

# UAE-Hosted Dialogues at World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting Focus on Optimising AI for Inclusive Growth



The World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting in Davos featured a series of UAE-hosted high-level dialogues focused on optimising AI deployment to reduce inequality and address development gaps.

At a session titled 'The AI Impact Flywheel: Government, Business & Strategic Philanthropy' hosted by H.E. Badr Jafar as the UAE Special Envoy of the Minister of Foreign Affairs for Business and Philanthropy, in collaboration with the UAE Prime Minister's Office, more than 50 global leaders spanning global technology companies, philanthropy, multilateral institutions, and social innovation organisations came together. Discussions highlighted how despite the unprecedented technological advances and scale of global investment in AI, less than 1% of that investment has been directed towards social impact.

In opening remarks, Badr Jafar highlighted this gap, arguing that alignment across sectors is essential and that strategic philanthropy can play a catalytic role by absorbing early risk and investing in shared infrastructure to scale solutions for positive social impact. H.E. Huda Al Hashimi, UAE Deputy Minister of Cabinet Affairs for Strategic Affairs, reaffirmed the UAE Government's commitment to deepening international cooperation on AI development and governance, supporting responsible cross-sector innovation while ensuring these efforts advance development goals and empower communities to benefit from future-ready solutions. HH Sheikha Shamma bint Sultan bin Khalifa Al Nahyan, President and CEO of Frontier25 and The Climate Tribe, pointed to AI's potential in climate adaptation, including early warning systems and data-driven resilience strategies, alongside the ethical responsibility to deploy AI with intentionality and transparency.



The UAE also hosted a session which brought together Badr Jafar and Ms. Kristalina Georgieva, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), for a discussion on the risks and opportunities shaping the global economy.

Georgieva warned that with an AI 'tsunami' hitting the labour market and 40% of jobs globally facing AI-driven disruption, urgent investment in skills and inclusion is required. The UAE was highlighted as a model for navigating the AI era while driving diversification and connectivity. Badr Jafar highlighted the UAE's long-term strategic choice to build an economy optimized for resilience, openness, and global connectivity.

The dialogue reflected the UAE's continued commitment to shaping global economic conversations and contributing constructively to international efforts on inclusive growth, AI, and the future of work. The session formed part of the UAE's broader programme in Davos, championing responsible innovation, patient capital, and cross-sector collaboration in building a more resilient and inclusive global economy.

Read more: [How inclusive AI can catalyze transformative growth](#)

# UAE-India Visit Highlights \$200 Billion Annual Trade Target and Dynamic Cross-Sector Economic Partnerships



H.E. Badr Jafar led an official visit to New Delhi and Mumbai to reinforce trade, investment, and social impact collaboration. The visit included 43 bilateral meetings and engagements with senior Indian business and philanthropy leaders across priority sectors.

The mission followed the recent state visit to India by His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Abu Dhabi. During that visit, bilateral trade was confirmed to have surpassed US\$100 billion in 2025, five years ahead of schedule, and a new annual target of US\$200 billion by 2032 was announced.

Commenting on the visit, Badr Jafar said: *“The UAE-India partnership continues to stand out as one of the most dynamic economic corridors globally. It is a strategic growth platform built on trust, talent, and shared ambition. Indian companies increasingly view the UAE as a gateway into the Middle East, Africa, and beyond. At the same time, UAE investors see India as one of the most compelling long-term growth markets globally. India builds at scale; the UAE connects at scale - together, this becomes global scale.”*

In Mumbai, Badr Jafar met with Shri Devendra Fadnavis, Honorable Chief Minister of Maharashtra, whose trade with the UAE surpassed US\$21.4 billion last year. Meetings were also held with leaders in infrastructure, advanced manufacturing, technology, logistics, energy, financial services, and consumer industries.



The programme included engagements with principals from Tata Trusts, Aditya Birla Group, Bharti Enterprises, Hinduja Group, Godrej Enterprises Group, Piramal Group, Jindal Steel, Hero MotoCorp, InoxGFL and Parle Group, among others, representing more than US\$400 billion in combined enterprise value.

In addition a roundtable was convened with CEOs from leading India-based philanthropies, including EdelGive Foundation, Piramal Foundation, Akshaya Patra, J.K. Trust, Dasra and the Hinduja Foundation, focused on advancing cross-sector partnerships and identifying pathways to deliver measurable social impact.

- Read more:
- [The Economic Times](#)
  - [The Hindu](#)
  - [Hindustan Times](#)
  - [CNBC-TV18](#)
  - [The Week](#)
  - [The National](#)
  - [WAM](#)

# Crescent Enterprises Features at Region's Largest Festival of Entrepreneurship Ecosystem and Founder Culture



Sharjah Entrepreneurship Festival 2026 welcomed more than 360 speakers and 15,000 participants including founders, investors, creatives and policymakers for two days of ideas exchange, community building and business formation, at the region's largest event of its kind reflecting Sharjah and the UAE's growing role in the regional startup ecosystem.

Badr Jafar delivered a keynote on 'Scaling What Matters: Entrepreneurship at the Intersection of AI, Capital, and Social Impact', focusing on what separates ideas that sound good from solutions that actually scale – with the core argument that technology, capital, and even exceptional talent can accelerate what is built, but they do not guarantee what gets delivered and sustained. The keynote highlighted the importance of governance, execution capacity, and institutional strength as the often-missed foundations of long-term impact.

The UAE's entrepreneurship ecosystem and founder culture were cited as signals of successful alignment in action. The UAE has ranked first globally by the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor, with their research indicating that a large share of new entrepreneurs in the UAE prioritise social and environmental impact alongside commercial outcomes. With more than a decade of venture investing experience and +US\$550m deployed, Crescent Enterprises Deputy CEO and Head of Investments, Tushar Singhvi was also a featured speaker, providing his perspective on where capital is flowing, what founders should prioritise, and which sectors are gaining momentum.

Against a selective global venture environment, regional venture funding grew by roughly 90% year-on-year in 2025. Founders prioritised sharper diligence, higher expectations on execution, and more scrutiny on fundamentals such as unit economics, retention, and repeatable go-to-market. A recurring theme at the festival was the value of backing ventures that sit at the intersection of technology, real-economy demand, and cross-border scalability. The strongest opportunities were framed as those solving hard operational problems with clear buyers and near-term adoption pathways, while also being built to expand across markets.

Sectors discussed as particularly interesting in 2026 included AI-enabling infrastructure (the tooling, data, security, and deployment layers that make AI usable in real environments), fintech stacks (platforms that improve payments, compliance, lending, and embedded finance for businesses), and next-generation healthcare (where clinical need, data, and delivery models are converging).

Crescent Enterprises has supported the Sharjah Entrepreneurship Center (Sheraa) and the festival from the outset and was proud to be honoured as an ecosystem partner, reinforcing a focus on entrepreneurship that delivers real, measurable outcomes. The company sponsored the "Crowd Favorite" track of the SEF Pitch Competition, supporting promising ventures and helping connect early-stage startups with investors and industry leaders. CE-Ventures and FlipSpaces were also prominent and active across the festival.

# Dubai Launches Initiative with Crescent Enterprises to Become World-Leading Microbiome R&D Hub



Dubai Future Foundation (DFF), Dubai Department of Economy and Tourism (DET), and Crescent Enterprises launched a Dubai-based, microbiome research and development initiative, the 'Global Microbiome Ecosystem' - aimed at developing a world-leading, intellectual property-focused ecosystem for the global longevity and wellness industry. This aligns with the UAE and Dubai's commitment to the 'Future of Health' as a driver of economic growth, quality of life, and global competitiveness.

The 'Global Microbiome Ecosystem' is set to be a globally oriented, IP-focused platform for microbiome-driven health innovation. It will integrate cutting-edge R&D, future-shaping innovators, and responsible sector leaders to focus on priority areas, accelerate knowledge creation with talent development, and generate high-value, future-shaping IP.

Khalifa Al Qama, Chief of Research, Development and Innovation at Dubai RDI, an ecosystem under Dubai Future Foundation (DFF), said: *"Dubai's innovation and regulatory sandbox frameworks position the city as a natural home for the global microbiome sector, enabling a connected ecosystem that brings together research institutions, innovators, investors, policymakers, and global partners. By focusing on microbiome-driven health and longevity, this collaboration can accelerate translational research, create globally relevant intellectual property, and reinforce Dubai's role as a leading hub where frontier science is translated into real-world health impact."*

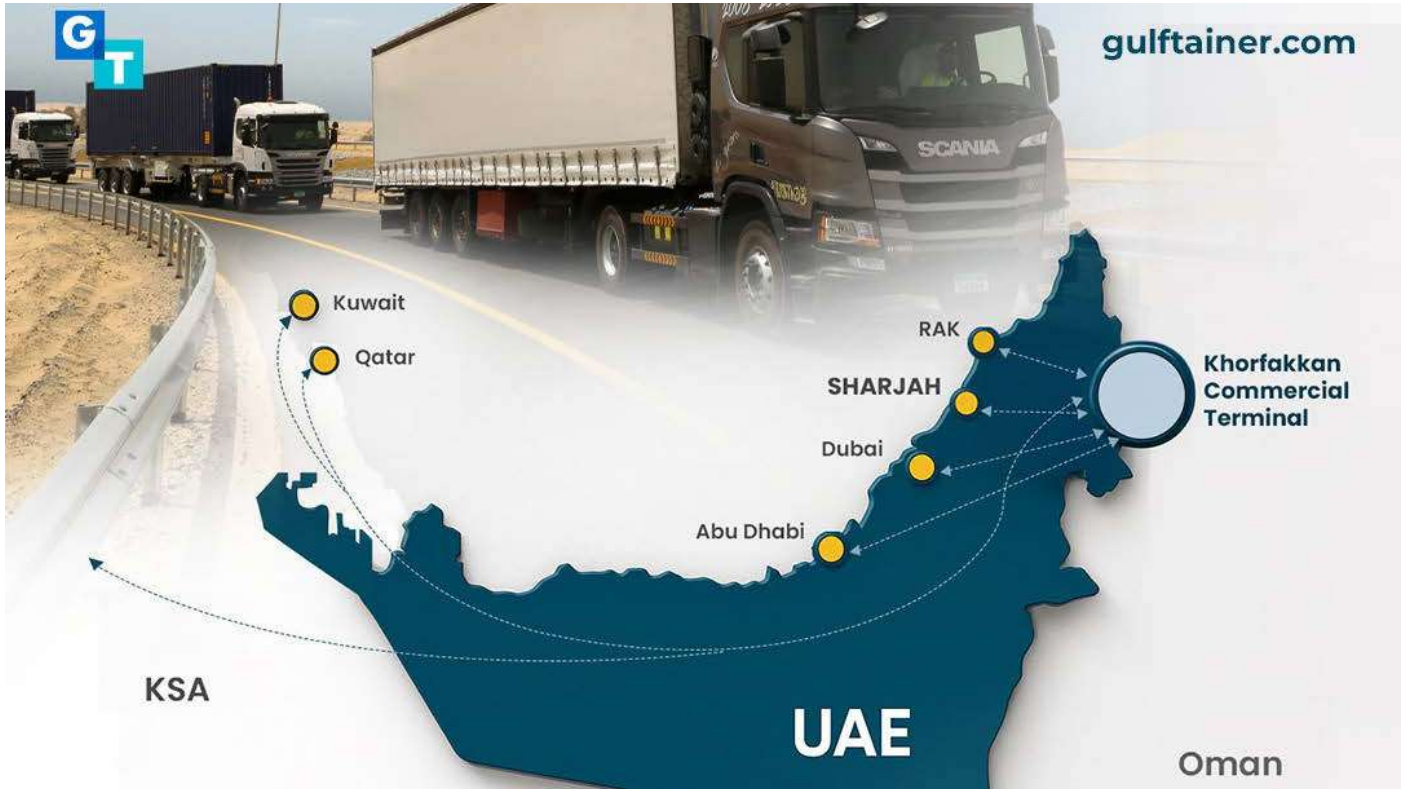
H.E. Badr Jafar, CEO of Crescent Enterprises, said: *"We are at a microbiome 'moonshot' moment – a point where science, technology, and collaboration can converge and where choices we make now will shape outcomes for decades to come. Dubai and the UAE are a natural base for this as a leading global hub not just for trade and capital, but for ideas, talent, and science. Translating breakthrough science into real-world impact requires exactly this kind of alignment – across research, innovation, policy, and investment."*

Building on Crescent Enterprises' role as a committed investor in microbiome innovation and an established convenor of global expertise, the collaboration will evaluate pathways to advance novel health solutions grounded in microbiome science and precision health, including responsible approaches to clinical adoption and international scaling.

The announcement was made at the Microbiome Revolution symposium hosted by CE-Ventures. The event opened with a speech from His Excellency Dr Alawi Alsheikh-Ali, Director General of the Dubai Health Authority (DHA), who outlined Dubai's ambition to build a resilient, future-ready healthcare system of international standing, highlighted the importance of public-private alignment in advancing next-generation health innovation, and emphasised the UAE's role as a global convening platform for translating breakthrough science into real-world, scalable impact.

Read more: [Dubai Launches 'Global Microbiome Ecosystem'](#)

## Landbridge Connects Khorfakkan on Indian Ocean Coast to GCC Markets with Speed and Efficiency



Gulfainer's Landbridge solution provides an integrated inland network supporting supply chain continuity when regional shipping routes face increased pressure. Leveraging the strategic location of Khorfakkan Commercial Terminal (KCT) as the first gateway to the UAE market, it offers the fastest connectivity to domestic and regional markets with a fleet of over 300 trailers, and a seamless network for cross-border cargo movement supported by round-the-clock operations, and a robust logistics ecosystem.

By connecting KCT directly to key inland hubs with controlled flows, optimized routing, and a modern GPS-tracked fleet, the Landbridge provides predictable, reliable cargo movement across the region. In today's dynamic environment, this resilient option enhances flexibility and provides a dependable inland alternative when it matters most. The seamlessly integrated network keeps cargo moving with predictable transit ensured through optimized routing with minimal handovers and secure inland movement - and supports supply chain diversification.

The Landbridge provides direct bonded access to Sharjah and Sajaa Dry Ports.

The newly launched Sajaa Dry Port is a 70-hectare strategic logistics hub strategically positioned between Sharjah and KCT with a fully interlocked 50,000 sqm yard, 5,000 sqm modern warehousing, and 30,000 sqm bulk & container storage.

The Sharjah inland container depot (ICD) itself launched in 2025 as the UAE's first bonded ICD and a major milestone in enhancing the country's logistics infrastructure and trade efficiency. Strategically located just 20 km from Sharjah Port and 140 km from Khorfakkan Port, it supports seamless multimodal connectivity, streamlining customs processes, accelerating cargo movement, and delivering cost-effective logistics solutions.

This growing network capability reflects the continued momentum of Gulfainer's expansion programme as trade volumes and customer requirements evolve.

## Gulftainer Eyes Strategic International Expansion in Uganda and Laos to Strengthen Trade and Logistics Connectivity



Gulftainer has developed strategic partnerships in Uganda and Laos to enhance the efficiency and competitiveness of dry ports, logistics corridors and intermodal solutions that can improve cargo flows, strengthen regional connectivity, and enable more seamless access to markets.

In Uganda, Gulftainer Group CEO, Farid Belbouab, had the honour to meet His Excellency Yoweri K Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda, together with senior members of the government, including the Minister of Works and Transport and the Attorney General. In a pivotal moment for Uganda's trade and logistics landscape, Gulftainer and the Government of Uganda formally aligned on a shared vision to develop the country's first rail-connected dry port and a modern logistics and trade network to facilitate the seamless movement of cargo. As one of the fastest-growing economies in Africa, with strong potential to emerge as a key regional logistics hub, this strategic project is set to become a cornerstone of Uganda's supply-chain strategy and a catalyst for broader trade growth.

Belbouab said: *"We are excited to partner with visionary leaders who share our ambition. As a strong advocate for regional integration, we thank His Excellency for the trust and for welcoming our proposal to bring the project to fruition. We look forward to working together to drive economic growth and prosperity."*



In Laos, Gulftainer signed an agreement with PTL Holding Company Ltd to leverage Gulftainer's operational expertise to enhance the efficiency and competitiveness of PTL's dry port platform, and optimise Laos' linkages to Vung Ang Port. The high-level signing ceremony was held in the presence of H.E. Saleumxay Kommasith, Deputy Prime Minister of Lao PDR, and H.E. Abdallah Sultan Al Owais, Chairman of the Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry, alongside senior government officials across finance, industry, trade, foreign affairs, and commerce.

The agreement aligns with Gulftainer's strategy to expand its presence in Southeast Asia and support regional trade growth including through collaboration around logistics and connectivity opportunities linked to Lao PDR's dry ports and wider corridor development.

## Gama Aviation Opens New State-of-the-Art Business Aviation Centre at Sharjah International Airport



Gama Aviation has officially opened its new Business Aviation Centre (BAC) at Sharjah International Airport, and welcomed the arrival of the facility's first aircraft. The centre represents a major long-term investment in business aviation infrastructure in the UAE, with more than US\$60 million invested in a purpose-built facility designed to raise operational standards while improving the end-to-end experience for operators, owners, crews, and passengers.

Built from the ground up, the BAC has been designed to reduce operational friction and improve flow from arrival through to departure, with direct airside access and no slot constraints. The facility spans a site of over 80,000 sqm and includes a two-storey VVIP terminal (3,000 sqm) and a three-bay hangar (12,000 sqm), alongside a dedicated parking apron and integrated maintenance capability supporting aircraft parking, storage, and line maintenance.

For guests, the terminal offers an elevated passenger experience through dedicated lounges and hospitality spaces. For aircrew, the site includes practical features such as rest suites, briefing rooms and on-site amenities intended to support round-the-clock operations.

Airside infrastructure has been configured to support efficient aircraft turnaround, with dedicated fuelling, ground support equipment, and a layout designed to enable smooth day-to-day movements.

The opening reflects the growing importance of Sharjah as a strategic base for business aviation, particularly for operators seeking efficient access to Dubai and the Northern Emirates with dedicated, high-quality ground infrastructure. In a visible marker of the milestone, the first aircraft arrival was recognised with a water cannon salute by the airport's Fire and Rescue teams.

Reflecting on the opening, Tom Murphy, FBO Services MD, said: *"This is a hugely proud moment for Gama Aviation and for everyone who has worked to bring the Sharjah BAC to life. The scale of investment, the quality of the facility and the dedication of the team are exceptional. From day one, our focus has been on delivering a fully functioning FBO that genuinely supports operators, owners and crews — and seeing aircraft arrive, depart and move seamlessly into the hangar is a powerful demonstration of that."*

Read more: [First Aircraft Arrive at Gama Aviation's Sharjah BAC](#)

## Tech-First Commercial Interior Design and Build Company Flipspaces Targets GCC Expansion with UAE as Hub



Flipspaces, the tech-based commercial interior design and fit-out company backed by CE-Invests, is expanding its footprint in the Middle East, with the UAE positioned as the operational hub and nerve centre for this growth. The move aligns with its target to become a US\$100m revenue company by FY2027 and builds on its established presence across India and the USA where it has been among the fastest growing in its sector for the past four years.

Founder and CEO Kunal Sharma said the UAE is pivotal to Flipspaces' next phase of expansion, *"It aligns directly with our turnkey design-build workspace model and the UAE doubles as a gateway linking India, the Middle East, and Europe, allowing us to support multi-country rollouts from a single platform. We utilize a proprietary tech stack that integrates design, procurement, and project management under one roof. This eliminates budget overruns and delays... and our tech-led approach allows us to execute multi-city and multi-market mandates simultaneously."*

The company has incorporated in Dubai and is already working on marquee mandates. Its go-to-market strategy combines owned operations with partnerships

across developers, co-working operators, and enterprise clients, with an initial focus on commercial offices, tech and fintech campuses, hospitality, retail, and education. The company is also pursuing a build-and-buy strategy, evaluating specialist firms and boutique design-and-build studios, including potential acquisitions in the UAE to accelerate scale.

Flipspaces' tech-first approach integrates design, procurement, and turnkey execution through a system-led operating model. The proprietary platform provides enterprise clients with speed, certainty, and transparency across a single unified workflow. This enables real-time visibility into budgets, timelines, and risks. AI, AR, VR and associated advanced technologies are the backbone of operations – powering smarter design, predictive dashboards, and faster, more accurate project execution. Designers collaborate with AI to optimize layouts, while project and sales teams receive real-time insights. Digital twins simulate design, workflows, and execution scenarios, helping identify bottlenecks or risks before they occur. Advanced analytics use historical and live data to forecast costs, timelines, and resource needs, so teams to shift from reactive execution to predictive planning.

# ‘The Microbiome Revolution’ Symposium Focuses on Unlocking the Gut–Brain Axis for the Future of Health



CE-Ventures hosted its annual Microbiome Revolution symposium in Dubai, convening global experts, clinicians, innovators, investors and policymakers to explore how microbiome science is reshaping the future of health. The event focused on the gut-brain axis and translating advances in research into clinical adoption and scalable investment opportunities.

The gut–brain–microbiome axis is increasingly understood as a system where the gut microbiome and the brain interact through neural, endocrine, and immune pathways. As clinicians and researchers deepen understanding of these connections, microbiome-enabled approaches are gaining traction across prevention, mental health, and personalised care, alongside advances in diagnostics, biomarkers, precision nutrition, and data-driven medicine.

Dubai’s role as a convening point for connecting breakthrough science with real-world pathways was highlighted as the event featured leading pioneers in microbiome research and clinical innovation, and included an opening address from H.E. Dr. Alawi Alsheikh-Ali, Director General of Dubai Health Authority, and remarks from Badr Jafar, Tushar Singhvi, and leading clinical, scientific, and investment experts.

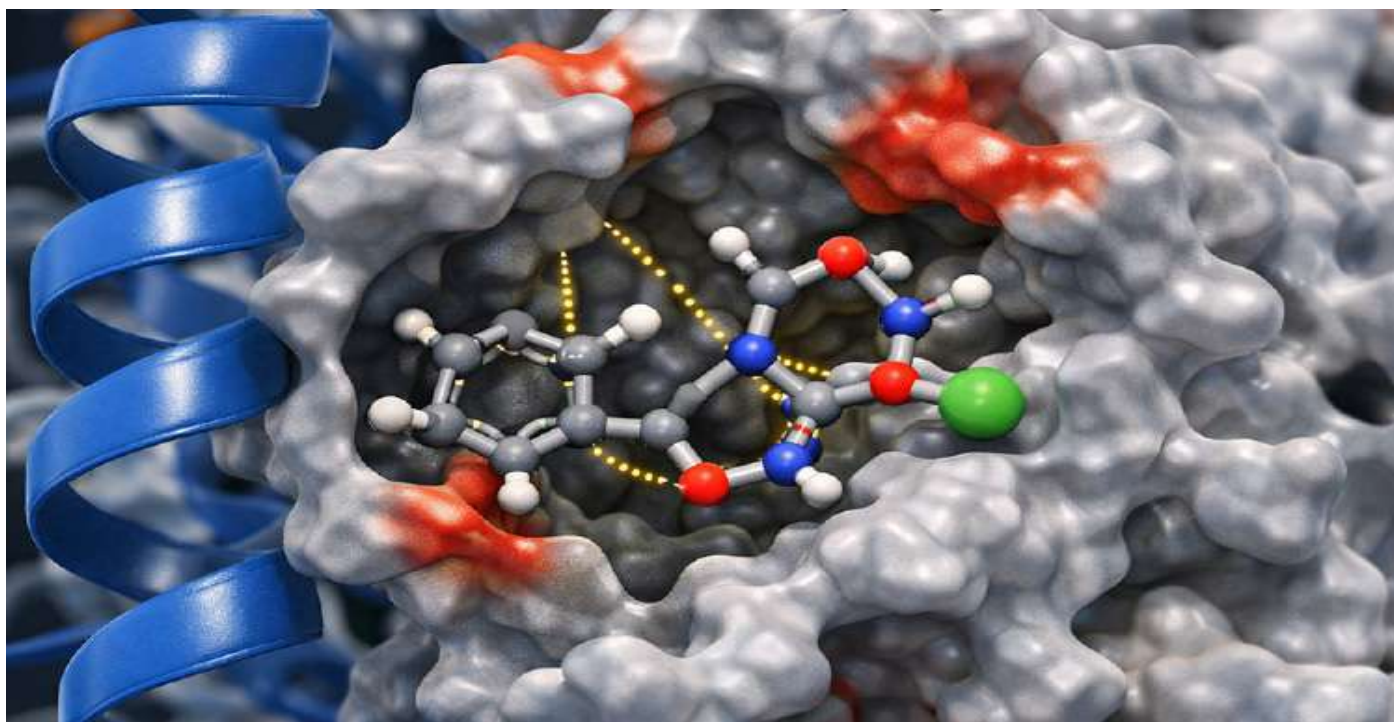
The programme explored microbiome-informed prevention and lifestyle interventions, emerging



diagnostics and biomarkers, AI-enabled discovery and personalised medicine, and the policy and regulatory enablers that can accelerate clinical adoption. Discussion themes included neurodegeneration and the gut; how diet, lifestyle and the microbiome shape healthy ageing; how microbes train and regulate the immune system; and links between the gut microbiome and mental health. A clear takeaway was that the gut–brain axis is now a major frontier for prevention, mental health, and personalised care.

*Read more: [The Microbiome Revolution Symposium](#)*

## CE Ventures Backs \$55 Million Series A Funding for BioTech Pioneer, Think Bioscience



CE Ventures joined the Series A funding round for Think Bioscience, a biotech company pioneering novel approaches to historically challenging drug targets. The oversubscribed US\$55 million round was led by Regeneron Ventures, Innovation Endeavors, and Janus Henderson Investors, with participation from CE Ventures, MBX Capital, T.A. Springer, and YK Bioventures, alongside returning investors AV8 Ventures, CU Innovations, and Buff Gold Ventures. The new capital will support the advancement of Think Bio's pipeline of first in class small molecule programs and further development of its discovery platform.

Think Bio uses synthetic biology to uncover previously hidden footholds on proteins (such as novel pockets) that enable medicinal chemists to design small molecule drugs against targets long considered "undruggable". The company's lead program focuses on mutants that cause Noonan syndrome, a genetic condition affecting approximately 1 in 2,500 births and associated with serious cardiac and lymphatic complications, short stature, cognitive impairment, and chronic pain. There are currently no approved therapies that directly address the underlying biology of Noonan syndrome.

*"Think Bioscience is building a differentiated platform at the frontier of synthetic biology and drug discovery, with the potential to expand what is pharmaceutically possible for patients with high unmet need,"* said Tushar Singhvi, Deputy CEO and Head of Investments at Crescent Enterprises. *"Our investment reflects strong conviction in Think Bio's approach and the opportunity to build a leading biotech company that can benefit patients worldwide."*

*"Think Bioscience is addressing one of drug discovery's most critical bottlenecks by enabling small-molecule drugs against historically undruggable targets. Their Noonan syndrome program highlights the platform's potential where no approved therapies exist,"* said Dr. Damir Ilich, Manager, Life Sciences at CE-Ventures, who will join the company's board as an observer.

The investment builds on CE-Ventures' strategy of backing visionary entrepreneurs and R&D-led, asset-light business models with global potential across sectors, including deep-tech and biotech.

Read more: [CE-Ventures Backs Think Bioscience](#)

## PierSight Signs Agreements with Indian Government to Strengthen India's End-to-End Space Capabilities



CE Ventures' portfolio company, PierSight, announced the signing of agreements with Indian government entities to strengthen end-to-end space capabilities. PierSight has formally signed a concession agreement to develop India's first earth observation constellation under a public-private partnership model.

Over the course of the next four years, PierSight will design, build, and launch two Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) satellites out of the total twelve satellites that will be a part of this constellation. In parallel, they will continue to build satellites dedicated for 24x7 maritime surveillance.

PierSight have also signed a memorandum of understanding with the Government of Gujarat to establish a centre focused on the manufacturing of radar payloads and satellites, further strengthening India's end-to-end space capabilities.

The planned facility is intended to contribute to domestic capability-building across the space value chain, from payload development through satellite manufacturing

and system integration. By expanding local production and technical capacity, the initiative will support faster iteration, stronger supply-chain resilience, and clearer pathways from R&D into deployment, particularly in domains where reliability and sovereign capability are critical.

The agreements reflect the growing momentum of India's space technology ecosystem, with increased activity in advanced sensing, satellite manufacturing, and downstream applications that support national security and critical infrastructure monitoring. Space-based radar and earth observation capabilities are increasingly important for maritime domain awareness, persistent monitoring, and response planning, where all-weather, day-and-night sensing can provide operational advantage.

PierSight's work focuses on space-based radar and maritime intelligence, addressing use cases where timely situational awareness and dependable data can strengthen decision-making across public and commercial stakeholders.

# Mesh Raises \$75 Million Series C at \$1 Billion Valuation to Build Universal Crypto Payments Network



Crypto payments network Mesh Connect Inc, of which CE-Ventures is an investor, has reached a US\$1 billion valuation after its recent US\$75 million Series C funding round. Mesh is building a universal crypto payments network designed to modernise how value moves across wallets, chains, and currencies. Its blockchain-native API layer allows users and platforms to transfer crypto and stablecoins seamlessly. As digital assets move from speculation to utility, Mesh is creating the middleware infrastructure for the crypto-to-fiat and crypto-to-crypto payment economy.

The problem Mesh is tackling is fragmentation: consumers hold assets across different wallets and networks, while merchants and platforms want simple settlement, predictable reconciliation, and reliable execution. Mesh's approach is to provide an infrastructure layer that can connect multiple ecosystems and enable payments to be initiated from a broad range of sources, while allowing settlement in the asset or currency that the receiving party prefers.

The new funding is intended to support Mesh's next phase of growth, including expanding integrations with wallets, exchanges, and payment partners, strengthening the underlying rails for speed and reliability, and continuing to invest in the compliance, security, and operational capabilities to support scale.

*"Crypto is crowded by design, with new tokens and new protocols emerging every day,"* said Bam Azizi, Co-founder and CEO of Mesh. *"That fragmentation creates real friction in the customer payment experience. We are focused on building the necessary infrastructure now to connect wallets, chains, and assets, allowing them to function as a unified network."*

As crypto payments move from experimentation into more mainstream usage, infrastructure that reduces friction and improves interoperability is increasingly important. *"The winners of the next decade won't be those who issue the most tokens, but those who build the network of networks,"* Azizi says.

## Crusoe's Abilene AI Data Center Wins Award as North American Data Center Project of the Year



CE Ventures portfolio company Crusoe's Abilene AI data center was named North American Data Center Project of the Year at the 2025 Data Center Dynamics Global Awards. The project, designed to support Oracle Cloud Infrastructure, was recognized for combining innovative design with rapid delivery and energy-efficient operation, reflecting the new performance and sustainability requirements of modern AI workloads.

The Abilene site is a 1.2 GW AI data center campus built for extreme density and high-performance compute. It has been positioned as a purpose-built "AI factory" rather than a conventional data center build, with infrastructure choices shaped by the thermal and power demands that come with next-generation AI hardware. A central feature of the design is the use of advanced cooling methods, including liquid-cooling approaches intended to manage higher heat loads more efficiently and support stable operation at scale.

The award also reflects the execution model behind the project. AI infrastructure is increasingly defined by speed-to-capacity and repeatability, not only by final

specifications. Abilene has been highlighted for rapid delivery, supported by modular, repeatable design principles and a vertically integrated approach that reduces dependency across multiple layers of the build and deployment process. This is particularly relevant in a market where lead times, supply chains, and commissioning complexity can become the limiting factor as AI demand accelerates.

As AI workloads grow, projects like Abilene are setting the benchmark for how large-scale capacity can be delivered with strong operational controls, efficient thermal management, and an energy-first mindset. The recognition underscores the shift toward infrastructure engineered specifically for AI, with closer integration between design, construction, cooling, and operations to meet performance requirements without compromising efficiency.

As the AI factory company, Crusoe is on a mission to accelerate the abundance of energy and intelligence by providing a reliable, scalable, cost-effective, and environmentally friendly solution for AI infrastructure.

## Aalo Atomics on Track to Bring their Next-Generation Advanced Nuclear Reactor to Criticality by 4th July



Aalo Atomics is set to bring Aalo-X, their next-generation advanced reactor, to criticality by 4th July 2026 in line with the ambitious target set by the US government last year. The challenge was set to demonstrate a new generation of reactors in record time and spur a new era of nuclear innovation.

Aalo-X is a full-scale advanced eXtra Modular Reactor, an advanced nuclear power plant that contains a sodium-to-steam heat exchanger feeding a 10 MWe turbine-generator, air-cooled condensers, and all auxiliary and safety systems. It is a 'unit cell' of Aalo's commercial 'Pod' reactor product, which can be scaled anywhere from a single 10 MWe module to a 200 MWe multi-unit power station. In other words, what is proven with Aalo-X can be multiplied many times over, a plug-and-play reactor building block for future deployments.

The practical reality of advanced nuclear deployment is that progress is not driven by technology alone. It depends on execution across hardware, regulation, logistics, and supply chains, with every layer moving in alignment. The focus is on translating engineering

ambition into repeatable delivery, including the industrial discipline required to manufacture, qualify, transport, and test components in real conditions.

Aalo has now completed its Final Design Review with independent U.S. Department of Energy and Nuclear Regulatory Commission reviewers – a major regulatory milestone that they've been working toward for over two years. This continues a remarkable run of achievements in record speed. The ability to go from factory fabrication to grid-connected operation, to refuelling, all within a tight timeline, is the forceful demonstration that sets up vast commercial scaleup.

It takes an ecosystem of some scale to enable Aalo's accelerated progress – and more than 127 suppliers across 35 US states and six countries are contributing. For example, acquiring nuclear fuel can be a bottleneck, so Aalo is collaborating with the most experienced fuel suppliers to accelerate go-to-market – and its technology relies not on futuristic technology breakthroughs but on existing fuel supply chains. Aalo-X's fuel rod fabrication is on track for that July deadline.

## CE Creates Leads Entrepreneurship Event Defining the Signals of Product-Market Fit



CE-Creates, Crescent Enterprises' internal business incubation platform, led a session at the region's largest entrepreneurship festival, SEF26, focused on one of the most consequential questions founders face: how to know when product-market fit is real, not temporary momentum.

Rakhil Fernando, Head of CE-Creates, introduced and moderated the discussion to unpack what the "aha" moment looks like in practice and why it often shows up first in behaviour rather than headlines. Speakers included Anuscha Iqbal of Qanooni AI, Bunty Monani of Zofeur, and Sundeep S. of Valeo offering practical lessons for founders moving from experimentation to repeatable growth.

The event explored the difference between early interest and sustained pull, and how to separate genuine demand from vanity indicators such as spikes in impressions, installs, or one-off sign-ups. Discussions also addressed the uncomfortable middle zone many ventures hit: signals that look promising on the surface, while retention, usage frequency, or willingness to pay tells a more mixed story.

Across candid examples from different industries, the event highlighted the metrics that tend to hold up under pressure when a company is scaling: cohort retention



trends that improve or stabilise, shortening sales cycles, repeat usage driven by a clear time-to-value, growing share of revenue from repeat customers, and inbound demand that reduces dependence on paid acquisition. Panellists also discussed what to do when the fit is not quite right, including how to interpret customer feedback, when to narrow the ICP, where to adjust pricing and packaging, and how to pivot without confusing the market or exhausting the team.

CE-Creates continues to advance its mission of incubating and growing socially purposeful ventures - and has strengthened foundations across its portfolio while developing a selective pipeline of new concepts aligned with long-term priorities and objectives.

## Kava & Chai is Evolving into WAQE, a Next Generation Cafe Designed for Modern, Fast Paced Lifestyles



After years of building Kava & Chai into a homegrown café brand rooted in Arab generosity and community, the company is entering a new chapter. Kava & Chai is evolving into WAQE, a next generation coffee concept designed for modern, fast paced lifestyles. This is not simply a rebrand. It is a deliberate transformation built on everything learned, refined, and validated over time.

Consumer preferences are shifting toward greater intentionality. People are looking for more than coffee. They are seeking rituals that support focus, energy, productivity, and mindful consumption. WAQE responds directly to this shift. Inspired by the intellectual energy of historic coffeehouses, the brand reimagines the café experience as a space for clarity, functionality, and meaningful exchange, while preserving the warmth, inclusivity, and cultural authenticity that defined Kava & Chai.

This evolution is being strengthened through a continued partnership with Kitopi. Their operational

expertise, supply chain capabilities, and scale infrastructure provide a strong foundation as the brand transitions and execution standards refine. Together, WAQE and Kitopi are ensuring that the new concept is built not only with vision, but with the operational discipline required for long term growth. As part of this transformation, the flagship store in Dubai's Mall of the Emirates is currently undergoing a full revamp to reflect the new identity. The redesigned space will introduce a clearer brand language, a refined menu architecture centred around functional offerings, and an elevated customer experience aligned with the new positioning. The flagship will serve as the blueprint for future WAQE locations and mark the physical launch of this next phase.

This transition reflects a broader focus within CE-Creates on building ventures that are culturally relevant, operationally strong, and positioned for sustainable scale. WAQE represents a more focused model that balances commercial ambition with thoughtful execution and long term value creation.

# Crescent Enterprises Continues Support for Enterprising Youth at American University of Sharjah



Crescent Enterprises continues its support for the American University of Sharjah (AUS) by backing their Enterprising Youth programme. This ongoing commitment, since 2015, reflects a focus on strengthening youth-led entrepreneurship and innovation through practical, real-world engagement.

The Enterprising Youth programme connects students with industry leaders and experienced practitioners, offering applied insights into the realities of building ideas, testing solutions, and developing entrepreneurial thinking. By linking academic learning with exposure to real-world business and leadership perspectives, the programme helps students build skills, confidence, and networks that can shape their professional and entrepreneurial journeys.

Empowering young talent remains central to building resilient, future-ready economies. Initiatives such as AUS' Enterprising Youth contribute to a wider ecosystem that supports innovation with impact, particularly where education, opportunity, and long-term development intersect.

Through this partnership, Crescent Enterprises remains focused on strengthening the ecosystem that enables innovation to move from classroom learning to practical implementation, supporting the next generation as they explore pathways to create measurable and sustainable outcomes.

# Environmental Field Trip Supports UAE's Largest Public Tree Nursery with 130,000+ Trees Cultivated



Crescent Enterprises team members took part in an environmental field trip to Shajar at Aljada in Sharjah, the UAE's largest public nursery developed by Arada. The visit combined a guided tour of the nursery's facilities with a hands-on tree planting workshop, giving participants a practical view of how nurseries support urban greening at scale and why this matters for long-term climate resilience.

During the tour, the team learned about native and climate-suited plant species, cultivation methods, and the end-to-end process of preparing trees for deployment across communities. From propagation and nursery management to selecting species that can thrive in local conditions, the experience highlighted the operational planning required to grow and maintain green infrastructure in arid environments.

Shajar cultivates more than 130,000 trees before they are planted across public spaces and developments, underscoring the scale needed to expand canopy cover and support nature-based solutions. The workshop element allowed team members to contribute directly through planting activities, connecting learning with action and reinforcing the role that hands-on engagement can play in building awareness and shared responsibility.

The visit also offered insight into how large nurseries contribute to wider sustainability goals, including supporting biodiversity, improving urban liveability, and strengthening resilience through greener, more climate-adapted communities. The trip forms part of Crescent Enterprises' broader focus on sustainability in practice, linking team engagement with real-world initiatives that translate environmental commitments into tangible outcomes.

# MIT Solve Celebrates 10 Years of Championing Game-Changing Solutions to World's Greatest Challenges



MIT Solve celebrated 10 years of championing game-changing solutions to the world's greatest challenges with plans to positively impact more lives in the decade ahead. Crescent Enterprises are honoured to be part of their community and to have partnered on important initiatives supporting Solve's mission of connecting visionary entrepreneurs to the resources needed to turn breakthrough ideas into scalable, real-world impact.

In 2025 we together conducted the first ever MIT Solve Challenge Clinic in Arabic and, following the Crescent Enterprises Climate Innovation Prize awarded at COP28, went on to award the inaugural MIT Solve—Crescent Enterprises AI for Social Innovation Prize on the sidelines of UN General Assembly week in New York. The winners are the inspirational innovators of Littoral, SmartScope, Visilant, and I Read Arabic.

We identified Littoral Intelligence as a standout solution to the fast-growing challenge of rising coastal risks. With 24% of global coastlines eroding and losses estimated at US\$100B annually, governments, ports, hotels and coastal developers need forward-looking visibility they can act on. Littoral's novel technology platform delivers predictive coastal intelligence using satellite analysis and AI-driven prediction, including shoreline forecasts.

In cervical health, the biggest gap is often not awareness but access to screening that is practical, fast, and usable where women actually receive care. Smart Scope's AI-assisted cervical cancer screening can operate at the point of care, without mains electricity or internet if needed, with a complete report in the same visit. So far more than 450,000 women have been screened and more than 8,000 lives have been saved thanks to their early detection technology.

Over one billion people live with avoidable vision impairment or blindness that could be prevented or treated with early detection. Visilant is helping close that gap by making screening practical at the point of care. Their AI-powered Seeker™ device uses a smartphone to capture clinical-quality eye images and flag sight-threatening conditions early to enable referral anywhere care is delivered. Partnering with NGOs and eye hospitals across five states in India, they are set to screen one million patients over the next three years.

I Read Arabic stands out for tackling a stubborn gap: that improving literacy levels depends on an individual's access to consistent, personalised practice at scale. Their self-paced, AI-integrated platform serves learners across 18 countries through public schools, private schools, NGOs, and refugee settings.

### **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.



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



[ce@crescent.ae](mailto:ce@crescent.ae)



CrescentEnterp



Crescent Enterprises



Crescent Enterprises



+971 6 554 7222