Weekly Commercial Media Report for the period 07-14 March 2025

A.Israel-Internal

Egged wins tender to operate TA light rail Purple, Green Lines

NTA Metropolitan Mass Transit System has announced that the Tel Aviv Metropolitan light rail Green and Purple Lines will be operated by Egged Holdings Ltd. The tender is worth an estimated NIS 1.5 billion. There were five other bids in the tender: Netiv Express and Superbus; Dan and Spanish company Marfina; Metropolin; Chinese company CCECC; and Shapir and Spanish company CAF.

https://en.globes.co.il/en/article-egged-wins-tender-to-operate-ta-light-rail-purple-green-lines-1001504636

Israel's fiscal deficit narrows for fifth straight month

Israel's fiscal deficit narrowed in the twelve months to the end of February 2025, for the fifth consecutive month, to 5.3% of GDP, or NIS 107.9 billion, Ministry of Finance accountant general Yali Rothenberg reported today. In the twelve months to the end of January 2025, the fiscal deficit was 5.7%.

https://en.globes.co.il/en/article-israels-fiscal-deficit-narrows-for-fifth-straight-month-1001504134

Good news for importers: "What's good for Europe" reform will expand to the US

Easier imports from the US: The Ministry of Economy wants to speed up processes for importers who import consumer products from the US to save them time and costs. A similar reform regarding the European market went into effect in March of this year, and a second wave of it will take place in May. All this in light of the worsening cost of living in Israel. Importers are also awaiting similar relief for imports from China.

https://www.ynet.co.il/economy/article/r11ttnl21g

B.Israel-Multilateral

Israel moves up in int'l arms trade

Arms imports by European countries shot up by 155% in the period 2020-2024, in comparison with 2015-2019, and, despite the challenges of the Swords of Iron war, Israel rose to eight place for arms exports, displacing Spain, according to the annual report of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), which monitors the global arms trade.

In last year's report, which covered the period 2019-2023, Spain accounted for 2.7% of all arms exports, and Israel 2.4%. In the current report, covering 2020-2024, Israel's share of arms exports is 3.1%, and that of Spain 3%. Above Israel are such countries as the UK (3.6%), Italy (4.8%), Germany (5.6%), Russia (7.8%), and France (9.6%).

https://en.globes.co.il/en/article-israel-moves-up-in-intl-arms-trade-1001504142

Israel's Matrix to snap up Magic Software in $2.1 billion IT services merger deal

Israeli information technology provider Matrix IT Ltd. has inked an initial agreement to buy rival Magic Software Enterprises Ltd. in a mega merger deal worth NIS 7.7 billion ($2.1 billion). The NIS 7.7 billion valuation of the merged firm "would place it among the top 10 largest publicly traded IT services companies in the US and in Europe," Matrix said.

https://www.timesofisrael.com/israels-matrix-to-snap-up-magic-software-in-2-1-billion-it-services-merger-deal/

IAI reports record $6.1 billion in sales as global demand for weapons surges

Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) recorded an all-time sales record in 2024, with revenue rising 14% compared to the previous year, reaching $6.1 billion. The state-owned defense company's net profit surged 55% to $493 million.

https://www.calcalistech.com/ctechnews/article/0irc75m2m

C. Tenders

Company	Contact	Description	Submission Date
Israel Electric Company	Yosef Assaf 072-3433455 yosef.asaf@iec.co.il	**Purchase of MG engines for the Tzafit, Hagit and Rotenberg military bases** https://ieccontent.iec.co.il//media/oreja1ar/tender-no-103875300.zip?_gl=1*6qfulv*_ga*MTMxMTQ0MTg3OC4xNzQyMTk2MDg1*_ga_YV0HLRMFQY*MTc0MjE5NjA4NC4xLjEuMTc0MjE5NjEyMi4wLjAuMA..	04.05.2025