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Press Release

Leverage Tender Succeeds: Winning Group to Establish a NIS 2 Billion Fund

The Bereshit Group is the winner of the first tender for management of the fund, having raised NIS 1.5 billion. The Ministry of Finance will work to establish another leverage fund within the next few days.

Finance Minister Roni Bar-On: "This move will provide oxygen to many companies in the Israeli economy and allow them to continue to operate, while saving the jobs of many employees"

The first tender for the establishment of a "leverage fund" was a success. The Bereshit Group, headed by Emmanuel Wasserman, Ran Grodetzky, and Tzuri Lavi, won the tender, which ended last Thursday, by raising the largest amount from institutional entities. The government has made a commitment to invest NIS 500 million in the fund, and the Bereshit Group was able to raise NIS 1.5 billion from the institutional entities. Thus, the first leverage fund will have over NIS 2 billion under management.

Six groups entered the first tender, but two groups were disqualified because their bids were submitted after the deadline. All contenders, including both the disqualified groups and the winning group, have been notified. The tender committee will convene within the next few days to discuss the rapid establishment of a second leverage fund.

Minister of Finance **Roni Bar-On** commented, "The rapid execution of the leverage fund plan, a key element of the comprehensive acceleration plan launched several months ago, is important news for the Israeli economy. This move will provide oxygen to many companies in the Israeli economy, which are coping with the severe credit crisis in their operations in Israel, and allow them to continue to operate, while saving the jobs of many employees."

The chairman of the tender committee, Ministry of Finance Accountant General **Shuky Oren**, said, "The outcome of the tender is a major professional success for the Ministry of Finance, but more than that, important news for the Israeli capital market. The leverage funds were launched to assist companies whose operations are primarily conducted in Israel in reaching debt arrangements with institutional entities; the rapid rollout of the first fund, at a substantial volume of NIS 2 billion, constitutes an important tool for addressing the crisis in the local capital market. We view the continued swift implementation of the plan as highly important, and we will work to realize this goal in the coming days."