

November 3, 2017

Israel's Iron Dome Technology Protects New York Power Plants

Using Israeli technology, three power plants under the auspices of the New York Power Authority (NYPA) will now be able to prevent power outages before they begin. The technology will be expanded to 50 plants statewide in the coming months. NYPA turned to Israeli start-up mPrest—which developed the command-and-control software behind the Iron Dome missile defense system—following failures of two of its largest transformers in 2012 and 2014, costing upward of \$5 million in repairs. Using mPrest's Asset Health Management application, New York can now examine the "health" of a transformer utilizing data derived from the transformer itself, sensors, complex algorithms, historical performance data and lab reports. According to Alan Ettlinger, NYPA's director for research, technology, development and innovation, "the system automatically shuts down and reroutes power if a problem is detected. That means the lights stay on, field workers are protected from the dangers of an explosion, and NYPA can save money." In 2015, the Israel-U.S. Binational Industrial Research and Development Foundation (BIRD) invested \$900,000 in the joint NYPA and mPrest project to cultivate the software.

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