

## **Israel – Colorado Industrial R&D Collaboration Program – Call for Proposals**

### **Open Date**

08/07/2020

### **Deadline for Submission of Phase 1**

01/09/2020

### **Deadline for Submission of Phase 2**

06/12/2020

### **Program Description**

The Transportation, Water, Industry4.0, Construction, Energy, Agriculture, Smart Cities (TWICE-AS) Industries Israel – Colorado industrial R&D Collaboration Program (the “**Program**”), Was created as a result of the ongoing interaction between Colorado and Israel under the MOU signed between the states and was formalized with the signing on the Cooperation Agreement by the Governor of Colorado and the Chief Scientist of Israel on October 19, 2015 (the “**Cooperation Agreement**”). This Program will be implemented by the Israel Innovation Authority and The Israel – Colorado Innovation Fund (the “**ICI Fund**”) and **ICI Fund’s General Partner Innosphere Venture, a 501(c)3, technology incubator located in Colorado.**

**The purpose of the Program is to support greater collaboration and synergies between the Colorado innovation ecosystem and Israeli innovative companies in the TWICE-AS industries.**

Through the ICI fund, Israeli companies will be supported by Innosphere Ventures, a 501(c)3, Colorado top technology incubator, that serves annually, over more than 22 years, more than 40 start-up companies which employ around 250 employees. Innosphere Ventures maintains Colorado’s longest standing and most successful Scale Up program in the State and has earned the distinction of being NREL’s incubator partner and Colorado’s leading research Universities: Colorado State University, University of Colorado – Boulder, and Colorado School of Mines.

\* This program is operated under the IIA’s Tracks for [Bilateral Pilots](#) or Track for [Bilateral R&D](#).

### **Relevant Technologies**

This call seeks applications of companies mainly (but not only) in the transportation, water, Industry4.0, construction, energy, agriculture, and smart cities industries developing:

- IOT products and/or sensors with applications for industrial uses and/or for water and/or electric utilities and/or for the oil and gas industries;
- Energy saving technologies for water and wastewater utilities (for blowers and pumps...) and for industrial plants;
- IOT solutions for agriculture;
- IOT solutions for construction;
- Transportation/mobility technologies;

- Industry4.0 technologies;
- Technologies for smart cities.

Selected companies will be supported by ICI Fund and Innosphere Venture in their scale up in the US by connecting them with relevant players in the US market. The support will include strategic advice, connections to potential clients, potential strategic partners, distribution channels and US VCs.

Selected companies relevant to water and wastewater utilities will be connected with U.S water and wastewater utilities through the Israel – U.S Water Initiative supported by AWWA.

## Offered Support

### IIA Funding

The IIA will support up to 50% of the approved budget of the Israeli companies, according to the IIA funding regulations.

### ICI Funding

1. The ICI Fund will invest between \$250K - \$1M in selected companies (the “Portfolio Companies”).
2. The ICI Fund will facilitate the opening of U.S operations in the U.S for the Portfolio Companies when desired by the portfolio companies. The ICI Fund’s investment might be leveraged by other investments consistent with the policies and procedures of the Colorado AI Program (providing an additional Colorado based grant of \$250K). Innosphere Ventures has extensive experience supporting company applications for the Colorado AI Program and will support portfolio companies in the application process.
3. The project may be developed (but not a requirement) in cooperation with a Colorado company that ICI will help facilitate contact with.

Each funding entity will award funding to successful applicants based upon its own laws, guidelines and procedures.

Funded projects are to be mutually beneficial for Colorado and Israel.

## Added Value of the Innosphere Venture Program

ICI Fund’s Portfolio Companies will participate in the program of Innosphere Venture customized to the portfolio company’s needs. Within this program, Innosphere Venture will:

- Guide the Portfolio Companies through a structured process of evaluation and deliverables leading to investment ready stage.
- Support the Portfolio Companies’ research and analysis needs.
- Help the Portfolio Companies gain access to investors and capital.
- Connect early the Portfolio Companies with aligned advisors, mentors and resources.
- Connect the Portfolio Companies with corporates of interest for the purpose of creating strategic partnerships and acquiring customers.

- Help the Portfolio Companies raise their profile and develop strategies for promoting their businesses.
- Plan the growth of the Portfolio Companies.
- Provide ongoing support for the Portfolio Companies.
- Connect with Innosphere Venture's partners for beta sites for demonstrating the Portfolio companies' products.

### Added Value of the Israel – U.S Water Initiative

Portfolio companies will be connected with U.S water and wastewater utilities through the Israel – U.S Water Initiative supported by AWWA. AWWA the largest and oldest water association in the U.S, established in 1881, serving over 50,000 members, supports the Israel - U.S Water Initiative. This is aligned with AWWA's vision of a Better World through Better Water and their innovation strategy to help utilities by connecting them with innovative technologies. For more details about the Israel – U.S Water Initiative please contact Gili Elkin [gili@ici.fund](mailto:gili@ici.fund)

### Conditions and Criteria

- Applicants must be registered, operating companies in Israel.
- The proposed project will be examined based on its **innovation and excellence level**, **impact**, the **synergy between the partners**, the **capacity to execute**, and the **challenge** it is trying to solve.
- Projects should be in a stage following a proof of concept: ready for demonstration in the U.S or to be commercialized in the U.S or at the ready to U.S market stage.
- The companies must follow IIA's rules and regulations, as described in the Tracks for [Bilateral Pilots](#) or Track for [Bilateral R&D](#).

### Application Process

#### By 01/09/2020: Phase 1

- Israeli companies **that are not approved by the ICI Fund** should submit an expression of interest (EOI) to ICI ([gili@ici.fund](mailto:gili@ici.fund)) and to the IIA North American desk ([NA@innovationisrael.org.il](mailto:NA@innovationisrael.org.il))
- Israeli companies that are **approved by the ICI Fund** and that are qualified with the above-mentioned criteria are invited to submit a full proposal as described in the Track for [Bilateral Pilots](#) or Track for [Bilateral R&D](#).

#### By 06/12/2020: Phase 2

- Israeli companies that submitted an expression of interest (EOI) and approved by the ICI Fund can submit a full proposal as described in the Track for [Bilateral Pilots](#) or Track for [Bilateral R&D](#), if they are qualified with the above-mentioned criteria.

Thereafter discussions will continue with the ICI Fund for equity funding.

The ICI Fund's investment will be at least at the level of the IIA grant support (max of 50% approved budget as per Israeli applicable laws and regulations).

## Contact

<b>Colorado</b> For inquiries related to the ICI Fund:			<b>Israel</b> For inquiries related to the Israel Innovation Authority Office:
Gili Elkin ICI Fund General Partner <a href="mailto:gili@ici.fund">gili@ici.fund</a>	Mike Freeman ICI Fund General Partner <a href="mailto:mike@ici.fund">mike@ici.fund</a>	Tim Jones ICI Fund Senior Analyst <a href="mailto:tim@innosphereventures.org">tim@innosphereventures.org</a>	North American Desk +972-3-511-8117 <a href="mailto:NA@innovationisrael.org.il">NA@innovationisrael.org.il</a>