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PRESS RELEASE

## Leonardo signs two agreements with Israeli Innovation Authority and Ramot Tel Aviv University in the field of innovation

The aim of the partnerships is to strengthen relations with Israel's innovation ecosystem, which fuels 15% of its GDP and accounts for more than 50% of Israeli exports

Together with the Israeli Innovation Authority and with Ramot, the Technology Transfer Office of the Tel Aviv University, which counts 30,000 students (including 16,000 researchers), Leonardo intends to strengthen cooperation relationships in particular in the field of start-up development

Rome, 03/02/2023 - **Leonardo** strengthens its relations with **Israel** by focusing on the **innovation sector**, in which the country has created a truly unique ecosystem that contributes to 15.3% of its GDP and accounts for 54% of exports.

In particular, **Leonardo has signed two agreements in the country**. The first is with the **Israeli Innovation Authority (IIA)**, an independent public agency providing technical and financial support for innovative projects promoted by both Israeli and international start-ups, mature companies, multinationals and universities. The second is with **Ramot**, the Technology Transfer Company that develops the Intellectual Property of the Tel Aviv University, with its 30,000 students (including 16,000 researchers).

The **partnerships**, promoted by Leonardo and supported and coordinated by the Italian Embassy in Israel, with the contribution of the Israeli Embassy in Italy and the Economic Mission of Israel in Milan, will focus in particular, on **strengthening cooperation in the scouting and development of start-ups**, drawing on the country's experience and track record as a "start-up nation" as a result of its 7,000 plus start-ups and 430 odd venture capital funds operating in the country's innovation ecosystem through nearly 100 accelerators and 37 active incubators.

Israel's dynamic and competitive start-ups develop innovative high-tech **solutions** in multiple fields, including **defence, cybersecurity, aeronautics, intelligence and space**, areas of strategic interest for Leonardo's business.

The agreements will be implemented immediately through active collaboration in scouting start-ups for the **second international call of the Business Innovation Factory (BIF) of Leonardo**. As a result of the programme, launched by the company on 24 January and dedicated to start-ups submitting innovative solutions in the fields of simulation and gamification, networking & cybersecurity, one of the five legs of the **promotional road show** will be held in **Tel Aviv** (28 February). The agreement with **Ramot** will set out the principles for cooperating on Leonardo-sponsored research projects carried out by Tel Aviv University, for which Leonardo will define areas of research and of interest, and will set out the guidelines of the **call for proposals dedicated to the University's researchers**. To date, Ramot has invested in over 100 start-ups and works with companies to implement applied research projects, also using IIA funds.

The agreements with IIA and Ramot form part of Leonardo's strategy to strengthen relations with institutions, universities and private entities so as to create structural partnerships with the aim of fuelling technological innovation and business processes, following the guidelines set out in the **Be Tomorrow 2030 strategic plan**.

The agreement with the IIA, in particular, is part of the Authority's "**R&D and Pilot Collaboration with Multinational Corporation (Mncs)**" program, launched in 2005 with the aim of promoting ambitious collaborations between large multinationals and the most innovative Israeli companies.

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**Leonardo**, a global high-technology company, is among the top world players in Aerospace, Defense and Security and Italy's main industrial company. Organized into five business divisions, Leonardo has a significant industrial presence in Italy, the United Kingdom, Poland and the USA, where it also operates through subsidiaries that include Leonardo DRS (defense electronics), and joint ventures and partnerships: ATR, MBDA, Telespazio, Thales Alenia Space and Avio. Leonardo competes in the most important international markets by leveraging its areas of technological and product leadership (Helicopters, Aircraft, Aerostructures, Electronics, Cyber & Security Solutions and Space). Listed on the Milan Stock Exchange (LDO), in 2021 Leonardo recorded consolidated revenues of €14.1 billion and invested €1.8 billion in Research and Development. The company has been part of the Dow Jones Sustainability Indices (DJSI) since 2010 and has been confirmed among the global sustainability leaders in 2022. Leonardo is also included in the MIB ESG index.

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