

Water loss initiative saves water, creates jobs

America's water infrastructure is aging and a pilot initiative in Detroit promises to reduce water losses while creating jobs in the region.

In May 2009 Israeli company Miya launched a new pilot initiative in the United States called "Green jobs for blue waters" to help replace aging water infrastructure and create jobs in the sector in the state of Michigan.

Miya will work with Detroit's Water Works Park, Michigan's Water and Sewerage Department, and the city of Farmington Hills, to set up pilot demonstration projects to lower the amount of water losses in Detroit and Farmington Hills, and create jobs throughout the region.

Representatives from Israel-based Miya will work side by side with experts in Michigan to help identify faulty pipes, and leaks, and will develop ways to fix water loss problems.

Project organizers say they plan to expand the program to the entire Michigan region to help stimulate jobs in water engineering, maintenance,

installation, and manufacturing.

"As these projects expand, we will train more Michigan workers and develop expertise that we can export nationally and globally as well," said Lt. Gov. John Cherry at the official opening of Green Jobs for Blue Waters. The initiative will create new jobs and in the long term save taxpayers' money as water savings translates to energy savings.

Booky Oren from Miya said it was a business opportunity for Miya, but also one for Michigan as well. "I think that when you are dealing with efficiency, you create more from existing resources," he told the *Michigan Business Review*.

Most water system operators make "major mistakes" in seeking to immediately replace pipes when leaks occur, he said. By controlling pressure, you immediately reduce the water loss amount and only after that you have a lot of data

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(about) what's going on, and then you begin to prioritize where you replace pipes," Oren said.

Miya, based in Tel Aviv, specializes in developing urban water-loss technology to help cities benefit from the huge opportunity presented by water loss reduction

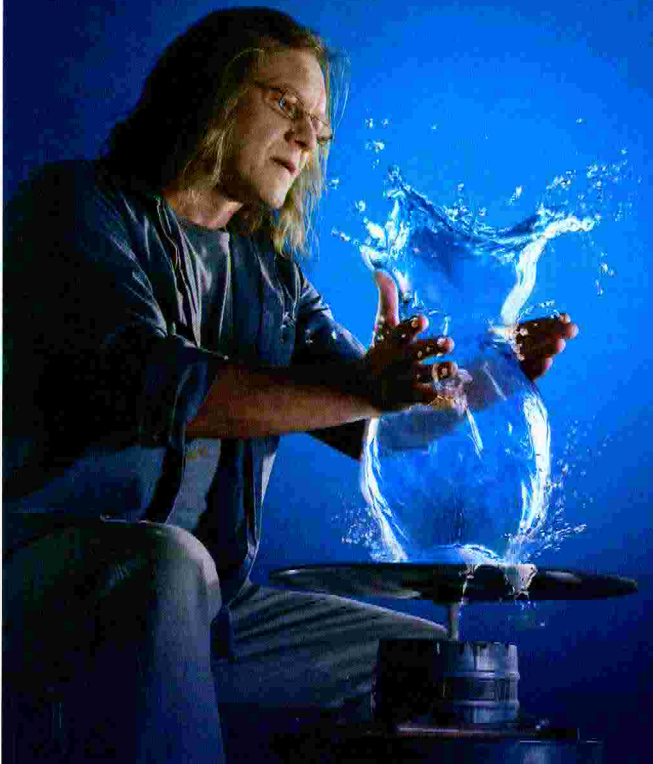
and effective management of urban water. The company provides a package of tools and expertise including acoustic sensors and technologies that can better control water pressure over an entire municipality.

Supplying water to four million customers, the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department estimates it loses up to nine percent of its drinking water supply, mainly due to leaks. Miya aims to send staff to man the two new pilot projects in Michigan to help alleviate water losses immediately, while the project looks for local partners to help fulfill its goal of creating new jobs, and a more environmentally friendly water works system.

This article is based on a feature originally published by the non-profit foundation ISRAEL21c on its website www.israel21c.org.



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