

# NEXXT50

INVESTOPIA

2024

# NEXT 50

INVESTOPIA

2024

## NEXT 50 companies

LuLu Financial Holdings	02
Sunset Hospitality Group	03
Nirvana Holdings	04
Aster DM Healthcare FZC	05
Ittihad International	06
Dhamani Jewels Group	07
PGI Group	08
NMC Healthcare	09
Crescent Enterprises	10
Conares	11
Uncle's Shop	12
Thumbay Group	13
Anghami	14
Tristar Group	15
Transmed	16
Chedid Capital	17
Vodatel Pte Ltd.	18
Ready Mix Beton	19
Wio Bank PJSC	20
Al Dhow Group	21
FIVE Holdings	22
STARZPLAY	23
Property Finder	24
Metra Group	25
Network International	26
Bayt.com	27
ACC Group	28
The Rivoli Group	29
Metito Holdings	30
Sharaf Group	31
Rotana Hotel Management Group	32
Advanced Inhalation Rituals	33
Pure Harvest	34
Malabar Gold & Diamonds	35
Bayzat	36
Harwal Group	37
Al Barakah Dates Factory LLC	38
Visionbuz	40
Investopia	41
Citigroup	42
DeNovo	43
Gibson Dunn	44
EMIR	45



# Adeeb Ahamed

**Founder**  
**LuLu Financial Holdings**

**Personal Profile:** Adeeb Ahamed is a multifaceted entrepreneur spearheading several companies in financial services, retail, F&B and hospitality. An MBA in International Management from the prestigious Royal Holloway, University of London, Adeeb started his entrepreneurial journey with the founding of LuLu Financial Holdings in 2009. Since then, he has steered the company into becoming a global financial services conglomerate operating over 300+ branches, as well as various other digital investments in 10 countries across the Middle East, Indian sub-continent, and APAC regions. Adeeb is also the Managing Director of Twenty14 Holdings, an Abu Dhabi-based holding company with over \$650 million invested in luxury hospitality assets around the world.

Adeeb's success, his penchant for innovation and his influence among his peers has led him to rise to several leadership roles within the industry. He is a board member of the South Asia Regional Strategy Group (RSG) of the World Economic Forum, a Global Advisory Board member of the World Tourism Forum, Lucerne, and the chair of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry's Arab Council among many other such leadership roles.

The many honors bestowed upon him include the Leading Fintech Personality of the Year Award (GCC) at Global Fintech Awards, Forbes Top Indian Business Leaders in the Middle East, Forbes Top Travel and Tourism Leaders in the Middle East, the ABLF Outstanding Business Achiever Award, and the Forbes World's Top Heritage Hotel Owners from the Middle East.

**Company Profile:** LuLu Financial Holdings is a holding company whose investments serve banking institutions, business houses, local and international corporations as well as individuals. The company facilitates secure and instant financial transactions through digitized state-of-the-art systems that deliver flexibility, reliability, and transparency.

Established in 2009, LuLu Financial Holdings has its global headquarters in Abu Dhabi and operates across several GCC countries such as Oman, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain as well as India, Philippines, Singapore, Hong Kong, and Malaysia. The company has established a network of more than 300 branches, catering to the evolving needs of these markets. Driven by industry recognition as a valuable service provider, LuLu Financial Holdings' corporate expansion plans include establishing a wider global footprint.





# Antonio Gonzalez

***Chairman & Chief Executive Officer  
Sunset Hospitality Group***

**Personal Profile:** Visionary and highly accomplished hospitality entrepreneur, Antonio Gonzalez is the co-founder of Sunset Hospitality Group (SHG) and leads the company as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer. A Spanish national, Antonio has over 25 years of experience; he spent the first nine years of his career working in Media, Advertising, FMCG & Healthcare, both in marketing and general management roles. In 2009, he set up Kalys Management, a management investment firm focused on Middle East hospitality projects which ultimately evolved into SHG in 2011. With an expansive knowledge of global hospitality markets, Antonio has spent the last 12 years successfully creating and expanding SHG's impressive portfolio of brands around the world. SHG's portfolio includes renowned brands including METT Hotels & Resorts, Azure Beach, Ammos, Drift Beach Club, AURA, SUSHISAMBA, DREAM, L'Amo Bistro del Mare, Black Tap, Luigia, Lola Taberna Española, Goldfish, Isola, Raise Fitness & Wellness, and many more.

**Company Profile:** Sunset Hospitality Group was founded in 2011 by Antonio Gonzalez and Ahmad Hafez, with a shared vision to create unique experiences worldwide through a diverse mix of hospitality concepts. From the outset, SHG established itself as a pioneer, delivering exceptional experiences and reshaping the industry. From the Spanish restaurants *El Sur* to specialty venues like *Rare*, *Chic*, *Regina* and *Story*, the Group delivered memorable experiences.

In 2016, SHG ventured in Daylife with Azure Beach, followed by Drift Beach in 2017. Later in 2018 launched the mega nightclub Stage in Dubai. That same year, SHG began its international expansion with openings in Kuwait and Bahrain and additional openings in the United Arab Emirates. Building upon this momentum, the Group launched several new brands in 2019, including Mood Lounge, and entered key markets such as the United Kingdom and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. SHG introduced 10 new brands in 2021, including SUSHISAMBA, AURA Skypool, and opened its first hotel in Bodrum under the new brand METT Hotels and Resorts, expanding its portfolio to over 30 venues. The Group welcomed 2022 with the opening of DREAM and Garden of Dream, followed by L'Amo Bistro Del Mare, ATTIKO and the highly anticipated MOTT 32. In 2024, SHG continues to solidify its position as a global leader in hospitality management by expanding its footprint with multiple hotels and resorts and a growing lifestyle hospitality portfolio encompassing 17 countries and more than 64 venues.





# Alaa Al Ali

***CEO , Founder, Shareholder,  
Nirvana Holdings***

**Personal Profile:** UAE national Alaa Al Ali began his corporate career in 2007, founding what would become Nirvana Holding during the rise of Abu Dhabi's tourism and hospitality sector. With a keen business sense and entrepreneurial drive, Alaa has expanded his expertise over the past 15 years into various industries. He has built significant business and governmental relationships locally and internationally, transforming his ventures into multi-sector leaders.

As the founder and Group CEO of NG9 Holding, Alaa has led the diversification of the group's business portfolio, focusing on innovation and sustainability. NG9 now spans 10 industries including Travel and Tourism, Hospitality, Real Estate Development, AI, Alternative Foods and Biotechnology, and Marketing and Communications. These sectors work together to promote economic growth in Abu Dhabi, the UAE, and internationally.

Alaa continues to explore new business territories with NG9, maintaining his role as a pioneering leader. His achievements have earned him spots on Arabian Business' 100 Most Powerful Arabs and the 2019 Arab Achievers list, recognizing leading figures from the MENA region.

**Company Profile:** Nirvana Holdings was established in January 2021 with the sole purpose of overseeing the sustainable international growth and the expansion of its four large-scale independent entities, Nirvana Travel & Tourism, Nirvana Global Travel, Nirvana Over the World, and Nirvana Tours & Logistics. As the leading Travel and Tourism Management Company in the UAE, Nirvana Holdings aims to grow further on a scale as yet unsurpassed by competitors in the region. In order to build a seamless global ecosystem, the company implements an innovative approach that is well backed by strong corporate leadership. Key aspects of the process include,

- Integrating state-of-the-art technology
- Expanding current global relationships
- Partnering with new international suppliers
- Implementing world-class management platforms

All brands under the Nirvana Holdings group undergo constant modernization and development that allows for cohesion across businesses and equitable, sustainable returns for all.





# Alisha Moopen

***Managing Director & Group CEO  
Aster DM Healthcare FZC***

**Personal Profile:** Ms. Alisha Moopen is the Managing Director and Group CEO of Aster DM Healthcare FZC, overseeing its strategic growth and development across the GCC region. With 11 years at Aster, she has led the company's expansion into all six GCC countries, establishing it as one of the region's largest healthcare conglomerates. Recognized as a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum, Ms. Alisha is committed to enable health equity for people across the world. She was the first female Chapter Chair of YPO's Dubai Chapter, a global leadership organization that brings together over 27,000 chief executives from over 130 countries. She is also the Founder and Vice-Chairwoman of Dubai Healthcare Business Group. In 2023, Alisha was appointed to the Board of Directors for Sharjah Research, Technology and Innovation Park, under the leadership of HH Sheikha Bodour Al Qasimi, as per a decree issued by HH Dr Sheikh Sultan Bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah.

A chartered accountant, Ms. Alisha holds degrees from the University of Michigan and Harvard University. She champions the philosophy "Healthiness is Happiness," advocating for quality healthcare for all. Through initiatives like the Aster Volunteers program and the Aster DM Foundation, she strives to make a positive impact on society, ensuring individuals lead healthier and happier lives.

**Company Profile:** Founded in 1987 by Dr. Azad Moopen, Aster DM Healthcare is a leading integrated healthcare provider, with a strong presence across all six countries in the GCC. Aster is committed to the vision of providing accessible and high-quality healthcare, from primary to quaternary services, with its promise of "We will treat you well". The organisation's robust integrated healthcare model includes 15 hospitals, 117 clinics, and 285 pharmacies in GCC serving all segments of the society through three differentiated brands: Aster, Medicare and Access. Aster consistently adapts to meet the evolving needs of patients, ensuring access to quality healthcare through both physical and digital channels which is exemplified with the launch of the region's first healthcare super app, myAster. With a steadfast focus on innovation and patient-centric approach, the organisation's dedicated team of 1673 doctors and 3692 nurses are committed to delivering world-class healthcare services across a diverse spectrum of medical and surgical specialties





# Amer Fayeze Kakish

***CEO - Ittihad International  
Investment LLC***

**Personal Profile:** Amer Fayeze Kakish is the Chief Executive Officer of Ittihad International Investment LLC, a prominent investment group he founded in 2008. Under his leadership, Ittihad, based in Abu Dhabi, operates in 4 countries, generating revenues of USD 3.1 billion in 2022 and exporting USD 2.1 billion to over 50 markets globally. The company has a diverse portfolio across various sectors and has grown to include over 20 subsidiaries with 8,000+ employees. Amer has overseen the establishment of 5 greenfield plants with a USD 600 million investment, making them sector leaders. In October 2023, Ittihad issued a USD 350 million Sukuk, rated B+ (Stable) by Fitch and S&P, a first for a privately-owned Abu Dhabi business.

Amer started his career in 1995 with General Industry Corporation in Abu Dhabi, responsible for the development of industrial cities. He then moved to Business Enterprises Services, a leading business consulting firm for ADNIP, a private industrial group where he later became COO at. He has significantly impacted Abu Dhabi's private sector and the broader UAE economy. Amer holds multiple leadership roles, including board membership at the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and advisory positions at Khalifa University. He earned his bachelor's in Industrial Engineering and master's in Engineering Management from the University of Jordan and American University of Beirut, respectively. Additionally, he holds a patent for a syringe auto-disable device, is an accredited Arbitrator at the GCC Commercial Arbitration Center, and is a Chartered Engineer from the Institution of Engineering and Technology in the UK.

**Company Profile:** Ittihad International Investment LLC, based in Abu Dhabi and founded in 2008, is a prominent private Emirati investment group specializing in a variety of sectors within the MENA region and emerging markets. It operates and develops over 20 subsidiaries in industries such as consumer goods, infrastructure and building materials, business services, and healthcare. Ittihad actively engages in greenfield projects, private equity, and acquisitions, aiming to drive growth within its existing portfolio and expand through new investments. The company partners with global business leaders and innovators, focusing on learning from and contributing to these partnerships to benefit customers, suppliers and the community. Ittihad emphasizes quality, creativity, and best practices to maintain a competitive edge and robust growth. The group values its multinational team, offering structured training and career development to nurture skills and provide exposure across various functions, ensuring opportunities for contribution and growth.





# Amit Dhamani

***Managing Director  
Dhamani Jewels Group***

**Personal Profile:** Amit Dhamani - Managing Director of Dhamani Jewels Group, started his career with setting up office for the Group in Bangkok in 1989. During this 35 years, the Dhamani Group has evolved from gem and diamond wholesale business to having notable fine jewelry brands as Dhamani 1969, Dhamani Jewels, DuSoul and Laviere with Dubai as Headquarters.

Amit Dhamani is a Harvard Business School Alumni and also on the Board of Harvard Business School Alumni Boston and on the Board of Director at the Dubai Diamond Exchange (DDE) & The Dubai Gold and Jewellery Group and was in past 2012-2021 in the Board of Governors of GIA (Gemological Institute of America).

**Company Profile:** Created in 1969, House of Dhamani has a deep understanding of the intrinsic value and cultural importance of jewellery in today's world. Bringing Timeless Exoticism to the world of Fine Jewellery, Dhamani 1969 brand name is synonymous with the best quality gems, creative and elegant designs allied with outstanding personal service. Setting standards of distinction through an exemplary business practice, Dhamani's continued achievement has been delivered through its clarity of vision and exclusive designs that continue to find a secret niche in the world of the fashionable, sophisticated and refined. Dhamani Jewels now has 15 Exclusive Diamond jewelry retail boutiques in the GCC region in addition to 3 wholesale offices. Dhamani is recognized globally amongst the finest jewelry retail chain in the GCC.

House of Dhamani has ensured that customers have access to the most brilliant stones and perfect cuts through skilled workmanship and ethical sourcing. Dhamani is taking beautifully timeless yet individual styles to international jewellery connoisseurs.

For more than 50 years, Dhamani has been building on heritage and world class skills in satisfying the needs of global customers. The Dhamani 1969 Brand was created by Dhamani in 2014, which was aimed to satiate the appetite of contemporary and luxury loving fashionistas from across the globe through beautifully crafted pieces. DHAMANI 1969 represents a new world of fine jewellery, captivating the customer's imagination and enthralling their senses. The Dhamani brand has presence in continents across the world, while retaining its eminent position as jewellers to royalty, high society influencers, celebrities and those that appreciate the finest standards of dazzling craftsmanship.





# Anshul Gupta

***Founder  
PGI Group***

**Personal Profile:** Anshul Gupta, a Chartered Accountant with a Bachelor's Degree in Commerce, serves as a board member and Treasurer of both the Bureau of Middle East Recycling and Dubai Recycling Business Group, as well as a member of YPO (Young Presidents' Organization) a global leadership organization.

He founded PGI Group in 1999, aiming to excel in metal recycling. Today, PGI boasts 500 team members and handles 250,000 MT of metals annually. As a member of recycling associations like BIR, CMRA, and MRAI, he advocates sustainability, carbon footprint reduction, and circular economy in the UAE. With over 26 years of experience in the recycling industry, he aims to continue being a driving force of change and evolution in the Middle East, South and Far East Asia, creating "Value from Waste".

**Company Profile:** PGI Group is a one of the largest processors of ferrous and non-ferrous metal scraps in the Middle East & Asia. Having offices in Thailand, China, UK, and most recently - Saudi Arabia. Formed in 1999, PGI Group has emerged as one of the most-trusted brands over the years with our commitment to quality and our strong capability to handle any volume and any type of recyclable metal scrap globally.



# David Hadley

**CEO**  
**NMC Healthcare**

**Personal Profile:** David Hadley is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NMC Healthcare, the largest integrated private healthcare platform in the UAE and the third largest in Oman that employs more than 12,000 healthcare professionals in more than 65 different facilities. Prior to joining NMC Healthcare, he worked for 30 years at Mediclinic International including the past 13 years as the CEO of Mediclinic Middle East. Under his leadership, Mediclinic Middle East has massively expanded to encompass 7 Hospitals and 20+ clinics in the UAE and launched the company's first growth project in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He also served as a member of Mediclinic's Executive Committee since 2011. During his tenure at Mediclinic International in South Africa since 1993, he worked in various administrative roles in human resources, finance, operations, and hospital management before being seconded to Dubai in 2007 to oversee the opening of Mediclinic City Hospital in Dubai Healthcare City, the company's first "offshore" facility.

As a recognized regional leader within the healthcare sector, David also serves as a non-executive Director at Magrabi Hospitals Group and as a Non-Executive Director on the UAE Advisory Board. David completed his undergraduate commerce education in South Africa (B-Comm), dividing his time between work and school, and holds a master's in business administration with distinction from the University of Liverpool. David also attended the prestigious Oxford Advanced Management and Leadership Programmed in June 2022.

**Company Profile:** NMC Healthcare is one of the largest private healthcare networks in the United Arab Emirates, and the third largest in Oman. Since 1975, it has provided high-quality, personalized, and compassionate care to its patients and is proud to have earned the trust of millions of people in the UAE and around the world.

NMC's network is made up of 85 medical facilities, including JCI-accredited, multi-specialty hospitals, medical centers, community clinics, day surgery centers, fertility clinics, home health services, and long-term care facilities throughout the UAE. It employs over 11,000 people and serves over 5.5 million patients every year. The NMC Healthcare group also includes the ProVita international Medical Centre, CosmeSurge, and Fakhri IVF Fertility Centre brands. NMC's Fakhri IVF is ranked as one of the leading in-vitro fertilization service providers worldwide.





# Badr Jafar

**CEO**

***Crescent Enterprises***

**Personal Profile:** Badr Jafar is a business executive and social entrepreneur from the United Arab Emirates. He is the CEO of Crescent Enterprises, a diversified business operating across nine industry sectors in 15 countries, and the appointed Special Envoy for Business and Philanthropy. He is also President of Crescent Petroleum, the first independent and privately-owned petroleum company in the Middle East and serves as Chairman of Gulftainer, the largest privately-owned container port operator in the world. Badr is also the Chairman of Pearl Petroleum, the largest natural gas producer in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

Appointed to serve as COP28 Special Representative for Business and Philanthropy and as a member of the COP28 Advisory Committee, Badr also Chaired the inaugural COP28 Business and Philanthropy Forum that saw over 1,300 CEOs and foundation heads from over 80 countries convene to advance solutions, including with \$7Bn in new commitments towards the climate action agenda.

Badr is actively engaged with a diverse range of non-profit organisations and initiatives focused on humanitarian aid and international development, strategic philanthropy, corporate governance, entrepreneurship, education and the arts, including serving as a member of the United Nations Secretary General's High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing and the UNESCO International Commission on the Futures of Education. Badr also serves on the Board of Trustees for Zayed University, the International Council of the American University of Beirut, as well as on the Council for Development and Outreach for the American University of Sharjah.

In 2010, Badr founded the Pearl Initiative, a non-profit, private sector-led organisation committed to promoting a corporate culture of transparency and accountability across the Gulf Region, in cooperation with the United Nations Office for Partnerships. He is also the Founding Patron of the Centre for Strategic Philanthropy based at the University of Cambridge, which is dedicated to enhancing the impact of strategic philanthropy both within and from the world's fastest growing economies; and is the Founding Patron of MENA's first Strategic Philanthropy Initiative at NYU Abu Dhabi to study and promote high-impact philanthropy in the region.

Badr holds a Master's Degree in Engineering from the University of Cambridge and a Business Degree from the Cambridge Judge Business School.





# Bharat Bhatia

***Founder and CEO  
Conares***

**Personal Profile:** Bharat Bhatia is the founder and CEO of Conares, the second-largest steel manufacturer in the UAE, with over three decades of experience. He transformed Conares from a small trading outlet into a steel manufacturer with US\$700 million in investments, producing 1.5 million tons of steel annually and employing over 900 people. Mr. Bhatia, originally from India, arrived in Dubai in 1983 and established Conares in 1988 after initially working with a firm and then starting his own trading business. He also has interests in the food & beverage and real estate sectors and is a member of the IBPC and a board member of BLF and SUFI. Recognized for his leadership, he has received numerous awards, including Forbes' Top Indian Leaders from 2016 to 2021. Mr. Bhatia is an avid golfer and theatre arts enthusiast.

**Company Profile:** In the Middle East, the intertwined stories of Dubai's ascent and Conares' evolution unfold—a city becoming a global hub of innovation and a company emerging as a steel industry leader. Since 1988, Conares has mirrored Dubai's growth, contributing to its skyline with world-class steel solutions reflecting a shared vision of innovation, resilience, and sustainability.

This narrative isn't merely about a company and a city; it's about the embodiment of dreams and the realization of possibilities. As Dubai soared, reaching for the skies with awe-inspiring developments, Conares solidified its foundation, offering strength, reliability, and quality. Together, they symbolize the spirit of progress, a journey that continues to inspire and shape the future.

Since its inception in 1988, Conares initially focused on steel trading. Having built extensive partnerships with renowned steel plants across the world, it brought the world-best competencies to the region, by setting up its own state of art manufacturing facility in UAE.





# Deepak Bhatia

**Founder**  
**Uncle's Shop**

**Personal Profile:** Born on August 10, 1971, Deepak Bhatia is part of a family that has been in Dubai since 1920. His grandfather, who arrived in Dubai that year, was nicknamed "Vattra" by the late HH Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum. The family's historical home in Al Shandagha is now a museum.

Deepak, a graduate of the Indian High School Dubai, initially worked in the family's textile business before diversifying into building and construction materials. He introduced light gauge steel buildings to the UAE in 2002 and Fiber Cement Boards in 1999.

In 2019, he launched 'ATUM,' the world's first integrated solar roof, receiving Dubai Civil Defense approval for the use of his Fiber Cement Boards at Expo 2020 Dubai and other UAE projects. Deepak is currently planning to set up a manufacturing plant in the UAE by 2022.

**Company Profile:** Uncle's Shop, founded over a century ago by Mr. Uttamchand Bhatia, known as Vattra, began as a modest family business in the Gulf and India. His commitment to quality and value gained the trust of Dubai's late rulers, H.H. Shaikh Saeed bin Maktoum Al Maktoum and H.H. Shaikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum. Vattra also played a key role in securing land for The Indian High School, Indian Sports Club in Dubai, and the old Temple in Bur Dubai.

Now, over a century and four generations later, Uncle's Shop remains a cornerstone in Dubai, with additional offices in India and a presence in the Gulf, Middle East, Iraq, and Africa. Established in 1922, the company has become a significant player in core industries across these regions.

Uncle's Shop serves a diverse range of industries through specialized divisions that operate autonomous business units tailored to meet specific needs. These industries include Aluminum, Structural Steel, Stainless Steel, various Metals, Plywood, Timber, several types of Fiber Cement Boards, Calcium Silicate Boards, Green Energy, and Petrochemicals. The company continues to set trends and define its marketplace, building on its historical legacy and dedication to excellence.



# Dr Thumbay Moideen

***President - Founder  
Thumbay Group***

**Personal Profile:** Dr. Thumbay Moideen, born on March 23, 1957, in Mangalore, is a distinguished third-generation entrepreneur from a traditional business family. He began his business career at 21, taking over the leadership of his father, Dr. Ahamed Hajee Mohiudeen's established business house. Inspired by his father and grandfather, Mr. Yenepoya Moideen Kunhi, Dr. Moideen expanded and elevated the business, founding the THUMBAY Group in the UAE in 1997. Under his visionary leadership, the group saw exponential growth, launching pioneering initiatives in medical education and healthcare services in Ajman. He was instrumental in founding the Gulf Medical University, which has become a premier institution for medical studies, attracting students from over 86 countries.

**Company Profile:** Founded in 1997 by Dr. Thumbay Moideen, the Thumbay Group began with the establishment of the UAE's first private medical college, the Gulf Medical University in Ajman. Facing the challenge of providing adequate clinical training, the group established the region's first private teaching hospital, laying the foundation for Thumbay Hospitals. The healthcare division expanded rapidly, establishing a network of teaching hospitals, day care hospitals, clinics, pharmacies, and diagnostic centers across the UAE.

In 2017, Thumbay Group launched Thumbay Hospital Day Care, and in 2019, it unveiled Thumbay Medicity in Ajman, a comprehensive hub for medical education, healthcare, and research. This includes Thumbay University Hospital, Thumbay Dental Hospital, and Thumbay Physical Therapy & Rehabilitation Hospital, all integrated into the Gulf Medical University Academic Health System—the first private sector academic health system in the region.

The group, under Dr. Moideen's leadership, has diversified into numerous sectors including education, healthcare, medical research, and more, with operations extending beyond the UAE into other parts of the MENA region and the Indian subcontinent.





# Elie Habib

***Co-Founder - CEO  
Anghami***

**Personal Profile:** Elie Habib, co-founder and CEO of Anghami, joined hands with Eddy Maroun in 2012 to establish the music streaming platform in the Middle East. Over the years, Anghami has gained traction with more than 100 million users and an impressive average of a billion streams per month.

Currently, Habib's professional focus is directed towards Anghami and OSN+ the two products in the portfolio of apps, as well as achieving operational excellence and leveraging Artificial Intelligence across organizational structures, a testament to his commitment to continuous learning and innovation in the field of technology.

**Company Profile:** Anghami is the leading multimedia technology streaming platform in the Middle East and North Africa region, offering a comprehensive ecosystem of exclusive premium video, music, podcasts, live entertainment, audio services and more. Since its launch in 2012, Anghami has led the way as the first music streaming platform to digitize MENA's music catalog. Anghami is the first tech company to list on New York's Nasdaq.

In a strategic move in April 2024, Anghami joined forces with OSN+, forming a digital entertainment powerhouse. This pivotal transaction strengthened Anghami's position as a go-to destination, boasting an extensive library of over 18,000 hours of premium video, including exclusive HBO content, alongside 100+ million Arabic and International songs and podcasts.



# Eugene Mayne

**CEO**

**Tristar Group**

**Personal Profile:** Eugene Mayne is the Founder and Group Chief Executive Officer of Tristar Group. Under Eugene's leadership, since its inception in 1998, Tristar has evolved from a local transport company to the Middle East's largest privately-owned liquid logistics solutions provider. It has a global presence in more than 30 countries across Middle East, Africa, Asia, the Pacific, the Americas and Europe. Eugene has been among the top 25 'Most Influential Logistics Executives in the Middle East' for seven consecutive years by the ITP Media Group. He has also been nominated by RoSPA as a global ambassador for road safety and is a Board member of the local UAE network of the UN Global Compact. He also received a number of recognitions such as the Maritime Personality of the Year at the ShipTek International Awards 2021, the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Seatrade Maritime Awards Middle East, Indian Subcontinent & Africa 2020, and the RoSPA Influencer Award at the RoSPA Health & Safety Awards 2020. In March 2023, Mr. Mayne was named as 'IOD Distinguished Fellow 2023' by the Institute of Directors (IOD), India, for his 'outstanding contribution to profession and the society. Prior to founding Tristar, Eugene spent over 22 years with Caltex in various leadership roles. Eugene has a bachelor's degree in Finance and Business Administration from the University of Bangalore.

**Company Profile:** Tristar Group is a global business, headquartered in Dubai, which offers end-to-end fuel logistics solutions to blue-chip clients including international and national oil companies, and intergovernmental organizations. Its integrated energy logistics platform spans road and maritime transportation, specialized warehousing, fuel farm management, commercial aviation refueling, and turnkey fuel supply operations. Eugene Mayne founded Tristar in 1998. Under his leadership the group and its entities have grown to become Middle East's largest privately-owned energy logistics company. With its acquisition of a 51 percent stake in HG Storage International Limited and partnerships with US-based RM Parks Inc. and MTM Ship Management, the company's global presence has expanded to more than 30 countries and territories.





# Fouad Nouhad Es-Said

***Chairman and CEO  
of Transmed***

**Personal Profile:** Following his graduation from the American University of Beirut in 1996, he began working at Procter & Gamble in Finance and Sales spending six months in each Geneva and London. Fouad then joined Transmed in Dubai in 1997 working as an Account Executive in the Sales division covering Dubai and the Northern Emirates selling Procter & Gamble and Clorox products. He was promoted a year later to Associate Unit Manager working on specific Category Management projects with major retailers.

He was promoted a year later to Unit Manager covering Dubai and the Northern Emirates with seven direct reports. Following a three-year span in Dubai, he was relocated to Lebanon where he was appointed Sales Manager responsible for the entire sales force. Following a 5-year successful assignment, he assumed the General Management position in Lebanon. Twelve years later, in January 2012, he was promoted to Chairman & CEO overseeing all of Transmed's operations. Under his leadership, Transmed diversified to become one of the region's most successful and iconic FMCG and Foodservice companies. In 2020, he relocated Transmed's headquarters to DIFC in Dubai.

**Company Profile:** Transmed was established in Lebanon in 1946 specializing in the sales, distribution, marketing, manufacturing and logistics of fast-moving consumer goods, foodservice and sports nutrition brands. Their main exclusive principals include Procter & Gamble, Mars, Mondelez, Clorox, Danone, Sysco, Fonterra, Ferrero, Kellogg, Glanbia and many others. Transmed also has several manufacturing plants across the region developing its own brands such as Halabi, Earth Goods and Leo's mozzarella and burrata. Transmed operates on the ground in Lebanon, Jordan, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Nigeria, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Morocco, France and Germany. They employ close to 4,000 professionals.





# Farid Chedid

**Chairman & Group CEO**  
**Chedid Capital**

**Personal Profile:** Since founding Chedid Re in 1998, Farid Chedid has established a leading insurance and reinsurance group with operations across Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and South Asia. Chedid Capital Holding, the parent company, includes subsidiaries like Chedid Re, Chedid Insurance Brokers Network, Ascoma, and Chedid Corporate Solutions. Key developments include establishing Seib Insurance in Qatar in 2009, acquiring stakes in City Brokers and Al Manarah Insurance Services in 2015, and buying majority shares in Groupe Ascoma in 2021. The group also acquired the UAE-based BuyAnyInsurance in 2022, marking significant digital progress.

Farid Chedid's impact on the insurance industry is recognized globally, earning him numerous accolades including a spot among “100 Inspiring Leaders in the Middle East” by Arabian Business in 2023, and the “MENA Lifetime Achievement Award” in 2020. Farid is actively involved in educational initiatives, founding the Corporate Risk Management Institute (CRMI) in 2020.

In addition to his insurance ventures, Farid is a board member of several leading MENA companies, engages in various philanthropic efforts, and holds positions with Human Rights Watch and the UNDP. Academically, he has multiple master's degrees in fields ranging from Risk Management to Finance, and a postgraduate diploma in Maritime Law.

**Company Profile:** A financial holding company, Chedid Capital is a leading investment group in the insurance and reinsurance fields. The Group operates across Europe, Middle East, Africa and South Asia. Its subsidiary, Chedid Re, an official Lloyd's broker, is among the 20 largest reinsurance brokers in the world.

Through the Chedid Foundation, the Group is also heavily involved and invested in communal and social development, in particular youth development and education in the insurance and reinsurance fields through the Chedid Academy. Under its partnership with higher education councils and stakeholders, the Group founded the Corporate Risk Management Institute in 2019.

enable it to meet the diverse needs of customers worldwide.





# Ghassan Oueida

***Managing Director  
Vodatel Pte Ltd.***

**Personal Profile:** Ghassan has gained extensive experience in telecommunications and fintech, known for building and scaling businesses, driving revenue growth, and enhancing customer value. His career began at Investcom Holding, where he managed multiple telecom operations over fifteen years in regions like the Middle East, Europe, and Africa.

He played a pivotal role in launching the first GSM operation in West Africa, significantly advancing telecommunications there. Currently, Ghassan is the Founder and CEO of Inteltec Emirates Group, which delivers technology solutions for the telecom sector. He also serves as Managing Director of Vodatel Pte Ltd, offering international wholesale voice traffic and consulting services. Additionally, he founded iPay Holding, a Venture Builder incubating digital solutions in Fintech, Telco, and e-commerce across the Middle East and Africa.

Ghassan is also the Chairman of Mersal Air Cargo LLC, an Emirati startup that is the first dedicated e-commerce airline in the region, designed to enhance e-commerce logistics across the GCC. Recently, iPay Holding acquired a majority stake in Ciao Delivery, an Amazon service provider, with Ghassan joining its leadership board to drive sustainability and innovation in their operations. Based in Dubai, Ghassan oversees Vodatel Group's international operations across various countries.

**Company Profile:** iPay is revolutionizing the digital landscape as the innovation arm of Int'ltec Group. Our mission is to incubate and accelerate the growth of game-changing solutions, with a sharp focus on the ICT, Mobile Money, E-commerce, Retail and Public Sectors.

Through strategic partnerships and investments, we leverage our strong network and core footprint to bring cutting-edge, transformative technologies to multiple markets and drive the next wave of innovation.

iPay was founded in 2007 and is one of 10 subsidiaries of the Int'ltec Group. The Group is a spinoff of the 2005 acquisition of Investcom by South Africa-based MTN Group, where 13 telecom operating companies across Middle East & Africa were merged to form one of the largest telecom Groups in the world.



# Hachem Ghandour

*President & Group  
Executive Director  
Ready Mix Beton*

**Personal Profile:** Visionary and highly accomplished hospitality entrepreneur, Antonio Gonzalez is the co-founder of Sunset Hospitality Group (SHG) and leads the company as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer. A Spanish national, Antonio has over 25 years of experience; he spent the first nine years of his career working in Media, Advertising, FMCG & Healthcare, both in marketing and general management roles. In 2009, he set up Kalys Management, a management investment firm focused on Middle East hospitality projects which ultimately evolved into SHG in 2011.

With an expansive knowledge of global hospitality markets, Antonio has spent the last 12 years successfully creating and expanding SHG's impressive portfolio of brands around the world. SHG's portfolio includes renowned brands including METT Hotels & Resorts, Azure Beach, Ammos, Drift Beach Club, AURA, SUSHISAMBA, DREAM, L'Amo Bistro del Mare, Black Tap, Luigia, Lola Taberna Española, Goldfish, Isola, Raise Fitness & Wellness, and many more.

**Company Profile:** Ready Mix Beton headquartered in Abu Dhabi is a recognized leader in the production and supply of ready mix concrete. Founded in 1975 with a vision of unrivalled commitment to quality in its products and services. Today, more than 2000 people share that vision, transforming RMB to one of the largest, and most respected supplier in the MENA region.

Over the past 47 years, RMB has forged a clear recognition for its leadership and experience in producing high strength and high performance quality concrete, providing pumping services and realizing difficult tasks.





# Jayesh Patel

**CEO**

**Wio Bank PJSC**

**Personal Profile:** An innovative digital disruptor and experienced leader in the Fintech industry, Jayesh Patel plays a pivotal role in establishing an entirely new virtual banking landscape for the Middle East.

As CEO of Wio Bank PJSC, Jayesh is shaping the platform bank as an intelligent financial partner for businesses and customers. He brings a wealth of experience to Wio, building it as a truly open platform that will provide solutions in three areas - Digital banking apps, Embedded finance and Banking-as-a-Service solutions.

Throughout his 14 years in the Fintech industry, Jayesh has been driven by a vision to digitise growth and consolidate services to simplify banking for everyone. He has worked with Fortune 500 clients at Deloitte and IBM in the US, focusing on innovation and building on-demand digital solutions, before driving the development and launch of Liv. By Emirates NBD, where he oversaw the creation of its online finance ecosystem.

Before this, Jayesh was Head of Retail Strategy at Emirates NBD where he led the digitisation of essential customer services and processes. Jayesh is also an active member of the Angel investment community in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA).

Wio is the region's first platform bank created to reboot banking for everyone and open new paths for its customers. Headquartered in Abu Dhabi, Wio is owned by the Abu Dhabi Holding Company (ADQ), Alpha Dubai, Etisalat, and First Abu Dhabi Bank (FAB).

**Company Profile:** Founded in Abu Dhabi, UAE, in September 2022, Wio Bank PJSC is the region's first platform bank bringing together the capabilities of Digital Banking Applications, Embedded Finance, and Banking-as-a-Service. Wio is an integrated digital banking platform jointly owned by Abu Dhabi Developmental Holding Company (ADQ), Alpha Dhabi Holding, e&, and First Abu Dhabi Bank (FAB) – with an initial capital outlay of AED 2.3 billion. The bank is licensed and regulated by the Central Bank of the UAE.

Wio Bank PJSC and its products have been lauded locally and internationally, and recent recognitions include being named as “MENA Digital Bank of the year”, “Best Neobank – UAE”, “Best Digital Bank Newcomer”, “Most Innovative Mobile Banking App – UAE” and “Best SME Mobile Banking App – Global”.



# Joe Chidiac

***Co-Founder and CEO  
Al Dhow Group***

**Personal Profile:** Joe is the Co-founder and CEO of Al Dhow Group, a multidisciplinary group of companies engaged in Industrial Services, Energy, Food & Beverage, Logistics, Technology, and Architectural Solutions.

His diverse experience across industries, entrepreneurial spirit and commitment to innovation have been pivotal in steering the group's expansive growth over the past two decades. Joe holds an Executive MBA from HEC Paris.

**Company Profile:** Al Dhow Group is an established Corporation in the GCC with activities in all of the main disciplines of the Industrial, Commercial, F&B, Technology and Architectural sectors. The trust that our clients have given us, combined with a decade of commercial activities, which is further backed by a family heritage of over 110 years in commerce and industry, allows us to demonstrate our track record in consistently delivering on our promises.

Al Dhow's strategic partnerships with leading international corporations enable us to deliver products and services at the forefront of modern practices and technology. Al Dhow Group is a multidisciplinary group of companies engaged in Industrial Services, Energy, Food & Beverage, Logistics, Technology, and Architectural Solutions.

Established in the year 2005, the company employs today over 5000 people, with operations extending across four countries: the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar.





# Kabir Mulchandani

***Founder and Chairman  
of FIVE Holdings***

**Personal Profile:** Mulchandani has propelled FIVE Holdings to an industry leading 69% revenue growth (AED 2,090 million) and 55% EBITDA growth (AED 811 million) in FY 2023. \*

Mulchandani has remarked, "2023 has been a year of landmark milestones – from FIVE's 'A' rating by global rating agency ISS, our debut Green Bond listing on Nasdaq Dubai and ISM London and the acquisition of The Pacha Group to the successful opening of FIVE LUXE in Q1 2024 – all of which underlines FIVE's commitment to creating an enduring 'Global Sustainable Entertainment Ecosystem.'" Mulchandani's people-centric philosophy is evident in FIVE's recognition as #8 on Best Workplaces in UAE 2024 – Large Sized Organizations by a 'Great Place to Work,' while his philanthropic commitments include a \$2mn pledged to partnerships such as Room to Read and New Face Medical Trust.

Mulchandani features prominently on Forbes World's Billionaires List 2024, Forbes ME's Most Impactful Real Estate Leaders 2024, Forbes ME's Top 100 Travel and Tourism Leaders 2024 and The Top 25 Developers in the Middle East by Construction Week ME 2023.

**Company Profile:** FIVE Holdings is a vertically integrated group, and its current portfolio includes 3 luxury hotels in the UAE, FIVE Palm Jumeirah, FIVE Jumeirah Village and FIVE LUXE, a hotel in Switzerland, FIVE Zurich, 2 hotels in Spain, Destino Pacha and El Hotel Pacha, a nightclub in Spain, Pacha Ibiza, 2 eponymous Fashion Lines, FIVE Mode and The Pacha Collection in the UAE and Spain; as well as a range of assets that include Toy Room, and WooMoon Storytellers (Globally).

FIVE has emerged with the highest ESG rating in the world to date, as the only company to receive an 'A' grade across all sectors from global rating agency, ISS. This highlights FIVE's focus on a 'Global Sustainable Entertainment Ecosystem,' which is the integration of immersive entertainment with homegrown F&B concepts that results in a distinctive guest experience for an international and affluent audience of luxury-loving, eco-conscious Millennial and Gen-Z customers. The success of FIVE's 'Global Sustainable Entertainment Ecosystem' is evident in its RevPAR being 1.4X, its F&B PAR being 3X and its TRevPAR being 2.1X greater than their respective competitor sets in Dubai for 2023.



# Maaz Sheikh

**CEO – CO Founder  
Starzplay**

**Personal Profile:** Maaz Sheikh is CEO of Starzplay, the leading video-on-demand platform in the region bringing the best of entertainment and sports. Under his leadership, STARZPLAY concluded an investment from E-Vision, a subsidiary of e&, and ADQ, an Abu Dhabi-based investment and holding company, who acquired a majority equity stake of 57% in the company at a valuation of \$420M. Maaz is a prominent LinkedIn influencer with a powerful voice. The CEO Magazine declared him ‘Media CEO of the Year’. He has been recognized in the ‘GCC 100 - Inspiring Leaders and ‘DXB 100 - Influential People Helping Shape the Emirate.’

**Company Profile:** STARZPLAY is one of the largest premium subscription video-on-demand platforms serving 3.2 million users in 22 countries across the Middle East and North Africa, with headquarters in Abu Dhabi and offices in Dubai and Lahore (Pakistan). STARZPLAY offers an extensive premium content library covering Hollywood movies, exclusive shows, Arabic content, documentaries, same-time-as-the-US series – plus live sports and dedicated kids’ entertainment. STARZPLAY allows users to watch anytime, anywhere on an iOS or Android device, supports Mac and Windows devices, and streams via Apple TV, Chromecast, a PS4 console or directly to most smart TVs. The service is also available on regional IPTV services. Until 2022, STARZ, a Lionsgate company (NYSE: LGFA, LGFB), was the lead investor along with General Electric Pension Trust, and investment firms, including SEQ Investors and Delta Partners. In early 2021, STARZPLAY secured its first independent financing from Abu Dhabi-based Ruya Partners. In 2022, E-Vision, from e& and ADQ, an Abu Dhabi-based investment and holding company, acquired a majority equity stake of circa 57% in the company.





# Michael Lahyani

***Founder and CEO  
of Property Finder***

**Personal Profile:** Michael Lahyani is the Founder and CEO of Property Finder. A pioneer in innovation and technology, Michael was the first to introduce real estate classified in the Middle East, prior to launching Property Finder in 2007. In 2018, Property Finder secured funding of \$120 million by US private equity firm, General Atlantic. Always at the forefront of developing new practices and products to drive the regional property market to greater heights, Michael continues to lead the company with a consistent focus on data, digital transformation and diversity.

He was recently also recognized as one of the Top 100 CEOs in the Middle East 2023 by Forbes Middle East. Lahyani holds a bachelor's degree and MBA in finance from HEC Lausanne. First to be elected as an Endeavor entrepreneur of the Middle East, Michael is extremely passionate about mentoring young entrepreneurs. Harvard Business School wrote a case study on Property Finder which is being taught in their MBA classes. He was also honoured with the prestigious UAE passport in 2020 in a rare gesture by the government.

**Company Profile:** A pioneering property portal in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, Property Finder is on a mission to motivate and inspire consumers to get living the life they deserve. Connecting millions of property seekers with thousands of real estate professionals every day, Property Finder is a go-to place for a seamless and enriching house-hunting and finance-finding journey for both buyers and renters.

Since its inception in 2007, Property Finder has evolved into a trusted platform for developers, real estate brokers and property seekers to make informed decisions on all things real estate.



# Mohammed Eissa

***Managing Director & Chief  
Financial Officer Metra Group***

**Personal Profile:** Mohamed is an Egyptian-Canadian entrepreneur renowned for establishing one of the most successful businesses in the Middle East. As the Vice Chairman of Metra Group, he expanded the company's operations across 11 countries and doubled its revenue from \$450 million to \$900 million within three years. Over the past 18 years, Mohamed has achieved numerous significant accomplishments in various sectors including business, finance, IT, and operations at Metra.

Previously, he worked as a Product Engineer at Cypress Semiconductors in Silicon Valley. He graduated with highest honors in Electrical Engineering & Computer Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, a top-ranked engineering program in the US. Mohamed's transition from engineering to entrepreneurship aligns well with his early interests; he began assembling and selling PCs to his peers at age 8 and by 11, was importing Nintendo consoles and distributing them to retailers throughout Egypt, including the nation's largest retailer.

**Company Profile:** Founded in 1982 Metra Group is a leading provider of information technology solutions, recognized as the region's fastest-growing IT Value Added Distributor. With a dynamic team of over 600 regional employees, we collaborate with a network of over 30 distinguished vendors, as well as 6500 partners and resellers. Our focus on delivering exceptional value-added services and regional expertise has propelled our rapid growth and positioned us as a trusted leader in the industry.

By consistently exceeding expectations, we empower businesses and individuals to thrive in the ever-evolving digital landscape.





# Nandan Mer

***Group Chief Executive Officer  
Network International***

**Personal Profile:** Nandan is the Chief Executive Officer of the Group, working closely with the Chairman and Board members to set strategic expansion goals for the organization and lead the Executive Management Team in the accomplishment of these objectives. He also serves as Chairman/Director of Network International subsidiary companies for the Middle East and Africa. Nandan holds a strong background in payments, consumer finance and corporate banking with a deep understanding of the Middle East and Africa as well as experience in India, Czech Republic, Israel, Russia and UK markets. His more than 30-year track record of successfully building and growing businesses to profitable scale and dominant market share spans several markets globally, at leading financial institutions including American Express, Citigroup, United Bank for Africa (UBA) and most recently at Mastercard. During his 11-year career at Mastercard, Nandan was Strategy Head for International Markets, President for the Japanese business and Head of Global Consumer Credit and Loyalty Solutions. Prior to that, Nandan was Head of UBA - International Corporate and Investment Banking. Before UBA, Nandan built and led consumer banking businesses for two decades with Citigroup in India, Czech Republic, Israel, Russia and the UK. Nandan began his career at American Express Cards.

**Company Profile:** Network International is the leading enabler of digital commerce across the Middle East and Africa (MEA) region, providing a full suite of technology-enabled payments solutions to merchants and financial institutions of all types and sizes, including acquiring and processing services and a comprehensive ever-evolving range of value-added services. Its purpose is to help businesses and economies prosper by simplifying commerce and payments. Network currently operates in 50 countries across the MEA region, including more than 40 African markets. In 2023, Network processed over USD 59 billion in payment volumes for over 120,000 merchants and 1.6 billion transactions for more than 200 financial institution and fintech customers. Headquartered in UAE and listed on the London Stock Exchange, Network has operational centers and offices in Egypt, South Africa, Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, Jordan and Saudi Arabia.



# Rabea Ataya

**CEO**  
**Bayt.com**

**Personal Profile:** Rabea Ataya is the founder and CEO of Bayt.com, the Middle East's leading job site and longest running internet company, which now serves over 50,000,000 professionals and over 40,000 employers from its 11 regional offices.

He also founded and leads vFairs - a global leader in virtual events, YallaMotor - the most visited auto portal in the UAE, and Talentera - the leading Applicant Tracking System in the MENA Region. Previously, he co-founded and exited: Gonabit.com - the region's first group purchasing site, InfoFort - the Middle East's first and leading records management company, and Mumzworld - the region's leading mother and child e-commerce site.

Today he continues to serve on the board of several Middle Eastern technology companies. He also plays an active role in nonprofit and charitable organizations across the Middle East including serving as the Chairman of the Advisory Council of Dubai Chamber of Digital Economy. Rabea graduated from Stanford University with a BS in Electrical Engineering and MS in Engineering Economic Systems.





# Rasheed Mikati

***Executive Director  
at ACC Group***

**Personal Profile:** Rasheed Mikati is an Executive Director at ACC Group. Rasheed combines both strategy and operational experience with over 27 years in the regional construction industry.

Prior to ACC, Rasheed worked as a consultant between the Paris, London and Brussels offices of Bain & Company for 2 years. His assignments included various types of projects, notably growth strategies, complexity reduction, new market penetration and acquisition strategies.

Rasheed completed his Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Civil and Environmental Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 1993 and 1994 respectively. His Master's thesis, titled "Public-Private Partnerships for the Reconstruction of Lebanon: An Application to Power Generation", outlines the framework needed for successful private participation in the region's infrastructure.

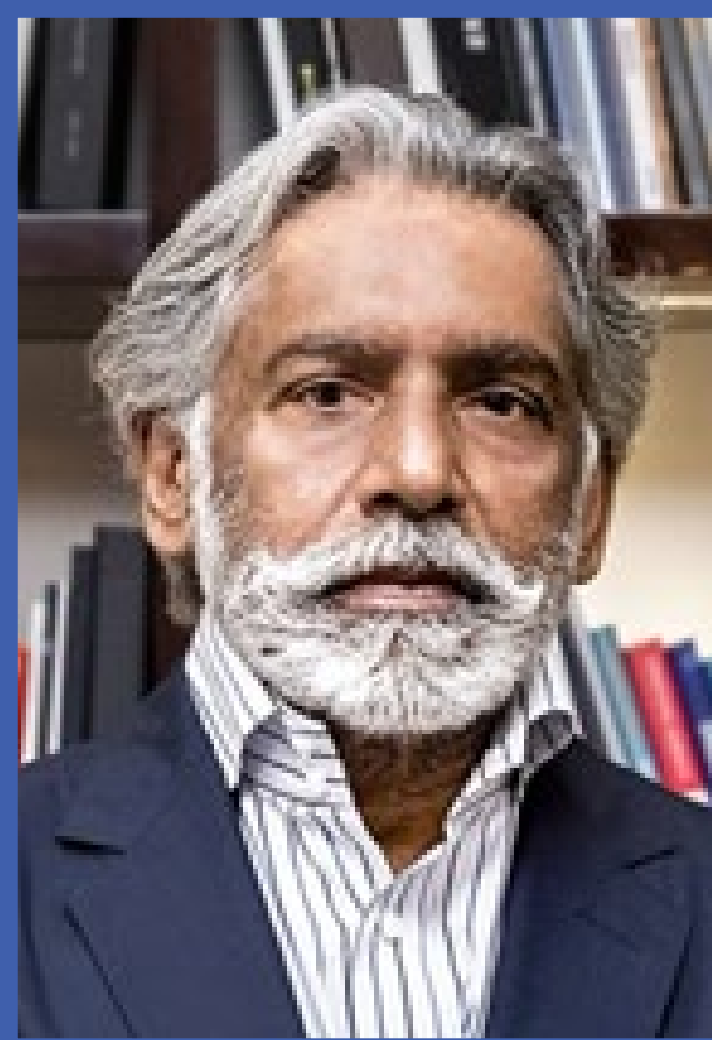
Rasheed is a member of the Board of Directors at the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

**Company Profile:** Founded in 1967 and based in the UAE, Arabian Construction Company (ACC) is a leading firm in the Middle East's construction sector. For over five decades, ACC has been instrumental in building high-rise buildings, luxury hotels, and major commercial complexes, gaining a reputation for high-quality standards and safety.

ACC specializes in large-scale commercial and residential projects and complex engineering projects, requiring meticulous detail and innovative architectural solutions. The company is ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 certified, underscoring its commitment to international quality and environmental standards. Regular accolades from the British Safety Council highlight its industry-leading safety practices.

The company's portfolio includes transformative projects known for architectural and engineering excellence. ACC employs sustainable construction techniques and materials, aligning with global sustainable development goals to minimize environmental impacts.

Employee welfare is also a priority for ACC, with extensive training programs ensuring staff proficiency in modern construction techniques and safety protocols. Internationally, ACC has successfully expanded into markets across the Middle East, North Africa, and India, showcasing its adaptability and capability in managing complex projects globally.



# Ramesh Prabhakar

**VC & MP**

***The Rivoli Group***

**Personal Profile:** Vice Chairman and Managing Partner of Rivoli Group, has guided the company since its 1985 inception from a single brand to a powerhouse with over 100 international brands. With nearly four decades of leadership, he has formed strategic alliances with luxury conglomerates like Richemont, LVMH, Kering, Marcolin, and Swatch, expanding Rivoli's presence to over 15 countries in the Gulf, Levant, and North Africa.

The Group, recognized for its contributions to the regional economy, sponsors various Arts and Sports events. Additionally, Prabhakar is involved in philanthropy and civic activities, holding roles in the Ishara Art Foundation and Dubai's Department of Tourism & Commerce Marketing, and he maintains an active, balanced lifestyle. He is also a family man, married with a daughter..

**Company Profile:** a leading luxury lifestyle retailer with a 40-year history in the UAE, Oman, Qatar, and Bahrain. It offers over 100 prestigious international brands across more than 300 stores in watches, eyewear, jewelry, leather accessories, and writing instruments.

Headquartered in Dubai, Rivoli is one of the region's largest importers, distributors, and retailers of luxury goods, also managing travel retail in major airports and airlines. The company's success is driven by a dedicated team of over 1,600 professionals committed to excellent customer service.





# Rami Ghandour

***CEO - Metito Utilities***  
***Co-CEO Metito Holdings***

**Personal Profile:** Rami Ghandour joined Metito in 2004, set up Metito Utilities in 2007 and is currently a director on the board of Metito Holdings. Metito Utilities is the investment arm of the Group, providing complete water and wastewater outsourcing and partnership solutions to end-users. Rami also leads Metito's endeavours into strategic partnerships, mergers and acquisitions as well as equity investments. Dedicated to ethical best practice and exemplary customer service standards, and as part of the Group's strategic commitment to economic development, Rami spearheaded Metito's industry leading corporate social responsibility efforts.

Prior to joining Metito, Rami was a process engineer and project manager at Bechtel in London, and a management consultant with the Boston Consulting Group in New York.

Rami has an MBA in Finance and Entrepreneurial Management from the Wharton School, as well as an MEng, MA and BA in Chemical Engineering from the University of Cambridge.

**Company Profile:** Founded on the principles of impact, sustainability, and innovation, Metito has become a global leader in the water and wastewater sector. The company excels through its market-oriented approach, advanced technical capabilities, and seasoned management team, operating across four main business segments: Design & Build, Utilities, Operation & Maintenance, and Chemical Solutions.

Metito, serving as a pan-emerging market entity, specializes in the entire water treatment value chain including desalination, wastewater treatment, water reuse, and industrial solutions. The company boasts a strong project portfolio across its principal regions.

With 65 years of industry presence, Metito employs over 4500 staff, operates in more than 50 countries, and maintains over 20 global offices. Committed to the circular economy, Metito collaborates with governments, industries, and communities to manage and secure water resources, providing tailored and sustainable infrastructure solutions.

A trailblazer in water technology, Metito introduced reverse osmosis for desalination outside the USA in 1972 and continues to innovate, spearheading Public-Private Partnership agreements to deliver water solutions in countries like Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, Egypt, Uzbekistan, Rwanda, and Serbia.



# Salah Sharaf Al Hashmi

***Group Vice President  
Sharaf Group***

**Personal Profile:** A dedicated professional in Shipping and Logistics, Mr. Salah embarked on his career journey with Sharaf Group, gradually assuming various roles across the UAE, Germany, and Hong Kong. This diverse experience has equipped him with a profound understanding of the Shipping Industry.

Mr. Salah's entrepreneurial mindset and strategic approach have empowered him to oversee diverse business ventures encompassing sea, air, and road transport, along with allied businesses. He has been instrumental in spearheading the development of fresh business avenues and growth strategies for numerous entities under the Sharaf Group umbrella.

Mr. Salah is highly esteemed for his leadership style, strategic insights, forward-thinking approach, business acumen, and profound understanding of the Shipping Industry, both Agency and Fleet Management businesses. Currently, he holds the positions of Group Vice President, Group Board member, and Chairman of Emirates Logistics.

As a respected figure and strategic visionary in the Shipping industry, Mr. Salah actively fosters collaborations with key stakeholders through his involvement with various organizations, including not-for-profit Boards. He currently serves as the Vice Chairman of the UAE Shipping Association and President of the Dubai Shipping Agents Association. Additionally, he represents the UAE International Investors Council as a Board Member and serves as Deputy Chairman of the China Classification Society.

**Company Profile:** Sharaf Group operates in the areas of Shipping, Logistics, Supply Chain, Retail, Travel & Tourism, Information Technology, Financial Services, Hospitality & Real Estate, Education and Manufacturing. The Group is headquartered in Dubai and operates in 61 countries across the Middle East, Africa, the Indian subcontinent and Asia. The Sharaf Group believes in inclusivity and diversity and has a talent pool of over 12,000 people from around the world.





## Selim El Zyr

***Vice Chairman of Rotana  
Hotel Management Group***

**Personal Profile:** El Zyr is the Vice Chairman of Rotana Hotel Management Group, which he co-founded in 1992 as the first Middle Eastern hotel management company. Previously President and CEO until 2013, he now oversees strategic development and is a key member of the Executive Committee. Under his leadership, Rotana has grown to over 100 hotels across the Middle East, Africa, Eastern Europe, and Türkiye and has introduced innovative concepts like Arjaan Hotel Apartments, Centro by Rotana, and Rayhaan by Rotana. Rotana, which boasts six distinct brands including the recent "Edge by Rotana," has won approximately 400 industry awards, reflecting its commitment to hospitality excellence.

El Zyr has been recognized extensively, including being named Middle East CEO of the Year in 2012 and 2013, and receiving the National Cedar Decoration from the Lebanese President for his contributions to tourism and the hospitality industry. A graduate of Ecole Hoteliere de Lausanne and further educated at Cornell, he has a rich background in hospitality, including a 12-year tenure with Hilton International and an honorary Doctorate from Johnson & Wales University in the US.

**Company Profile:** Rotana was founded in 1992 by the company's current Chairman, Nasser Al Nowais, and the current Vice Chairman, Selim El Zyr. Since its inception, the company has grown to become one of the leading hotel management companies in the Middle East, Africa, Eastern Europe, and Türkiye – a brand not only widely recognized but also much admired. Rotana's vision is to be the Leading Hospitality Management Company recognised for its unique blend of world-class standards with genuine hospitality and its truly treasured experiences provided for guests, colleagues and owners. Rotana has a portfolio of over 100 hotels in the Middle East, Africa, Eastern Europe, and Türkiye – including 74 operating properties and 51 properties that are under development. Rotana has chosen to acknowledge how precious time is by making all time spent in their range of hotels 'Treasured Time'. This means Rotana has pledged to understand and meet the individual needs of all guests. In so doing, Rotana has evolved its product brands to include Rotana Hotels & Resorts, Centro Hotels by Rotana, Rayhaan Hotels & Resorts by Rotana, Arjaan Hotel Apartments by Rotana, Edge by Rotana and The Residences by Rotana. Treasured Time.

The Rotana promise to you.



# Stuart

**CEO**

***Advanced Inhalation Rituals***

**Personal Profile:** Stuart is the Chief Executive Officer of Advanced Inhalation Rituals (AIR), a leading international inhalation company working to revolutionise inhalation rituals and evolving its portfolio to include products outside of the tobacco and nicotine sector. Prior to this, he spent five years as the Chief Financial Officer of AIR and before this spent twenty three years with British American Tobacco (BAT), gaining a wealth of international business experience whilst working and living in ten different countries. His previous roles at BAT included, Head of Finance for the European Region and prior to that, Area Director for North Africa.

Stuart has a degree in Economics and Accountancy, has completed executive studies at both Harvard Business School and IMD and is a Chartered Management Accountant.

**Company Profile:** Advanced Inhalation Rituals (AIR) is a leading international inhalation company working to revolutionise inhalation rituals and evolving its portfolio to include products outside of the tobacco and nicotine sector. We are the global leader in the production and distribution of shisha molasses. We are also the leading innovator in the sector with a rich pipeline of lifestyle inhalation technology products focused on reducing consumer risks associated with shisha consumption.

AIR's current product portfolio primarily consists of flavoured shisha molasses and a revolutionary first of its kind charcoal free, pod-based shisha device – a device that combines the tradition and ritual of shisha with modernity and harm reduction. Since 2020 AIR has made significant investment to develop, scientifically substantiate, research, and commercialise innovative alternatives to shisha with a particular focus on tobacco and nicotine free products for adults.





Sky  
Kurtz

***Founder & CEO  
Pure Harvest***

**Personal Profile:** Sky Kurtz is a former technology private equity investor turned serial entrepreneur who is passionate about building impactful companies that tackle big problems in the world. Before founding Pure Harvest, Mr. Kurtz Co-founded Vence—reinventing livestock management through a virtual fencing & autonomous control solution. Mr. Kurtz also served as a divisional CEO within Pultron Composites, delivering novel concrete reinforcement materials that solve infrastructure corrosion challenges.

Prior to building technology companies, Mr. Kurtz invested in them as a Vice President with Francisco Partners, a \$15B tech investment firm based in San Francisco, CA that is an affiliate of Sequoia Capital. Mr. Kurtz was also an investor with CCMP Capital, a \$17B generalist investment firm based in New York, NY. Mr. Kurtz has served on the boards of five (5) technology companies of all scales (from \$2MM to \$500MM+ of sales) and considers himself a lifelong student of business.

**Company Profile:** Pure Harvest Smart Farms is a mission-driven technology-enabled agribusiness headquartered in the United Arab Emirates, focused on year-round, sustainable production of premium-quality fresh fruits & vegetables. Pure Harvest develops and system integrates innovative growing technologies and horticultural best practices to enable localized, year-round production of safe, sustainable, and affordable fresh produce anywhere.

Pure Harvest is pioneering controlled-environment agriculture (CEA) in the MEASA region, harnessing technology to tackle some of the region's biggest problems, including food security, water conservation, economic diversification, and sustainability needs.





# Shamlal Ahamed

***Managing Director of  
International Operations at  
Malabar Gold & Diamonds,***

**Personal Profile:** Ms. Alisha Moopen is the Managing Director and Group CEO of Aster DM Healthcare FZC, overseeing its strategic growth and development across the GCC region. With 11 years at Aster, she has led the company's expansion into all six GCC countries, establishing it as one of the region's largest healthcare conglomerates. Recognized as a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum, Ms. Alisha is committed to enable health equity for people across the world. She was the first female Chapter Chair of YPO's Dubai Chapter, a global leadership organization that brings together over 27,000 chief executives from over 130 countries. She is also the Founder and Vice-Chairwoman of Dubai Healthcare Business Group. In 2023, Alisha was appointed to the Board of Directors for Sharjah Research, Technology and Innovation Park, under the leadership of HH Sheikha Bodour Al Qasimi, as per a decree issued by HH Dr Sheikh Sultan Bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah.

A chartered accountant, Ms. Alisha holds degrees from the University of Michigan and Harvard University. She champions the philosophy "Healthiness is Happiness," advocating for quality healthcare for all. Through initiatives like the Aster Volunteers program and the Aster DM Foundation, she strives to make a positive impact on society, ensuring individuals lead healthier and happier lives.

**Company Profile:** Malabar Gold & Diamonds, founded in 1993 in Kerala, India, is the flagship of the Malabar Group, a leading diversified business conglomerate. With over 330 retail outlets across 12 countries, and additional offices, design centers, and factories in India, the Middle East, the Far East, and the USA, the company boasts an annual turnover of \$5.2 billion, ranking it among the largest jewelry retailers globally. The company, with headquarters in Kerala, operates 14 manufacturing units in India and the GCC and offers 12 exclusive jewelry brands.

Employing over 19,500 professionals from more than 26 countries, Malabar Gold & Diamonds provides a wide range of jewelry, from everyday modern designs to bespoke and bridal collections. The company is committed to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), with a focus on health, education, women's empowerment, housing, and environmental sustainability. It integrates Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles into its core operations and dedicates 5% of its profits to these initiatives within the operating countries.





# Talal Bayaa

***Chief Executive Officer  
& Co-founder Bayzat***

**Personal Profile:** Talal Bayaa is a Palestinian-American entrepreneur the CEO and co-founder of Bayzat, a UAE based technology start-up that empowers businesses with smart insurance, HR and payroll solutions. As Chief Executive Officer, Talal is responsible for providing the vision, overall leadership and strategic management for the company as well as ensuring the highest quality of the services provided. Prior to setting up Bayzat, Talal worked for a private equity & corporate finance firm, followed by two years at an investment bank.

After sensing an opportunity in the financial products market, Talal started Bayzat with his school friend and now co-founder Brian Habibi. The duo led Bayzat to where it is today and is now known widely as the company that provides a world-class employee experience using streamlined HR, payroll and insurance technology. Talal studied bioengineering at the University of California, Los Angeles, USA. He is a CFA Charter holder as well as finance, investment, and banking expert. During his free time, Talal enjoys being outdoors and traveling.

**Company Profile:** Bayzat is the work life platform that benefits everyone. We are redefining the way work works for the better, making automated HR, payroll, employee benefits, and insurance a possibility for all businesses. The company serves 160,000 employees across the UAE and Saudi Arabia.



# Viken Ohanesian

**CEO**  
**Harwal Group**

**Personal Profile:** Viken Ohanesian is the CEO of Harwal Group Ltd, an international manufacturing conglomerate based out of Dubai, UAE and Los Angeles, California. His extensive engineering background and knowledge in the manufacturing and marketing of building materials, has placed Viken at the forefront of leading the housing and construction industry in advanced building systems and affordable housing.

Viken sits on several boards including the board of Harwal Group, the board of US Polymers Inc. and of Boss Homes. He also serves on various nonprofit boards including YPO California Coast Chapter as Chairman. Viken is a graduate of Pepperdine University with an MBA in Marketing & Finance and has a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering.

**Company Profile:** Combining innovation and excellence, Harwal Group is the largest plastics converter in the Middle East. The Group converts over 200,000 metric tons of plastic and 100,000 tons of metals every year delivered through its ISO 9001 certified companies. As an award winning organization, Harwal Group combines its technical capability with evolving market trends to bring superior products and services to its valued customers.

Harwal Group has 28 business units with manufacturing and sales facilities across the globe. Business segments include Building Materials, Building Systems, Electrical Cable Management systems, Switches & Sockets, Pipeline Systems, Prefab Buildings, Doors & Windows, Refrigerated Transport and Storage, Industrial Warehouses and Storage, Refrigerators, Plastic Consumer Products, Packaging Materials, and Furniture.

The manufacturing conglomerate operates within 65 countries across the Middle East, Africa, Europe and USA. Providing unrivalled manufacturing capabilities and services across the globe, Harwal Group runs its impressive operations through four main companies - TSSC, Interplast, Cosmoplast and Intermetal.





# Mr. Yousuf Saleem

***Managing Director,  
Al Barakah Dates Factory LLC***

**Personal Profile:** Mr. Saleem is the Managing Director of Al Barakah Dates Factory LLC; one of the family businesses and investments under the Saeeda Foundation umbrella. He has dedicated his professional life to the advancement of dates processing and market growth. His expertise lies in strategic business development, global trade, and sustainable practices. Under his stewardship, Al Barakah Dates Factory LLC has transformed from a regional player into a globally recognized brand synonymous with quality and innovation. Al Barakah Dates Factory, under Mr. Saleem's guidance, exports a diverse range of date ingredients to over 97 countries internationally.

Mr. Saleem's family are active investors across a wide range of industries including food, real estate and media across the UAE, Middle East, India, Denmark and North America. Mr. Saleem sits on the board of several of these family-owned and partnership businesses.

**Company Profile:** Al Barakah Dates Factory is the largest privately owned dates factory in the world spanning over one million square feet and is situated in Dubai Industrial City. Its journey began in 1988 as a modest foodstuff import/export facility. Since then, Al Barakah has evolved into a market leader in packaging and processing dates and date by-products. Renowned for its commitment to excellence, Al Barakah boasts a world-class facility that incorporates technological advancement and automation. Equipped with dedicated dates sorting, washing, and packaging lines, as well as state-of-the-art production lines for date paste, date syrups, and date powder, the factory ensures the highest quality standards throughout the manufacturing process. Future product lines include colorless liquid date sweeteners, date derived ethanol and oils. Al Barakah has also expanded its reach through strategic joint ventures in various countries, including the United States, India, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia where joint ventures and processing facilities have been set up. These partnerships further enhance the company's global presence and enable it to meet the diverse needs of customers worldwide.

**NEXT 50**  
INVESTOPIA \_\_\_\_\_ 2024

Steering Committee





# Dania Haffar Bazy

***Founder & Managing Director,  
Visionbuz***

**Personal Profile:** Dania Haffar Bazy is the Founder and Managing Director of Visionbuz, a boutique consultancy that provides strategic advice and integrated solutions to organizations and C-Suite/ high net worth individuals on business strategies, brand positioning and identity, and marketing, communication, crisis management, digital, and citizenship strategies.

Visionbuz has advised clients across multiple sectors including finance, education, art and culture, mental health, politics, human development, e-commerce, and philanthropy, in addition to working with senior stakeholders on personal brand development.

Before setting up Visionbuz, Dania was the Head of Strategy for Barclays MENA, responsible for developing a One MENA business strategy across four business lines. She was also the EMEA Head of Brand, Marketing, Communication & Citizenship for Barclays' Private Bank, leading a team of senior professionals in Dubai, Monaco, Geneva, and London, to deliver multimillion-pound, cross jurisdictional plans.

Prior to joining Barclays in 2007, Dania worked at the American University in Dubai (AUD), as the Acting Dean of Student Services, Director of External Affairs and Career Services, and was also an instructor of Business and Finance.

Dania has an MBA and a BBA from the American University in Beirut.



## Dr. Jean Fares

*Senior Advisor to the Minister  
CEO of Investopia  
UAE Ministry of Economy*

**Biography:** Dr. Jean Fares is a seasoned economist and senior policy advisor with over 25 years of experience in multinational environments. He has held senior positions in Canada, the United States, and the United Arab Emirates, building a reputation for innovative strategic thinking and deep knowledge of economic and government affairs.

Dr. Fares currently serves as CEO for Investopia, a new investment platform supporting the global investment ecosystem. He is also the Senior Advisor to the UAE Minister of Economy, providing policy advice and contributing to economic policy formulation. Additionally, Dr. Fares is an adjunct professor at Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy in Abu Dhabi. Prior to his current roles, Dr. Fares spent 8 years as a senior advisor in the UAE Prime Minister's Office, focusing on national strategy and policy development, governance, and global partnerships.

He led the development and launch of the UAE Government Accelerators, various national strategies, the Global Policy Platform of the World Government Summit, and the partnership efforts with multilaterals like the OECD, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and other global organizations. Before joining the UAE government, Dr. Fares was a senior economist at the World Bank in Washington DC, where he led many Bank projects and key flagship reports. Prior to that, he was assistant professor in the economics department of the American University of Beirut and earlier a senior analyst at the Bank of Canada.

Dr. Fares has a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Montreal. He is fluent in English, Arabic, and French and is a Canadian and Lebanese national. He lives in Dubai with his wife and 3 children.





# Miguel Azevedo

***Vice-Chairman  
Investment Banking Middle East  
& Africa Citigroup***

**Personal Profile:** Miguel joined Citigroup in 2010 as Head of Corporate and Investment Banking Portugal. In mid-2012, he was appointed Head of Investment Banking Africa (exc. SA & Egypt). In November 2017 Miguel was appointed Head of Investment Banking for the Middle East and Africa (ex SA) and in January 2023 he was appointed Vice - Chairman of Investment Banking Middle East & Africa.

Prior to working at Citigroup, Miguel was a Senior Country Advisor for Bank of America Merrill Lynch and an Executive Director at Goldman Sachs. Miguel has an MBA in Finance from City University Business School in London and a BSc in Economics from Nova School of Business and Economics in Lisbon.

In the M&A space, Miguel has been extremely active with his Citi colleagues in advising on reference transactions for Middle East and African with names such as Helios Investment Partners, Actis, Union Bank of Nigeria and Access Bank (Africa) and Network International and DP World (Middle East).

In the Equity Capital Markets space, Miguel and the Citi team have been the clear leaders in the Middle East and Africa regions leading more Equity offerings than any other institution including IPOs and Equity Offerings in 2018-21 for VIVO, ASA international, Network International, Jumia, Airtel Africa and Helios Towers; more recently in 2022-23, Miguel and his Citi colleagues were Joint Global coordinators in IPOs for DEWA (one of only 3 IPOs in EMEA region above 6bn USD), Empower and Dubai Taxi Company all in the UAE; the Middle East in the last 3 years Citi has been the leader in the Equity Capital Markets space.

According to Euromoney Citi's team was best advisory and/or investment bank in Africa (2020/23), UAE (2021/22/23) and Middle East (2020/21/23).

Miguel is a regular contributor to CNBC and Bloomberg TV as well as a regular speaker in regional events, including: Africa Business Forum (Dubai), Investopia (Dubai), Qatar Economic Forum (Doha) as well as other such as The Africa CEO Forum, the World Economic Forum (Africa and Middle East) and Milken Institute (US, UK and Middle East) amongst others.

He is a member of the Portuguese Diaspora Council since 2018.





# May Nasrallah

***Executive Chairwomen  
& founder - DeNovo***

**Personal Profile:** May is an Executive Chairwoman and founder of deNovo Partners. She has over 30 years of investment banking experience, sixteen of which spent at Morgan Stanley in numerous roles and geographies including New York, Hong Kong, London and Dubai. Most recently, she was Head of Investment Banking for the Middle East and North Africa region, where, in 2005, she established, led and grew Morgan Stanley's inaugural Middle East regional presence headquartered in Dubai.

- During her tenure with Morgan Stanley, May worked in several investment banking groups and in various leadership roles. May was the youngest woman to be named Managing Director at Morgan Stanley and the first Arab female Managing Director at Morgan Stanley.
- In early 2019, May was featured amongst the 50 most influential women in the Middle East finance. In 2015, May was named Businesswoman of the Year for the UAE at the Arab Woman Awards Ceremony; the award was bestowed by His Excellency Sheikh Nahayan bin Mubarak Al Nahayan.
- May graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology ("MIT") with a Bachelor of Science in Economics and Political Science and also a Masters in Management and Finance from MIT's Sloan School of Management.

**Company Profile:** Independent, Middle-East focused, best-in-class corporate finance advisory firm, offering bulge bracket expertise to regional corporations, deNovo Partners was founded by a team of highly experienced investment banking professionals and is led by May Nasrallah

- The firm provides best-in-class, trusted and dedicated conflict-free advice with a long-term-focused commitment to regional corporations embarking on strategic/transformational transactions in their corporate evolution
- The team members have been instrumental in the execution of a substantial number of the landmark transactions throughout the MENA region and globally; strong track record of 100+ successfully executed transactions worth over USD 15bn
- Formal alliance with PJT Partners, a spin out of Blackstone's advisory business, which is a global platform of over 1,000 employees in 11 offices in the U.S., Europe and Asia; enhances deNovo's advisory capabilities, industry expertise and reach internationally to further service regional clients.





# Marwan Elaraby

*Partner,  
Gibson Dunn*

**Personal Profile:** Marwan Elaraby is the partner in charge of the Dubai office where he is a member of the Capital Markets and Mergers & Acquisitions Practice Groups.

Marwan advises clients on M&A and private equity transactions, as well as governments on strategic and regulatory matters. He also advises both issuers and underwriters on equity and debt securities offerings. Marwan represents sovereign-owned, corporate and private equity clients including Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), ASMA Capital, EFG-Hermes and Investcorp.

Marwan is ranked by Chambers Global 2023 as a leading individual for Corporate/M&A (Band 1) and Capital Markets: Equity in the UAE and as a leading individual in Egypt for Corporate/M&A, Capital Markets, and Projects & Energy. Chambers Global also ranks him in the Middle East-wide tables for both Corporate/M&A and Capital Markets. He is highly regarded by IFLR1000 for M&A and Private Equity. Chambers Global states that Marwan is “a phenomenal lawyer,” someone who is “super-commercial, very sharp and reads situations well” and “widely respected for his capital markets skills, with particularly notable experience in the UAE and Egypt.” Clients note that Marwan is “flexible and able to adapt to market conditions that can change very quickly” and someone who can “come up with innovative solutions to resolve any issues that arise.

Marwan received his Juris Doctor from Columbia University School of Law and his Bachelor of Arts from the American University in Cairo, majoring in Economics. He is fluent in English, Arabic, and French.

**Company Profile:** Gibson Dunn is a leading global law firm, advising clients on significant transactions and disputes around the world. The firm has more than 2,000 lawyers in 21 offices in major cities throughout the United States, Europe, the Middle East and Asia. Gibson Dunn has represented government-affiliated entities, prominent companies and financial institutions in the Middle East for more than 40 years and currently has over lawyers in Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Riyadh.



# DR Noah Raford

*Managing partner advisory*  
**EMIR**

**Biography:** Dr Noah Raford heads up EMIR advisory practice. He is the former Futurist-in-Chief for the Government of Dubai, founding executive of the Dubai Future Foundation and the Museum of the Future, and senior advisor to the UAE Prime Minister's Office. He is a globally respected futurist who specialises in delivering difficult projects and creative ideas.

Dr Raford is responsible for several global and regional firsts, including the world's first fully functional 3D printed building and helping to legalise cryptocurrency and blockchain in the MENA region. Dr Raford has a background in urban design and public policy, he completed his PhD at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), his MSc at the Bartlett School of Architecture and his undergraduate degree at Brown University.

He also served as a member in the World Economic Forum Global Agenda Council on Artificial Intelligence and Robotics, a Senior Research Fellow at the London School of Economics, a fellow at the Bartlett School of Architecture and a member of the International Futures Forum. As a strategist behind some of the UAE's most innovative projects, Dr Raford can draw from his global network of experts and the latest professional research to paint an evidence-based picture to breathe life into visionary projects.

Dr Raford's insights have helped businesses and governments understand the impact of climate change, geopolitical shifts, international relations, demographic change, social trends, economic developments and technological disruptions that will affect human lives over the coming years.