



The US-Israel Science and Technology Foundation (USISTF) is the funding and administrative arm of the US-Israel Science and Technology Commission (USISTC): a bilateral commission established by the United States Department of Commerce and the Israel Ministry of Industry and Trade in 1994 to foster scientific, technological, and economic cooperation between the peoples of the United States and Israel.

The USISTC brings together senior U.S. and Israeli government, business and academic leaders to develop innovative approaches to linking technology and business between the two countries. Since its inception, USISTC has worked to harmonize U.S. and Israeli markets, reduce impediments for collaboration, and build the infrastructure of long-range strategic cooperation between the United States and Israel. The USISTC serves as an important catalyst in facilitating new opportunities for U.S. businesses to access and work with Israel's growing technology sector.

In September 1995, USISTF was established. The Foundation is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The USISTF receives funding from the Governments of the United States and of Israel for the purpose of implementing USISTC programs.

The broad scope of the USISTF includes the provision for value-added resources through binational science & technology collaborations; standardization, harmonization, and education on regulations; binational and regional training on cross-culture issues; strategic alliances of mutual benefit; and processes, policies, and procedures that enhance creativity in binational science and technology activities.

The USISF and the scope of its services have evolved over the years. The USISTF serves technology entrepreneurs, businesspersons, investors, and policymakers concerned with a broad spectrum of industry issues. Technology issues are the common denominator among all of its programs and services.

The USISTF has sponsored projects covering a variety of topics, including intellectual property rights; information technology; the economic benefits of environmental practices; defense commercialization; telemedicine; & hazardous waste management. A key USISTC project has focused on harmonizing U.S. and Israeli regulations and procedures for approving new medical devices.

USISTF currently conducts its services through several principal program mechanisms:

- A competitive grant program designed to provide funds to programs creating collaborations between organizations in the U.S. & Israel that support companies in their quest to commercialize new and innovative technological products.
- The USISTF sponsors and establishes programs to support technology businesses & entrepreneurs by providing seminars, educational workshops, seed capital, venture forums, mentorship, and business acceleration services. The USISTF also facilitates networking within the academic, entrepreneurial, finance, and technology communities.
- The USISTF funds and/or partners with other organizations to analyze driving factors of technology-driven economic growth.
- USISTF promotes and facilitates consortia building among multiplier organizations.