

The UAE Model of Resilience & Economic Partnership Strengthens International Investor Confidence



At a series of high-level international engagements, H.E. Badr Jafar has brought the UAE's message of economic resilience and strategic partnership to key audiences. At April's Delphi Economic Forum, over 1,000 heads of state, ministers, and senior business leaders convened to address pressing economic and geopolitical challenges. This year's forum focused on global fragmentation, the shifting architecture of international trade, and the resilience of critical infrastructure and supply chains, questions that have taken on renewed urgency in recent months.

H.E. Badr Jafar delivered a keynote address at the forum on behalf of His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, sharing the UAE's perspective on resilience, economic diplomacy, and the future of global connectivity.

Drawing on the UAE's experience navigating an unprecedented period of regional pressure, H.E. Badr Jafar outlined how the country has maintained open trade corridors, sustained financial market confidence, and continued to attract record levels of foreign direct investment. His central argument was direct: resilience is not improvised. It is deliberately designed, built through decades of investment in infrastructure, institutions, trusted partnerships, and people. He called on global leaders to resist the pull of fragmentation:

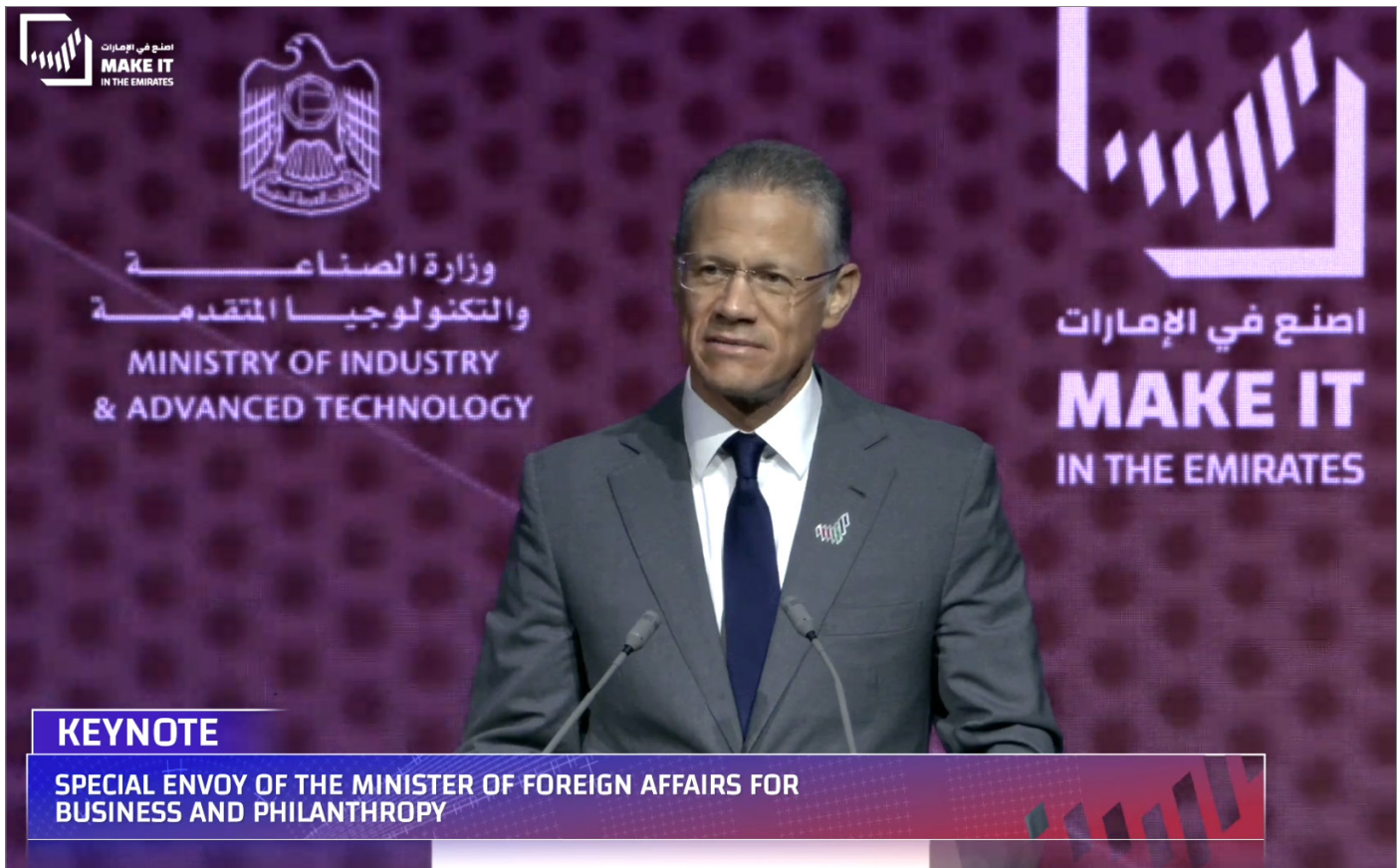
“The UAE's expanding trade partnerships are not simply about access to markets. They are about strengthening cooperation with trusted and strategic partners. In the face of volatility, we are doubling down, reinforcing those relationships rather than retreating from them. Fragmentation is not answered by retreat. It is answered by deeper cooperation, shared rules, and mutual trust.”

He also made the case for a whole-of-society model of national resilience, one that aligns government direction, private capital, and strategic philanthropy as a unified force. When these move together, they drive faster, fairer, and more inclusive recovery, not only for the strongest economies, but for the most vulnerable communities who bear the heaviest costs when global systems fail.

Through its expanding CEPA network to 35 countries and counting, the UAE continues to consolidate its position as a global trade hub, contributing to a significant rise in non-oil trade, which has more than doubled in five years, with non-oil sectors now accounting for over 75 per cent of national GDP. Active participation at leading international forums reflects the UAE's commitment to engaging with partners at the highest levels, and its conviction that in an era of disruption, the path forward lies in deeper cooperation, not retreat.

Read more: [Delphi Economic Forum Keynote](#)

UAE Domestic Direct Investment Outpaced FDI by 2.5x in 2025 with Resident Investors Deploying \$119 Billion



In a keynote speech at Make it in the Emirates 2026, H.E. Badr Jafar highlighted a \$119 billion measure of domestic commitment to the UAE economy – and a new metric for framing UAE economic strength.

More than a thousand companies gathered in Abu Dhabi for the fifth edition of Make it in the Emirates, the most ambitious edition yet, under the theme of “Emerging Stronger”. In the preceding two months, the UAE has showcased the resilience that a generation of disciplined nation-building has produced – including a Dh1 billion National Industrial Resilience Fund, a reinforced In-Country Value programme, and a drive to localise more than 5,000 critical products. These demonstrations of the strong fundamentals underpinning the UAE’s growth story are often told in how the UAE has grown to be in the top ten globally for goods exports and foreign direct investment.

Alongside the FDI story – \$45.6 billion last year – H.E. Badr Jafar highlighted that the businesses, families and investors who have made the UAE home deployed more than \$119 billion of their own capital into the domestic economy in the same period. That figure, drawn from the IMD World Competitiveness Yearbook, exceeds the country’s FDI inflow by more than two and a half times and ranks the UAE fifth globally on real growth of domestic capital formation.

“FDI is foreign confidence. Domestic investment is national conviction. FDI is mobile. Domestic Investment is rooted – capital that is resilient through any disruption,” he noted, emphasising that resilience must be valued as physical and institutional capacity. “Resilience is not a slogan. It is a supply chain. Resilience is not a fund. It is a factory that operates 24/7 when the Strait is closed. Resilience is not a feeling. It is something you build with your own hands.”

He emphasized that the UAE’s economic strength isn’t built by any single player. Government sets direction. Family businesses—representing over 60% of GDP and 80% of the workforce—provide scale. Sovereign funds bring depth and patience. Philanthropy offers catalytic capital. Startups drive innovation. And increasingly, UAE women lead across all of these. “No single sector wins alone,” Badr Jafar said. “Together, they are unbeatable.”

His message to industry was direct: “Take the offtake, take the licence, take the leap. Be a builder here, not just a backer.” He closed with a challenge rooted in legacy: “Sheikh Zayed turned desert into garden. Today’s leadership turned a federation into a global voice. Your generation will turn this country into the world’s most resilient economy. Not because it is easy. Because it is yours.”

Read more: [Beyond FDI – the investment that calls the UAE home](#)

Global Leaders Call For Resilient Openness and Collaboration



Senior policymakers and business leaders convened for a Parliamentary Reception hosted by the UAE-UK Business Council, highlighting the growing importance and opportunity of strategic partnerships. Notable attendees at the House of Lords included Lord Stockwood, the UK Minister of State for Investment, His Excellency Mansoor Abulhoul, the UAE's Ambassador to the UK, His Excellency Badr Jafar, UAE Special Envoy of the Minister of Foreign Affairs for Business and Philanthropy, Rt Hon Lord Udny-Lister, co-chair of the UAE-UK Business Council, Simon Penney, Deputy CEO of Innovo, and Bradley Jones, CEO of the UAE-UK Business Council.



Speaking in the context of the Iran conflict, H.E. Badr Jafar emphasised the resilience of the UAE economy and the continued confidence of global investors, noting that “capital has not withdrawn – it is being repriced and recalibrated, but remains committed and forward-looking” with major multinationals reaffirming their UAE presence.

Despite sustained disruption to regional trade routes and infrastructure, the UAE has maintained full continuity across critical sectors including banking, logistics, energy, and telecommunications. This resilience reflects decades of strategic investment in diversification, infrastructure redundancy, and institutional strength. The UAE attracted a record \$45.6 billion in FDI last year, ranking tenth globally, supported by a diversified economic base, sovereign wealth assets of approximately \$2.5 trillion (five-times GDP), and a network of 35 Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreements spanning global growth markets.

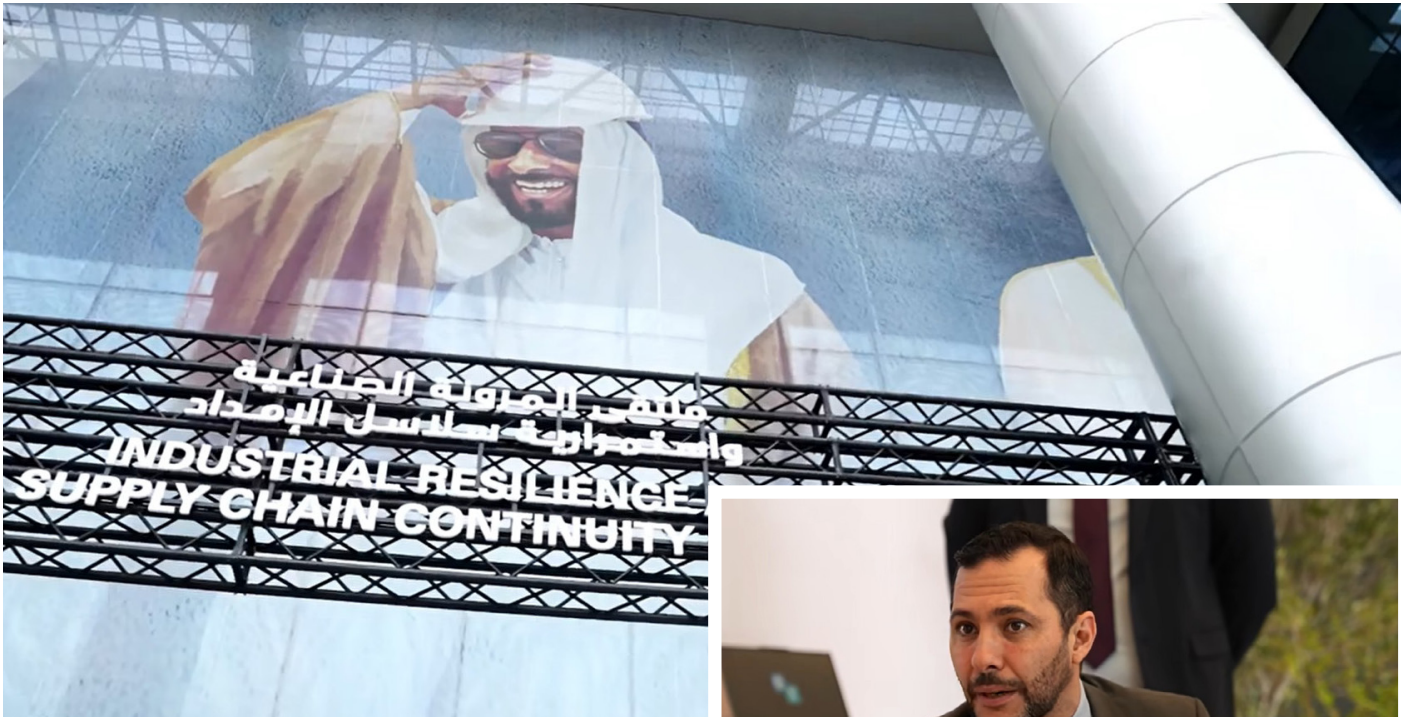
Participants highlighted the importance of accelerating collaboration in key areas such as artificial intelligence, digital capability, new energy technology, advanced manufacturing, and healthcare innovation. The launch of the UAE-UK Business Council's 'Skills White Paper' at the

reception reinforced the critical role of talent development in sustaining long-term growth. “The competition ahead will not just be between capital-rich economies, but between those able to attract, develop, and deploy talent at speed,” H.E. Badr noted.

The UAE-UK relationship is representative of the economically significant and strategically aligned international partnerships that the UAE prioritises. Deeply rooted in mutual economic interest and institutional trust, the partnership is characterised by continued commitment to deepening ties. Accelerating collaboration in key sectors such as AI, energy, life sciences, and talent sends a powerful signal. Partnerships positioned not only to weather disruption but to exploit the opportunities it creates, will lead the next phase of global growth.

Read more: [UK-UAE](#) | [Arabian Gulf Business Insights](#) | [Economy Middle East](#) | [New York Times](#) | [Financial Times](#) | [Arabian Business](#) | [Dubai Eye](#) | [The Economic Times](#) | [CNBC](#) | [Wall Street Journal](#) | [Monocle](#) | [Semafor](#)

UAE's Industrial Resilience and Supply Chain Continuity In Focus With Gulftainer's Logistics Networks Highlighted



Gulftainer participated in the Industrial Resilience and Supply Chain Continuity Forum, recently convened by the UAE Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology. The forum brought together government representatives and industry leaders to discuss the evolving dynamics of global supply chains and the importance of resilience and continuity in trade operations.

Gulftainer was represented by Group CEO Farid Belbouab and Global Chief Commercial Officer Omar Rishi, who shared insights on the critical role of ports and integrated inland logistics in enabling efficient and resilient supply chains. Their participation underscored the importance of coordinated logistics ecosystems in supporting uninterrupted cargo movement.

The forum also featured a joint presence with Sharjah Ports, Customs and Free Zones Authority, represented by Yaqoub H. Abdulla, Head of Administration and Director of Marketing & Promotions, and Abdulla Hokkal, Director of the Strategic Planning Department, reflecting continued alignment between port operators and regulatory stakeholders.

As a long term ports operator and logistics solutions provider, Gulftainer continues to support the UAE's broader economic objectives by enabling reliable connectivity, seamless cargo movement, and operational excellence across regional and global trade corridors. This commitment is delivered through its flagship facilities, Khorfakkan Port and Sajaa Bonded Dry Port in Sharjah, reinforcing supply chain continuity amid evolving market conditions.

The forum provided a platform for dialogue on regional and global supply chain challenges, emphasizing the need for business continuity, logistics preparedness, and coordinated responses to support resilient trade networks.

UAE's Hormuz-Bypass Infrastructure Proves Resilient and Scalable With 20x Increase in Capacity



The current crisis has stress-tested the UAE's pre-positioned infrastructure – and following decades of deliberate investment in resilience, it has deployed exactly as intended and adapted in real-time. Since the conflict began, the East Coast ports have seen a 20-fold capacity increase, while Etihad Rail freight services have grown six-fold.

GulfTainer exemplifies this adaptability. Of the UAE's two Indian Ocean ports, Khorfakkan Container Terminal now functions as the nation's main international cargo gateway and a linchpin in the global logistics ecosystem. It has proven both resilient and scalable - in mere weeks, GulfTainer established the Khorfakkan Pre-Gate Hub, an 18-hectare facility eight kilometers from the port, which is now accommodating up to 1,800 trucks simultaneously, and 8,000 daily – an 80x increase on pre-war volumes.

Innovative adaptability extends to the integrated inland corridors that connect the Indian Ocean port to wider regional markets. From Khorfakkan, GulfTainer's network connects directly to the Sajaa and Sharjah bonded inland container depots and on through integrated inland and land-sea transport routes to facilitate direct and reliable

cargo movement. This "Landbridge" approach eliminates a critical vulnerability: dependency on a single transport corridor. Backed by Momentum Logistics' modern, GPS tracked fleets with certified drivers, ensures reliable, on-schedule deliveries across the UAE and GCC.

Optimized inland routing through Sharjah further reduces handovers and enhances flexibility. Shippers gain predictable transit times, supply chain diversification, and improved cross-border efficiency. This isn't merely crisis management—it's the systematic de-risking of regional trade flows.

Most importantly, this real-world stress test validates the broader investment thesis for future infrastructure development. Alternative corridors that function reliably under extreme pressure demonstrate structural competitive advantage that will outlast the current disruption. The UAE's deliberate, multi-decade commitment to logistics redundancy has created not just a workaround for today's challenges, but a durable competitive moat for tomorrow's trade flows. The crisis has become proof of concept.

Gulftainer's Newest Strategic Logistics Hub Enhances Domestic and Regional Connectivity



Sajaa Bonded Dry Port is proving a significant milestone for Gulftainer's logistics network. As the newest Inland Container Depot and closest bonded extension to Khorfakkan – positioned approximately 70 kilometres away – Sajaa provides the scale, infrastructure, and multimodal connectivity essential for supporting growing cargo volumes across the UAE and Gulf region.

Spanning approximately 180,000 square metres, the facility is designed to streamline operations and minimize cargo handling complexity. This integrated approach to port-to-inland operations enables faster turnaround times and more efficient cargo movement, while reinforcing supply chain resilience and improving overall trade efficiency.

Khorfakkan's growing importance as a strategic gateway connecting India, China, and Pakistan with the Gulf region has elevated Sajaa's role as a vital logistics hub. Through its integrated port, shipping, and inland logistics ecosystem, Gulftainer facilitates reliable and efficient cargo movement across multiple critical trade corridors.

GT Lines exemplifies this connectivity through three cornerstone shipping services: The India-UAE Shuttle

Services (ISX 1 and ISX 2) deliver time-sensitive agricultural cargo with fast transit times and integrated inland distribution across the UAE. Meanwhile, the Khorfakkan China Express services (KCX 1 and KCX 2) connect major Chinese ports to the UAE with secured capacity and optimized lead times. The Khorfakkan Pakistan Express (KPX) completes the network, offering weekly connectivity between Karachi and Khorfakkan.

These services gain additional strength through partnership with Momentum Logistics, which enables seamless port-to-inland cargo movement via the UAE landbridge and Sajaa Bonded Dry Port. This integrated approach ensures that shipments move efficiently from vessel to inland destination without unnecessary delays or complications.

Together, these capabilities reinforce Khorfakkan Port's position as a resilient, multi-lane trade gateway. As global supply chains become increasingly complex, Sajaa and its supporting ecosystem provide the infrastructure, reliability, and integration needed to support UAE supply chain continuity, strengthen regional connectivity, and meet the evolving demands of international trade.

Gama Aviation to Acquire Global Air Charter Specialist Hunt & Palmer and Materially Expand its Scale and Reach



CE-Invests portfolio company Gama Aviation has reached an agreement to acquire Hunt & Palmer, a leading international aircraft charter broker, materially expanding the group's scale and reach in the global charter market.

Founded in 1986, Hunt & Palmer has built an outstanding reputation as a trusted charter broker serving clients across business aviation, commercial charter, music touring, and cargo. The company operates from offices in the UK, USA, Hong Kong, and Australia.

Hunt & Palmer will continue to operate under its well-known brand within the Gama Aviation Group, preserving the relationships, experience and service culture that have defined the company for nearly forty years.

Marwan Khalek, Group CEO of Gama Aviation, commented: "This acquisition significantly increases our global charter market share, expands into cargo, and enhances our aircraft management offering." Graham Williamson, Managing Director of Aircraft Management & Charter, added: "Hunt & Palmer strengthens our charter capability across multiple segments and significantly increases our attractiveness to aircraft owners seeking charter opportunities." The acquisition marks an important milestone for Hunt & Palmer, which has established itself as one

of the sector's most respected charter brokerage brands. Jeremy Palmer, Co-Founder of Hunt & Palmer, commented: "Hunt & Palmer's 40-year journey has made it one of the sector's most respected businesses. We're confident it will thrive under Gama Aviation's ownership."

Gama Aviation's Aircraft Management & Charter business has continued to expand across the UK, Europe, and the Middle East, building a portfolio of boutique services while maintaining a highly personalised approach. The Hunt & Palmer acquisition brings together complementary expertise across multiple charter segments, strengthening the Group's overall capability and market position.

The combined entity will leverage Hunt & Palmer's established global relationships and operational expertise alongside Gama Aviation's growing aircraft management platform, positioning both businesses for accelerated growth in 2025 and beyond.

Hunt & Palmer's teams will remain in place, continuing to deliver the high-quality charter solutions that have earned the business its reputation for excellence and client loyalty.

Read more: [Gama Aviation welcomes Hunt & Palmer](#)

Flipspace Outlines How Workplaces Are Evolving For a New Generation: From Planning to Tech Integration & Well-Being



Insights from Flipspace, the CE-Invests backed tech-first commercial interior design and fit-out company, have been featured in a leading industry platform. Outlining how workplaces are evolving for a new generation, Flipspace founder and CEO Kunal Sharma identified the key trends shaping the future of modern work.

As Gen Z enters the workforce at scale, their expectations are fundamentally redefining office design. These digital natives prioritize performance over aesthetics alone, seeking workplaces that actively support how they work rather than simply looking impressive.

Tech-led space planning makes flexibility non-negotiable. Modern teams demand environments that can adapt as work models shift and departments evolve. Advanced planning tools allow visualization and adjustments before construction, avoiding costly revisions while creating spaces that grow with organizations.

Multifunctional zones are replacing single-purpose rooms. Today's workplaces feature adaptable areas that serve as collaborative hubs in the morning, quiet focus zones in the afternoon, and event spaces in the evening - through modular furniture and smart design. Digital native integration means technology must be

embedded seamlessly: frictionless video conferencing, smart booking systems, reliable connectivity, and accessible charging points are standard infrastructure.

Employee well-being is also increasingly required as core infrastructure. Biophilic design, natural light optimization, acoustic comfort, and wellness zones are viewed as essential quality-of-work factors. Office interiors are increasingly considered important for brand identity, used to tell organizational stories through material choices, environmental graphics, and culture signals. This greater scrutiny of the new generation on workplace design can lead to deeper brand connections. From material choices to energy systems, and long-term impact, responsible design can be considered both an ethical imperative and a practical advantage.

For Flipspace, these shifts are evident across their projects as clients move toward integrated, tech-led environments. The company is experiencing growing demand across markets, positioning it well as it builds on established presence across India and the USA (where it has been among the fastest growing in its sector for the past four years) to expand its footprint into the Middle East.

CE-Ventures Portfolio Company to be Acquired by US Pharmaceutical Major Eli Lilly in \$300 Million Deal



CrossBridge Bio, a CE-Ventures portfolio company, has entered into a definitive agreement to be acquired by US pharmaceutical major Eli Lilly and Company in a transaction valued at up to US\$300 million. Under the terms of the agreement, CrossBridge Bio shareholders will receive an upfront cash payment, with an additional payment linked to the achievement of a specified development milestone.

CrossBridge Bio is a Houston-based biotechnology company founded in 2023, developing targeted cancer therapies designed to deliver therapeutics more precisely to tumour cells. CE-Ventures co-led the company's US\$10 million initial financing round in November 2024, supporting CrossBridge Bio at an early stage as it advanced its platform and lead programme.

Commenting on the acquisition, Tushar Singhvi, Deputy CEO and Head of Investments at Crescent Enterprises, said:

"We are proud to have supported CrossBridge Bio from its early stages and to see the company reach this important milestone with its acquisition. The team has built a highly differentiated platform in innovative therapeutics, and we believe Lilly is ideally positioned to further advance this innovation for the benefit of patients."

Dr Michael Torres, Co-Founder and CEO of CrossBridge Bio added: "CE-Ventures was an early believer in

CrossBridge Bio and our vision for next-generation dual-payload antibody-drug conjugates (ADCs). Their support at a formative stage helped us move quickly from concept to a differentiated platform, ultimately enabling us to advance toward the clinic and attract a partner like Lilly, an exceptional outcome for the company and the science."

Dr Damir Illich, Manager, Life Sciences at CE-Ventures and Board Director at CrossBridge Bio, noted: "CrossBridge Bio stood out early to us as a leader in dual-payload ADC development... and we are confident that Lilly is an excellent partner to further develop this innovation."

CrossBridge Bio's next-generation dual-payload ADCs are designed to deliver two therapeutic agents directly to cancer cells, aiming to improve effectiveness while helping address resistance challenges seen with existing therapies. Its lead candidate is a dual-payload ADC targeting TROP-2, and the company anticipates submitting an Investigational New Drug application for CBB-120 in 2026.

Read more: [CE-Ventures announces acquisition of CrossBridge Bio by Eli Lilly](#)

XCath Achieves World-First in Telerobotic Stroke Surgery, Secures \$30M Series C to Accelerate Market Launch



XCath, a neuro-endovascular surgical robotics company part-owned by Crescent Enterprises, has announced the successful completion of the world's first in-human telerobotic stroke procedure – a landmark achievement that could transform access to lifesaving treatment globally.

Dr. Vitor Mendes Pereira performed the remote robotic mechanical thrombectomy from Santiago, Panama, 200km from the patient at Panama Clinic in Panama City. Using the XCath Iris Endovascular Robotic (EVR) System, the procedure delivered submillimetre precision with imperceptibly low latency and no disruptions to surgical workflow.

Stroke remains a leading cause of death and disability worldwide, claiming over 5 million lives annually. Mechanical thrombectomy is the proven gold standard treatment, yet access remains severely limited – available to only 2.79% of patients globally. Time-to-treatment is paramount: patients lose approximately 2 million brain cells per minute until intervention. This disparity underscores the urgent need for innovative solutions that extend lifesaving care beyond specialized centres.

Telerobotic platforms can bridge this gap by bringing surgeons to patients rather than requiring patients to travel. The Iris System is the only endovascular robotic system to achieve neurointerventional treatment capability and the world's only triaxial neurovascular robot to perform treatment.

“XCath has achieved what no other surgical robotics company has accomplished in stroke treatment,” said Neeraj Agrawal, Executive Director of Crescent Enterprises and Board member at XCath. “Telerobotics represent the future of surgery, and XCath is at the forefront of that transformation.” CEO Eduardo Fonseca added: “This achievement brings us closer to a world where access to lifesaving surgery is no longer limited by geography.” Dr. Pereira noted: “The procedure matched our successful simulations with imperceptibly low latency and seamless workflow. It was a highlight of my career.”

The success follows XCath's announcement of \$30 million in Series C funding co-led by Crescent Enterprises, bringing total funding to \$92 million. The capital will support commercialization efforts and additional clinical telerobotic procedures.

Crusoe Announces New 900 MW AI Factory Campus to Support Microsoft AI Infrastructure



A new 900 MW AI factory campus in Abilene, Texas has been announced by CE-Ventures portfolio company Crusoe to support Microsoft's AI infrastructure expansion. Located adjacent to Crusoe's existing Abilene, Texas site, which itself was recognised as North American Data Center Project of the Year in 2025, the expansion is expected to bring the location's total projected capacity to approximately 2.1 GW, reinforcing Abilene's position as a major hub for gigascale AI compute.

"As customer demand for AI continues to grow, Microsoft is focused on ensuring access to reliable and responsible infrastructure at scale," said Noelle Walsh, President, Cloud Operations & Innovation at Microsoft. "Crusoe's Abilene facility reflects the type of large-scale infrastructure that supports next generation AI while contributing long term value to the local community."

The new campus is designed specifically for large-scale AI workloads and includes two new buildings plus a dedicated on-site power plant intended to strengthen operational reliability and support grid resilience. Crusoe has confirmed that land clearing and site preparation are already underway, with the first building expected to be energised in mid-2027.

Each of the two new buildings is designed to deliver 336 MW of critical IT load, aligned with the ultra-high-density requirements of next-generation AI hardware.

The announcement builds on rapid delivery progress at Abilene to date. Crusoe's first phase comprised two 100 MW buildings that were constructed and energised in under one year. A second phase added six additional buildings to bring total campus capacity to 1.2 GW, with completion expected by the end of 2026. The expanded Abilene development also includes design features intended to support next-generation AI infrastructure, including closed-loop, non-evaporative liquid cooling to improve water efficiency while meeting higher thermal demands.

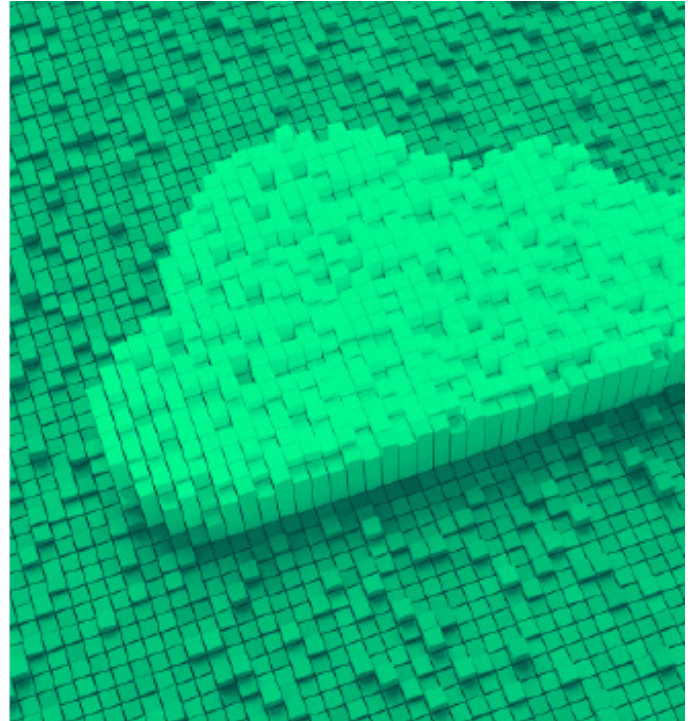
Crusoe has also emphasised the importance of the long-cycle strategic infrastructure project for its local economic impact - and expects to create thousands of construction jobs and hundreds of permanent roles, while increasing the site's long-term contribution to a region known as the 'Silicon Prairie for AI'.

Read more: [Crusoe Announces New 900 MW AI Factory Campus](#)

Cohesity Wins 2026 Google Cloud Partner of the Year Award for Disaster Recovery and Backup

COHESITY

Google Cloud



Cohesity, a CE-Ventures-backed company, received the 2026 Google Cloud Partner of the Year Award for Infrastructure Modernisation: Disaster Recovery/Backup, recognised at Google Cloud Next 2026. The award reflects joint work with Google Cloud to strengthen cyber resilience across cloud, hybrid, and SaaS environments, with a focus on stronger threat protection, cleaner recovery, and more secure use of enterprise data.

Recent collaboration has centred on deeper engineering and product integration aimed at reducing one of the hardest problems in cyber recovery: restoring quickly without reintroducing hidden threats. This includes capabilities that embed Google Threat Intelligence and secure sandbox analysis, powered by Google Private Scanning, into Cohesity Data Cloud, enabling organisations to identify suspicious artefacts within backup data and validate recovery paths with greater confidence.

The partnership has also expanded practical options for regulated and high-control environments. Updates include new deployment pathways within the Google Cloud Data Boundary to support data residency and

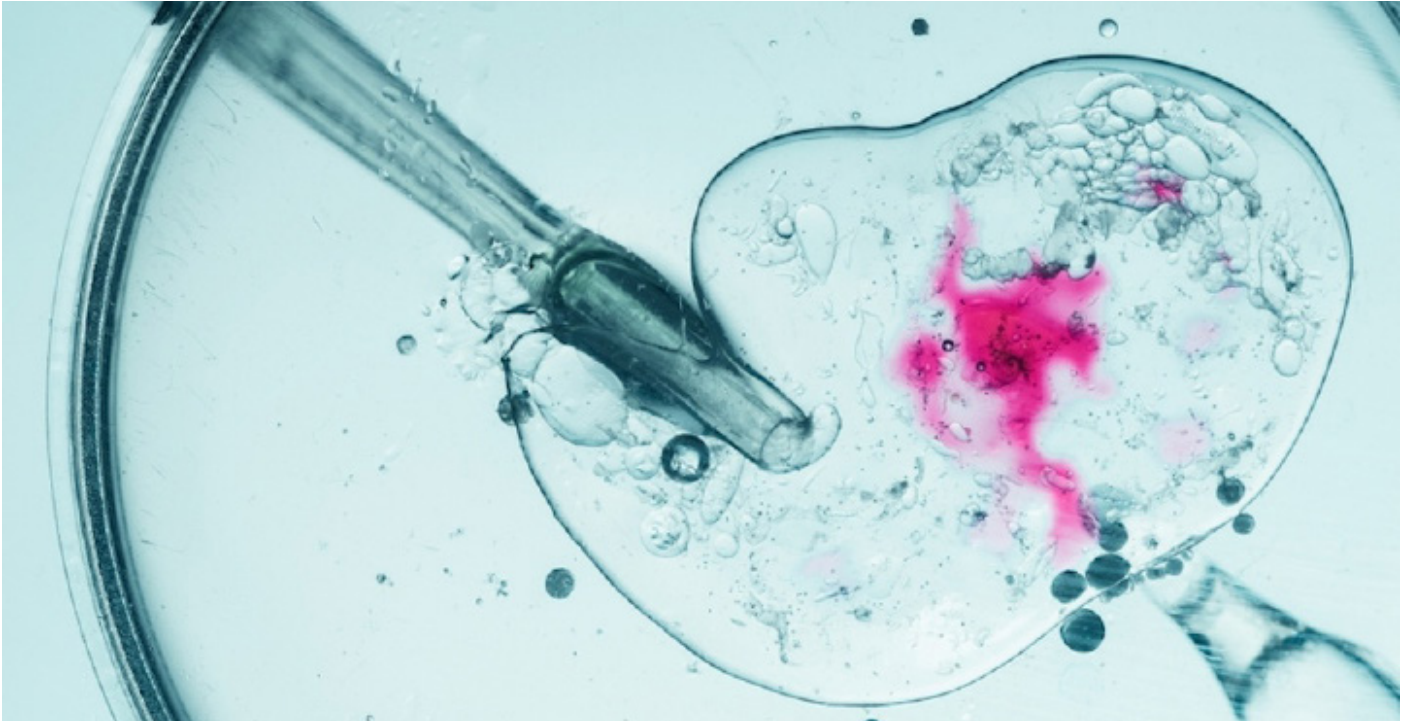
sovereignty requirements, alongside the availability of Cohesity FortKnox on Google Cloud for cyber vaulting. Together, these capabilities support the creation of immutable, isolated copies of critical data and strengthen the ability to recover cleanly even when primary environments are compromised.

In parallel, Cohesity Cloud Services now operates natively on Google Cloud Platform with added support for Google Workspace, helping organisations protect information stored in applications such as Gmail and Google Drive. The collaboration also extends protection and recovery coverage to Google BigQuery and Vertex AI, reflecting the growing importance of safeguarding analytics and AI environments alongside traditional infrastructure.

The partnership further extends into AI-enabled use cases, incorporating Vertex AI and Gemini into Cohesity Gaia to enable secure, contextual insights from protected unstructured data without compromising governance or resilience.

Read more: [Cohesity Wins a 2026 Google Cloud Partner](#)

Positive Results From First In-Human Clinical Study for Freya Biosciences' IVF-Related Therapeutic Candidate



CE-Ventures-backed Freya Biosciences announced positive topline results from its Phase 1 first in-human clinical study evaluating its therapeutic candidate FB301 for IVF-related embryo implantation failure. The company reported that FB301 was safe and well-tolerated in study participants, meeting all primary and secondary endpoints, with no serious or severe adverse events and no discontinuations.

Freya CEO Collen Acosta commented, “The data support the proposed mechanism of action... and our focus is on progressing the development of a much-needed new therapeutic option that could help improve outcomes for the millions of women undergoing IVF worldwide.”

The randomised, placebo-controlled, double-blind study assessed safety, tolerability, and proof of concept following single and multiple dosing of FB301, described by the company as a defined multi-strain *Lactobacillus* consortium. A total of 129 participants were enrolled, with 89 randomised across three dosing cohorts at a single site in Germany. Alongside the safety read-out, Freya reported clinically meaningful microbiome modulation, including increased abundance of key *Lactobacillus* species and conversion to a *Lactobacillus*-dominant profile among

participants who were dysbiotic at baseline. At the six-month follow-up stage, Freya reported that 50.0% (11/22) of participants in the highest dose cohort converted to a non-dysbiotic profile, compared with 11.1% (1/9) in placebo.

The company positioned this as a durable signal of microbiome modulation, supporting its broader thesis that restoring a healthier microbial balance may help address conditions linked to implantation failure, where consistency and stability of the local microbiome environment can be an important factor in reproductive outcomes. Freya said the Phase 1 results support progression into Phase 2, and noted two regulatory milestones to enable next-stage studies: FDA IND clearance for a US study in women undergoing frozen embryo transfer, and CTA approval in Germany for a bacterial vaginosis optimisation study. Together, these steps position the programme to move from initial human safety and proof-of-concept signals into patient settings where clinical outcomes can be assessed more directly.

Read more: [Freya Biosciences Reports Positive Phase 1 Data](#)

ION Expands UAE's Sustainable Mobility Infrastructure With 100+ Fast EV Chargers Deploying Across Sharjah



ION has formed a strategic partnership with the Sharjah Roads and Transport Authority (SRTA) to deploy more than 100 fast EV chargers across the emirate, expanding charging coverage as demand for electric mobility grows. The agreement was signed at BEEAH Headquarters by H.E. Eng. Yousif Khamis Mohammed Al Othmani, Chairman of SRTA, and Khaled Al Huraimel, Chairman of ION and Group CEO and Vice Chairman of BEEAH.

Under the partnership, SRTA, as Sharjah's first appointed charge point operator, will work with ION to jointly deploy, maintain, and operate the network. By combining public-sector oversight with an operator model focused on deployment and day-to-day execution, the partnership is structured to support scale while maintaining defined quality, safety, and operational standards, with an emphasis on reliability and consistent performance across locations.

The initiative supports Sharjah's efforts to expand sustainable mobility infrastructure and aligns with the UAE's net-zero direction by improving charging access to charging across the emirate. Coverage across Sharjah City as well as the Central and Eastern regions is intended to reduce range anxiety, support routine use cases for commuters and fleets, and make charging availability more predictable as EV adoption increases.

The network will be supported by ION's mobile application, enabling users to locate nearby charging points, navigate using map-based search, track charging in real time, and make payments seamlessly. The combination of infrastructure deployment and a user-facing digital layer will reduce friction for drivers and improve the overall charging experience, particularly as utilisation rises and network density becomes a key differentiator.

Tushar Singhvi, ION Board Member and Deputy CEO of Crescent Enterprises, said: "This marks an important step in building the enabling infrastructure for the next generation of mobility in the UAE. We are proud to partner with SRTA to advance ION's role in Sharjah and develop a connected, future-ready charging network designed for long-term growth. It reflects our broader investment approach of backing scalable platforms in the UAE and globally that integrate infrastructure, technology, and operational capability to deliver long-term value at scale."

Read more: [Sharjah to roll out 100 fast EV chargers](#)

Crescent Enterprises Backs Entrepreneurs Resilience Fund to Support Startups and SMEs



Crescent Enterprises is supporting the Entrepreneurs Resilience Fund, a new AED 5 million initiative launched by Sheraa, the Sharjah Entrepreneurship Center, to help startups and SMEs navigate uncertain times. Contributions and strategic partnerships have been secured from several leading private and public sector entities including CE-Ventures and CE-Creates, reflecting a shared commitment to strengthening the resilience of early-stage businesses across the region.

The initiative combines funding, mentorship, operational support, and ecosystem access – recognizing that stronger businesses are built when founders have the right networks around them. Having supported Sheraa since its inception, for Crescent Enterprises, backing this initiative represents a continuation of long-standing support for Sharjah’s entrepreneurial ecosystem. The program builds on lessons learned from the COVID-19 Solidarity Fund, incorporating a more structured support framework and enhanced visibility for participating companies.

The philosophy underlying the Fund is straightforward but powerful: resilience is not built during good times – it is built during moments of uncertainty. Startups and SMEs

are most exposed to short-term shocks, yet they are also most critical to long-term economic growth. By providing liquidity and operational support when it matters most, the Fund enables entrepreneurs to remain focused on building and scaling, rather than simply surviving disruption.

This approach transforms short-term challenges into long-term opportunities. When founders have access to capital, expertise, and community during difficult periods, they emerge stronger and better positioned for sustainable growth.

The initiative reinforces the UAE’s position as a leading global hub for entrepreneurship and innovation. Sharjah, in particular, offers compelling advantages: strong institutional support, founder-friendly policies, and platforms like Sheraa that create one of the region’s most dynamic startup ecosystems. By investing in resilience today, Crescent Enterprises and its partners are building the foundation for tomorrow’s breakthrough businesses. This Fund exemplifies how strategic support for founders today creates the sustainable, scalable enterprises that define the leading portfolios of tomorrow.

CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP

UAE National CSR Platform Awards Gold Impact Seal to Crescent Enterprises for Ongoing Contributions



Crescent Enterprises has been awarded the Gold Tier Impact Seal following Majra's latest Impact Summit, recognising sustained progress in responsible business and measurable contributions aligned with the UAE's national sustainable development priorities.

The Summit, held in Abu Dhabi under the theme "Unifying the Common Good of the Nation", convened ministers, senior officials, chief executives, CSR and sustainability leaders, academics, youth leaders, people of determination, and investors. The event was attended by H.E. Abdulla bin Touq Al Marri, UAE Minister of Economy and Tourism and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Majra, who announced the launch of the UAE Companies for Good 2031 Strategy, aimed at strengthening private sector contributions to sustainable development and steering CSR efforts towards nationally aligned priorities, with an emphasis on governance and impact measurement.

Commenting on the recognition, Ola Al Haj Hussin, Crescent Enterprises' Corporate Citizenship Manager

said: "We welcome recognition that is grounded in evidence and measurement. The Majra Impact Seal reinforces the importance of governance, disciplined tracking of outcomes, and continual improvement in how value is created for society."

Crescent Enterprises continues to advance its corporate citizenship priorities through strategic partnerships spanning employability, innovation, cultural exchange and governance. Initiatives included the MIT Solve 'AI for Social Innovation' prize whose recipients are reaching more than 800,000 lives, the Majarra Renaissance Programme which reaches 3,500 young people across 16 countries.

Crescent Enterprises has voluntarily reported on its environmental and social performance since 2013, reflecting a long-standing focus on accountability and continuous improvement.

CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP

Crescent Enterprises Renews Partnership With United States' Leading Arab Cinema Showcase



Crescent Enterprises has renewed its partnership with the Arabian Sights Film Festival, as the festival returns to Washington, DC for its 31st edition this April. Founded in 1996, it is one of the longest-running and leading showcases of Arab cinema in the United States.

Over the past three decades, the festival has presented more than 300 films, building a reputation for bringing US audiences into closer contact with the breadth, complexity, and humanity of Arab stories on screen. This year's programme is presented in conjunction with the 40th annual Washington, DC International Film Festival (Filmfest DC). Featured films this year explore identity, immigration, resistance, and the political, economic, and social realities shaping the Arab world today. .

The festival has played an important role in raising awareness of Arab cinema, challenging stereotypes, and fostering cultural dialogue and is celebrated for showcasing both established and emerging filmmakers, and creating space for Arab voices on screen and challenging one-dimensional narratives.

Crescent Enterprises has supported Arabian Sights for the past 12 years as part of its corporate citizenship efforts focused on cultural understanding through the arts. "We believe cultural understanding is built through sustained engagement with people, ideas, and lived experience. Arabian Sights has done this with consistency and integrity for decades, using cinema to bring forward stories that are nuanced, human, and necessary - and has become an important platform for Arab film and cross-cultural exchange in Washington, DC" commented Ola Al Haj Hussin, Crescent Enterprises' Corporate Citizenship Manager.

Shirin Ghareeb, the Director of the Arabian Sights Film Festival, said the festival has created space for Arab stories to reach audiences in the United States through cinema for decades and highlighted the importance of long-term partnership in sustaining that mission, noting "We are grateful to Crescent Enterprises for its continued partnership and support of a festival that remains committed to cultural understanding, dialogue, and the power of storytelling."

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 24 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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