



# Microgrid applications israel

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BIRD Energy plans to invest \$6 million to help fund seven clean energy technology projects, including one to streamline the bottleneck associated with microgrid feasibility studies.

Part of the Israel-U.S. Binational Industrial Research and Development (BIRD) Foundation, BIRD Energy has been awarding grant funding for projects proposed jointly by US and Israeli companies since November 2009.

The foundation received 26 requests for grants for this round of awards. Seven won awards, including an undisclosed amount of grant funding for a joint, clean energy project to be carried out by the city of Herzliya, Israel's OneOPI and Albany, New York-based Presidio to "develop an automated simulation system and service for intelligent microgrid systems," according to the BIRD Foundation.

Elad Shaviv, OneOPI spokesperson, said that the project is meant to solve "one of the bottlenecks of the evolving microgrid market -- the complexity and cost of a feasibility study -- naturally a necessary first cornerstone before any further decisions can be taken."

BIRD Energy emerged from a cooperation agreement between the US Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE), the Israel Ministry of Energy jointly with the Israel Innovation Authority, and the BIRD Foundation. Its roots are in the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007.

BIRD Energy grant applicants need to match the funding providing by BIRD Energy. That brings the total value of this year's projects to \$12.4 million.

The proposals are evaluated by experts appointed by the DOE and the Israel Ministry of Energy and Israel Innovation Authority.

"We received more requests related to distributed grid, energy efficiency, solar and solar storage" this year as opposed to previous years, said Limor Nakar-Vincent, BIRD Foundation deputy executive director of business development.

Microgrids are a topic that attracts a lot of interest, according Nakar-Vincent. "I believe the momentum will only increase given lack of stable electricity in the underdeveloped parts of the world and the need for reliable and sustainable electricity in the developed world."

BIRD Energy awarded grants to help fund six other collaborative Israeli-U.S. projects in its latest funding round:



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BIRD Energy, a foundation jointly created by the US Department of Energy (DoE) and Israel's Ministry of Energy (MoE) will invest around half the amount required to fund US\$12 million of solar, storage, energy efficiency and microgrid projects in Israel.

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