



An exploration into Dubai's dominance in
Artificial Intelligence and its plans for the future

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Dubai is seeing a new era of sustainable economic growth driven by innovation and future technologies.

H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Chairman of The Executive Council of Dubai, and Chairman of the Higher Committee for Future Technology and Digital Economy





In 1999, Dubai began a journey towards the future when H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, announced a project to make the entire Dubai Government online. These efforts made the emirate the first government to go completely digital worldwide. As a result, when the Fourth Industrial Revolution or “4IR” (i.e., rapid technological advancement in the 21st century) emerged, the city was well prepared.

From then on, Dubai has been pushing the boundaries of various global benchmarks in its pursuit of cutting-edge excellence. The emirate has been actively prioritising the integration of digital advancements throughout key industries of its economic structure. Particularly noteworthy is its accelerated growth in the immersive world of artificial intelligence (AI).

The visionary leaders of Dubai, and the UAE as a whole, have laid out an array of economic strategies to expedite its global leadership in the AI domain. To this end, the world’s first Ministry of Artificial Intelligence was constituted, and a dedicated AI minister — H.E. Omar Sultan Al Olama, Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence, Digital Economy, and Remote Work Applications — was appointed to spearhead this crucial sector. These initiatives demonstrate how the city-state is relentless in leveraging AI to, ultimately, enhance governance and societal welfare.

This e-book will provide a comprehensive exploration of Dubai’s clear and progressive vision of becoming the world’s AI capital, along with the strategic projects to bring such plans to fruition.

Part I

AI across sectors



Innovation in Dubai is not confined to a single sector but is an overarching ethos that influences all facets of its development. The city has become a dynamic hub for technology and innovation; thus, attracting local and global tech businesses of all scales. This thriving ecosystem is strengthened by robust support from government and semi-government institutions, along with local private companies. In turn, this has fostered a collaborative environment where ideas can flourish.

Government-led projects like the Dubai Future Foundation and the Dubai AI Ethics Board are a few examples of the city's all-encompassing approach to integrating AI responsibly and effectively.

AI is now an invaluable element in Dubai's economic progress. Its fortified utilisation has optimised key sectors' resources, from transportation and healthcare to public safety and urban planning. The city's smart infrastructure projects, such as the Smart Dubai strategy, highlight how AI-driven solutions improve the quality of life for locals, residents, and tourists. These efforts are part of a broader vision to make Dubai a regional leader and a global trailblazer in smart city innovation.

Truly, the collaboration between government bodies, private enterprises, start-ups, and international collaborators has created a fertile ground for pioneering advancements. This joint effort ensures that Dubai remains at the cutting edge; continually setting new standards and inspiring other cities around the world.



Part II

Dubai Universal Blueprint for AI





H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Chairman of The Executive Council of Dubai and Chairman of the Higher Committee for Future Technology and Digital Economy, has recently launched the Dubai Universal Blueprint for Artificial Intelligence (DUB.AI). This newly unveiled project is in line with the comprehensive Dubai Economic Agenda “D33”. The latter plans to promote AI adoption, generate a yearly revenue of AED 100 billion, and establish the emirate as the world’s most innovative city.

By leveraging AI’s potential to stimulate digital transformation, the DUB.AI will inevitably drive economic growth and enhance societal well-being. The annual plan’s focus on using technology to achieve quality-of-life improvements reflects the deep commitment of the emirate’s leadership. It essentially ensures that while automation takes centre stage, new job opportunities in AI-related fields will emerge. This move will help maintain a balance between technological advancement and human involvement.

Dubai’s dominance in artificial intelligence: A new blueprint for AI launched



Read the accompanying article for more information.



A few areas where these advancements are being applied are as follows:

Healthcare advancements

Dubai's application of AI in healthcare is already revolutionising the sector. AI technologies are being used to enhance patient care, optimise resource allocation, and streamline administrative processes. AI-powered predictive analytics is making early detection of diseases possible and is also improving patient outcomes. Furthermore, AI tools are aiding in personalised treatment plans to ensure that patients receive the most effective therapies based on their unique genetic makeup and health data.

Educational transformation

In the field of education, AI is utilised to create personalised learning experiences, improve administrative efficiency, and provide predictive insights into student performance. Dubai's educational institutions are integrating AI tools to

tailor educational content to individual learning styles and paces, ensuring that students receive a more engaging and effective education.

Environmental sustainability

Dubai is also harnessing the power of AI to address environmental challenges. AI-driven solutions are being implemented to monitor air and water quality, optimise energy usage, and manage waste more efficiently.

Indeed, initiatives like these are helping Dubai promote sustainable urban development. At the same time, represent a transformative opportunity for start-ups eager to harness the limitless potential of technology.

With steadfast support from its visionary leadership, Dubai is undeniably poised to act as a global catalyst for growth and success. In turn, this will empower AI-agnostic companies to achieve their goals and make a significant impact within or outside Dubai.

Part III

Support and incentives for AI start-ups





As previously established, Dubai's appeal as a top location for global AI start-ups is strengthened by an array of support mechanisms and financial incentives. The city's tax-friendly environment — characterised by zero personal income tax — offers a significant financial edge for these companies. It enables them to allocate more resources towards research, development, and expansion. Besides minimising the financial burden on start-ups and founders, the tax-free environment also bolsters their growth trajectory.

Grants and funding

Dubai offers plenty of support to AI-driven start-ups to ensure their scaling and facilitate the emergence of homegrown tech unicorns. Government-led initiatives such as the Dubai Future Foundation and the Dubai Technology Entrepreneur Campus provide resources and networking to access seed funding, grants, and venture capital, helping companies transform their innovative ideas into reality.

In 2021, the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) and the Dubai Future Foundation (DFF) released a capital of Dh1 billion (\$272 million) for the Dubai Future District Fund (DFDF). This endeavour essentially backs technology firms and helps them list their businesses on the

emirate's stock market. During the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in March, it was reported that the DFDF allocated 20% of its AED 1 billion funding to help start-ups scale their businesses.

The AGM meeting also indicated that the DFDF has greatly been integral in expanding Dubai's investment portfolio. Consequently, it has strategically invested in 14 start-ups and funds, which encompasses five (5) new start-ups, three (3) follow-on investments, and six (6) fund commitments. Overall, the Fund has supported more than 25 projects, with an impressive 84% increase in talent within these companies.

All this reiterates the city's commitment to enhancing its venture capital ecosystem by driving sustainable finance and innovation on a global scale.

Support systems for incubators and partners

Dubai features a diverse ecosystem of incubators, accelerators, strategic partners, and co-working spaces focused on supporting AI start-ups.

Remarkably, the presence of initiatives such as the Dubai Future Accelerators and the Dubai Centre for Artificial Intelligence's Accelerator Programmes have offered support, mentorship, and a networking system tailored to meet a start-up's specific needs or challenges. These programmes equip them with a virtual push in order to seamlessly navigate through the challenges that come with building and scaling businesses.

Geographical placement

Besides various government programmes and monetary support, Dubai also has a strategic location that is no less than a financial incentive. Its position at the crossroads of Europe, Asia, and Africa makes it a perfect destination for start-ups looking to expand their reach and enter new markets.

In essence, its geographical orientation cements its reputation as a global business hub that is capable of providing AI start-ups with access to a diverse talent pool, global markets, and strategic tie-ups.

How does Dubai offer support and financial incentives for AI start-ups?



Read the accompanying article for more information.



Part IV

Attracting top talent to a thriving ecosystem



The recent inauguration of the Dubai AI Campus cluster at the Innovation Hub within the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) marks another significant milestone in reinforcing Dubai's status as a premier destination for AI talent. Officially opened by H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed, this AI campus is phase one of the DUB.AI. It exemplifies the leadership's promise to enhance AI's fortification and growth.

As part of the DIFC Innovation Hub, the Dubai AI Campus offers dedicated co-working spaces for tech start-ups, including AI-focused enterprises. They will have access to supercomputers, including DGX platforms, for training AI algorithms. The campus' DIFC location also gives start-ups an advantageous legislative environment, which stimulates sustainable growth for next-generation AI companies.

It's also worth noting that the world's multinational tech giants, like Microsoft, HP, Amazon Web Services, Nvidia, and Oracle, will join the cluster as its prominent partners. This enables SMBs to build mutually beneficial alliances with leading tech companies.

How Dubai is becoming a magnet for first-class artificial intelligence talent



Read the accompanying article for more information.



Part V

The perks of a collaborative community





“The Recently, H.E. Omar Sultan Al Olama revealed that the UAE has been selected to join the prestigious Hiroshima Artificial Intelligence Process Friends Group. This coalition, comprising 49 nations, underscores Dubai’s commitment to ethical AI development and international collaboration. This is all the more impressive considering that the UAE is the first Arab nation to join this esteemed group, which includes global powerhouses such as the US, UK, Canada, India, Japan, South Korea, and Spain.

Dubai’s proactive approach in this context is setting new standards. Thus, driving forward ethical practices and fostering international partnerships that subsequently generate greenfield investments.

How is Seed Group contributing?

Seed Group — a company of The Private Office of Sheikh Saeed bin Ahmed Al Maktoum — with its strategic partnerships and deep-rooted

presence in Dubai, is uniquely positioned to elevate the city’s AI ecosystem to unprecedented levels. As a key player in fostering innovation and supporting start-ups, the company leverages its extensive network and resources to accelerate AI development and adoption.

In this regard, Seed Group equips AI start-ups with mentorship sessions to guide them through the complexities of AI development. They also facilitate smooth access to cross-border partnerships and local markets to help them scale their operations across the Middle East and, thereafter, increase their revenue.

Inside Dubai’s collaborative AI community: Home to pioneering ideas



Read the accompanying article for more information.



Towards an innovation-led future

As Dubai continues to spearhead AI development on a global scale, its efforts to unite international and local AI sectors will undoubtedly pave the way for groundbreaking advancements. By fostering a collaborative environment, attracting top talent, and offering financial incentives, Dubai ensures that it remains at the forefront of AI innovation. As a result, it has become a benchmark for other nations to follow.

Additional information and resources



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Having a local partner like the Seed Group allows you to gain access to key stakeholders in the public and private sectors, as well as experience accelerated business development through strategic alliances. Working with the royal family office fosters strategic relationships at the highest level, providing our partners with access to otherwise inaccessible right decision-makers.

The image shows a screenshot of a web application form titled "Become a Royalty Partner". The form is set against a background of a desert landscape with sand dunes and a caravan of camels. The form fields are as follows:

- Company Name ***: Text input field.
- Type of Business (B2B/B2C/B2G) ***: Text input field.
- Company Website ***: Text input field.
- Company Location ***: Text input field.
- If not applicable, please type N/A
- Company Industry ***: Dropdown menu with "Please Select" and a downward arrow.
- Product/Service ***: Text input field.
- Company Phone No.**: Text input field.
- Year of Establishment**: Text input field.

[Apply now](#)



Over the past 20 years, Seed Group has formed strategic alliances with leading global companies from a variety of regions and industries. These companies have propelled their business interests and goals in the Middle East and North Africa region through the support and strong base of regional connections of the Seed Group. The Group's goal is to create mutually beneficial partnerships with multinational organisations and to accelerate their sustainable market entry and presence within the MENA region.

We would welcome your feedback on this eBook – please email marketing@seedgroup.com.

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