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Nature Meets Technology with Visonic's Innovative PowerG™

New wireless technology helps Israel Nature & Parks Authority to monitor vultures' behavior to protect their declining population in Israel.

Tel-Aviv, Israel – December 23, 2010 – Visonic Ltd., a leading developer and manufacturer of wireless home security and safety systems and components, today announced that the Israel Nature & Parks Authority (INPA) has chosen the company's groundbreaking PowerG™ technology to enable research that will help protect the griffon vulture population in Israel.

The population of the griffon vulture in Israel has been rapidly and sadly declining, only a couple of hundred birds remain in the wild. This dramatic decline has been caused mainly by the massive and uncontrolled use of pesticides that result in poisonings, ill-treatment and accidental electrocution. Moreover, many important aspects of their demography and feeding habits are not fully understood. This knowledge is crucial to implementing proper management measures. As a result, the INPA initiated a research program to monitor and observe the vultures' behavior and activities. The hope is that the collected research data on the vultures' feeding and mating habits will provide clues to ensure the vultures' survival and will shed light on the mystifying population decline.

To monitor the vultures' behavior, the INPA constructed over 20 feeding stations across Israel. These feeding stations provide the vultures with sufficient food, free of poisons and chemicals. At each feeding station, the INPA rangers place in close proximity a "logger"—a special device containing a wireless Visonic transceiver that communicates using the company's innovative PowerG RF technology. Also, a tag containing a Visonic PowerG transceiver is attached to a wing of each vulture.



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The tag communicates with the feeding station's logger. To enable reliable monitoring, Visonic developed a special application over the PowerG technology: when a vulture is far from the feeding station, the tag sends a signal to the logger approximately every four minutes. The logger normally will not receive the signal due to the distance. However, when the vulture reaches the proximity of the feeding station (several hundred meters), the logger will begin to receive the signal. From that moment on, as long as the vulture is in communication distance from the logger, the tag sends signals every few seconds. The logger then records various data such as which vulture is at the feeding station and its signal strength. This provides critical information about the vultures' eating habits and group behavior.

Visonic's PowerG technology perfectly answers the INPA's needs for this important research project: the two-way synchronized transmission enables robust communication between the tag and logger and an adaptive signal rate based on distance; the RF range is broad, ensuring a communication distance of several hundred meters; the battery lifetime of the tags is sufficient (more than three years); and the equipment is rugged enough for outdoor conditions, while lightweight enough to be attached to the vultures' wings.

"We are excited about the new possibilities Visonic's PowerG-based devices are opening for us," commented Ohad Hatzofe, Avian Ecologist at the Science & Conservation division of the INPA. "This technology empowers us to collect crucial data for understanding the behavior and habits of the vultures and will subsequently enable us to protect them and increase their population."



About the Israel Nature & Parks Authority

The Israel Nature and Parks Authority (INPA) is a governmental body responsible for the protection of nature, landscape and heritage in Israel. INPA has three main goals: protection of biodiversity, ecosystems and landscapes in national parks, nature reserves and open spaces; protection of heritage sites in national parks and nature reserves and fostering them for the benefit of visitors; education to instill the values of protection of nature, landscape and heritage sites and to increase public awareness of these issues. Please visit: www.parks.org.il.



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About Visonic

The Visonic Group (TASE:VSC.TA), founded in 1973, is a leading developer and manufacturer of cutting-edge home security systems and components that provide people around the world peace of mind and safety in their homes. Building on its decades-long position at the forefront of home security innovation, Visonic is today leading the drive to expand the boundaries of security, offering advanced solutions to the full range of residential safety needs, from securing the house and contents to safeguarding the health and comfort of the people who live there.

Visonic's offerings include a wide variety of home security systems, personal emergency response and safety systems, and a market-leading variety of peripherals. Visonic is headquartered in Israel, where it operates a development center and manufacturing plant. Its sales and marketing subsidiaries in the USA, Germany, UK, Poland, Spain and Hong Kong are supplemented by a worldwide network of distributors, serving a growing installed base that spans more than 70 countries. Please visit www.visonic.com.

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