



Russ Keller
Executive Director, Global Alliance for South
Carolina
315 Sigma Drive
Summerville, SC 29486
russ.keller@ati.org

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GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR SOUTH CAROLINA AND ISRAEL INNOVATION AUTHORITY ANNOUNCE NEW S.C.-ISRAEL R&D Award

Fifth Project Approved for Research Funding

Applications for Next Cycle Anticipated to Open in Fall 2018

Charleston, S.C. – August 6, 2018 – The Global Alliance for South Carolina (GASC) and the Israel Innovation Authority are pleased to announce the award recipient from the fourth round of bilateral project proposals. These projects are a result of the collaborative industrial research and development program established in October 2013 between the Government of the State of South Carolina and the Government of the State of Israel. The first four projects were awarded between September 2014 and August 2016.

The current project award will focus on developing a pocket-sized identity verification device that combines multi-biometric and smart-card capabilities for use in security and defense, border control, national identification, point-of-sale and public safety applications. Additional applications for this hand-held smart biometric device are in the medical and financial sectors. The challenge this project addresses is the need to provide certified identity verification services at remote, off-grid, or mobile locations where little or no supporting infrastructure is available, and to provide these services with the same level of quality available at centralized locations (commercial or government departments) that have complex and complete technical infrastructure.

The project team, consisting of Integrated Biometrics, LLC, of Spartanburg, SC., and SBS Biometric Solutions of Haluzh, Israel, plans to complete its development effort during an eighteen-month period of performance.

"We're extremely pleased to be part of this great GASC/IIA program, and to be working with SBS Biometrics Solutions on innovative new technologies for the biometric identification and enrollment sector," said Stephen Thies, CEO of Integrated Biometrics. "We're confident this project will yield cutting-edge products that will meet important, existing needs for biometric sensors for a growing global market."

"We are delighted to announce the continuation of these joint R&D projects, now being executed on behalf of the South Carolina Department of Commerce by the Global Alliance for South Carolina" said GASC Board of Directors Vice Chairman Jonathan Zucker. "This collaboration furthers innovative research and business-to-business partnerships, helping generate economic development and job creation within South Carolina."

"The continued success of the Israel-SC joint R&D program proves the benefits of international partnerships and its direct connection to the acceleration of innovation and economic growth," said Chief Scientist Dr. Ami Appelbaum at the Ministry of Economy and Industry and Chairman of the Israel Innovation Authority. "We are looking forward to launch additional funding rounds with our partners at GASC and further utilize this platform in order to strengthen economic ties between both regions and work together to find innovative solutions to pressing issues in both countries and the global market as a whole."

The South Carolina - Israel Industry R&D Program seeks to stimulate generation and development of new or significantly improved products or processes for commercialization in global markets. The technology sectors that are the focus for this program are: Biomedical and Life Sciences; Advanced Materials; Sustainable Energy/Water/Agriculture Systems; Transportation; Defense and Homeland Security; and Insurance and Health Information Technology. The program is being managed by GASC on behalf of the state of South Carolina, and by IIA on behalf of the state of Israel.

The program has an annual “call for proposals” in which teams from South Carolina and Israel may submit funding applications. The next round of program applications will be solicited in the Fall of 2018. For more information, please visit the GASC website at <https://www.globalallianceforsc.org/>.

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About GASC

The Global Alliance for South Carolina (GASC) was established in September 2016 as a non-profit, tax-exempt organization. Its mission is to stimulate business, economic growth, and research partnerships involving companies and academic institutions in South Carolina, Israel and Estonia as an independent way to generate economic development, jobs, and university joint programs. By leveraging existing international relationships, adding private sector resources, and enabling new processes and programs with counterpart entities in Israel and Estonia, GASC seeks to build a tailored support infrastructure that facilitates recruiting small, innovative “high tech” companies and firms to establish operations in South Carolina.

In March 2017 the South Carolina Department of Commerce delegated its authority to administer the State of South Carolina’s “Bilateral Cooperation in Industrial Research and Development” Agreement with the State of Israel, and the “Bilateral Cooperation in Industrial and Technological Research and Development” Agreement with the Republic of Estonia to GASC.

About Israel Innovation Authority

The Israel Innovation Authority, formerly known as the Office of the Chief Scientist of the Ministry of Economy (and as MATIMOP), is an independent and impartial public entity that operates for the benefit of the Israeli innovation ecosystem and Israeli economy as a whole. Its role is to nurture and develop Israeli innovation resources, while creating and strengthening the infrastructure and framework needed to support the entire knowledge industry.

The Authority’s mission includes connecting the Israeli economy with the global innovation industry, including initiating and establishing international agreements with countries and multinational corporations to advance the goals of Israel’s R&D Law relating to international cooperation in R&D and innovation.

About Integrated Biometrics

Integrated Biometrics, LLC designs and manufactures FBI-certified fingerprint sensors for law enforcement, military, homeland security, national identity, election validation, social services, and a wide range of commercial applications. The company’s patented light emitting sensor technology enables lightweight scanners that outperform traditional prism-based devices in size, power consumption, portability, and reliability. Identity management solutions providers, government agencies, and corporations around the world rely on Integrated Biometrics’ products to enroll and verify individual identity quickly and accurately, even in remote locations.