israeli attendees were spotted wearing outfits worn by Barbie and Ken in the recent [Hollywood blockbuster Barbie](#), which made headlines for being a box office hit and for generating strong reactions to the film's plot.

Other cosplayers came dressed in superhero costumes such as [Spider-Man](#). Others cosplayed as characters originating from video games from Japan such as *Kingdom Hearts*.

Many attendees of the event asked for photographs with cosplayers who wore particularly accurate and well-made costumes. Many cosplayers also came to the event together as a group, all cosplaying as different characters from one intellectual property. For example, Thursday's event saw people cosplaying in groups as multiple characters from *Avatar: The Last Airbender* and *Demon Slayer*.

Booths and stalls were set up at the convention for business owners, artists, and game shops to sell their merchandise that is related to Japanese pop culture media.

One owner of a stall at the event, Yarden, who manages a card shop called Sirolynia, has frequently attended numerous pop culture conventions in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem to promote his business.

"As an owner of a stand, it gives me a lot of exposure. A lot of people come and learn about the card games," he said. "Many times, I see people who have bought from me before. I love it. It's so much fun."

Booths include various retailers selling retro video games, jewelry, clothes, posters, paintings, and figurines. Other booths were run by book and comic stores Steimatsky, Comics and Vegetables, and Comicaza – where they sold manga.

Additionally, there was an event held in a separate room where participants could play card games with each other such as Yu-Gi-Oh, Pokemon, and Magic the Gathering.

One of the largest events at the convention was the cosplay competition, where participants with the best cosplays would act out their characters on stage in small skits in front of a large audience.

Cosplays and skits performed included characters from *Final Fantasy*, *Avatar: The Last Airbender*, *Super Mario*, and *The Legend of Zelda*. The competition was also divided into categories such as singles and groups. Most participants had made their costumes themselves.



Additionally, an animation competition was held at Animatsuri for the first time in collaboration with the Israeli Animation Guild, which is intended for both beginner and professional Israeli animators. The animators had to create an animation between 5-60 seconds long that showcases original characters.

At the end of the convention, there was a special fan screening of the anime film *The First Slam Dunk* which was released this year.

Japan provides \$1 million for Jenin rehabilitation.

Government of Japan announces emergency grant aid of \$1 million to Jenin following recent Israeli counterterrorism operation.

[Elad Benari](#) Aug 16, 2023,

The Government of Japan on Tuesday extended an emergency grant aid of \$1 million to the Jenin refugee camp, reported the Palestinian Authority's *Wafa* news agency.

The aid follows [the Israeli counterterrorism operation](#) in Jenin last month.

Japan's Foreign Ministry said in a statement, "Through this grant aid, Japan will implement humanitarian assistance in areas such as sanitation, health and response to unexploded ordnance through the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)."

"The Government of Japan will continue its efforts towards confidence-building between the parties concerned to achieve a two-state solution regarding the Middle East Peace Process, while urging all parties to exercise the utmost restraint and refrain from violence and provocative behavior," the Japanese statement added.

The United Arab Emirates [previously pledged](#) to give \$15 million to help rebuild the Jenin refugee camp following the Israeli counterterrorism operation.

The money will also be granted to UNRWA to rebuild damaged homes and businesses and for the agency's services.

UNRWA said some of its own facilities, including the windows and walls of a health center and the road leading up its school, sustained damage in the Israeli operation.



UNRWA has long complained of financial distress. Last November, [UNRWA Commissioner General Philippe Lazzarini warned](#) that UNRWA is in a "danger zone" that could result in it no longer being able to fulfil its mandate.

At a donor conference in June, UNRWA fundraising fell short of the \$300 million it said was necessary to continue assisting Palestinians, with countries pledging just \$107 million. The shortfall came even after the United Nations chief said UNRWA "is on the verge of financial collapse."

UNRWA relies on donations from countries around the world. The US, which has long been one of the main supporters of UNRWA, [cut a full \\$300 million](#) in funding to the agency in 2018, when Donald Trump was President.

The Biden administration [has announced](#) it intends to resume aid to UNRWA as well as other aid to the Palestinian Authority which was suspended by the Trump administration.

Japan's Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi statement Ahead of his visit to Jordan.

By JT - Sep 02,2023 -

Hayashi gave a written interview with The Jordan Times and Al Rai Arabic daily ahead of his scheduled visit to the Kingdom on Sunday,September 3rd 2023.

Jordan is "a cornerstone of peace and stability" in the Middle East, and Japan highly appreciates its role in the region, according to Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi.

"We will resolutely support Jordan in its efforts to maintain this important function," Hayashi said in

Like Japan, Jordan is rich in human resources, with huge potential. Japan has been and will continue to be ready to share its experiences and contribute to Jordan's human resource development through capacity building and academic exchanges, the foreign minister said.



“Japan attaches full importance to Jordan and its political and economic stability, which contributes to the stability of the Middle East at large. That is why our two countries upgraded bilateral relations into a strategic partnership in 2018,” Hayashi said.

Touching on regional issues Hayashi said that Japan is convinced that any progress towards comprehensive peace in the Middle East will greatly contribute to easing the tension that exists in the region and will draw out the potential for regional prosperity to the maximum extent.

“While Japan hopes that a just, lasting and comprehensive peace will be realised at the earliest possible time, it is concerned about the current increase in tensions between Israel and Palestine and the prospect of a further deterioration in the situation,” he said.

“We have been calling on both sides to refrain from any unilateral action that could raise tensions and threaten the realisation of a ‘two-state solution’. We are carefully following the situation on the ground,” the foreign minister said.

“The role of Jordan and the Hashemite Royal Family, as the Custodian of the holy sites in Jerusalem, is extremely important, and we appreciate Jordan’s efforts to ease tensions, including through the five-party meeting involving Jordan, the United States, Egypt, Israel and Palestine,” he added.

The minister also noted that Japan will continue to contribute to confidence-building among the parties involved in the Middle East peace process through its unique efforts, such as its **"Corridors for Peace and Prosperity" initiative.**

“Looking at the region as a whole, there are emerging signs of momentum for intra-regional cooperation in the Middle East, but it is also true that some countries and areas continue to suffer from long-term conflicts. In addition, many countries in the region, including Jordan, have been economically affected by Russia's aggression against Ukraine,” Hayashi said.

Japan believes that the rule of law should be upheld everywhere in the world, and it is all the more important in the Middle East, where important waterways such as the Gulf of Aqaba and the Red Sea serve as crossroads for the transportation of energy, commodities and other goods, he continued.



“We would like to work with Jordan and other countries to promote maritime safety and freedom of navigation,” he said.

Talking about Japan's efforts and cooperation with Middle Eastern countries to combat terrorism, the minister said that Japan has continuously provided technical assistance to the region's law enforcement authorities, particularly in counterterrorism and combatting transnational organised crime, through cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other international organisations.

“Terrorism and violent extremism remain serious threats to international peace and security. To combat terrorism and establish peace and stability in the Middle East region, a comprehensive approach is required. We also need to work collectively to prevent terrorists from benefiting financially from transnational organised crime, including drug trafficking, Hayashi said.

Israel – Japan September 2023

Japanese entrepreneurs can learn from leading start-up countries such as Israel.

“I enthusiastically arrive in Israel today together with more than a hundred of Japanese businesspersons. I am very excited to have this great opportunity to see with my own eyes Israeli cutting-edge innovation and development,” writes Yasutoshi Nishimura, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan

Yasutoshi Nishimura 09:41, 03.09.23 CTECH

We have been witnessing a flourishing of the business and economic relations between Japan and Israel with astounding incremental year by year growth. The Japanese share of investment into the Israeli high-tech field increased dramatically over the years, totaling 12.8% in 2022 and reaching a total of \$1.558 billion. The number of Japanese companies in Israel has tripled in the recent decade from 30 in 2014 to about 90 in 2023. The turning point that brought this remarkable growth goes back to 2015 when Japanese Prime Minister, Mr. Abe Shinzo visited Israel accompanied by over thirty Japanese major companies providing the catalyst which boosted the economic ties. In February 2017 the two countries signed the investment treaty in a bid to create stable, equitable, favorable, and transparent conditions for mutual investments. In May of the same year, during the visit of then Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) Minister Mr. Seko Hiroshige to Israel, the two countries agreed to establish the Economic Innovation Policy Dialogue (EIPD) and the Japan Israel Innovation Network (JIIN) aiming to accelerate business innovation partnership between the two countries.





Yasutoshi Nishimura, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan

Retrospectively when then Prime Minister Abe visited Israel in 2018, I accompanied him as Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary, at which time Prime Minister Abe presented to Prime Minister Netanyahu the work and efforts that newly launched JIIN was doing to promote the partnership. Prime Minister Netanyahu stated that there is "great potential" for the collaboration between Japanese technology and Israeli innovation.

With the passing of some five years since these initial steps were taken, I feel that the "great potential" is being realized at this very moment. Japanese companies have invested in Israel, set up research labs and branches, and found promising start-up companies to fund. The expansion of Japanese companies into Israel is incessant. Even during the Covid-19 pandemic, our economic cooperation remained vibrant and creative. Moreover, direct flights between Tel Aviv and Tokyo, launched this March, will definitely contribute to increasing further exchange between our business systems, hubs and organizations.

Alongside the solid and stable foundation that my predecessors created, I enthusiastically arrive in Israel today together with more than a hundred of Japanese businesspersons. In January this year, as part of the "J-StarX", a five-year start-up entrepreneurship exchange program, I announced that a thousand Japanese young entrepreneurs would be dispatched for overseas training in order to learn from leading start-up countries such as Israel. I therefore am very excited to have this great opportunity to see with my own eyes Israeli cutting-edge innovation and development. I am also looking forward to discussing further possible cooperation between the two countries during the 4th EIPD and the 4th plenary of JIIN, which will be held in Tel Aviv tomorrow.



I have confidence that the business and economic exchange between Japan and Israel would generate benefits beyond our bilateral context, and I believe that together we could create possible solutions to emerging global issues of shared concern in the realms of AI, cyber security, climate change and aging societies, which could contribute to the stability and prosperity of the world. I have faith that we are poised to reap many benefits from our efforts to cultivate the exciting and promising partnership between Israel and Japan.

Yasutoshi Nishimura is the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan

Japanese investment in Israel fell by 20% in first half of 2023.

Despite the drop, Japanese investment accounted for 17% of all foreign funding in Israel, an increase compared with 12.8% last year.

[Meir Orbach](#) 12:34, 04.09.23 CTEC

Japanese investment in Israel fell by 20% in the first half of 2023 compared to the same period in 2022. According to a study conducted by the **Harel-Hertz Investment House**, Japanese investments in Israel totaled \$469 million in the first half compared to \$586 million in the same period last year.

Nevertheless, considering the moderate decline compared to the decline in all investments, Japan's share of foreign investments in the country rose to a record 17%, up from 12.8% in 2022, and even higher than the peak of 2021 (15.8%).

The number of Japanese investments remained stable compared to the same period last year. This year, **Harel-Hertz** counted 34 Japanese investments compared to 38 in the first half of 2022 and 68 investments in all of 2022.

According to the study, the decline in investment is due to several reasons, including the war in Ukraine and the resulting increase in the price of raw materials and tensions in the West Pacific and the consolidation of efforts and resources in Japan. Other explanations include the dramatic devaluation of the Yen against the major currencies in general and against the dollar in particular – a devaluation of about 43% during 2022-



2023 - as well as the lack of clarity in the face of the judicial overhaul in Israel and its immediate impact on the high-tech environment.

Of the 34 investments, half of them are initial investments by new investment companies.

This year, one Israeli company was acquired by a Japanese company (Oxide, which acquired the Israeli company Raicol).

Another characteristic of Japanese investment is the prominent component of strategic investments. About half of the investments were made by industrial companies seeking to develop shared technologies and achieve future advantages over their competitors with the help of Israeli entrepreneurship.

In contrast, the Japanese financial funds have lost weight. They greatly reduced their overseas activities and focused mainly on local-domestic investments.

The presence of Japanese institutional investors in Israel increased interest in Fintech and Insurtech, which account for 12% of the total investment.

The activity of the Japanese-Israeli funds is particularly impressive, almost all of the funds raised new funds or set up follow-up funds (Sumitomo, Marubeni, Corundom), the most prominent of which is Liquidity Capital. But since the activity of this fund is not necessarily in Israel (U.S., Gulf States, Singapore), it was not included in the local statistics.

Harel-Hertz noted that it expects a recovery in investments in the coming year, mainly in light of the initial and significant interest in Israeli security technology. Cooperation in this field will be a step up in bilateral relations and investments will be directed to mature industries (and not just startups), and therefore will include investments in large amounts and long-term collaborations.

Another development that may accelerate investment and economic cooperation is the mutual willingness to enter into discussions about a free trade agreement and upgrade the double taxation treaty.



Israel, Japan explore possible free trade deal.

Israel's Economy and Industry Minister Nir Barkat and Japanese Economy, Trade and Industry Yasutoshi Nishimura met in Tel Aviv and signed an economic and innovation agreement between their nations.

BY [ANI](#), MON - 4 SEPTEMBER 23

Tel Aviv: Israel's Economy and Industry Minister Nir Barkat and Japanese Economy, Trade and Industry Yasutoshi Nishimura met in Tel Aviv on Monday and signed an economic and innovation agreement between their nations.

Nishimura brought a trade delegation of 80 Japanese company representatives as Tokyo and Jerusalem explored a possible free trade agreement that would expand their USD 3.3 billion commercial relationship.

"There's vast potential for Japanese businesses to invest in [Israel](#) and enhance trade with one of the world's leading economies. Our nations share deep-rooted historical and cultural ties, built on common values and innovative mindsets,"• Barkat said.

"The persistent strengthening of our trade relations in recent years is a testament to the mutual commitment to pushing our economies forward. My ambition is to deepen the bond between Israel and [Japan](#), recognizing the massive untapped potential, and I am keen on collaborating closely with Minister Nishimura to achieve this."• Barkat also met with Japan's digital transformation minister and finance minister, among other officials. Barkat and Nishimura addressed the annual JIIN (Japan Israel Innovation Network) conference.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu discussed advancing bilateral relations with his Japanese counterpart Fumio Kishida this past February.

Jerusalem and Tokyo agreed in November to move toward signing a free trade agreement, which then-Prime Minister Yair Lapid said would entail "discounts for products and goods from Japan for the benefit of the Israeli market and increasing Israeli exports to Japan, the third-largest economy in the world."• Israel's primary exports to Japan are electrical equipment, chemical products, scientific and optical instruments and



general machinery. Its primary imports from Japan are transportation machinery, general machinery, electrical equipment and chemical products.

Israeli free trade agreements with the United Arab Emirates and South Korea went into effect in 2023. In August, Israel signed a free trade agreement with Vietnam and launched negotiations with Moldova towards another.

Meanwhile, finalizing a free trade agreement with Bahrain is high on Foreign Minister Eli Cohen's agenda as he visits Manama.

Israel and India are also in the process of expanding their current free trade pact.

Fujitsu General Announces Partnership with Sensibo.

SYDNEY and TEL AVIV, Israel, Sept. 6, 2023 /PRNewswire/ -- Fujitsu General Australia and Fujitsu General New Zealand have partnered with [Sensibo](#) to provide Smart Home Air Conditioning (AC) solutions. Sensibo is a leading climate technology Internet of Things (IoT) company that develops smart AC and heat pump solutions, using data and Artificial Intelligence (AI), for a more sustainable world.

The strategic partnership will further strengthen Fujitsu General's anywAiR® technology product lineup through the integration of Sensibo's technology into Fujitsu General's air conditioners and heat pumps, allowing Fujitsu customers to control their devices from anywhere using Sensibo's suite of mobile smart AC functions such as smart scheduling; geo-fencing; climate react; and voice control* via Siri, Alexa, and Google Assistant. Customers will also be able to take advantage of Sensibo's machine-learning algorithms to help them conserve energy and enjoy greater comfort and control.

Sensibo's Operating System (OS) solution, which will be integrated into Fujitsu General's air conditioners under the anywAiR technology brand, is a premium end-to-end smart heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) solution. Sensibo's smart HVAC



products allow users to control their ACs by utilizing AI, data, and sensors while leveraging cloud computing that processes more than 1.2 million HVAC actions a day.

"The OEM (original equipment manufacturer) partnership between Fujitsu General and Sensibo is not only a major step for Fujitsu but also for the smart AC sector," said Kyle Rafter, Head of Product ANZ, Fujitsu General. "We are excited to partner with Sensibo, a company that puts sustainability and technological innovation at the top of their agenda, which aligns with ours."

"Together with Fujitsu General, we were able to create an air conditioner that is different from anything else that exists on the market. We cannot wait to see how Sensibo's OS will diversify Fujitsu's product capabilities and create a huge leap toward the relationship between technology, energy management, and climate control," said Ran Roth, CEO and Co-Founder of Sensibo. "Smart air conditioners are the next innovation of the industry, with the potential to deliver a reduction in energy consumption and mitigate CO₂ emissions. We are proud to partner with Fujitsu General to empower users to use their air conditioning unit more efficiently to contribute to protecting our planet."

MARS Growth Capital Announces First Equity Fund and Capital Extension of Debt Funds

New equity fund will make growth equity investments in tech and tech-enabled mid to late-stage technology companies.

September 28, 2023

SINGAPORE--([BUSINESS WIRE](#))--**Mars Growth Capital** today announced the initial closing of its first equity fund, **Dragon Fund I**, with an **initial LP commitment by Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group, Inc. ("MUFG") of up to US\$500mm**. The fund is targeting final close next year.



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Dragon Fund I which marks MARS Growth Capital's entry into equity investing, will make growth equity investments in private, mid to late-stage tech and tech-enabled companies. Initially focusing on the Asia-Pacific region, deal sizes will range from US\$20mm to US\$100mm with flexibility to make primary and secondary investments.

Founded in 2021, MARS Growth Capital is a joint venture between Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group, Inc. ("MUFG") and Liquidity Group, combining the financial might of MUFG with the decision-science ML platform of Liquidity to invest capital at scale. For the past 2 years, MARS Growth Capital through two venture debt funds, has been providing non-dilutive venture debt to tech and tech-enabled companies in the Asia-Pacific and EMEA regions and has built a portfolio of 30+ companies, with an AUM of US\$750mm. MUFG as a sole LP provider of the funds decided to increase the LP commitments to those two venture debt funds by US\$250mm to US\$1.0Bn to continuously support promising startups both in Asia-Pacific and Europe.

Together with the new Dragon Fund I, the aggregate AUM reaches to U\$1.5Bn to be invested through both debt and equity.

"With the initial close of Dragon Fund I and upside of the debt funds, MARS Growth Capital is building upon our dedication to providing unprecedented financial flexibility and certainty for companies with high growth potential," said Fumitaka Nakahama, Group Head of Global Corporate and Investment Banking at MUFG. "We look forward to providing enhanced support, tailored financial solutions, and continued direct access to our global network of resources to be a long-term growth partner for the companies we partner with."

"The new Dragon Fund is another significant step in our partnership with MUFG through MARS Growth Capital and embodies our vision to provide holistic financial growth solutions to mid-market and pre-IPO technology companies across the globe," **said Ron Daniel, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Liquidity Group.** "Our ability to extend our non-dilutive financial solutions through equity financing is a direct result of Liquidity Group's technology's ability to quickly analyse and deliver tailored financial



solutions to successful technology companies across both their immediate and future capital needs.”

“With flexibility to make primary and secondary investments, Dragon Fund will look to invest in companies with exceptional management teams, strong execution track record and high growth potential,” said Ridhi Chaudhary, Managing Director and a GP Partner of Dragon Fund I. “With the power of Liquidity Group’s ML platform, the investment teams will be able to evaluate investment opportunities comprehensively and at a faster pace while investing in the most attractive ones to generate superior returns for the LPs. The technology will also allow for automated and real time monitoring of the portfolio investments.”

About MARS Growth Capital

Founded in 2021 and with \$1.5B AUM, MARS Growth Capital is a joint venture between MUFG and Liquidity Group. Using machine learning and decision science technology, MARS Growth Capital deploys both non-dilutive, as well as equity financing solutions in the range of \$3-100M in as little as 48 hours, to mid-market, late-stage, and pre-IPO technology companies in APAC, Japan, and Europe.

About Liquidity Group

[Liquidity Group](#) is the largest AI-based financial asset management firm in the world. With \$2.7b AUM across funds focused on North America, Asia-Pacific, Europe, and the Middle East, Liquidity Group operates globally with offices in Tel-Aviv, Abu Dhabi, New York, London, Singapore, Tokyo, Mumbai, Boston & San Francisco. The firm’s patented machine learning and decision science technology enables it to deploy more capital through more deals faster than any firm in capital markets history, establishing it as the fastest-growing provider of non-dilutive and equity financing to mid-market and late-stage companies. Liquidity Group is backed by leading global financial institutions including Japan’s largest bank, MUFG, Spark Capital and Apollo Asset Management.

About MUFG



Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group, Inc. (MUFG) is one of the world's leading financial groups. Headquartered in Tokyo and with over 360 years of history, MUFG has a global network with approximately 2,000 locations in more than 50 countries. The Group has about 160,000 employees and offers services including commercial banking, trust banking, securities, credit cards, consumer finance, asset management, and leasing.

The Group aims to "be the world's most trusted financial group" through close collaboration among our operating companies and flexibly respond to all of the financial needs of our customers, serving society, and fostering shared and sustainable growth for a better world. MUFG's shares trade on the Tokyo, Nagoya, and New York stock exchanges.

Japan's MUFG launches fund for U.S., Israel AI startups.

Financial group eyes new fintech services for bank unit and clients

YUKI NAKAMURA, *Nikkei staff writer* September 8, 2023

TOKYO -- A subsidiary of Japan's Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group has launched a 20 billion yen (\$136 million) fund investing mainly in overseas startups, with a focus on generative artificial intelligence technology that can be used by the group's banking unit.

The fund being managed by MUFG Innovation Partners (MUIP) will look for fintech-related businesses in such countries as the U.S. and Israel, aiming to promote development of financial services that use generative AI.

The new fund earmarks capital to ramp up investment in fledgling businesses as rising interest rates in much of the world make fundraising costlier for them. MUIP has set up



multiple funds since it was established in 2019, including one this year that [specializes in Indonesian startups](#).

MUIP has so far injected money into more than 40 companies. It invested about 10 billion yen in 2022 -- more than double its 2021 total. **An investment in Liquidity Capital led to a partnership between MUFG and the Israeli startup on an AI-driven lending business.**

Big Japanese banks more broadly have been pouring money into startups to tap into new technology. MUFG says it is ready to invest up to 570 billion yen or so groupwide, including its banking unit.

Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp. has set up a fund in Singapore for Asian startups, and Mizuho Financial Group created a new company in April managing roughly 10 billion yen in capital.

MHI and ZutaCore Join Forces in a Strategic Alliance, Paving the Way for a Zero-emission Data Industry .

MHI Enters White-label Agreement and Invests in ZutaCore, Accelerating the Growth of Sustainable Dielectric Direct-Liquid-Cooling Solutions

SAN JOSE, Calif. , Sept. 26, 2023 /PRNewswire/ -- Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd. (MHI), one of the world's foremost industrial groups leading the way in clean energy, and ZutaCore, Inc., a trailblazer in the field of direct-on-chip, waterless liquid cooling solutions, today announced a strategic partnership to bring zero-emissions to the data industry. MHI's investment in ZutaCore will expedite the growth and development of sustainable liquid cooling solutions crucial for energy efficiency in an increasingly data-reliant world. Through the white-label sales agreement, MHI will combine ZutaCore's HyperCool® dielectric direct-liquid-cooling technology with its extensive product line and technological expertise at a global scale. The comprehensive solution provides



unprecedented benefits to high-performance computing workloads, server densification, and data center sustainability.

ZutaCore's trailblazing HyperCool® technology transforms the data center landscape by allowing operators to significantly upgrade their existing infrastructure with little to no modifications to current real estate, power, or cooling systems, while leveraging unprecedented heat reuse capabilities. Merging this breakthrough with MHI Group's fully integrated management system, low-carbon power generation facilities, and server immersion cooling systems, will dramatically address the pressing challenges faced by data centers today, including the enhancement of heat exhaust efficiency, promotion of energy conservation, and decarbonization.

Erez Freibach, co-founder and CEO of ZutaCore, commented on the new partnership: "Our alliance with MHI marks a pivotal moment in the trajectory of sustainable data centers. Leveraging MHI's extensive technological expertise and global reach alongside our groundbreaking HyperCool technology, we are poised to redefine data center efficiency. This partnership is a testament to our shared commitment to fostering a zero-emission data industry, and we are excited to pave the way for unprecedented energy conservation and decarbonization levels in this space."

The worldwide surge in digital transformation (DX) has sparked an exponential rise in information processing, amplifying both the role and demand for data centers. Alongside this, the emergence of generative AI^{*1} necessitates using high-performance graphics processing units (GPUs)^{*2}, leading to an uptick in power consumption by data centers that manage these high-performance servers. This is where ZutaCore's innovative cooling solutions become an essential player. By implementing ZutaCore's state-of-the-art technology, data centers can effectively manage the increased heat output and power consumption, promoting efficient operations and sustainability in the era of digital expansion.

"MHI is keen to support the ongoing transition of Data Centers towards smarter and more efficient through one stop solutions integrating power generation and cooling



solution. Our new partner ZutaCore has already supplied its innovative HyperCool® solution to the world's IT infrastructure and server companies, contributing to the realization of sustainable data centers through effective heat exhaust for servers. The partnership with ZutaCore will accelerate contributing to further progress in Data Center infrastructure," said Shin Gomi, General Manager in Business Development, Growth Strategy Office of MHI.

Drawing on its extensive expertise in various heat-related fields, MHI is committed to delivering comprehensive "One Stop Solutions" that encompass reliable and efficient low-carbon power generation facilities, integrated management systems, and high-efficiency cooling systems. These solutions are specifically tailored for data centers that utilize high-performance servers, a rapidly expanding market. By enabling decarbonized and efficient data centers, MHI and ZutaCore are at the forefront of driving the IT industry's green transformation (GX).

About ZutaCore

Founded in 2016 ZutaCore is revolutionizing the data industry with HyperCool® - a waterless, direct-on-chip liquid cooling solution. This technology increases compute density, reduces energy consumption, optimizes space utilization, and delivers 100% heat reuse in the data center. With its field operations centered in San Jose, California, an R&D center in Israel, and offices in Europe and Taiwan, ZutaCore is part of the Sustainable Digital Infrastructure Alliance. Learn more at www.zutacore.com and [follow us](#).

About Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Group

Mitsubishi Heavy Industries (MHI) Group is one of the world's leading industrial groups, spanning energy, smart infrastructure, industrial machinery, aerospace and defense. MHI Group combines cutting-edge technology with deep experience to deliver innovative, integrated solutions that help to realize a carbon neutral world, improve the quality of life and ensure a safer world.



Ibex to collaborate with AstraZeneca and Daiichi Sankyo on AI breast cancer product.

By [Jim Cornall](#), 2023

Ibex Medical Analytics has announced an agreement with AstraZeneca and Daiichi Sankyo, for the development, clinical validation and early adoption of an AI-powered product to aid pathologists with an accurate and reproducible assessment of HER2 immunohistochemistry (IHC) scoring in breast cancer patients.

Scoring of HER2 (human epidermal growth factor receptor 2) protein expression in [breast cancer](#) is used to identify patients who are likely to benefit from HER2-directed therapies.

Currently, pathologists routinely score HER2 in tumor samples visually using a microscope, which can be challenging in cases of low HER2 expression as scoring is subjective and may lead to varied interpretations. Computational tools developed using artificial intelligence have the potential to support pathologists in accurate and objective scoring of HER2, which can help oncologists in selecting therapies that are approved for treating patients with HER2-positive or HER2-low breast cancer.

“Recognizing the vital role pathologists play in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer patients, we are thrilled to partner with AstraZeneca and Daiichi Sankyo to clinically validate our automated HER2 scoring product and offer it to laboratories around the world,” said Joseph Mossel, co-founder and CEO of Ibex Medical Analytics.

“As the most commonly diagnosed cancer in women, this collaboration will allow pathologists to utilize our technology to optimize breast cancer diagnosis and ultimately improve the identification of patients eligible for HER2-directed therapy.”

Technology adoption

Ibex’s Galen Breast HER2 is an IHC scoring product that detects tumor areas and quantifies HER2 expression into four standard categories, 0, 1+, 2+ and 3+, based on the 2018 ASCO/CAP scoring guidelines. As part of the collaboration, Ibex will work with AstraZeneca and Daiichi Sankyo to develop and clinically validate its HER2 IHC scoring product and generate evidence that further supports adoption of the technology.



A multi-site validation study on Galen Breast HER2 involved a cohort of 453 breast tumors of diverse subtypes. The study demonstrated that Galen's AI algorithm provides an accurate and automated HER2 score for pathologists and was recently presented at the [San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium](#).

Beyond this collaboration, Ibex supports pathologists with AI-based diagnostic solutions that help detect and grade different types of invasive and non-invasive breast cancer and other tumor types, and are used in everyday practice in laboratories, hospitals and health systems.

Ibex's Galen Breast solution demonstrated robust outcomes in detecting and grading multiple types of breast cancer and other clinically relevant features across clinical studies performed on numerous diagnostic workflows, one of which was recently published in Nature's peer-reviewed *npj Breast Cancer* journal.

In addition to HER2, Ibex is further expanding Galen Breast to include automated quantification of additional IHC-stained slides, such as ER, PR and Ki-67, intended to provide pathologists with a comprehensive set of tools for breast cancer diagnosis. With these expanded capabilities, Galen Breast may further enhance diagnostic efficiency and enable more accurate and objective scoring of breast biomarkers, improving treatment decisions and patient care.

NTT Security Partners with Israel's D-ID to Develop "Talking Avatars" for Its Security Teams

The collaboration aims to advance the professional development of the company's security teams through interactive digital avatars

[Cybertech](#) | 10/09/2023

NTT, a colossal Japanese corporation employing over 300,000 people globally and boasting annual sales exceeding \$100 billion, is expanding its footprint in the Israeli



market. The partnership agreement was formalized during a visit that included Japan's Minister of Economy and an entourage of over 100 senior Japanese officials.

D-ID, an Israeli tech firm specializing in AI-driven media generation, will assist NTT Security in creating Digital Human avatars of their security staff. These avatars will serve as a platform for ongoing professional development and specialized training for senior teams. The collaboration was facilitated by NTT Israel's Innovation Center, which also initiated NTT Finance's investment in D-ID last year.

NTT Security is an industry-leading firm under the NTT umbrella, offering organizations and enterprises robust tools for early-stage cyber-attack detection and rapid response measures to mitigate harm.

Noa Asher, CEO of NTT Israel, said, "The alliance between NTT Security and D-ID merges two rapidly growing sectors in Japanese corporations and Israeli startups: cybersecurity and generative artificial intelligence (Gen-AI). We are thrilled to spearhead this partnership and believe that ample opportunities remain for further collaborations between Israeli and Japanese companies in areas such as digital health, telecommunications, energy, and more."

"We are delighted about the agreement with NTT Security and the opportunity to work with one of the most prominent corporations in Japan and the world. D-ID's AI-driven platform for creating Digital Humans helps organizations empower their employees and executives through customized, interactive learning experiences, along with other applications in customer experience, marketing, and sales," said Gil Perry, CEO of D-ID.

"We have established a broad network of investors and customers in Japan, which is a crucial strategic market in our global expansion, and we're grateful for the support and assistance from our partners in NTT Israel."



TytoCare and SOMPO collaborate to make medical diagnosis procedures easier for Japan's elderly.

The collaboration will help the country with its aging population and tackle a nursing shortage.

[James Spiro](#) 14:29, 12.09.23

Israeli medical diagnosis and examination provider TytoCare has signed a commercial collaboration with Light Vortex Division, the digital activities arm of Japanese insurance giant Sampo, to focus on nursing homes and the elderly care market in Japan. The agreement is in cooperation with another Japanese company Allm, following the companies all receiving the regulatory approval of the Japanese Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency (PMDA).

“The collaboration combines our advanced telemedicine solutions with SOMPO's commitment to making healthcare services accessible to the Japanese market and thereby enabling a significant leap forward in the experience and quality of healthcare services for older patients,” explained TytoCare co-founder and CEO Dedi Gilad. “We believe that in the end we can together improve the well-being of the community and set new standards for the quality and convenience of medicine in Japan in general.”

Japan has one of the largest and fastest-growing aging populations in the world. Its percentage among the general population is one of the highest in the world due to the country's low birth rate: the proportion of people aged 65 and over in the country has already crossed 30%, whereas in Israel the number stands between 10% and 15%.

The collaboration between TytoCare and Allm is led by the Sampo Israel Innovation Center in Tel Aviv, which is responsible for investments and collaborations with Israeli and European technology companies relating to insurtech, digital health, transport, blockchain, cybersecurity, and more.

Among its activities in Japan, SOMPO operates a chain of nursing homes for the elderly across the country. In total, it oversees 301 nursing homes and 28,500 rooms, as well as 58 day centers and 505 centers to provide services for older generations. Due to the



high rate of its elderly community, Japan has seen many challenges for care, such as a growth in demand for medical services and nursing care shortages.

“The collaboration between the three companies aims to upgrade the care of the elderly through the groundbreaking solution developed by TytoCare in the field of remote medicine, which includes a diagnostic camera, a digital stethoscope, and an AI-based clinical insights module that assists doctors in diagnosis,” added Yinnon Dolev, Head of the SOMPO Innovation Center in Israel. “The purpose of the collaboration is to produce optimal data-based medical care, in places where the medical staff is not physically present.”

TytoCare was founded 11 years ago and has raised \$205 million to date. The company’s solutions allow eight frequent tests to be implemented, such as temperature, heart, pulse, lungs, throat, ears, stomach, and skin. The device then transmits the test results to a doctor who can conduct remote medical testing. Its services are currently available in countries including the U.S., UK, Switzerland, Australia, and Italy.

'Israel' helping Japan counter Chinese Fukushima claims.

Source: Intelligence Online 12 Sep 2023 21:27

A team of Israeli experts, the 9500 Group, is working with the Japanese government to counter Chinese media reports regarding the release of treated wastewater from the Fukushima nuclear power station,

According to *Intelligence Online*, the [Israeli 9500 Group](#) is helping the Japanese government to counteract Chinese media reports over the release of treated wastewater from the [Fukushima nuclear power plant](#).

Beijing criticized the proposal as "[extremely irresponsible](#)" when it was unveiled in 2021, and it underlined its objections in July.

Material was disseminated mostly through official Chinese sources such as state media and diplomatic channels, and it expanded through networks of fabricated social media profiles, according to *Intelligence Online*. The warnings echoed the fears of environmentalists and anti-nuclear activists, as well as Japanese fishing communities,



that the tainted water had harmed marine life and would endanger the health of Pacific coastal inhabitants.

In March 2011, Fukushima suffered one of the world's worst nuclear disasters since Chernobyl after a tsunami rocked the islands.

About 1.33 million cubic meters of groundwater, rainwater, and water that was used for cooling the three damaged reactors at the Fukushima site are now being released.

To remove the radioactive elements, plant operator TEPCO treated the water using its ALPS processing systems, which several neighboring countries have expressed skepticism regarding the system's reliability.

Japan had previously announced that [levels of tritium in fish](#) that were sampled after the release of water from the Fukushima nuclear power plant were below detectable levels.

cameras based on the Hailo processors have been deployed in supermarkets in Japan

September 10, 2023 <https://techtimes.co.il/>

These are cameras from the manufacturer Aisin from the Toyota Group, which monitor and analyze the movement of customers in stores and enable improvements in both the customer experience and the efficiency of the value chain.

Israeli-Japanese cooperation: The Japanese camera manufacturer Aisin belonging to the Toyota Group, one of the 500 largest companies in the world on the Fortune list, markets cameras with the AI processors of the Israeli company Hailo, following a cooperation with **Idein Inc.** The Japanese company, which develops smart cameras for the Japanese and global retail market.

Hailo's AI processors have been embedded in hundreds of cameras installed in several of Japan's largest supermarket chains, including the Sogo & Seibo Co. chain. Each camera of this type supports a large number of AI tasks, including: counting the number of visitors, monitoring their route, the amount of time they spent at points Miscellaneous, theft detection and more. The data is analyzed in real time and provides network managers, branch managers, brand managers and other managers with a host of insights on strengths and weaknesses in the customer journey, in the supermarket



space, consumer tastes, areas of viability and non-viability, and more. These are used to remove barriers in the customer journey and improve the potential of brands, product groups and more. Aisin is in talks with several Japanese and international retail chains to implement its smart cameras in stores around the world.

Hilo stated that the large processing scopes of the Hilo processor installed in the cameras make it possible to make a leap forward in the complexity of the models and the information that can be deduced from them and yield high accuracy while reducing the number of false alarms from the cameras. In addition, the low power consumption of Hailo-8 allows maintaining a comfortable temperature in the consumer environment of the supermarket.

Hailo was established in February 2017 by graduates of the elite technology unit of the Intelligence Corps. The company became a unicorn in 2022 after the completion of a C fundraising round of 136 million dollars. Hailo currently employs over 200 people in Tel Aviv and abroad and is recruiting additional employees to support the accelerated growth. Hailo operates in Japan through the subsidiary Hailo Japan GK

TipRanks Teams Up with Rakuten for Japanese Market Entry

Monday, 18/09/2023 <https://www.financemagnates.com/>

- **Both companies want to bring data-driven investment tools to the Japanese market.**
- **Starting October 2023, the partnership will offer local investors top-tier stock research tools.**

TipRanks is pleased to announce its entry into the Japanese market via a partnership with Rakuten Securities Inc., one of the two largest online brokerages in Japan. Starting in October 2023, Rakuten Securities Inc., which hosts an incredible nine million securities accounts, will enrich its platform with TipRanks' unique datasets, empowering Japanese investors to make smart, data-driven investment decisions for global equities.

This partnership levels the playing field for Japanese investors, giving them access to the same data that the largest hedge funds use. Rakuten Securities' clients will be able to explore TipRanks' top-level stock research tools to choose market-beating stocks.

To start with, they will quickly and easily find all the recent analyst ratings on a stock, along with the analysts' forecasted price targets, implied upsides or downsides, and analyst rating consensus. In addition, they will engage with TipRanks' customized, real-time lists of the most-rated stocks by analysts, giving them the means to discover the best stocks to invest in.

Even more, Rakuten Securities' clients will tap into TipRanks' data to learn where leading hedge funds are investing their money, giving them the ability to follow legendary hedge fund managers. They will easily discover which stocks comprise a hedge fund's portfolio, as well as which stocks the hedge funds are buying or selling, adding or reducing.

Additionally, Rakuten Securities will display TipRanks' lists of insiders who are buying or selling stocks. TipRanks' technology scans SEC filings to identify the latest insider transactions, and interprets the data to determine whether the transactions are Informative or Uninformative. All insiders are measured and ranked based on their historical track records, so investors can quickly and easily decide, based on their rankings, which insiders they want to follow.

Uri Gruenbaum, CEO of TipRanks, said, "TipRanks is proud to enter the Japanese market with its integration into Rakuten Securities' brokerage platform. Rakuten Securities, one of the two largest online brokerages in Japan, has again proven its strength as the brokerage company of choice for all customers – ranging from investment newcomers to seasoned traders – by choosing to partner with TipRanks, whose mission is to bring cutting-edge financial technology innovation to the everyday investor. Together, Rakuten Securities and TipRanks are giving Rakuten's customers the best and latest stock research data and tools, as we level the playing field for all investors."



Yuji Kusunoki, CEO of Rakuten Securities, said, “Thanks to TipRanks’ wonderful service, Rakuten Securities users will be able to acquire more extensive investment information that will affect the future stock prices of individual US companies. Consensus forecasts of Wall Street analysts covering US stocks can help them make investment decisions by confirming market valuations of unfamiliar US company stocks. Rakuten Securities will continue to meet the needs of a wide range of customers, from investment novices who are starting to build assets to active traders, as an asset building companion.”

Cato Networks Raises \$238M in Equity Funding at Over \$3B Valuation.

<https://www.finsmes.com/2023/09/> and others

Softbank Vision II joins as new investor.

Cato Networks, a Tel Aviv, Israel-based provider of a single-vendor Secure Access Service Edge (SASE) platform, raised \$238M in equity funding.

The round, which brought total funding to \$773M, was led by **LightSpeed Venture Partners** with participation from **Adams Street Partners, Softbank Vision Fund 2, Sixty Degree Capital, and Singtel Innov8.**

The company will use the new funds to scale its organization in three key areas:

- deliver its vision and customer success to a broader audience,
- expand the partner ecosystem offering managed Cato SASE services, and
- grow the engineering and product team in charge of its high-velocity train of innovative capabilities.

Founded in 2015 by industry luminaries Shlomo Kramer, co-founder of Check Point Software and Imperva, and Gur Shatz, co-founder of Incapsula, Cato provides a platform that allows businesses to replace legacy infrastructure with a zero-trust SASE architecture based on SD-WAN and a distributed cloud-native security stack to secure



and optimize their global hybrid workforce, mission-critical applications, and business-sensitive data.

More than 1,800 enterprise customers, including Carlsberg and the TAG Heuer Porsche Formula E, use Cato with their mission-critical security and networking infrastructure.

The platform combines its networking features with a raft of cybersecurity tools. Those tools can scan network traffic for malware, block malicious domains and perform a range of other breach prevention tasks.

Cato's value proposition has struck a chord in the enterprise. Last November, the company [disclosed](#) that its annual recurring revenue has exceeded \$100 million. Cato reached that milestone five years after passing the \$1 million mark.

Today, the company detailed that its revenue is growing at a year-over-year rate of more than 60%. Cato added that its gross dollar retention rate now exceeds 95%. Gross dollar retention rate is a metric that tracks how existing customers' spending on a product change over time.

"We have grown not only the customer base, but the scale and complexity of enterprises that are supported by Cato today," Kramer wrote in a [blog post](#) today.

Cyberint enters Japanese market to expand global expansion.

With entry into the Japanese market, domestic companies can now take advantage of Cyberint's unique solution, which combines real-time threat intelligence with a comprehensive attack surface management solution -

[Cyberint Technologies Ltd.](#) September 20, 2023 16:24

- **Cyberint Technologies Ltd.** (Headquarters: Petah Tikva, Israel; hereafter: Cyberint), a leader in impactful threat intelligence, announced today that we are officially entering

the Japanese market. Cyberint protects Japanese businesses from external cyber threats through a unique combination of our cutting-edge technology, **the Argos platform**, and analysis from our team of skilled in-house analysts.

Cyberint is a fast-growing cybersecurity company with offices in the United States, Singapore, United Kingdom, Israel, and Japan that helps companies proactively reduce their exposure to threats and keep pace with ever-evolving cyber threats. We are focusing on strengthening the security of companies to respond to the current situation. The company integrates real-time threat intelligence with comprehensive attack surface management capabilities to provide proactive methods to identify, prevent, and mitigate external risks.

With a powerful SaaS platform and an elite team of cybersecurity experts, Cyberint delivers impactful threat intelligence that helps businesses make informed decisions and take rapid action. By seamlessly integrating surface web, deep web, and dark web threat intelligence with autonomous detection of external assets, we provide unparalleled visibility into digital risks, including brand protection, phishing, fraud, and ransomware. It ensures comprehensive protection against threats such as , data leaks, and vulnerabilities.

CyberInt has recorded a record high of 12,369 cybercrime incidents in Japan, an increase of 160% from the previous year (Source: Metropolitan Police Department statistical data "Regarding the threat situation surrounding cyberspace in 2020"). entered the same market. We have demonstrated global threat intelligence success, providing Fortune 500 leaders across a variety of industries with unique, detailed, real-time insight into their digital environments. Cyberint's recent announcement about the launch of a new supply chain intelligence module to address the growing number of third-party cyber risks impacting every industry around the world Advanced and proactive methods are introduced. Cyberint's mission is to deliver greater impact, minimize exposure to risk, and enhance decision-making processes for enterprises through native integration of attack surface management and threat intelligence.

Yochai Corem, CEO of Cyberint, said: "We are excited to bring Cyberint's innovative



solutions to the Japanese market. Japan has always been at the forefront of technology adoption, and we are committed to providing individual businesses with the tools they need to protect their digital assets. Our mission is to empower cybersecurity teams around the world, and our entry into Japan is an important step toward achieving that goal.

” **Koichi Iwasaki, Into Japan Branch Country Manager**, said:

“Japan’s unique business environment requires a proactive and robust approach to cybersecurity. Cyberint’s Impactful Intelligence solution can be customized for the Japanese market to perfectly match the needs of Japanese businesses. "We provide actionable information to stay ahead of threats. We are committed to building strong partnerships and helping our customers achieve higher security standards."

About the domestic sales system

Cyberint also announced today that it has entered into a VAR agreement (value-added resale agreement) with GFD Co., Ltd. (Headquarters: Yokohama City, Kanagawa Prefecture, Representative Director: Yoshiro Yokomizo). GFD Co., Ltd. is a Yokohama-based technology company whose strength lies in providing one-stop solutions from analysis to environment construction and education in the IT infrastructure and cybersecurity fields.

As Japan's first VAR partner, we plan to not only sell Cyberint's solutions, but also engage in SE work and training for customers related to these solutions. For detailed information on GFD Co., Ltd., please visit the company's website (<https://gf-design.jp/>).

About Cyberint:

Cyberint's impactful threat intelligence solutions combine real-time threat intelligence with bespoke attack surface management to provide broad, unified visibility to protect your enterprise from external risks.

By leveraging autonomous discovery of all external-facing digital assets and surface, deep, and dark web intelligence, the solution enables enterprise cybersecurity teams to

identify the most relevant known and unknown digital assets. - Risks can be detected earlier.

Customers around the world, including Fortune 500 leaders in every major market sector, rely on Cyberint to prevent, detect, investigate, and remediate phishing, fraud, ransomware, brand abuse, data breaches, external vulnerabilities, and more. It is continuously and reliably protected from external cyber threats.

MarketAcross and Turingum Announce Strategic Partnership to Help Bridge the Japanese and Global Web3 Ecosystems

Place/Date: Tel Aviv, Israel / Tokyo, Japan - September 22nd, 2023 at 10:48 am UTC · 3 min read Source: MarketAcross

MarketAcross, the world's leading blockchain PR & marketing firm, is delighted to announce that it has entered a strategic partnership with Turingum, a leading Japanese Web3 company focused on business consulting, tokenomics design, DeFi and smart contract development. This partnership positions MarketAcross and Turingum to help the global Web3 projects expand into the Japanese market and vice versa, and seize the opportunities in the rapidly evolving crypto landscape.

The strategic partnership will enable **Turingum and MarketAcross to** enhance brand value and capture new business opportunities through the provision of each other's services and the expansion of their client base. Through MarketAcross, Turingum will secure a means to work with global companies and help expand opportunities for crypto projects seeking to enter the Japanese market. MarketAcross, on the other hand, will have increased access to PR & marketing opportunities for the Japanese projects and establish a long-term presence in Asia.

Together, they will arm businesses with the essential tools and know-how to make informed decisions regarding their Web3 strategy when entering a new market.

Turingum has been providing Web3 business advisory services to Japanese companies while its core business is supporting projects involving tokens.



The collaboration gives Turingum's clients access to the PR and marketing expertise of the same MarketAcross team that has helped scale many of the world's largest exchanges and blockchain projects, including Binance, Polkadot, Solana, Polygon, Crypto.com, Huobi, and eToro. Japanese projects aspiring to go global can utilize MarketAcross' expertise in PR, content marketing, brand reputation, social promotions, influencer outreach (KoL), SEO, community growth, and more.

MarketAcross is deeply connected to the Japanese Web3 ecosystem, working closely with the country's No.1 public blockchain **Astar Network**. It was also the official media partner for two of Japan's biggest Web3 events, WebX and IVS Crypto, earlier this year. MarketAcross managed the pre-and post-event marketing and PR efforts for both WebX and IVS Crypto, brought prominent speakers, and helped raise the profile of these prestigious events worldwide.

Japan has emerged as a lucrative market for global Web3 projects. At a time when the US and other Western nations struggle to provide regulatory clarity, Japan has made Web3 a part of its national strategy that encourages blockchain adoption while prioritizing investor protection. At the WebX conference in July, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida recognized Web3's significance in shaping the country's digital future and reiterated his commitment to improving the environment for utilizing Web3 tokens.

About Turingum

Turingum is a leading Japanese Web3 technology company focusing on tokenomics design, DeFi and smart contract development. With a deep know-how of the Japanese Web3 industry, it provides Web3 business consulting, blockchain system development, and NFT/SBT issuing services, along with the issuance and listing of tokens from both technical and financial perspectives. Turingum has planned and managed numerous projects in Japan and abroad, and provides support from the planning phase to the operational phase.

About MarketAcross

MarketAcross is the world's leading blockchain PR and marketing firm. It provides a complete end-to-end marketing solution for blockchain firms across the globe.

MarketAcross has helped many of the industry's largest exchanges and blockchain

projects, including Polkadot, Solana, Binance, Polygon, Crypto.com, Huobi, and eToro, build their brands among cryptocurrency and blockchain audiences.

President Abbas receives Japanese Minister of Economy in Ramallah

RAMALLAH, Sunday, September 3, 2023 (WAFA) – **The President of the State of Palestine, Mahmoud Abbas**, Sunday evening received **Japanese Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Yasutoshi Nishimura** at the presidential headquarters in the occupied West Bank city of Ramallah.

President Abbas welcomed the Japanese minister and the accompanying delegation, stressing the distinguished relations between the two friendly countries and peoples, and the importance of consolidating them in a way that serves the common interests between Palestine and Japan.

The President appreciated Japan's positions in support of Palestinian rights, which are committed to international legitimacy resolutions, and the continued support it provides to the Palestinian people, to complete the building of Palestinian national institutions and advance the Palestinian economy.

President Abbas praised the important meetings held by the Japanese minister with Palestinian economic businesses, which he hopes will contribute to increasing trade exchange and investments between the two countries, reiterating the importance of the great support provided by Japan in various fields, including the Peace and Prosperity



Corridor (the industrial agriculture zone in Jericho) which contributes to strengthening and empowering the Palestinian economy.

In turn, the Japanese minister renewed his country's commitment to strengthening economic and trade relations between the two countries, which contributes to consolidating the bonds of friendship between the Palestinian and Japanese peoples.

Minister Yasutoshi referred to an initiative to start a Palestinian-Japanese business forum in cooperation with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO).

He stressed that Japan will continue to support the Jericho Agro-Industrial Zone and the construction of the road that exclusively connects the Jericho Agro-Industrial Zone with Jordan.

He welcomed **Palestine's participation in Expo Japan 2025**, urging facilitating the participation of the Palestinian private sector in this global forum.

Japan, Palestinian Authority sign a \$20 million agreement to finance a water project in Jenin.

RAMALLAH, Tuesday, September 26, 2023 (WAFA) - Under the patronage of Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh, the Palestinian government today signed with the Japanese government a memorandum of understanding regarding financing a project to improve drinking water supply in Jenin at a value of \$20 million.

The project, whose agreement was signed in the Prime Minister's Office, is part of international support aimed at providing access to safe water for the residents of the northern West Bank city of Jenin. With this grant, the Palestinian Water Authority will



enhance the water supply in Jenin Municipality by rehabilitating water resource facilities, constructing water distribution facilities, establishing appropriate water distribution zoning, and expanding the distribution network.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shtayyeh conveyed his gratitude to the Government of Japan and the Japanese people for their unwavering support of Palestine across various dimensions.

Advisor to the Prime Minister, Estephan Salama, explained that work on the project is expected to begin after the signing, and its implementation will raise the percentage of beneficiaries of water supply networks from the current 81% to 98%. It will also reduce losses from 60% to 25% and will increase the number of beneficiaries of the project in Jenin by 2030 to over 70,000 people.

Mazen Ghoneim, the head of the Water Authority, thanked the Japanese government and JICA for the support they provide to Palestine in general and the water sector in particular, explaining that this project came as a result of the first phase, which began in 2017 at a cost \$5 million.

"We look forward to further cooperation with the Japanese government in the water sector because the water in Palestine is not only a basic service and a government priority but rather a political issue par excellence since the Israeli occupation controls more than 85% of the water sources in Palestine and controls the fate of our people. Therefore, these projects come so that we can exploit every drop of water to provide it to our people so that we can remain steadfast on our land and face all Israeli measures," he said.

For his part, the Ambassador for Palestinian Affairs, Representative of Japan to Palestine, Yoichi Nakashima, expressed his gratitude to the Prime Minister and the Palestinian partners for facilitating the implementation of Japanese projects in Palestine.

"Today, Japan has extended fresh support worth \$20 million to enhance water services in the city of Jenin. This assistance will be channelled through municipal teams that have previously benefited from the JICA project. The primary goals of this grant include the rehabilitation of water resource facilities, the expansion of the water distribution



infrastructure, and the improvement of water supply efficiency in Jenin Municipality," he said.

Jordan's King Abdullah receives Japanese FM

ARAB NEWS September 04, 2023 18:25

Hayashi's visit comes a year before the 70th anniversary of diplomatic ties between Jordan and Japan

AMMAN: Jordan's King Abdullah on Monday received Japan's Foreign Minister Hayashi Yoshimasa, Jordan News Agency reported.

Crown Prince Hussein bin Abdullah also attended the meeting, which focused on strengthening economic, investment, trade and defence cooperation. They also discussed the outcomes of the king's April visit to Japan and how to build on them.

King Abdullah thanked Hayashi for Japan's assistance to Jordan. He cited the memorandum of understanding signed between the two countries in economy and energy during Hayashi's visit. He also praised Japan's support for Syrian refugees and host communities, as well as for Palestinian refugees through the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees

The meeting covered the refugee crisis and its impact on host communities; the importance of maintaining international support; and enabling the safe and voluntary return of refugees.

The most recent regional and international developments, particularly the Palestinian cause, were also on the agenda.

Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi, Director of the king's office Jafar Hassan, and Japanese Ambassador to Jordan Jiro Okuyama also attended the meeting.

Hayashi's visit comes a year before the 70th anniversary of diplomatic ties being established between the two countries. He later met **Jordanian Prime Minister Bisher Khasawneh** to review the countries' strategic partnership.



Meanwhile, Safadi held discussions with Ibrahim Jazi, minister of state for prime ministry affairs, and Zeina Toukan, minister of planning and international cooperation.

Khasawneh praised Sunday's announcement of a \$102.8 million Japanese loan to support Jordan's electricity sector. Furthermore, a \$6.4 million grant authorized by the Japan International Cooperation Agency will help to enhance the operational capacity of Jordan's energy system.

Regarding the Palestinian cause, Khasawneh emphasized the importance of a comprehensive solution. He said this should be a two-state solution involving a sovereign Palestinian state based on pre-June 4, 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital.

He also stressed the need to preserve Jerusalem's historic status and sanctities, a responsibility entrusted to King Abdullah under the Hashemite custodianship.

Hayashi highlighted the appeal of Jordan's investment prospects to Japanese firms, saying the Jordanian-Japanese Business Forum in Amman in July unveiled cooperative opportunities.

Hayashi expressed his eagerness to contribute to the third Arab-Japanese political dialogue in Cairo on Tuesday, and the inaugural ministerial meeting of Jordan, Egypt and Japan later this month.

Fourth Japan-Jordan Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue

September 3, 2023

On September 3, commencing at 3:10 p.m. local time (9:10 p.m. JST) for approximately 65 minutes, Mr. HAYASHI Yoshimasa, Minister for Foreign Affairs, during his visit to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, held the Fourth Japan-Jordan Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue with H.E. Mr. Ayman Al Safadi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The overview is as follows.



1. At the outset, Minister Hayashi stated that frequent meetings with Minister Safadi following the Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue this March in Tokyo are proof of the close relationship between Japan and Jordan. Minister Safadi welcomed Minister Hayashi to Jordan and stated that he looks forward to having wide-ranging discussions at the strategic dialogue and further deepening their cooperative relationship.
2. The two ministers concurred on further strengthening their relationship across a broad spectrum of areas, including politics, economics, and security, with a view to enhance their bilateral strategic partnership.

(1) **Bilateral relations**

A. Economic cooperation

Minister Safadi provided an overview of Jordan's efforts to implement modernization and economic and fiscal reforms. He expressed his gratitude for Japan's assistance, including the approximately \$100 million (15 billion yen) "Electricity Sector Reform and Resilience Enhancement Program Loan (Phase 2)" and the grant aid of 897 million yen for the "Project for Strengthening Capacity of Power System Operation " for stable and reliable electricity supply, for which a signing ceremony was held during this visit. In response, Minister Hayashi stated that Japan will continue to support economic and fiscal reforms and other initiatives in Jordan. The two ministers also welcomed the increasingly active exchanges between private companies.

B. Defense and security

The two ministers welcomed the further enhancement of defense and security cooperation, including the Japan-Jordan Politico-Military (PM) dialogue and the Noncombatant Evacuation Operation training of the Japan Self-Defense Forces held in Jordan, and reaffirmed that they will continue to work together. Minister Hayashi expressed his gratitude for the training, stating that it also helped protect Japanese citizens and others in response to the situation in Sudan.

C. Assistance for refugees

Minister Hayashi explained Japan's assistance to the Middle East and pointed out that Japan and Jordan are co-sponsors of the Second Global Refugee Forum, which will be

held this December. Minister Hayashi expressed his intention to cooperate with Jordan for the success of the forum and to strengthen cooperation in refugee assistance. Minister Safadi stated that Jordan values and highly appreciates Japan's continued support.

D. Release of ALPS-treated water

Minister Hayashi explained Japan's position on the recent release of ALPS-treated water, referring to the IAEA's assessment in its Comprehensive Report. Minister Safadi stated that he is confident that Japan will comply with international standards.

(2) Regional affairs

A. Situation in the Middle East

Minister Hayashi expressed his concerns over rising political tensions between Israel and Palestine and the current security situation. He explained Japan's political efforts to alleviate tensions and efforts to build confidence by utilizing its own framework, such as the "Corridor for Peace and Prosperity" initiative. Minister Safadi explained Jordan's efforts to prevent further deterioration in Palestine as well as to find political horizons for restarting serious negotiations to achieve a just and lasting peace on the basis of the two state solution. He stated that Jordan highly appreciates Japan's efforts and would like to continue to work closely with Japan.

Minister Safadi also explained Jordan's efforts to resolve the Syrian crisis. Minister Hayashi explained Japan's position and stated that Japan would like to continue coordinating with Jordan.

B. Situation in Russia and Ukraine

The two ministers exchanged views regarding the situation in Russia and Ukraine. Minister Hayashi pointed out that Russia is weaponizing food through actions such as their unilateral withdrawal from the Black Sea Grain Initiative. He stated that it is necessary to achieve a just and lasting peace in Ukraine as soon as possible. Minister Safadi reiterated Jordan's position that international law, the UN charter, and the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations, including Ukraine, must be respected.

C. Situation in East Asia

The two ministers exchanged views regarding the situation in East Asia, including China and North Korea. Minister Safadi stated that Jordan fully supports Japan in addressing issues related to North Korea.

Minister Hayashi also explained the new plan for a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP).” Minister Safadi stated that he completely agrees on the importance of a free and open international order based on the rule of law, including securing the freedom of navigation.

3. Minister Hayashi expressed his gratitude to Minister Safadi for the in-depth discussions and for his warm hospitality. The two ministers concurred to continue close coordination to advance cooperation between the two countries based on their strategic partnership.

Egypt, Japan to boost strategic partnership in Cairo talks.

<https://www.dailynewsegypt.com/2023/09/04/egypt-japan-to-boost-strategic-partnership-in-cairo-talks/>

Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry will meet with his **Japanese counterpart Hayashi Yoshimasa** on Tuesday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Cairo.

The two ministers will discuss ways to strengthen bilateral relations between Egypt and Japan, following the agreement between President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi and the Japanese Prime Minister to elevate their relations to a strategic partnership level. They will also hold a joint press conference after the talks on Tuesday afternoon.

The visit of the Japanese Foreign Minister to Cairo is part of the regular communication and consultation on issues of mutual interest, as well as regional and international affairs.

The visit coincides with the third round of the Arab-Japanese political dialogue, as well as the trilateral consultations between Egypt, Japan, and Jordan.



Takada Katsunobu, the deputy head of the Japanese embassy in Cairo, said that the visit is a follow-up to the Japanese Prime Minister's visit to Cairo last April and his visit to the Gulf countries last July.

He explained that the Foreign Minister's visit to Jordan, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia aims to expand bilateral relations and cooperation with Arab countries through the Japan-Arab dialogue, which will take place on 5 September, as well as to launch trilateral consultations between Egypt, Jordan, and Japan.

Katsunobu pointed out in a press briefing that enhancing economic cooperation with Egypt is one of the main topics for the future of relations between the two countries, noting that the volume of Japanese investments in Egypt doubled in 2022 compared to 2021 and reached \$71.7m.

He said that the visit will focus on how to strengthen economic cooperation with Arab officials, adding that preparations are underway for the Arab-Japanese Economic Forum next year.

He also mentioned some areas of cooperation that will be discussed during the Foreign Minister's visit to Egypt, such as increasing the number of Japanese schools in Egypt, resuming direct flights between Cairo and Tokyo, and opening the Grand Egyptian Museum, which is in its final stages.

Katsunobu also referred to technical cooperation in the Suez Canal Zone, where Japan is working on a new project to build the capacities of workers in the Suez Canal.

He concluded by saying that the visit comes at a time when the world is facing great challenges at regional and international levels. He added that there are changing diplomatic dynamics in the region that are pushing Japan to strengthen its engagement in the region.



Egypt, Jordan and Japan agree to increase co-operation on peace, energy and education.

The countries met on Wednesday at the Arab League headquarters in Cairo

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/mena/egypt/2023/09/06/egypt-jordan-and-japan-agree-to-increase-co-operation-on-peace-energy-and-education/>

Energy, peace, security and education were at the top of the agenda during the ministerial summit between the Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry and his Jordanian and Japanese counterparts Ayman Al Safadi and Yoshimasa Hayashi at the Arab League headquarters in Cairo.

Egypt, Japan and Jordan have pledged to "further expand the trilateral co-operation to a broader spectrum of areas, which would benefit more countries in the region, and go beyond the current trilateral regional co-operation pilot projects in Palestine, Lebanon and Iraq," a joint statement said.

Japan has partnered with Jordan and Egypt on three pilot projects, which were mentioned during Wednesday's meeting.

The first is a 2022 project to connect the power grids of Jordan and Iraq. The project, which is supported by Tokyo, is still under way.

Japan's support of Arab efforts to increase exports from the Palestinian territories is the second pilot project, the statement said.

Tokyo had also agreed to open a number of schools in Lebanon modelled after the 48 Egyptian schools that began implementing elements of the Japanese system since 2018.

Education has been a significant area of co-operation between Japan and Egypt since President Abdel Fattah El Sisi's visit to Tokyo in 2016, where he met with then Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.



The foreign ministers also discussed achieving “peace, security and stability in the Middle East”.

“The Ministers underscored their support for the right to self-determination for the Palestinian people, and underlined the illegality of Israeli settlement activities, and that Israel must fully stop and comply with relevant UN resolutions,” read the statement.

The meeting also discussed the necessity of providing the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East with funds in light of the ongoing aid crisis the UN arm is experiencing.

Israel – Japan October 2023

The Clashes between Israel and the Palestinian militants

(Statement by Foreign Minister Mrs.KAMIKAWA Yoko)

October 8, 2023

1. On October 7, Hamas and other Palestinian militants launched a number of rockets into Israel and infiltrated into the Israeli territories from the Gaza Strip, and caused numerous deaths and injuries. Japan strongly condemns the attacks which severely harmed innocent civilians. Japan offers its condolences to the bereaved families and expresses its heartfelt sympathies to the injured.
2. In addition, a number of people including civilians were reportedly kidnapped by Hamas and other Palestinian militants. Japan strongly condemns such acts and urges the early release of those captives.
3. At the same time, Japan is deeply concerned about a number of casualties in the Gaza Strip caused by the attacks by the Israeli Defence Forces.
4. Japan urges all the parties concerned to exercise maximum restraint in order to avoid further damage and casualties.
5. Japan will continue to take all possible measures to ensure the safety of Japanese people in Israel and the Gaza Strip, while strengthening its efforts to reach out to both Israelis and Palestinians, and work towards calming down the situation as soon as possible in close coordination with the international community.



Courtesy call on Foreign Minister KAMIKAWA by H.E. Mr. Gilad COHEN, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the State of Israel

October 27, 2023

On October 27th, commencing at 5:20 p.m. for approximately 25 minutes, Ms. KAMIKAWA Yoko, Minister for Foreign Affairs, received a courtesy call from H.E. Mr. Gilad COHEN, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the State of Israel, to discuss the situation surrounding Israel and Palestine. The overview is as follows:

1. Minister Kamikawa stated that Japan has unequivocally condemned the recent terror attacks by Hamas and others, and that Japan offers its condolences to the bereaved families and expresses its heartfelt sympathies to the injured.
2. Minister Kamikawa also expressed Japan's solidarity with the people of Israel, and reiterated that Israel has a right to defend itself and its people in accordance with international law.
3. Minister Kamikawa requested cooperation by the Israeli side for a humanitarian pause to implement humanitarian assistance and to ensure humanitarian access in order to improve the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip. Furthermore, Minister Kamikawa once again requested cooperation in ensuring the safety of Japanese nationals.
4. Ambassador Cohen stated that Israel appreciates the solidarity shown by Japan, and that Israel would continue to cooperate as much as possible to ensure the safety of Japanese nationals.
5. Ambassador Cohen explained the latest situation on the ground, and Minister Kamikawa and Ambassador Cohen concurred to continue close communication toward stabilization of the region.



Japan condemns Hamas' 'terror attacks,' supports Israel's right to defend itself.

Reuters

October 13, 2023 5:07 AM GMT+3 Updated 3 hours ago

TOKYO, Oct 13 (Reuters) - Japanese Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa told her Israeli counterpart on Thursday the "terror attacks" by Hamas cannot be justified for any reason, and that Tokyo resolutely condemns the conduct, a statement by the Japanese Foreign Ministry said.

Kamikawa told Eli Cohen in their phone call that Israel has the right to defend itself and its people under international law, the statement said.

The Japanese government arranged a charter flight departing from Tel Aviv on Saturday for its citizens wishing to leave Israel, Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno told reporters on Friday.

Talk between OKANO Masataka, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Gilad COHEN, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the State of Israel

October 11, 2023

On October 11th, commencing from 4:55 p.m. for approximately 20 minutes, Mr. OKANO Masataka, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, held a talk with H.E. Mr. Gilad COHEN, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the State of Israel, to discuss the situation surrounding Israel and Palestine. The overview is as follows:

1. Vice-Minister Okano, expressing solidarity with the Israeli people who are facing the historic challenge, stated that Japan unequivocally condemns the recent terror attacks by Hamas and other Palestinian militants.
2. Furthermore, Vice-Minister Okano stated that the brutal, indiscriminate attacks of this time cannot be justified, and it is obvious that Israel has a right to defend itself and its people in accordance with international law in response to these



attacks. Vice-Minister Okano then expressed Japan's hope that the situation will be calmed down as soon as possible.

3. Vice-Minister Okano and Ambassador Cohen concurred to continue working together toward stabilization of the region.

Talk between State Minister for Foreign Affairs TSUJI by H.E. Mr. Gilad COHEN, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the State of Israel

October 16, 2023

On October 16th, commencing at 6:45 p.m. for approximately 30 minutes, State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. TSUJI Kiyoto held a talk with H.E. Mr. Gilad COHEN, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the State of Israel, to discuss the situation surrounding Israel and Palestine. The overview is as follows:

State Minister Tsuji stated that Japan has unequivocally condemned the recent terror attacks by Hamas and other Palestinian militants, and that Japan offers its condolences to the bereaved families and expresses its heartfelt sympathies to the injured.

State Minister Tsuji stated that he is paying close attention to the situation, with deep concern. He also stated that the protection of innocent civilians is important and all parties need to act in line with international humanitarian law. He requested cooperation to ensure humanitarian access so that necessary assistance will be delivered to civilians. He also requested for cooperation in ensuring the safety of Japanese nationals.

State Minister Tsuji and Ambassador Cohen concurred to continue close communication toward stabilization of the region.



Dispatch of Ambassador UEMURA Tsukasa, Special Envoy for the Middle East Peace to the Middle East region

October 17, 2023

Regarding the current situation surrounding Israel and Palestine, the Government of Japan has been making various efforts to calm down the situation, and **to improve the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip.**

As part of these efforts, the Government of Japan decided to dispatch Ambassador UEMURA Tsukasa, Special Envoy for the Middle East Peace, to **Egypt, Jordan and Qatar** from 18 to 22 October.

Ambassador UEMURA will meet and exchange views with senior officials of these countries on the situation surrounding Israel and Palestine.

ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR

Japan tries for balanced diplomatic response to Israel-Hamas war.

PM Kishida condemns attacks while urging restraint on all sides

KOYA JIBIKI, RIMI INOMATA and RYO NEMOTO, Nikkei staff writers October 11, 2023 01:31 JST

TOKYO -- Japan's government has sought to maintain its delicate balance in Middle East diplomacy even amid the latest outbreak of violence between Israel and Hamas.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida has condemned the [attacks by Hamas on Israel](#) while calling for restraint on both sides.



"Japan strongly condemns the attacks which severely harmed innocent civilians," Kishida posted Sunday on X, formerly known as Twitter.

In the next post in the thread, Kishida expressed deep concern about the "number of casualties in Gaza as well."

"All the parties concerned should exercise maximum restraint," Kishida wrote.

Unlike U.S. President Joe Biden and British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, Kishida stopped short of calling the Hamas attacks "terrorism." He referred to the attackers as "Hamas and other Palestinian militants," suggesting the involvement of other groups.

Japan did not join the U.S., the U.K., France, Germany and Italy in issuing a joint statement Monday condemning Hamas and pledging united support for Israel.

Sunday's post on X marked Kishida's first public remarks on the fighting. Biden and Sunak issued statements on Saturday local time shortly following the attacks by Hamas.

Some Japanese government watchers say that Japan, which imports most of its crude oil from the Middle East, was gauging the response by other countries in the Middle East, particularly Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, which have sought to improve relations with Israel in recent years.

U.S. ally Japan has long sought to chart its own diplomatic course in the Middle East.

When oil tankers were attacked in the Strait of Hormuz in 2019, the U.S. called for a coalition of nations to escort ships moving through the region.

Japan, which has diplomatic relations with Iran, did not join the U.S.-led coalition, instead dispatching Japan Self-Defense Forces to areas in the Middle East that did not include the Strait of Hormuz.

Japan has advocated for a two-state solution which envisions an independent Palestinian nation coexisting with Israel.

"Japan is perceived by Arab nations as being too close to its ally the U.S., and that creates an obstacle to pursuing its own path," said Shuji Hosaka, director of the Japanese Institute of Middle Eastern Economies at the Institute of Energy Economics, Japan.

Japan's foreign ministry placed Gaza on the highest alert level recommending evacuation for Japanese nationals. Tokyo has also urged Japanese to halt non-essential travel to Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.

There were 1,253 Japanese nationals residing in Israel for three months or more as of October last year.

Yasutoshi Nishimura, Japan's Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, told reporters Tuesday that most of the fewer than 30 companies that employ Japanese nationals in Israel had already [evacuated their staff to safety](#).

Top Japan envoy eyes visit to Egypt for forum on Israel-Hamas war.

KYODO Oct 20, 2023

Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa plans to visit Egypt this weekend to attend a multinational meeting to discuss the escalating conflict between Israel and the Palestinian militant group Hamas, sources familiar with the matter said Friday.

Yoko Kamikawa will leave Japan later in the day to join the international conference hosted by Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, where she is expected to explain Japan's eagerness to improve the humanitarian situation in the Middle East, the sources said.

The forum, scheduled to be held Saturday, **will seek to address the worsening humanitarian crisis in the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip, currently besieged by Israel,** and de-escalate tensions in the region, according to Egyptian media reports.



On Tuesday, Kamikawa announced Japan will provide \$10 million (about ¥1.5 billion) in emergency humanitarian relief to the Palestinian enclave through international institutions.

Stability in the Middle East is important for Tokyo, which in recent decades has maintained friendly relations with various countries in the region. Japan is highly dependent on crude oil imports from the area.

Israel-Gaza conflict: Japanese companies hunker down, seek info.

Nikkei staff writers October 9, 2023 00:38 JST

TOKYO -- Japanese companies with a presence in Israel, including top trading houses, tried to gauge the impact on their staff and businesses Sunday after attacks from Gaza plunged the Middle Eastern nation into war.

So far, there have been no reports from major Japanese companies about staff casualties or damage to their facilities.

More than 600 people on the Israeli side have been killed since Saturday, and more than 2,000 injured, the Israeli government's press office said on Facebook. Gaza authorities reported 370 deaths and 2,200 injuries from Israeli counterstrikes.

Mitsubishi Corp. has an office in Tel Aviv that oversees joint projects with local startups. The company said it had received no reports of staff being hurt.

Among other Japanese trading houses, Mitsui & Co. has halted employee business travel to Israel. Marubeni has evacuated its representatives and their families from the country.

Sumitomo Corp. and Toyota Tsusho said their staff members were safe.



Trading houses are not the only Japanese companies with a presence in Israel, home to global players in semiconductors and other high-tech fields.

Canon has a software development subsidiary that it acquired in Israel, as well as a sales office, for a total of dozens of workers. A Canon spokesperson said its operations are not located near the fighting and have not sustained damage.

Telecommunications group NTT has told employees of its local unit to work from home.

Rakuten Group has a hub in Israel for its Viber calling app. Employees have already evacuated to safety in accordance with the instructions of the authorities, Rakuten said.

According to Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 92 Japanese-owned companies had operations in Israel as of 2019.

G7 chair Japan opts not to sign statement by 5 leaders supporting Israel.

October 10, 2023 17:06

Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno: Japan's absence from the statement may be attributed to its desire to maintain flexibility in its approach

TOKYO: Five G7 members on Monday issued a joint statement in support of Israel after deadly attacks by Hamas from Gaza — but Japan and Canada were not among them.

The statement was issued by France's President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, and the US President Joe Biden.

The five leaders expressed their "steadfast and united support to the State of Israel" and condemned Hamas's "appalling acts of terrorism."



When asked by Arab News why Japan did not sign the document, Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno said: "Japan, as the chair country of the G7, has been closely collaborating with member nations and engaging in discussions with each country regarding the pursuit of peace. It seems that the joint statement was issued to reflect the diverse perspectives and positions of each G7 member on the matter.

"Japan's absence from the statement may be attributed to its desire to maintain flexibility in its approach, while actively working behind the scenes to mediate and exert influence on both Palestine and Israel. Japan remains committed to making efforts toward de-escalation and contributing to the peaceful resolution of the situation."

The five leaders' statement emphasized that they recognized "the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people" and added: " Hamas does not represent those aspirations."

Japan to give \$10M. aid to Gaza civilians - foreign minister.

TOKYO, Oct 17 (Reuters) - Japan will provide \$10 million in emergency aid for civilians in Gaza, foreign minister Yoko Kamikawa said on Tuesday.

Japan is the current president of the Group of 7 developed nations and Kamikawa said it was monitoring the situation in Gaza "with concern", adding that Japan expects the situation to be calmed down as soon as possible.

Kamikawa said she was also making final preparations for talks with her Iranian counterpart.

Israel has vowed to annihilate Iran-backed Hamas - which controls the Gaza Strip - after its Islamist fighters stormed Israeli towns on Oct. 7, killing 1,300 people and seizing hostages in the worst attack on civilians in the country's history.



Direct Flights Connecting Japan, Israel Suspended for Time Being

Jiji [Politics](#) Oct 26, 2023 12:58 (JST)

Tokyo, Oct. 26 (Jiji Press)--**Japan's Foreign Ministry has announced** that direct flights between the Asian nation and Israel will be suspended for a while, following an escalation of the conflict between Israel and Palestinian militant group Hamas.

As of now, the ministry said that it expects such flights to be suspended until March next year. The final flight for the time being left Israel on Wednesday.

The ministry urged Japanese nationals wanting to leave Israel to use other commercial flights to fly out of the country as soon as possible.

Israeli airline El Al had operated direct flights twice a week connecting Tel Aviv with Narita International Airport near Tokyo.

Meeting between State Minister for Foreign Affairs HORII and H.E. Mr. Gilad COHEN, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the State of Israel

October 26, 202

On October 25th, commencing at 5 p.m. for approximately 30 minutes, State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. HORII Iwao held a talk with H.E. Mr. Gilad COHEN, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the State of Israel, to discuss the situation surrounding Israel and Palestine. The overview is as follows:



1. State Minister Horii stated that Japan has unequivocally condemned the recent terror attacks by Hamas and others, and that Japan offers its condolences to the bereaved families and expresses its heartfelt sympathies to the injured.
2. State Minister Horii also expressed Japan's solidarity with the people of Israel, and reiterated that Israel has a right to defend itself and its people in accordance with international law.
3. State Minister Horii then stated that the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip is becoming increasingly severe, and that it is crucial to continue and increase the delivery of humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip. State Minister Horii requested cooperation by the Israeli side for a humanitarian pause to implement humanitarian assistance and to ensure humanitarian access, so that necessary assistance will be delivered to the people in the Gaza Strip. Furthermore, State Minister Horii once again requested cooperation in ensuring the safety of Japanese nationals.
4. Ambassador Cohen stated that Israel deeply appreciates the solidarity shown by Japan, and that Israel is making effort to minimize human casualties. He also stated that Israel would continue to cooperate as much as possible to ensure the safety of Japanese nationals.



Japan to extend SDF mission in Middle East by one year.

https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/news/20231027_32/

The Japanese government has decided to extend the Self-Defence Forces' mission in the Middle East by one year.

Japan is currently deploying a destroyer and two patrol aircraft for information gathering activities in the Middle East to secure the safety of ships connected to Japan. The dispatched personnel are also engaged in an anti-piracy mission in the Gulf of Aden, off the east African country of Somalia.

The mission is due to end on November 19, but the government has determined that the activities should be continued. However, it plans to reduce the number of patrol planes to one.

The government also plans to extend by one year the participation of four SDF personnel in a multinational peacekeeping mission on the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt.

The extensions are expected to be officially decided at a Cabinet meeting early next month.



Japan announces sanctions on Hamas-related individuals, company.

Reuters - October 31, 2023 4:04 AM GMT

TOKYO, Oct 31 (Reuters) - Japan has imposed a fresh set of sanctions on individuals and a company connected to the Gaza-based militant group Hamas, according to a statement released by the Japanese foreign ministry on Tuesday.

The sanctions consist of freezing the assets of individuals and a company that have helped fund Hamas, and is in line with new sanctions [announced](#) by the United States government earlier this month.

It is the first set of sanctions Japan has imposed on [Hamas](#) since its deadly rampage on Oct. 7 that Israeli authorities say killed over 1,400 people.

Individuals including Hamas operatives Muhammad Ahmad 'Abd Al-Dayim Nasrallah and Ayman Nofal were newly added to the list of people and organisations deemed as terrorists by Japan.

Terilogy begins sales of Israeli Reveal Security product that detects internal improprieties in cloud application usage.

Detecting unauthorized access by employees and taking out of business information in various cloud applications that are increasingly being introduced into companies.

[Terilogy Co., Ltd.](#) October 13, 2023 10:05

Terilogy Co., Ltd. (Headquarters: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, President and CEO: Tatsu Suzuki, hereinafter referred to as "Terilogy") is an Israeli RevealSecurity Ltd. (Headquarters: Ramat Gan, CEO and Co-Founder: Dron Hendler, hereinafter referred to as "RevealSecurity")) has concluded a sales agency agreement in



Japan and Vietnam with "TrackerIQ", an application direction and response (ADR) product that detects suspicious behavior performed by users in cloud applications that are increasingly being introduced by companies. We are pleased to inform you that we have started selling the series.

Currently, companies are increasingly adopting cloud applications, and there are reports overseas that on average more than 10 types of cloud applications are used by a single company (*1). In addition, these cloud applications are not limited to email, schedule, and sales management systems, but now also include accounting, personnel evaluation, business card information management, and file sharing systems, and many important information assets, including personal information, are managed on the cloud. I am.

On the other hand, there have been a number of cases of fraud committed by internal employees, such as the taking of business information by retired employees, and companies that have taken measures to protect against external cyber-attacks are required to implement internal measures to prevent such fraud by employees in the future. Implementation of anti-fraud solutions is required.

The "TrackerIQ" series provided by RevealSecurity is an application-specific internal fraud prevention solution that learns and monitors the behavior of users who use third-party cloud applications deployed internally, and detects patterns of unauthorized use. • A solution that notifies you and prevents unauthorized use within your company. What is different from the UEBA (*2) solution, which analyzes user behavior, is that it uses a proprietary clustering engine to analyze user journeys (a series of actions performed by users within an application), and detects suspicious user behavior. It automatically and more accurately detects alerts, eliminates the burden of investigating huge alerts, and saves time and costs for remediation.

In addition, by linking with Sumo Logic, a cloud-native SIEM (*3) that Terilogy provides to customers in a wide range of industries, TrackerIQ can shorten the implementation period, enable early analysis, and improve alert time. This allows for greater visibility in detailed investigations.



As companies shift to the cloud and cloud lift, we will continue to expand sales of cybersecurity products for cloud systems and cloud applications, and aim to improve the ability of companies to respond not only to external cyber attacks but also to internal unauthorized use.

What is Reveal Security?

RevealSecurity is the only company that provides behavior-based user journey analytics to help organizations identify compromised and abused privileged and application user credentials within the mission-critical applications that drive business, enabling cost-effective detection, alerting, and rapid response. For more information, please visit www.reveal.security.

RevealSecurity's customers include financial institutions, technology companies, and manufacturing companies, which use SaaS applications centered on Salesforce.com, AWS, ServiceNow, GWS, OKTA, Dynamics, MS365, Box, SAP, and Workday. We are monitoring.

■ About Terilogy Co., Ltd.

Established in 1989, Terilogy Co., Ltd. is a technology value creator that handles a wide range of products from hardware to software and services that meet market and customer needs, with four core segments: security, networks, monitoring, and solution services. We have over 300 customers, mainly large corporations and telecommunications carriers, and have a wealth of experience and track record in the network-related business and cybersecurity fields.

Harel-Hertz Investment introduced and engineered the agreement between Terilogy and Reveal.

DNP collaborates with Idomoo on personalized video service to generate and distribute videos in a safe and secure environment.

Idomoo's "next generation video platform" introduced, offering services with improved security

[Ken Yamakawa \(Web Editorial Department\)](#) 10/23 7:00 [Marketing/Advertisement](#)

Dai Nippon Printing (DNP) announced in October that it has collaborated with Israeli video provider Idomoo on a personalized video service that allows companies to generate and deliver personalized video messages to each customer. It was announced on the 20th. On the same day, they introduced the company's "Next Generation Video Platform" and started selling a service that allows them to generate and distribute videos in a safe and secure environment.

This is in response to the growing demand for personalized videos that are generated based on attributes, etc. as one-on-one communication between companies and consumers is attracting attention. The video is generated using a technique called overlay technology, which overlays personal data such as text and images onto a basic template, but since personal data can be rewritten, there is a risk that the content may be tampered with.

Idomoo's platform generates videos with personal data directly embedded, rather than using overlay technology. It is impossible to rewrite the video content after it is generated, reducing the risk of information tampering. The personal data used to generate the video is encrypted and deleted immediately after the video is created. Through collaboration, DNP will be able to develop a personalized video generation service with enhanced security.

Instantly generates a video that displays information such as the name and details of the services used by each of a company's customers. By automatically selecting and sorting video scenes, it is possible to quickly generate and provide videos suitable for a large number of target audiences. You can place buttons within the video that link to survey options, information/purchase pages for individual products and services, and contact information, and the video changes when you respond or click.



Israel – Japan November 2023

Japan hopes for early easing of tensions in Gaza: PM tells Israeli President.

[KYODO NEWS](#) - 1 hour ago - 22:13 | [All](#), [World](#), [Japan](#)

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida told Israeli President Isaac Herzog Friday that he hopes tensions in Gaza would ease as soon as possible, the Japanese government said.

During their talks on the sidelines of a U.N. conference on climate change in the United Arab Emirates, Kishida was also quoted as telling Herzog that increased deliveries of supplies to Gaza are essential to improve the humanitarian situation there.

Kishida held his first in-person meeting with an Israeli political leader since the Oct. 7 attack on the Middle Eastern country by the Palestinian militant group Hamas. Friday's meeting coincided with Israel and Hamas resuming fighting after a weeklong truce that began on Nov. 24.



Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida (R) and Israeli President Isaac Herzog shake hands in Dubai on Dec. 1, 2023. (Photo courtesy of the Cabinet Public Affairs Office)(Kyodo)



Resource-poor Japan has traditionally pursued a "balanced diplomacy" between Israel and Muslim nations in the Middle East as it is highly dependent on crude oil from the region.

At the outset of the talks, Kishida condemned Hamas for executing a "terror attack," offering his condolences to the families of the victims and conveying his sympathies to the injured, the government said.

Herzog told Kishida that he appreciated Japan's clear condemnation of terrorism, while explaining Israel's position, including its military actions in the Hamas-ruled Palestinian enclave of Gaza, it added.

Israel and Hamas had agreed to a pause in the fighting in exchange for hostages and extended the deal twice, with Qatar having played a mediation role.

Kishida praised the Muslim country's diplomatic efforts when he held separate talks with its emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani.

The Israeli military, however, said Friday that it has resumed attacks against Hamas, accusing the militant group of firing rockets.

Kishida called the resumption of fighting "regrettable," adding that it is "important to return to an agreement and calm the situation as soon as possible" during the meeting with Qatar's emir.

It is unlikely Kishida will visit Israel during his trip to the Middle East, where he is participating in the 28th session of the Conference of the Parties to the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change, known as COP28, in Dubai.



Japanese minister to assure Palestinian counterparts on aid.

By [Sakura Murakami](#) and [Kantaro Komiya](#) November 2, 2023 7:29 AM GMT

TOKYO, Nov 2 (Reuters) - Japan's foreign minister said on Thursday she would meet Palestinian counterparts during a visit to Israel and Jordan and would communicate Japan's readiness to provide aid to the Palestinians.

The minister, **Yoko Kamikawa**, is also set to meet Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen during her two-day trip from Friday, as the crisis in Gaza deepened after Israel conducted a strike on the Jabalia refugee camp and as foreigners, including Japanese nationals, leave.

"I hope to discuss how to respond to the grave humanitarian situation in the Gaza region as well as directly communicate Japan's readiness to continue providing aid," Kamikawa said of her meeting with her Palestinian counterparts.

She did not specify who she would meet from the Palestinian side.

Speaking to reporters before her departure, she acknowledged the Israeli strike on the Jabalia refugee camp and that many civilians had been killed in the attack.

"I understand the Israeli military has said the strike targeted Hamas operatives and relevant infrastructure," she said. She did not comment further.

All 10 Japanese nationals and their eight Palestinian family members wishing to leave Gaza have evacuated to Egypt, Kamikawa said, adding that the evacuees were in good health.

She said Japan would remain in touch with one Japanese national living in Gaza who wished to remain there and did not evacuate.



Japanese, Israeli foreign ministers meet in Tel Aviv amid Hamas war.

On November 3rd, commencing at 9 a.m. (4 p.m. Japan time) for approximately 40 minutes, Ms. KAMIKAWA Yoko, Minister for Foreign Affairs, who is visiting the State of Israel, held a meeting with H.E. Mr. Eli COHEN, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel. The overview is as follows:

1. At the outset, Minister Kamikawa reiterated that Japan has unequivocally condemned the recent terror attacks including the brutal killing and kidnapping by Hamas and others, and expressed Japan's solidarity with the people of Israel. She offered her condolences to the bereaved families and expressed her heartfelt sympathies to the injured. Furthermore, she stated that she is worried about those kidnapped, and hostages must be released immediately.
2. Minister Kamikawa also expressed that Japan is deeply concerned about the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip. She raised that humanitarian pause is needed, and all the parties must act in accordance with international law including the international humanitarian law. Furthermore, Minister Kamikawa once again requested cooperation in ensuring the safety of Japanese nationals.
3. Minister Cohen stated that Israel appreciates the solidarity shown by Japan to Israel, and that Israel would continue to cooperate as much as possible to ensure the safety of Japanese nationals.
4. Minister Kamikawa and Minister Cohen concurred to continue to cooperate toward securing safety of civilians and calming down the situation as soon as possible.
5. After the Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Minister Kamikawa, in the presence of Foreign Minister Cohen, met for approximately 30 minutes with three families of those killed or kidnapped in the Hamas terrorist attacks. The families explained the situation on the day of the attack and requested cooperation towards the early release of the hostages and towards a world without terrorism. Minister Kamikawa thanked the families for sharing their stories under such difficult



circumstances, expressed solidarity with the Israeli people, and stated that she would make every possible effort towards the release of the hostages and a world free of terrorism.

Courtesy call on President Herzog of the State of Israel by Foreign Minister Kamikawa

November 3, 2023

On November 3rd, commencing at 10:35 a.m. (5:35 p.m. Japan time) for approximately 30 minutes, Ms. KAMIKAWA Yoko, Minister for Foreign Affairs, who is visiting the State of Israel, paid a courtesy call on H.E. Mr. Isaac HERZOG, President of the State of Israel. The overview is as follows:

1. At the outset, Minister Kamikawa reiterated that Japan has unequivocally condemned the recent terror attacks including the brutal killing and kidnapping by Hamas and others and expressed Japan's solidarity with the people of Israel. She offered her condolences to the bereaved families and expressed her heartfelt sympathies to the injured. Furthermore, she stated that she is worried about those kidnapped, and hostages must be released immediately.
2. Minister Kamikawa also expressed that Japan is deeply concerned about the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip. She raised that humanitarian pause is needed, and all the parties must act in accordance with international law including the international humanitarian law. Furthermore, Minister Kamikawa once again requested cooperation in ensuring the safety of Japanese nationals.
3. President Helzog stated that Israel appreciates the solidarity shown by Japan to Israel, and that Israel would continue to cooperate as much as possible to ensure the safety of Japanese nationals.
4. Minister Kamikawa and President Herzog concurred to continue to cooperate toward securing safety of civilians and calming down the situation as soon as possible.



Foreign minister says Japan to 'take lead' in addressing Gaza crisis.

KYODO12/11/23 06:27 am JST

Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa said Friday that Japan will "take a lead" in the global efforts to address the deepening humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip amid the escalating war between Israel and Palestinian militant group Hamas.

Japan will proactively communicate with related nations toward the realization of a "two-state solution" for establishing an independent Palestine state alongside Israel to resolve their longstanding conflict, Kamikawa said in an interview with Kyodo News.

She underscored that Japan can hold dialogue with Israel, Palestine and Middle Eastern countries. "We will aim to improve the humanitarian situation and help de-escalation in the short term, and approach them to realize a two-state solution in the long term."

Earlier this week, Kamikawa and her counterparts from the Group of Seven industrialized nations called for "humanitarian pauses" to enable civilians in Gaza to flee and facilitate the delivery of aid supplies to the Palestinian enclave.

With Japan set to co-chair the Global Refugee Forum in Geneva in mid-December, Kamikawa said Tokyo will encourage other nations to step up support for refugees as more Palestinian civilians are expected to be forced to leave their homes.

Kamikawa, who became Japan's first female foreign minister in around two decades in September, also said it is important for women to assume "leadership positions" and engage in war prevention, reconstruction and peace-building in Gaza.



INTERVIEW: Israeli Ambassador Backs Palestinian Control of Gaza

Tokyo, Nov. 10 (Jiji Press)--Palestinians other than Hamas members should administer the Gaza Strip after the current conflict between Israel and the Islamist group ends, Israeli Ambassador to Japan Gilad Cohen has indicated.

"If you think that Israel is going to reoccupy Gaza and sit there forever, no," Cohen told Jiji Press in an interview in Tokyo on Thursday.

On Monday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that his country will take full responsibility for the security of Gaza indefinitely after the end of the conflict. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken warned Israel against reoccupying Gaza on Wednesday.

Regarding the soaring civilian casualties in the conflict, Cohen said, "We do not want to have any civilian getting hit by us."

But Hamas members hide in schools and hospital basements as they "want us to by mistake hit the civilians," he said.

Japanese Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa Slams Use of Human Shields in Gaza Conflict.

By Chie Morifuji / Yomiuri Shimbun Staff Writer

15:57 JST, November 16, 2023

SAN FRANCISCO — Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa on Tuesday said using innocent civilians as human shields cannot be tolerated in the ongoing Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip.

Touching upon the crisis at a press conference during a visit to San Francisco, Kamikawa said, "Acts such as the use of innocent civilians as human shields are against the basic principles of international humanitarian law, and cannot be justified."



Kamikawa's comments came in the wake of a raid upon a hospital in Gaza by Israeli forces, among other recent events.

Her remarks are thought to be linked to claims made by Israel and the United States that the militant group Hamas is utilizing the hospital as a military base and using civilians as human shields.

She also stressed the "need to take all possible measures, including allowing a pause in the conflict for humanitarian purposes, to prevent civilian casualties" over Israel's military actions.

Kamikawa also held telephone talks on the day with her Jordanian and Egyptian counterparts — Ayman Safadi and Sameh Shoukry, respectively — and confirmed their cooperation to improve the humanitarian situation.

Virtual-Ports Secures Exclusive Partnership with Mitsubishi Japan Healthcare Division to Increase Surgical Performance

This collaboration marks a major milestone in Virtual-Ports' global expansion as the company progresses toward a new innovative platform poised to transform MIS (minimally invasive Surgery).

HOD HASHARON, Israel, Nov. 7, 2023 /PRNewswire/ -- [Virtual-Ports Ltd](#), a leading medical device company specializing in innovative surgical solutions, is thrilled to announce its strategic partnership with [MC Medical](#), a subsidiary of [Mitsubishi Corporation](#) and a renowned market leader in advanced surgical devices within Japan. Effective immediately, MC Medical will serve as the exclusive distribution channel for Virtual-Ports Ltd products in Japan, delivering a higher value to local surgical practice.



As a prominent player in the Japanese healthcare sector, MC Medical represents top-tier brands and specializes in Minimally Invasive Surgery (MIS), a field that demands improved precision through innovation to meet growing patient demand for better clinical results and reduced operational risk. With this collaboration, Virtual-Ports aims to augment the value provided to Japanese surgeons through its all-in-one medical devices platform.

Virtual-Ports products, known for their single-hand, multi-application design, will significantly enhance abdominal surgery space visibility and access. This innovation empowers surgeons by increasing control and clinical accuracy, ultimately reducing dependency on operating room assistance and minimizing the overall risk of complications and costs.

This strategic move represents a pivotal step in Virtual-Ports' global commercial expansion strategy.

"We are excited to join forces with MC Medical, a trusted leader in the Japanese healthcare industry," said Yuval Yaskil, CEO at Virtual-Ports. "Our partnership signifies a commitment to advancing surgical techniques and improving patient outcomes. With the introduction of our groundbreaking technology to Japan, we look forward to further strengthening our global presence."

About Virtual-Ports Ltd

Virtual-Ports Ltd is committed to empowering surgeons with innovative devices utilizing its proprietary MicroAnchoring™ technology to enhance laparoscopic procedures. We pioneered the 'Freedom to Operate' revolution, ensuring safer, cost-effective clinical outcomes and increased revenue for healthcare systems.

ZutaCore: a startup from Sderot that received a strategic investment from Mitsubishi and went on the runway.

Mitsubishi invested \$8 million in Zuta-Core, which developed a unique technology for cooling server farms ■ Many of the company's employees live in communities that suffered severe losses, and about half of them are evacuated from their homes or recruited into the reserves.

November 13, 2023

About a week and a half before the outbreak of war, ZutaCore received dramatic news, the kind that spells fate for start-ups of its kind: after a year of due diligence by the large Japanese corporation Mitsubishi, it was decided that it would become a strategic investor in the company. In other words, apart from an initial investment of 8 million dollars, the corporation will also distribute the technology that Zuta-Core has developed.

When a company with resources the size of Mitsubishi decides to back a startup like Zuta-Core, it means a push forward that may make it a major player in a field that has been changing and growing at a dizzying pace in recent years, away from the public eye - cooling server farms (data centers) .

According to Zuta-Core, its technology reduces the electricity consumption of server farms by tens of percent, it is safer to use than other technologies, and it is easy to implement

Zuta-Core has developed a cooling technology based on a unique liquid that does not conduct electricity. According to the company, the advantages that its technology offers are great. It lowers the [electricity consumption of the server farms](#) by dozens of percent , it is safer to use than technologies that cool with water, and it is also easy to implement.

The company is located in the Sapirim Industrial Park, close to Sderot. Its Chief Technology Officer, Nachshon Idelson, is a resident of, a Kibbutz near the Gaza Strip; the company's CEO and Chairman, Erez Freibach, is a native of Nahal Oz. Many of the



company's employees live in communities that have suffered losses, and about half of them are evacuated from their homes or are in the reserves These days. "The company received an injection of energy at the same time as the war going on in the region."

Solve an old physics problem.

Zuta-Cor was established in 2016, a year earlier the paths of Freibach, a veteran in the high-tech industry, and Idelson crossed paths in a technological incubator in the Negev. Freibach said of Idelson that "he is an inventor with grace. A man who worked on a tractor all his life and invented all his life. He knows how to deal with any difficult technological problem and give it practical solutions."

Another company, Carrar, was created from the technology invented by Idelson as part of Zuta-Core, which deals with cooling batteries for electric cars and is also based in Sapirim. Zuta-Kor has avoided publicity until today and decided to be exposed now in preparation for the expected growth and recruitment of new employees.

The company - which has so far raised about 40 million dollars and is in the midst of a recruitment round - employs about 50 people, the vast majority of them in Israel. Its investors include Marius Necht, the German corporation Rittal Beteiligungs GmbH and Elah Fund.

"We solved a physical problem that many in the world tried to solve and failed, including advanced universities in the world," said Freibach about the basis of Zuta-Cor technology. "To produce boiling - a transition from liquid to gas - you need a lot of energy. For example, to boil water for pasta in a pot, it is not enough to reach 100 degrees, you need to reach 108 degrees at the bottom of the pot. And this difference, of eight degrees, causes a significant waste of energy. After many efforts, the world managed to lower this difference to six degrees; Nachshon managed to lower the difference to at least one degree - this is a significant energy saving."

This breakthrough is the basis of Zuta-Core's technology, which is protected by patents. According to the company, "the technology is based on an isolated coolant, which, unlike water-based coolant, prevents the possibility of a short circuit and allows

server farms to make better use of the available space, reduce the scope of electricity consumption by up to 40%, and in addition, significantly reduce carbon emissions."

Freibach explained that "in recent years there has been a tenfold or more jump in the energy consumption of chips. This is related to changes in the business model in the field and also to the massive entry of artificial intelligence." Energy consumption creates heat, and heat removal has become a central problem in the server farm market, which has grown exponentially. In addition, the issue of reducing carbon emissions is high on the list of priorities for corporations that have set themselves the goal of reaching zero emissions by 2030.

"The reason we exist is that it is no longer possible to cool everything that computing contains with air alone. That is why the world of server farms is currently undergoing a significant transformation - from cooling with air to cooling with liquid. We provide a solution that will be relevant in the future as well, because our technology knows how to cool even chips that are ten times hotter than what is available today."

Innovative cooling technologies are able not only to reduce electricity consumption - but also to recycle the energy emitted from the server farms and reuse it. Freibach explained that due to the new increase in the volume of massive energy consumption in server farms, leading companies in the energy field began to see this as a strategic business goal and teamed up with companies that deal with server cooling. Mitsubishi is also a player in the energy sector, which among other things produces nuclear reactors and gas turbines.

"For the energy companies this is a perfect storm," Freibach said. "Within a few years, 8% of global energy consumption will be allocated to server farms. Our solution makes it possible to harvest the energy, and transfer it to reuse, instead of it evaporating into the atmosphere as is the case today."

Freibach added: "We came a little late, and we are also a small company. The agreement with Mitsubishi is the first step for Zuta-Cor on the way to becoming a leader on a global level. We are already working with leading companies such as [Intel](#) and Dell,



and when working with companies of this size, they want to know that you have the back of a huge company with tremendous resources.

It's a market where you can't be a small player, because it's huge. So if we succeed - it will be big. A lot of things have to happen for a startup to take off, there are many parameters that need to be synchronized holistically. This is what is happening to us now. All we have to do is not do nonsense and grow in an orderly manner."

About ZutaCore

Founded in 2016 ZutaCore is revolutionizing the data industry with HyperCool® - a waterless, direct-on-chip liquid cooling solution. This technology increases compute density, reduces energy consumption, optimizes space utilization, and delivers 100% heat reuse in the data center. With its field operations centered in San Jose, California, an R&D center in Israel, and offices in Europe and Taiwan, ZutaCore is part of the Sustainable Digital Infrastructure Alliance.

About Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Group

Mitsubishi Heavy Industries (MHI) Group is one of the world's leading industrial groups, spanning energy, smart infrastructure, industrial machinery, aerospace and defense. MHI Group combines cutting-edge technology with deep experience to deliver innovative, integrated solutions that help to realize a carbon neutral world, improve the quality of life and ensure a safer world.

Hitachi Solutions and Cybellum to Provide PLM Security Solutions in Japan

Joint offering to provide one-stop support for compliance with cyber security regulations for IoT devices from design to manufacturing to operation.

TEL AVIV, Israel, Nov. 8, 2023 /PRNewswire/ -- [Cybellum](#), creators of the award-winning Product Security Platform, and Hitachi Solutions, a leading Japanese IT distributor that provides a full range of IT security products and services to midsize and enterprise-level



customers, announced today its partnership to provide PLM security solutions in Japan. The PLM Security Solutions service provides one-stop support for uncovering and managing cybersecurity vulnerabilities from the design to manufacturing and operation of IoT devices.

As devices become increasingly internet-connected across the automotive, medical, and critical infrastructure sectors, governments are taking note of the cybersecurity risks that they introduce to facilities and civilians. In response, governing bodies around the globe have implemented new regulations such as WP.29 for automotive, FDA PMA cybersecurity for medical devices, and NIST for industrial equipment. To help companies who want to remain secure and compliant while bringing connected products and IoT devices onto their networks, Cybellum's Product Security Platform offers continuous cyber security safeguards and produces compliant-ready reports both during development and post-productions.

Hitachi Solutions has been offering Product Incident Response Team (PSIRT) implementation for organizational setup and process development, consulting services for security measure integration into product design, and security libraries for implementation of security functionalities. Working with Cybellum, Hitachi Solutions will now add highly accurate vulnerability management capabilities and expand their consulting services to encompass compliance support for the Cyber Resilience Act and product lifecycle support with their PLM security solution.

"This partnership aligns perfectly with our shared commitment to helping organizations strengthen their cybersecurity posture and ensure compliance with evolving cybersecurity regulations," said Slava Bronfman, CEO of Cybellum. "By combining Cybellum's expertise in product security with Hitachi Solutions' comprehensive security services, we are empowering organizations in Japan to uncover and manage cyber vulnerabilities while streamlining compliance efforts."

About Hitachi Solutions

Hitachi Solutions, Ltd., headquartered in Tokyo, Japan, is a core member of the Information & Telecommunication Systems business of Hitachi Group and a recognized leader in delivering proven business and IT strategies and solutions to companies across many industries. The company provides value-driven services throughout the IT



life cycle from systems planning to systems integration, operation, and maintenance. Hitachi Solutions delivers products and services of superior value to customers worldwide through key subsidiaries in the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, India, and Asia Pacific. For more information on Hitachi Solutions, please visit: <http://www.hitachi-solutions.com>.

About Cybellum

Cybellum is where teams do product security.

Device manufacturers such as Jaguar Land Rover, Supermicro, Danaher, and Rolls Royce use Cybellum's Product Security Platform and services to manage the main aspects of their cybersecurity operations across business units and lifecycle stages. From Software Bill of Materials (SBOM) to Vulnerability Management, Compliance Validation, and Incident Response, teams ensure their connected products are fundamentally secure and compliant – and stay that way. To learn more visit www.cybellum.com

Joy Ventures Rebrands as Corundum Neuroscience, Launching New Venture Builder and Fund to Spur Neuroscience Technology Innovation

HERZLIYA, Israel, Nov. 8, 2023 /PRNewswire/ -- [Corundum Neuroscience](#), formerly Joy Ventures, today announced the launch of its new neuroscience-focused venture builder and fund to spur neuroscience research and innovation. The newly rebranded Corundum Neuroscience works with researchers and entrepreneurs with commercially applicable ideas to build and grow companies developing innovative solutions spanning a range of health and disease areas, including anxiety, depression, PTSD, chronic pain, sleep and neurodegenerative disorders.



Corundum Neuroscience's *lab-to-life* model supports the entire innovation journey, from the earliest stages of research and concept, through commercialization to facilitate the long-term success and impact of its portfolio companies. The decision to transition from Joy Ventures to Corundum Neuroscience signifies the company's sharpened focus on facilitating greater neuroscience research and innovation, with its mission to expand availability of solutions that improve people's daily lives across the globe.

"Corundum Neuroscience bridges the gap between early-stage research and market launch for innovation in the neuroscience technology domain," said Liron Nunez Weissman, CEO of Corundum Neuroscience. "We understand the challenges innovators in this space contend with, and our long-term funding approach provides the flexibility necessary to bring to market solutions that will improve people's health, longevity and happiness."

The Corundum Neuroscience team identifies research, enabling technologies and early-stage startups with high potential for commercial applicability and broad societal impact. The company understands the lengthy development journey for neuroscience innovation, the so-called 'Valley of Death' for life-science startups between discovery and market launch. Corundum's team of researchers, academics and business leaders provides the support and guidance essential for companies to navigate this extensive period of innovation cycles and development required for successful and targeted neuroscience-driven solutions.

"Despite recent advances in neuroscience, it remains a challenging field for investment and commercial success," said Josh Schulman, PhD, Chief Scientist for Corundum Neuroscience. "Our team is fully embedded in the ecosystem, enabling us to take a science-based approach to neuroscience investment, and to provide the strategic direction and support required to translate discoveries into market-ready products."

Corundum Neuroscience now operates under parent company Corundum Innovation, a Japanese-based investment firm providing comprehensive support through research funding, venture investment services and new business consulting. Corundum



Neuroscience and sister fund Corundum Systems Biology created the Corundum Convergence Institute (CCI), a US-based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization to continue providing funding in the form of research grants in the fields of neuroscience, systems biology and AI-based scientific exploration.

"The key element to success in advancing neuroscience technology is understanding the entire innovation journey from initial hypothesis to introducing an impactful product to market," said Ruthi Aladjem, PhD, Corundum Neuroscience's Chief Product Strategist. "We are already considering the needs of end-users from the earliest research stages, anticipating how solutions can integrate into people's lives to improve outcomes for whole populations."

Corundum Neuroscience's portfolio of companies includes digital self-neuromodulation therapies developer [Gray Matters Health](#), leading provider of therapist-guided neuro-feedback for home use [Myndlift](#), and personalized sleep optimization developer [NYX Technologies](#).

About Corundum Neuroscience

Corundum Neuroscience is a venture builder and fund advancing transformative neuroscience solutions *from lab-to-life*. The Corundum Neuroscience team combines deep domain expertise with a track-record of venture-building success to accelerate neuroscience solutions across the entire innovation lifecycle. Taking a long-term investment approach, Corundum Neuroscience helps researchers, entrepreneurs and startups develop life-changing solutions that target specific disease areas and outcomes to enhance people's health, longevity and quality of life. Formerly known as Joy Ventures, Corundum Neuroscience launched in September 2023. The company is headquartered in Herzliya, Israel.

Alma, a Sisram Medical company, reinforces its APAC leadership with the establishment of a new venture in Japan.

CAESAREA, Israel, Nov. 15, 2023 /CNW/ -- [Alma Lasers](#), a Sisram Medical company and a global leader in energy-based medical and aesthetic solutions, announced today the opening of a new subsidiary in Japan. This milestone establishes the company's sixth subsidiary in the Asia Pacific, expected to serve as a significant growth engine for Alma's business in APAC markets.

The new branch, located in the heart of Tokyo, offers Japanese doctors access to Alma's award-winning product portfolio and leading brands, including its flagship energy-based devices.

Japan's medical aesthetic market, ranked as the third largest, is rapidly and consistently growing. While Alma has been operating in the Japanese market since the year 2000, establishing sales channels, as well as strong relationships with clinics and esteemed professionals across the country, the opening of the Japan direct office marks a new level of commitment to the Japanese market, to better serve Japanese doctors, understand patients' desires and needs, and tailor-made innovative solutions to evolving needs.

Alma, which has demonstrated strong leadership in the APAC markets for over two decades, continues its regional direct sales expansion according to the company's consumer-centric strategy. This strategy aims at enhancing the company's marketing positioning and strengthening brand recognition among consumers across strategic countries. The new branch joins the recent launch of Alma's subsidiary in China, bringing the total number of Alma's subsidiaries across the globe to 11.

Lior Dayan, CEO of Alma and Sisram Medical, said, "Alma's continuous growth in the APAC market is a pivotal element of our global leadership strategy. We look forward to



collaborating with our partners in Japan, empowering them to provide never-seen-before value to their patients through Alma's result-driven solutions, and creating a new era of aesthetic excellence for the Japanese patient".

About Alma:

Alma is a world-leading innovator and provider in the aesthetic and surgical markets, offering holistic cutting-edge solutions such as Laser, Light-based RF, Plasma, and Ultrasound technologies. We enable practitioners to deliver safe, effective and life-transforming treatments to their patients, utilizing state-of-the-art and clinically proven solutions. For more than two decades, Alma's multiple award-winning products have established a new benchmark in the medical aesthetic industry, both in terms of clinical excellence and innovative breakthrough.

Japan-Palestine Foreign Ministers' Meeting

On November 3, commencing at 0:45 p.m. local time (7:45 p.m. JST) for approximately 50 minutes, Ms. KAMIKAWA Yoko, Minister for Foreign Affairs, during her visit to Palestine, held a meeting with H.E. Dr. Riad Malki, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of Palestine. The overview is as follows.

1. At the outset, Minister Kamikawa stated that she is paying close attention to the situation in the Gaza Strip, Palestine, with deep concern. She expressed her sincerest condolences to the bereaved families of the victims and her sympathy to the injured in the Gaza Strip. In response, Minister Malki stated that the people in the Gaza Strip are facing a serious humanitarian situation and that the tension and violence in the West Bank is also increasing.
2. Minister Kamikawa stated that Japan has unequivocally condemned the terror attacks by Hamas and others, and that Japan has consistently called for (1) an immediate release of hostages and securing safety of civilians, (2) all the parties to act in accordance with international law and (3) calming down the situation as



soon as possible. In addition Minister Kamikawa stated that given the very serious humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip, especially, the fact that children with a future, women and elderly people are victimized, it is our priority to deliver necessary assistance to each individual in the Gaza Strip as soon as possible, and therefore Japan is prepared to provide humanitarian aid amounting to around USD 65 million and relief supplies through JICA for Palestine for the time being, in addition to the already-decided Emergency Grant Aid worth USD 10 million. In response, Minister Malki expressed his gratitude to Japan's assistance for Palestine and stated that the Palestinian Authority will cooperate with Japan for ensuring humanitarian access in the Gaza Strip. Minister Kamikawa asked for support to secure the safety of Japanese nationals and the two ministers confirmed to cooperate to work together.

3. Furthermore, Minister Kamikawa once again conveyed that Japan's position to support a two-state solution remains unchanged, and Minister Kamikawa affirmed to cooperate toward its realization.
4. The two Ministers concurred on maintaining close cooperation in order to ensure the safety of civilians and to prevent further escalation of the situation.



Israel – Japan December 2023

Japan, Israel leaders agree to closely communicate on Gaza situation.

December 7, 2023 (Mainichi Japan)

TOKYO (Kyodo) -- Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu agreed during phone talks on Wednesday to closely communicate in dealing with the situation in the Gaza Strip, amid Israel's war with the militant group Hamas.

In their first talks since the Oct. 7 attack on Israel, which triggered retaliatory strikes on the Palestinian enclave, Kishida told Netanyahu that a further increase in civilian casualties must be avoided and called for efforts to calm down the situation as soon as possible, according to the Japanese Foreign Ministry.

In response, Netanyahu explained Israel's position on the military operation in Gaza, the ministry said in a press release, without elaborating.

Concerns have been growing over increasing civilian casualties in Gaza as warfare resumed last Friday following a seven-day pause in the fighting that saw an exchange of Israeli hostages for Palestinian prisoners.

During the phone conversation, Kishida and Netanyahu also shared their concerns over attacks on commercial ships frequently occurring in the Red Sea and other regional waters, the Japanese ministry said. Some of them are believed to have involved the Yemen-based, Iran-backed Houthi rebels.

The talks followed Kishida's in-person meeting with Israeli President Isaac Herzog in the United Arab Emirates on Friday on the sidelines of a U.N. climate conference, during which he also expressed hope for an easing of tensions from the Gaza crisis.



The conflict has killed over 16,000 people in the Hamas-ruled enclave, with many believed to be women and children, according to local authorities. Israel says about 1,200 people were killed in the surprise Hamas attack.

Families of Israeli hostages call on Japan for help in releasing loved ones.

https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/news/20231212_28/

The families of Israelis being held by the Islamic group Hamas have called for help from Japan's government and people in releasing their loved ones.

Israel's government is sending families abroad to rally international support for efforts to free the captives in Gaza.

Three families of young people who were taking part in a music festival that was raided by Hamas on October 7 are visiting Japan.

Three members of the group held a news conference on Tuesday at the Japan National Press Club in Tokyo.

Yacov Argamani is waiting to be reunited with his only daughter Noa, a 26-year-old university student. He said as long as the war between Israel and Hamas continues, people will die on both sides, and parents in Gaza will cry for their lost children just like parents in Israel. He added that only a ceasefire and dialogue can resolve the problem.

Idit Ohel's 22-year-old son Alon is a pianist. She said, "Our loved ones... are not a number. They have a life."

She called on Japan's government and people not to forget the captives until all of them are back home.



Hamas released 110 hostages, mostly women and children, during a seven-day pause in the fighting. But the Israeli government says more than 130 remain in captivity.

As Israel ramps up its military offensive on Gaza, Hamas says multiple hostages have been killed in the attacks.

Japan sanctions individuals, company over links to Hamas.

Al Jazeera

Tokyo's measures follow announcement of similar sanctions by the United States earlier this month.

Japan has announced sanctions against nine people and a company over their alleged links to the Palestinian armed group Hamas.

Japan's Foreign Ministry said on Tuesday the measures would freeze assets belonging to individuals and a company that have helped fund Hamas, which governs the Gaza Strip.

The sanctions follow the announcement of similar measures by the United States earlier this month.

Tokyo has attempted to walk a fine line on the Israel-Hamas war as it tries to balance relations with the US, its closest ally, and ties to energy-supplying partners in the Middle East.

Japanese Prime Minister Kishida Fumio has condemned Hamas's October 7 attacks on Israel and called for the immediate release of the group's captives, while expressing concern about civilian deaths in Gaza and the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the enclave.



TOKYO, Dec 26 (Reuters) - The Japanese government will freeze assets and impose sanctions on payments and capital transactions on three senior Hamas members, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshimasa Hayashi said on Tuesday.

The three individuals were believed to be involved in the Oct. 7 attack by Hamas on Israel and in a position to use funds to finance such terrorist activities, the top Japanese government spokesperson said.

These sanctions are on top of the sanctions imposed on other nine leaders and company of the Terrorist organization.

Japan container shipper ONE halts Red Sea route amid Houthi attacks.

Growing list of operators redirect vessels, threatening to disrupt supply chains

TAKESHI KUMON and JUNYA HEMMI, Nikkei staff writers December 20, 2023 02:01 JST

CAIRO/TOKYO -- Container shipper Ocean Network Express will reroute vessels away from the Red Sea in response to mounting attacks on ships by Houthi rebels based in Yemen, the Japanese company announced Tuesday.

ONE is the latest global shipping operator to halt navigation through the Red Sea, which via the Suez Canal provides the shortest maritime route between Europe and Asia. Houthi militants said they launched drone attacks Monday against two commercial vessels off the coast of Yemen, according to Reuters.

Houthis militants, who are backed by Iran, have vowed to attack ships connected to Israel since the Israel-Hamas war began in October.

The global shipping industry has taken precautionary measures because of the attacks. On Sunday, Egypt's Suez Canal Authority said 55 ships have switched to an alternative route around the Cape of Good Hope at the southern tip of Africa since Nov. 19.



ONE said it will reroute all ships traveling between Asia and Europe around the Cape of Good Hope as well. ONE is a joint venture between Japanese shippers K Line, Mitsui O.S.K. Lines and Nippon Yusen, better known as NYK Line.

Danish shipping company AP Moller-Maersk said Friday it will suspend all passage through the Bab al-Mandab strait in the Red Sea. Other shipping companies such as Germany's Hapag-Lloyd and Swiss player MSC followed suit. The Bab al-Mandab strait is a chokepoint measuring only about 30 kilometers between Yemen and the African nation of Djibouti.

On Saturday, the British Defence Ministry said a Royal Navy warship shot down a drone in the Red Sea.

"The recent spate of illegal attacks represent a direct threat to international commerce and maritime security in the Red Sea," British Defence Secretary Grant Shapps said in a statement.

That same day, the U.S. Central Command said it shot down 14 drones originating from areas controlled by Houthis in Yemen.

On Nov. 19, Houthi rebels [seized a British-owned vehicle carrier](#) chartered by NYK Line. Since the attack, NYK Line stopped accepting Israel-bound cargo. For ships connected to Israel but already in transit to Europe, NYK Line redirected those vessels around the Cape of Good Hope.

Mitsui O.S.K. Lines is rerouting Israel-linked ships around South Africa. The company will redirect Israel-linked vessels scheduled to leave port to the U.S. and other destinations.

During the first 13 days of this month, 170 vehicle carriers passed through the Red Sea, with volume down 17% from the comparable period in November, according to shipping data provider MarineTraffic. Before the seizure of NYK Line's charter, an average of about 15 vessels passed through the Red Sea, but the number declined to just 6 vessels on Dec. 7.



Suez Canal Authority Chairman Osama Rabie has said the Red Sea attacks are having a limited effect so far. The 55 ships that chose detours around the Cape of Good Hope since November's attack represent less than 3% of the 2,128 ships that passed through the Suez Canal during that period, according to Rabie.

Rerouting around the southern tip of Africa extends the journey by 10 to 20 days and will result in higher fuel costs. The Red Sea is also an important route for crude oil and liquefied natural gas. If detours mount and become extended, the shift would exert upward pressure on energy prices.

On Monday, British oil major BP said it will suspend routes through the Red Sea.

U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said on Tuesday that a [multinational operation](#) would be created to safeguard ships in the Red Sea. At least 10 countries will participate, including the U.K. and France.

Foretellix Raises \$85 Million in Series C Closing

Temasek and Isuzu join Woven Capital and NVIDIA in a major round led by 83North

TEL-AVIV, Israel and SUNNYVALE, Calif., Dec. 5, 2023 /PRNewswire/ -- [Foretellix](#), the leading provider of safety-driven verification and validation (V&V) solutions for Automated Driving Systems and Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS), has announced today that it closed a Series C funding round of \$85 million, bringing its total raised capital to \$135 million. The funding round was led by 83North. The new investors Temasek and Isuzu joined Woven Capital - the growth fund of Toyota - NVIDIA, and Artofin, which participated in the first closing earlier this year. All major existing shareholders participated, including MoreTech, Nationwide, Volvo Group VC, Jump Capital, Next Gear Ventures, and OurCrowd. Foretellix will use the funding to accelerate



the development of its expanding product portfolio and address the growing worldwide demand for its solutions.

Ziv Binyamini, CEO & Co-Founder, Yoav Hollander, CTO & Founder, Gil Amid, Chief Regulatory Affairs Officer, VP Operations & Co-Founder. Photo Credit: Dror Sithakol.

"We are thrilled to have Temasek and Isuzu join as investors," said Ziv Binyamini, Foretellix CEO and Co-Founder. "Foretellix is driving a transformative leap forward in V&V technology and methodology. Our solutions address the largest barriers to safe large-scale deployment of autonomous vehicles while dramatically reducing development costs. We are committed to continue our partnerships with leading autonomy developers and supporting our customers. This funding round will secure our long-term sustained growth. It will help extend our product line for real-world and synthetic driving scenarios and the development of new AI capabilities."

"Isuzu believes that safety verification and validation is essential for OEMs to responsibly develop safe autonomous vehicles," said **Mr. Hiroshi Sato, Vice President of Isuzu's Engineering Division**. "Foretellix's advanced technology in automated scalable scenario generation, and their leadership position in the OpenSCENARIO® 2.0 standard, are key assets for Isuzu. Collaborating with Foretellix's senior management and engineers is a great opportunity, and a major advantage, for Isuzu's autonomous vehicle development."

Foretify™, Foretellix's Safety-Driven V&V Platform, is used by Automotive, Trucking, and Mining customers worldwide to accelerate the development and deployment of their Automated Driving Systems. The platform provides a unified V&V flow that combines real-world test drives and virtual simulation in one platform. It helps development, testing, and safety engineers at OEMs, Tier-1 suppliers, and Autonomous Vehicle providers to better collaborate and boost their efficiency throughout their AV and ADAS projects cycle.



Foretellix led the ASAM OpenSCENARIO® 2.0 (OSC2.0) standard development, revolutionizing how safety is developed and tested in Automated Driving Systems. Foretellix contributed key syntax and concepts to ASAM, and it continues to lead standard enhancements. The Foretify platform is the industry's first solution offering native OSC2.0 support.

About Foretellix

Foretellix is the leading provider of safety-driven verification and validation solutions for Automated Driving Systems and ADAS. Foretellix's Foretify™ platform helps automotive, trucking, and mining customers to ensure safety, reduce development costs, and accelerate time-to-market. Foretellix is headquartered in Israel, with offices in the US, Europe, and Asia.

Rapid Medical™ Announces Japanese Approval and Exclusive Partnership with Kaneka for TIGERTRIEVER–The World’s Only Adjustable Thrombectomy Device

TIGERTRIEVER™ by Rapid Medical, is engineered to activate clot integration and protect the vessel from injury in ischemic stroke procedures.

December 13, 2023

YOKNEAM, Israel & SOUTHLAKE, Texas--([BUSINESS WIRE](#))--[Rapid Medical™](#), a leading developer of advanced neurovascular devices, announced Japanese approval for its TIGERTRIEVER revascularization device. With Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency (PMDA) approval, [TIGERTRIEVER](#) serves as the first device to offer individualized solutions for mechanical thrombectomy.

TIGERTRIEVER technology is inspired by advancements in aerospace engineering and transforms thrombectomy procedures from a passive to an active approach. Compared



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to traditional stent retrievers, TIGERTRIEVER offers user control—this is of particular importance in Japan and other Asian countries with a high prevalence of underlying intracranial atherosclerotic disease (ICAD). The device can be expanded and reduced on demand, activating clot integration and potentially reducing the risk of vessel perforation or damage during device retrieval.

“Japan now has access to a single tool that adjusts specifically to the patient’s anatomy for high first pass success,” states [Eitan Havis](#), President, International at Rapid Medical. “It has been a much-needed endeavor to introduce patient-specific stroke procedures to Japan and other Asian countries like [China](#) since there is no room for compromise with the brain.”

A published clinical study demonstrated superiority to conventional stent retrievers. The results of the [TIGER multicenter trial](#) presented 3 statistically significant improvements—in restoring blood flow to the brain, good clinical outcomes, and reducing emboli to new territory—compared to an average from six pivotal stent retriever trials.¹ Additionally, the TIGER trial showed fast procedure times, on par with aspiration alone², driven by a very high first-pass success rate. A [subgroup analysis](#) maintained these excellent results even in challenging stenotic ICAD patients.³

About Rapid Medical

[Kaneka Corporation](#), headquartered in Tokyo, Japan, has exclusive distribution rights with Rapid Medical in the country.

[Rapid Medical](#) expands what’s possible in neurovascular treatment by pioneering advanced interventional devices that treat ischemic and hemorrhagic stroke. Utilizing proprietary manufacturing techniques, Rapid Medical’s products are remotely adjustable and fully visible. This enables physicians to respond in real time to the anatomy and tailor the approach to every patient for better procedural outcomes. [TIGERTRIEVER™ 13, 17 and 21](#), [COMANECI™](#) and [COLUMBUS™/DRIVEWIRE](#) are CE marked and FDA cleared. TIGERTRIEVER [XL](#) is also CE marked



Marubeni Information Systems begins sales of Silverfort's ITDR solution.

November 30, 2023 Marubeni Information Systems Co., Ltd.

Marubeni Information Systems Corporation (abbreviation: MSYS) has entered into a sales agency agreement with Silverfort (Headquarters: Tel Aviv, Israel, CEO: Hed Kovetz) to sell the company's ITDR (Identity Threat Detection and Response) solution. Start handling.

As the Zero Trust concept expands, more companies are adopting multi-factor authentication due to the increased importance of identity protection. On the other hand, there is no end to attacks that break through multi-factor authentication, and it is necessary to consider not only preventive measures against ID compromise, but also detection and response solutions based on the assumption that a breach will occur. . Traditional multi-factor authentication products also lack support for multi-factor authentication, conditional access, and visibility into legacy systems, IT infrastructure, command line tools, etc.

Silverfort's ITDR solution not only visualizes the health of IDs and authentication as a preventive measure, but also uses AI to analyze abnormal behavior during the authentication process as a means of detecting and responding to ID breaches, and uses multi-factor analysis based on the results. Provides authentication controls including authentication. Additionally, ITDR can be applied agent-less and proxy-less to the entire customer environment, including resources that could not be protected in the past.

MSYS will contribute to the realization of a comfortable and safe network environment for our customers by proposing a combination of ITDR solutions with existing remote access solutions and IAM solutions and reducing the threat of ID infringement.

About Marubeni Information Systems

Marubeni Information Systems, as a member of the Marubeni I-DIGIO Group, is a solution provider that provides high value-added solutions and services using cutting-



edge IT from a customer perspective. We have knowledge of various industries centered on manufacturing, distribution, services, retail, and financial industries, advanced proposal capabilities, and the ability to develop cutting-edge technologies that contribute to customer differentiation from a global perspective and new solutions that utilize them. This is our strength. Through our solutions, products, and services, we support our customers' businesses by creating new value that exceeds their expectations.

Aquarius in a significant agreement with the International Japanese Corporation (AISIN)

<https://www.sponser.co.il/Article.aspx?ArticleId=114043>

The giant AISIN Corporation of the Toyota Group is expected to invest an estimated \$1 million in the first stage to develop a compact car charging system based on the linear engine developed by Aquarius.

The charging system AISIN targets is primarily for use in Japanese car parks .

According to Ariel Gorpong, CEO of Aquarius: "We believe that the agreement we signed with AISIN, which owned by the Global Toyota Group, which selected our linear engine for a cooperation agreement for a compact electric vehicle charging system is a very significant achievement for the company. We see the agreement as a vote of confidence in Aquarius by a corporation of this size. The choice of our engine was made after a thorough examination that showed that the engine we developed meets all the needs required in the vehicle loading market in general and in particular Japanese."

Aquarius Motor Company (TA: Aquarius Motors) is an energy company that develops and manufactures small power generation engines with breakthrough technology, is pleased to update that on December 25, 2023, the company's board of directors approved its contract in a cooperation agreement with AISIN Corporation,

The goal of the agreement is to create an integration between the development of the parties and a joint product, a prototype for a vehicle based on the linear engine and generator developed by the company.



The main points of the agreement are as follows:

1. Intellectual Property: The agreement includes provisions for the protection of intellectual property, according to which intellectual property developed or created exclusively by one of the parties or a party on its behalf will be solely owned by it, and intellectual property that is the result of joint development or creation will be jointly owned by the parties. It should be noted that as of the date of the report, the parties do not expect the creation of common intellectual property.

2. The agreement is valid: The agreement will remain in effect until October 31, 2024. The agreement can be terminated for any reason by either party with a written notice and 60 days notice in advance. In addition, the agreement can be terminated without prior notice in the cases listed in the agreement, including in the case of joint written consent, a liquidation event of either party, an event of the sale of the total share capital or all of the assets of either party and insolvency. In this regard, provisions including confidentiality, non-use of insider information and a duty to return information will survive even after the termination of the agreement.

3. Cost Carrying: In accordance with the provisions of the agreement, each party shall bear its own ownership. Despite this, AISIN will pay the company for prototype costs of the joint product the company will provide to AISIN at its request (the estimated development costs AISIN will bear are approximately \$1 million or more).

It should be noted that the cooperation between the parties is intended for the Japanese car and parking market.

AnGes laying off 110 EmendoBio employees three years after \$250 million acquisition

The Japanese pharma company notified the employees of the Israeli firm that they are being fired and the future of the company's technology is unclear at this point.

[Meir Orbach](#) 17:52, 20.12.23

Tokyo-listed pharmaceutical company AnGes is laying off 110 employees at the Israeli gene editing technology firm EmendoBio, which it purchased for about \$250 million in 2020. Notice of the surprising layoffs was given to the company's employees in a conversation with the managers of the Japanese company. Ten of the company's employees are currently serving in the IDF reserves in Gaza. The future of the Israeli company's technology is unclear at this point.

AnGes is traded on the Japanese stock exchange and has suffered a sharp collapse in its shares in recent years. After the purchase in 2020, the Japanese company said that it would continue to maintain EmendoBio's business activities on an ongoing basis in all its centers in Israel and the United States.

Founded in 2015 by alumni of Israel's Weizmann Institute of Science Lior Izhar, David Baram, and Rachel Diamant, EmendoBio utilizes protein engineering for precision gene editing, altering single alleles to treat certain genetic disorders and diseases.

AnGes is a biopharma company established in 1999 and focuses on the development of gene-based medicines.

According to IVC, EmendoBio raised \$73 million until its purchase, with the OrbiMed life sciences fund, private investors, and other funds among the company's investors.

AnGes was also among the investors in the company prior to the acquisition.

David Baram, CEO of EmendoBio from the day it was founded until recently, refused to comment.



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