



# 2023 OurCrowd Global Investor Summit

*Where the startup world gathers*

February 15, 2023

Highlights & Summary



# The Startup World Gathered on February 15, 2023

**Top investors, entrepreneurs, venture capitalists, corporate executives, government officials, and journalists engaged in a packed week of activities,** including tech and press tours, corporate meetups, VC forums, insider access to accelerators, labs, and startups—and of course, some great partying. The Summit has become one of the largest and most important tech events in the world and the largest investor event in the Middle East, with 76 delegations from 86 countries.

**Speakers included** Gulf business leaders such as Director General of Abu Dhabi Investment Office HE Abdulla Abdul Aziz Al Shamsi, VCs such as Partner at Breakthrough Energy Ventures Christina Karapataki and CEO of Honda Innovations Nick Sugimoto, government figures such as Israel's President Isaac Herzog and U.S. Ambassador Thomas Nides, celebrities like "Fauda" star and co-creator Lior Raz and Master Chef Michal Ansky, and of course CEO of OurCrowd Jon Medved.



*This is very impressive. What you've pulled off, what you've created. Congratulations"*  
—Thomas Nides, U.S. Ambassador to Israel

17,411

Summit Week  
Attendance

945

Entrepreneurs

1,096

Multinational  
Corporate  
Representatives

635

Venture  
Capitalists

2,038

Scheduled  
Meetings

30

Summit Week  
Events



# The Summit Day Experience

After a smooth registration, attendees plunged into a stimulating – and crowded – sensory experience of ideas, technology, and global networking.

- **Incredibly diverse programming** with industry leaders speaking on crucial topics (such as “Top 10 Tech Trends for 2023”), dramatic emotional moments on the main stage (how ThetaRay’s tech thwarted a human trafficking ring), and breakout sessions tackling political, economic and social issues (“How To Plant a Billion Trees”)
- **OurCrowd University for Investors and OurCrowd Entrepreneurs Academy** provided crucial education (such as “Tech Fundraising in a Down Market”)
- **109 exhibitors**, including special spaces such as the Abu Dhabi and Morocco pavilions, Food and Agri Tech Space, and HealthTech Innovation Zone
- **Interactive tech demos**, such as AirEV’s private aircraft model and simulator, the SNC Start-up Nation Finder database, and Largix’s 3D printed furniture
- **All-day networking**, including 2,000+ facilitated meetings among investors, startups, corporate execs, and other members of the global crowd



*It is exciting to welcome all of you—especially brothers and sisters from the Abraham Accords countries—with whom a joint conference of this nature would have been pure fantasy only a few years ago”*  
—Isaac Herzog, President of Israel





# Saving the Planet, Saving Lives

Audiences at the Opening and Closing Plenaries heard how private company technologies are tackling some of the most pressing threats to our world, including climate change and hunger, as well as impacting individuals and society, from AR-based surgery to companion robots for the elderly.

- **The ability of FoodTech to reduce carbon gases** while providing healthy alternatives for a growing global population was on display, as Celebrity Chef Nir Zook prepared “salmon” from startup Plantish and “lambchops” from Moon Steak live onstage, and Master Chef Michal Ansky put them to the taste test, declaring them comparable to the originals and great tasting.
- Eyal Harel, CEO of **BlueGreen Water Technologies**, explained how its toxic algae remediation not only keeps water fresh but reduces carbon emissions, in one example removing 45,000 tons from a single lake in three days. Christina Karapataki, Partner at Breakthrough Energy Ventures, warned that to get to net-zero, the grid must grow 400% by 2050. Breakthrough Energy, founded by Bill Gates, shares six investments with OurCrowd.
- Alon Zuckerman, President of **Surgical Theater**, described how the company’s visualization software empowered clinical teams to make crucial decisions and prepare for surgery on Itai, a young boy with a life-threatening tumor. Suddenly, Itai ran onto the stage, kicking a soccer ball, cancer-free. To the audience’s amazement, and delight, Itai then revealed that Alon was in fact his father. “This is not just a job I do. It’s saving lives, my son’s included.”



*If we want to treat global warming, there is no way to do that if we don't treat and disrupt the food chain as we know it today"*

—Noga Sela Shalev, CEO, FreshStart FoodTech Incubator



# MENA Came to Israel

As a result of the Abraham Accords and OurCrowd's first-mover status, the Summit enjoyed unprecedented presence from the Gulf states and North Africa. Major exhibitions sponsored by Abu Dhabi Investment Office and Abu Dhabi Global Market as well as Morocco Now were a destination, and business leaders from across the Middle East and North Africa were onstage and in the halls.

- **Abdulla Abdul Aziz AlShamsi, Director General of Abu Dhabi Investment Office**, described his intention to create opportunities for Israeli businesses through the Abu Dhabi platform. When he revealed it was his first time in Jerusalem, the audience broke into applause and after it finally died down, the Director General, clearly moved by the warm response, said, "That round of applause for me goes to Jon [Medved]. For me, he made this happen. It was a phone call from someone I'm honored to call a friend, and a brother, who made the ability for us to come to Jerusalem and be present with you today. And these long-term partnerships – and friendships, more importantly – are the main reason why we want to cultivate more commercial relationships with Abu Dhabi."
- **On the mainstage and breakout sessions** at both the Summit and the OurCrowd Leaders Forum, audiences were treated to insider intel and best practices about doing business across the MENA region. Maya Horgan Famodu, Managing Partner & Founder of Nigeria-based Ingressive Capital, cited the existing playbook for developing tech ecosystems, such as India and LATAM as a model to address African problems.
- Visitors to the **Abu Dhabi and Morocco pavilions** met with startups from those and other MENA countries and engaged in active discussions about cross-border cooperation and partnerships.



***We are looking for relevant technologies to existing problems"***

*—Salmaan Jaffery, Chief Business Development Officer,  
Dubai International Financial Center*



# New Paths to Investing

Attendees were intrigued to hear of a new class of investment opportunities previously unavailable to all but institutions and the largest, well-connected private investors. Fund managers from some of the most prestigious funds in the industry were on hand to explain their profiles and track records.

- With the theme that **diversification is key to investment success**, Andy Kaye, President of OurCrowd, told the plenary audience, "Just as OurCrowd democratized venture capital, it is now democratizing a whole new category which we're calling structured alternatives. This includes structured debt, venture lending, private equity secondaries, and a private equity index." Presentations included the managers of Arrow Global, Upper90, and Genesis Alternative Ventures – as well as Lior Raz, star of "Fauda," on investment in entertainment content.
- One class in the OurCrowd University track for investors was **"How To Make Alternative Investments Work for You."** Attendees learned about the importance of portfolio diversification, how the private markets can provide that diversification due to low correlation with the public markets, and insights into how to build a venture portfolio.
- At the **OurCrowd Leaders Forum**, Marc Fuhrmann, Principal, Real Estate at Arrow Global, described his firm's local knowledge of its markets, which gives it an advantage in selecting credit deals for its income-generating debt fund. Based on his experience at Goldman Sachs, Billy Libby, Co Founder and CEO of Upper90, said, "The best investors have an informational advantage." Jeremy Collier, Founder and CIO of Collier Capital, a pioneer in the secondaries market, said, "I'm confident this business is going to be at least half a trillion in 2030, from nothing 35 years ago."

“There is a parallel between startups and content. We start with an idea and we need to have seed money in order to make it happen”  
—Lior Raz, Star & Co-Creator, “Fauda”





# OurCrowd Leaders Forum

1,365 top investors, multinational execs, venture capitalists, and entrepreneurs gathered on the eve of the Summit to understand and address the deepest questions facing the global innovation community.

- **Shlomo Dovrat, Co-Founder and General Partner of Viola**, a leading technology-focused investment group, explained that the age of the consumer innovation cycle – social, mobile, and cloud – is starting to plateau. Alec Ellison, Chairman of OurCrowd US and former Vice Chairman of Jefferies, provided a survey of the current capital markets, the trends that defined 2022, and how global macro decisions are impacting investments.
- **“Task Forces” convened to discuss 16 important themes**, with a mandate to produce key insights and practical steps for the coming year. Topics included opportunities and threats resulting from the revolution in AI and healthcare in the next decade, with Anil Soni, CEO of the WHO Foundation observing that both innovation investment and individual generosity are essential to address global health challenges.
- **Scheduled meetings** were a centerpiece of this high-level event, including 660 between portfolio company CEOs and investors and 313 with multinational corporate executives.
- Sanotize, a breakthrough healthcare company whose first-in-class antimicrobial product has been proven 99.9% potent vs. viruses, conducted the **first-ever large-event clinical study** for flu prevention, and the results may be a game changer.



***It was the year where the tech innovation world in which we sit learned that macro matters”***

*—Alec Ellison, Chairman, OurCrowd U.S.,  
former Vice Chairman, Jefferies*



# A Packed Summit Week

Summit Week was more active, more productive, and more fun than ever, with corporate meetups, VC forums, insider access to accelerators and labs, and touring opportunities providing a unique insider's look at the innovation ecosystem, as well as some great partying.

- Curated by OurCrowd staff, **Tech Tours offered five sector tracks** as well as a dedicated press tour covering the breadth of the Israeli startup ecosystem. The Energy & Water tour traveled along Israel's coastline to explore how local tech is managing the climate crisis despite the region's scarcity of natural resources. BlueGreen Water Technologies CEO Eyal Harel demonstrated its water cleanup capabilities and explained how "water is carbon's natural regulator."
- This year, **Summit Day was moved to Wednesday** to allow appropriate time for followup on connections made during Summit Week and seal the deal on new partnerships and opportunities. High-level, invite-only investor meetings took place at the iconic Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.
- **Official Summit partner events** included tech investing conferences such as LongeviTech, an interdisciplinary conference for the global community, a Founder's Bootcamp, and a workshop on addressing challenges and opportunities in growing tech communities. Cultural and recreational activities included a boutique wine tour, opportunities to volunteer for food distribution to the poor, and private tours.
- **Nightlife activities** capped each day, including the OurCrowd Cocktail Gala at the world-famous Israel Museum, providing guests with fine food, wine, and conversation as well as tours of private collections, and capping the week with ShukTech at the Mahane Yehuda Market, the cultural center of Jerusalem.



“Our drones can map the site and tell us where to plant and where not to plant, so we can develop true biodiversity”

—Cameron Jones,  
Co-Founder & COO,  
Flash Forest



# High-Level Participation

## HIGHLIGHTED SPEAKERS

Abdulla Abdul Aziz AlShamsi, *Director General, Abu Dhabi Investment Office*  
Christina Karapataki, *Partner, Breakthrough Energy Ventures*  
Nick Sugimoto, *CEO, Honda Innovations*  
Isaac Herzog, *President of Israel*  
Thomas Nides, *U.S. Ambassador to Israel*  
Lior Raz, *Star & Co-creator, "Fauda"*  
Qing Liu, *President, Jiangsu Industrial Technology Research Institute*  
Jeremy Loh, *Co-Founder & Managing Partner, Genesis Alternative Ventures*  
Jeremy Collier, *Founder & CIO, Collier Capital*  
Salmaan Jaffery, *Chief Business Development Officer, Dubai International Financial Centre*  
Anil Soni, *CEO, WHO Foundation*  
Karin Noy, *Emerging Science & Innovation Lead, Pfizer*  
Saul Singer, *Author, "Startup Nation"*  
Rajat Bhargava, *CEO, JumpCloud*  
Dr. Lara Ramdin, *Chief Innovation Officer, Dole Foods*  
Dror Bin, *CEO, Israel Innovation Authority*  
Kristen Siemen, *Chief Sustainability Officer, General Motors*  
Melissa Drew, *Digital Transformation Executive Advisor, IBM*

## SELECT PRESS IN ATTENDANCE

Al Ittihad (UAE)  
Al-Watan (Bahrain)  
Associated Press  
BBC  
Bloomberg  
CBN  
Chosun (Korea)  
CNBC  
Daily Mail  
Deal Street Asia  
Financial Times  
Globes  
Hong Kong Economic Times  
Huffington Post  
Jerusalem Post  
Le Monde  
New Yorker  
Reuters  
Science and Technology Daily  
TechCrunch  
The Guardian  
The Independent  
The National  
The Telegraph  
The Times  
Time Magazine  
Times of Israel  
Wired  
Wired Japan  
Women's Health

## SELECT COMPANIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Adidas  
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Citibank  
Deutschebank  
Embassy of Great Britain  
General Motors  
Goldman Sachs  
Honda  
HP  
Huawei  
Intel  
Israel Innovation Authority  
Isrotel  
Jaguar  
Johnson & Johnson  
JP Morgan  
KPMG  
LinkedIn  
Meta  
Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance  
Monday.com  
Morgan Stanley  
NTT  
Orrix  
PwC  
Samsung  
Sony Music Entertainment  
Stifel  
Sumitomo  
Toshiba  
Toyota  
Travelers  
U.S. Department of Energy  
UAE Israel Innovation Office  
UBS

## SELECT ATTENDING VCS

Bessemer Venture Partners  
Blackstone  
Blumberg Capital  
BMW iVentures  
Boeing HorizonX  
Breakthrough Energy Ventures  
Collier Capital  
E.ON  
Genesis Alternative Ventures  
Google Ventures  
iAngels  
IBM Ventures  
Johnson & Johnson Innovation  
LG Technology Ventures  
M12 (Microsoft venture fund)  
Macquarie Capital  
Motorola Solutions Venture Capital  
PICO Venture Partners  
Pitango Venture Capital  
Porsche Ventures  
Qualcomm Ventures  
Qumra Capital  
Samsung Catalyst  
SoftBank Investment Advisors  
Susquehanna Growth Equity  
Suzhou Junzhuo Venture Capital  
Terra Venture Partners  
Vega Ventures  
Viola Group

## SELECT COUNTRIES REPRESENTED

Australia  
Brazil  
Canada  
China  
France  
Germany  
Hong Kong  
India  
Ireland  
Italy  
Jordan  
Kenya  
Korea  
Kuwait  
Luxembourg  
Mexico  
New Zealand  
Norway  
Philippines  
Russia  
Saudi Arabia  
Singapore  
South Africa  
Spain  
Sweden  
Switzerland  
Taiwan  
United Arab Emirates  
U.K.  
U.S.



*What a great way to spend the day, with a tremendous group of people"*

*—Christina Karapataki, Partner, Breakthrough Energy Ventures*



# 2023 Sponsors

## Strategic Partner



## Diamond



## Platinum



## Gold



## Silver



## Bronze



**“To change the world, we need both the public and the private sectors working together”**  
—Anil Soni, CEO, WHO Foundation





# Access the Summit Through Video, Press, and More

## Session Videos



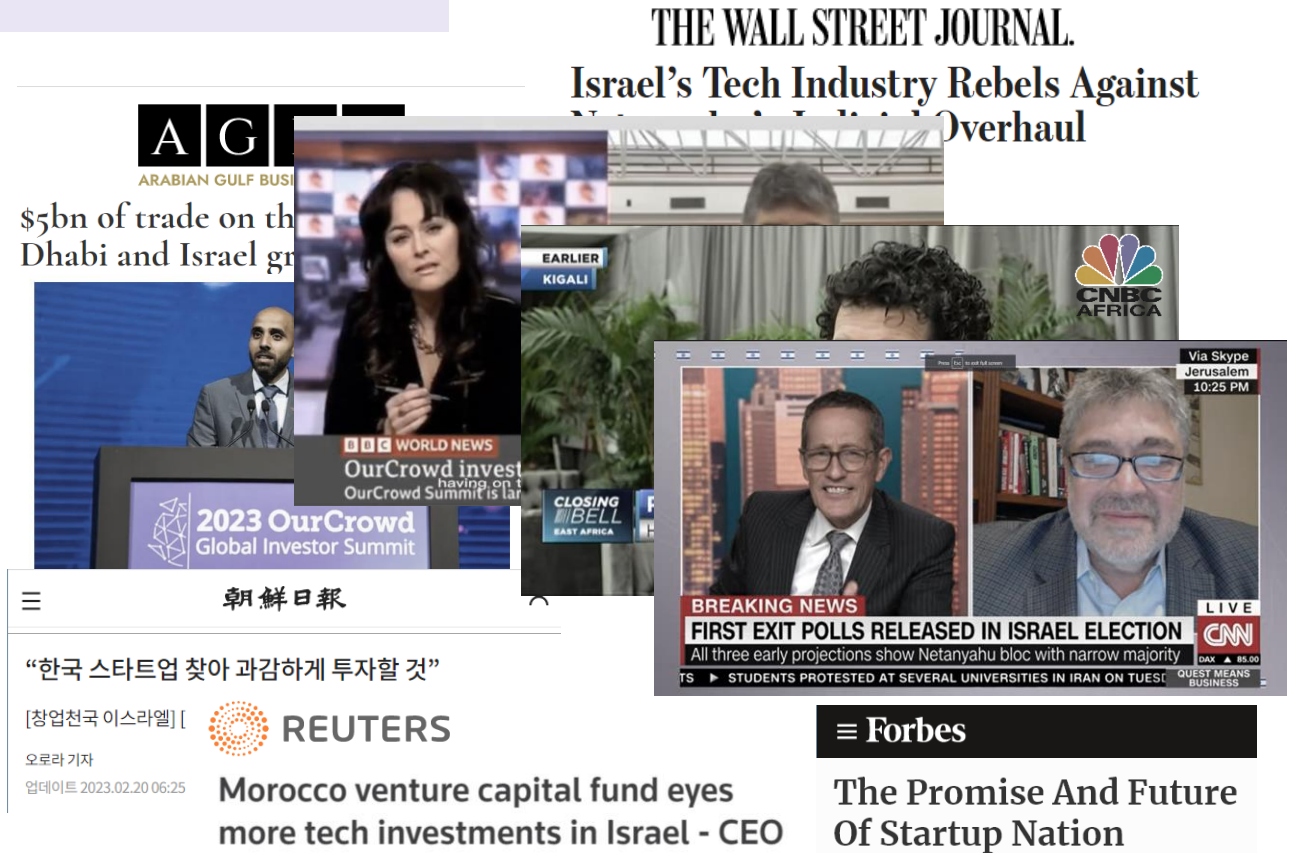
## Photos



## Full Replay



## Press Coverage



“There are still enormous resources going into venture capital”  
—Jon Medved, Founder & CEO, OurCrowd