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Ibtechar signs deal with AI Crafters to accelerate AI adoption in Qatar

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IEA PREDICTION: Page 3

World oil demand to keep growing this decade despite 2027 China peak

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Moody’s affirms Commercial Bank rating at ‘A2’ with stable outlook

Global credit rating agency Moody’s has affirmed Commercial Bank’s long-term counterparty risk rating at ‘A2’ and deposit rating at ‘A3’ with a stable outlook. According to Moody’s, Commercial Bank’s ratings reflect the agency’s expectations that the bank’s capitalisation will gradually increase, and liquidity will remain steady which will balance asset quality pressure.

The affirmation is attributed to several key strengths, including the very high likelihood of support from the Government of Qatar, strong profitability and efficiency, healthy liquidity, and solid capital buffers. Commercial Bank Group Chief Executive Officer Joseph Abraham said: “Moody’s affirmation underscores the strength and resilience of our business model. It reflects our prudent risk management, systematic execution of our five-year strategic plan, and our continued commitment to delivering sustainable value for our customers and stakeholders.”

In addition to Moody’s latest ratings, Commercial Bank currently enjoys strong credit ratings from all the major agencies. Commercial Bank’s long-term rating is rated A by Fitch, and A- by Standard & Poor’s. Both ratings are with a stable outlook.

According to Moody’s, Commercial Bank’s ratings reflect the agency’s expectations that the bank’s capitalisation will gradually increase, and liquidity will remain steady which will balance asset quality pressure

Lebanon’s energy future seen to hinge on reform and private sector involvement

Lebanon’s new Minister of Energy and Water, Joe Saddi, outlined steps on how to rebuild his country’s faltering economy and energy industry during a candid and forward-looking conversation in the latest episode of the Al-Attiyah Foundation podcast.

In a wide-ranging interview, Saddi, a former Chair of Strategy& Middle East and a veteran of major regional privatisation efforts, outlined Lebanon’s pressing energy challenges and the ambitious steps being taken to rebuild a fractured system.

Speaking with host Nawied Jabarkhyl, the minister emphasised the need for institutional reform, transparency, and private-sector engagement to unlock investment and stabilise electricity supply.

“Lebanon has endured one of the most severe peacetime economic crises globally,” Saddi said. “But for the first time since 2019, we have a glimmer of hope. There’s a path, a tough path, but nevertheless there is path that if we follow, we should be able to get through the thick of it.”

At the heart of this transformation is the country’s electricity sector, which has long suffered from decades of underinvestment, regulatory stagnation, and chronic outages. Saddi described the absence of new power plant development over the last 15 years as a critical failure, compounded by ineffective governance. “Tens of billions of dollars were spent without a single new plant being built,” he stated. To rebuild credibility, Saddi is reviving long-dormant legislation, most notably Law 462, passed in 2002 but never implemented. This law calls for the unbundling of generation, transmission, and distribution, and the creation of an independent Electricity Regulatory Authority. He has prioritised the authority’s establishment, receiving over 340 applications for its five positions in a matter of weeks – signalling renewed public trust in energy sector reform.

The minister also spoke of major infrastructure upgrades, including the construction of at least one new power plant and modernisation of the national transmission grid, envisioning financing these initiatives through international and domestic private partnerships.

Renewables are also central to Lebanon’s energy vision, Saddi said and highlighted the untapped potential of solar energy and the pivotal role of regulatory reform in enabling utility-scale projects. “The next step is scaling up with large, grid-integrated projects,” he said.

Natural gas will also play a critical role in the energy transition. He confirmed efforts to secure floating storage and re-gasification units (FSRUs) and re-engage with regional pipeline infrastructure, while continuing exploration partnerships with companies such as TotalEnergies and QatarEnergy. Asked why investors should place faith in Lebanon now, Saddi pointed to a change in mindset: “Lebanon is back in a sense. The trust in the current government is the highest that it has been for the last 30 or 40 years in Lebanon.”

Qatar Airways retains Skytrax ‘Airline of Year’ title for record ninth time

Qatar Airways has again been named the ‘World’s Best Airline’ by Skytrax, retaining the top position for a “record” ninth time.

“This achievement reaffirms the airline’s steadfast commitment to delivering excellence across every touchpoint of the travel experience,” the national carrier said yesterday.

In addition to securing the airline industry’s highest accolade, Qatar Airways was also awarded ‘World’s Best Business Class’, ‘Best Airline in the Middle East’, ‘Best Business Class Airline Lounge’ (Al Mourjan Lounge – The Garden at Hamad International Airport) and Skytrax ‘Five-Star Airline’ recognition.

Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive Officer Badr Mohammed al-Meer said: “Being named the World’s Best Airline by Skytrax for the ninth time is an extraordinary honour. This recognition is far more than an award, it is a celebration of the passion, precision and purpose that defines who we are as an airline.

“To retain this title in a highly com-

“This achievement reaffirms the airline’s steadfast commitment to delivering excellence across every touchpoint of the travel experience,” the national carrier said yesterday.

petitive and ever-evolving global industry reflects the relentless efforts across every part of the business, from the frontline to behind-the-scenes, the passion and commitment of our people continue to set new standards in aviation.

“We are equally proud to have been named the Best Airline in the Middle East, to once again hold the title of the World’s Best Business Class, and to be

recognised for offering the Best Business Class Airline Lounge experience globally. These accolades reaffirm our ambition not only to lead, but to redefine what exceptional service means in aviation.

“Whether on the ground or in the air, we strive to deliver a seamless, elevated journey that anticipates the needs of our passengers and reflects the highest standards of quality, comfort, and innovation.

“Being continuously recognised as a Skytrax Five-Star Airline further underscores our mission: to set new benchmarks for the industry and to ensure that our passengers feel genuinely cared for, valued and inspired to return. These awards are not just wins for us, they are a tribute to the trust of millions of travellers who choose us every year and a clear validation of our vision to shape the future of air travel.”

Skytrax CEO Edward Plaisted said: “It is a fabulous achievement for Qatar Airways to win the World’s Best Airline title for 2025, the ninth time they have triumphed in the awards history. Qatar Airways achieved excellent results across many award categories, with their Business Class winning the World’s Best Business Class, and their Al Mourjan Garden Lounge named the World’s Best Business Class Airline Lounge. We congratulate Qatar Airways on these successes which should be a source of great pride and satisfaction for the airline management and staff.”

Joe Saddi, Lebanon’s Minister of Energy and Water.

Qatar’s economic risk levels consistently low; outlook steady: Oxford Economics

By Pratap John
Business Editor

Qatar’s overall economic risk is well below that of Mena and the country’s levels of risk are consistently low, according to Oxford Economics. Geopolitics aside, fluctuations in oil and gas prices have dampened the pace of domestic activity and the impact of the pandemic exacerbated this.

“But the government’s strong fiscal position compared with its GCC peers infrastructure spending, and ongoing benefits for public sector workers likely cushioned demand growth, helped by elevated oil and gas prices,” Oxford Economics noted.

According to the researcher,

Qatar’s overall economic risk score of 3.1 (ranked by Oxford Economics) is “well below” the Middle East-North Africa average of 5.2 and places Qatar 19th out of the 164 countries in its ranking.

The economy’s pace of growth has cooled since 2012, initially due to the moratorium on the North Field gas expansion, lower oil prices, and the associated fiscal austerity since 2014.

Although the economy contracted in 2019-2020, it surpassed its pre-pandemic level in 2022 as growth recovered solidly.

“The pace of growth eased in 2023 following the World Cup but is now picking up again, with a stronger rise expected in 2026-2027 as additional LNG capacity comes online,” Oxford Economics said.

The market demand risk score of 4.0 is below the Mena average of 5.5, reflecting Qatar’s high per capita income, large government reserves, and lack of overheating. The end of the GCC diplomatic dispute has supported demand, investment, trade, and project implementation, as well as the flow of people.

The market cost risk score is 4.0, below the regional average of 5.4, reflecting contained inflationary pressures, a credible US dollar peg, and extremely high GDP per capita. After inflation turned negative in 2020, it climbed to 2.3% in 2021 and 5% in 2022 amid rising global food and energy prices and increasing demand in the run-up to the World Cup.

Inflation subsided to an average of 3% in 2023 and 1.1% last year. But

the researcher thinks it will rise to 2% in the medium term.

Under Oxford Economics’ methodology, the exchange rate risk score is now 1.5, slightly up on six months ago but well below the Mena average of 4.1.

The Qatari riyal is pegged to the US dollar at QR3.64, and the researcher sees a negligible chance of de-pegging in the near to medium term.

The low risk score reflects the authorities’ long-standing commitment to the dollar peg, as well as large foreign exchange reserves.

Risk rose when the current account shifted into deficit in 2020. But the score improved in 2021 as the current account shifted back to surplus as exports recovered and oil and gas prices

rebounded from the 2020 lows. The surpluses have been wide since, firmly in double digits. The researcher projects a surplus of 16.4% of GDP this year, down from 17.4% last year.

Qatar’s sovereign credit risk score under the researcher’s data-driven methodology is 2.9, well below the Mena average of 4.7.

The score reflects high per capita incomes, large government reserves, strong external finances, and political stability, it said.

The budget deficit in 2017 was temporary, returning to a surplus in 2018, but began to narrow again in 2019 and, due to the slump in oil and gas prices, moved into a deficit of 2% of GDP in 2020.

The balance returned to a small surplus in 2021and has remained in positive territory since.

“We estimate a surplus of 2.8% of GDP this year, up from 0.7% in 2024, which marked the weakest annual outturn since 2021,” Oxford Economics noted.

The country’s trade credit risk – a measure of private sector repayment risk – is very low by regional standards at 3.0, compared with the regional average of 6.1.

“The main factors underpinning this rating are macroeconomic stability, the credible and well-established exchange rate regime, robust growth, extremely high GDP per capita, and a healthy, well-developed banking sector.

“Higher oil prices will likely support bank liquidity, despite rising exposure to construction and real estate and persistent foreign funding risk,” the researcher noted.

World oil demand to keep growing this decade despite 2027 China peak: IEA

Reuters
London

Global oil demand will keep growing until around the end of this decade despite peaking in top importer China in 2027, as cheaper gasoline and slower electric vehicle adoption in the US support consumption, the International Energy Agency said on Tuesday.

Despite seeing an earlier demand peak for China, the IEA, which advises industrialised countries, stuck to its prediction that global demand will peak by 2029. This view sharply contrasts with that of producer group Opec, which says consumption will keep growing for much longer.

Oil demand will peak at 105.6mn barrels per day (bpd) by 2029 and then fall slightly in 2030, a table in the Paris-based IEA's annual report shows. At the same time, global production capacity is forecast to rise by more than 5mn bpd to 114.7mn bpd by 2030.

A conflict between Israel and Iran has highlighted the risk to Middle East supplies, helping send oil prices up 5% to above \$74 a barrel on Friday. Still, the latest forecasts suggest ample supplies through 2030 if there are no major disruptions, the IEA said.

"Based on the fundamentals, oil markets look set to be well-supplied in the years ahead," said IEA Executive Director Fatih Birol in a statement. "But recent events sharply highlight the significant geopolitical risks to oil supply security," Birol said.

In a separate report on Tuesday, which included a commentary on the market impact of the Israel-Iran conflict, the IEA said the world market looks well supplied this year in the absence of a major disruption as growth in supply exceeds that of demand.

Global supply in 2025 will rise by 1.8mn bpd, up 200,000 bpd from last



Electric cars for export waiting to be loaded on the "BYD Explorer NO.1", a domestically manufactured vessel, at Yantai port, in eastern China's Shandong province. Global oil demand will keep growing until around the end of this decade despite peaking in top importer China in 2027, as cheaper gasoline and slower electric vehicle adoption in the US support consumption, the International Energy Agency said on Tuesday.

month, the IEA said. This is partly because Opec+, which groups the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries plus Russia and other allies, is raising output.

World demand in 2025 will rise by a much lower 720,000 bpd, the IEA said, down 20,000 bpd from last month's forecast.

After decades of leading global oil demand growth, China's contribution is sputtering as it faces economic challenges as well as making a big shift to EVs.

The world's second-largest econ-

omy is set to see its oil consumption peak in 2027, following a surge in EV sales and the deployment of high-speed rail and trucks running on natural gas, the IEA said. In February, it predicted China's demand for road and air transport fuels may have already peaked.

China's total oil consumption in 2030 is now set to be only marginally higher than in 2024, the IEA said, compared with growth of around 1mn bpd forecast in last year's report.

By contrast, lower gasoline prices and slower EV adoption in the US,

the world's largest oil consumer, have boosted the 2030 oil demand forecast by 1.1mn bpd compared with the previous prediction, the IEA said.

US electric vehicles are now expected to account for 20% of US total car sales in 2030, down from 55% assumed last year, the report said.

Since returning to office, US President Donald Trump has demanded Opec lower oil prices and has taken aim at EVs through steps such as signing resolutions approved by lawmakers barring California's EV sales mandates.

Airbus seals VietJet deal as hopes rise at air show for tariff rollback

Reuters
Paris

Airbus struck a deal with budget airline VietJet for up to 150 single-aisle jets at the Paris Airshow on Tuesday, where industry hopes for a return to tariff-free trade were given a boost by US Transport Secretary Sean Duffy. Duffy said he wanted civil aviation to return to a 1979 zero-tariff trade agreement, in one of the clearest signs yet that the Trump administration might favour such a move. However, Duffy added that while the White House was aware that the US is a net exporter in aerospace, it was also dealing with a complex tariff situation.

"Now, again, you look at what free trade has done for aviation. It's been remarkable for them. It's a great space of net exporters," he said. "And so the White House understands that, but if you go over there and you see the moving parts of what they're dealing with, it is pretty intense and it's a lot."

US President Donald Trump's sweeping 10% import tariffs are a headache for an industry already battling supply chain challenges and facing fresh turbulence from last week's deadly Air India crash and conflict in the Middle East.

In early May, the US Commerce Department launched a "Section 232" national security investigation into imports of commercial aircraft, jet engines and parts that could form the basis for even higher tariffs on such imports. Airlines, planemakers and several US trading partners have been lobbying Trump to restore the tariff-free regime under the 1979 agreement.

On day two of the air show, European planemaker Airbus signed a provisional deal for VietJet to buy 100 A321neo planes, with the option to buy up to 50 more in future. Vietnam's largest private airline operates an all-Airbus fleet, apart from two Chinese-made regional jets. The airline has not to date taken delivery of any of the around 200 MAX planes it has ordered from Boeing.

Airbus is the main supplier of jets to Vietnam, accounting for 86% of the planes currently operated by Vietnamese airlines. However, the export-dependent Southeast Asian country is under pressure from Washington to buy more US goods.

VietJet Chairwoman Nguyen Thi Phuong Thao said the scale of the airline's orders was backed by plans to develop a major aviation hub in Vietnam, which Airbus says has seen its aviation market grow by 7.5% a year. A deal for 150 A321neos could be worth around \$9.4bn, according to estimated prices provided by Cirium Ascend.

Weak US retail sales, manufacturing point to softening economy

Reuters
Washington

US retail sales dropped more than expected in May, weighed down by a decline in motor vehicle purchases as a rush to beat potential tariff-related price hikes ebbed, but consumer spending remains supported by solid wage growth for now. The largest decline in sales in four months reported by the Commerce Department on Tuesday added to moderate job growth last month in suggesting that domestic demand was softening. That was reinforced by other data showing production at factories, outside motor vehicle assembly, decreased in May. President Donald Trump's aggressive and often shifting tariff position has heightened economic uncertainty, making it difficult for businesses to plan ahead. Federal Reserve officials meeting on Tuesday and Wednesday are expected to leave the US central bank's benchmark overnight interest rate unchanged in the 4.25%-4.50% range while monitoring the fallout from the import duties and rising tensions in the Middle East. "Tariff announcements have had a clear impact on the timing of large-ticket purchases, notably autos, but there are few signs yet

that tariffs are leading to a general pullback in consumer spending," said Michael Pearce, deputy chief economist at Oxford Economics. "We expect a more marked slowdown to take hold in the second half of the year, as tariffs begin to weigh on real disposable incomes." Retail sales fell 0.9% last month, the largest decrease since January, after a downwardly revised 0.1% dip in April, the Commerce Department's Census Bureau said. The second straight monthly decline unwound the bulk of the tariff-driven surge in March. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast retail sales, which are mostly goods and are not adjusted for inflation, decreasing 0.7% after a previously reported 0.1% gain in April. They increased 3.3% year-on-year in May. Sales last month were also held down by lower receipts at service stations because of cheaper gasoline as the White House's protectionist trade policy has raised fears over global growth, restraining oil prices. But hostilities between Israel and Iran have boosted oil prices. A 25% duty on imported motor vehicles and trucks came into effect in April. Unseasonably cooler weather likely also hurt sales. Receipts at auto and parts dealerships tumbled 3.5%. Sales at building material and garden equipment and supplies dealers



The Federal Reserve building in Washington. Fed officials meeting on Tuesday and Wednesday are expected to leave the US central bank's benchmark overnight interest rate unchanged in the 4.25%-4.50% range while monitoring the fallout from the import duties and rising tensions in the Middle East.

dropped 2.7%. Receipts at service stations fell 2.0%, while those at electronics and appliance stores slipped 0.6%. Sales at food services, the only services component in the report, declined 0.9%. Economists view dining out as a key indicator of household finances.

But online sales jumped 0.9%, while those at clothing retailers increased 0.8%. Furniture store sales soared 1.2%. Sporting goods, hobby, musical instrument and book store sales advanced 1.3%. Retail sales excluding automobiles, gasoline, building materials and food services

increased 0.4% in May after an upwardly revised 0.1% fall in April. These so-called core retail sales, which correspond most closely with the consumer spending component of gross domestic product, were previously reported to have dropped 0.2% in April. Economists estimated that growth in consumer spending, which accounts for more than two-thirds of economic activity, was so far this quarter tracking at least a 2.0% annualised rate after slowing to a 1.2% pace in the first quarter. The Atlanta Fed is forecasting GDP rebounding at a 3.5% annualised rate in the second quarter. The anticipated surge will largely reflect a reversal in imports, which have fallen sharply as the frontloading of goods fizzled. The economy contracted at a 0.2% pace in the January-March quarter. Downside risks to consumer spending are, however, rising. The labour market is slowing, student loan repayments have resumed for millions of Americans and household wealth has been eroded amid tariff-induced stock market volatility. Economic uncertainty could lead to precautionary saving. "The outlook for consumer spending is cloudy," said Bill Adams, chief economist at Comerica Bank.

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Qatar bourse index loses 53 points; M-cap melts QR2.98bn

By Santhosh V Perumal
Business Reporter

Reflecting the increasing concerns of wider instability, the regional bourses were on a slippery path with the Qatar Stock Exchange (QSE), witnessing more than 88% of its traded stocks in the red.

The Arab individuals were seen net profit takers as the 20-stock Qatar Index lost more than 53 points or 0.53% to 10,411.41 points, although it touched an intraday high of 10,518 points.

The banks, real estate, telecom, consumer goods, transport and insurance counters witnessed higher than average selling pressure in the main market, whose year-to-date losses widened to 1.51%.

The foreign retail investors turned net profit takers in the main bourse, whose capitalisation shed QR2.98bn or 0.48% to QR613.52bn mainly on account of small and microcap segments.

The foreign institutions' weakened net buying had its influence on the main market, which saw as many as 0.02mn exchange traded funds (sponsored by AlRayan Bank and Doha Bank) valued at QR0.04mn trade across six deals.

The Gulf institutions' lower net buying also had its effect on the main bourse, whose trade turnover and volumes were on the decline.

The Islamic index was seen declining slower than the other indices of the main market, which saw no trading of treasury bills.

However, the domestic funds were seen

net buyers in the main bourse, which saw no trading of sovereign bonds and treasury bills. The Total Return Index declined 0.51%, the All Share Index by 0.57% and the All Islamic Index by 0.33% in the main market.

The banks and financial services sector index tanked 1.05%, realty (0.96%), telecom (0.86%), consumer goods and services (0.82%), transport (0.72%) and insurance (0.66%); while industrials gained 1.09%.

Major shakers in the main market include Medicare Group, Widam Food, Mannai Corporation, Qatar Oman Investment, Al Faleh Educational Holding, Doha Bank, Commercial Bank, QIIB, Qatar German Medical Devices, Qatari Investors Group, Qatar Electricity and Water, Aamal Company, Qamco, Ezdan, Barwa and Na-

kilat. In the venture market, Techno Q saw its shares depreciate in value.

Nevertheless, Industries Qatar, Me-saied Petrochemical Holding, Qatar Islamic Insurance, Estithmar Holding and Al Meera were among the gainers in the main market.

The Arab individual investors turned net sellers to the tune of QR14.93mn compared with net buyers of QR8.89mn on Monday.

The foreign retail investors were net sellers to the extent of QR6.47mn against net buyers of QR2.78mn the previous day.

The foreign institutions' net buying decreased substantially to QR13.69mn compared to QR37.36mn on June 16.

The Gulf institutions' net buying weakened perceptibly to QR3.81mn against QR8.36mn on Monday.

However, the domestic funds turned net buyers to the tune of QR15.61mn compared with net sellers of QR39.66mn the previous day.

The Gulf individual investors were net buyers to the extent of QR2.9mn against net profit takers of QR0.86mn on June 16.

The local retail investors' net selling shrank noticeably to QR14.6mn compared to QR16.87mn on Monday.

The Arab institutions had no major net exposure for the third consecutive day.

The main market saw an 11% contraction in trade volumes to 212.98mn shares, 12% in value to QR500.92mn and 26% in deals to 24,513.

In the venture market, a total of 0.04mn equities valued at QR0.1mn changed hands across 18 transactions.



Engineer Nayef al-Ibrahim, co-founder and CEO of Ibtechar, and Morad el-Mazyani, co-founder and CEO of AI Crafters, during the signing ceremony yesterday. **PICTURE:** Thajudheen

Ibtechar, AI Crafters sign strategic two-year deal to accelerate AI adoption in Qatar

By Peter Alagos
Business Reporter

Two companies specialising in innovation and digital technology signed a strategic two-year partnership yesterday aimed at empowering organisations with cutting-edge artificial intelligence (AI) solutions that support the country's AI strategy.

The agreement was signed by Engineer Nayef al-Ibrahim, co-founder and CEO of Ibtechar, and Morad el-Mazyani, co-founder and CEO of AI Crafters.

Addressing the media yesterday, al-Ibrahim said the collaboration will strengthen Ibtechar's current service offering by integrating AI-powered solutions, enabling organisations across Qatar to unlock the full potential of AI and implement it effectively to achieve their strategic goals.

Al-Ibrahim noted that the partnership comes at a "critical moment," as organisations here and abroad face growing challenges in integrating

AI into their operations. Recognising that large-scale AI adoption "is a daunting prospect," Ibtechar and AI Crafters are joining forces to ease this transition for organisations in Qatar, offering comprehensive support from foundational training to custom AI-engineering solutions, he said.

Al-Ibrahim said, "The strategic implementation of AI is driving transformation across economic and societal spheres. Our partnership with AI Crafters furthers our commitment to bringing world-class AI capabilities to Qatar.

"We're here to help organisations navigate AI adoption, develop new skills and capabilities, and build a resilient, future-ready workforce, contributing to Qatar's journey towards a more diversified and knowledge-based economy."

El-Mazyani said, "Qatar's commitment to innovation and AI makes it an inspiring place for us to contribute and grow.

This pivotal partnership with Ibtechar allows us to bring our expertise to a market that is actively

embracing AI transformation and to support the country's broader innovation agenda."

The partnership stipulates that Ibtechar will integrate AI Crafters' solutions into its existing services, enabling it to deliver an expanded range of AI-powered interventions, including AI upskilling, such as masterclasses, B2B corporate training, and specialised professional development courses designed to build capacity and advance AI skills within organisations.

Also included are tailored AI solutions like custom-built tools and experiences, such as the interactive AI Corner and supporting the strategic integration of AI into innovation labs and spaces.

The joint initiative directly supports Qatar's ambitious vision to transition into a diversified, knowledge-based economy, integrating AI into all sectors of life, governance, and business, as outlined in the National Artificial Intelligence Strategy, and in line with the Qatar National Vision 2030.

QFCRA participates in IOSCO-World Bank workshop in Morocco

The Qatar Financial Centre Regulatory Authority (QFCRA) took part in the recently held IOSCO-World Bank workshop on Sustainability Reporting Adoption Roadmaps, hosted by the Autorité marocaine du marché des capitaux in Rabat, Morocco. This programme is targeted at IOSCO's Growth and Emerging Market (GEM) membership and rolled out throughout the various regions with selected member jurisdictions.



Doha Bank wins 'Best Corporate Banking App – Qatar 2025'

Doha Bank has been named the winner of the Best Corporate Banking App – Qatar 2025 by the Global Banking and Finance Awards, in recognition of its cutting-edge Tadbeer Corporate mobile banking app.

The accolade reflects the bank's commitment to innovation, digitalisation, and exceptional client service in the corporate banking space.

The Tadbeer app is a next-generation mobile solution designed specifically for businesses, enabling real-time account management, approval of payments, access to corporate credit cards, and seamless execution of local and international fund transfers. Through intuitive design, advanced security features, and flexible access from both mobile and tablet devices, the app empowers corporate clients to take control of their finances anytime, anywhere.

"Receiving this prestigious award attests to the soundness of our strategy of delivering corporate banking solutions that combine innovation with practicality. Tadbeer Mobile is a testament to our efforts to enhance customer experience through secure, responsive, and accessible digital services tailored to the dynamic needs of businesses in Qatar and beyond," said Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Fahad bin Faisal al-Thani, Group chief executive officer of Doha Bank.

The award reflects the advancement Doha Bank has achieved in its ongoing digital transformation journey.

As part of its broader vision to become the bank of choice in Qatar, Doha Bank has consistently introduced industry-leading fintech features, including multi-factor authentication,



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tion, secure foreign exchange rate inquiries, and dynamic dashboards, all within a mobile-first environment.

"The development of Tadbeer Mobile reflects our deep understanding of our clients' priorities – speed, control, and security. We are proud to deliver a solution that helps businesses manage complexity with simplicity, while staying ahead of digital trends shaping the future of corporate banking," said Dimitrios Kokosioulis, deputy chief executive officer at Doha Bank.



QRDI Council's SBIG is now open for applications

Qatar Research, Development, and Innovation (QRDI) Council's 'Small Business Innovation Grant' (SBIG), a new national funding programme designed to empower small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Qatar to implement and transform innovative ideas into impactful solutions, is now open for applications.

Launched during Web Summit Qatar 2025, the SBIG programme provides phased funding to support the development and commercialisation efforts of innovative technologies, products, or services. The grant is part of QRDI Council's broader strategy to enhance the national innovation ecosystem and promote sustainable economic diversification, in alignment with Qatar's Third National Development Strategy (NDS-3). Applications for this grant are now open until August 4, 2025.

SBIG provides support in two distinct phases. Phase I focuses on early-stage innovation, offering funding for feasibility studies and proof-of-concept development over a 6 to 12-month period. Phase II builds on the outcomes of Phase I, providing additional funding over 12 to 24 months to support prototype testing, technological development, and the achievement of project readiness for marketing. The grant focuses on SMEs operat-



Qatar Research, Development, and Innovation Council's 'Small Business Innovation Grant' is now open for applications and will run until August 4.

ing in strategic sectors, such as medical and healthcare, logistics and transportation, smart cities, creativity, arts, tourism, and emerging digital technologies.

QRDI Council invites all eligible SMEs to utilise this opportunity to access non-dilutive funding and state-of-the-art innovation infrastructure in Qatar. The SBIG initiative reflects the QRDI Council's ongoing commitment to supporting homegrown innovators and driving knowledge-based economic growth in Qatar. For full details and to begin the application process, visit the Innolight platform or contact the QRDI Council directly.