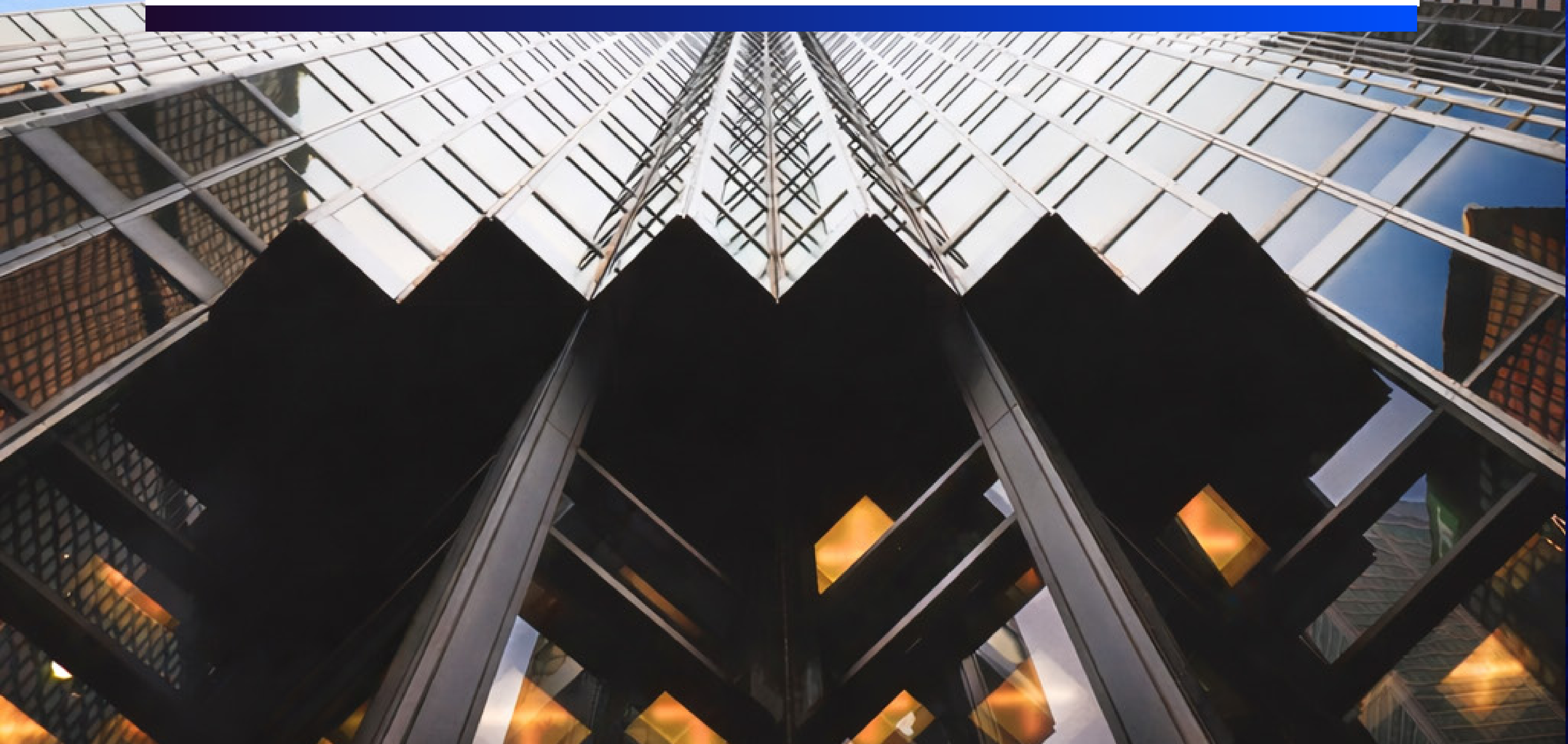
Investopia Quarterly Digest

Q1 and Q2 | 2026

investopia

In this Digest's Edition



This Digest is designed as a concise platform-intelligence update for Investopia stakeholders, partners, and readers interested in the investment themes shaping the UAE's global economic dialogue.

The Digest highlights selected news, data points, events, and platform conversations that are most relevant to Investopia's agenda, with a focus on investment corridors, future-economy sectors, capital flows, and strategic partnerships.

The Digest begins by highlighting the key themes and signals shaping the current investment landscape, before moving through recent platform activities, ecosystem developments, and selected knowledge content relevant to Investopia's broader agenda.

01 EXECUTIVE OUTLOOK

WHAT CHANGED THIS QUARTER

Macro Signals

The macro signal this quarter was not simply slower growth; it was more selective resilience. The World Bank's June 2026 Global Economic Prospects projected **global growth at 2.5% in 2026**[1], with downside risk if energy disruption and financial-market stress intensify. This matters for investors because **the question is no longer only where growth exists, but where growth can withstand shocks.**

Regionally, the pressure was more direct. The World Bank's April 2026 MENAAP Economic Update **projected growth across the region**, excluding Iran, **to slow from 4.0% in 2025 to 1.8% in 2026**[2], while GCC growth was revised down to 1.3%[2]. Energy-route disruption, weaker hydrocarbon output, and financial volatility made resilience a central investment filter for the quarter.

The UAE entered this backdrop with stronger domestic buffers. Real GDP grew 6.2% in 2025 to AED 1.9tn, supported by 6.8% non-oil growth[3], while the May UAE PMI **remained expansionary at 52.6**[4], showing signs of recovery. The signal is balanced: the UAE is not insulated from global and regional pressure, but its non-oil scale, infrastructure readiness, and trade connectivity give it a stronger position than many regional peers.

Policy Signals

Policy signals this quarter pointed to one clear direction: the UAE is using regulation and government execution to strengthen its investment platform. The most visible example was the new Agentic AI framework, which **targets the deployment of autonomous AI models across 50% of government sectors**[5], services, and operations within two years. This moves AI policy from adoption into operating-model redesign, with implications for productivity, public services, and the wider digital economy.

Financial-market policy moved in the same direction. Nasdaq Dubai welcomed AED 1.1bn of Islamic Treasury Sukuk[6] taps by the UAE Ministry of Finance in April, supporting the development of the dirham yield curve, while Dubai Financial Market was recognised by Switzerland's FINMA as a foreign trading venue in June[7]. Together, these updates show policy being used not only to signal ambition, but to deepen market infrastructure, expand investor access, and improve the UAE's long-term capital-formation capacity.

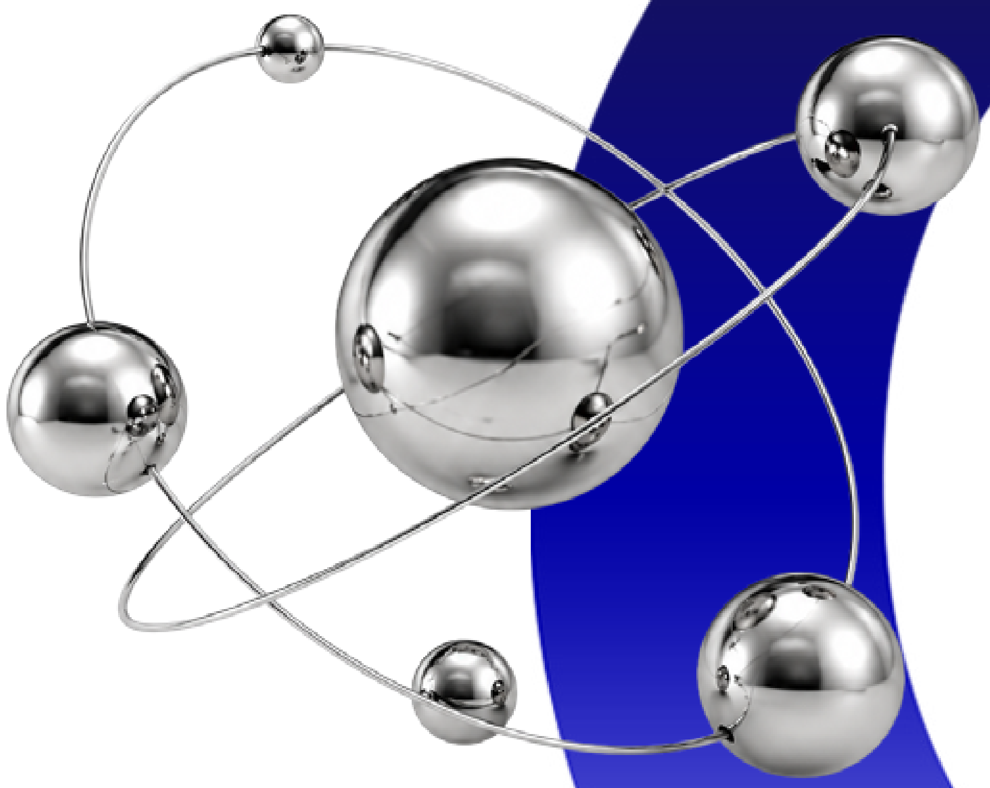
Trade Signals

Trade signals this quarter showed that the UAE's corridor strategy is becoming more institutionalized. The country has now signed 36 Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreements[8], expanding its trade network across priority markets and reinforcing its position as a hub for market access, logistics, and private-sector expansion.

The clearest performance signal remains the UAE–India CEPA. Four years after implementation, bilateral trade has **grown by 37%, with UAE exports to India up 41% and Indian exports to the UAE up 30%**[9]. The takeaway is that trade policy is no longer only about signing agreements; it is increasingly about converting market access into deeper commercial flows, investor confidence, and corridor-based growth.

02 INVESTMENT THEMES:

WHERE CAPITAL IS MOVING



Africa as an Investment Execution Corridor

FROM POTENTIAL TO BANKABLE DELIVERY

Sub-Saharan Africa Growth Forecast for 2026 **4.1%**	Meaning: Demand is Stable
USD 1.3tn+ SDG Financing Gap	Meaning: Capital demand is massive
Africa's Annual Development financing gap estimate **USD 402bn**	Meaning: Structural Funding Constraint

Africa's investment story this quarter is not a contradiction: growth is holding, but financing is not keeping pace with ambition. Around 4% growth[10] forecasted for Sub-Saharan Africa in 2026, holding the same growth rate as 2025 and signalling that **demand remains stable**, while the continent's **USD 1.3tn+** annual SDG financing gap[11] and **USD 402bn** annual development-financing gap[12] show that the funding need is both massive and structural.

The implication is straightforward: Africa's investment case is **no longer only about proving demand.** It is about **converting demand into bankable delivery** through credible corridors, institutions, project preparation, de-risking tools, and financing structures that can move capital into execution.

This is why the quarter's UAE-Africa news flow matters. Abu Dhabi Fund for Development reported implementation progress across road projects in Togo, Madagascar, and Nigeria, with completion rates of 92%, 80%, and 45%, respectively[13]. In Nigeria, the AED 165mn Minna-Bida Road Project covers 82 kilometres and is expected to reduce travel time by 50% and vehicle operating costs by 31%[13]. On the private-sector side, Dubai Chamber of Commerce organised 674 bilateral business meetings in South Africa[14] as part of a trade mission involving 24 Dubai-based companies[14].

Dubai-South Africa non-oil trade reached AED 29.2bn in 2025, up 265% from 2016[14], while 873 South African companies were active members of Dubai Chamber by the end of Q1 2026[14].

Investopia Signal

At Investopia Global – Milan, held on 15 May 2026 at Palazzo Mezzanotte[15], discussions around Africa centred on **moving from opportunity narratives to executable partnerships** across infrastructure, finance, industrial capacity, and investment corridors. Building on Investopia Global Lagos, which took place on 26 February 2026[16] and framed Nigeria and Africa through connectivity, logistics, financial systems, capital mobilisation, and technology supply chains, Milan widened the lens into a **UAE–Italy–Africa platform linking Italy's industrial execution capabilities**, the **UAE's capital and connectivity, and Africa's own institutional capital**.

The execution message was clear: **credibility is built through delivery, not announcements.** The Mattei Plan was described as **moving from design to implementation**, with more than 80 active projects[15] across strategic sectors, while Nigeria's 700-kilometre coastal road[15] was discussed not only as a transport asset, but as a corridor capable of unlocking ports, warehouses, hotels, manufacturing, free zones, data centres, and value-chain activity.

> **"Government initiatives play an important role in supporting future investment. As the largest GCC investor in Africa, the UAE reaffirms its international partnerships that support global growth and long-term economic stability."**
>
> **H.E. Mohamed Hassan Alsuwaidi**
> - Minister of Investment, United Arab Emirates

What to Take Away

Africa should therefore be treated as a central hub theme. The opportunity is not to restate Africa's potential, but to show how financing gaps, infrastructure needs, reform momentum, sovereign capital, development finance, and private-sector corridors can be translated into bankable delivery.

Logistics & Infrastructure Corridors

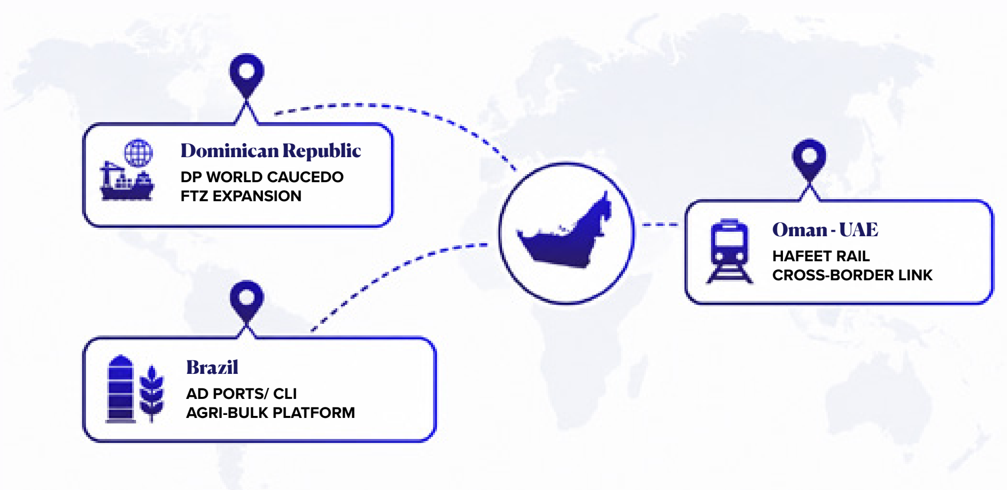
FROM TRANSPORT ASSETS TO CORRIDOR RESILIENCE

AED 3bn+ AD Ports / CLI acquisition	Meaning: UAE logistics capital is moving into global food and agri-trade corridors
USD 100mn DP World Dominican Republic expansion	Meaning: Logistics platforms are being scaled around manufacturing and free-zone ecosystems
40% completion of 238km Oman–UAE rail link	Meaning: Regional connectivity is moving from planning into physical execution

Logistics and infrastructure stood out this quarter because they were **not only about moving goods faster.** They were **about building more reliable corridors** in a more fragmented global environment. The UAE's logistics footprint continued to expand outward, with AD Ports Group acquiring Brazil's CLI, a leading agri-bulk port terminal operator, for more than AED 3bn[17]. The transaction gives AD Ports exposure to major agricultural export flows and **reinforces the link between ports, food security, and global trade connectivity.**

The same platform logic appeared in the Americas. DP World and the Government of the Dominican Republic announced an additional USD 100mn investment[18] to expand logistics and warehousing capacity at the DP World Free Trade Zone in Caucedo. The investment builds on a wider USD 760mn commitment18 and positions the site not only as a port asset, but as a manufacturing, warehousing, and logistics platform for regional trade.

Regionally, infrastructure delivery also moved forward. Hafeet Rail announced that the Oman–UAE railway connection project had reached 40% completion[19]. The 238-kilometre link[19] from Sohar Port to Abu Dhabi is designed to support freight and passenger movement, strengthen cross-border trade, and deepen economic integration between the UAE and Oman.



Investopia Signal

At Investopia Africa in Lagos, held on 2 February 2026 at Eko Convention Center[16], discussions around infrastructure and logistics centered on ports, corridors, logistics platforms, digital trade infrastructure, private capital, and bankability. This gave logistics a clear investment lens: the opportunity is not only to build assets, but to build corridors that make markets more investable.

At Investopia Global – Milan, held on 15 May 2026 at Palazzo Mezzanotte, the discussion widened into global capital flows and resilient ecosystems. The Capital Without Borders session framed investment decisions as increasingly shaped by supply-chain resilience, sustainability, regulatory alignment, and the search for stable, scalable, future-ready ecosystems.

> "Capital is increasingly moving towards ecosystems... Without execution, there are no investments anymore."

Fabio Pompei
CEO at Deloitte Italy & Central Mediterranean

- Investopia Global Milan

What to Take Away

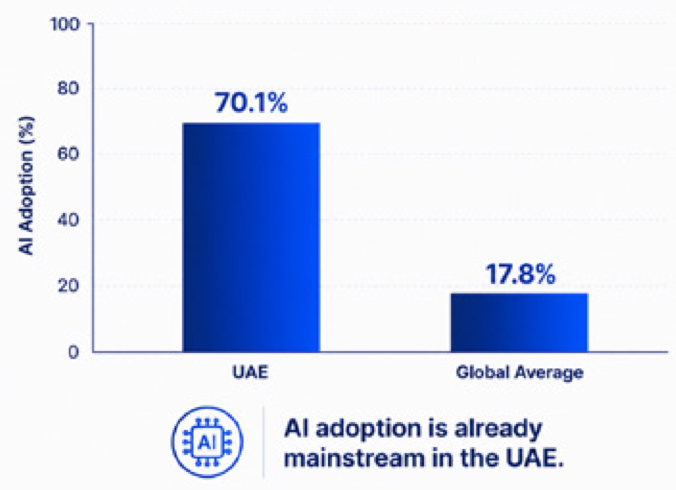
Logistics and infrastructure should therefore be treated as a core corridor theme. The investment opportunity is not limited to ports, railways, warehouses, or free zones in isolation. It is about connecting these assets into operating systems that reduce friction, strengthen trade resilience, support food and energy security, and create bankable platforms around manufacturing, agriculture, logistics, and cross-border commerce.

AI Infrastructure, Compute & Digital Economy

FROM AI ADOPTION TO INFRASTRUCTURE READINESS

70.1% UAE AI adoption	Meaning: AI is becoming a mainstream economic capability
50% of government sectors targeted for Agentic AI	Meaning: Policy is moving from adoption to autonomous execution
8GW+ projected AI infrastructure capacity	Meaning: Compute and energy are becoming core investment assets

AI's investment story this quarter was not about whether the technology is being adopted. In the UAE, that question is already being answered. AI usage reached 70.1% among the working-age population in 1Q26[20], compared with a global average of 17.8%[20], while the government announced a framework to deploy Agentic AI across 50% of government sectors, services, and operations within two years[5]. The signal is that AI is moving from experimentation into operating-model redesign.



Investopia Signal

At Investopia Global - Milan, discussions around technology framed AI as part of a broader transformation in how value is created across technology, energy, finance, infrastructure, and industrial policy. The message was not that AI is a standalone sector, but that AI depends on the systems around it: data centers, computing capacity, connectivity, energy access, investment, and regulation.

> "AI is not just reshaping the global economy, but it is also reshaping our lives."

David Tabet
Chief Operating Officer at Investopia

- Investopia Global Milan

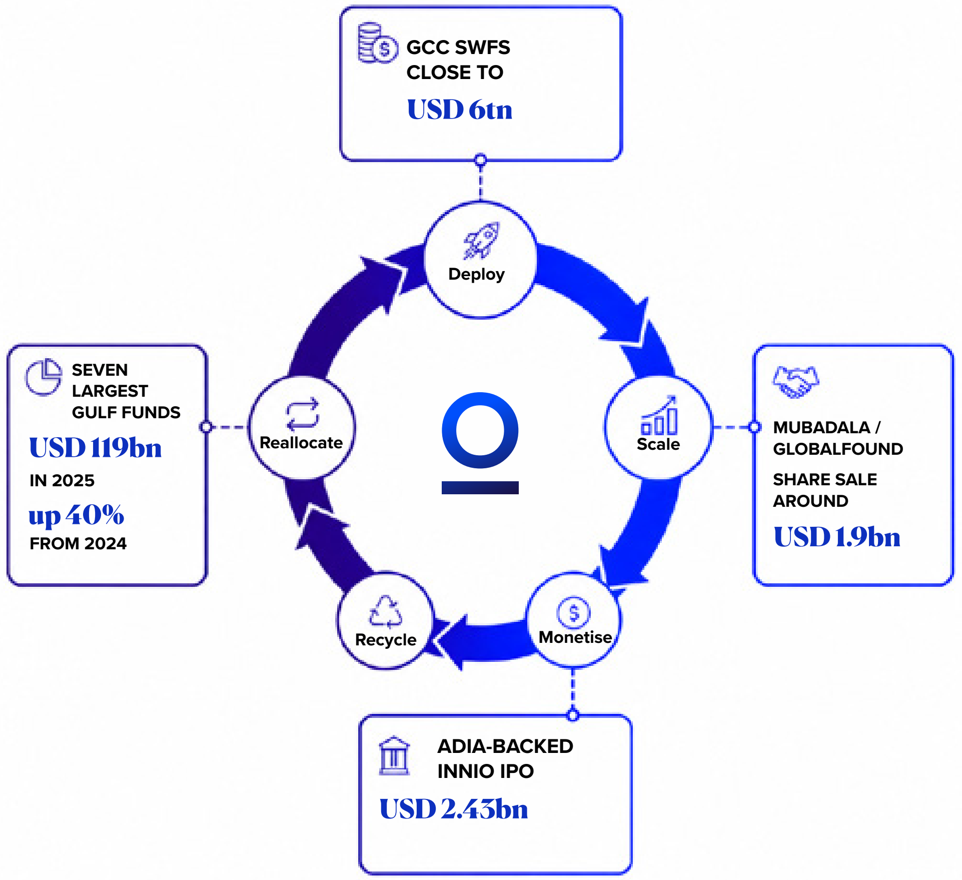
What to Take Away

AI should therefore be treated as a platform-readiness theme, not only a technology theme. The opportunity is not simply to track who is adopting AI, but to understand which markets can finance, power, govern, and scale the AI economy. For the UAE, the signal is clear: adoption, government execution, sovereign-backed capital, startup traction, compute capacity, and energy readiness are increasingly part of the same investment story.

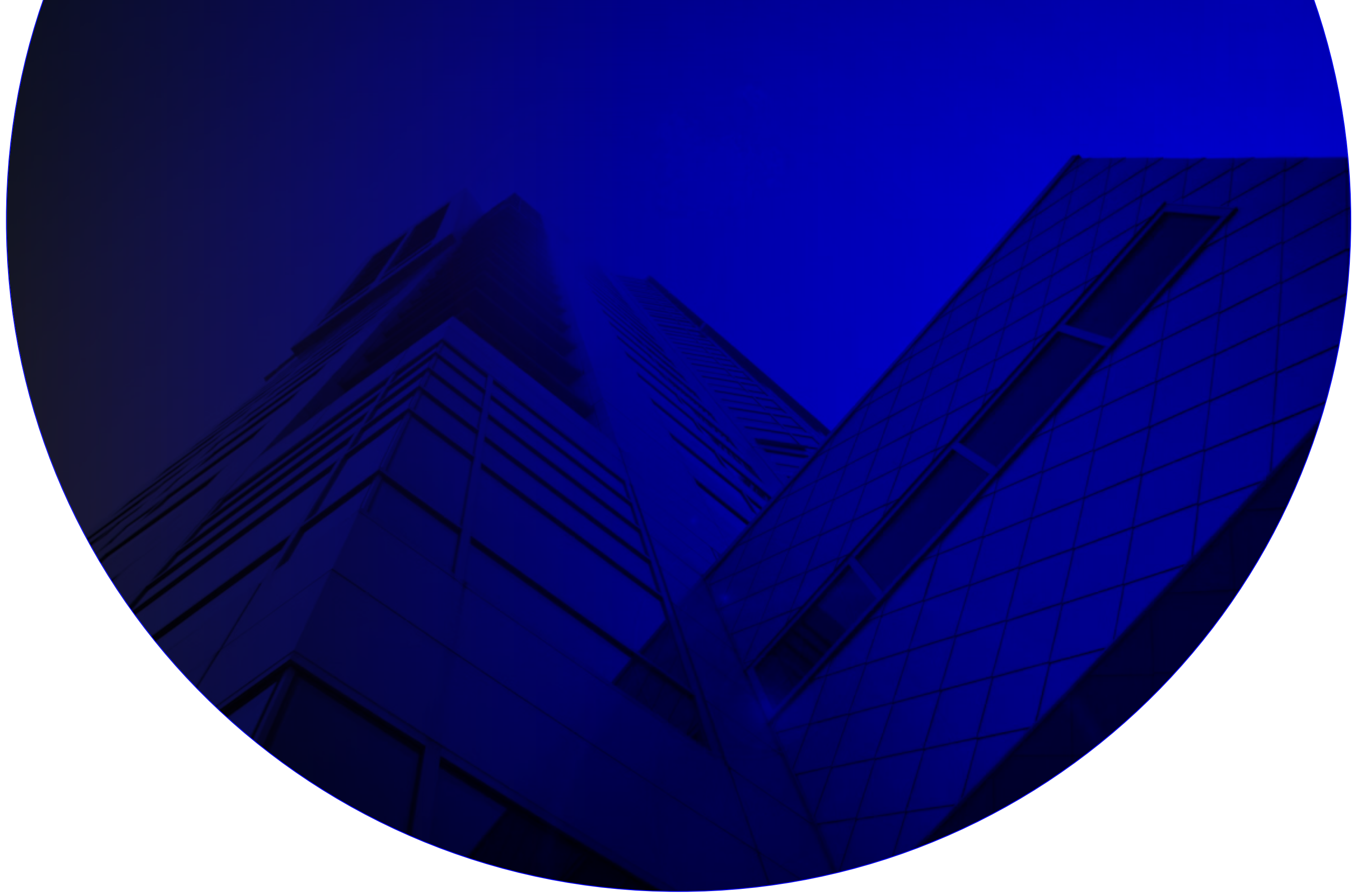
Sovereign Wealth & Global Capital Deployment

FROM CAPITAL DEPLOYMENT TO STRATEGIC RECYCLING

USD 1.9bn Mubadala / GlobalFoundries sale	Meaning: Sovereign capital is recycling gains from mature strategic assets
USD 2.43bn ADIA-linked Innio IPO	Meaning: Power and AI-enabling infrastructure are becoming monetisable capabilities
USD 6tn GCC SWF assets	Meaning: Gulf capital remains a structural force in global investment flows



Sovereign wealth was one of the quarter's clearest capital signals, but the story was not only about new deployment. It was also about **recycling, monetisation, and reallocating capital** toward sectors linked to AI, energy systems, critical enabling systems, and industrial competitiveness. Mubadala's USD 1.9bn GlobalFoundries share sale[23] showed how sovereign investors can realise gains from mature technology assets while maintaining exposure to strategic sectors.



Investopia Signal

Discussions around capital flows at Investopia Global - Milan framed sovereign wealth as part of a wider bridging system linking banks, corporates, public institutions, and long-term investors. The conclusion was that capital is no longer moving only toward incentives or short-term returns; it is moving toward **ecosystems that can deliver scale, stability, infrastructure, and strategic relevance.**

GCC SWF assets close to **USD 6tn**	Seven largest Gulf funds deployed **USD119bn**	Deployment up **40%**

The same logic appeared in ADIA's indirect exposure to Innio, the gas-engine manufacturer positioned around **power systems for data centres, microgrids, and AI-related energy demand.** Innio's USD 2.43bn US IPO[24] showed that public markets are willing to price infrastructure assets that sit behind the AI boom, not only the software layer. Together, these updates point to a more active sovereign capital cycle: **build exposure, scale platforms, monetise when markets open, and recycle capital into the next strategic layer.**

> "Capital must not only generate returns, but also support stability and competitiveness."

Mauro Micillo
Chief of IMI Corporate & Investment Banking Division at Intesa Sanpaolo

- Investopia Global Milan

What to Take Away

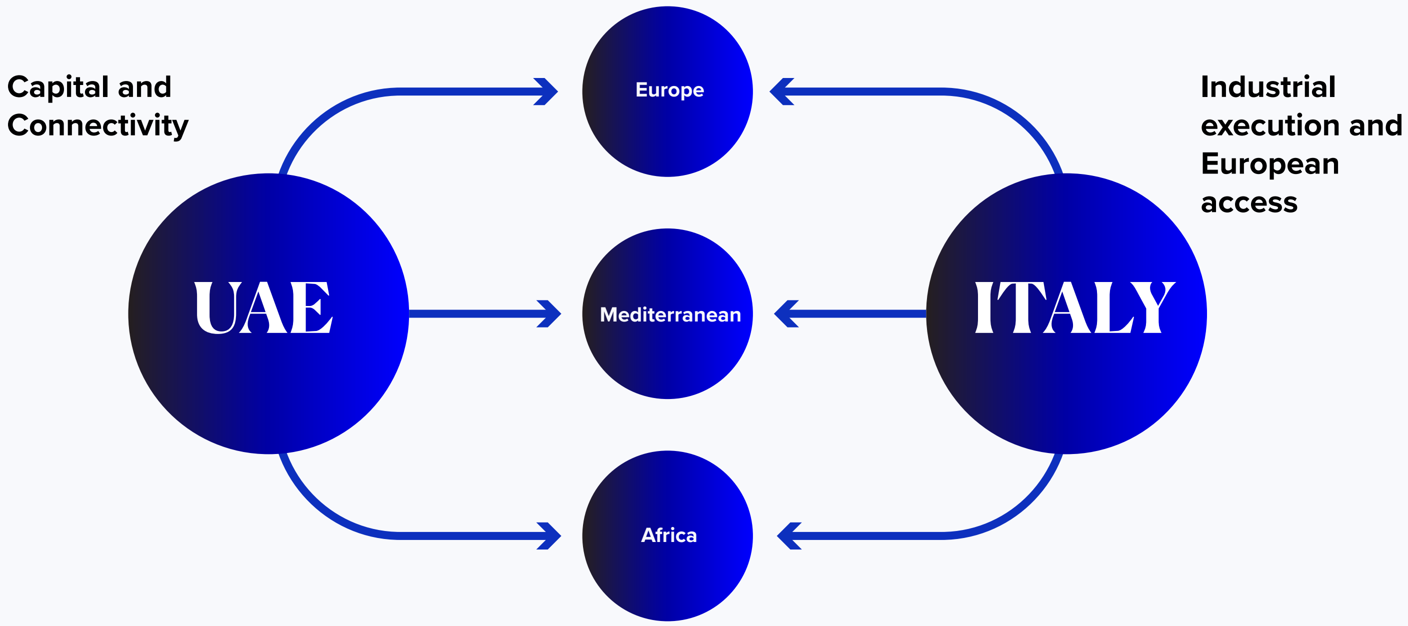
Sovereign wealth should therefore be treated as **strategic capital**. The opportunity is not only to track how much capital is deployed, but to understand how it **anchors strategic sectors, de-risks long-duration projects, mobilises co-investment, and converts bilateral relationships into investable pipelines.** For Investopia, this theme connects directly to AI capability, energy, logistics, industrial partnerships, and UAE-Europe / UAE-Africa corridor development.

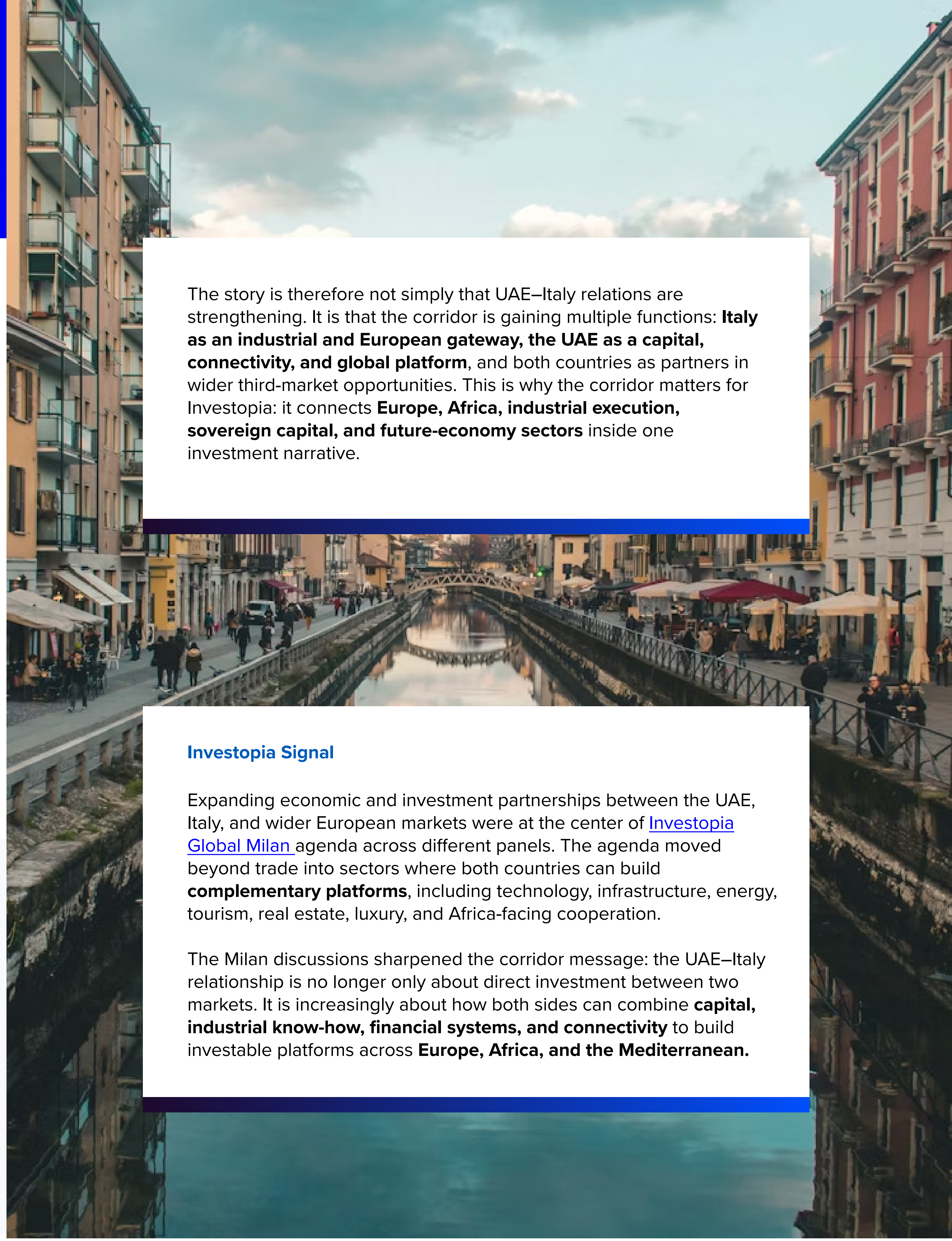
UAE-Europe / Italy Corridor

FROM BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP TO INVESTMENT PLATFORM

Nearly **4,900** Italian companies in the UAE	Meaning: The corridor is becoming commercial, not only diplomatic
USD 40bn UAE investment programme in Italy	Meaning: Capital is being directed toward strategic European sectors
UAE–Italy trade at **USD 16.3bn**	Meaning: The relationship has scale across business, investment, and people

The UAE–Italy corridor was one of the hot topics this quarter because as it is increasingly being framed as **a platform, not only a bilateral relationship**. The growth of nearly 4,900 Italian companies operating in the UAE[26] by the end of 1Q26, up 37% year-on-year26, shows that the relationship is being translated into a deeper commercial footprint. At the same time, the UAE's USD 40bn investment programme in Italy[25] gives the corridor a strategic capital layer across sectors such as AI, data centres, space, renewable energy, and advanced industry.





The story is therefore not simply that UAE–Italy relations are strengthening. It is that the corridor is gaining multiple functions: **Italy as an industrial and European gateway, the UAE as a capital, connectivity, and global platform**, and both countries as partners in wider third-market opportunities. This is why the corridor matters for Investopia: it connects **Europe, Africa, industrial execution, sovereign capital, and future-economy sectors** inside one investment narrative.

Investopia Signal

Expanding economic and investment partnerships between the UAE, Italy, and wider European markets were at the center of Investopia Global Milan agenda across different panels. The agenda moved beyond trade into sectors where both countries can build **complementary platforms**, including technology, infrastructure, energy, tourism, real estate, luxury, and Africa-facing cooperation.

The Milan discussions sharpened the corridor message: the UAE–Italy relationship is no longer only about direct investment between two markets. It is increasingly about how both sides can combine **capital, industrial know-how, financial systems, and connectivity** to build investable platforms across **Europe, Africa, and the Mediterranean.**

> “Our relationship is not limited to government-to-government cooperation. It is a partnership between businesses, entrepreneurs, innovators, investors, and people.”

H.E. Sheikh Shakhboot bin Nahyan Al Nahyan
Minister of State, UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs

- Investopia Global Milan

> “The multiplier effects are going to be the key to get big money and move the transformation in Africa.”

Admassu Tadesse
Group President and Managing Director at TDB Group

- Investopia Global Milan

What to Take Away

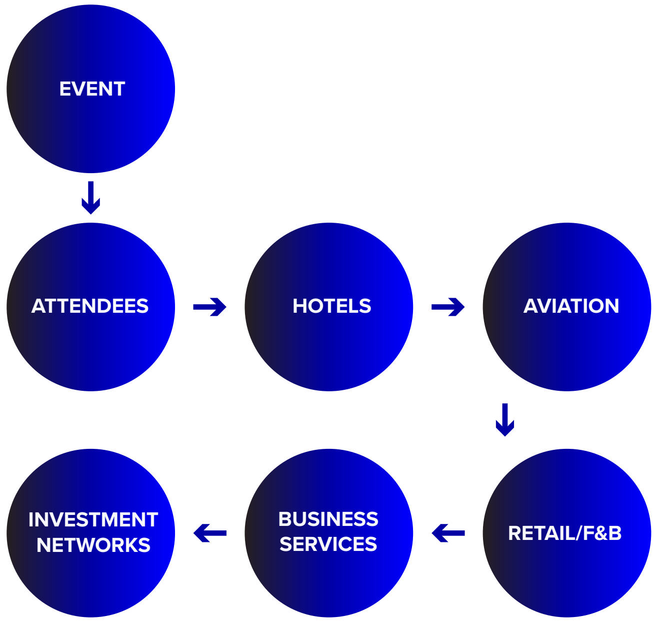
The UAE–Europe / Italy corridor should therefore be treated as a **multi-directional investment bridge**. The opportunity is not only to highlight bilateral momentum, but to show how **trade, companies, sovereign capital**, industrial capability, and third-market cooperation can be translated into investable corridors. For Investopia, Milan becomes a useful anchor for showing how dialogue can **connect capital with industrial execution** and expand the UAE's role as a bridge into Europe and Africa.

Tourism, Events & Experience Economy

FROM VISITOR FLOWS TO ECONOMIC SYSTEMS

AED 25.03bn DWTC economic output	Meaning: Events are becoming a measurable economic engine
USD 68.5bn UAE travel and tourism GDP	Meaning: Tourism is a core economic sector, not a supporting activity
95.2mn DXB passengers **19.59mn** Dubai visitors	Meaning: Connectivity is converting into destination demand

Tourism and events stood out this quarter because the story is no longer only about visitor growth. Dubai World Trade Centre generated AED 25.03bn in economic output in 2025[27], supported by **108 large-scale events[27]** and **2.18mn attendees[27]**. The signal is that events are becoming part of the economy's operating backbone, creating demand across hospitality, aviation, retail, business services, and investment networks.



The UAE's travel and tourism sector reached USD 68.5bn in GDP in 2025[28], while Dubai welcomed 19.59mn international visitors[29] and Dubai International handled 95.2mn passengers[30]. This shows how connectivity, destination-building, and business events are combining into a broader investment platform.

Investopia Signal

Conversations around tourism centred on how the UAE and Italy can turn travel, hospitality, culture, events, and real estate into a stronger investment corridor. The sessions positioned tourism as an industry that links visitor activity with employment, retail, cultural assets, and destination development.

> “Tourism is no longer only vacation. It is economy, employment, investment, infrastructure, and development. In one word, it is an industry.”

H.E. Gianmarco Mazzi
Minister of Tourism of Italy

- Investopia Global Milan

What to Take Away

Tourism and events should therefore be treated as **economic engines**. The opportunity is not only to count visitors or hotel rooms, but to understand how tourism platforms create downstream value across **aviation, hospitality, real estate, retail, culture, and business connectivity**. For Investopia, this theme links **destination-building with investment attraction**, and shows how events can turn cities into platforms for capital, partnerships, and future-economy dialogue.

Energy, Resilience & the New Energy Equation

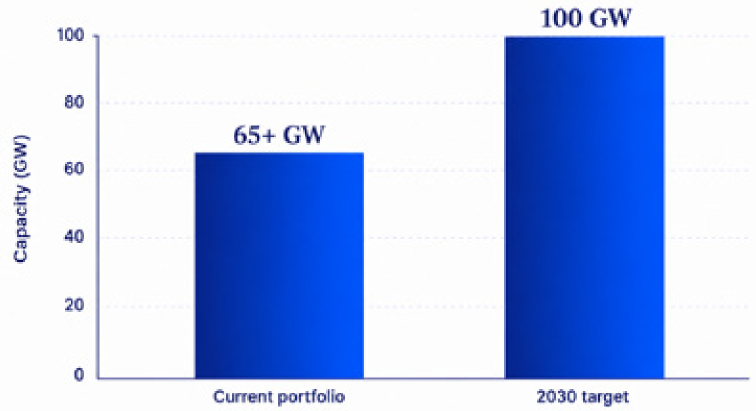
FROM ENERGY TRANSITION TO SYSTEM READINESS

970k bpd OPEC 2026 demand-growth forecast	Meaning: Energy demand expectations are being repriced
65GW+ Masdar portfolio / 100GW 2030 target	Meaning: Renewable capacity is scaling from ambition to platform depth
5.2GW Solar **19GWh** Battery project	Meaning: Storage and baseload renewables are becoming strategic infrastructure

The energy investment question this quarter was no longer only about transition. It was about **security, affordability, storage, and system readiness**. OPEC lowered its 2026 global oil demand-growth forecast to 970,000 barrels per day[31], signalling a more cautious demand backdrop, while geopolitical risk kept energy routes and supply resilience high on the investor agenda.

At the same time, the UAE's clean-energy platform continued to scale. Masdar now has a portfolio of 65GW+ and a clear path toward its 100GW target by 2030[32], while Abu Dhabi's round-the-clock renewable power project combines 5.2GW of solar capacity with 19GWh of battery storage[33]. The signal is that renewables are moving beyond capacity headlines into **dispatchable, storage-backed energy systems** that can support AI, electrification, industrial demand, and long-duration infrastructure needs.

Masdar Capacity vs 2030 Target (GW)



Investopia Signal

Energy systems are being resaped by the rising demand, geopolitical pressure, storage, grid modernisation and capital deployment across the value chain. The energy themed panel discussion at [Investopia Global Milan]framed energy as the backbone of the next economic cycle, not just as a single-sector transition story.

The discussion sharpened the message: **generation alone is not enough**. As renewable capacity grows, the bottleneck shifts toward **transmission, distribution, storage, and the ability to move power from where it is generated to where it is consumed**. This is especially relevant as AI and electrification increase demand for reliable, scalable, and lower-carbon power.

> "No matter how many power plants you build, you cannot get energy from generation to transmission to distribution to the end customer unless the whole value chain evolves."

Mazin Khan
CFO at Masdar

- Investopia Global Milan

What to Take Away

Energy should therefore be treated as **system foundation**, not only a transition theme. The opportunity is not only to expand renewable generation, but to build the full stack around it: **storage, grids, transmission, distribution, financing structures, and demand-linked platforms.** For Investopia, this theme connects directly to AI infrastructure, industrial growth, logistics resilience, capital deployment, and the UAE's role in building investable energy platforms for the next economy.

Capital Markets & Financial Connectivity

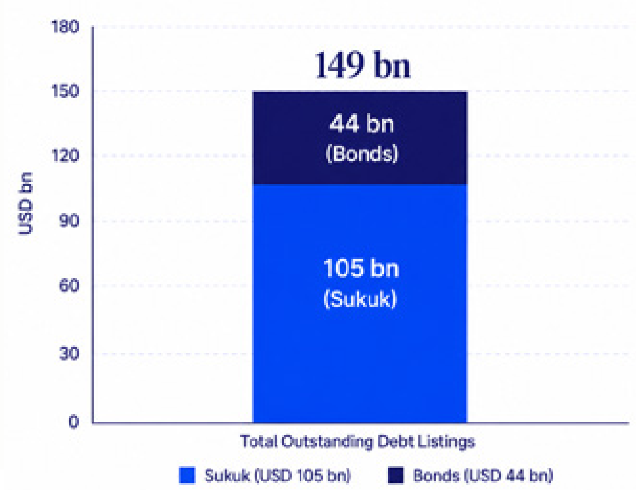
FROM MARKET ACCESS TO CAPITAL FORMATION

USD 8bn+ fixed-income listings in 1Q26	Meaning: UAE markets remain active funding platforms
AED 1.1bn Islamic Treasury Sukuk taps	Meaning: Dirham yield-curve development is deepening
DFM recognised by Switzerland's FINMA	Meaning: International market access is becoming more institutionalised

What became clear this quarter was that capital markets were evolving beyond simple fundraising activity. **Market development continued to deepen while capital became more selective.** Nasdaq Dubai recorded more than USD 8bn in fixed-income listings in 1Q26[34] across 18 listings[34], bringing total outstanding debt listings to USD 149bn[34], including USD 105bn in sukuk[34]. The signal is that the UAE's debt markets are not only supporting issuance, but building the scale needed for long-duration capital formation.

Outstanding Debt Listings | | NASDAQ DUBAI

Total outstanding debt listings (USD bn)



Q1 2026 FIXED-INCOME LISTING OVER
USD 8Bn

18
LISTINGS

SUKUK	YIELD CURVE	INTERNATIONAL ACCESS
AED 101 bn Islamic treasury sukuk taps	Dfm recognised by switzerland's finma as a foreign trading venue	Swiss instituations can access dfm through a regulated route

The domestic market layer also moved forward. Nasdaq Dubai welcomed AED 1.1bn of Islamic Treasury Sukuk taps by the UAE Ministry of Finance in April, supporting the development of the **dirham yield curve.** By June, Dubai Financial Market was recognised by Switzerland's FINMA as a foreign trading venue, creating a regulated channel for Swiss financial institutions to access DFM and allowing Swiss-incorporated equity securities to trade in Dubai. Together, these developments show that **financial connectivity is becoming part of the UAE's platform advantage.**

Investopia Signal

Capital-market discussions at Inevstopia's dialogue were framed around the role of financial systems in mobilising investment across corridors, sectors, and long-term strategic partnerships. The message was that capital does not move only toward returns; it moves toward markets with **growth, regulation, infrastructure, scale, and corridor access.**

The Milan discussion also linked the UAE's financial ecosystem to wider investment mobilisation. Banks, corporates, sovereign funds, and public institutions were presented as part of one capital-formation system, especially across sectors such as **energy, infrastructure, and digital transformation.**

> "The winners are markets that have growth, scalability, and access to corridors."

Rola Abu Manneh
CEO for UAE, Middle East and Pakistan
at Standard Chartered

- Investopia Global Milan

What to Take Away

Capital markets should therefore be treated as **strategic infrastructure**, not only a funding channel. The opportunity is not simply to track issuance volumes, but to understand how **fixed-income depth, sukuk infrastructure, market recognition, investor access, and regulated cross-border channels** support long-term capital formation. Tthis theme connects directly to corridor development, sovereign capital, infrastructure finance, and the UAE's role as a platform for regional and global investment flows.

Real Estate, Urban Growth & Human Capital Infrastructure

FROM REAL ESTATE AS ASSETS TO URBAN OPERATING PLATFORMS

AED 252bn Dubai real estate transactions in 1Q26	Meaning: Market depth remains strong despite a more selective environment
USD 55bn Emaar urban district	Meaning: Long-term urban confidence is still translating into large-scale development
AED 2bn expansion / 20,000 new seats	Meaning: Human-capital capacity is becoming part of the urban growth story

Real estate story was no longer only about property transactions. It was about **how cities scale as operating platforms.** Dubai's real estate market recorded AED 252bn in transactions in 1Q26[35], up 31% year-on-year[35], across more than 60,000 transactions[35]. The signal is that real estate remains a deep capital market, even as investors become more selective around timing, pricing, and delivery.

Large-scale development continued to reinforce that confidence. Emaar announced plans for a USD 55bn urban district in Dubai[36], covering **4.5mn sqm[36]** and designed to accommodate around 150,000 residents[36]. At the same time, the urban-growth story extended beyond housing and towers. GEMS Education announced an AED 2bn investment plan to add around **20,000 new student seats[37]**, showing that **education and livability, and social** infrastructure are becoming part of the same investment equation.

Investopia Signal

Investopia Global Milan witnessed a real estate discussion that revolved around framing the sector as cross-cutting market across hospitality, data centers, infrastructure, senior living, student housing, retail, offices, logistics, and residential platforms. The implies that real estate is no longer only about location or passive ownership; it increasingly requires **operators, services, connectivity, and long-term value creation.**

> "Real estate is no longer about investing in simple buildings; it is becoming operational."

Alberto Agazzi
Head of International, Generali Real Estate S.p.A.

- Investopia Global Milan

What to Take Away

Real estate should therefore be treated as an **urban operating engine**, not only an asset class. The opportunity is not simply to track transaction values or new projects, but to understand how **housing, education, hospitality, logistics, data centres, healthcare, mobility, and mixed-use districts** combine into investable urban platforms. For Investopia, this theme connects real estate with human capital, infrastructure, tourism, AI demand, sovereign capital, and long-term city competitiveness.

Macroeconomic Repricing & Operating Conditions

FROM GROWTH MOMENTUM TO SELECTIVE CAPITAL

2.5% global growth forecast for 2026	Meaning: The global backdrop is slowing and more shock-sensitive
MENAAP excluding-Iran growth at **1.8%** / GCC at **1.3%**	Meaning: Regional pressure is directly affecting operating assumptions
3.1% UAE GDP Growth Forecast | 2026 / **52.6** UAE PMI	Meaning: The UAE still shows domestic buffers, but resilience must be proven

Macroeconomic repricing stood out this quarter because the issue was not simply slower growth. It was **which markets can still deliver under pressure**. The World Bank's June 2026 Global Economic Prospects projected global growth at 2.5% in 2026, with risks tilted to the downside if energy disruption, financial-market stress, or policy uncertainty intensify. For investors, this changed the question from where growth exists to **where growth can withstand shocks.**

The regional picture sharpened that point. The World Bank's April 2026 MENAAP update projected growth across the region, excluding Iran, to slow from 4.0% in 2025 to 1.8% in 2026, while **GCC growth was revised down to 1.3%**. Against that backdrop, the UAE entered the quarter with stronger buffers: real GDP is expected to grow at 3.1% through 2026[3], while the UAE PMI remained expansionary at 52.6 in May[4]. The signal is balanced: the UAE is not insulated from global and regional pressure, but its **non-oil scale, infrastructure readiness, and capital depth** give it a stronger platform position.

Pressures	UAE Buffers
• Slower global growth • Energy disruption • Financial-market stress • Policy uncertainty	• Non-oil growth • Infrastructure readiness • Capital depth • Trade connectivity

Investopia Signal

Investopia Global Milan repeatedly emphasized trust, execution, predictability, and long-term partnership. Investors increasingly favor markets that combine growth with regulation, infrastructure, financing capacity, and credible delivery. Across Africa, logistics, AI, energy, tourism, real estate, sovereign capital, and UAE–Europe corridors, the message was consistent: capital is still moving, but toward platforms that reduce uncertainty and convert opportunity into execution.

What to Take Away

Macroeconomic repricing should therefore be treated as **the lens connecting all themes**, not only a standalone risk section. The opportunity is not to say that the environment became difficult, but to show how selective capital is being redirected toward **resilient corridors, regulated markets, scalable capacity, sovereign-backed platforms, and sectors with clear execution pathways.** This reinforces the platform's role in translating uncertainty into investable priorities.

03 INVESTOPIA PLATFORM UPDATES

“The UAE's economy is built on five decades of infrastructure and connectivity... The UAE is not just about investing in the UAE alone, but how we invest globally.”

H.E Abdulla Bin Touq Al Marri
UAE Minister of Economy and Tourism, Co-Chair of Investopia

“Investopia connects governments, investors, companies and institutions to translate strategic relationships into concrete business opportunities and long-term investment and partnerships.”

Dr. Jean Fares
CEO of Investopia

“The fourth edition of Investopia Europe in Paris reflects the depth of our commitment to strengthening dialogue with our European partners. Amid the rapid transformation of global markets, promising opportunities are emerging to deepen these ties across strategic sectors and create long-term economic value.”

H.E. Mohamed Abdulrahman Al Hawi
Undersecretatry, UAE Ministry of Investment, and Chairman of Investopia

INVESTOPIA
UPCOMING PLATFORM EVENTS

Investopia platform calendar
2026

INVESTOPIA ABU DHABI - BRIDGE EDITION

7 October 2026

Abu Dhabi, UAE

INVESTOPIA MEDITERRANEAN

22 October 2026

Athens, Greece

04 INVESTOPIA COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Critical Infrastructure and Continuous Care: Two Highlights from the Investopia Community

Dhow Engineering signs agreement to acquire ENGIE Cofely Solutions UAE

Dhow Engineering, a Strategic Partner of Investopia and a member of the Investopia Next50, has signed an agreement to acquire ENGIE Cofely Solutions UAE, marking a significant step toward building a fully integrated, technology-driven critical-infrastructure platform.

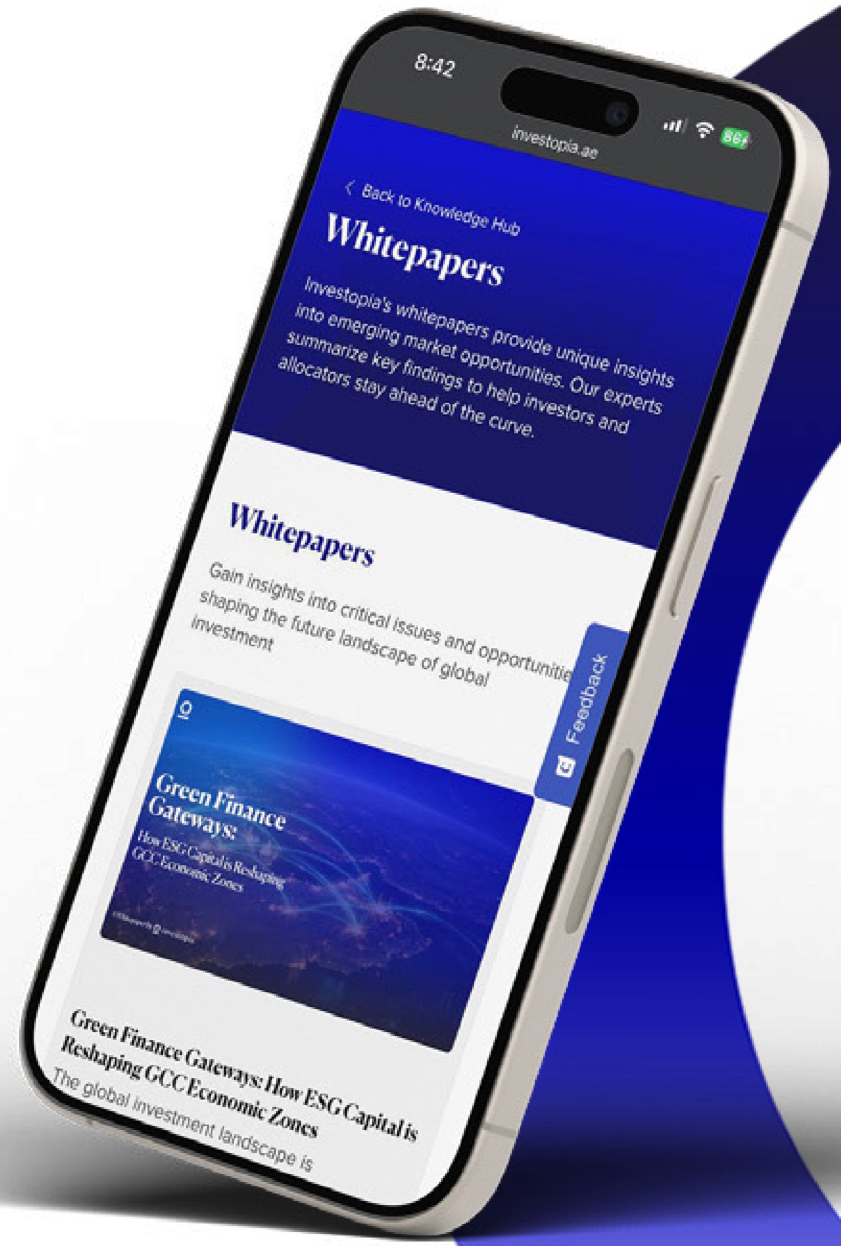
The acquired business is the UAE arm of ENGIE's regional facilities-management and energy-services operation, formed through ENGIE's consolidation of full ownership of the former Cofely BESIX Facility Management joint venture. It sits in the UAE market as a leading provider of complex technical-services and energy-efficiency solutions.

This transaction strengthens capabilities across critical sectors including energy, data centers, and large-scale infrastructure, while reinforcing confidence in the UAE's long-term growth story. At Investopia, we are proud to see our community driving impactful deals that shape the future economy.

Metabolic: redefining chronic disease management through continuous, integrated care.

Operating from the UAE and managing 2,310 patients across 11 clinical specialties, Metabolic delivers a hybrid model that integrates advanced diagnostics, AI-enabled decision support, continuous remote monitoring, and multidisciplinary clinical expertise inside a single governed care pathway. Its edge is evidence-led design: the research arm, GluCare, has produced 42 peer-reviewed publications validating outcomes across diabetes, obesity, and pre-diabetes, making Metabolic one of the only providers in the region where research is the engine behind clinical care rather than a byproduct of it. The company opened its second flagship Dubai facility in the past year and is preparing international market entry into the United Kingdom in 2026 and the United States in 2027.

05 INVESTOPIA READS



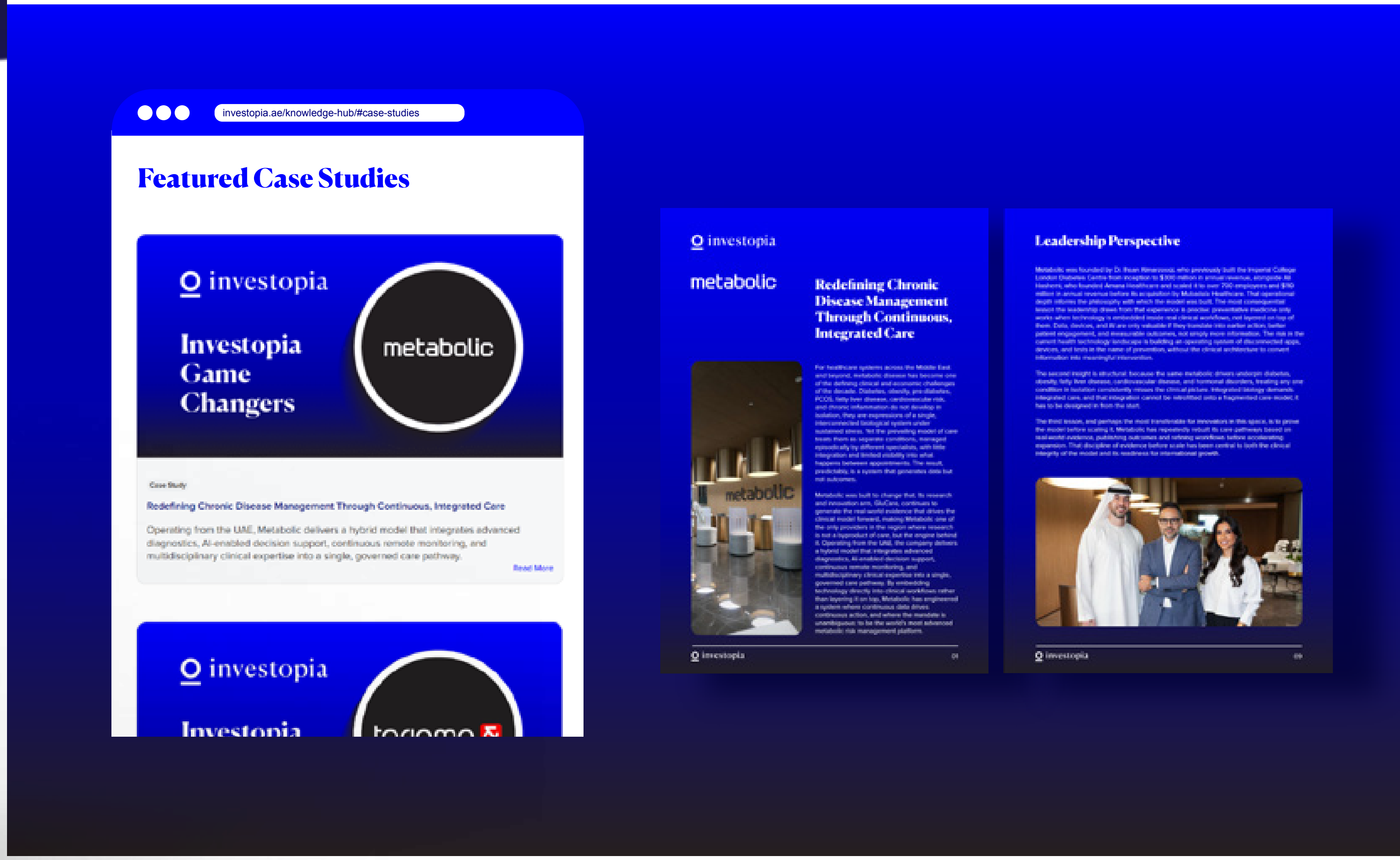
CASE STUDY

Metabolic Case Study

Redefining Chronic Disease Management Through Continuous, Integrated Care

Operating from the UAE, Metabolic delivers a hybrid model that integrates advanced diagnostics, AI-enabled decision support, continuous remote monitoring, and multidisciplinary clinical expertise into a single, governed care pathway.

[Read the full case study here]



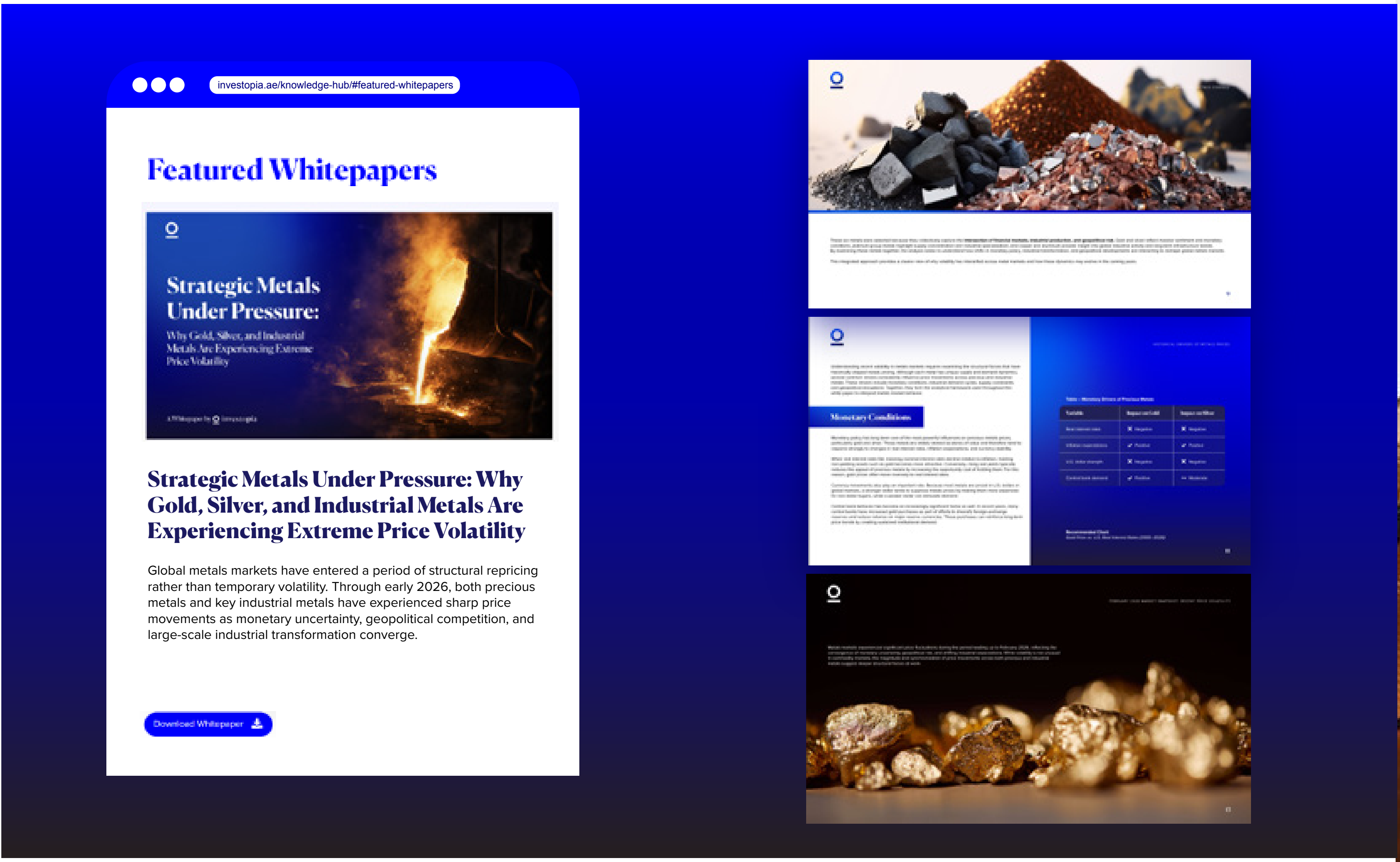
WHITEPAPER

Strategic Metals Under Pressure

Strategic Metals Under Pressure: Why Gold, Silver, and Industrial Metals Are Experiencing Extreme Price Volatility

Global metals markets have entered a period of structural repricing rather than temporary volatility. Through early 2026, both precious metals and key industrial metals have experienced sharp price movements as monetary uncertainty, geopolitical competition, and large-scale industrial transformation converge.

Read the full white paper here



Sources and Methodology

Reference Register

Methodology: Superscript numbers in the body and signal tables correspond to the numbered references below. Where multiple data points come from the same source, the same number is reused.

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