



مؤسسة دبي للمستقبل
DUBAI FUTURE FOUNDATION

2020
REPORT

AREA TOP EQUITY

YOUR INVITATION
TO BE A PART
OF **CREATING
THE FUTURE**

INTRODUCTION

A Vision of the Future

Our systems, from education to transport to healthcare, were designed and built at and for a different time. Despite the fast pace at which humanity's needs have changed since then, our systems have not; or at best did not keep up with that pace. Today, we understand that in order to make a substantial change and be ready for the future ahead, we require bold questions and yet bolder action, we need to challenge the status quo, disrupt the current, and evolve global systems.

In the UAE, the norm never had the chance to be the norm so long. With the ambitious vision of its leadership, the boundaries were always pushed. In 2017, Abu Dhabi Crown Prince H. H. Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan planted the seed of the UAE's centennial vision; to be the best nation by the time we as a nation celebrate our 100th birthday in 2071.

INSPIRED BY THAT GRAND VISION, AREA 2071 WAS BORN.

It was born with an ambition to make Dubai the leading city of the future through radical collaboration and co-design. It was established as a platform to drive global change through collaborative engagements between the public and private sectors as well as talent from around the world. Moreover, it was destined to be a place that leads the way into the future for the UAE and the entire world.

AREA 2071 was the UAE's response to a time of tremendous uncertainty, as the planet is tackling a global pandemic and facing the ever-growing challenges from climate change to turmoil societal imbalances. It aims to serve the world a unique eco-system that proves **to be the way to design a future led by entrepreneurial talents to create a better world for everyone.**

The Seed



مئوية الإمارات 2071
UAE CENTENNIAL 2071
The World's Leading Nation أفضل دولة في العالم



United Arab Emirates

In 1971, the vision of modern-day UAE was laid out by our far-sighted leadership. Today's iconic cityscape stands as a testament to our forefather's vision.

In 2017, H. H. Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, called for developing a long-term vision for the next 50 years; a vision that ensures future generations enjoy the same level of satisfaction and security as the population does now. If not more.

H. H.'s speech inspired the UAE Centennial 2071 Vision, a 50-year plan to position the UAE as 'the world's leading nation' by 2071.

A year earlier, Dubai Future Foundation was inaugurated, launching one of its primary initiatives - AREA 2071 - as the physical manifestation of the Crown Prince's vision.

1971



In 1971 the seeds of modern-day UAE were laid down by far-sighted leadership.

2016



With a vision to institutionalize future foresight, the Dubai Future Foundation had been launched which will then be the host for Area2071.

2017



In 2017, Abu Dhabi Crown Prince H. H. Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan made a speech stating the need to develop a long-term vision.



Area2071 is born to be the physical manifestation of the UAE's Centennial Vision.

2071

The grand vision of becoming the best nation in the world by our 100th anniversary.

The speech inspired the UAE Centennial 2071 Project, a 50-year plan to put the UAE in the position of being 'the world's leading nation' by its 100th anniversary in 2071.

“The future belongs to those who can imagine it, design it, and execute it. It isn’t something you await, but rather create.”

H.H. SHEIKH MOHAMMED BIN RASHID AL MAKTOUM,
VICE PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER OF THE UAE
AND RULER OF DUBAI





Dubai Future Foundation

The Dubai Future Foundation (DFF) was launched at the World Government Summit in 2016 by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai.

It aims to reflect the history of the city in which it was born, fanning the flames of innovation to enable the conception, design, and creation of a better future for Dubai and the world.

HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum's quote cemented the vision and strategy for the Foundation. Imagining, designing, and executing Dubai's future lies at its heart, while risk-taking, agility, and foresight are the attributes that drive its journey towards ever-greater success.

To achieve this, DFF has launched numerous initiatives, each one contributing to its mission of making Dubai the city that leads the way into the future. AREA 2071 cuts across all those initiatives, forming a foundation that they can all build upon.

AREA 2071 AT A GLANCE



Regulation Lab
was an outcome
of AREA 2071



Creating synergies
between various
stakeholders coming
from different
backgrounds.



Partnerships placed
AREA 2071 as a great
supporter for the
startup community

OUR TIMELINE

1960 •

An airport is commissioned by a ruler of a small emirate – Dubai, with sand cleaved to run concrete runways. In around 60 years, this airport will become the world's busiest.

1961

A full decade before the UAE is formed, Khor Dubai, or the Dubai Creek, is dredged to allow larger vessels in. The city is determined to welcome the world.

1971

A unified nation is created out of tribal lands by leaders of vision and foresight. The United Arab Emirates is born, and history as we know it is created.

1979

With leadership's visionary foresight, a gateway hub and a global trade link of the world is born in Dubai. Jebel Ali Port will earn the title as the largest man-made port in the world, connecting global markets and facilitating trade.

2017

On May 21st 2017, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum announces the establishment of AREA 2071 in the heart of Dubai to design the future.

2020

AREA 2071 becomes home to the first UAE-made, state-of-the-art medical ventilator in response to the medical needs of the country.



AREA 2071

Designing the Future

As you go through the booklet, we are certain you have many questions, most, if not all, this booklet intends to address. Yet, it's a fair bet that the first question you'd like answered is:

'What exactly is AREA 2071?'

That's not an easy question to answer, as nothing that resembles such a unique eco-system has ever been formed before.

Simply put, AREA 2071 is a space for co-creation that brings together the brightest minds in government entities, private companies, and startups from around the globe to bring to life ideas that will transform the future.

AREA 2071 is not only for established organizations from the private and government sectors. It is a destination for those with new ideas, for forward-thinkers and visionaries, for startups and entrepreneurs, and for individuals, just like you, offering a platform to collaborate, and experiment.

Located at the Emirates Towers in Dubai, AREA 2071 resembles a hive that encourages its occupants to interact, learn from one another, and work closely together, and to explore the unexplored.

Spread out across 100,000 square feet, the design of the space nourishes a wide variety of experiences, from common resources and private workspaces to shared inspirational activities.



An ideas factory and the world's ultimate networking opportunity.



A space where you'll find innovation seeds, accelerators and incubators, private sector and talent.



A complete ecosystem.



A catalyst for co-design and co-creation.



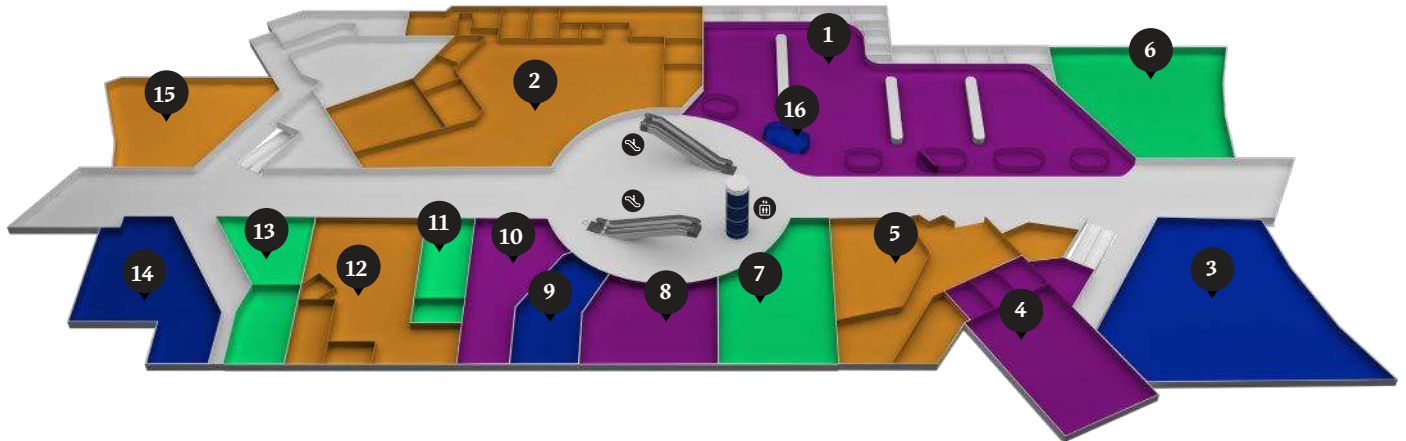
Inclusive of government entities and startups.



And it's a physical location – at **Emirates Towers**, a place designed to encourage its residents to interact, learn from, and work together. It's just these kinds of spontaneous collaborations and collisions of ideas that lead to previously undreamed-of new territories to explore.

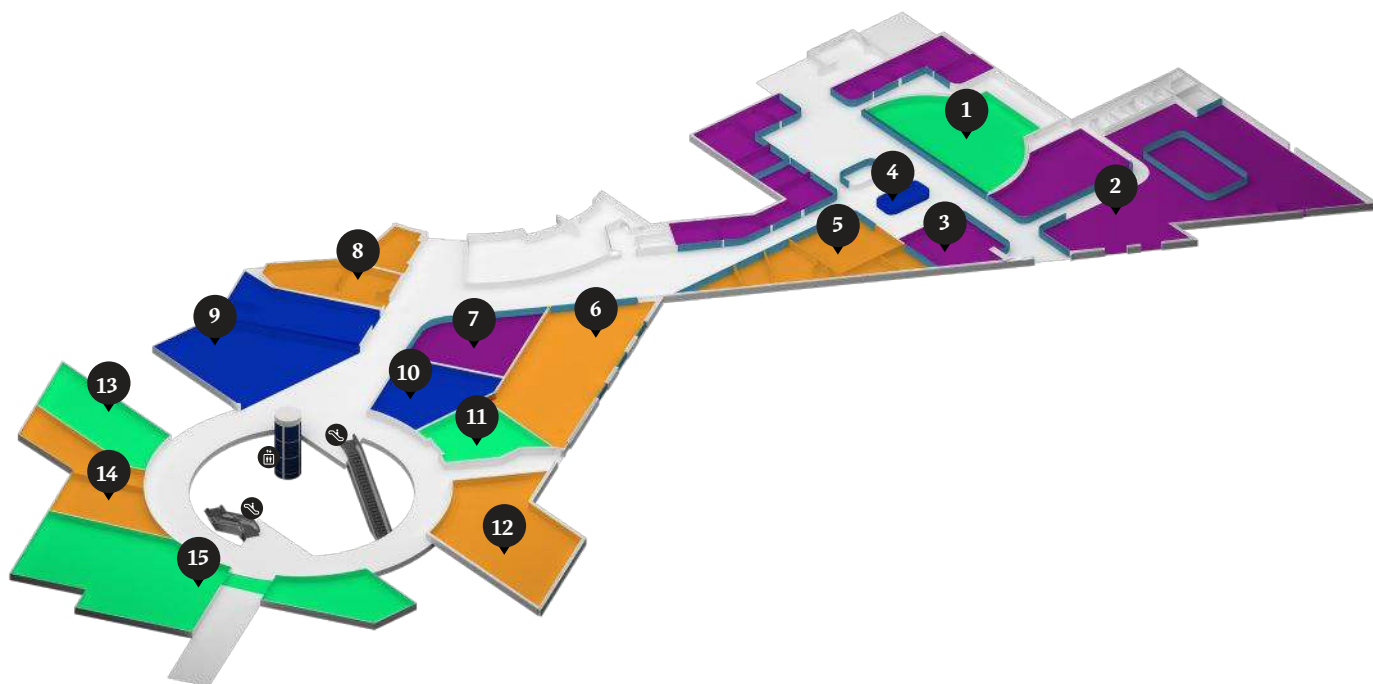


AREA 2071 MAP











G Ground Floor

- | | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|----|--|
| 1 | AREA 2071 Office | 9 | Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution |
| 2 | Youth Hub | 10 | Services One |
| 3 | Ministry of Possibilities | 11 | NAS Daily |
| 4 | Dubai Future Labs | 12 | Government Accelerators |
| 5 | EY Wavespace | 13 | MRM  |
| 6 | ORA Nursery of the Future | 14 | Al Nafoora Restaurant  |
| 7 | Emirates Aviation X Lab | 15 | Atolye |
| 8 | National Program for AI | 16 | Fiks Coffee  |



M Mezzanine Floor

- 1 DFA Auditorium 
- 2 DFA Space
- 3 Training Room
- 4 Coarse Coffee 
- 5 Udacity
- 6 EY Wavespace
- 7 DFF Studio 
- 8 DFF Story
- 9 Flow Restaurant 
- 10 Starbucks Coffee 
- 11 Mont Blanc 
- 12 Digital DEWA
- 13 ProTech 
- 14 Sense Time
- 15 Emirates NBD Bank 

YOU TOO COULD BE PART OF AREA 2071

The drive behind AREA 2071 is the desire to find answers to some of the greatest questions facing humanity, now and in the future. Questions like:

- ❓ **How can healthcare and wellbeing be improved for everyone on the planet?**
- ❓ **How will transport systems work in an age of post-carbon fuel?**
- ❓ **How can everyone be provided with an opportunity for education?**
- ❓ **What can be done to protect the world from future epidemics?**

For AREA 2071 to succeed, there's a need to take risks, embrace disruptive ideas, and think entrepreneurially. To do that, AREA 2071 needs people like you to imagine how to make the future even better. And then work together to create that future for the UAE, the planet, and all humanity.



If this sounds like an initiative you'd like to be part of, or if you're just intrigued at this point, then this booklet will take you through



The objectives and ambitions of this eco-system.



How it could benefit you.



The way it works.



Stories that demonstrate the kind of impact people have been able to achieve.



“Creating the future we want requires determination, hard work and a specific and advanced set of skills, tools and technologies.”

H.H. SHEIKH HAMDAN BIN MOHAMMED BIN RASHID AL MAKTOUM,
CROWN PRINCE OF DUBAI, CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL,
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AT DUBAI FUTURE FOUNDATION



WHAT AREA 2071 OFFERS YOU



Why would you accept this invitation and apply to become part of AREA 2071?

Perhaps the real question is why would you not? If you're an entrepreneur, small business or startup with an original idea and the drive, enthusiasm and passion to take it to the next level, then AREA 2071 is just the opportunity you're looking for to see it become a reality. And it's an opportunity that comes with many benefits and advantages for your business, including

1 ACCESS

BUSINESS VISA / BUSINESS LICENSE / WORKSPACES / MARKETING AND EXPERTISE / COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITY / CO-CREATION / CREDIBILITY

2 GROWTH

HOUSING / INNOVATION PROGRAMMES / UNDERSTAND THE MARKET / ESTABLISH A PRESENCE / INVESTMENTS

3 BEING A PART OF THE FUTURE

UAE REGULATIONS LAB / DUBAI FUTURE LABS / C4IR UAE / MINISTRY OF POSSIBILITIES / AREA 2071 COMMUNITY / DIGITAL COMMUNITIES / CREATING A MORE DIVERSE AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETY / SHARING SKILLS AND CAPABILITIES / IMPROVING SUSTAINABILITY / INCREASING QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL

STARTUPS HERE COUNT DOWN

BUSINESS VISA

The startup ecosystem in the United Arab Emirates has progressed at an unprecedented speed. Make Dubai your home for innovation through the Business Visa as part of the UAE Golden Visa System. Our pioneers will have the opportunity to explore and connect in the UAE.

BUSINESS LICENSE

If you're setting up a new business in the UAE, start and grow your business with us by getting your three-year business license. Our team can support you along the way, and you'll get access to a suite of supportive services through AREA 2071.

WORKSPACES

Work in a flexible and interactive space allowing you to innovate, connect, and collaborate seamlessly. We offer workspaces, meeting rooms, a creative media studio, training rooms, and relaxation and socialising areas.

MARKETING & EXPERTISE

You'll immediately be part of a network of elite experts who can provide specialist knowledge to help you establish your business and realize your ideas.

COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITY

You'll be able to work with partners in government and the private sector across sectors and industries to develop your ideas

CO-CREATION

As part of an ecosystem connecting corporates, government, startups and entrepreneurs you'll be able to combine innovative ideas and resources to co-create original solutions.

CREDIBILITY

Engaging with partner entities in the UAE can help to establish and sustain your business in the future.

A REASON TO BELIEVE

EDUCHAIN

Originally one of the winners in the inaugural Smart Dubai Blockchain Challenge, Canadian startup Educhain offered a digital passport of academic and professional achievements, which can be easily authenticated by recipients to help eliminate fraud. Since making connections through Area 2071, Educhain has signed memoranda of understanding and agreements with 13 universities and launched the world's largest pilot for blockchain in education in Dubai. It's already working with top academic institutions and employers from Mena, Europe and North America, totaling over 400,000 students and professionals.



2 GROWTH

HOUSING

Live comfortably in accommodation that suits your needs. AREA 2071 is part of the Dubai Future District that offers affordable accommodation options for innovative startups.

INNOVATION PROGRAMMES

Submit your innovative solutions to strategic challenges. Our range of challenges and projects, in association with government entities and the private sector, are open for innovators and entrepreneurs around the world.

UNDERSTAND THE MARKET

You'll get to know local and global markets and how you can work with them to expand your business.

ESTABLISH A PRESENCE

Attract the attention of private and government entities and their wider networks and win their confidence for the future.

INVESTMENTS

Realize on opportunities to form organic connections with venture capitalists and private investors.

CONTRACTS

Leverage your involvement with partners into future contracts.

A REASON TO BELIEVE

NYBL

AI startup **Nybl** collaborated with Smart Dubai in a pilot that used the internet of things and artificial intelligence to reduce the time and money government entities spend on planning and purchasing inventory by 30 percent. Its success saw Nybl signing an Enterprise Subscription agreement to provide the supply chain solution for 37 government entities in Dubai, saving them AED100 million. Since then, the company has shifted its base to Dubai and signed contracts for four new projects in Dubai and two in Saudi Arabia.

nybl.



BE PART **3** OF THE FUTURE

UAE REGULATIONS LAB

Test your innovative solutions in a real-life setting within Dubai. With our leadership's support and investment in technology, the Ministry of Cabinet Affairs and the Future and Dubai Future Foundation have co-created a Regulations Lab to support your regulatory needs.

C4IR UAE

The Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution UAE (C4IR UAE) is a collaboration between the Dubai Future Foundation and the World Economic Forum and is the first affiliate centre in the world open since April 2019. It serves as a global public-private platform for the collaborative development of technology governance and policy protocols.

DUBAI FUTURE LABS

Dubai Future Labs is an applied research and development facility that designs, develops, and tests cutting-edge robotics and automation technologies; committed to enhancing the culture of technological innovation in the UAE.

MINISTRY OF POSSIBILITIES

The Ministry of Possibilities represents the next generation of government operations and empowers quick, bold, and effective decision making in an ever-changing and more demanding world. New government systems designed for the future!

AREA 2071 COMMUNITY

Our community is diverse in its nature. We have startups, freelancers, government and private sector employees, and people from all walks of life, all working together in the same space with a common goal of designing a better future.

DIGITAL COMMUNITIES

Connect and collaborate digitally with the AREA 2071 community through our digital ecosystem powered by “ALIA”, an AI assistant that connects you with other innovators, entrepreneurs, and private and government sector employees to collaborate in designing innovative ideas.

CREATING A MORE DIVERSE AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETY

be a part of a multi-cultural and multi-ethnic community that is also pushing to be far more inclusive of women.

SHARING SKILLS AND CAPABILITIES

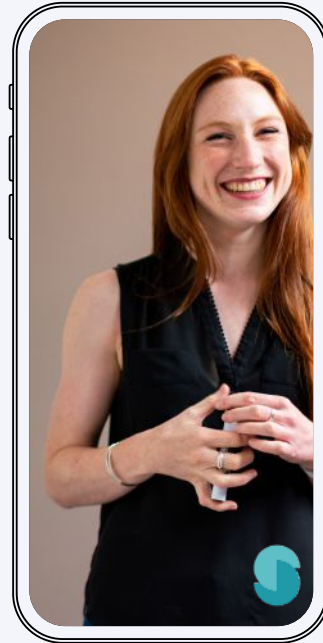
pass on what you’ve learned and learn from others in workshops and events.

IMPROVING SUSTAINABILITY

help address the challenges of climate change, energy consumption, and clean air and water.

INCREASING QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL

Play a role in tech initiatives that improve wellbeing for everyone through better healthcare, public safety and sustainable development.



A REASON TO BELIEVE

SYNKERS

Synkers is a Lebanese startup that provides peer-to-peer platforms that connect tutors and students seamlessly. 75% of its employees are women, as are 60% of the tutors who use their product—an excellent example of a company deliberately narrowing the gender gap in the tech world.



AREA 2071 PROGRAMS

A quick at-a-glance guide to help you get to grips with AREA 2071's component parts before getting into the greater detail that follows – its programs and partner programs, the cohorts, and the events that run alongside them.

والمعنى على العكس فاصفة
بمخترها العمل نتمنى والمدة ابدأ



Dubai Future Accelerators

Dubai Future Accelerators (DFA) is one of the key programs at AREA 2071, run by DFF with the mission of turning Dubai into the world's test bed for future ideas. DFA is a cohort-based program – there have been eight cohorts completed so far. Each cohort runs a series of challenges where startups collaborate and co-create innovative solutions for challenges posed by government and private entities.



Innovation Programs

Aside from DFA, several other challenge-based programs take place in collaboration with industry leaders such as Smart Dubai, Procter & Gamble and Emirates to maximize opportunities for co-creation and innovation.



Partner Programs

We also partner with leading ecosystem partners, organizations and startup accelerators to further widen the scope of possibilities. Examples include Techstars and Microsoft AI Venture Lab, which hosted cohorts in Area2071 with the most promising startups globally.



AREA 2071 Events

The constructive exchange of ideas doesn't stop at structured programs. AREA 2071 is also home to an all-year-round packed schedule of events, from workshops, webinars and presentations to TED Talks and catch-ups. In collaboration with some of the biggest industry names, our live and virtual events are sure to keep you stimulated, while advancing your technical and industry knowledge. Get the chance to interact with renowned entrepreneurs and innovators from around the world.

Dubai Future Accelerators

DFF launched Dubai Future Accelerators with the vision of making Dubai a testbed for the world's most innovative ideas.



مسرعات دبي للمستقبل
DUBAI FUTURE ACCELERATORS

DFA aims to spark collaboration opportunities between government and private sector partners and startups from all over the world. Together, they can explore and deploy cutting-edge solutions to challenges across industries and sectors. This is mutually beneficial – government and corporate partners gain access to the latest thinking and ideas from all corners of the globe, while startups gain access to a flow of government contracts if their concepts are proven. DFA enables them to pilot their solutions and ideas, as well as provide financial sustainability for the company. But what lies at the heart of DFA is a fundamental shift in mindset – one of making both government and private sector more agile and becoming risk-takers when it comes to innovation.

Value & Offering



Game-changing partnerships with leading government entities.



Roundtrip airfare to Dubai and sponsored accommodation.



Access to tailored mentorship opportunities and ecosystem partners.



Access to a potential market of 2 billion.



Zero-equity taken in your business.





How DEFA's cohorts work



DFA'S PROGRAM STRUCTURE

1
DEFINE CHALLENGES

DFF works with government and private partners to define the challenges they want to explore.

2
GLOBAL OUTREACH

These challenges are published online, where startups and entrepreneurs from all over the world are invited to apply if they believe they have a tested MVP product or solution.

3
EVALUATION AND SHORTLISTING

Successful applicants are initially interviewed by DFF. Shortlisted applicants are then evaluated by government and private partners.

5
ONBOARDING

Selected startups are invited to fly to Dubai, with a fully sponsored roundtrip and accommodation provided for the duration of the cohort.

4
PARTNER SELECTION

Government and private entities pick their preferred startup, one they deem most suitable for their challenge and needs.

6
PROOF OF CONCEPT OR PILOT

Corporate and government partners work hand-in-hand with entrepreneurs and startups to refine concepts with the help of relevant expertise, data and feedback, all of which culminates in a pilot or a proof of concept.

7
DEMO DAY

At the end of the cohort, a demo day is organized for all startups and entities to showcase their pilots and solutions.

8
POST-PROGRAM

Based on the outcome of the cohort, the partners decide on the best way forward with the startups, either engaging directly in a commercial agreement or a further pilot phase.

DFA's Swift response to the 'new norm.'

Right when DFA was running its 7th cohort, COVID-19 was declared a global pandemic. Rather than temporarily halting the entire program, a bold decision was taken to convert the entire program to a virtual format. This phase helped our partners and startups spark conversations around the new crisis caused by the pandemic. A few weeks in, several challenges were identified across the public sector, and solving these became the cohort's objective.

When the situation settled, thanks to the enormous efforts the UAE government has put into controlling the spread of COVID, DFA reverted to an in-residence format, which kicked-off mid-January 2021.



Challenges DFA explored during the pandemic

Soft mobility and shared mobility

How might we create new mobility sharing services to help public transport post COVID-19?

Looking into new shared mobility transport options, like E-bikes, scooters, bike sharing, car sharing and bus on demand that are budget-friendly.

Interactive & community-based transport planning

How might we engage the public in the process of transport and community infrastructure planning?

Looking for innovative ways to be more inclusive of citizens when planning and improving transport networks, infrastructure and services.

Data-mission power

How might we consolidate data across DEWA platforms to advance the process of strategic and operational decision making?

Looking for a scalable, future-proof data platform that delivers a high-quality end-to-end data process structure from collection to visualization to reporting.

Early and swift healthcare intervention

How might we improve the quality of life by early and swift healthcare intervention using advanced technologies in healthcare?

Looking for new device-based solutions that can help DHA achieve its vision of 'a healthier and happier community.'

Internet of robotic things

How might we better manage robots and drones to ensure safety and efficiency?

Looking for a platform that manages flexible robot and drone solutions with greater safety and efficiency in non-industrial and commercial environments. Looking for a mobile application or software that enables easier access to mental healthcare, while staying in line with all UAE data privacy laws.

Digital Credit & Investment Platform

How can we facilitate access to credit and investment opportunities for all sectors of the economy allowing for full digital financial inclusion?

Looking for a platform incorporating AI that will provide access to credit issuing, personalized lending and investment for every sector of the economy from the smallest to the largest.

DFA's cohorts to date

From Fall 2016 to date, DFA has run a total of eight cohorts. Each one lasted for about nine to twelve weeks and saw entrepreneurs and startups collaborating with government and private entities to co-create solutions to challenges.



These are just some of the partner entities that DFA has worked with in cohorts up until now:



Sectors Explored



Aviation



Agriculture and forestry



Buildings and facilities



Education



Healthcare



Hospitality and lifestyle



Transport



Telecommunications



Public services



Social development



Utilities and environment

The Impact

So far, DFA have achieved great impact on the ecosystem and through partners and startups



125+

challenges explored



180+

Memoranda of Understanding signed



89+

pilot projects run



290

startups involved, including

663

participants



Those startups came from

39

different countries



45

startups set up offices in UAE, creating over

600

new jobs created

The benefits for DFA's partner entities

27%

of participating startups signed contracts with partner entities, worth

AED36 million

21

startups operated in healthcare, 20 in public safety, 10 in transportation.

38

startups signed MoUs with partner entities focused on green and sustainable solutions. Among those piloted were initiatives on urban farming, clean water and food waste.

17

projects delivered major 'service improvements' for entities including DEWA and RTA.

The benefits for startups and entrepreneurs



AED75 million

has been raised by DFA Alumni startups in equity funds.



90%

of participating startups signed contracts with other entities in UAE, worth

AED125 million.





THE COHORTS AND THEIR IMPACT

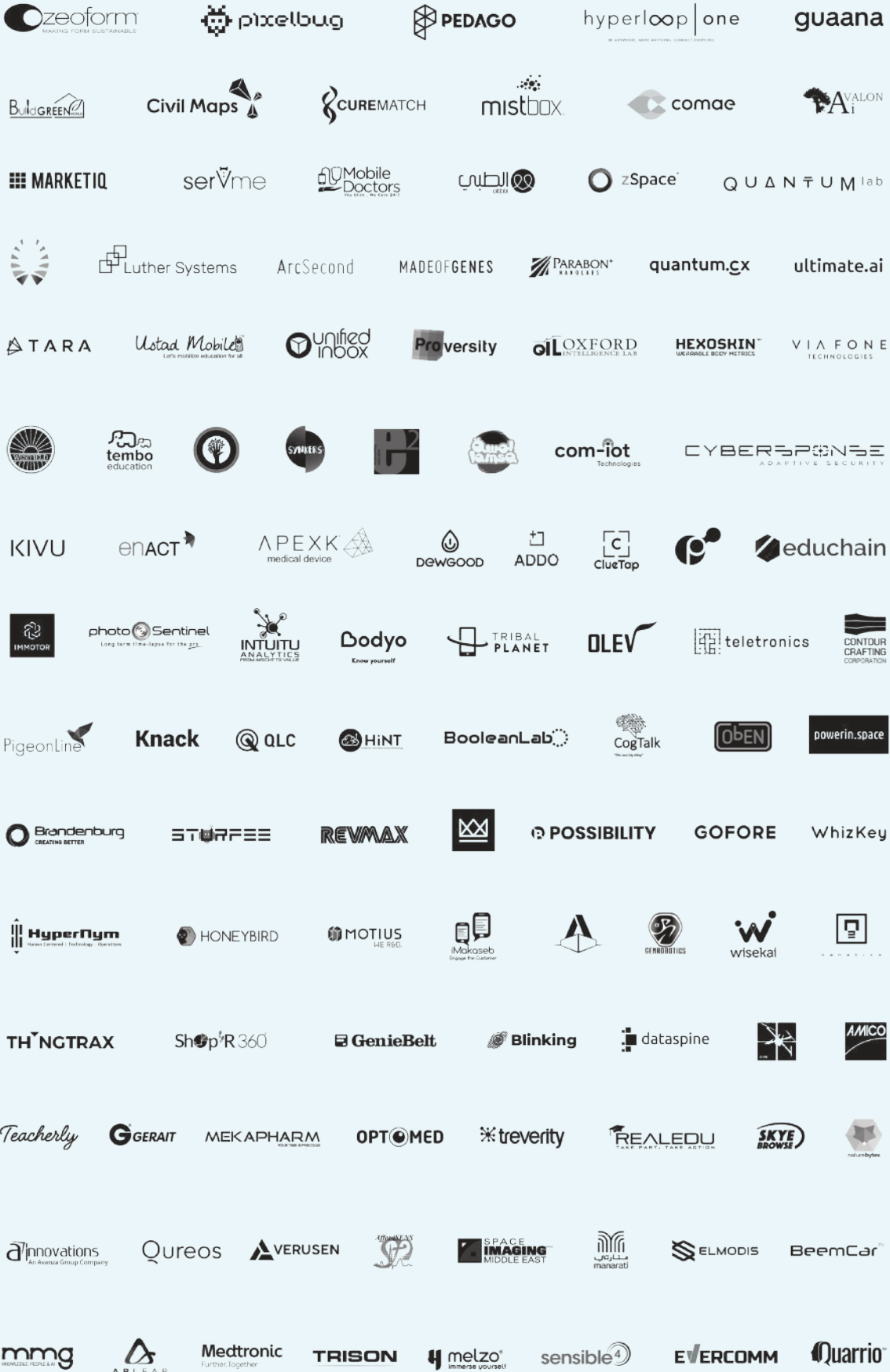


Beyond the great number listed above; DFA was a inspiration and an enablement power-house for some of the most amazing success stories in the ecosystem. Each individual cohort has any number of stories to tell and here we shed light on a just some of these.



DFA ALUMNIS

2016 - 2020



DFA ALUMNIS

2016 - 2020



COHORT 1

September - December
2016

Impact Highlights

7

government partners took part.

30

participating companies collaborated*

19

MoUs were signed.

* Not all of them were startups in this cohort, with well-established companies like Hyperloop One and Virgin also involved.



BUS ONDEMAND

On demand buses address the requests of public transport riders based on the idea of linking some places with mini public buses operating nearby their locations. They can avail the service through the smart app, which enables them to figure out their routes from the start point to destination point, choose their preferred seats, and pay fares.

The service debut tested at Al Warqaa and Al Barsha, and continue for a trial period of three months.



هيئة الطرق والمواصلات
ROADS & TRANSPORT AUTHORITY





SELF-DRIVING TRANSPORTATION

The Self-driving Pods are designed to travel short and medium distances in dedicated lanes. They can be coupled in 15 to 20 seconds or detached, depending on the destination of riders, in 5 seconds. The Self-driving Pods are fitted with cameras and electromechanical technologies to carry out the coupling and detaching processes, and this feature can be activated in-motion

The initial trials of the self-driving pods rolled out for the first time worldwide in collaboration with the American Next Future Transportation Inc which were held at the sidelines of the World Government Summit, were attended by HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum. It was also tested in Dubai Silicon Oasis free zone.



3D PRINTING IN DENTISTRY

With the aim of making Dubai and the UAE the global hub for 3D printing by 2030, DFA's partner Dubai Health Authority has worked closely with Medati to adopt this technology in the dentistry field in 2016. Since then, the success of its implementation and the successful production of 3D printed teeth models has led the Authority to expand the use of 3D printing across all fields of healthcare.



COHORT 2

February - April
2017

Impact Highlights

12

government partners took part.

35

startups collaborated

28

MoUs were signed.



GATE-LESS BORDER

The world's first 'gate-less border', combining biometric verification and blockchain technology, is open at Dubai Airport.

ObjectTech has signed an agreement with the Government of Dubai for a project to develop digital passports for seamless entry at the airport. This means passengers are able to disembark and walk straight to baggage collection via biometric verification while they walk, allowing them to be registered into the country using a pre-approved and entirely digitized passport.





SOLAR WATER DESALINATION

Dubai Electricity and Water Authority challenged Startups at DFA's Cohort 2 to offer solutions that transform a utility provider's traditional business model of generating, transmitting, and distributing water and electricity.

Desolenator, a cleantech solar desalination company offering a small, distributed, and affordable water desalination/purification device, had the answer to the challenge, with solutions that provide enough water daily for a family of up to 5 - up to 2,200 gallons of drinking water per day.

With such an impact that goes beyond water provisioning, Desolenator's solutions are fully implemented in Jabal Ali area to carry on the mission of creating resilient communities and businesses.

Desolenator

هيئة كهرباء ومياه دبي
Dubai Electricity & Water Authority



SMART DUBAI RECONCILIATION BLOCKCHAIN

In Cohort 2, Smart Dubai presented a huge challenge to participating startups! Met by the enthusiasm of Avanza, and its innovative approaches, Avanza's Reconciliation & Settlement Blockchain Product, InstaChain, was implemented to help reduce the payment and reconciliation sequential process of 45 days, from the day a user makes a payment to real-time. The new system enabled transactions to be performed accurately and in real-time and economize time and effort.

avanza
SOLUTIONS



FOOD MANAGEMENT

With the aim of to reduce food waste across the hospitality sector in the UAE, Winnow, a star startup selected to participate in Cohort 2 in 2017, signed a memorandum of understanding at the conclusion of the cohort with Dubai Municipality to shift 75% of the waste produced in the country from landfills. Winnow's cutting-edge technology has been helping many large hotels in the UAE save more than \$35,000 per annum in food costs. This reduction in food waste has translated into saving an estimated 33 tonnes of food from landfills and an equivalent of 231 meals saved each day in Dubai. Winnow innovative tech is implemented across Emaar, Rotana, Majid Al-Futtaim, and Marriott chains, with plans for further expansion.

winnow

بلدية دبي
DUBAI MUNICIPALITY



COHORT 3

October - November
2017

Impact
Highlights

13

government
partners
took part.

47

startups
collaborated

36

MoUs were
signed.

COHORT 4

March - May
2018

Impact
Highlights

11

government
partners
took part.

37

startups
collaborated

27

MoUs were
signed.



ELECTRIC CHARGING STATIONS

In Collaboration with RTA and DEWA through the Dubai Future Accelerators program, Oliv new technology allows vehicles to charge on the go by building the infrastructure and laying an embedded power-charging grid underneath the roads. This groundbreaking solution has been experimented with across Dubai and has proven to successfully enable a seamless operation of the vehicle without any stopping at charging stations. The charging system is invisible and, as such, has no visual pollution impact on the city. In addition to that, this technology does not hamper the movement of people and vehicles like on-road cable chargers.



هيئة الطرق و النقل
ROADS & TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

RTA



SMART GATES

To improve the security and enhance the customer experience for daily travelers, Emaratech partnered with Dubai Airports to install smart gates at Dubai International Airport. The volume of passenger traffic surpassed 100 million yearly, according to Dubai Airports. The new smart gates reduced transaction times to just 10-15 seconds and eased the journey of millions of passengers travelling through Dubai.

The smart gates process 120,000 passengers every day, reducing manual shifts by 99 percent and reducing human resources' operational costs by 50 percent.



الهيئة الاتحادية للهوية والجنسية
FEDERAL AUTHORITY FOR IDENTITY & CITIZENSHIP
هيئة الاتحادية للهوية والجنسية
FEDERAL AUTHORITY FOR IDENTITY & CITIZENSHIP

COHORT 5

September - November
2018

Impact Highlights

12

government
partners
took part.

40

startups
collaborated

26

MoUs were
signed.

SMART INVENTORY SYSTEM

The challenge was to reduce the time and money spent by government entities on planning and purchasing inventory by 30 percent using technology such as AI and the Internet of Things. Within nine weeks of Cohort 5, Nybl, a startup that configured, developed, and ran a proof of concept for the government that showed them 85 percent reduction in inventory planning and purchasing time.

As a result of its success, Nybl signed an enterprise agreement with Smart Dubai in July to deploy Nybl solutions to every single government entity with inventory (more than 30).

nybl.



دبي الذكية
SMART DUBAI



WHIZKEY

An Innovative and futuristic solution to disrupt the current electricity and water utility business models.

Employing Fourth Industrial Revolution technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), blockchain, robotics, and other technologies to improve performance, productivity, and service quality, Whizkey - a diverse multinational company specializing in deep learning-driven Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain, Robotic Process Automation, and bespoke cloud development - is working closely with DEWA – AI-Ruwaya branch to implement the AI system for DEWA's distribution power.

WhizKey



AMICO

In Cohort 5, AMICO worked closely with DHA on two innovative solutions; a Surgical Navigation Device and a 3D imaging device now available in DHA's Rashid Hospital.

These technologies assist in brain and spinal surgeries by enhancing accuracy and minimizing errors down to 2%, as well as accelerating patient recovery. DHA started using the latest generation in robotics provided by AMICO in 2019 to work alongside neurosurgeons providing guaranteed accuracy and eliminating human errors during a minimally invasive advanced spinal surgery.



COHORT 6

March - September
 2019

Impact Highlights

8

government partners took part.

37

startups collaborated

27

MoUs were signed.

BODYO

An AI-empowered device to help catch conditions such as heart disease and diabetes earlier than they would otherwise be detected.

In Cohort 6, Bodyo innovative solution for self-check-ups caught DHA's attention. The AiPod aims to empower individuals to take responsibility for their own health by giving access to their personal biometrics. Bodyo's health pods scan for vital signs such as blood pressure and heart rate allowing doctors to spot the early signs of illness. About five nurses would need to extract the kind of health data produced from a short Bodyo scan, with a single nurse required to operate one of the pods, hence, brings down overall healthcare costs.

Bodyo's booths have been tested through malls and several Government entities as a pilot.



OPTOMED

Optomed's solution - Optomed Aurora - is a portable, highly sensitive, high-resolution eye camera equipped with a microscope to image the rear eye and detect early eye deterioration in case of glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy.

This Finnish medical technology company and a leading provider of handheld fundus cameras worked with DHA during Cohort 6 on combining handheld fundus cameras with software and artificial intelligence with the aim to transform the diagnostic process of blinding eye diseases such as rapidly increasing diabetic retinopathy. Optomed Aurora was tested in Dubai Hospital's ophthalmology clinic in 2019.

OPTOMED



DIVE

An AI facial and emotion recognition solution that aligns with DEWA's corporate strategy in attaining engaged and happy customers.

Currently, work is being done to install the software in DEWA's head office as a test in order to train the AI model to capture the customer journey. Dive is a full-stack AI company, enabling businesses to create, productize and scale data-driven solutions quickly & economically.

dive

هيئة كهرباء ومياه دبي
Dubai Electricity & Water Authority



COHORT 7

January - April
2020

Impact Highlights

6

government
partners
took part.

29

startups
collaborated

6

MoUs were
signed.

GO BUBBLE

Aiming at making the internet a safer space for children under 13, Go Bubble was designed by two parent entrepreneurs to bring a safer, healthier, and kinder social media for kids.

In collaboration with KDHA, Go Bubble has been developed to allow children the space to play and interact in the presence of a moderator acting as a virtual nanny.

With such impact, Go Bubble has been approved by 68 countries and more than 130 schools in the UAE.



GoBubbleSchool

دبي
Knowledge المعرفة



Innovation Programs

AREA 2071 co-creates and executes a diverse set of programs that deeply connect technology startups, government and the private sector to tackle system or sector-level challenges.

AREA 2071 welcomes new partners and is very flexible on the make-up of programs, which can be tailor-made to fit the partner's requirements perfectly

These programs include the AI Futtaim Startup Innovation program, Virtual Reality & Beyond Challenge, Smart Dubai Global Blockchain Competition and others.



Smart Dubai Global Blockchain Competition

DFA hosted this challenge in 2019, with 20 startups taking part, selected from over 700 applicants. There were three winners, who received prize money ranging from \$10-20,000. Two of the winners were also accepted into Cohort 6 where they worked with RTA and KHDA on respective challenges.



Virtual Reality & Beyond Challenge

Hosted in collaboration with HTC VIVE and Burj Khalifa, this challenge required participants to build world-class VR content themed around the Burj Khalifa. Participants were given access to an incubator center, a VR hub at AREA 2071 and office space. First prize was awarded to the US-based Game Cooks for an experience called 'Dubai – A Rising Falcon'. Their VR experience was then placed on HTC VIVE's global marketplace and they participated at the Arabian Travel Market.



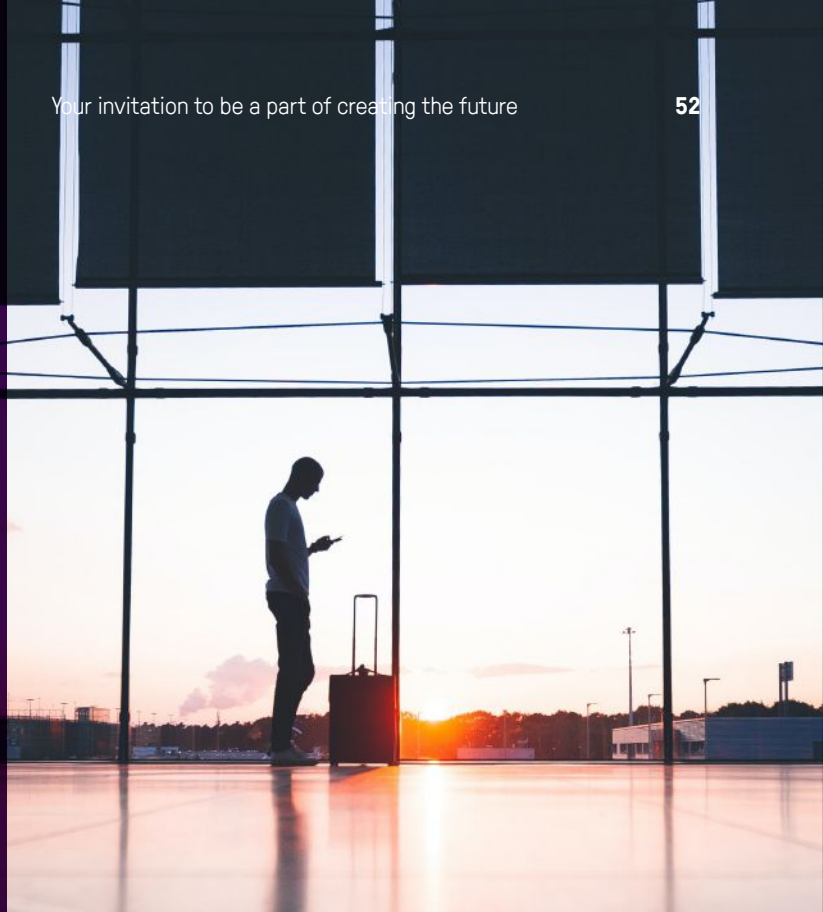
BURJ | KHALIFA





Aviation X Lab

The first of its kind globally, the Aviation X-Lab was founded by five giants of the aviation industry – Emirates Airline, Airbus, GE Aviation, Thales, and Collins Aerospace. In addition to their global aviation challenges that revolve around a carbon-zero industry and transformation of airports, the Lab launched a traveler wellbeing challenge that was focused on passenger safety during and after the Covid-19 pandemic.



P&G i-Dubai Innovation Center

The i-Dubai Innovation Center based in AREA 2071 is one of several similar centers globally focused on the future of the FMCG industry. The Dubai-based lab has been working with AREA 2071 on programs focused on disruptive technology-platform startups that are changing the go-to-market strategies and business models, micro-credit models and other focus areas. The micro-credit challenge, co-created with AREA 2071, sought solutions that would enable small retailers in emerging markets to build financial credibility through automation of their processes, obtain financial upskilling and have better access to markets. The program concluded with three winning technology startups and more than three pilots, one in the UAE and Egypt and others distributed across the Indian sub-continent and Africa. Another more inward looking challenge sought to radically change the way P&G tracks and measures the effectiveness of advertising across various platforms.



Al-Futtaim Innovation Challenge

Al-Futtaim has been established as a business for over 85 years, always looking for new ways to improve and add to the customer experience. Its retail division has brought to market world-class brands like Marks & Spencer, Robinsons Department Stores and Kiabi. Their challenge asked for exploration of innovative, smart and proactive markdown modelling tools that can optimize activity when retail businesses have to sell off stock at the end of a season or product life cycle.



Partner Programs

Alongside government entities, partners of AREA 2071 may also find themselves collaborating with private companies who have their own areas of specialized expertise. In recent years, those have included Techstars and Microsoft AI Venture Labs, hosted in AREA 2071's co-working space.





Techstars Dubai Accelerator

Techstars made its first foray into the Middle East in 2018 with Techstars Dubai Accelerator. This was done in partnership with GINCO Group, a leading engineering and construction company which has played a major part in making Dubai what it is today. Their two cohorts attracted applications from over 60 countries, with 19 companies graduating and going on to raise funding.



The class of 2019 raised an aggregate amount of **US\$17 million.**

Cohort 1 2018

9 startups from UAE, Estonia, Canada, US and UK.

13 -week acceleration program.

600+ mentoring sessions, workshops and meetings.

As well as access to Techstars' global network, each startup received investment of \$120,000. After graduating, each startup pitched at the Techstars Demo Day to an audience of potential investors.

Cohort 2 2019

10 startups
|
from

13 |
countries

13 weeks acceleration program.

The startups worked closely with more than 90 mentors to develop their business models. They met with more than 25 founders and investors, took part in 20+ workshops and organized over 1,000 meetings. They each received an initial investment of £120,000 and will be eligible for over £2 million in perks provided by partners. The accelerator culminated in the Techstars Demo Day where the startups pitched to investors and government officials with the aim of securing strategic partnerships and further investment.

CLARA

Born in Dubai, and raised at AREA 2071's Techstars second Cohort, Clara, a London-headquartered legal tech startup, raised \$2 million in seed funding from Techstars 500 Startups, and five UAE-based investors, including Wamda Capital, VentureSouq, Delta Partners, Shorooq Investment, and Dubai Angel Investors.

Clara uses a hybrid model of SaaS platform and a law firm to make legal procedures easy for startups. The platform teaches founders about the gaps in their startup's legal structure and guides them through the process to address these gaps. In addition to that, the SaaS platform digitizes and automates different repetitive tasks that lawyers normally charge for, including drafting agreements and the creation of cap tables.



NESTROM

Based in Jordan with a presence in UAE, Nestrom is a cloud-based platform that enables data capture and actioning from field operations, and whether the data is captured through digitized mobile forms or IoT sensors, Nestrom captures the data, actions it then provides insights on performance.

Selected to be part of AREA 2071's Techstars Accelerator program, Nestrom raised \$350k, and is already working with brands such as Starbucks and H&M, and are in the process of finalizing seven major deals with UAE and regional companies in hospitality, inspections, property management, and inspection service providers.

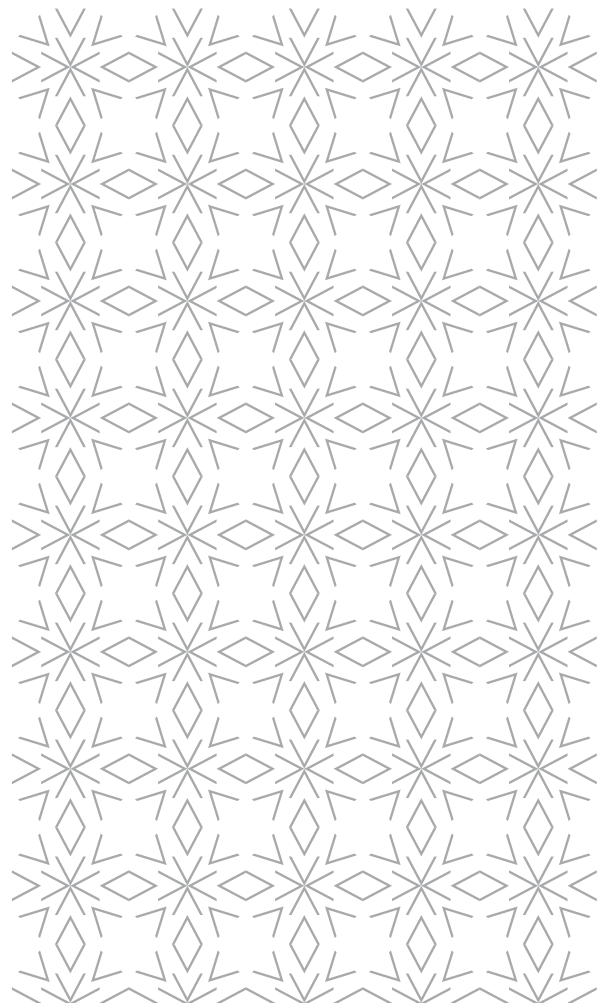


OTTOGEE

Ottogee, a US-based startup, connects resources through smart wearables and provides decision-makers with easy to use tools to get the right people to perform at their best.

Ottogee, with a presence in the UAE, provides its services to Construction, Oil & Gas, Security and Manufacturing, was one of 10 startups to win lifetime support and \$2M in perks after showcasing at AREA 2071 Techstars program in 2019.

Ottogee has been approved by the Telecom Regulatory Authority (TRA) in Dubai to scale their cellular-enabled technology across UAE. They also aim at strengthening their relationship with UAE's biggest and most innovative construction companies such as Arabtec, Khanshab, and AASA.





Microsoft AI Venture Labs

AI Venture Labs is the only accelerator in the region with an exclusive focus on AI. In partnership with Microsoft, it provided a three-month program where it worked with selected AI startups with a view to developing their products and ideas ready for regional and global expansion with the help of its own mentors and tech talent.



ENNOVENTURE

As part of the AI Venture Labs at AREA 2071, Ennoventure - a Delaware based start-up with a patented technology that can encrypt any information including video on an artwork making the packaging digital - collaborated with several startups and entities to provide an innovative manufacturing experience that seamlessly connects products and consumers. Most recently, Dubai Future Foundation shortlisted Ennoventure as one of the promising global start-ups in the space of AI.



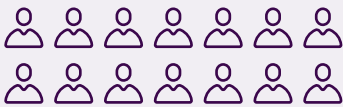
your favourite movie?

Sparking co-creation through ecosystem engagement and enablement

AREA 2071 is a fast-growing ecosystem with physical and, more recently, virtual activations and events that continuously aim to connect government, private sector and start-ups beyond commercial engagements and programs. The objective of these activations is to regularly share information regarding the partner programs, successful founders and start-ups in the ecosystem as well as inspire and support new entrepreneurs, students to start their own journeys.

AREA 2071 hosts a myriad of different events to transform the ecosystem into a collaborative and supportive community. Each member of this community is given the opportunity to learn, engage and grow through the exchange of knowledge, building networks and collaborating. These events include workshops, one-on-one talks, panel discussions, pitch events, hackathons, and open networking events. The topics of these events are driven by the needs of the community and cover technology, innovation, entrepreneurship, youth enablement, education, legal, investment, fundraising, soft skills, women empowerment, to name a few.

Over the years, AREA 2071 hosted



26,000+

Attendees



80+

Virtual events



780+

In-person events



250+

Knowledge and skills
sharing sessions

Workshops, presentations and talks with guest speaker sharing their knowledge, skills, expertise on specific topics as well as one-to-one meetings, networking events and casual conversations to enable the exchange of personal experience, stories and growth tips.



230+

Start-up
enablement sessions

Special sessions with mentors, founders and technology experts to work with start-ups on their challenges and help them explore market opportunities, industry future prospects and insights.



140+

“Future of...” sessions

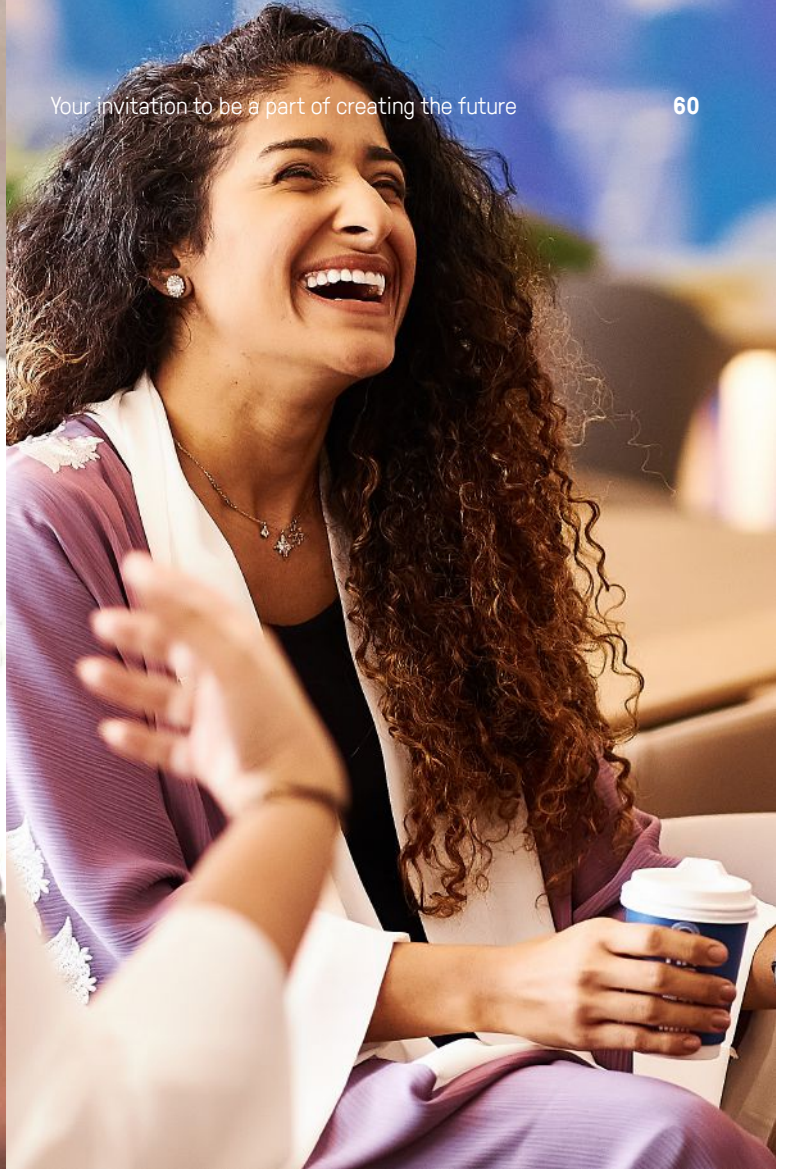
Organized with partners to equip the audience with a future-oriented mindset and skillsets and enable them to have a better understanding of the future. The session cover key trends, emerging technologies and challenges and ideas of the future.



100+

Entrepreneurship sessions

These sessions bring together thought-leaders to discuss thought-provoking ideas on entrepreneurship. The goal is not only to guide entrepreneurs to grow and scale their business but also inspire and nurture the new generation of aspiring entrepreneurs.



90+

Youth enablement sessions

Workshops and learning programs tailored specifically for youth and aimed at cultivating their knowledge and inspiring them to reach their potentials in the fields of technologies, innovation and entrepreneurship.



30+

Female empowerment sessions

With the goal of celebrating women from around the world and their achievements; these events create an inspiring environment for women to share their personal stories of journeys. Such sessions also aim to create opportunities for women to engage with one another and build their networks with men and women who actively work on gender parity and professional development.

AREA 2071 SERIES AND SPECIAL EVENTS



Dubai Startup Hub networking series

Dubai Startup Hub, an initiative of Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in cooperation with AREA 2071, launched and hosted a 10-week networking series which brought together stakeholders from the Dubai start-up ecosystem and featured inspirational talks by renowned speakers, business leaders and industry experts. The weekly sessions, showcased speakers who shared their valuable insights and practical advice to help new generations of start-ups and entrepreneurs develop their businesses and learn from the experiences of their peers.



Women’s Majlis series

Launched in 2019, in line with the celebration of International Women’s Day. Women’s Majlis Series is a monthly gathering featuring one to one interview, talks or panel discussions. These sessions bring together influencers and inspirational speakers to share their stories and celebrate women and their achievements while inspiring the audience to push even further in their future endeavours.

Dubai Future Council on Entrepreneurship and Innovation Ecosystem roundtable

Launched in 2019, in line with the celebration of International Women’s Day. Women’s Majlis Series is a monthly gathering featuring one to one interview, talks or panel discussions. These sessions bring together influencers and inspirational speakers to share their stories and celebrate women and their achievements while inspiring the audience to push even further in their future endeavours.



Future of Education panel discussion

This event featured a young keynote speaker Adam El Rafey, one of the youngest TEDx speakers around the world together with a panel that includes educators and parents. The event highlighted each individual experience and journey in the education arena. They also shared their insight on how learners can influence strategies to create a better for future generation of learners.



Build & Guild program by Project You

This program consists of 40 sessions, an hour each, that focuses on soft skills and project-based learning, two aspects crucial for success in today’s world. Bringing together a group of youth alongside schools to design an unmatched program that runs and fills in the gaps that are critical for learners to reach their true potential.



GLOBAL IMPACT AND COLLABORATION



Estonia



Latvia



South Korea



France



New Zealand



Slovakia



Luxamburg

To further strengths these ties with other ecosystems; Area2071 regularly hosts delegations from influential academic, governmental and international institutions who take an interest in what's happening at AREA 2071.

26

international visits

16

countries

14

universities and schools

As a result, AREA 2071 has already had a noticeable impact on the international agenda, with international institutions taking inspiration from its enablement of innovation and collaboration across Dubai and the UAE. Visitors including delegations from NASA, the US Embassy, Australian Consulate, Danish Business Council, Startup Belgium, Japanese Chemical Company and more have studied the way the ecosystem works.

Academic institutions from all over the world have also been much in evidence, in a mutually beneficial exchange of information. They've seen for themselves the kind of initiatives going on here, while AREA 2071 has gained a better understanding of the latest developments in the field of innovation from visiting academics and mentors. Among visitors so far have been Misk Foundation in Saudi Arabia, professors from MIT, Moscow School of Management, Babson University, Centre for Entrepreneurship, Education and Development in Morocco and Sheikh Rashid Bin Saeed Institute.

AREA 2071's strong connections with UAE government entities and the local private sector has encouraged them to send delegations to see for themselves what the ecosystem could offer them. Visitors have included representatives from EXPO 2020, Dubai Chambers and MAF. Area2071 also hosted an open house with the Dubai Business Councils from Dubai Chambers.

Join us in the future

AREA 2071 works with the minds of people who take it as their homes. It is a seed for a better tomorrow and it is a start for great change to come. It has already created such a great impact through radical collaboration, co-design and co-creation; by bringing everyone; public and private sectors, talent and industry, under the same room to think about the future collectively.

Just imagine what could be achieved in the years and decades to come. In fact, why just imagine it, when you and your business could be part of it. It could be the best start your business and your ideas could possibly hope for, offering unparalleled opportunities for innovation, collaboration and co-creation, helping to lead the way into the future for Dubai, the UAE and the whole of humanity.

Join us and create the future with us!



CONTACT AREA 2071 NOW



If you're in Dubai, come and visit:
AREA 2071
Ground and Mezzanine floors,
Emirates Towers,
Dubai



Office hours
Sunday to Thursday
8am to 3pm,
Closed Friday and Saturday



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2020
REPORT