**MEDIA RELEASE**

**The Ministry of Construction and Housing Adopts a Drone-Based Technology for the Monitoring of Construction and Infrastructure Processes that will Significantly Lower Construction Costs**

**Technology developed by the Israeli company Datumate has won the tender for supervising and controlling progress of infrastructure works and the construction of thousands of apartments in 'Buyer's Price' (Mechir Le-Mishtaken) projects in Harish. The company is a partner in the ConTech Construction Innovation Program operated by the Ministry of Construction and Housing and the Hitachdut Bonei Haaretz Builders Association**.

Approximately two years after founding ConTech – a program aimed at advancing and supporting the development of technologies for the construction industry – in conjunction with the **Hitachdut Bonei Haaretz Builders Association** and the **Ministry of Economy and Industry**, the **Ministry of Construction and Housing** is now taking the next step towards establishing these technologies as a standard in the Israeli construction industry. **Datumate**, one in a long list of startups currently accompanied by the **ConTech** team, has won a Ministry of Construction and Housing tender to supervise monitor construction performance in the 'Buyer's Price' (Mechir Le-Mishtaken) projects in Harish in which thousands of new residential units are being built in the new city.

The Minister of Construction and Housing, **Yoav Galant** said: "The State of Israel is a recognized technological leader and a global source of hi-tech innovation. After decades of development, we are now leading changes in all fields of the construction industry, from new methods and technologies to human capability and standardization. During the last three years we have taken dramatic steps in order to enlist the best Israeli technology with the aim of shortening, streamlining, and lowering the costs of construction in Israel. We are continuing to encourage and promote the introduction of further advanced construction technologies for the benefit of the Israeli public."

The deputy president of the Bonei Haaretz Association, **Haim Feiglin** added: "The choice of Datumate is yet another indication of the fact that our decision to invest in the development of technologies for the construction industry was the right decision at the right time. We are observing how technologies we are accompanying via **ConTech** are now entering the pilot stage in prominent projects in Israel and abroad, and we are continuing to expand the range of companies and developments we accompany. We are on the way to transforming Israel into the 'Silicon Valley' of the construction industry and to enhancing its safety, precision and speed over coming years."

Datumate has developed a drone-based management and control platform for infrastructure and construction projects which enables precise and daily comparison between actual construction process and the original plans. It also enables entrepreneurs and construction and infrastructure companies to monitor the performance progress of any engineering project in order to streamline construction processes. The company reports that its systems enable a reduction of more than 50% in the cost of conventional construction processes and a saving of 3-5% in the project's total implementation cost. Datumate's platform uses image processing technologies, photogrammetry, cloud data processing, and automated drone flight capabilities. Using an image processing engine and an analysis layer, the platform creates 2-d and 3-d models of changes in an existing state of construction vis-à-vis construction planning and progress between various selected dates. The system saves all the gathered and processed data as a digital and engineering record that can be subsequently used for managerial, financial, and legal purposes.

Datumate CEO **Tal Meirzon**: "We view the Ministry of Construction and Housing's choice of Datumate's technology as a milestone that will assist us in transforming Datumate's method into the global method for managing and supervising performance of large-scale infrastructure projects. A change in regulation and the adoption of innovative technologies in the fields of construction by government departments, infrastructure companies, and project management and supervision corporations, will lead to a significant economizing of project management thanks to control and analytical tools that were previously either unavailable or simply not possible. The lateral initiative of the Ministry of Construction and Housing combined with innovative technology can create a regulatory and perceptional change that will streamline and accelerate construction processes in Israel."

The Ministry of Construction and Housing oversees and executes a large number of projects to develop and establish residential neighborhoods that cover extensive areas and include a vast number and variety of engineering operations. As part of the monitoring and control of the engineering operations implemented during projects, the Ministry has chosen to promote the Harish pilot in an attempt to activate various supervisory, recording, monitoring and control tools on the images that will be photographed during the period of the project using specially designated software tools now available. These tools include, among others, aerial photography, different quantitative or comparative analyses, mapping of on-site progress, and image processing and analysis for management of communication with contractors and entrepreneurs operating in the project area, location of anomalies etc. Because of its unique capabilities, Datumate was chosen to lead the project at the Harish construction site in conjunction with the Haifa District of the Ministry of Construction and Housing.

The Ministry of Construction and Housing is currently in the midst of development work in Harish. Apart from preparing an outline plan that will delineate new areas for the city, the Ministry is also seeking to develop innovative construction and tender methods that will give the plans a unique and innovative dimension. The 'Plan and Build in the City' Program can be seen as a good example of this. The program enables a single winner of the tender to carry out the infrastructure and public buildings works as well as the site's residential units and is aimed at expediting the city's development and enhancing the synergy between infrastructures and buildings. A further example of innovation is the neighborhood near the Main Municipal Center in which regional municipal and public services are planned. These services will attract and provide service to all residents of the surrounding area and will encourage the development of associated real estate initiatives. Because of their unique nature, the Municipal Center and the 'Plan and Build' program were chosen to participate in the Ministry's pilot in order to help assess the many advantages facilitated by integrating advanced technologies.

As mentioned previously, an assessment of new technologies and their implementation in the various construction processes, from planning, performance, to project completion, is part of the Construction Technologies Innovation Program (**ConTech**) operated jointly by the Hitachdut Bonei Haaretz Builders Association, the Ministry of Construction and Housing, and the Ministry of Economy and Industry. This program operates in different fields to locate developers, promote technology companies that initiate construction projects, provide these entities with professional assistance and to open doors for them in government departments and in the construction industry. The program's three partners make an important contribution in the effort to remove obstacles faced by the developers. Startup companies taking part in the program receive work space for six months and a direct connection to the different construction industries and to potential investors from all over the world.

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