



Middle East Spotlight

Celebrating Independence

As we celebrate America's 237th Independence Day this summer, the achievements of the United States in the field of technological innovation stand out. From the cotton gin, to the airplane to the internet, American ingenuity has allowed us to live more liberated lives. And, in the 65 years since Israel's more recent founding, the Jewish state has also produced incredible inventions that free our time and improve our lives, like the USB flash drive and instant messaging. Now the two allies are working together to develop technology that will provide even greater freedom through the promotion of energy independence.

America and Israel understand that developing next-generation energy technologies, such as alternative fuels, is a national security imperative and are working together toward this goal. The American and Israeli governments, as well as private business ventures in both countries, are partnering to promote new energy solutions and ensure our long-term energy security. This important work is helping to reduce a dangerous dependence on petroleum and pursue sustainable technologies to reduce our environmental impact.

With support from the American company Noble Energy, Israel is cultivating its natural gas resources that have the potential to improve its energy security, bolster its economy and strengthen regional cooperation. These fields also establish a firm platform on which to further develop the U.S.-Israel energy relationship into new commercial and industrial partnerships, defense and homeland security cooperation, academic and research linkages and joint efforts to reduce gasoline's monopoly over the global transportation sector.

Similarly, the U.S.-Israel Energy Cooperation Program has set the stage for long-term strategic cooperation in the development of alternative fuels and new energy technologies. Israel has already rolled out an initiative to utilize natural gas in transportation, and aims to serve as a demonstration site for the world, while decreasing dependence on oil-producing nations.

Furthermore, the U.S.-Israel Science & Technology Foundation (USISTF) is building bridges at the most fundamental level of technological cooperation, strengthening scientific collaboration and promoting framework agreements to improve research, development and demonstration between leading minds, centers and institutes in the United States and Israel.

Ultimately, freedom from oil means reduced interaction with radical and dangerous regimes. Together, the United States and Israel are pursuing policies, undertaking national initiatives, and developing technologies to increase the security and safety of the free world. This Independence Day, that's certainly worth celebrating.