



# Clean Air: Natural Gas-powered Garbage Trucks in Haifa

Ran Amir, CEO of Finepro Consulting, representing experts and international companies that have accumulated a great deal of experience in the world of cogeneration and gas: "Natural gas is cleaner and significantly cheaper than other fuels, and in the future it will save 40-60% of the thermal energy costs needed for each plant and household." | Or Chai, Photos: **Finepro Consulting**

It's only a matter of time before the Israeli economy finally internalizes the discovery of gas. Likewise, global companies, primarily car manufacturers, have started switching to gas- and electric-powered vehicles — not to depend on expensive and polluting fuels," says Ran Amir, CEO of Finepro Consulting from Beit Itzhak, which represents experts and international companies with extensive experience in the area of cogeneration and gas (NG/LNG/CNG) in Israel.

"Gas discoveries in Israel are really good news for the Israeli economy and industry," says Amir, "because natural gas is cleaner than any other fuel. In addition, the gas is significantly cheaper than other fuels, and in the future it will save about 40-60% of the thermal energy costs needed for each plant and household."



cituv tmuna | Photo: PR

ceived the approval of the Israeli authorities, and the company intends to manufacture it and start its operation in the near future.

According to Amir, "the Haifa municipality is really the first swallow. If local authorities are successful in switching to CNG garbage trucks, more will join country-wide, because of significant cost savings and reduced pollution in residential areas."

Finepro Consulting also represents Idromeccanica in Turkey, and has already begun developing a similar project for a Turkish gas company in Izmir. This company found that the design and performance of the Israeli model can be adapted to meet its demanding requirements for refueling a large number of buses in a short time. Turkey is highly advanced in the area of gas-powered public transportation vehicles.

Thousands of buses are powered by natural gas, and the market is still growing.

## Energy efficiency

Finepro Consulting was founded in 2001 as a consulting firm, and since then has been involved in international and commercial projects and tenders outside Israel, including in the fields of cogeneration, wind, and PV thermodynamics. The company offers consulting services in engineering design and turnkey solutions (TK) to engineering firms, contracting companies, and industrial plants, in choosing suitable technological solutions with appropriate budgetary control.

With the advance of natural gas in Israel, the company started business development alongside implementation of leading technological solutions. The idea was to assemble top European experts and equipment manufacturers, especially since the State of Israel chose to adopt

European standards for gas and transportation.

Finepro Consulting will soon begin to market in Israel LPG/natural gas-operated refrigeration/heating units and chiller absorption systems developed by Robur Italy, which is considered a pioneer in the field. Finepro Consulting has already begun planning and executing an experimental project in the center of the country, aimed at replacing all the conventional electric-operated AC units. Initially, the AC units will be LPG-operated, to reduce electricity costs, and later, after the site is connected to the gas line, the units will be operated by natural gas.

The company is also active at the industrial level and offers chillers with large refrigeration capacity to logistic centers and to large plants, using refrigeration that saves on operating costs. In the industrial market, the company will offer cooling units that also produce hot water of up to 75°C in storage tanks, for domestic or industrial use.

"In fact, the output of hot water is a byproduct created by exploiting the gas burning in the system," Amir notes. "We certainly see an interesting development, where more units will be installed to replace the electricity-guzzling products in our home. The consumers will save money and enjoy combined energy for cooling and heating water at minimal cost."

Today, Finepro Consulting works with developers and construction companies to begin the planning and deployment of water cooling and heating systems already at the initial stage of design, especially in case of residential towers, because of their high concentration of central systems.

