December 19, 2024

BIRD Energy to Invest $7.5 Million in Cooperative Israel-U.S. Clean Energy Projects

The total investment in the awarded projects will amount to $16 million including private sector contribution.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Israel's Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure (MoE), and the Israel Innovation Authority held an Executive Committee meeting on December 9, 2024, resulting in the selection of five clean energy projects that were approved to receive $7.5 million under the Binational Industrial Research and Development (BIRD) Energy program. The selected projects address energy efficiency, hydrogen energy, recycling, and energy storage.

BIRD Energy was launched in 2009 under the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to foster collaborative research and development projects between the United States and Israel. This program focuses on advancing sustainable energy technologies to promote economic competitiveness, create jobs, and strengthen energy security. To date, BIRD Energy has funded 68 cooperative U.S.-Israel collaborations for a total government investment of approximately $55.7 million and about $70 million in funds matched by the private sector. Over the life of the program, these investments have leveraged approximately $1.4 billion in follow-on funding, excluding IPOs.

Projects that qualify for BIRD Energy funding must include one U.S. and one Israeli company or a company from one of the countries paired with a university or research institution from the other. The partners must present a project involving energy innovation that is of mutual interest to both countries.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of Energy for International Affairs, Dr. Andrew Light, said:

"This year's selected peer-reviewed projects highlight the strength of the U.S.-Israel bilateral relationship and complementary approaches to energy technology innovation among consortia of U.S. and Israeli companies, research institutes, and universities. BIRD Energy's tradition of finding unique ways to expand the clean energy economy helps drive

climate and energy security solutions for the benefit of both countries and the world. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) welcomes this next chapter in the rich legacy of bilateral collaboration with our Israeli partners through the BIRD Energy program."

BIRD Energy has a rigorous review process and selects the most technologically meritorious projects and those most likely to commercialize and bring about significant impact. Qualified projects must contribute at least 50% to project costs and commit to repayments if the project leads to commercial success.

The total value of the approved projects is $16 million, including $8.5 million in project partner cost-share funding. The approved projects are:

- **Lucy Borchard Shipping (Tel Aviv, Israel)** and **Newlight Marine Technologies (Dover, DE)** to accelerate the transition to affordable, sustainable shipping by developing and testing hydrogen as a dual fuel for marine engines.
- **Nitrofix (Petach Tikva, Israel)** and **1S1 Energy (Portola Valley, CA)** to develop the next generation of green ammonia.
- **OASIX Energy (Tel Aviv, Israel)** and **EN-POWER GROUP (New York, NY)** to demonstrate and validate high-efficiency heat/cold pump coupled with dual-thermal energy storage for residential buildings.
- **Phinergy (Lod, Israel)** and **New York Power Authority (New York, NY** to demonstrate a clean alternative to emergency generators based on aluminum-air technology
- **Plasticback (Tel Aviv, Israel)** and **Freepoint Eco-Systems (Stamford, CT**) to develop and test chemical recycling of PVC waste streams.

For over a decade, numerous BIRD Energy projects have reached the commercialization stage, including a nonintrusive, real-time energy monitoring platform designed to reduce energy use, manage sustainability initiatives and improve building operations, a new way to optimize the energy efficiency of the food and beverage industry's compressed air generation and improve the reliability of these air systems, and a flywheel-based energy storage technology that can charge EVs in as little as 15 minutes with a much smaller carbon footprint.

For more information about the program, see: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=di_14c-ef8

About BIRD Energy: https://www.birdf.com/what-is-bird-energy/

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