

[investinabudhabi.gov.ae](http://investinabudhabi.gov.ae)



مكتب أبوظبي للاستثمار  
ABU DHABI INVESTMENT OFFICE

# Abu Dhabi Prospectus

An invitation to your future. **Today.**



# Contents

<b>An invitation to your future. Today.</b>	<b>03</b>
Foreword	03
Introduction	04
Abu Dhabi at a glance	05
200 islands of wonder	06
<b>Start in Abu Dhabi. Today.</b>	<b>07</b>
Business made easy	07
Thrive in Abu Dhabi	08
An economy as diverse as our people	09
Abu Dhabi free zones	10
<b>Grow in Abu Dhabi. Today.</b>	<b>13</b>
Vision 2030	14
Ghadan 21	15
Attractive tax environment	17
World-class talent pool	18
Visa system	18
<b>A heartbeat of innovation</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Supporting your growth</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Take your first steps into Abu Dhabi</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Legal disclaimer</b>	<b>25</b>



# An invitation to your future. Today.

## Foreword

### Thank you for considering Abu Dhabi as a new home for your business.

From our humble origins in pearl fishing, Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), has rapidly grown into a global business hub. We have achieved much of the vision of our late founder H.H. Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan and our ambition to go further is stronger than ever.

In just 50 years, Abu Dhabi's landscape has transformed beyond recognition and a futuristic city has emerged from the desert. We are a city with a culture as rich as our diverse population. We are proud to be home to the majestic Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque and exquisite art at the Louvre Abu Dhabi. We love the contrast between the high octane Yas Marina F1 circuit, the fun of Yas Island and the luxury beachfront living on Saadiyat Island. We thrive on the fast-paced success of our commercial

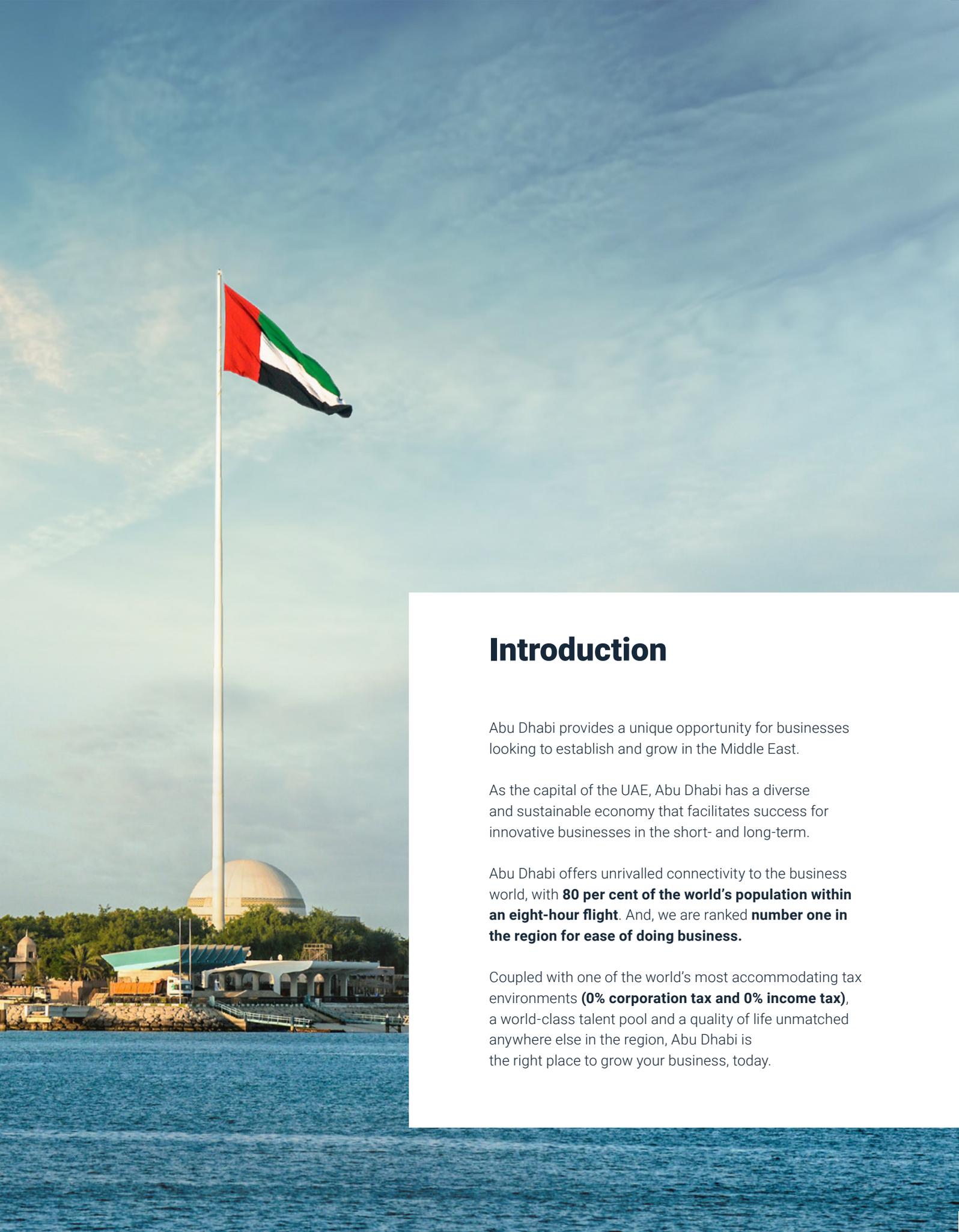
sectors as we shape the future of sustainable living, artificial intelligence, FinTech, AgTech and so much more. We have the understanding and infrastructure to harness your vision and ambition.

We are here to provide you with the support, resources and guidance to ensure your business grows in a way that will deliver long-term success.

We look forward to welcoming you to the rapidly growing Abu Dhabi family.

**H.E. Mohammed Ali Al Shorafa**

Chairman,  
Abu Dhabi Department  
of Economic Development



## Introduction

Abu Dhabi provides a unique opportunity for businesses looking to establish and grow in the Middle East.

As the capital of the UAE, Abu Dhabi has a diverse and sustainable economy that facilitates success for innovative businesses in the short- and long-term.

Abu Dhabi offers unrivalled connectivity to the business world, with **80 per cent of the world's population within an eight-hour flight**. And, we are ranked **number one in the region for ease of doing business**.

Coupled with one of the world's most accommodating tax environments (**0% corporation tax and 0% income tax**), a world-class talent pool and a quality of life unmatched anywhere else in the region, Abu Dhabi is the right place to grow your business, today.



## Abu Dhabi at a glance



Abu Dhabi is the **capital city** of the United Arab Emirates (UAE)



Located at the **intersection of Europe, Asia and Africa**



Abu Dhabi's GDP is **USD249 billion**, accounting for **60% of the UAE's total GDP**<sup>1</sup>



The UAE has the **7<sup>th</sup> highest** GDP per capita in the world<sup>2</sup>



**No. 1 for ease of doing business** in the Middle East and **12<sup>th</sup> globally**



Global hub - **80% of the world's population** within an **eight-hour flight**



World-class education - home to the **world's first AI university**<sup>3</sup>



Named the **most livable city in the Middle East and North Africa**<sup>4</sup>



Voted the **safest city in the world** for the **5<sup>th</sup> consecutive year** in 2021<sup>5</sup>

1. Abu Dhabi GDP [www.statista.com/statistics/818105/uae-value-of-gdp-in-abu-dhabi](https://www.statista.com/statistics/818105/uae-value-of-gdp-in-abu-dhabi)

2. GDP ranking [www.worldometers.info/gdp/gdp-per-capita/](https://www.worldometers.info/gdp/gdp-per-capita/)

3. Home to first AI university [mbzuai.ac.ae/](https://mbzuai.ac.ae/)

4. Most livable city [www.eiu.com/topic/livability](https://www.eiu.com/topic/livability)

5. Safest City [whatson.ae/2021/01/abu-dhabi-safest-city-in-the-world/](https://whatson.ae/2021/01/abu-dhabi-safest-city-in-the-world/)



## 200 islands of wonder

Abu Dhabi, meaning Father of the Gazelle in Arabic, is a contrast of serene family living with a high-tech, fast-paced, dynamic business life.

Abu Dhabi enjoys an average annual temperature of **81 degrees Fahrenheit/27 degrees Celsius** and many beautiful beaches and mangroves accented by a **breathtaking cityscape**.

More than **3 million people** from many different countries and cultures call Abu Dhabi home and it is recognised as being progressive and welcoming to all.

Our founding father, the late H.H. Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, provided the roadmap for growth and prosperity and his vision is being realised with state-of-the-art urban infrastructure including world-class hospitals, schools, universities and residential complexes.

The emirate welcomes more than **11 million tourists per year**. Offering a wealth of experiences ranging from cross-cultural celebrations, theatrical shows and sporting events through to international music concerts and gastronomic festivals. Such events include the Abu Dhabi Golf Festival, the Abu Dhabi F1 Grand Prix, International Book Fair, Abu Dhabi Film Festival, in addition to a continual flow of live concerts by global music icons.

The people of Abu Dhabi are known for their warm hospitality and welcoming nature, taking great pride in sharing the local customs and traditions with people from across the globe. Whether you are a local, from the region or someone stepping foot in the Middle East for the first time, **there is no friendlier environment than Abu Dhabi**.





# Start in Abu Dhabi. Today.

## Business made easy

Abu Dhabi's economy has grown substantially over the past decade - made possible by an established business ecosystem that supports and rewards innovation, coupled with streamlined processes and a transparent regulatory system that makes setting up and doing business **as easy as possible**.

Today's business landscape in Abu Dhabi is thriving and will continue to do so as we enact policies that balance short-term growth with long-term success, providing a stable environment where businesses can achieve a bright future.

Recent legislative changes have allowed for 100% foreign ownership across a wide array of businesses and sectors. When combined with Abu Dhabi's strategic location at the intersection of Asia, Africa and the Middle East, it is easy to see why the emirate is considered an attractive and preferred investment destination for some of the world's most recognisable companies.



Abu Dhabi is **ranked 1<sup>st</sup>** for ease of doing business in the Middle East



Abu Dhabi is **ranked 12<sup>th</sup>** in the world for ease of doing business



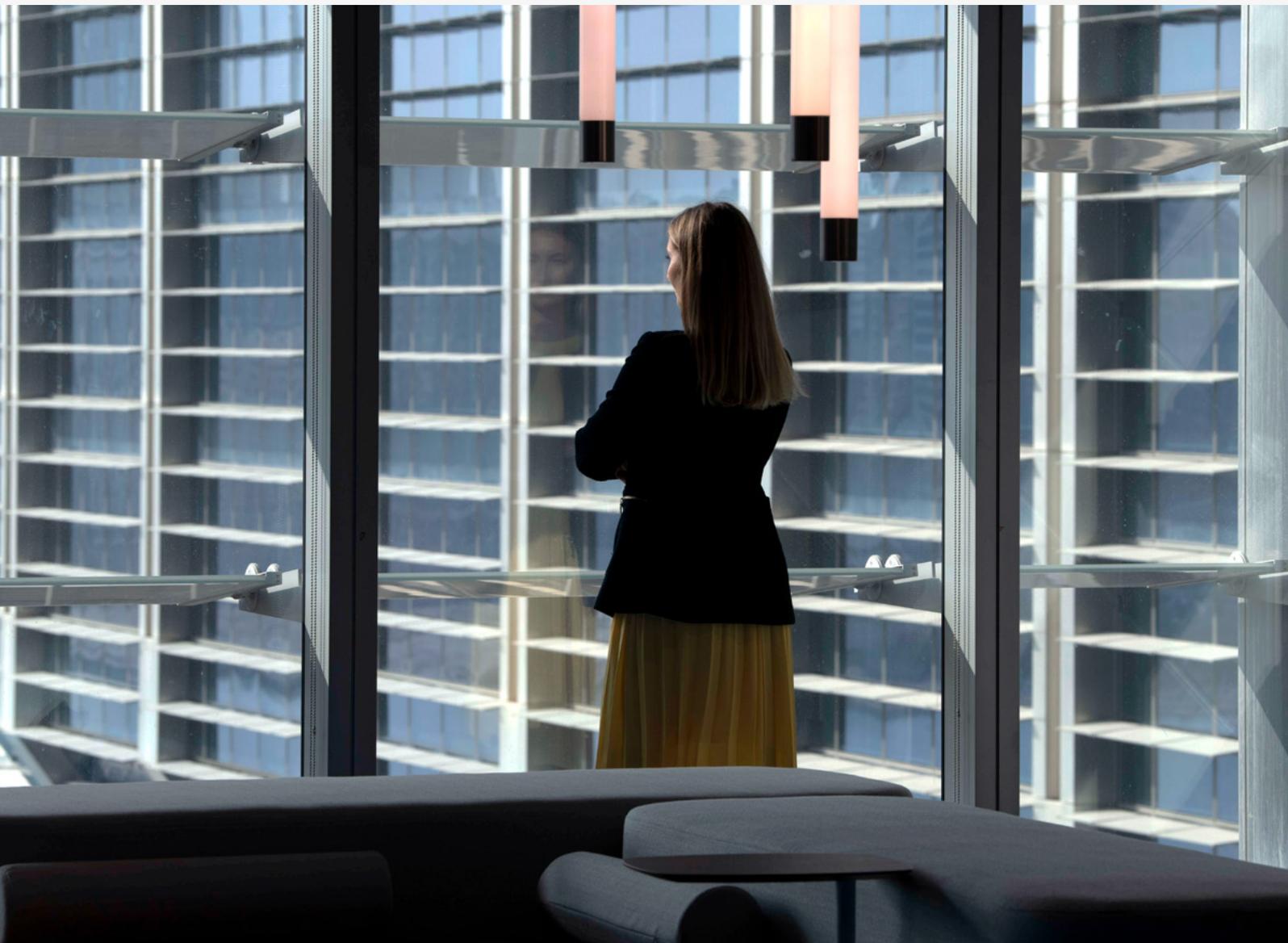
## Thrive in Abu Dhabi

In 2021, Abu Dhabi launched its “Thrive in Abu Dhabi” programme to promote long-term **Golden Visas** and a pathway to citizenship for international talent working, creating, studying, excelling and investing in key sectors and specialties in Abu Dhabi.

The UAE’s Golden Visa is available in Abu Dhabi for international investors and top talent from around the world, providing them with visas for up to 10 years. This includes people and researchers in the fields of science and knowledge such as doctors, specialists, scientists and inventors. It is also open to talented creative and sporting individuals and business, startup and real estate investors in the emirate.

**For more information, visit:**

[tamm.abudhabi](https://tamm.abudhabi)





## An economy as diverse as our people

Abu Dhabi has made huge strides over the past decade to diversify the economy away from oil and gas. We have seen several exciting new sectors develop in the emirate **fueled by ambition, innovation and creativity.**

Industries such as AgTech, FinTech, Healthcare and ICT are growing rapidly in Abu Dhabi thanks to business support initiatives, a transparent regulatory environment, access to world-class talent and a strong focus on innovation.

Abu Dhabi is supporting the emergence and growth of new and existing sectors through its robust infrastructure and business ecosystem.





## Abu Dhabi free zones

Establishing a business venture in one of Abu Dhabi's five free zones is an **attractive option for foreign investors**. They provide many benefits, such as: 100% foreign ownership, a low-cost operational environment, full repatriation of capital and profits and exemption from import, export, corporate and personal taxes.

Smart services make setting up your business as easy as possible, helping to expedite the process of obtaining necessary permits, licenses, approvals and clearances from the relevant authorities.





## Abu Dhabi Global Market (ADGM)



An award winning International Financial Centre located on Al Maryah Island in the heart of the capital Abu Dhabi. ADGM is an independent jurisdiction that enables registered financial and non-financial entities to thrive within an international regulatory framework based on English Common Law and provides legal certainty with its independent ADGM Courts.

### Main sectors:

**Financial:** Banking, Wealth and Asset Management, Capital Markets, FinTech

**Non-Financial:** Professional Services, Corporates, Family Business, Startups and Retail

### For more information, visit:

[adgm.com](https://adgm.com)

## Khalifa Industrial Zone Abu Dhabi (KIZAD)



Located in the Al Taweela area between Abu Dhabi and Dubai, KIZAD offers world-class transportation infrastructure including sea, air, road and rail networks and easy access to local, regional and international markets.

The free zone is linked to Khalifa Port - one of the world's most advanced deep-sea ports and the region's first semi-automated port. The port has 20 major shipping lines connected to more than 60 global ports and can accommodate the largest ships, ensuring easy import of bulk raw materials and export of finished goods.

Utility corridors are designed across the zone to allow provisions for power, potable water, telecom, sewerage services and special utilities such as industrial water and feedstock. Furthermore, the free zone's infrastructure is designed and built to facilitate future rail connectivity through dedicated rail corridors, which will allow the integration of rail freight facilities into operating plans.

### For more information, visit:

[kizad.ae](https://kizad.ae)





### Masdar City



Masdar City, the flagship project of Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company (Masdar), operates as a special economic zone with a focus on clean technology and renewable energy. It is a low-carbon development and one of the world's most sustainable urban communities made up of a rapidly growing clean-tech cluster, business free zone and residential neighbourhood.

Masdar City is Abu Dhabi's fastest growing free zone offering several advantages for establishing clean energy startups, including a service which facilitates easy registration, licensing and recruitment procedures. Companies are also provided benefits including 100% foreign ownership, full repatriation of capital and profits and exemption from import, export, corporate and personal taxes.

**For more information, visit:**

[masdarcityfreezone.com](http://masdarcityfreezone.com)

### Abu Dhabi Airport Free Zone (ADAFZ)



ADAFZ is a comprehensive business park in the vicinity of Abu Dhabi International Airport, offering commercial offices and business services, plots of land for development, warehousing units and logistics services. ADAFZ is home to world-class warehousing units and aircraft hangers and operates free zones in three main airports: Abu Dhabi International Airport, Al Ain International Airport and Al Bateen Executive Airport.

**For more information, visit:**

[adafz.ae](http://adafz.ae)

### twofour54



Set up in 2008, this dynamic media free zone provides the infrastructure and 360 support services for international, regional and local media businesses. twofour54 is a destination for creative companies in Media, Broadcast, Gaming and Communication and offers everything from customisable office space, world-class production facilities to business support services.

**For more information, visit:**

[twofour54.com](http://twofour54.com)



## Grow in Abu Dhabi. Today.

Ease of doing business, comprehensive local support, established facilities and infrastructure and a stable and transparent regulatory environment ensures your focus can be on **building and growing your business.**

Abu Dhabi offers many programmes and incentives to support your business growth, whether you are an established global corporation, or a startup laying the foundations for future success.



## Vision 2030

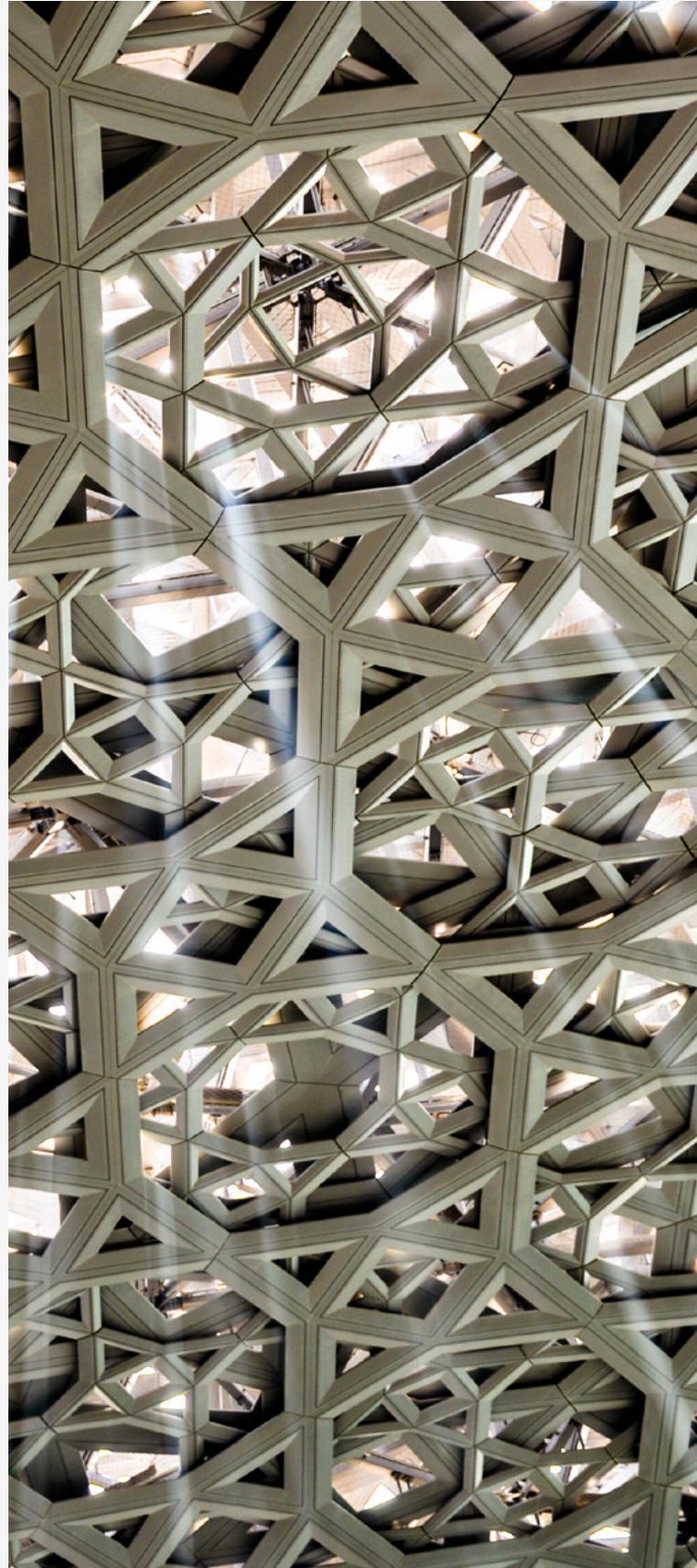
In 2006, H.H. Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, announced a long-term economic roadmap for the emirate to diversify from the dominant oil and gas sector. Nearly 15 years on, much of the vision has been or is on track to be realised.

### **Vision 2030 has nine key focuses:**

- A large empowered private sector
- A sustainable knowledge-based economy
- An optimal, transparent regulatory environment
- A continuation of strong and diverse international relationships
- The optimisation of the emirate's resources
- Premium education, healthcare and infrastructure assets
- Complete international and domestic security
- Maintaining Abu Dhabi's values, culture and heritage
- A significant and ongoing contribution to the federation of UAE

Vision 2030 laid the foundation for the long-term prosperity of Abu Dhabi and continues to support the people and businesses in the emirate.

**For more information, visit:**  
[Economic Vision 2030](#)





## Ghadan 21

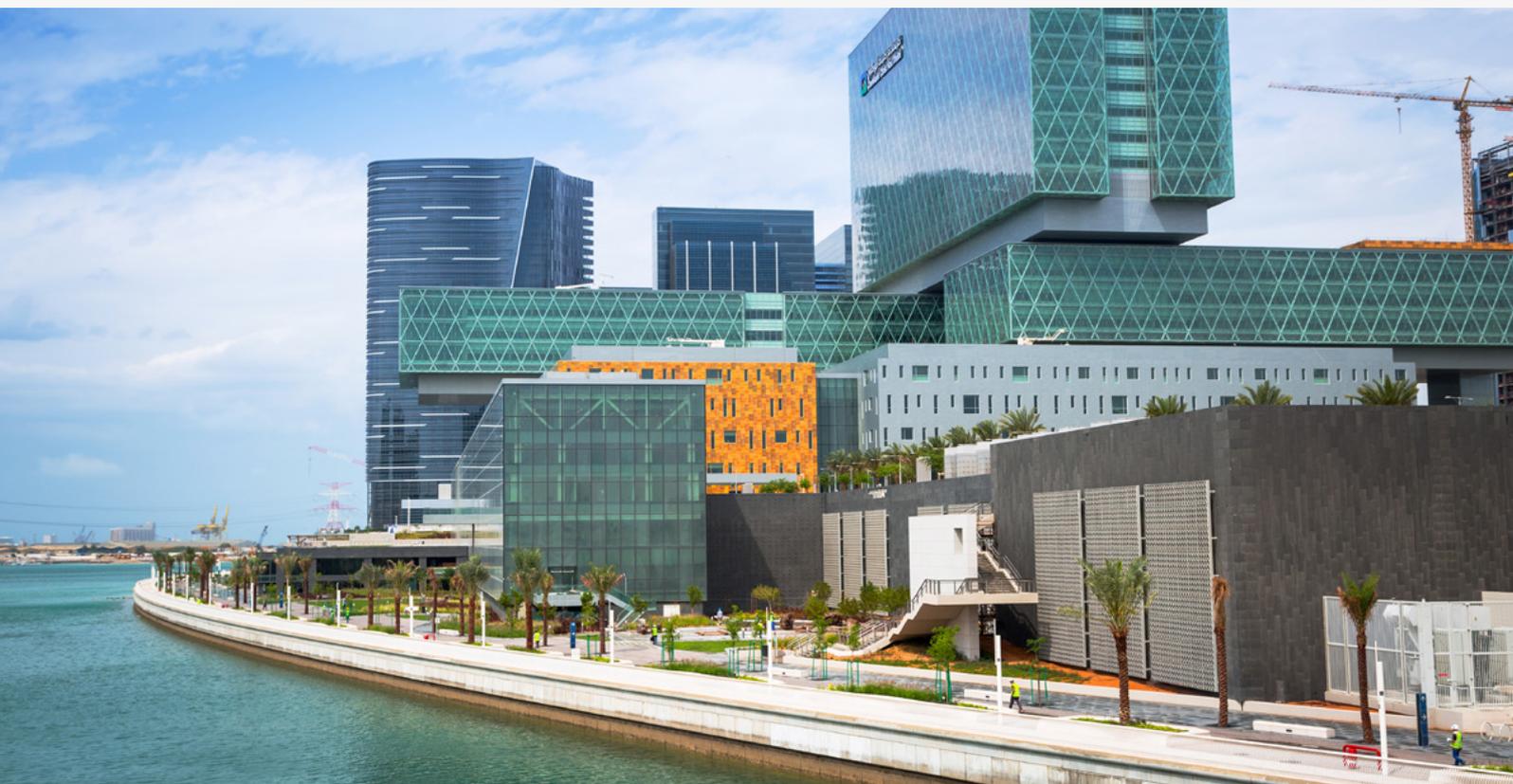
Ghadan 21, is Abu Dhabi's AED 50 billion accelerator programme, launched by H.H. Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces.

The programme, announced in 2018, is accelerating the development of Abu Dhabi's knowledge-based economy by supporting innovation, technology and entrepreneurship.

**More than 50 initiatives** have been launched across three pillars:

1. **Investing in Business** - Flexible licensing, incentive packages, reduced tariffs and de-regulation initiatives to make doing business in Abu Dhabi easier and more attractive.
2. **Investing in Innovation** - A global hub for research and innovation, Abu Dhabi is investing in ideas and knowledge for a tech-enabled future through grants, incentives and partnerships under Ghadan 21.
3. **Investing in People** - From developing education to social support and incubator programmes, Abu Dhabi champions inclusive communities and equips its people with skills and opportunities.

**For more information, visit:**  
[ghadan.abudhabi](https://ghadan.abudhabi)





## ADQ



ADQ is an investment management company based in Abu Dhabi that holds a broad portfolio of major enterprises spanning a range of sectors. It provides direct and indirect investment to innovative companies to support their growth and that of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.

**For more information, visit:**

[adq.ae](http://adq.ae)

## MUBADALA



Mubadala Investment Company is a sovereign investor managing a global portfolio, aimed at generating sustainable financial returns for the government of Abu Dhabi. Mubadala's portfolio spans five continents with interests in multiple sectors including aerospace, ICT, semiconductors, renewable energy, oil and gas, petrochemicals, healthcare and medical technology. Mubadala is a trusted partner, an engaged shareholder and a responsible global company that is committed to world-class standards of governance.

**For more information, visit:**

[mubadala.com](http://mubadala.com)

## Other links of interest

**StartAD:**

[startad.ae](http://startad.ae)

**UAEU Science and Innovation Park:**

[uae.ac.ae](http://uae.ac.ae)

**Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce:**

[abudhabichamber.ae](http://abudhabichamber.ae)

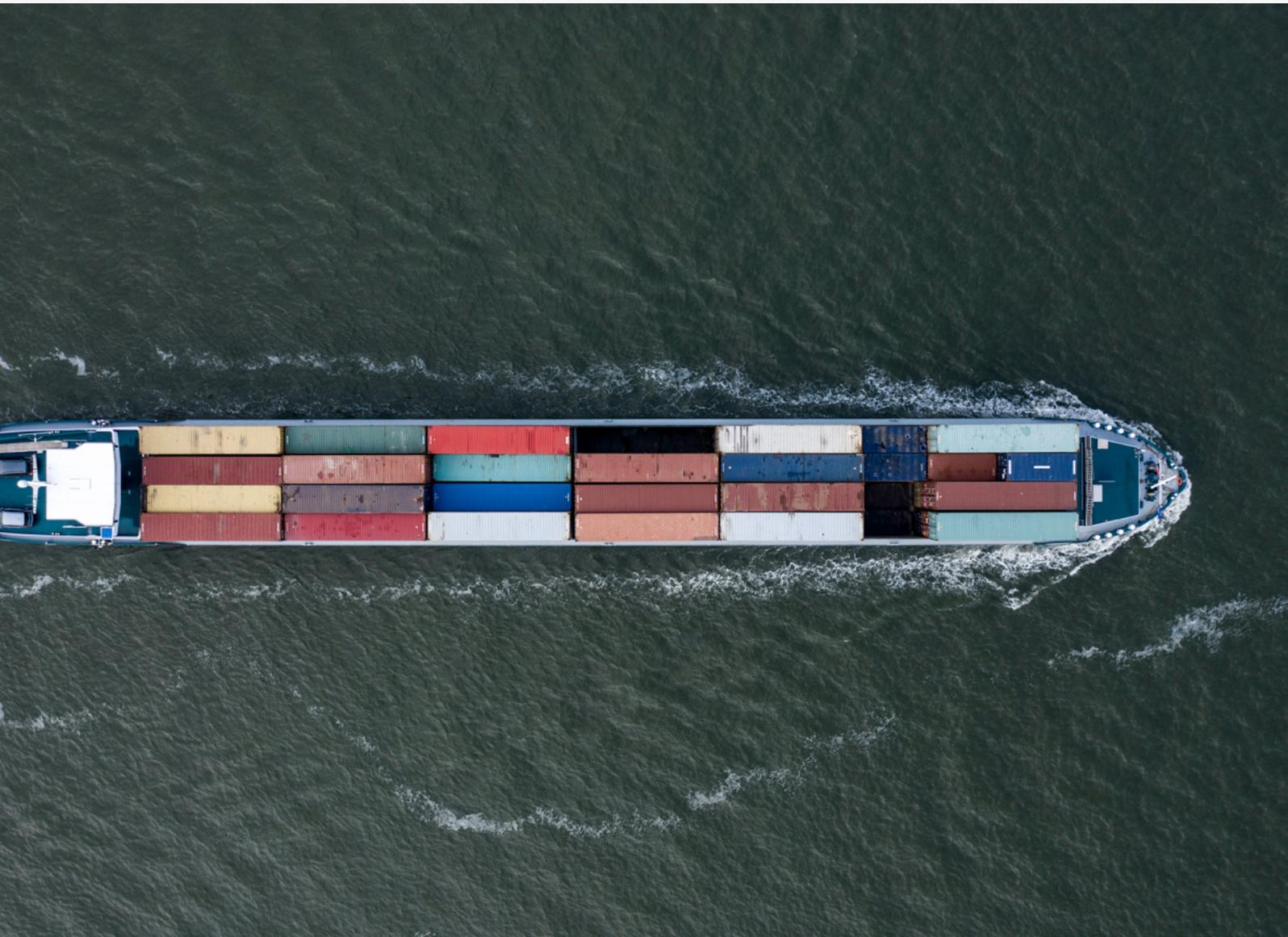




## Attractive tax environment

Abu Dhabi's competitive tax legislation for both individuals and corporations is a key driver in attracting investors to the emirate. Except for oil companies and foreign banks, **businesses enjoy a 0% corporate tax rate and individuals benefit from 0% income tax.**

This approach allows businesses to reinvest profit in new ideas, innovative products and services and ultimately, continue to grow.





## World-class talent pool

Talent is a cornerstone of innovation. Abu Dhabi is empowering and driving local innovation by developing young local talent and attracting international talent with a focus on science, technology, engineering, mathematics and entrepreneurship. Our world-class higher-education facilities provide the ideal environment to foster bright new talent and the next generation of innovators and leaders.

Investors coming to Abu Dhabi have access to a broad range of skilled talent to ensure they have the resources to expand without limitation.

## Visa system

In 2021, Abu Dhabi launched its “Thrive in Abu Dhabi” programme to promote long-term **Golden Visas** and a pathway to citizenship for international talent working, creating, studying, excelling and investing in key sectors and specialties in Abu Dhabi.

The UAE’s Golden Visa is available in Abu Dhabi for international investors and top talent from around the world, providing them with visas for up to 10 years. This includes people and researchers in the fields of science and knowledge such as doctors, specialists, scientists and inventors. It is also open to talented creative and sporting individuals and business, startup and real estate investors in the emirate.

**For more information, visit:**  
[tamm.abudhabi](https://tamm.abudhabi)





# A heartbeat of innovation

Abu Dhabi is a proven expansion ground for businesses looking to develop locally relevant and globally exportable solutions.

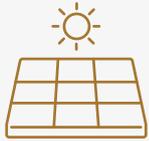
Abu Dhabi's support for innovation and creativity has enhanced its social and economic status, transforming it into a primary destination for 'big thinking' companies and talent in the region.

Federally, the UAE invests approximately **USD 3 billion every year in innovation**, supporting individuals and businesses in driving new ideas and creative thinking to solve significant challenges in the region and around the world.

The National Innovation Strategy (NIS) is mandated to ensure a culture of innovation is embedded among individuals, companies and the government. It primarily focuses on priority sectors that will drive future innovation.

ADIO's **Innovation Programme** provides incentives to innovative businesses within high-growth areas including Financial Services, Tourism, AgTech, Information Communications & Technology (ICT) and Health Services & Biopharma, among others.

The programme includes **AED 2 billion** (USD 545 million) of globally competitive financial as well as non-financial incentives providing support to innovative businesses. It allows forward-thinking investors to grow and deliver impactful ideas that have the potential to benefit the region and the world.



## Renewable and Clean Energy

Developing relevant energy industries within the UAE to enhance the efficiency of energy networks and storage, as well as shifting towards decentralised energy generation through feed-in tariff programmes.



## Water

Enhancing the production, purification and desalination of water using solar energy by managing water demand in household, industrial and agricultural uses, as well as addressing future regional and global water scarcity.



## Space

Promoting research and technology relating to the exploration of spaceships, probes and telescopes, as well as developing satellite communications technology. Abu Dhabi is deploying the latest space technologies in terrestrial applications, making the UAE one of the leading countries in the field of space research.

The Emirates Mars Mission "Hope Probe" is the first probe to provide a complete picture of the Martian atmosphere and its layers as it reached the red planet's orbit on the 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021. It is helping answering key questions about the global Martian atmosphere and the loss of hydrogen and oxygen gases into space over the span of one Martian year.

**For more information, visit:**  
[emiratesmarsmission.ae](http://emiratesmarsmission.ae)



## Transportation

Achieving leadership in air and sea transport services and technology, as well as developing and utilising unmanned vehicles such as drones and unmanned cars and trains, as well as eco-friendly air and sea transportation.



## Health

Developing health and therapeutic services using advanced technologies such as robotic surgery and telemedicine techniques. Abu Dhabi is supporting the growth of biotechnology and enhancing medical research on the treatment of prevalent diseases, namely diabetes and obesity.



## Education

Introducing creative teaching methods and techniques like smart learning, as well as designing and developing innovative curricula that equip students with the latest skills and knowledge in the fields of science, technology engineering, mathematics and arts.



## Technology

Developing smart cities, software and applications, as well as enhancing the information and communications technology (ICT) industry to improve the quality of services provided. Abu Dhabi promotes the manufacturing of advanced technology in artificial intelligence, semiconductors, nanotechnology and 3D printing.



## Hub71

## HUB71

Hub71 is a global tech ecosystem located at ADGM that offers subsidised housing, health insurance and WeWorkXHub71 office space for global startups looking to scale to the MENA region and use **Abu Dhabi as a springboard to grow their businesses.**

The capital also boasts numerous startup accelerators that help new companies jumpstart their businesses by offering co-working space, funding, training, mentorship and networking opportunities.

Abu Dhabi has a wide range of institutions devoted to fostering entrepreneurship and innovation. Some of these institutions are affiliated with prominent universities. For example, NYU Idea Lab and the UAEU Science and Innovation Park. Other institutes are subsidiaries of public agencies, such as The Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce's UAE Academy Entrepreneurship and Innovation Centre.

In addition, the UAE has numerous programmes that provide entrepreneurs with the skills they need to succeed. Arabian Business, for instance, has a startup academy. Both Shell and Boeing also provide training programmes for entrepreneurs.

**For more information visit:**

[hub71.com](https://hub71.com)





## Abu Dhabi Research and Development Authority (ADRDA)

The Abu Dhabi Department of Education and Knowledge (ADEK) has established a **holistic** and **world-class Research and Development (R&D) ecosystem**.

**ADRDA's mandate includes:**

- Growing Abu Dhabi's Research and Development ecosystem
- Attracting some of the world's best researchers
- Developing an innovation lab, a healthy R&D fund and virtual research institutes
- Supporting Abu Dhabi's positioning as a global beacon for technology, innovation and talent

**For more information, visit:**

[Abu Dhabi Research Awards](#)



# Supporting your growth

**The Abu Dhabi Investment Office (ADIO)** provides dedicated, personalised services for investors, business leaders and entrepreneurs to support their establishment and growth in Abu Dhabi and across the region.

## ADIO's services include:



### Data

Providing information on all aspects of doing business in Abu Dhabi, including data on the economy and focus sectors



### Real estate

Identifying cost-effective solutions for office space, industrial activities and connection to brokers for employee accommodation



### Networks

Connecting innovation-focused companies to the Abu Dhabi ecosystem and investment opportunities



### Talent and visas

Helping investors tap into sources of local talent, as well as obtain residency visas for their international workforce



### Licensing and permits

Providing insight into applicable laws and regulations, as well as assistance obtaining economic licenses and operating permits



### Banking and finance

Introduction to local banking partners to expedite setting up bank accounts and financing options

**Whatever support you need to establish or grow in Abu Dhabi, ADIO is here to help.**



# Take your first steps into Abu Dhabi

Our Investor Care team is ready to get your  
Abu Dhabi journey started:

[investinabudhabi.gov.ae/Get-In-Touch](https://investinabudhabi.gov.ae/Get-In-Touch)

For more information visit:

[investinabudhabi.gov.ae](https://investinabudhabi.gov.ae)



+971 2 403 1003



[inquiries@adio.ae](mailto:inquiries@adio.ae)



InvestAbuDhabi



Abu Dhabi Investment Office



InvestinAbuDhabi



InvestinAbuDhabi



مكتب أبوظبي للاستثمار  
ABU DHABI INVESTMENT OFFICE

# Abu Dhabi Prospectus

---

## LEGAL DISCLAIMER

The contents of this document are intended for general information purposes only. Any person considering establishing a business in Abu Dhabi is strongly advised to seek appropriate professional advice from the Abu Dhabi Investment Office (ADIO) directly. ADIO accepts no liability for any loss or damage caused by a person's reliance on any information, comment or statement provided in this document. ADIO does not give any warranty, either express or implied, as to the accuracy, completeness or fitness for a particular purpose of any information, comment or statement provided in this document.

[investinabudhabi.gov.ae](https://investinabudhabi.gov.ae)