



CONTACT: **Bob Rosenbaum**  
Israel: +972 54-473-8040  
US: +1 888-543-5007  
[bob.rosenbaum@nanoisrael.org](mailto:bob.rosenbaum@nanoisrael.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Israel Broadens Matching Funds Program for University-Based Nanotech Research Centers**

*Donation matching 3:1 model is intended to strengthen Israel's global leadership in nanoscience and nanotechnology R&D*

**TEL AVIV, Israel – 18 September 2006** – The Israeli government will increase funding for Israeli universities over the next 5 years to \$82 million in order to strengthen their advanced research centers in nanoscience and nanotechnology, it was announced today.

Israel's National Nanotechnology Initiative (INNI) director Dan Vilenski announced the funding increase at the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Journey 2006 technology conference, noting that the increase resulted in large part from the success of a similar matching fund model developed for the Russell Berrie Nanotechnology Institute at Israel's Technion Institute of Technology in 2005.

"We found that multiple donation matching can work very well for an Israeli nanotechnology center," Vilenski said. "By extending this model to the nanotech centers at other Israeli universities, we see the possibility of maintaining our recognized leadership in advanced nanotech research."

The new program provides 3-to-1 matching funds for all private donations to nanotech centers, effectively **producing over \$230 million in new funding for Israeli nanotech centers through 2011**. The program creates a 'funding triangle' consisting of the source donor, the university and the Israeli government, where each contributor has explicit input over how matched funding will be used.

In addition to matching funds, the Israeli government will also provide over \$8 million for nanotech-related equipment purchases and for advanced research projects in water treatment using nanotechnology.

Dr. Eli Opper, Chief Scientist in Israel's Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labor, and a strong proponent of Israel's nanotechnology initiative, commended the many government and university representatives who have brought the triangle concept through a year-long process of approval.

"This is a very significant amount of money for Israeli nanotech research, Dr. Opper said. It's especially effective because we're taking a very innovative approach that encourages collaboration and focuses on our most outstanding researchers. It's an excellent fit for Israel."

The triangle donation matching program will give **preference to funding research in areas considered to have the strongest potential for Israeli breakthroughs:** nanomaterials, nanobiotechnology, nanoelectronics, and nanotech for applications in water treatment and alternative energy.

Matching funds will be granted primarily for research projects and personnel, and not for construction. All universities are eligible for program funding, though a five-year ceiling amount has been set for each university, based on its existing and planned nanotech capabilities.

Detailed program guidelines have been developed collaboratively over the last year by the INNI together with the Forum for National Infrastructures for Research & Development (TELEM), Israel's Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Ministry of Finance. The INNI will also manage an international advisory committee to evaluate matching fund applications and provide advice on professional and scientific issues.

With the \$55.5 million increase in matching funds to become available from 2006, **Israel's nanotech centers stand to be among the world's best funded, as well as the most respected.**

"Worldwide, nanotech research will be more and more competitive in the next ten years," Opper summarized. "We believe that this new funding model will make the critical difference for Israel. It will help us to retain and attract the most outstanding researchers and to produce the most valuable research."

Along with Vilenski and Dr. Opper, Israel's national nanotechnology program has benefited from the vision and leadership of many others, especially Prof. Jacob Ziv, chairman of TELEM Forum and a 1995 Marconi Fellow, and Dr. Dan Maydan, chairman of the INNI and president emeritus of the multinational company Applied Materials, Inc.

## More About Nanoscience and Nanotechnology Research in Israel

Israel is included by the Institute for Science Information (ISI) among the top 15 most effective countries in terms of producing nanotech-related knowledge and techniques. Over the last decade, the intellectual property yield of nanoscience and nanotechnology research in Israel has been very high, with over 100 patents and about 2000 publications (1995-2006), according to figures maintained by the ISI Web of Knowledge.

Israel is home to six world-class research institutions, each with its own nanosciences and nanotechnologies programs:



A web-ready source file of the above image can be found [here](#).\*

- The **Bar Ilan Center for Advanced Materials and Nanotechnology** (BICAMN) at Bar Ilan University in Ramat Gan, which brings together the activities of 18 research groups in chemistry, physics and the life sciences.
- The **Ilse Katz Center for Meso and Nanoscale Science** at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in Beer-Sheva, focusing on fundamental research of nanoscale materials and the manipulation of matter at reduced dimensions.
- The **Harvey Krueger Center for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology** at Hebrew University of Jerusalem, a multidisciplinary center that promotes interaction among University scientists in physics, applied and life sciences, and computer science and engineering.
- The **Russell Berrie Nanotechnology Institute** (RBNI) at Technion Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa, which unifies the work of more than 100 research faculty in 12 disciplines and supports existing centers in microelectronics, electron microscopy and surface characterization. The Institute will also provide infrastructure for new centers in nanoelectronics and nanobiotechnology.
- The **Tel Aviv University Research Institute for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology** at Tel Aviv University, an interdisciplinary center serving faculties of engineering, exact sciences, life sciences and medicine. The Institute supports fundamental and applications-level research, nanofabrication, modeling and characterization.
- At the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, three distinct centers: The **Braun Center for Submicron** Research, a highly specialized facility enabling the design, material growth, fabrication, and characterization of mesoscopic electronic semiconductor systems; the **Kimmel Center for Nanoscale Science**, which intends to help establish critical research links between molecular biology and nanoscale science; and the **Goldschleger Center for Nanophysics**, supporting theoretical and experimental research in nanophysics.

Currently, Israel's universities accommodate over 250 nanotech researchers. This figure has nearly doubled since 2002, and dramatic growth and research achievements are expected to continue, in tandem with other nations leading advanced R&D programs in nanotech.

\* Web link: [http://www.nanoisrael.org/download/surveys/israel\\_nanocenters\\_map\\_2006.gif](http://www.nanoisrael.org/download/surveys/israel_nanocenters_map_2006.gif)

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### About the Israel National Nanotechnology Initiative (INNI)

The INNI is a shared initiative of Israel's Forum for National Infrastructures for Research & Development (TELEM) and Israel's Ministry of Trade and Industry and is responsible for setting national goals and priorities for advancing nanotechnology in Israel. The INNI formulates long-range nanotech programs for scientific research and technology development in academia and industry to promote development of a world-class infrastructure in Israel. A key task of the INNI is to promote fruitful collaboration between Israeli and global nanotechnology stakeholders, particularly for projects that lead to continuing success in academia and industry. More information on the INNI and its activities can be found at: <http://www.nanoisrael.org/>