Dubai Internet City

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About Dubai Internet City

Creation of an ICT hub is important to any country because it is a developing sector with a continuous influx of investment focused on it. With an excellent foresight, H.H Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum formally announced the creation of Dubai Internet City (DIC) in 1999 aimed at making Dubai a hub for ICT innovation and knowledge development for a digitally resilient future. DIC encourages stakeholders to link ideas and markets across the region.

DIC is a special economic free zone in the UAE providing a strategic base for companies targeting emerging regional markets in the MENA region. DIC acts as a community that fosters a thriving environment for entrepreneurs and businesses empowering them with rich ecosystem of knowledge workers, nimble service providers, and expertise from the world over.

DIC is the pride of the MENA region as it is the largest ICT hub in the region. Liberal regulations have ensured that businesses flourish. DIC provides a dense network of amenities that provides comfort to businesses setup there. Startups benefit from the presence of established halo brands that help nurture business ideas and partnerships. Home to a large bank of ICT talent, DIC ensures that ideas that spark can be converted into reality.

"Dubai has become the 'Silicon Valley' of the Middle East. We are witnessing the prominent role of Dubai Internet City in creating new economies and nurturing global entrepreneurs."

~His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum,
Vice President and Prime Minister of UAE
Ruler of Dubai

Source: Emirates News Agency

Achievements of DIC

With the establishment of Dubai Internet City, Dubai has succeeded in attracting the best and brightest businesses ensuring that the city is one of the primary drivers of technological investment and innovation in the region. Since its launch, DIC has successfully attracted AED 7.8 billion in investments. 1600+ technology companies call DIC their home and employ a young and dynamic workforce of 24,000+ people from 150+ nationalities.

In 2018, Dubai Internet City strengthened its commitment to create a sustainable community by creating a [drive to eliminate e-waste](#) responsibly. In two days almost a tonne of e-waste was collected to ensure its safe disposal and recycling. As a leading business community, DIC works on ensuring that is creates awareness about e-waste and its safe disposal and recycling methods.

In 2019, a [Russian Center for Digital Innovations](#) and ICT was launched in DIC. This hub will serve as the first and the largest business support platform for Russian tech firms looking to establish their businesses outside Russia. This will largely help Russian businesses to launch and expand their operations in the MENA region.

To encourage freelancers in the community, DIC launched the [Gofreelance](#) platform that regulates freelancing activities and serves as a platform for ensuring freelancers rights and safety to work in the region. This platform has made it easier for tech freelancers to showcase their abilities and create an independent future for themselves.

Dubai Internet City aims to remain an [efficient incubator for talent](#) and an ideal hub for tech entrepreneurs. This has been proved by the multi-billion tech deals that have happened to the city based tech firms such as:

- Souq.com that was acquired by Amazon in a AED 2 billion deal
- Careem that was acquired by Uber in a AED 11 billion deal
- Media.net (an ad-tech based company) being acquired for AED 3.3 billion recently

Dubai Internet City has successfully established a favorable environment for entrepreneurs and start-ups to nurture the next big wave of ICT innovation.

Innovation Hub

An [Innovation Hub](#) was announced on the 15th anniversary of Dubai Internet City. This Innovation Hub intended to support the vision of an innovation-led economy of H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

The Innovation hub aims to create a vibrant community of innovators encouraging them to explore new ideas in technology and its applications in various sectors such as education, science and media. It has an area of 1.8 million square dedicated to act as a smart park in the heart of Dubai positioned along with other premier commercial zones such as Dubai Media City and Knowledge Village.

A massive cluster of communications and technology facilities will highlight the Innovation hub. Combined with boutique offices that rub shoulders with commercial spaces, retail offerings and hospitality developments, the Innovation hub will feature a carefully laid out masterplan. The main intention and idea behind creation of this hub is to facilitate idea creation, networking, knowledge sharing and dynamic industry events.

Major companies have launched 11 innovation centers:

• Visa	• Canon
• Accenture	• Cisco
• SAP	• Mastercard
• Samsung	• Huawei
• Microsoft	• Oracle
• 3M	

IN5

[In5 innovation centre](#) was launched by DIC in 2013 to act as an incubator for entrepreneurs. in5 provides support to the ICT start-ups by:

- Providing the ease of business setup
- Providing access to world class training
- Providing opportunities for funding and mentorship
- Creating an environment that fosters networking opportunities

In5 is a start-up enabling platform dedicated to finding and nurturing ideas that could potentially shape the future of ICT, digital media, mobility, the Internet of Things (IoT) and smart cities.

To help increase opportunities for local and international innovators, recently In5 signed a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) (MOU) with [Dubai Future Foundation](#) (DFF) and [Dubai Development Authority](#) (DDA). This partnership aims to provide a healthy environment for government entities to collaborate with start-ups from around the world and work on implementing futuristic solutions to existing challenges.

Since its launch in 2013, the In5 tech incubation centre has engaged with [4000+ technopreneurs and have secured AED 58 million in funding](#).

"in5 combines the efforts of industries, educational institutions, governments and community innovators to create and provide real solutions to current challenges in the tech industry."

Source: [In5 Website](#)

Dubai Outsource City

[Dubai Outsource City](#) has been serving as a business park in DIC since its inception in 2004. The aim of this business park is to serve companies with innovative services that put them on an easy path to serve global markets. Robust business processes supported with an efficient HR, IT, back office and call centre services, Dubai Outsource City help connect the community with enterprises regionally and worldwide. It is the

region's largest specialized outsourcing hub dedicated to the growth and development of the outsourced services industry.

[Dubai Outsource City](#) is home to around 160 companies operating in the outsourcing serving the UAE and a wider region. The country's strategic location at the crossroads between Europe, Africa, and Asia enables business partners to meet the requirements of these diverse markets.

The outsourcing sector is emerging as an important contributor to UAE's economic diversification and proving to be among the fastest-growing sector in the country. It provides an access to more than [8,000 strong network of skilled workers](#).

Conclusion

Dubai internet City has played a pivotal role and acted efficiently as an incubator for hugely successful tech companies and will continue to create an environment that fosters innovation in technology giving the necessary boost to the economy of UAE.