

David Zvilichovsky

Title:

The Israeli High-Tech Eco-System: History and Perspective

Abstract

“Israel is, by many measures, the country (relative to its population) that has done the most to contribute to the technology revolution “ Bill Gates

In this talk we will review some of the shaping episodes in Israel's Innovative path. Israel, in many ways a true entrepreneurial venture in its own right, supports the creation of hundreds of new startups every year. A country that, over decades, invested in research and development (as a % of GDP) more than any other nation on the globe; a country where the heavy burden of security financing and a challenging environment encouraged rather than stiffened innovation; a country where the availability of venture capital, measured per capita, is highest in the world.

Evaluating the recipe, which created the startup nation, is an ongoing task. Many feel that part of the magic incorporates a disobedient culture, where thinking out of the box and not doing exactly what you are told are common practices, even as part of the mandatory military service. Notwithstanding such a culture trait, much of Israel's success is also attributed to government policies and smart interventions which supported and continue to actively support innovation and investment in technology and R&D.

Short Biography

David Zvilichovsky is a senior faculty member at Tel Aviv University's School of Management. He joined the Business School after serving as an executive in the Israeli hi-tech sector for more than 20 years.

Dr Zvilichovsky started his career as a software engineer for Eshed Robotec (IPO, Nasdaq) and later became the company's Head of R&D. David worked with and has consulted for some of Israel's leading technology companies including Comverse, Scitex, and Electric Fuel. He co-founded IPHighway, a pioneer in the Network QOS space and has been active in numerous financing and M&A transactions including the sale of Ad4Ever to aQuantive (now Microsoft). Over the years David has been active as a board member and advisor in the areas of Venture Capital, Technology Innovation and Early Stage Ventures. During the 2008 market crisis he also served as a special economic advisor to the national economic council at the Israeli Prime Minister's Office.

David holds a Ph.D. in Economics as well as an MSc. in Computer Sciences from Tel Aviv University. He completed his undergraduate studies in Computer Sciences, Mathematics and Economics at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Dr Zvilichovsky's research emphasizes the interconnection between innovation, uncertainty and financial markets with a focus on venture financing, network externalities and the new internet economy. His recent research projects study crowdfunding, innovation and entrepreneurship

Dr. Zvilichovsky currently teaches courses in entrepreneurship, innovation and micro-economics, as well as an interdisciplinary course titled: "*Lessons Learned from Israeli Innovation*" which is offered as a joint program together with the Wharton Business School.