



# UAE Hosts Delegation of Africa's Leading Business and Philanthropic Figures to Advance Strategic Partnerships



Against the backdrop of expanding UAE–Africa economic ties, HE Badr Jafar, the Special Envoy of the Minister of Foreign Affairs for Business and Philanthropy hosted a distinguished delegation of African business and philanthropic leaders in the UAE for a series of high-level engagements aimed at deepening cooperation across investment, trade, innovation, and philanthropy.

As part of the programme, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, met with the delegation during a high-level UAE–Africa roundtable attended by senior UAE officials from several ministries and national entities, including HH Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, First Deputy Ruler of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister of Finance; HH Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, President of the Dubai Civil Aviation Authority, Chairman of Dubai Airports, and Chairman and Chief Executive of Emirates Airline and Group; HE Mohammad Abdullah Al Gergawi, Minister of Cabinet Affairs; HE Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem, Group Chairman and CEO of DP World; HE Abdulla Balalaa, Assistant Minister for Energy and Sustainability Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and HE Helal Saeed Almarri, Director General of the Dubai Department of Economy and Tourism. The discussion explored long-term investment horizons, regulatory enablers, and practical partnership opportunities across priority sectors, reflecting a shared commitment to strengthening UAE–Africa collaboration.

Her Highness Sheikha Latifa bint Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Chairperson of Dubai Culture and Arts Authority, also hosted the delegation at Al Shindagha Museum to discuss opportunities for collaboration in areas related to culture, creative industries, and community development. In Abu Dhabi, His Highness Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council; HH Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs; HE Noura Al Kaabi, Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and HE Sultan Al Shamsi, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for Development and International Organizations, met with the delegation to highlight shared priorities, including youth empowerment, education, digital transformation, AI advancement, cultural exchange, and improved access to healthcare.

The UAE has become one of Africa's most active foreign state investors, deploying more than USD110bn between 2019 and 2023. At the recent G20 summit in South Africa, the UAE launched a USD1bn 'AI for Development' initiative to support and finance AI projects in African countries with a focus on education, agriculture, and infrastructure.

Delegates included: Mr. Abdul Samad Rabiou, Mr. Aliko Dangote, Dr. Elizabeth Jack-Rich Tein, Mr. Humphrey Kariuki, Mr. Johann Rupert, Mr. Mohammad Dewji, Sir Mo Ibrahim, Mr. Naguib Sawiris, Dr. Patrice Motsepe, Dr. Precious Moloi-Motsepe, Mr. Strive Masiyiwa, Mrs. Tsitsi Masiyiwa, and Mr. Tony Elumelu.

Sources: [Emirates News Agency](#)  
[UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#)

# Public–Private Dialogues Reinforce UAE’s Partnership-Driven Model of Growth



At the opening of the UAE’s annual government meetings week, a high-level Government & Business Dialogue for Action brought together senior policymakers, regulators, and private-sector leaders to explore how closer collaboration can accelerate delivery on national priorities. Framed around partnership-based progress, the Dialogue focused on turning strategic visions into coordinated implementation across key sectors of the economy.

Participants examined how policy direction and market insight can work together – shaping regulations that enable innovation, while ensuring that private investment supports long-term national goals. Working sessions addressed themes such as economic diversification, technology adoption, talent development, and sustainability, with an emphasis on practical mechanisms for joint action rather than high-level statements alone.

Crescent Enterprises joined the Dialogue alongside leading UAE and international companies, contributing perspectives on the role of long-term investors and operators in building resilient, future-ready industries. Discussions highlighted the importance of clear regulatory roadmaps, data-driven decision-making, and public–private partnerships that are structured for accountability, transparency, and measurable outcomes.

Commenting on the discussions, Badr Jafar said: “The UAE’s success has always been built on partnership, between strategy and execution, policy and enterprise. Today’s Dialogue reinforced that progress is not achieved in isolation, but through consistent collaboration that combines long-term vision with innovation and delivery. As we continue to diversify our economy and expand global partnerships, maintaining this rhythm of dialogue between the public and private sector will be essential to sustaining the UAE’s growth trajectory.”

The Dialogue concluded with consensus on the importance of sustaining this spirit of engagement through structured, solutions-oriented collaboration, ensuring that today’s discussions translate into continued progress in the months ahead.

The UAE Government Annual Meetings convene federal and local entities to align programmes and targets for national development, bringing the private sector into this process-enabled market insight, innovation, and on-the-ground experience to inform policymaking at the highest level.

Source: [Emirates News Agency](#)

## Crescent Enterprises Champions Collaboration and Innovation in Urban Transformation at Global Mayoral Event



Crescent Enterprises reaffirmed its commitment to advancing sustainable, inclusive, and innovation-led urban growth as a Premier Partner of the 2025 Asia Pacific Cities Summit (APCS) and Mayors' Forum, hosted at Expo City Dubai. The summit convened over 1,500 mayors, deputy mayors, and senior city officials together with leaders from business, investment, and innovation to share ideas and forge partnerships shaping the cities of tomorrow.

As part of its participation, Crescent Enterprises – together with its subsidiary GulfTainer – co-hosted an exclusive Dinner in the Desert for visiting mayors and delegates, celebrating the power of connection between people, cities, and ideas, and reflecting the UAE's enduring commitment to dialogue and collaboration.

"The UAE's story is one of partnership – bringing the public, private, and philanthropic sectors together to turn bold city ambitions into deliverable, sustainable projects," said Crescent Enterprises' CEO Badr Jafar.

"Hosting the APCS Mayors' Forum in Dubai builds on that legacy, from Expo 2020 to COP28, and signals our determination to share what works here and learn from what works in your cities."

Senior representatives from Crescent Enterprises contributed to several key sessions at the summit, sharing perspectives on the evolving role of the private sector in enabling sustainable and technologically advanced urban ecosystems.

"The next generation of cities will be defined by how well we convert data into insight, and insight into inclusive opportunity," said Tushar Singhvi, Deputy CEO and Head of Investments at Crescent Enterprises.

"At Crescent Enterprises, we invest across the digital infrastructure and innovation ecosystem – from fintech and medtech to mobility and foodtech – helping fast-track best-in-class services and building more intelligent, connected, and inclusive cities."

## UAE–India Investment Flows Highlighted at Confederation of Indian Industry Partnership Summit

Tushar Singhvi, Deputy CEO and Head of Investments at Crescent Enterprises, joined senior leaders at the 2025 Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Partnership Summit to discuss how India's maturing innovation ecosystem is enabling startups to evolve into globally competitive enterprises. Held under the theme *'Technology, Trust, and Trade: Navigating the New Geo-Economic Order'*, the Summit convened government officials, founders, and industry experts to examine new patterns of capital, technology, and market integration.

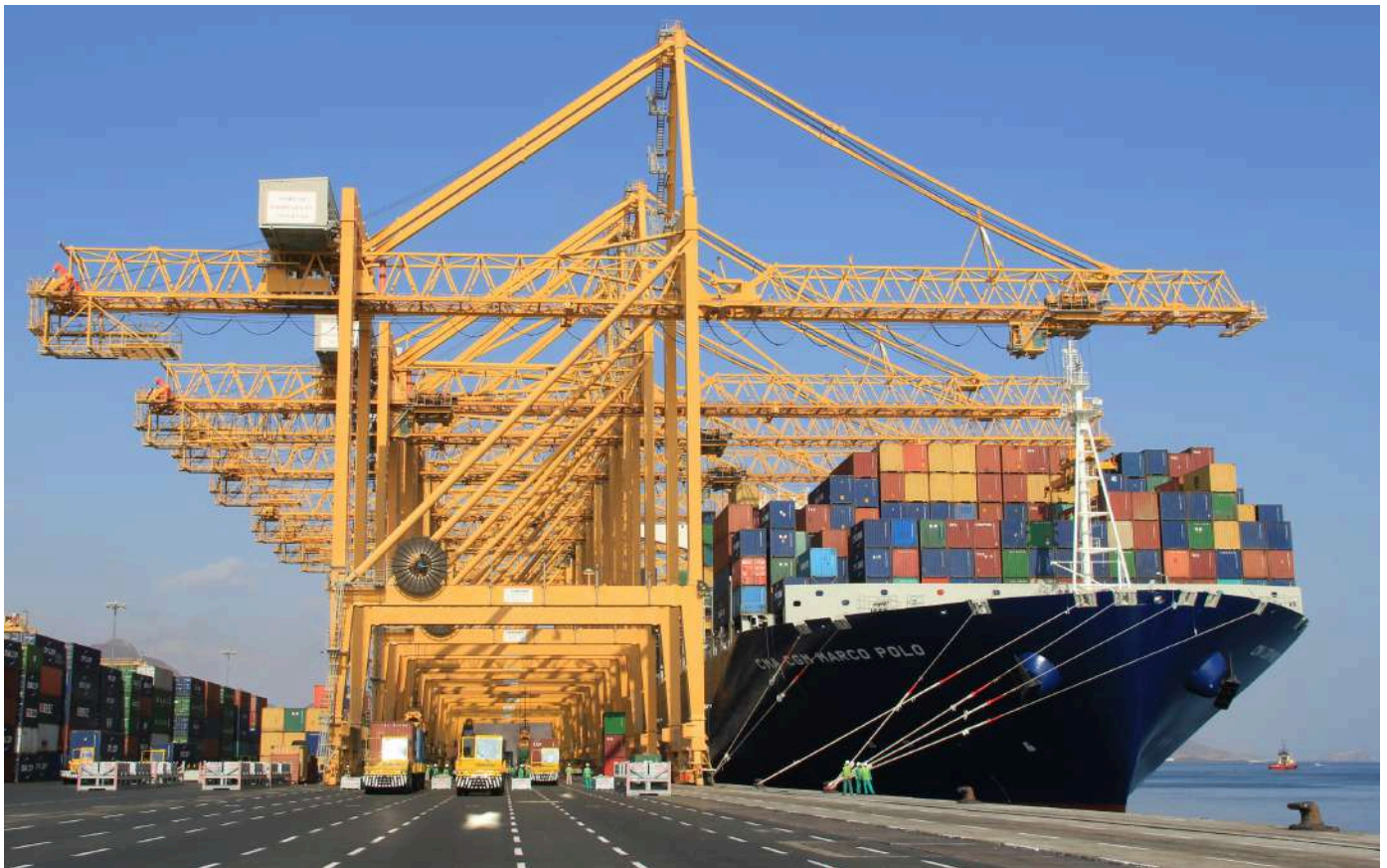
In the discussions, Tushar highlighted how innovation at the intersection of demographic strength, regulatory reform, and rising digital adoption is unlocking opportunities across sectors such as consumer, manufacturing, logistics, and digital services. Participants at the summit explored how India's deepening digital public infrastructure, pro-growth policy environment, and extensive entrepreneurial talent pool are shortening the path from early-stage venture to scale-ready business.

The Summit also provided a timely platform to contextualise CE-Invests' recently announced plans to deploy AED 1 billion across high-growth markets in India, Southeast Asia, and the GCC. The strategy builds on Crescent Enterprises' track record of backing Indian companies including Flipspaces, a tech-led interior design and build platform; Distil, an R&D-focused speciality chemicals manufacturer; and FreshToHome, a technology-enabled e-commerce and supply chain company. These investments illustrate CE-Invests' focus on businesses that combine strong fundamentals with differentiated technology and regional scaling potential.

India's large domestic market, expanding manufacturing base, and growing integration into global value chains continue to create space for homegrown ventures to scale. Across the Confederation of Indian Industry partnership network, discussions highlighted a strong pipeline of opportunities for investors and operators looking to participate in this next phase of growth.



## Gulftainer Launches GT Lines Intra-Gulf Express Service



Gulftainer has introduced a new short-sea service under its GT Lines brand, the Intra-Gulf Express (IGX), creating a dedicated maritime corridor that links key ports across the GCC and Iraq. Starting from December, IGX offers a fast and reliable regional connection, providing businesses with an efficient alternative to traditional overland and long-haul routes.

The service connects Oman, the UAE, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Iraq (Umm Qasr ICT – GT Terminal), supporting growing trade volumes and offering shippers greater flexibility in planning their supply chains. With weekly fixed-day sailings and optimised routes, IGX is designed to deliver quick turnarounds and predictable transit times, helping customers improve inventory management and reduce delays.

Beyond port-to-port transport, GT Lines is integrating IGX into Gulftainer's broader logistics offering. Door-to-door solutions – including trucking, cross-docking, and bonded services – allow cargo to move seamlessly from origin to final destination under a single, coordinated framework. This end-to-end approach is particularly valuable for industries that depend on time-sensitive deliveries and reliable regional distribution.

The launch of IGX also supports wider regional objectives around connectivity and sustainability. By providing a competitive short-sea option, the service can ease pressure on congested land borders, lower transport-related emissions per tonne moved, and open new routes for intra-Gulf trade. IGX sailings commence in December with a weekly schedule, giving customers a defined timetable for planning regional shipments.

## Gulftainer Strengthens Strategic Partnership with SpaceX



Gulftainer is deepening its strategic partnership with SpaceX, building on a long-standing collaboration that connects advanced maritime logistics with the fast-growing commercial space sector. Senior leaders from both organisations met recently to review current operations and chart the next phase of joint initiatives centred on the Canaveral Cargo Terminal (CCT) in the United States.

The Gulftainer delegation included Group CEO Farid Belbouab, EVP & Global Chief Commercial Officer Omar Rishi, and Senior Regional Director – Commercial, Victor Wai, CFA. They met with SpaceX executives including Group CFO Bret Johnsen and Vice President of Finance, Majla Custo, to discuss future growth opportunities, operational optimisation, and tailored solutions to support launch-related and high-value cargo movements.

As one of Gulftainer's key customers at CCT, SpaceX is an important part of the terminal's long-term development plans. The dialogue focused on how CCT can continue to serve as a reliable logistics hub for highly time-sensitive, precision-managed supply chains linked to launch activities and associated industries.

Following the meetings, teams from Gulftainer and SpaceX are progressing a set of joint workstreams at CCT, including capacity planning, cargo-handling processes, and infrastructure requirements to support future launch and space-related operations.

## Momentum Logistics Enhances Africa-Bound Supply Chain Capabilities



Momentum Logistics continues to advance its strategic offerings with enhanced cross-stuffing solutions from Jebel Ali to key African ports—empowering businesses to eliminate intermediate storage and optimise supply chain efficiency.

Strategically located in the Jebel Ali Free Zone (JAFZA), Momentum leverages proximity to global maritime hubs and customs advantages to offer streamlined logistics solutions for international trade. The company’s expanded services support partners in accelerating cargo movement while significantly reducing costs.

By integrating multimodal transport options with bulk warehousing and value-added services, Momentum ensures seamless cargo handling from origin to destination. These capabilities are particularly impactful for businesses seeking scalable, cost-effective solutions in dynamic regional markets.

Serving as a trusted link between Asia, the Gulf, and Africa, Momentum continues to drive smarter logistics models that prioritise speed, flexibility, and resilience. Key benefits for partners include:

- Lower transportation costs through optimised routing and handling
- Faster delivery timelines with direct cross-stuffing to final markets
- Simplified cross-border logistics via comprehensive customs and port clearance solutions

As demand for efficient trade corridors grows, Momentum’s cross-stuffing capabilities offer a clear advantage: minimising delays, maximising throughput, and keeping cargo moving with confidence.

## CE-Invests to Deploy AED 1 Billion Across GCC–Asia



CE-Invests, the strategic investment platform of Crescent Enterprises, has announced plans to deploy AED 1 billion (US\$272 million) over the next three years across high-growth markets in India, Southeast Asia, and the GCC. The investment programme will combine direct investments and fund allocations to capture opportunities in four core sectors: consumer, healthcare, manufacturing, and financial services.

Commenting on the announcement, Badr Jafar, CEO of Crescent Enterprises, said: “We see significant opportunity in these regions for patient, impact-driven, strategic investments to grow fiscally prudent, socially relevant, and globally competitive businesses.”

CE-Invests typically targets significant minority stakes, deploying AED 75–200 million per transaction. The platform leverages Crescent Enterprises’ network, portfolio synergies, and long-term investment horizon to support mid-market champions as they scale across the GCC–Asia corridor.

Ghada Abdelkader, CFA, Senior Vice President, CE-Invests, noted: “We look to establish long-term partnerships with founders and management teams to drive value creation and build future industry leaders. Our strategy reflects growing regional and sectoral investment trends and builds on our strong track record across the UAE–India and wider GCC–Asia nexus – including through our venture capital platform CE-Ventures, and CE-Invests’ recent Series C investment in Flipspaces, the leading tech-first interior design and build company operating across India and the USA.”

The AED 1 billion programme will be deployed through a pipeline of minority investments in businesses with robust fundamentals, clear regional expansion potential, and disciplined governance across the GCC–Asia corridor.

## Indo-Gulf Investment Community Convenes in Dubai to Discuss Structural Trends and Scalable Opportunities



Under the theme ‘Oasis to Opportunity: Bridging Capital, Building Futures’, the VCCircle Limited Partners Summit convened leaders from across the Indo-Gulf investment community to spotlight regional opportunities and showcase how parties on both sides can generate strong returns while advancing sustainability and scale.

Ghada Abdelkader, Senior Vice President of CE-Invests spoke on the event’s opening panel discussion: ‘Unlocking (Un)Limited Partner Opportunities: Navigating the Indo-Gulf Investment Corridor.’ Emphasising that the Indo-Gulf corridor represents a structural, not cyclical, opportunity, Ghada spoke on how our long-term objective at Crescent Enterprises is to continue backing mid-market champions that will define the next phase of economic growth across both regions. We invest with a thesis-first approach, focused on structural trends transforming our markets: rising consumption growth, credit penetrations, industrial transformation, digital adoption, supply-chain reconfiguration, and healthcare innovation.

The data underscores that much of the opportunity lies ahead:

- Over US\$83bn in cross-border private capital has flowed between Asia and the Middle East in the past five years.
- The UAE is now India’s 7th-largest investor, with cumulative FDI inflows of US\$22.8bn
- Indian ODI into the UAE has reached US\$16.5bn
- Bilateral trade has grown to US\$100bn+ pa, marking substantial growth since the India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) came into force in 2022.

This convergence of policy alignment, trade architecture, and private capital is fundamentally reshaping how capital moves between the UAE and India - and supports our investment strategy. We back businesses that demonstrate clear unit economics, proven scalability, led by strong and resilient promoters and management teams, and most importantly that demonstrate strong capital efficiency and resilience in the face of dynamic market conditions.

## Gama Aviation's Sharjah Business Aviation Centre Marks Construction Milestones and Industry Recognition



Progress is well underway at CE-Invests' portfolio company Gama Aviation's new Sharjah Business Aviation Centre (BAC), an 80,000 sqm facility poised to significantly enhance business aviation infrastructure in the UAE.

During a recent site visit, Crescent Enterprises' Deputy CEO & Head of Investments Tushar Singhvi and Senior Vice President of CE-Invests Ghada Abdelkader, CFA, joined Gama Aviation CEO Marwan Khalek and Tom Murphy, Managing Director – FBO Services, to review ongoing construction and the scale of development taking shape. The visit showcased key milestones achieved and strong alignment on the next phases of delivery.

Purpose-built to deliver operational efficiency and elevated service standards, the Sharjah BAC will feature a 12,000 sqm hangar, a 3,000 sqm two-storey VVIP terminal, a dedicated apron, and state-of-the-art maintenance facilities.

Once complete, it will boost aircraft parking and servicing capacity, streamline ground operations, and enhance the overall experience for owners, operators, and passengers using Sharjah as a base or transit hub.

The centre also reinforces Gama Aviation's broader strategy to expand its footprint across the UAE and position Sharjah as a key node in its regional network. By consolidating Fixed Base Operator (FBO) and Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) services into a single site, the new BAC will deliver fully integrated business aviation solutions to meet growing demand across the Gulf.

In recognition of its expanding capabilities, Gama Aviation has been named to Aviation Business Middle East's 2025 FBO Power List – further highlighting the company's leadership and continued contribution to the region's aviation sector.

## CE-Ventures Strategic Exit from Transcorp – One of the Region’s Most Successful Realisations Across all Sectors



CE-Ventures, the corporate venture capital platform of Crescent Enterprises completed the strategic sale of its equity stake in Transcorp, a UAE-based logistics and fulfilment company, to Elite Co, a leading regional operator backed by Green Dome Investments. The transaction delivered a 7.6x multiple on invested capital, making it one of the most successful realisations in the region across sectors.

CE-Ventures first invested in Transcorp in 2018, supporting its evolution into a key player in cold-chain fulfilment, last-mile delivery, and B2B distribution. Over the investment period, the CE-Ventures team worked closely with Transcorp’s leadership to institutionalise governance, strengthen internal systems, and unlock strategic growth opportunities.

“We are proud to have supported Transcorp’s transformation into a scalable, institutional-grade logistics company serving some of the region’s most dynamic sectors,” said Tushar Singhvi, Deputy CEO & Head of Investments at Crescent Enterprises.

“This transaction reflects our long-term approach to building resilient, scalable businesses that contribute to the region’s competitiveness.”

“CE-Ventures has been more than an investor. They’ve been a true strategic partner,” added Transcorp CEO and founder, Rodrigue Nacouzi. “From the early stages, they worked with us to strengthen our systems, banking relationships, and commercial expansion. We’re excited for what’s next as we join forces with Elite Co.”

Elite Co CEO, Hisham Albahar, commented: “Transcorp’s market-leading position in cold-chain logistics and its growing GCC network will be central to our regional expansion and our ambition to build a cold-chain powerhouse.”

Following completion of the transaction, Transcorp will be integrated into Elite Co’s logistics platform, supporting the combined group’s plans to expand its cold-chain and last-mile capabilities across the GCC.

## XCath Endovascular Robotic System Successfully Performs World First In-Human Brain Aneurysm Procedures



XCath, a medical device company dedicated to pioneering neuro-endovascular (EVR) surgical robotics, and Crescent Enterprises, the founding and largest shareholder of XCath, announced in November 2025 the successful first-in-human use of XCath's EVR robotic system to treat three patients with complex brain aneurysms.

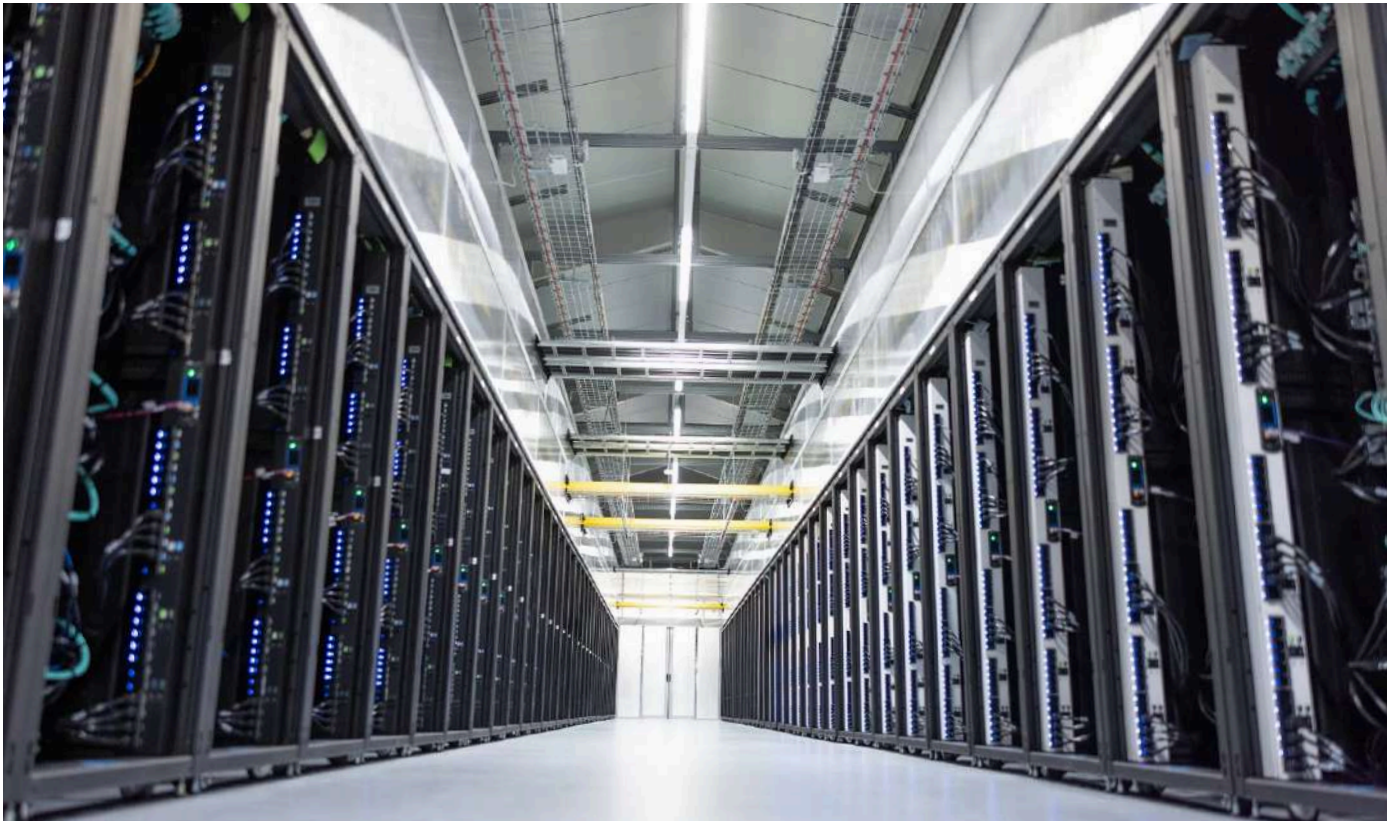
With these procedures, XCath's EVR becomes the only endovascular robotic system currently in development that has achieved intracranial navigation or neurointerventional treatment. It is also the world's first triaxial neurovascular robot to perform treatment.

"This remarkable progress from XCath highlights the region's leadership in global healthcare and solidifies Crescent Enterprises' commitment to driving innovation in healthcare. This milestone underscores how our value focused investment strategy can deliver lifesaving impact." said Neeraj Agrawal, XCath Board Member and Executive Director of Crescent Enterprises.

Every minute matters in conditions like stroke, a leading cause of death and disability worldwide. Patients lose roughly two million brain cells per minute without treatment so the ability to 'bring the specialist to the patient' via tele-robotics can save precious time and lives. Currently, only an estimated 2–3% of stroke patients worldwide have access to mechanical thrombectomy (the clot-removal procedure) when they need it.

"Unlocking clinical and commercial value in neurointervention starts with making life saving intracranial care more replicable, more precise and more accessible when every minute counts," said Eduardo Fonseca, CEO of XCath. "This milestone is a testament to the passion and dedication of our robotics, clinical and investor team. As we look to the future, the success of a trial with this level of clinical complexity lays a strong foundation for commercially viable local and telerobotic neurointerventions that improve patient outcomes."

## CE-Ventures Backs “AI factory” firm Crusoe



CE-Ventures has backed “AI factory” firm Crusoe and its plans to scale next-generation AI infrastructure across key markets. These plans for large-scale “AI factory” campuses combine power development, advanced data centre design, and high-density GPU deployment. Key to their thesis is to bring together abundant clean energy and high-performance compute infrastructure in a single, integrated platform.

From land and power development to data centre design and large-scale GPU deployment, Crusoe has adopted a vertically integrated model to make both energy and intelligence more accessible. This approach enables the company to move quickly from concept to operation, optimising each step of the value chain around efficiency, resilience, and cost.

At the centre of Crusoe’s vision is a belief that data centres can become new power drivers—shaping how energy is produced, distributed, and consumed. Flagship projects such as their planned 1.2–2 GW Abilene campus in Texas illustrate how previously wasted or stranded energy resources can be converted into productive capacity for global AI workloads, supporting both decarbonisation and digital growth.

CE-Ventures’ participation in the Series E round supports Crusoe’s plans to advance a pipeline of similar large-scale sites, designed to add AI-optimised compute capacity in locations with advantaged access to power and to support growing demand from hyperscalers and AI companies.

## LayerZero Advances Omnichain Infrastructure for Next Generation Digital Finance



CE-Ventures-backed LayerZero is building key infrastructure for the next phase of digital finance, with two recent milestones advancing its omnichain architecture.

The first is the launch of FraxNet, an institutional-money account built on LayerZero's omnichain design. FraxNet enables capital-efficient, cross-chain stablecoin operations, allowing institutions to manage liquidity across multiple blockchains without fragmenting balances on individual networks.

The second is the activation of Arc, LayerZero's public testnet, now live and open to developers and enterprises. Arc provides an environment for building and testing applications that rely on secure cross-chain connectivity, including payments, tokenised assets, and other use cases that require value to move seamlessly between chains.

Together, these developments reflect a simple principle: interoperability is foundational for the next generation of digital finance. Liquidity should not be confined to a single chain, and value should not remain locked in isolated ecosystems.

LayerZero is backed by a global group of investors, including CE-Ventures, alongside leading technology and web3 funds. Its infrastructure is already used across multiple blockchain networks and continues to attract builders developing omnichain applications at scale.

## Tarabut Gateway Enabling More Efficient, Technology-First Regional Financial Ecosystem



Tarabut Gateway, a CE-Ventures portfolio company, has launched an instant IBAN Verification solution in Saudi Arabia, addressing a critical but often overlooked source of friction in financial services: manual bank account verification. Delays, reversals, and data-entry errors create operational cost, compliance exposure, and a poor customer experience, particularly in high-volume processes such as claims and payouts.

Under the Saudi Central Bank's (SAMA) regulatory framework, insurers in the Kingdom are required to use a bank account verification system when settling motor insurance claims. Tarabut Gateway's new service automates this requirement by providing real-time IBAN validation at the point of transaction, ensuring that funds are sent to the correct account from the outset.

Tarabut Gateway is working with leading financial institutions in Saudi Arabia to embed IBAN Verification into claims, disbursements, and other payment journeys where accuracy and speed are essential. The solution is designed to be fast to implement and simple to integrate into existing systems via API, enabling insurers and other financial institutions to upgrade their processes without major disruption. Instant verification reduces back-office workload, improves straight-through processing rates, and helps institutions demonstrate compliance with SAMA's rules.

The launch of IBAN Verification adds another building block to Tarabut Gateway's open banking and data services offering in the Kingdom, supporting the wider development of a more efficient, technology-enabled financial ecosystem.

## AED 250 Million Scale-Up of CE-Creates as Leading Regional Venture-Builder



Crescent Enterprises announced an investment programme of AED 250 million to scale CE-Creates, its venture-building platform. The capital injection, combined with new leadership, marks a major expansion of CE-Creates' role in building and scaling high-growth, impact-driven startups from the UAE to global markets.

Operating as a sector-agnostic venture studio, CE-Creates deploys staged, patient capital alongside operational expertise and ecosystem access to turn early concepts into globally competitive businesses. The model follows a stage-gated approach from idea validation to MVP, go-to-market, and scale-up, with each step benchmarked against clear milestones and performance metrics to improve product-market fit, reduce risk, and accelerate growth.

“The UAE has become a launchpad for serious builders, and our collective vision is for the country to be known as the start-up capital of the world,” said Badr Jafar, CEO of Crescent Enterprises.

“With CE-Creates, our venture building platform, we’re helping entrepreneurs convert purpose into performance – locally proven, globally competitive.”

CE-Creates has already helped catalyse ventures such as Kava & Chai, ION, and BreakBread. Commenting on the new allocation, Tushar Singhvi, Deputy CEO and Head of Investments at Crescent Enterprises, said: “This AED 250 million allocation marks an exciting new chapter. Our model blends disciplined capital deployment with on-the-ground operating support in ways traditional venture funding often does not.”

To sharpen execution, Crescent Enterprises has appointed Rakhil Fernando as Head of CE-Creates. Drawing on his experience as a founder and venture studio leader, he noted: “At CE-Creates, entrepreneurs can build with confidence – backed by capital, operating tools, and partnerships that unlock regional and global potential.”

## ION and ENOC Strategic Partnership to Further Strengthen Emirate's Electric Vehicle Infrastructure



In a move to further strengthen Sharjah's electric vehicle infrastructure, ION, the sustainable mobility venture JV with CE-Creates and BEEAH, has entered into a strategic partnership with the Emirates National Oil Company (ENOC) to deploy DC fast chargers across ENOC service stations in the emirate of Sharjah.

The agreement was formalized by Amir Melad, CEO of ION, and Zaid Alqufai, Managing Director of ENOC Retail. As part of this collaboration, ION will supply, install, and operate the charging stations through its unified EV platform. Along with access to ION's next-generation chargers, ENOC customers will benefit from this end-to-end EV charging ecosystem, which offers drivers seamless in-app payment, pre-booking capabilities, and location-based navigation to nearby charging points.

Through ION, ENOC are set to leverage smart solutions to address the emirate's increasing demand for EV charging and accelerate the transition to sustainable mobility in line with the National EV Policy. The ENOC partnership announcement follows ION's unveiling at the 2025 Evolve Future Mobility Show of the region's first unified EV charging platform.

Built to bring together drivers, operators, and partners under one seamless ecosystem, the platform powers 100+ ultra-fast DC chargers across the UAE, developed in collaboration with the Sharjah Road & Transport Authority (SRTA). Marking a major step toward a smarter, more connected transport future, these milestones reflect ION's vision to make sustainable mobility simpler, smarter, and accessible to everyone.

## Celebrating 15 Years of Advancing Corporate Governance in the Gulf Region



Pearl Initiative, the non-profit organisation dedicated to strengthening corporate governance across the Gulf region, convened more than 150 senior figures, including over 30 chief executives, at its flagship Forum, “Governance in Focus: Powering Gulf Economies Through Integrity and Innovation”. The Forum provided a high-level platform for public and private sector representatives to examine the role of governance in accelerating economic diversification and enhancing regional competitiveness.

The gathering marked fifteen years of Pearl Initiative’s contribution to strengthening a culture of accountability, transparency, integrity and impact across the Gulf region. Participants explored how strong governance frameworks had accelerated economic diversification, supported enterprise growth and reinforced trust across regional markets while identifying priorities for the region’s next phase of transformation.

Badr Jafar, Founder of Pearl Initiative, stated “Since its establishment in 2010, the Pearl Initiative has pioneered the conversation around corporate governance across the Gulf, inspiring a culture of ethical leadership that reinforces trust and delivers long term value.”

“This high level forum, marking our 15 year milestone, was not only a moment to reflect on our progress but a reminder that strong corporate governance is the engine of competitiveness and innovation. By recommittting to transparency and accountability, regional economies can seize the unprecedented opportunities ahead – from technological change to generational wealth transition – and ensure that our shared prosperity endures for generations to come”.

Crescent Enterprises helped convene a high-level discussion on how “governed giving” can protect legacy and build long-term trust. The conversation, moderated by Ola Al Haj Hussin, Manager – Corporate Partnership at Crescent Enterprises, looked at how families and institutions can move from ad hoc donations to structured, accountable models of giving. Discussions across diverse topics concluded with a shared recognition that robust governance remains central to the Gulf’s economic ambitions, reinforcing the need for continued collaboration and forward-looking leadership.



## Knowledge Access Program Expanded for Thousands of Arab Youth



Crescent Enterprises, in partnership with Majarra, has expanded the Renaissance Partners Program, providing more than 10,000 young men and women across the Arab world with free access to Majarra's Arabic digital knowledge platform. The initiative is designed to remove financial and geographic barriers to high-quality content and support greater participation in the global knowledge economy.

Majarra's platform offers over 70,000 pieces of content in multiple formats, including articles, audio, video, bite-sized content, and podcasts. This variety allows users to engage with topics such as leadership, management, technology, and personal development in ways that fit their daily lives and learning preferences.

The latest phase of the programme has also seen a notable rise in female engagement: women now represent 30% of participants, an increase attributed in part to a dedicated awareness campaign run under the Renaissance Partners umbrella.

"Access to knowledge is a powerful enabler of opportunity, innovation, and progress," said Ola Al Haj Hussin, Corporate Citizenship Manager at Crescent Enterprises. "Through our partnership with Majarra, we are making world-class content accessible to Arabic-speaking communities, advancing digital inclusion and supporting long-term social and economic development across the region."

Beneficiaries report tangible impact on their academic and professional journeys, citing improved access to trusted resources and practical insights in Arabic.

Applications for the Renaissance Partners Program remain open, inviting individuals who face barriers to accessing premium knowledge platforms to apply for complimentary Majarra subscriptions that support learning, skills-building, and community engagement.



About Crescent Enterprises: Crescent Enterprises is a leading multinational company, growing diversified global businesses that are sustainable, scalable, and profitable.

Headquartered in the United Arab Emirates, with business operations in 15 countries, it operates under four enterprise platforms:

- CE-Operates, an operating business platform, focusing on smart infrastructure as the main driver of economic development and growth.
- CE-Invests, a strategic investment platform investing in late-stage businesses and private equity funds
- CE-Ventures, a corporate venture capital platform targeting early-stage technology enabled high-growth businesses and venture capital funds globally
- CE-Creates, an internal business incubator, building start-ups that are socially and environmentally conscious

Crescent Enterprises operates with a value system and culture that embraces corporate governance, inclusive growth, and responsible business practices.



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