

The Sky's the Limit

The U.S.-Israel relationship is multifaceted, dynamic and increasingly expanding for the betterment of both nations. Positive developments in missile defense, security cooperation and military aid are the cornerstones of this alliance, but joint advances in important technologies and innovations also enhance this unique bilateral bond. The following recent developments reaffirm that when it comes to joint ingenuity benefitting both the United States and Israel, the sky is the limit.

Israeli technology to protect American airplanes

Characterized by its innovative and entrepreneurial spirit, the Jewish state has attained wide recognition as the “startup nation.” Among Israel’s latest technological marvels is **RunWize**, a system developed by Israel’s Xsight Systems that automatically detects runway debris and alerts pilots to the danger. The technology also includes the BirdWize system, which helps protect airborne planes from birds—which can get sucked into jet engines. After successful tests and evaluations, Seattle-Tacoma Airport (Sea-Tac) agreed to install the system on its runways. “This new system takes the next step to continuously monitor the runway for potential safety hazards so we can remove the debris in real-time rather than rely solely on physical inspections,” said Mike Ehl, Director of Operations and Customer Service at Sea-Tac Airport.

Lockheed Martin begins to assemble Israel’s first F-35 jet

The United States continues to help ensure that Israel has the means to defend herself by herself. In January 2016, Lockheed Martin began assembly of Israel’s first F-35 “Adir” fighter jet. The F-35, the world’s most advanced fighter aircraft, is designed to perform ground attack, aerial reconnaissance, and air defense missions. “Today marks a new beginning for tactical aviation for Israel,” said Jeff Babione, Lockheed Martin F-35 program manager. “Lockheed Martin is proud of our long and storied relationship with Israel’s armed forces. The F-35A Adir strengthens our solid relationship with the [Israeli Air Force] and ensures that the Israeli aerospace industry will remain strong for decades to come.”

Israel to open world’s first aviation cyber innovation center

Thanks to a joint collaboration between Tel Aviv University (TAU) and the International Air Transportation Association (IATA), airports and airlines will soon become even safer. IATA, the global trade association for the airline industry, signed a first-of-its-kind agreement with TAU in July 2015 to establish a new joint center for aviation innovation. Among its goals, this new center will seek to train international transportation personnel in cyberspace security—an area of growing concern and collaboration between the United States and Israel.

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