

## **MARS, INCORPORATED PARTNERS WITH JERUSALEM VENTURE PARTNERS (JVP) TO FOSTER FOODTECH SOLUTIONS IN ISRAEL**

*New collaboration with leading Israeli academic research institutions will focus on food, wellness, agriculture and nutrition*

**Jerusalem, Israel; McLean, Virginia** – May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019 – Jerusalem Venture Partners (JVP), a leading international venture capital fund, announced today a new partnership with Mars, Incorporated, on a first-of-its-kind research and development agreement in Israel aiming to pursue innovative tech solutions for global food, agriculture and nutrition challenges.

By collaborating on R&D investment, Mars will support Israeli start-ups and the formation of companies, and will work together with leading Israeli academic institutions, such as the Hebrew University, the Weizmann Institute, the Technion, Migall and Tel Hai College, among others, to further Foodtech innovations. Mars Edge and the Mars Advanced Research Institute, representing Mars, will explore the converging fields of food, health and technology fueling the next generation of agriculture and nutrition. The partnership will tackle major global sustainability issues by providing scalable solutions to the challenges of feeding humanity in a way that preserves and protects the environment. It has the potential to unlock opportunities in the emerging space of personalized nutrition.

"Israel has been a case study for how innovation can change a country and transform the world," said **JVP Founder and Executive Chairman Erel Margalit**. "After building global companies and solutions in cybersecurity, AI and big data, Israel has set its sights on food as the next frontier. As food and nutrition needs change around the world, we need to create more nutritious, accessible and sustainable food solutions. And by partnering with Mars, one of the world's most iconic brands at the forefront of innovation, we are confident in Israel's ability to be the food tech leader of the future."

"Mars is passionate about leveraging leading science and technology to innovate. Our ambition is to provide people around the world with consumer centric products, services and experiences. One example is personalized nutrition solutions that fit an individual's lifestyle by reconciling the food they want with the nutrition they need. We are clear that we need forward-thinking partnerships and collaborations to do this," said **Jean-Christophe Flatin, President of Innovation, Science, Technology & Mars Edge at Mars**.

**George Graham, Vice President, Mars Advanced Research Institute** said: "We are eager to partner with JVP and tap into the innovative ecosystem of the Israeli food, health and technology community. This exciting collaboration will help us access and be part of solutions specific to global challenges in the food system related to ag tech, nutrition and food security."

Mars brings its legacy of scientific rigor, commitment to science and technology, and track record of convening partners to address complex societal issues, particularly those intensified by climate change.

For twenty-five years, JVP has served as a world-renowned international venture capital fund based out of Israel, and now identifies Foodtech as one of the most impactful spaces of tomorrow. Around the world, agriculture and foodtech startups raised \$16.9 billion in 2018, which represents a 43% increase over the previous year, according to a 2018 AgFunder report. And Israel is continuing to grow its presence in the ecosystem, with over 230 active AgriFood tech startups. As such, JVP has made the strategic decision to invest in and build globally disruptive technologies in this field.

The JVP-Mars R&D Partnership is part of JVP's Foodtech initiative to transform Israel's Upper Galilee region into the global Foodtech epicenter. Israel's connection to other global "tech" hubs, ranging from the U.S. West Coast to Singapore, will help Mars further its efforts to drive global conversations and help lead the industry toward solutions for a more sustainable and healthy future.

### **About Mars, Incorporated**

Mars is a family-owned business with more than a century of history making diverse products and offering services for people and the pets people love. With more than \$35 billion in sales, the company is a global business that produces some of the world's best-loved brands: M&M's®, SNICKERS®, TWIX®, MILKY WAY®, DOVE®, PEDIGREE®, ROYAL CANIN®, WHISKAS®, EXTRA®, ORBIT®, 5™, SKITTLES®, UNCLE



BEN'S®, and COCOAVIA®. Mars Associates proudly take care of half of the world's pets through our nutrition, health and services businesses such as Banfield Pet Hospitals™, BluePearl®, Linnaeus, AniCura, VCA™ and Pet Partners™. Headquartered in McLean, VA, Mars operates in more than 80 countries. The Mars Five Principles – Quality, Responsibility, Mutuality, Efficiency and Freedom – inspire our more than 115,000 Associates to take action every day to help create a world tomorrow in which the planet, its people and pets can thrive. For more information about Mars, please visit [www.mars.com](http://www.mars.com). Join us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#).

#### **About Jerusalem Venture Partners (JVP)**

Jerusalem Venture Partners (JVP), is an internationally renowned venture capital fund based in Israel. Established in 1993 by Dr. Erel Margalit, JVP has to date raised \$1.4 billion across 9 funds, and has been listed numerous times by Preqin, and other rankings, as one of the top-ten consistently performing VC firms worldwide. JVP has built over 130 companies, leveraging a broad network of partners and market expertise to help companies become global market leaders. Among the pioneering firms of the Israeli venture capital industry, JVP has been instrumental in building some of the largest companies out of Israel, facilitating 12 Initial Public Offerings on NASDAQ including CyberArk Software (NASDAQ: CYBR, \$3.6 billion mkt. cap.), QLIK Technologies (NASDAQ: QLIK, then \$2.5 billion mkt. cap.) and Cogent Communications (NASDAQ: CCOI, \$2.3 billion mkt. cap.) <https://www.jvpvc.com/>

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