2020 - A Record Year for IPOs

PwC Israel: Exits down 25% in 2020 but worth 55% more

Tech exits were boosted in 2020 by a record year for IPOs.

According to the PwC Israel report on tech exits for 2020, there were far fewer deals, only 60 compared with 80 in 2019, but their cumulative value rose 55% to $15.4 billion, from $9.9 billion in 2019.

PwC Israel noted that the average deal size increased by 207% to $257 million (excluding follow-on deals in both years).

PwC Israel said that 2020 was a record for IPOs with 19 IPO, up from 13 in 2019. In addition, the share of IPOs in the total value of deals surged to $9.3 billion (or 60% of total deal value), compared with $2.2 billion in 2019 (or 22% of total deal value). The average value per IPO also rose sharply from $169 million in 2019 to $489 million in 2020, mainly led by Lemonade, JFrog and Nanox in the US, and Ecoppia and Aquarius Engines in Israel.

The share of large deals remained high in 2020, PwC Israel added. There were six deals larger than $500 million (total value of $9.4 billion) compared with 4 such deals in 2019 (total value of $3.7 billion). There were 24 deals of over-$100 million in 2020, the same number as 2019.

The computing and software sector continued to lead the exits, with total value of deals reaching $7.4 billion. Other sectors, which showed significant growth included the Internet and life sciences sectors.

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Elbit Systems buys US undersea warfare co Sparton for $380m

The acquisition will strengthen Elbit Systems of America's capabilities and will enable expansion of activities in the naval arena.

Israeli defense electronics company Elbit Systems Ltd. (Nasdaq: ESLT; TASE: ESLT) announced that its US subsidiary, Elbit Systems of America LLC has signed a definitive agreement with an affiliate of Cerberus Capital Management L.P. for the acquisition of Sparton Corporation for $380 million.

The transaction is subject to closing conditions including receipt of US regulatory approvals, which could take several months.

Headquartered in De Leon Springs, Florida, Sparton develops, produces and supplies electronic systems supporting undersea warfare for the US Navy and allied military forces.

Elbit Systems president & CEO Bezhalel Machlis said, "The acquisition of Sparton will strengthen Elbit Systems of America's capabilities and will enable expansion of activities in the naval arena. We believe this acquisition will be beneficial for both Elbit Systems' and Sparton's employees and customers."

Israeli smart checkout co Trigo raises $60m

The company applies its algorithms to ceiling-mounted cameras, which upload data on shoppers' movements and product choices.

Israeli frictionless checkout technology company Trigo has completed a $60 million Series B financing round led by 83North and with the participation of existing investors Vertex Ventures Israel, Hetz Ventures, Red Dot Capital Partners, Tesco, and Morrag Investments. The latest round brings Trigo's total funding to $94 million. The new funds will be used to meet growing demand for Trigo's product, boost R&D, and expand its global presence.

Trigo uses AI-powered computer vision technologies together with off-the-shelf hardware to retrofit existing stores. The company applies its proprietary algorithms to ceiling-mounted cameras which automatically learn and upload data on shoppers' movements and product choices, enabling customers to simply walk into a store, pick up their desired items, and walk out without stopping at the checkout. Payments and receipts are settled digitally.

The company has seen rapid growth and increasing demand for its technology throughout 2020, and is working with top retailers in Europe to open stores during 2021.

Trigo was founded in 2018 by brothers CEO

Michael and CTO Daniel Gabay, veterans of the Talpiot IDF military intelligence unit which develops artificial intelligence technologies. The company has 85 employees, up from 50 in 2019, most of them in its Tel Aviv offices and it also operates an office in London.

Michael Gabay said, "Our technology enables grocers to integrate the efficiencies and insights of digital commerce into the physical world while providing a frictionless checkout experience for customers. Ultimately, our solution reduces physical contact and does away with waiting in line, enabling a safe, secure, and streamlined shopping experience that's a win-win for retailers and consumers."

Trigo's technology has been tapped by Tesco PLC, one of the world's largest grocers with stores across the UK, Ireland and Central Europe. Tesco has been working on a trial with Trigo at a Tesco Express convenience store at its headquarters about 32 kilometers north of London.

Elbit wins $338m Swiss Army radio deal

The Israeli defense electronics company will supply an army-wide tactical mobile software defined radio (SDR) network solution.

Israeli defense electronics company Elbit Systems Ltd. (Nasdaq: ESLT; TASE: ESLT) that it has been awarded a $338 million contract by the Swiss Federal Department of Defense, Civil Protection and Sport to provide the Swiss Armed Forces with an army-wide tactical mobile software defined radio (SDR) network solution under the Telecommunications Armed Forces (TK A) digitization program. The contract will be performed over six years.
Elbit said that the contract follows over

three years of extensive and competitive technical as well as field evaluations conducted by the Federal Office for Defense Procurement and the Swiss Armed Forces. The digital mobile network solution to be provided is based on the E-LynX family of open architecture SDR, enabling fast, reliable and secure communication across the Swiss Armed Forces. The army-wide E-LynX mobile network solution to be provided to the Swiss Army under this contract incorporates advanced waveforms and includes the SMARTmr routing solution as well as vehicle intercom.

Elbit Systems C4I and Cyber general manager Haim Delmar said, "Switzerland is a strategic market for us, and we will continue with our efforts to support the Swiss Armed Forces and expand our cooperation with the Swiss industry. This contract award underlines the growing recognition by European Armed Forces of the E-LynX mobile SDR solution as the favored enabler for advanced military mobile networking and digitization."

Mid December, Elbit has announced two contracts for the Dutch Army worth $65 million and a contract for the Romanian Air Force worth $27 million.

Israeli sterile mosquito co Senecio awarded $12m by EU

The sterile insect technique (SIT) company will use the funds to develop its sterile insect technique to combat mosquito borne diseases.

The European Commission has awarded Israeli sterile insect technique (SIT) company Senecio Robotics $12 million to combat mosquito borne diseases. Using artificial intelligence (AI), the company has developed a mobile automated mosquito factory for monitoring and control of the

disease carrying insects. The $12 million includes equity and grant components.

SIT has been widely proven for many other insects like fruit flies, but mosquitoes pose a more daunting challenge because of their huge numbers. Senecio Robotics has deployed AI to tackle the task.

Senecio Robotics founder and CEO Hanan Lepek said, "The first step in addressing mosquitoes is the understanding of their abundance. To date, mosquitoes caught in traps were counted one by one and classified by experts. Senecio develops an AI-driven solution which automates key parts of the process, enabling interested parties to create a quick and accurate understanding of the local mosquito distribution. The solution also gained interest from agriculture companies interested in monitoring insects impacting agriculture.

He continues, "Next, comes the production of the sterile males, including automated larva feeding, counting and sorting. Within a few days, the larva evolves into pupae before turning into sterile male adult mosquitoes that can be released. Currently, both Senecio automated pupae sorter as well as AI based adult sex separators and packaging are being validated at partner sites within the US."

Israeli co Noname Security raises $25m

The company has developed a holistic security platform that allows enterprises to see and to secure managed and unmanaged APIs.

Israeli enterprise API security company Noname Security announced closing a $25 million financing round from Lightspeed, Insight Partners and Cyberstarts.

Noname Security, founded earlier this year

by CEO Oz Golan and CTO Shay Levi, has developed a holistic security platform that allows enterprises to see and to secure managed and unmanaged APIs exposed by the organization, consumed by the organization or used internally, thus eliminating the API security blind spots.

Golan said, "Application security has a huge blind spot. A leaky API on T-Mobile's website exposed customer data. The US Postal Service API vulnerability exposed personal information of 60 million users of its online service. The fact you cannot place agents on every application server, and you cannot trust network architecture to funnel all APIs through a single gateway, means we need a new approach. We built Noname to give enterprises complete visibility into all APIs in their environment without requiring an agent or relying on API gateways. We can stop APIs from compromising corporate assets, regardless of whether those APIs are managed by IT or not."

Israeli chip co Xsight Labs raises $116m

Xsight Labs seeks to redesign the foundation of cloud infrastructure by delivering a broad portfolio of products that enable end-to-end connectivity.

Israeli fabless semiconductor company Xsight Labs has announced that it has raised $116 million to date from Intel Capital, Microsoft M12, Xilinx, Battery Ventures, Valor Equity Partners, Atreides Management and others.

Xsight Labs was founded in 2017 by a group of former employees of EZchip - CEO Guy Koren, Switch GM Erez Sheizaf, and CTO Gal Malach - who left the company when it was sold to Mellanox for over $800 million. A founding investor in the company is Israeli serial entrepreneur Avigdor Willenz, who founded Galileo

Technology, which was acquired by Marvell in 2001 for $2.7 billion. His other ventures included Annapurna Labs, acquired by Amazon in 2015, Leaba Semiconductor, acquired by Cisco in 2016; and Habana Labs, acquired by Intel for $2 billion in 2019.

With offices in Israel and the US, Xsight Labs seeks to redesign the foundation of cloud infrastructure by delivering a broad portfolio of products that enable end-to-end connectivity. "Globes" reported in May that the company had already raised $100 million but this is the first official confirmation of Xsight Labs financial backing.

Xsight Labs is developing products that will drive the seamless adoption of these end-to-end connectivity. The company says that the technology will help cloud service providers accelerate their innovation velocity by maximizing the use of added resources without additional overheads.

VC Square Peg raises $450m to ramp up Israel investment

Tel Aviv-based partner Philippe Schwartz: Founders are building companies in areas that were considered 'out-of-scope' for Israelis.

International venture capital firm Square Peg Capital announced that it had closed its fourth generation of venture capital funds of $450 million. The firm says that it looks to ramp up its investments in Israel.

The raise, which takes Square Peg's total capital commitments to over $1 billion, was led by Australian institutions HostPlus and AustralianSuper, and included family offices, financial institutions and founders.

Square Peg says it has made a record-breaking number of investments this year,

and that it has returned $400 million to investors since March. In Israel, the firm has hired startup founder Yonatan Sela as an investment principal, and Riskified's Business Operations director Orly Amir as a senior investment associate.

"Israel has become one of the world's most valuable tech ecosystems, and founders have been building increasingly large companies in areas which in the past were considered 'out-of-scope' for Israelis. Our team's extensive operational experience and network in both the US and Asia is proving transformative for our companies," Schwartz said.

To date, Square Peg has invested over $170 million in 12 Israeli companies, including weather forecasting startup ClimaCell, medical imaging startup Aidoc and freelance marketplace Fiverr (NYSE: FVRR), which is now valued at over $7 billion.

Elbit Systems wins $27m Romanian Air Force deal

The Israeli defense electronics company will equip the IAR-99 standard aircraft with advanced avionics systems and live training embedded virtual avionics systems.

Israeli defense electronics company Elbit Systems Ltd. (Nasdaq: ESLT; TASE: ESLT) announced that it has been awarded a contract worth $27 million from the Romanian-based company Avioane Craiova S.A., for the first phase of the upgrade program of the Romanian Air Force's IAR-99 Standard trainer aircraft. The contract will be performed over four years and includes integrated logistic support.

Under the contract, Elbit Systems will equip the IAR-99 standard aircraft with advanced avionics systems and live training

embedded virtual avionics systems as well as close air support and air to air capabilities. This technology upgrade will facilitate an effective transition of RoAF pilots to the operation of advanced fighter aircraft such as the F-16.

Elbit Systems Aerospace general manager Yoram Shmuely said, "This upgrade program follows a range of technologies delivered by Elbit Systems to the RoAF in collaboration with Romanian companies, including large scale upgrades for various fixed-wing aircraft as well as the supply of advanced capabilities for rotary-wing aircraft."

Israeli application intelligence co Bionic raises $17m

Bionic has developed a platform that gives enterprises the ability to understand and control the chaos created by application changes.

Israeli application intelligence company Bionic emerged from stealth with a $17 million Series A financing round led by Battery Ventures' investors Dharmesh Thakker and René Bonvanie. As part of the investment, Bonvanie has joined Bionic's board, which includes early investors Gili Raanan of Cyberstarts, and Michael Fey, former president of Symantec and Blue Coat. Additional investors in Bionic include Don Duet, former CTO at Goldman Sachs, Sameer Jain, former CIO of Barclays, and Ariel Maislos, founder of Passave and Anobit.

Bionic has developed a platform that gives enterprises the ability to understand and control the chaos created by application changes. Bionic is already helping IT, operations, and security teams at global financial services, and technology companies operate and protect applications

more efficiently, performing in minutes what previously took days or weeks.

Bionic was founded in 2019 by CEO Idan Ninyo and CTO Eyal Mamo.

Ninyo said, "Enterprise application environments are becoming increasingly complex as the pace of development only continues to accelerate. Bionic is all about controlling application chaos. We do that by delivering a holistic view of all applications and their architecture, closing visibility gaps while enabling action and policy enforcement."

Bionic's application intelligence platform automatically reverses engineer applications, delivering a comprehensive inventory with architecture and dataflows, monitoring critical changes in production, and enabling developer guardrails to enforce architecture. Bionic is agentless and works across all environments, from on-premises monolithic applications to hosted cloud-native microservices. Fully automated and deployed within minutes, even in the largest enterprises, Bionic is enabling IT and security teams to take control of application chaos.

Israeli HR tech company Hibob raises $70m

The company's platform strives to simplify people management, culture building, and employee engagement for remote and dispersed workforces.

Israel HR management technology platform company Hibob announced the closing of a $70 million Series B financing round led by SEEK and Israel Growth Partners (IGP). The new funds will allow Hibob to expand marketing worldwide and continue product development in its efforts to simplify people management, culture building, and

employee engagement for remote and dispersed workforces.

Hibob has raised $124 million to date since it was founded in 2015 by CEO Ronni Zehavi, Amit Knaani, Israel David, and Andy Bellass. The latest funding round follows Series A+ financing in 2019, backed by investors Bessemer Venture Partners, Battery Ventures, Eight Roads Ventures, Arbor Ventures, Presidio Ventures, Entrée Capital, Cerca Partners, and Perpetual Investors - all of whom contributed to the current capital raised.

With triple-digit year-on-year growth in 2020, Hibob has now signed more than a thousand clients across the US, Europe, and the Middle East, including companies such as Monzo, Revolut, Cazoo, Happy Socks, ironSource, Receipt Bank, Fiverr, Gong, and VaynerMedia. bob also closely integrates with third parties such as Slack, Microsoft Teams, and Mercer.

Zehavi said, "As we were developing the concept behind our HR platform, we looked at the world of work and recognized that it was changing. I've spent my career managing people in different kinds of organizations and came to the realization that the vast majority of HR tech tools I used were not designed for the way people work today - globally, remotely, and collaboratively. We founded Hibob to create a modern HR platform built for the changing demands of the modern workplace."

Cloud data warehouse co Firebolt raises $37m

The Israeli company claims it delivers the fastest analytics performance - up to 182 times faster than other data warehouses.

Israeli cloud data warehouse company Firebolt announced the closing of a $37

million financing round with participation from Zeev Ventures, TLV Partners, Bessemer Venture Partners and Angular Ventures.

Firebolt claims it delivers the fastest analytics performance - up to 182 times faster than other data warehouses - for the most challenging data requirements at the multi-terabyte and petabyte scale, enabling higher performance with fewer cloud resources. Firebolt's technology enables companies to analyze much larger volumes of data than previously possible. This dramatically improves the ROI of collecting data, says Firebolt, and enables a myriad of new data-driven use cases with real business impact.

Firebolt was founded by CEO Eldad Farkash and COO Saar Bitner. Farkash was formerly a founder and CTO at Sisense and Bitner was Sisense general manager.

Farkash said, "While companies can store massive amounts of data, most organizations are only able to analyze a fraction of that big data, and often find themselves looking at stale data that does not reflect the current state of their business. For companies to flourish today, they need to move fast, and they should not be forced to make data compromises to achieve only a small part of the business value that their data holds. With Firebolt, organizations can finally gain the insights they need without breaking the bank."

Oren Zeev of Zeev Ventures said, "Firebolt created a SaaS product that changes the analytics experience over big data sets. The pace of innovation in the big data space has lagged the explosion in data growth, rendering most data warehousing solutions too slow, too expensive, or too complex to scale. Firebolt takes cloud data warehousing to the next level by offering

the world's most powerful analytical engine. This means companies can now analyze multi-terabyte/petabyte data sets easily at significantly lower costs and provide a truly interactive user experience to their employees, customers or anyone who needs to access the data."

Stratasys buys US 3D print startup Origin for $100m

The merger enables the Israeli company to expand its presence in the fast-growing mass production parts segment with a next-generation photopolymer platform.

Israeli 3D printing company Stratasys Inc. (Nasdaq: SSYS) announced that it has signed an agreement to acquire San Francisco-based 3D printing start-up Origin Inc. for up to $100 million in cash and stock. The merger enables Stratasys to expand its presence in the fast-growing mass production parts segment with a next-generation photopolymer platform. The acquisition is expected to close in January 2021.

Stratasys expects Origin's proprietary Programmable PhotoPolymerization (P3) technology to be an important growth engine for the company, adding up to $200 million incremental annual revenue within five years. The acquisition will help strengthen Stratasys' position in polymers and production applications of 3D printing in industries such as dental, medical, tooling, and select industrial, defense, and consumer goods segments.

Under the terms of the agreement, Stratasys will pay $60 million on closing and $40 million subject to performance-based milestones over three years.

Stratasys CEO Yoav Zeif said, "Our customers are looking for additive

manufacturing solutions that enable use of industrial-grade resins for mass production parts with process and quality control. We believe Origin's software-driven Origin One system is the best in the industry by combining high throughput with incredible accuracy. When combined with Origin's extensive materials ecosystem and our industry-leading go-to-market capabilities, we believe we will be able to capture a wide range of in-demand production applications on a global scale. Together with our intended entry into powder bed fusion technology, the acquisition of Origin reflects another step in fulfilling our objective to lead in polymer additive manufacturing by offering comprehensive, best-in-class technologies and solutions to create a fully digital additive value chain, designed for Industry 4.0 integration."

"We founded Origin to create a whole new additive manufacturing platform that enables mass production of end-use parts with incredible accuracy, consistency, and throughput along with a wide range of available materials," said Origin CEO and co-founder Christopher Prucha. "Stratasys is the best company for us to join to achieve our vision, giving us an unparalleled opportunity to significantly expand market reach and enable us to bring our P3 technology to a larger audience."

Cyber risk insurance co At-Bay raises $34m more

At-Bay CEO: Insurance is now an imperative for businesses to mitigate cyber risk, which is fast becoming the greatest threat they face.

Israeli cyber risk insurance company At-Bay announced the closing of a $34 million Series C financing round led by Qumra Capital and with the participation of

previous investors M12, Microsoft's venture fund, Acrew Capital, Khosla Ventures, Lightspeed Venture Partners, Munich Re Ventures and entrepreneur Shlomo Kramer. At-Bay has raised a total of $74 million in 2020, having closed a Series B only nine months ago, and the company has raised $91 million since it was founded.

Iram said, "Insurance is now an imperative for businesses to mitigate cyber risk, which is fast becoming the greatest threat they face. At-Bay helps businesses prevent cyber loss before it happens, with an in-house security team continuously monitoring the network of every company in our portfolio, offering actionable insights to strengthen security. This modern approach to risk management is not only driving strong demand for our insurance, but also enabling us to improve our products and minimize loss to our insureds."

Itskovich added, "The significant investment we've raised this year will enable us to deepen our active risk monitoring and security services, while expanding into new markets with new products aimed at helping companies manage risk in the digital age."

At-Bay will use the funds for new hires, launching new products, establishing digital collaborations, and improving the company's automated underwriting platform, which enables brokers to get bindable quotes in seconds, along with clear and actionable security insights to help clients avoid a cyberattack before it happens.

Israeli AI agri-tech co SeeTree raises $30m

SeeTree's system identifies the health and growth rates of every tree in a farmer's grove and enables the creation of personalized cultivation plans.

Israeli AI-powered agri-tech company SeeTree has raised $30 million in a series B financing round led by the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the private-sector arm of the World Bank Group. The investment will enable SeeTree, which provides end-to-end services that offer growers intelligence on trees and tree clusters, to expand globally, grow the R&D and customer-facing teams, and extend services to cover new crops.

Other investors include orange juice producer Citrosuco, VC fund Orbia Ventures and Japanese tractor manufacturer Kubota. Existing investor Hanaco Ventures who led the Series A round, is also participating.

SeeTree cofounder and CEO Israel Talpaz said, "Artificial intelligence can revolutionize agriculture and have a transformative impact on productivity, the environment, and the livelihoods of farmers," said Stephanie von Friedeburg, interim Managing Director and Executive Vice President, and Chief Operating Officer, of IFC. "We are excited to invest in SeeTree´s technology and help leverage precision agriculture in emerging markets."

SeeTree's system identifies the health and growth rates of every tree in a farmer's grove and enables the creation of personalized cultivation plans for each tree or cluster of trees. SeeTree collects ultra-high-resolution images captured by drones and multi-spectral sensors, tree and soil samples and analyzes the data through the platform's machine-learning algorithms. Ultimately farmers receive an easy-to-use product with features such as tree health, pest, and disease tracking.

Our vision is to enable the 'Tree-Farming 4.0 Revolution' with the Intelligence-per-Tree that we provide. SeeTree as a

standalone solution can reduce operational expenses by 20-40%. By connecting SeeTree to tractors, irrigation systems we can unlock additional optimizations to further increase the value to our farmers," says Talpaz.

Israeli co Orca Security raises $55m

The cloud security company, which was founded by former Check Point senior executives, has nearly doubled its workforce since May.

Israeli cloud security company Orca Security announced the completion of a $55 million Series B financing round led by ICONIQ Growth and with participation from previous investors GGV Capital, YL Ventures, and Silicon Valley CISO Investments. This brings to $82 million the amount that the company has raised in less than two years.

The new funding will be used by Orca Security to further disrupt the cloud security industry with touchless, workload-deep, context-aware security and compliance for AWS, Microsoft Azure, and Google Cloud Platform.

The company was founded by former Check Point CTO Avi Shua (CEO) and Gil Geron, also a former Check Point executive. Orca has 70 employees in its Israeli and US offices, up from 37 in May.

Shua said, "Cloud security is fundamentally broken. Practitioners are forced to waste their time installing and maintaining security agents instead of managing actual security risks. Even after spending years plumbing agents in their environment, coverage is usually limited to less than fifty percent. What's worse, agent-based solutions lack context. They can't see beyond individual issues residing on individual assets, which

lead to a never-ending barrage of meaningless security alerts. The fact is, competing solutions view cloud resources as simple lists whereas bad actors see a graph with a clear path of attack. Orca Security changes that paradigm by visualizing cloud resources through the lens of an attacker."

Israeli co Salt Security raises $30m

Salt provides a patented API security solution for every stage of the API life cycle.

Israeli API security company Salt Security announced it has raised $30 million in a Series B financing round led by Sequoia Capital, with participation from existing investors Tenaya Capital, S Capital VC, and Y Combinator. Only in June did Salt Security complete its $20 million Series A financing round, and the latest round brings to $60 million the amount raised by Salt Security.

The new investment will enable the company to more rapidly accelerate its business in 2021, with a focus on investing in product development, sales and marketing, and customer acquisition.

Salt provides a patented API security solution for every stage of the API life cycle.

The company was founded in 2016 by CEO Roey Eliyahu and COO Michael Nicosia.

Eliyahu said, "Raising $50 million, increasing our customer base 200%, growing our feature velocity to build unmatched technical capabilities - all during this tumultuous year - this combination gives us a formidable lead in the market we created and defined."

Israeli AI building optimization co Versatile raises $20m

Versatile's CraneView uses AI and IoT to capture and analyze thousands of data points to deliver real-time insights on jobsite performance.
Israeli machine learning and AI construction optimization company Versatile has announced that it has raised $20 million in a Series A financing round led by Insight Partners and Entree Capital, and with the participation of previous investors Robert Bosch Venture Capital GmbH, Root Ventures, Conductive Ventures, and veteran construction technology entrepreneurs Leigh Jasper and Rob Phillpot.
Versatile cofounder and CEO Meirav Oren said, "You can only improve what you can measure, and at Versatile we are just scratching the surface of what we can do to create value for our users and use data to turn jobsites into controlled manufacturing with fast feedback loops.

Versatile's CraneView uses AI and IoT to capture and analyze thousands of data points to deliver real-time insights on jobsite performance and streamline decision-making. Mounted under the hook of any crane, this technology offers production data on any jobsite including information on materials, redundancies, construction progress and crane utilization - and empowers project teams to work safer, faster, and enable a manufacturing approach to building. The new funding will accelerate growth and availability of the solution, as well as the development of new, AI-based capabilities to create more connected insights for a variety of users.

Cancer drug development co Biosight raises $46m

Biosight, based at Airport City near Tel Aviv,

is developing innovative cancer therapeutics for hematological malignancies and disorders.

Israeli drug development company Biosight Ltd. announced early December the closing of a $46 million Series C financing round led by Israel Biotech Fund (IBF) with participation from new investors, The Phoenix Insurance Company and Migdal Insurance Company, and Biotel, as well as existing investors including Arkin Bio Ventures and Primera Capital. The company raised $19 million earlier this year and has now raised another $27 million to complete the financing round. Biosight, based at Airport City near Tel Aviv, is developing innovative cancer therapeutics for hematological malignancies and disorders.
The new funds will be used to advance the clinical development of Biosight's lead asset BST-236 (aspacytarabine), currently being investigated in a multi-center Phase IIb study in the US and Israel as a single-agent, first-line treatment of acute myeloid leukemia (AML), and soon to be expanded to two additional Phase II trials, in Europe and the U.S., to evaluate BST-236 in relapsed/refractory myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS) and AML.

Biosight CEO Dr. Ruth Ben Yakar said, "2020 has been a transformative year at Biosight, marked by meaningful clinical, regulatory and corporate progress. This increased round, with participation by existing and new shareholders, validates the potential of BST-236 to transform the standard of care in AML and other hematological disorders. These funds leave us well positioned to launch our additional clinical programs, expanding the reach of BST-236 to additional hematological indications, while also continuing our steady progress in the ongoing Phase IIb trial.

She added, "We look forward to reporting updated data from the trial at the upcoming 2020 ASH Annual Meeting and importantly, are on track to complete study enrollment early next year. We look forward to continued execution as we advance BST-236 to address the unmet needs in the treatment of patients who are currently medically unfit to receive intensive chemotherapy."

IBF Cofounder and managing partner said, "We remain encouraged by the accumulating data which demonstrate that BST-236 may serve as a safer and more tolerable chemotherapy agent that provides meaningful benefits beyond current standard of care options. We are impressed by the steady execution of the Biosight team who have rapidly enrolled their ongoing study despite the challenging COVID environment while also making regulatory progress, gaining Fast Track Designation from the FDA, and promoting collaborations and expansion of the clinical development program of BST-236.

We look forward to continued momentum and partnership throughout a milestone rich 2021."

The Israel High-Tech & Investment Report is a monthly report dealing with news, developments and investment opportunities in the universe of Israeli technology and business. While effort is made to ensure the contents' accuracy, it is not guaranteed. Reports about public companies are not intended as promotion of shares, nor should they be construed as such.