



18 September 2026

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information request: FOI2026/00747

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 20 August in which you requested the following:

Your request:

I would like to request information relating to the following UK-Israel Eureka Bilateral Collaborative R&D competitions (hereafter the 'UK-Israel competitions'):

- UK Israel Open Collaborative Competition 2018
- UK Israel Open Collaborative Competition 2019
- UK-Israel Eureka Bilateral Collaborative R&D (2022)
- UK-Israel Eureka Bilateral Collaborative R&D Round 2 (2023)
- UK-Israel Eureka Bilateral Collaborative R&D Round 3 (2024)

I have reviewed the spreadsheet "Innovate UK funded projects from financial year 2016 to 2017 to present". However, the dataset appears to be incomplete. For example, it records no projects were funded in 2022, only one project in 2024 and two projects in 2018. These figures appear inconsistent with the funding available under the respective competitions. In addition, a number of the projects listed do not identify the Israeli participant, and one project (CREST) does not include a project description.

Year	Competition Reference	Total funding available	Total amount awarded	Total projects funded
2018	1811_INT_ISRAEL	£1 million	£334,274	2
2019	1911_INT_ISRAEL	£2 million	£783,824	7
2022	No CR appears to be unpublished	£2 million	N/a	0
2023	2306_UK_ISRAEL_BILATERAL_CALL2	£2 million	£619,891	3
2024	2406_EUREKA_UK_ISRAEL_CRD_R3	£1 million	£249,927	1

Information missing from projects listed in the dataset

Please could you provide the Israeli participant(s) for the following projects:

- CREST (Chrysanthemum RESistant to TSWV) (2018)
- SafeCell - Novel Battery Monitoring and Control System (2019)
- SHADOW - Sensing Hazards and Accidents with Doppler Over Wi-Fi (2019)
- Real-time volumetric video recording of large capture areas (2019)
- Enabling Post-Consumer Recycled Plastics in the Built-Environment using Nanocomposite Flame-Retardants (2023)
- Nanosensor enabled analytics and predictive maintenance of heat exchangers (2023)

- *Development of tomato resistance to tomato brown rugose fruit virus (2023)*

Please could you also provide the project description for:

- *CREST (Chrysanthemum RESistant to TSWV) (2018)*

Projects missing from the dataset

Finally, please could you provide the following information for any projects awarded funding by Innovate UK under the UK-Israel competitions that are not listed in the “Innovate UK funded projects from financial year 2016 to 2017 to present” dataset:

- *Project title*
- *UK participant(s)*
- *Israeli participant(s)*
- *Amount of Innovate UK funding awarded*
- *Project start date*
- *Project status*

If the dataset does list all projects awarded funding under these five competitions, please confirm this for each competition.

Our response:

I can confirm that UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) does hold information relevant to your request. Please see the information below.

All projects awarded funding for the UK Israel Open Collaborative Competition 2018 and 2019, and the UK-Israel Eureka Bilateral Collaborative R&D 2022, 2023 and 2024 funding opportunities are listed in [Innovate UK's Funding Transparency Data](#)¹.

Funding was not awarded up to the competition budget ceiling for these opportunities due to a number of applications being excluded at different stages of the process. Applications are only put forward for assessment if they meet the eligibility criteria of the funding competition on both the UK and Israel side. Of those that were assessed, only projects meeting the required quality threshold were considered for funding.

Funding decisions for bilateral UK-Israel projects were then made jointly by Innovate UK (IUK) and the Israel Innovation Authority (IIA), meaning projects could only be funded where both organisations reached an agreement. In addition, projects approved at the joint consensus stage were subject to a further approval process within Israel. Where the Israeli board declined funding for the Israeli partner, the project could not proceed.

As a result of these factors, there were insufficient fundable projects to utilise the full competition budget. Please note, IUK provided funding to UK project participants only, funding for Israeli partners came from the IIA.

We can also confirm that no projects were funded for the *UK-Israel Eureka Bilateral Collaborative R&D (2022)* competition.

Details of the Israeli participants for the projects you have identified, and the project description for the CREST (Chrysanthemum RESistant to TSWV) project are included in Annex 1, at the end of this request. Please note, the CREST project was terminated in 2020 following the lead participant advising of their withdrawal.

Your rights

If you have any queries regarding our response please do let us know. If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review, explaining which elements of this decision you

¹ <https://www.ukri.org/publications/innovate-uk-funded-projects-since-2004/>

disagree with and why. Internal review requests should be submitted within 40 working days of the date of our response and should be addressed to:

Head of Information Governance

Email: foi@ukri.org

Please quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are still not content with the outcome of the internal review, you may apply to refer the matter to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the review procedure provided by UKRI. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: www.ico.org.uk.

If you wish to raise a complaint regarding the service you have received or the conduct of any UKRI staff in relation to your request, please see [UKRI's complaints procedure](#)².

Yours sincerely,


Information Governance
Information Rights Team
UK Research and Innovation
foi@ukri.org | dataprotection@ukri.org

² <https://www.ukri.org/who-we-are/contact-us/make-a-complaint/#skipnav-target>

Annex 1: Israeli project participants and CREST project description

Table A: Israeli participants for select projects

Project	Israeli Participant
CREST (<i>Chrysanthemum RESistant to TSWV</i>)	Danziger Innovations
SafeCell - Novel Battery Monitoring and Control System	ALGPLiON
SHADOW - Sensing Hazards and Accidents with Doppler Over Wi-Fi	Zebra Medical Vision
Real-time volumetric video recording of large capture areas	IMD Technologies
Enabling Post-Consumer Recycled Plastics in the Built-Environment using Nanocomposite Flame-Retardants	Tosaf
Nanosensor enabled analytics and predictive maintenance of heat exchangers	Feelit Technologies Limited
Development of tomato resistance to tomato brown rugose fruit virus	BetterSeeds

Project description: CREST (*Chrysanthemum RESistant to TSWV*)

Problem: Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus (TSWV), a member of the Tospovirus genus, presents a mounting challenge to Chrysanthemum cultivators; with the virus causing devastating crop loss (up to 50%) through leaf damage (mottling, ringspots, stunting, and necrosis), stem lesions, and deformation of flower buds. Early symptoms are easily missed by growers as initial indicators appear on only a few leaves, or single branches. Further, confirmation that symptoms of infection are caused by the virus typically requires laboratory identification as early symptoms are similar to those of other viruses and pathogens. TSWV is vectorised by Thripinae (western flower thrips [WFT]; commonly referenced thrip, small [1-2mm] winged insects), contracted during the larval development stage. Where outbreaks of TSWV infection occur, as there is no cure, all infected plants must be removed and destroyed. Moreover, the soil must also be discarded, as this is where WFT vectors pupate. Very low WFT densities (20/10cm² trap) are sufficient to then transmit disease and result in crop loss of entire greenhouses. WFT can readily move long distances dispersed by the wind or transported on infested plants – thus containing outbreaks throughout geographic regions is extremely challenging.

Current Containment: The devastating economic impacts, detection difficulty and challenge of containing spread of TSWV infection both at a local and regional scale– have resulted in intensive preventative pesticide spraying regimes to manage the virus vector (WFT); at a high economic and environment impact. New, narrow - spectrum insecticides for WFT control include pyridalyl and lufenuron. However, frequent applications of broad - spectrum (including spinosad) and narrow - spectrum insecticides have led to the development of WFT resistance to the active ingredients of most chemical classes. Additionally insecticide overuse results in residue problems on marketable plants/stems, toxicity towards beneficial non - target organisms (inc. pollinators) and contamination of the environment (Mouden et.al. 2017). In order to be effective, preventative insecticide regimes require a combination of agents (to minimise resistance evolution) to be applied weekly over a 10 week repeat cycle with an average cycle cost of \$1700/ha (3% of gate cost). The consequences of TSWV outbreaks are particularly devastating, with crop loss of 50% (gate value \$175,000/ha).

Proposed Solution: In collaboration with leading genome editing providers, Danziger Innovations we will develop a new commercial variety of Chrysanthemum with multi-layered RNA interference (RNAi) protection; targeting both the TSWV and also genes within the WFT vector that prevent their ability to thrive. This two pronged approach increases the likelihood of successful crop protection outcomes by targeting both the viruses and their corresponding vectors; de-risking the project. Tropic Biosciences has developed a proprietary gene editing tool referred to as GEiGS (Gene Editing induced Gene Silencing). The GEiGS platform combines the benefits of both gene editing and RNAi to allow for non-transgenic, hereditary gene silencing applications. GEiGS enables programmable gene silencing against any RNA of interest, allowing for crop enhancement and protection applications by directing RNAi against endogenous genes as well as against a broad range of pathogens and pests. GEiGS constructs (designed, validated and produced by Tropic Biosciences) will be delivered to the Chrysanthemum genome using the Memogene™ delivery system (Danziger Innovations). Edited cells will be identified, selected, regenerated and propagated to plantlets before screening for confirmation of successful editing. The plantlets of each variety will then be grown and challenged by WFT/TSWV in assays and scoring systems to assess efficacy of WFT/TSWV resistance.

Route to market: Plants to be supplied through tissue culture and cuttings with a royalty charged per stem.

Primary target markets: Columbia (28% global production), Japan, China (23% global production - rapidly expanding opportunity due to ongoing investment of export infrastructure). Markets identified due to high production rates, high spend on insecticides and favourable legislation.

Secondary market sectors: Netherlands (28% global production), sizable opportunity but greater regulatory barriers.

Regulatory Considerations Non-transgenic gene editing is highly favourable compared to transgenic approaches; greatly reducing regulatory requirements.