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## Press Release

### **Accountant General Approved Insurance for Export Deals Worth USD 1 Billion through Ashra in Last Three Months**

**Accountant General: "Insuring export deals and undertaking of risk by the state are important tools in aiding exporters during this crisis"**

**Ashra** is a company under full government ownership that insures Israeli exporters against default on payments by buyers who order transactions and services overseas, thus enabling the execution of Israeli export transactions using medium- and long-term credit. The deals are insured based on state guarantees that allow the company to offer insurance to manufacturers.

The export deals insured by the company are approved by a committee headed by the Accountant General, which also includes representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Labor. Among other factors, deals are approved according to the Accountant General's risk management policy and the state guarantee granted. Ashra has recently started insuring commercial risk in export deals as well, in addition to its traditional insurance of political risk.

Committee meetings convened in November 2008 – February 2009 approved 27 export deals at a monetary volume of approximately USD 1 billion, versus deals worth about USD 560 million in the corresponding period one year earlier. Of these, deals worth USD 250 million were in India, USD 170 million in Mexico, USD 120 million in Ghana, USD 82 million in Vietnam, USD 70 million in Russia, and USD 35 million in China.

Ministry of Finance Accountant General **Shuky Oren** commented, "Insuring export deals and undertaking of risk by the state are important tools in aiding exporters during this crisis. Demand for this insurance has greatly increased recently. We will continue to support Israeli exports, as necessary; we view export deal insurance as a supplementary tool to the NIS 0.5 billion credit fund for exporters."

Ashra CEO **Arnon Ikan** noted that the company is prepared to cope with the growing needs of Israeli exporters and the increase in its volume of activity. Ikan added that requests received by the company are addressed within a brief timeframe, with attention to the mounting competition over the various deals.