



Bank Hapoalim and CYBERGYM Announce Strategic Partnership

A Global Network of Centers of Excellence and Cyber Training will be Established for Financial and Banking Industry Infrastructure

Bank Hapoalim and CYBERGYM, business partner of IEC (the Israel Electric Corporation) in cyber protection, announced today (Thursday 30 January, 2020) at Cybertech Tel Aviv 2020, the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cooperation and investment.

CYBERGYM is a global leader in cyber training and qualification solutions, headquartered in Israel. The partnership will establish a center of cyber excellence, knowledge and technology for the finance sector and banking industry in Israel and around the world.

Thanks to a successful seven-year collaboration between CYBERGYM and IEC - one of the most threatened and attacked organizations in the world - the cyber company established a global network of training arenas. This new partnership with Bank Hapoalim will focus on building up a similar field of excellence for finance sector infrastructure. The partners will establish the first finance arena in Israel, and has plans to establish additional arenas in financial capitals around the world.

The new network will make use of and expand CYBERGYM's existing global spread of 10 Cyberwarfare Arenas, in cities around the world, including New York, Melbourne, Amsterdam and Tokyo. CYBERGYM's Arenas use advanced technologies for skills and knowledge training of various staff throughout a company, enabling unique *live training* in which hackers run complex cyberattacks on infrastructure systems designed to emulate those used by the client. CYBERGYM's live-training programs have been proven to be the most effective and long-term way to give cyber skills and awareness to employees and professional staff of organizations in high-risk industries.

Ofir Hason, CEO of CYBERGYM: "This new joint-venture between the companies will drive the knowledge and excellence of both Bank Hapoalim and CYBERGYM, and will enable the establishment of the first ever cyber knowledge and training platform, specifically tailored to the needs of the finance industry. It will broaden our current proven capabilities, to include solutions that are relevant to financial organizations globally."

Elik Etzion, Chief Information Security Officer of Bank Hapoalim: "Financial organizations all over the world are having to deal with increasing intensity and sophistication of cyber threats by criminals, activists and even state attacks. This level of threat requires the implementation of advanced cyber-protection technologies along with the strengthening of the operational capabilities of cyber and IT professionals in the organization. As in the army, operational training in cyber protection is required to re-enforce their ability to deal with diverse attacks, in real time. This partnership with CYBERGYM will enable a leap forward in cyber training in Israel and around the world, by means of relevant attack scenarios, advanced training arenas that simulate the finance industry's business and technological environment, and the sharing of operational knowledge in the field of cyber defense."

Major General (Res.) Yiftach Ron-Tal, Chairman of the Israel Electric Corporation: "I applaud the strategic cooperation between Bank Hapoalim, the country's largest bank and CYBERGYM, the world's leading cyber defense training arena. The accumulated experience of the IEC in a wide range of fields, including the field of critical infrastructure protection, puts into practice an innovative management philosophy, potential for sharing and learning, for many infrastructure companies, governments, organizations, and at the same time for financial systems in Israel and around the world. The knowledge accumulated within the company is an asset that can be leveraged for further and larger business activity around the world. This is the most significant current and future fighting space, and CYBERGYM has some of the most advanced technological capabilities and as such can address and protect against cyber-attacks that also pose a risk to financial systems."