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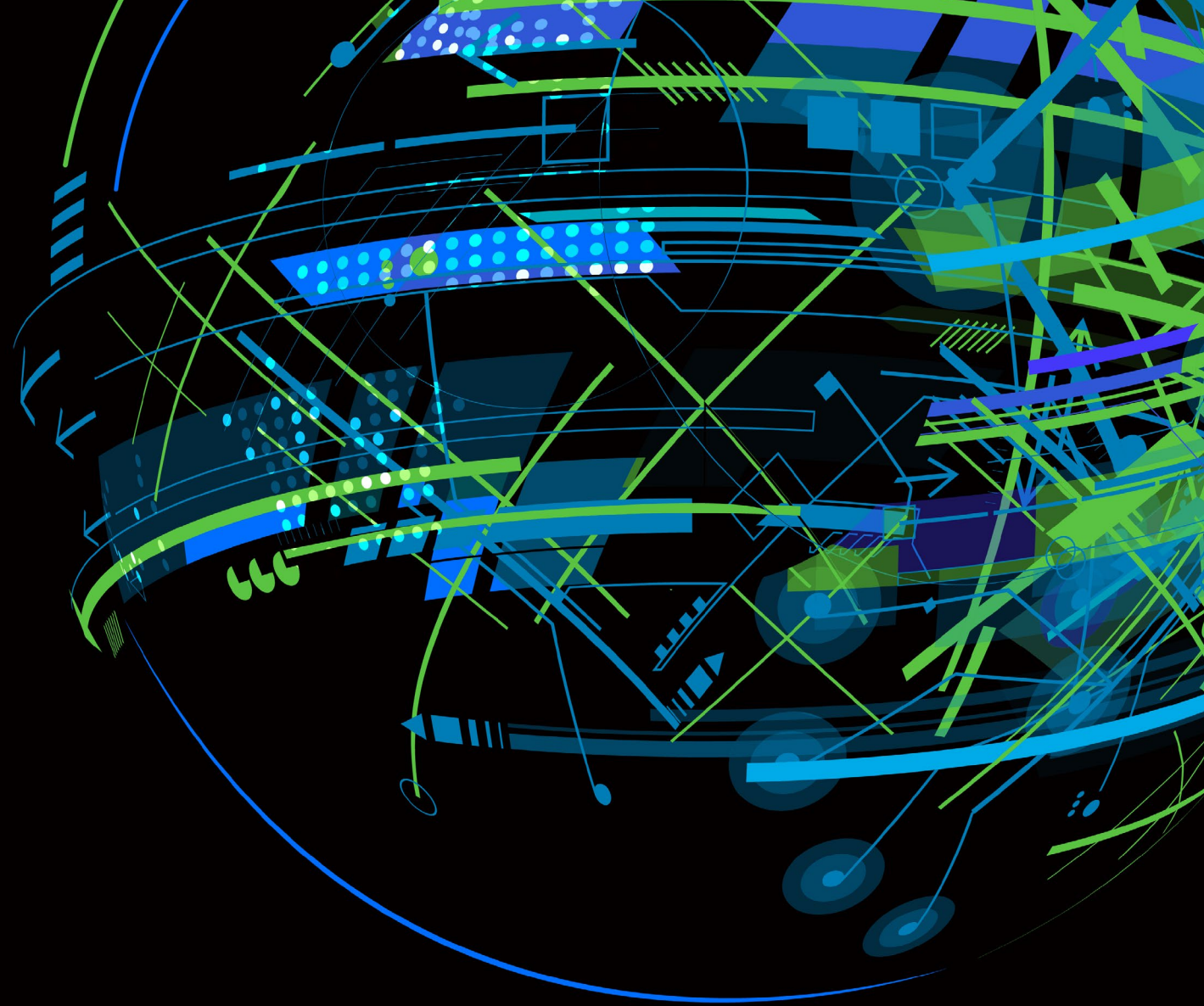
Deloitte Technology Fast 50

5th Edition

Middle East and Cyprus

50

Technology **Fast 50**
DME



Contents



Foreword

It is with immense pride and enthusiasm that we present the results of the fifth edition of the Deloitte Middle East & Cyprus Technology Fast 50 program. This edition marks half a decade of celebrating the extraordinary dynamism and entrepreneurial spirit that blossoms across our region. We are also pleased to observe the program's expanding recognition annually across the region, attracting a rising number of applications and significantly better representation.

The Technology Fast 50 program stands as a testament to the relentless innovation and resilience of companies across the Middle East and Cyprus. This program has been about more than just numbers; it's about the stories behind the growth, the passion that fuels every breakthrough, and the solid belief in a brighter future.

Each year, we are inspired by the dedication of companies that not only achieve great revenue success but also inspire us as they pioneer groundbreaking solutions, challenge conventional thinking, and drive significant impact. These companies are more than fast-growing; they are growing with purpose, actively shaping the future, creating jobs, and establishing the technological bedrock for our region's sustained development.

In a world of rapid digital transformation that is constantly evolving, the ability to innovate, adapt, and build with a vision to scale is more critical than ever. The companies recognized in this year's Fast 50 embody these qualities, demonstrating exceptional leadership and a profound commitment to excellence. Their achievements underscore the vibrant ecosystem of talent and opportunity that thrives across the Middle East and Cyprus, making the region so unique.

At Deloitte, we are deeply committed to supporting this successful ecosystem. Through our Fast 50 program, we aim to provide these companies with increased visibility, brand recognition, and invaluable networking opportunities, fostering further growth and collaboration. Furthermore, this year's rankings highlight the diverse achievements celebrated through our special accolades, including 'Women in Leadership', 'Impact', 'Rising Star', and 'Kiyadat', showcasing talent across various markets.

In addition, reaching over 200 applications this year reflects the expansion of our program, and the relentless hard work behind it. Our team continues to work on advancing it within the region.

Continuing the trend observed in the past years, the top sectors that candidates belong to remain consistent: the Software sector, which now represents 38% (a notable increase from 31% last year), and the FinTech sector, maintaining a steady 22%. These companies are leveraging innovation to improve various aspects of life and society, highlighting the program's established presence and maturity in the region. At the same time, the application demographics have not shifted significantly either, as the leading countries are still



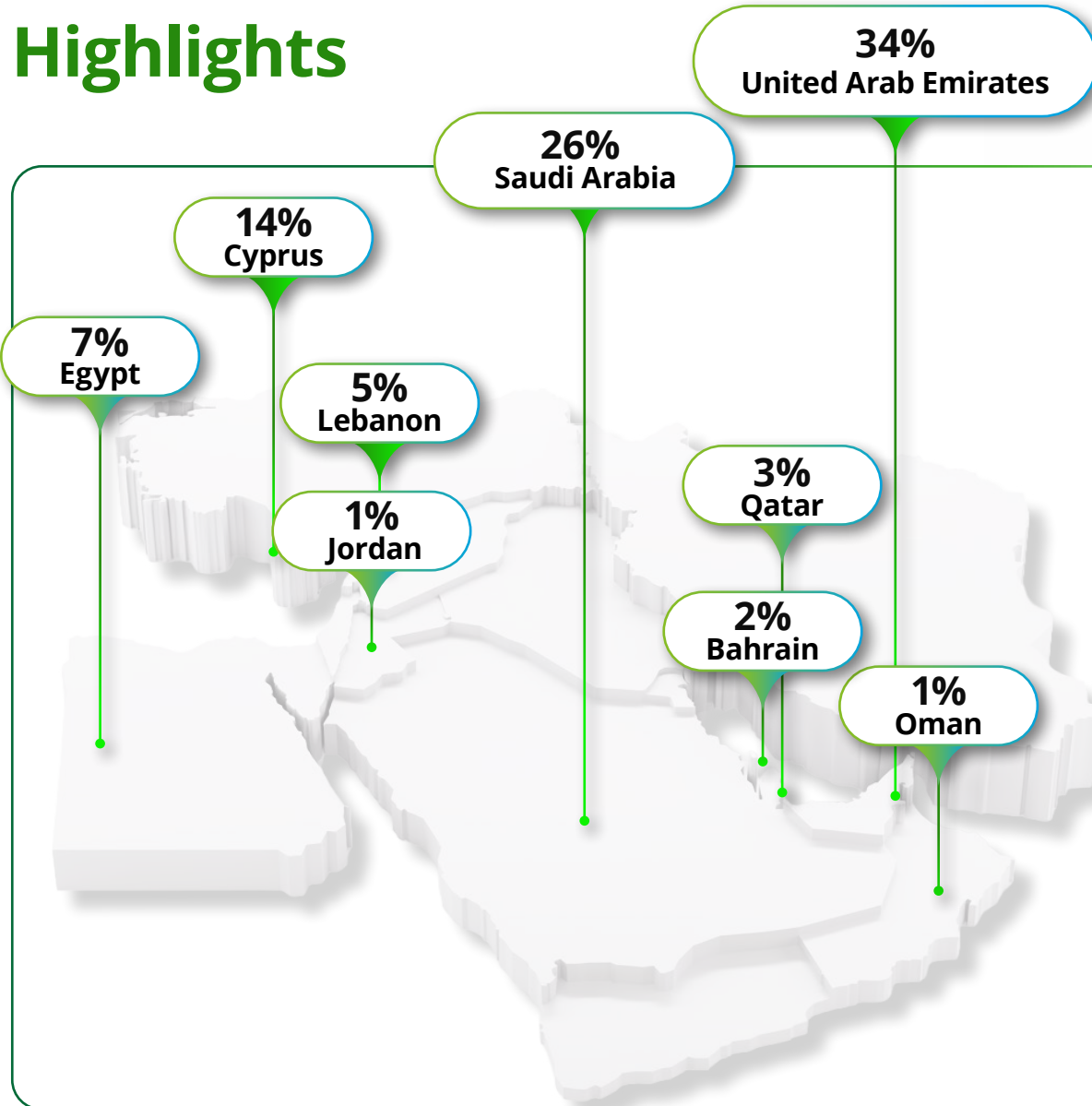
Kyriacos Charalambides
Partner
Fast 50 Program Leader
Deloitte Middle East

contributing the same to our candidate base: 34% from UAE, 26% from KSA, and 14% from Cyprus. This consistency reflects our program's established presence and maturity in the area.

The companies featured in this year's rankings record a high average growth rate of 12,643%, a leap from the previous year's 8,823%, demonstrating their exceptional capacity for advancement. Companies from our spotlight categories, Rising Star, Impact, and Women in Leadership, also deserve to be acknowledged for their growth. It is encouraging to see all the firms featured in our listing for their transformative and groundbreaking technologies that are set to redefine the world as we know it.

To all the participating companies, we extend our congratulations on their outstanding accomplishments and for sharing their inspirational journeys; their vision and commitment are a true inspiration for all. We look forward to witnessing the continued success and transformative impact and to seeing how they will further change our lives and the way we live, work, and communicate, while also creating solutions for addressing challenges that lie ahead. Finally, our immense gratitude also extends to the dedicated Deloitte team, whose support and trust in this program make it a truly special endeavour year after year.

Highlights



12643%

Average company growth across categories



In its 2nd year, the Kiyadat category continues to spotlight GCC talent, with growing interest and engagement



200+

Strong traction with 200+ applications



1000%

growth
26 companies achieved more than 1000% growth



38%



22%

Software (38%) and Fintech (22%) sectors dominate company rankings across categories



6107%

Largest growth within the Fast 50 main category



16%

of the ranked companies are led by women

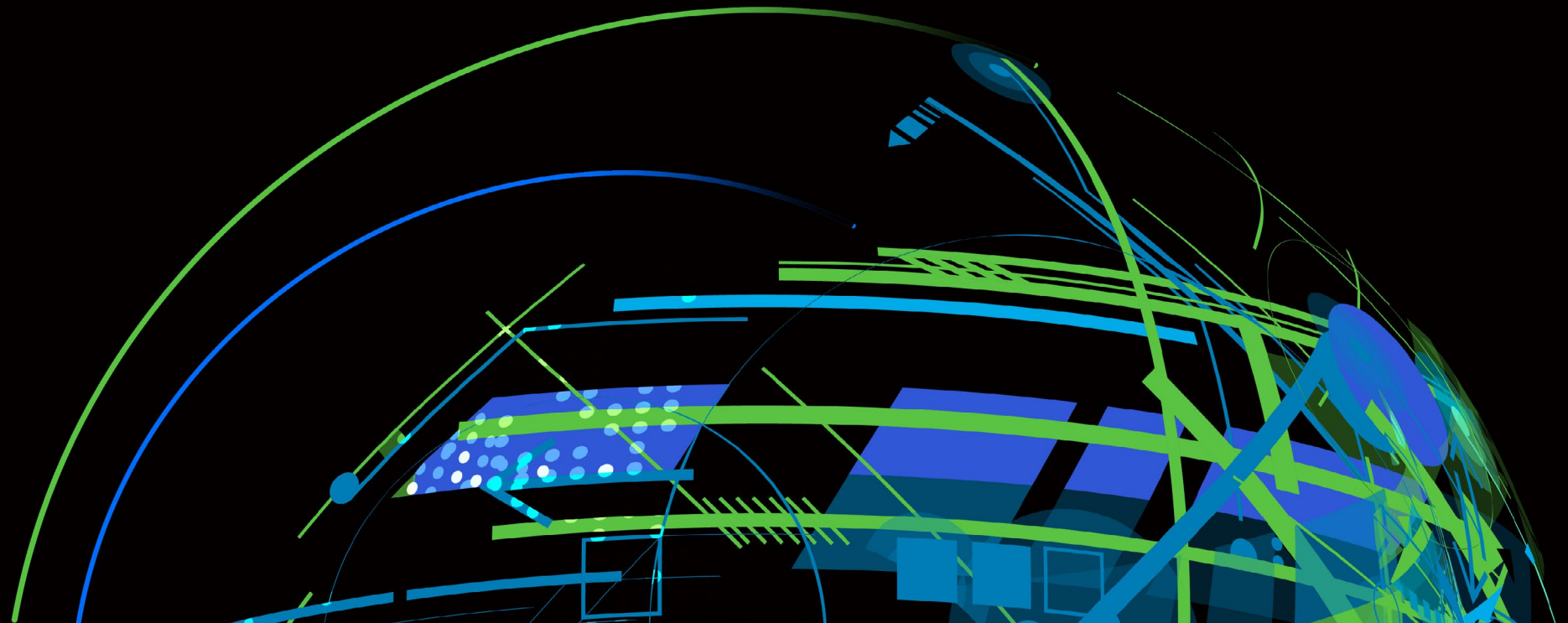


13 companies

making an impact through sustainable innovations

Fast 50


Deloitte's Technology Fast 50 recognizes and ranks the fastest-growing companies in the Middle East and Cyprus based on revenue growth over the last four years.



Fast 50 (1/4)

Position	Company name	Country	Industry	Website
1	Valeo Health	United Arab Emirates	Healthcare and Life sciences	www.feelvaleo.com
2	FundedNext	United Arab Emirates	Fintech	www.fundednext.com
3	Sarwa	United Arab Emirates	Fintech	www.sarwa.co
4	Nommas.ai	Saudi Arabia	Software	www.nommas.ai
5	Mrmandoob	Saudi Arabia	E-commerce	www.mrmandoob.com
6	Zofeur	United Arab Emirates	Software	www.zofeur.com
7	Lawazem	Saudi Arabia	E-commerce	www.lawazem.com
8	Juleb	Saudi Arabia	Software	www.juleb.com
9	KABi	Saudi Arabia	Software	www.kabi.ai
10	Istognosis	Cyprus	Software	www.istognosis.com
11	Intergo Telecom	Cyprus	Communications	www.intergotelecom.com
12	Cloud Nomads	Cyprus	Software	www.cloudnomads.com.cy
13	Arib	Saudi Arabia	Fintech	www.arib.com.sa

The **United Arab Emirates** is the leading geography, contributing **29%** of the total applications received



Fast 50 (2/4)

Position	Company name	Country	Industry	Website
14	Rayqube Future Tech	United Arab Emirates	Software	www.rayqube.com
15	Rihal	Oman	Software	www.rihal.om
16	Sadeem	Saudi Arabia	Communications	www.sadeemwss.com
17	Finery Markets	Cyprus	Fintech	www.finerymarkets.com
18	Schoolvoice	United Arab Emirates	EdTech	www.schoolvoice.com
19	Telgani	Saudi Arabia	Software	www.telgani.com
20	Mellow.io	Cyprus	HR Tech	www.mellow.io
21	Beyon Cyber	Bahrain	Cybersecurity	www.beyoncyber.com
22	Lenador Systems	United Arab Emirates	Software	www.lenadorsystems.com
23	Cerebra	Saudi Arabia	Software	www.cerebra.sa
24	AMLex Solutions Ltd	Cyprus	Fintech	www.amlex365.com
25	Propertyfinder	United Arab Emirates	Software	www.propertyfinder.ae
26	Valu	Egypt	Fintech	www.valu.com.eg

Saudi Arabia is the second leading geography, accounting for **24%** of total applications



Fast 50 (3/4)

Position	Company name	Country	Industry	Website
27	Acacus	United Arab Emirates	Software and Hardware	www.acacusgroup.com
28	Ziwo	United Arab Emirates	Software	www.ziwo.io
29	Dieture Kitchen	Qatar	E-commerce	www.dieture.com
30	Whish Money	Lebanon	Fintech	www.whish.money
31	Quiqup	United Arab Emirates	E-commerce	www.quiqup.com
32	CTM360	Bahrain	Cybersecurity	www.ctm360.com
33	Zension Technologies	Saudi Arabia	Fintech	www.zensiontec.com
34	Linkers	Saudi Arabia	Software	www.linkers.io
35	Dinarak	Jordan	Fintech	www.dinarak.com
36	eBOS Technologies	Cyprus	Fintech	www.ebos.com.cy
37	Justlife	United Arab Emirates	E-commerce	www.justlife.com
38	Balabook	Cyprus	Software	www.balabook.com
39	Anvin Infosystems	Qatar	Software	www.anvininfo.com
40	FreshSource	Egypt	Environmental Technology	www.freshsourceglobal.com

Accounting for **18%** of applications, **Cyprus** holds the third spot geographically



Fast 50 (4/4)

Position	Company name	Country	Industry	Website
41	Saudi AZM	Saudi Arabia	Software	www.azm.sa
42	CL8	Cyprus	Data Center & Cloud Services	www.cl8.com
43	Zygos Practice Management Software	Cyprus	Software	www.softline.com.cy
44	Kloudr	Lebanon	Cloud Services	www.kloudr.com
45	Codebase Technologies	United Arab Emirates	Fintech	www.codebtech.com
46	Alliners LLC	United Arab Emirates	EdTech	www.alliners.com
47	Hyperthink Systems	Qatar	Software	www.hyperthinksys.com
48	AdTech Holding	Cyprus	Media and Entertainment	www.adtechholding.com
49	Seafood Souq	United Arab Emirates	Software	www.seafoodsouq.com

Leading this category company rankings, the **Software sector** accounts for **37%**, with **Fintech** contributing **22%**



Rising Star

This category is for companies that show great potential but have been trading for less than three years and therefore do not meet the Technology Fast 50 award criteria.

Rising Star (1/4)

Position	Company name	Country	Industry	Website
1	OptimalPV	Saudi Arabia	Environmental Technology	www.optimalpv.com
2	Eltizam Platform	Saudi Arabia	Fintech	www.eltizam.sa
3	Disty	Saudi Arabia	E-commerce	www.disty.app
4	FundingPips	United Arab Emirates	Prop Trading	www.fundingpips.com
5	Omnispay	United Arab Emirates	Fintech	www.omnispay.com
6	MealPlanet	United Arab Emirates	Food Technology	www.mealplanet.com
7	Camb.AI	United Arab Emirates	Software	www.camb.ai
8	Sav	United Arab Emirates	Fintech	www.sav.money
9	Melkah app	Saudi Arabia	Software	www.melkah.com
10	OCTA	United Arab Emirates	Software	www.weareocta.com
11	Ahya	United Arab Emirates	Artificial intelligence	www.ahya.ai
12	Lisan AI	Saudi Arabia	Artificial Intelligence	www.lisan.com
13	Trase	Qatar	Software	www.gettrase.com
14	Placy	Cyprus	Software	www.placy.ai
15	Bellboy	United Arab Emirates	Software	www.bellboytech.com

The **United Arab Emirates** is the leading geography, contributing **36%** of the total applications received



Rising Star (2/4)

Position	Company name	Country	Industry	Website
16	Signit	Saudi Arabia	Software	www.signit.sa
17	Flooss	Bahrain	Fintech	www.flooss.com
18	Kleen	Saudi Arabia	Environmental Technology	www.kleen.sa
19	Fincart	Saudi Arabia	E-commerce	www.fincart.io
20	Realytics	Cyprus	Marketing Technology	www.realytics.com
21	Stuck	Saudi Arabia	Software	www.stucktheapp.com
22	Skyld	Cyprus	Security & Defence	www.skyld.com.cy
23	Stryde	United Arab Emirates	Fintech	www.gostryde.com
24	HissaTech	Saudi Arabia	PropTech	www.HissaTech.sa
25	TKI	Cyprus	Software	www.tki.ai
26	Bekya Pay	Egypt	Environmental Technology	www.bekyapay.com
27	Alma	Cyprus	Software	www.alma-app.com
28	Bolsterup	Cyprus	Software	www.bolsterup.ai

Saudi Arabia is the second leading geography, accounting for **30%** of total applications



Rising Star (3/4)

Position	Company name	Country	Industry	Website
29	Reachware	Saudi Arabia	Software	www.reachware.com
30	InvoiceMate	United Arab Emirates	Fintech	www.invoicemate.tech
31	Nqoodlet	Saudi Arabia	Fintech	www.nqoodlet.com
32	Parsectix	Cyprus	Cloud and Cyber	www.parsectix.com
33	Finanshels	United Arab Emirates	Software	www.finanshels.com
34	Adsands	United Arab Emirates	Software	www.adsands.com
35	Dentolize	Saudi Arabia	Healthcare and Life sciences	www.dentolize.com
36	Mawsool	Saudi Arabia	Software	www.mawsool.tech
37	YouCloud Paytech	United Arab Emirates	Fintech	www.youcloudpay.com
38	Cipher	Saudi Arabia	Software	www.cipher.com.sa
39	Bus14	Saudi Arabia	EdTech	www.bus14.co
40	Ithara.ae	United Arab Emirates	E-commerce	www.ithara.ae
41	Stllr Network	Saudi Arabia	Media and Entertainment	www.stllr.network/en
42	Capacitor Partners	Cyprus	Technology Investment	www.capacitorpartners.com

Accounting for **13%** of applications, **Cyprus** holds the third spot geographically



Rising Star (4/4)

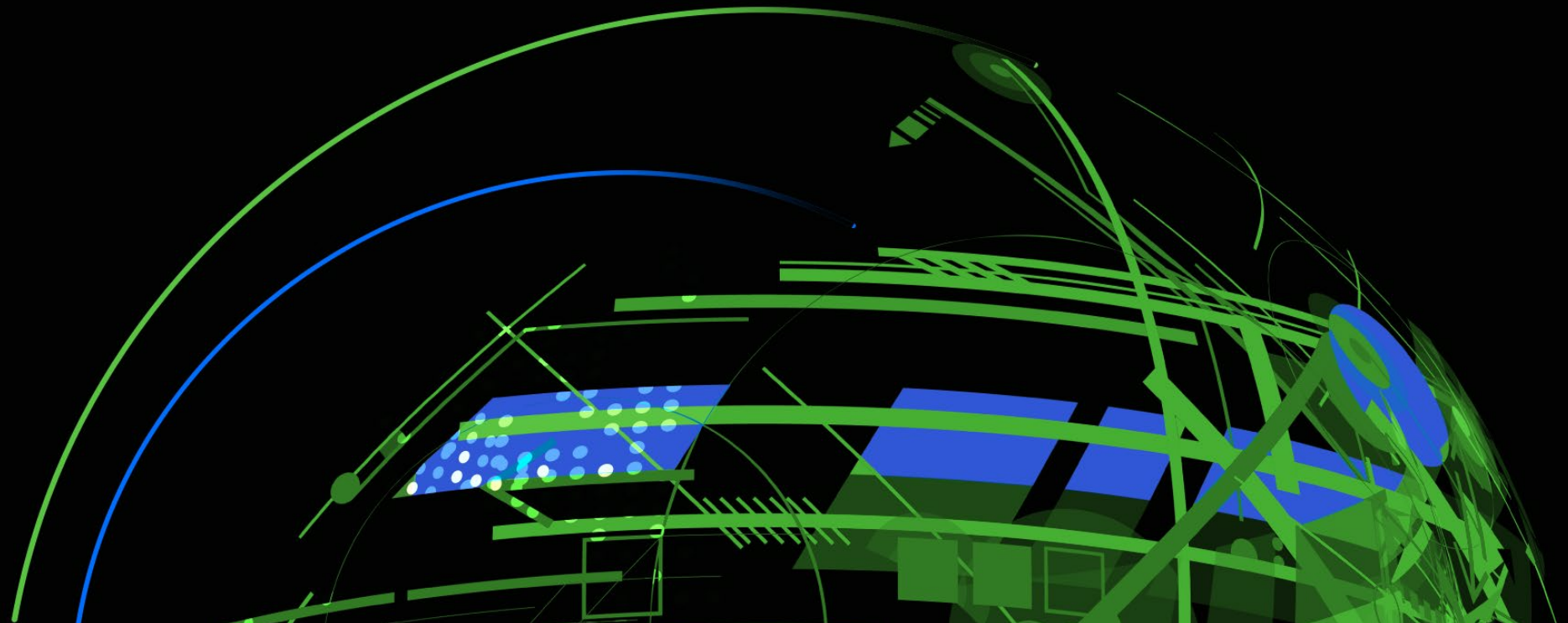
Position	Company name	Country	Industry	Website
43	Smarbl	United Arab Emirates	Fintech	www.smarbl.com
44	Resquad AI	Saudi Arabia	Software	www.resquad.ai
45	Atar	Saudi Arabia	Software	www.goatar.com
46	Genio	Qatar	E-commerce	www.genio-solutions.com
47	MSBC Group	United Arab Emirates	Software	www.msbcgroup.com
48	TeamSec	Dubai	Fintech	www.teamsecfin.com
49	Ghaia.ai	Qatar	Software	www.ghaia.ai
50	Complytek	Cyprus	Fintech	www.complytek.ai
51	Incorpify AI	United Arab Emirates	Fintech	www.incorpify.ai
52	Playgama	United Arab Emirates	Media and Entertainment	www.playgama.com

Leading this category company rankings, the **Software sector** accounts for **40%**, with **Fintech** contributing **22%**



Impact

This category recognizes companies that have an Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) element at the heart of their mission.



Impact Jury

The establishment of the Impact Jury aimed to evaluate companies nominated in this category across three key criteria: impact, excellence, and implementation. The evaluation process entailed scheduled pitching sessions where all nominated companies showcased their businesses to the Jury.



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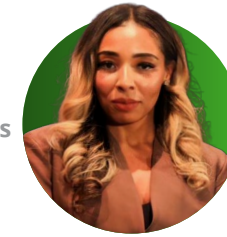
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Impact



Ahya
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Algisys
Saudi Arabia



CoreTechX
CoreTechX systems
Saudi Arabia



FortyGuard
United Arab Emirates



Innovation technical solutions
Oman



Metis AI
United Arab Emirates



Olive gaea
United Arab Emirates



Reporty
Saudi Arabia



Sadeem
Saudi Arabia



Save me
United Arab Emirates



Solumar
Solumar
United Arab Emirates



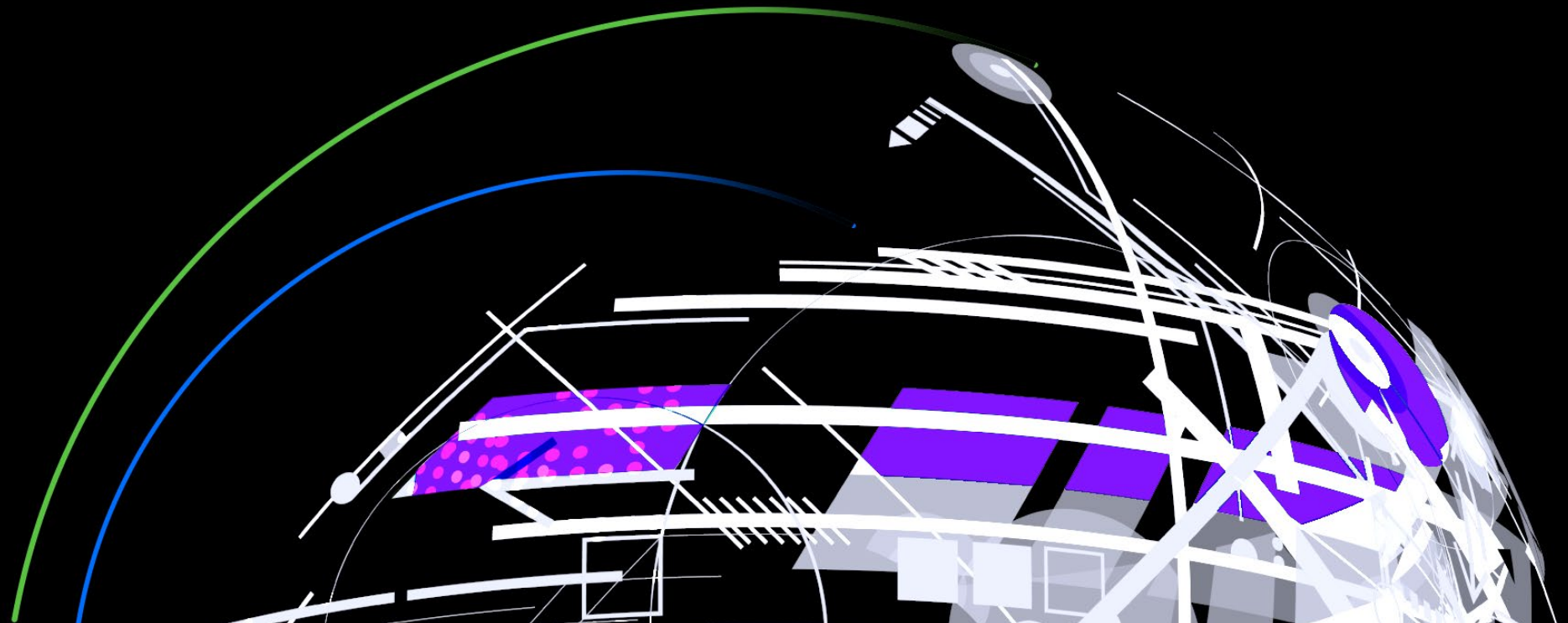
Throwmenot
United Arab Emirates



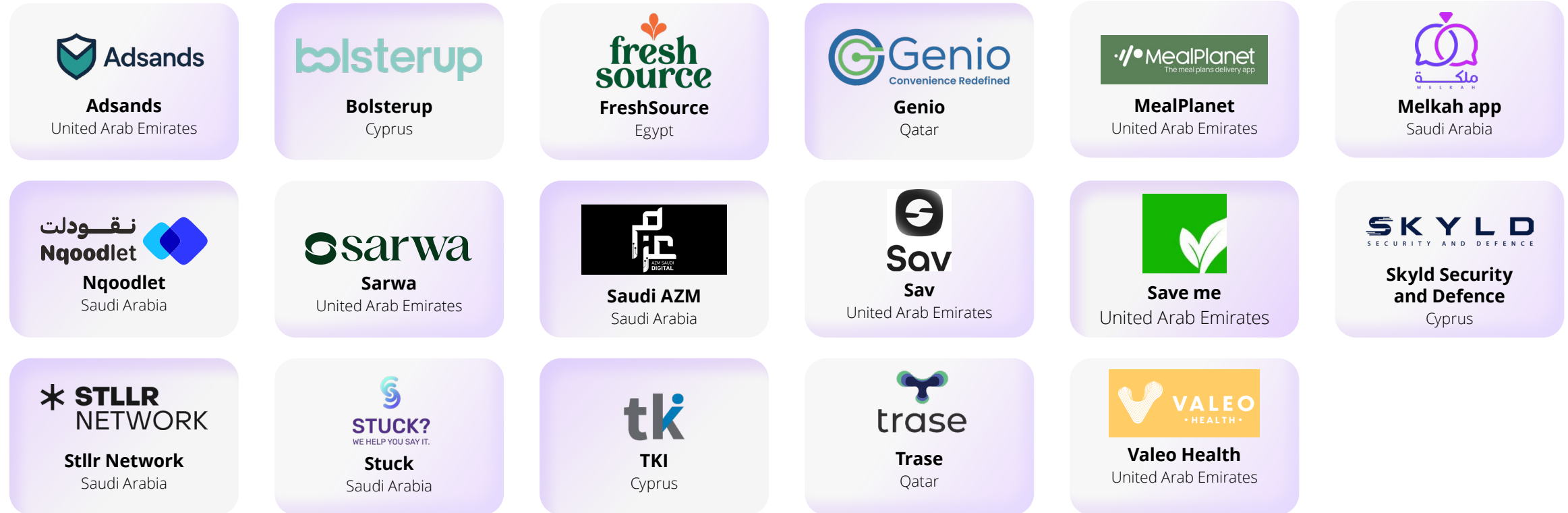
Urban Agritechs
United Arab Emirates

Women in Leadership

This category recognizes companies that fulfill the Fast 50 or Rising Star criteria and are either led by a female CEO or have a founding team comprised of at least 50% women.



Women in Leadership



The list of companies is in alphabetical order.

Kiyadat

This category recognizes companies that fulfill the Technology Fast 50 or Rising Star criteria and are either led by a GCC national CEO or have a founding team comprised of 50% GCC nationals.

Kiyadat



Atar
Saudi Arabia



Cerebra
Saudi Arabia



Eltizam Platform
Saudi Arabia



Flooss
Bahrain



Ghaia.ai
Qatar



Juleb
Saudi Arabia



Lisan AI
Saudi Arabia



Melkah app
Saudi Arabia



Mrmandoob
Saudi Arabia



Nommas.ai
Saudi Arabia



Nqoodlet
Saudi Arabia



OptimalPV
Saudi Arabia



Reachware
Saudi Arabia



Resquad AI
Saudi Arabia



Saudi AZM
Saudi Arabia



Save me
United Arab Emirates



Stllr Network
Saudi Arabia



Stuck
Saudi Arabia



Telgani
Saudi Arabia

The list of companies is in alphabetical order.

Spotlight

Explore a range of insights curated specifically for high growth technology companies across the region.



33East

Catalysing Cyprus's venture capital ecosystem

33East is Cyprus's first European Investment Fund-backed venture capital firm, launched in January 2025 with a €36 million debut fund. Co-founded by Demetrios Zoppos and Yiannis Eftychiou, 33East was created to provide structured, institutional capital to ambitious technology founders with a connection to Cyprus, helping them build businesses that compete globally.

33East invests at pre-seed and seed stage across technology-enabled verticals including enterprise software, fintech, AI and digital health, deploying initial tickets of up to €1 million with continued support through Series A. The fund backs Cypriot founders anywhere in the world, as well as international teams with a strong connection to Cyprus. Beyond capital, 33East provides hands-on mentorship, introductions to a global investor network, and support across product strategy and recruitment.

Cyprus's fast-growing tech landscape

Cyprus was named the EU's fastest-growing startup hub in 2024. Its startup sector has expanded fivefold since 2020, with over 860 startups and scaleups now active on the island. The Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector has recorded an average annual growth of 15% over the past decade, contributing €2.33 billion in gross value added. Despite this momentum, the island historically lacked institutional early-stage capital. Talented Cypriot founders moved abroad, because the infrastructure to support them was not yet in place. 33East was built to close that gap, ensuring the next generation of Cypriot-connected founders can access institutional-quality backing and build globally competitive businesses from the region.

For further information, please click [here](#)



We go beyond providing capital to startups. We are looking to back founders who have the ambition to scale internationally. We approach every partnership with optimism, friendliness, and a straightforward commitment to helping founders succeed.

Yiannis Eftychiou, Co-Founder & Partner

Cyprus has so much to offer budding entrepreneurs. We want to help transform Cyprus into a hive for innovation and entrepreneurship. At 33East, our mission is to be the catalyst for this vision by backing founders and providing them with the capital, support and connections to build scalable businesses.

Demetrios Zoppos, Co-Founder & Partner



Key contacts

Demetrios Zoppos
Co-Founder & Partner



Yiannis Eftychiou
Co-Founder & Partner



In association with **Deloitte**

ARIS | A REALLY INSPIRING STORY

The world is no longer becoming competitive; it has become intensely competitive. While established corporations must relentlessly innovate to maintain their leadership, startups face an even steeper challenge: gaining recognition and relevance amid fierce global competition. A few years ago, competition was primarily local. Today, this has changed significantly, with pressure coming from every corner of the globe. The only way for companies to respond is through continuous innovation. Firms that consistently challenge and improve what they do and how they do it, will be the ones that endure in this highly competitive global environment.

This is where ARIS | A REALLY INSPIRING STORY, curated by Deloitte Cyprus, plays a crucial and transformative role. ARIS acts as a vital bridge connecting ambitious scaleups with leading corporates, and empowering startups to scale effectively through strategic connections with Deloitte's extensive network of clients and investors. This unique positioning enables scaleups and startups to innovate while integrating with established market players, unlocking otherwise inaccessible growth opportunities.

ARIS goes beyond traditional acceleration models. It recognizes that in today's fast-moving environment, mere acceleration is insufficient; startups need nurturing, sustained support, and meaningful partnerships to thrive. By extending its program duration from 26 weeks to two years, ARIS provides startup sustained expert guidance, tailored mentorship, and access to Deloitte's corporate

ecosystem. This long-term engagement equips ventures with the strategic support required to scale effectively, moving beyond short-term acceleration toward sustainable growth paired with positive influence, individualized consideration, and intellectual stimulation. This approach enables startups, scaleups, and entrepreneurs to enhance performance while acknowledging and supporting their developmental needs.

As a catalyst for corporate-startup collaboration, ARIS drives innovation within both startups and corporates, creating a symbiotic relationship where ideas, resources, and market access flow seamlessly.

Since 2018, ARIS has consistently driven innovation by bridging the gap between startups and corporates, enabling ideas to scale through meaningful connections and sustained support.

For further information, please click [here](#)



ARIS has been a catalyst for Kuorum's next stage of growth. The program helped us sharpen our strategy, strengthen our execution, and accelerate our ability to scale with confidence in international markets." -

Matías Nso,
CEO & co-founder



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT

TALAL AND MADIHA ZEIN AUB INNOVATION PARK

The Talal and Madiha Zein AUB Innovation Park (Zein AUB iPark) is Lebanon's multi-disciplinary flagship accelerator designed to inspire, enable, and connect.

Local and Regional Positioning:

Located in the heart of Beirut Digital District, Lebanon's premier hub for startup accelerators, The Zein AUB iPark connects Lebanese entrepreneurs to an international network, empowering them to scale with a global outlook. It is powered by one of the largest research communities in the region: The American University of Beirut.

iPark also enjoys a strategic presence in Cyprus, leading efforts for cross-border collaboration and easing startups' soft landing in Europe through AUB Mediterraneo's Innovation Center in Pafos.

Programs and Resources:

The Innovation Park offers a structured entrepreneurship journey that supports innovators from idea to growth. Through a staged pathway; including Idea Validation, Build & Accelerate, Go-to-Market, and Growth. Startups receive hands-on support to transform innovative ideas into globally scalable ventures.

Participants benefit from a comprehensive support environment that combines mentorship, specialized training, access to AUB's academic and research ecosystem, and tailored business support. Startups also gain access to international networks of mentors, investors, and partners, along with funding opportunities, market access initiatives, and program perks designed to accelerate their path to sustainable growth.

Key Metrics:

Since its inauguration in 2019, iPark has graduated over 70 startups, with:

- **\$13.26M** raised in startup investment
- **\$6.18M** generated in startup revenues
- **\$500,000+** awarded in prizes and seed funding
- **175+** jobs created
- **100+** expert mentors network
- **60+** Angel investors and VCs network

Key Initiatives:

The annual AUB President's Innovation Challenge is considered Lebanon's flagship innovation event. It attracts hundreds of applicants, celebrates innovation across sectors like HealthTech, FinTech, AI, Social Innovation and sustainability, and awards significant funding, with a prize pool of \$55k awarded as grants.

Laying the foundation for a credible angel community, iPark launched the first Angel Investor Masterclass (AIM) in 2025, which served as both a capacity-building and trust-building mechanism, creating a long-term commitment to early-stage investment with a first cohort of 15 angel investors.

Startup Wins & Market Expansion

Despite economic and political headwinds, in 2025 six startups were featured on Shark Tank Lebanon, two were selected for the LebHub Growth Program, three joined Draper University's Hero Program, and one was selected for 500 Global. Several startups expanded into GCC markets, particularly KSA and UAE, while others secured follow-on investments, strategic partnerships, and successful exits.

For Further Information, please click [here](#).

Key Contacts:



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Chief Innovation & Transformation
Officer, AUB
Executive Director, Zein AUB iPark



Maha Zouwayhed
Director, Zein AUB iPark

COLABS

COLABS is a leading venture-backed workspace and community platform powering the region's tech and creative economy. With 10+ locations and over half a million square feet, it supports more than 5,000 members from over 300 companies, across its markets, including Beco Capital, DigitalOcean, Deutsche Bank, and Coca-Cola.

Beyond physical space, COLABS builds connective infrastructure for founders, investors, operators, and artists; combining curated programming, strategic partnerships, and community to accelerate growth. Backed by over \$8 million from Shorooq, Waseel partners, Indus Valley Capital, Waad Invest, and Gobi Ventures, COLABS is bringing its flagship model to Saudi Arabia with the launch of COLABS Narjis.

For technology companies, infrastructure is more than space. As teams grow, raise capital, and expand into new markets, they need environments that support investor engagement, operational continuity, and long-term growth. COLABS is designed to connect international investors with ambitious startups. Its members have collectively raised over \$1 billion in venture capital.

It does so by offering flexible expansion pathways within a single campus, reliable operational management, and environments built to maintain quality over time.

Beyond physical infrastructure, COLABS actively contributes to ecosystem connectivity. Through curated events, founder gatherings, investor discussions, and reports and insights, COLABS creates structured opportunities for meaningful exchange between founders, capital providers, and institutional partners. The focus is on long-term alignment rather than transactional networking.

Some of the company's ecosystem initiatives include:

- Pitch to Win, provides founders with direct access to investors and operators through curated pitch forums, strengthening capital connectivity across early and growth stages.
- The Freelancer Fellowship by COLABS supports independent professionals working within the technology and creative sectors, offering them community access, structured programming, and workspace, reinforcing the broader talent layer that growth companies depend on.
- COLABS also supports the broader creative and cultural landscape through the COLABS Creative Collective (CCC). CCC provides artists and creatives across the region with opportunities through exhibitions, residencies, open calls, and public programming. By integrating artistic work directly into its campuses and convenings, COLABS reinforces the intersection of business and culture, ensuring companies operate within a strong regional identity.

By combining disciplined infrastructure, ecosystem convening, and long-term commitment to Riyadh, COLABS aims to serve as a stable operating base for companies contributing to Saudi Arabia's technology ecosystem. Its role is not only to provide workspace, but to support the conditions under which technology businesses can build, scale, and endure.

For further information, please click [here](#)



Omar Shah
CEO & Co-founder



Ali Shah
Co-founder and Creative
& Technical Director



The central platform for entrepreneurs to launch, scale, and thrive in Dubai

Dubai Founders HQ (DFHQ) is Dubai's definitive gateway for entrepreneurs – a centralised "phygital" platform that brings together every resource, connection, and service a founder needs under one roof. Launched in October 2025 as a joint initiative of Dubai Economy and Tourism and the Dubai Chamber of Digital Economy, DFHQ serves as a flagship pillar of Dubai's D33 Economic Agenda.

DFHQ operates as the gravitational center of Dubai's innovation ecosystem, connecting founders with investors, corporates, accelerators, free zones, and global ecosystem enablers through a hub-and-spoke model. Whether a founders are launching their first venture or scaling toward a global exit, DFHQ delivers the end-to-end infrastructure to make it happen.

What underpins DFHQ

The campus: Where the best entrepreneurial talent comes to connect and grow

Located at the 25Hours Hotel, One Central, the campus provides a vibrant coworking spaces, meeting rooms, event facilities, and open collaboration areas. It hosts a curated calendar of events and workshops and is the center for all of DFHQ's programs.

Partnerships: A powerful ecosystem network

Leading public and private sector partners have partnered with DFHQ, including venture capital, financial services, government entities, innovation hubs and more. This means more opportunities for founders to connect directly to the people they need to launch and scale their ventures.

Programs: World-Class acceleration and mentorship

Through partnerships with globally renowned ecosystem builders including Endeavor, Plug and Play, and Antler, DFHQ deliver sector-specific acceleration programmes and pathways to investment. These provide access to expert mentorship, and actionable growth strategies, taking founders from early-stage to market leadership.

Education: Learning and upskilling for founders

The digital platform provides founders with a curated learning library and a consolidated repository of the Dubai startup ecosystem, giving entrepreneurs the knowledge and insights they need to grow with confidence at every stage.

Services: Seamless market entry

DFHQ functions as a one-stop gateway for local and international startups, offering comprehensive business setup support, licensing guidance, and access to free zones and accelerators across Dubai. International startups use DFHQ as their launchpad into the Dubai market.

DFHQ puts founders first. Every service, connection, and resource on the platform is designed to remove friction and accelerate growth, making Dubai a premier launchpad for the next generation of global companies.

For further information, please click [here](#) or [reach out](#)

PLUG AND PLAY

Plug and Play Tech Center

Plug and Play is the world's largest open innovation platform and a leading global venture capital investor. Based in Silicon Valley, it connects over 550 corporations with more than 102,000 startups across 60+ locations, advancing technology in 20+ industries. Its portfolio includes more than 2,000 companies and over 30 unicorns such as PayPal, Rappi, Dropbox, N26, and Blockdaemon. In 2025, Plug and Play accelerated over 2,800 startups worldwide and ranked among the top three most active VC firms globally, highlighting its leadership in venture building and open innovation.

Since 2022, Plug and Play Egypt has linked the local ecosystem to global markets. Partnering with ITIDA and the National Bank of Egypt, it expanded support nationwide through the Creativa Innovation Hubs, an initiative by Egypt's Ministry of Communications and Information Technology. This infrastructure extends beyond Cairo to Upper Egypt and the Delta, giving talent in governorates like Aswan, Assiut, and Minya access to Silicon Valley expertise, global networks, and growth opportunities. Over three years, Plug and Play Egypt has accelerated more than 240 startups across programs, reinforcing its role as a key driver of innovation and job creation. It has invested in 19 Egyptian startups, including Bosta, Nawy, and NowPay, demonstrating commitment to scalable, high-impact ventures.

Central to this is the Cairo programs, run with ITIDA and the National Bank of Egypt, which has graduated over 150 startups and helped create more than 3,000 jobs. Alumni have raised over USD 90 million. The programs offers mentorship, corporate matchmaking, and investment readiness support, helping founders validate market

demand, engage investors, and connect with corporate partners. Through curated introductions, startups have secured funding and scaled operations, strengthening Egypt's venture pipeline.

Beyond Cairo, Plug and Play supports Upper Egypt through the Aswan Bootcamp Series, powered by ITIDA and hosted at the Creativa Innovation Hub in Aswan. This bootcamp offers founders hands-on training, mentorship, and exposure to national and international stakeholders, expanding support across the country.

Plug and Play Egypt also facilitates international market integration. Through the Global Market Expansion Program, in partnership with South Korea's Ministry of SMEs and Startups and the Korea-Africa Foundation, it helped eight Korean aging-tech companies validate market fit, navigate regulations, and start commercial talks in Egypt. This connected them with key public and private stakeholders, positioning Egypt as a gateway to Africa and boosting cross-border innovation.

Sustainability and climate innovation are strategic priorities. Under the Egypt Climate Invest Programs (ECIP), implemented with GIZ Egypt and commissioned by BMZ, Plug and Play drives climate innovation via two tracks. The Financial Players Track links banks, investors, and financial institutions with climate technologies to mobilise capital and accelerate Egypt's green economy. The Climate Tech Startups Track provides selected startups with training in financial modelling, scalability, growth strategy, impact measurement, and investment readiness. Together, these tracks strengthen Egypt's climate-tech ecosystem and promote sustainable, high-impact solutions aligned with the country's green agenda.

Additionally, Plug and Play Egypt engages early-stage founders and youth innovators through hackathons that turn ideas into scalable ventures. The Arab Youth Hackathon, in partnership with the Arab Youth Center and PepsiCo Foundation, and supported locally by ITIDA, brought young innovators from Egypt, UAE, Lebanon, KSA, and Jordan to develop sustainability-focused solutions. It offered mentorship and entrepreneurial training to help participants turn concepts into impactful ventures. Similarly, the Vodafone AI Assistive Tools Hackathon, delivered with ITIDA, Vodafone, Ataa Charity Investment Fund, and formerly USAID, focused on tech solutions for workplace accessibility and inclusivity. Plug and Play provided workshops and mentoring on design thinking, business models, and pitching, covering both technical and commercial aspects.

Together, these programs embody Plug and Play Egypt's mission to build an inclusive, nationwide innovation platform connecting founders to capital, corporates, and global markets. By combining acceleration, early-stage activation, climate innovation, and international market access, Plug and Play deepens Egypt's integration into the global innovation economy while fostering job creation, investment, and long-term technological competitiveness.

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KAUST Innovation: advancing deep tech at commercial scale

King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST) is a leading center for innovation, research, and entrepreneurship, helping Saudi Arabia move towards a knowledge-based economy. Through advanced research, modern facilities, and strong entrepreneurship programs, KAUST is building a lively startup ecosystem that is shaping the future of technology and business in the region.

KAUST plays an important role in growing Saudi Arabia's startup scene by connecting universities, industry, and investors. Supporting Vision 2030, KAUST focuses on deep technology and science-based entrepreneurship, helping researchers and innovators turn new discoveries into successful businesses. With an emphasis on deep tech, sustainability, and digital transformation, KAUST backs startups that address global challenges while supporting economic growth.

KAUST translates foundational research into scalable companies, attracting significant global investment. Collectively, KAUST-affiliated startups have raised more than \$1 billion, co-investing alongside leading regional and international firms. In 2025 alone, portfolio companies secured \$150 million, contributing to a total valuation exceeding \$2 billion.

To date, KAUST has spun out more than 118 startups and supported over 428 ventures through programs including TAQADAM, ScaleX, and NextEra. Portfolio companies have created 6,661 direct jobs and generated more than \$930 million in revenue.

Across sectors including health, sustainability, and advanced manufacturing, KAUST-backed ventures are applying artificial

intelligence and deep technologies to address critical challenges in water, energy, food, and healthcare.

Flagship ventures demonstrate how deep tech is translating to commercial scale:

- Amplifai Health is advancing AI-powered screening through thermal imaging, developing athletic injury detection and early diabetic foot screening solutions, recognized with a G20 Best Innovation Award.
- Edama is converting discarded materials into high-value soil improvers for desert agriculture and has secured \$5.6 million from Saudi Investment Recycling Co. to expand its circular economy facilities.
- FlyNow has completed a \$44 million funding round and is establishing eCopter manufacturing in Saudi Arabia and the UAE, advancing electric vertical takeoff and landing aircraft as a sustainable mobility solution.

From venture creation to acceleration, and scaling through product development and soft-landing support, KAUST empowers founders at every stage, whether you're an aspiring founder, a scaling startup, or an established entrepreneur. By aligning research, capital, and corporate adoption, KAUST is strengthening the foundations of Saudi Arabia's technology ecosystem.

For further information, please click [here](#)

Through advanced research, modern facilities, and strong entrepreneurship programs, KAUST is building a lively startup ecosystem that is shaping the future of technology and business in the region.

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As we celebrate the important milestone of our 5th edition, we are proud to see our Fast 50 community grow stronger and more vibrant each year. The enthusiasm and engagement of all participants have truly brought this initiative to life, creating a dynamic platform that not only recognises the achievements of high-growth technology companies but also nurtures a thriving ecosystem of innovation.

Thank you to everyone involved for your ongoing commitment and collaboration. We look forward to building on this momentum with even more exciting developments to come.

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