





















# قطار مبادرة عالم رقمي "الإبداع.. طريقك للنجاح 2021" CWS يصل إلى جامعة الإسكندرية

## تذمية الابداع البوابة الملكية لخلق جيل جديد وتحقيق التذمية الاقتصادية

### عثمان 1.5 مليار جنيهه استثمارات نشر مراكز ابداع مصر الرقمية واقامة 17 مركز بالمحافظات

تحت إشراف شركة التكنولوجيا المتكاملة وكلفه 1.5 مليار جنيهه استثمارات نشر مراكز ابداع مصر الرقمية واقامة 17 مركز بالمحافظات

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### احمد حنفي : ديجيتال بلاتنس" تسعى لتأهيل الطلاب لاقناص الفرص بجمال أمن المعلومات

أحمد حنفي، رئيس مجلس إدارة شركة ديجيتال بلاتنس، أشار إلى أن سوق أمن المعلومات يشهد نمواً هائلاً، خاصة في ظل جائحة كورونا، مما يخلق فرصاً كبيرة للطلاب المهتمين بهذا المجال.

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### شاهي عبدالعليم : "iForce" برنامج ابتكاري من "جوبيا" لتعويض مشروعات التجارة الإلكترونية

أشار شاهي عبدالعليم، مدير عام شركة جوبيا، إلى أن برنامج "iForce" هو مبادرة مبتكرة لتعويض الخسائر الناتجة عن إغلاق مشروعات التجارة الإلكترونية خلال فترة الجائحة.

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### انيس مبعي ضروره اكتساب مهارات جديدة لتوكله التغيير في مسار العمل وطبيعة الوظائف

أكدت انيس مبعي، مديرة الموارد البشرية في شركة "Common Skills"، على أهمية اكتساب المهارات الجديدة لتتواءم مع متطلبات سوق العمل المتغيرة.

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### أوربت محمد : هناك تسمية الهزات الرقمية للطلاب من خلال برامج ومبادرات "IBM"

أكدت أوربت محمد، مديرة التسويق في شركة IBM، على أهمية البرامج والمبادرات الرقمية التي تقدمها الشركة للطلاب، خاصة في مجال تطوير المهارات الرقمية.

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### خالد حسن : الأفكار الابتكارية.. وريادة الأعمال الشفرة الذهبية لتحقيق النجاح

#### ومواكبة التطور العالمي

أكد خالد حسن، مدير عام شركة "Hida.gov"، على أهمية الأفكار الابتكارية وريادة الأعمال في تحقيق النجاح في سوق العمل التنافسي.

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### احمد ضاحي "tice" مبادرات لمساعدة الشباب تنمية مهاراتهم الفكرية مع التدريب على كيفية تطويرها

أكد أحمد ضاحي، مدير عام شركة "tice"، على أهمية المبادرات التي تهدف إلى تطوير مهارات الشباب الفكرية والعملية.

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### غادة الضباط : "الابتكار" يجب ان يرتبط بتطوير حلول جديدة للمشاكل المجتمعية

أكدت غادة الضباط، مديرة التسويق في شركة "IBM"، على أهمية الابتكار في تطوير حلول جديدة للمشاكل المجتمعية.

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الإبداع.. طريقك للنجاح 2021 - رائد السويدي، محمد الجوزي

من هنا لا يرسى ان واقع المحنت  
العلمي والتطويري في سوق العمل  
الفرص موزعة ماله لا يتكلمه  
وتمتددت الفرص وتوسعت الكيبريتا  
الفرص موزعة ماله لا يتكلمه  
وتمتددت الفرص وتوسعت الكيبريتا

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الإبداع.. طريقك للنجاح 2021 - رائد السويدي، محمد الجوزي











**NTRA issues the regulatory framework to provide Internet of Things services in Egypt's telecom market**

By : Basel Khaled - Mohamed Elkholy

The National Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of Egypt (NTRA) has issued the regulatory framework for providing Internet of Things (IoT) services in the Arab Republic of Egypt. IoT is actually deemed one of the most important mainstays of Industry 4.0, operating the major systems as well as digital services of smart cities including smart home, smart meter and smart transportation.

In addition, Meetings and hearing sessions are currently arranged by NTRA with a number of local as well as global organizations, operating in such a field, to figure out the best regulatory policies applicable in international markets as well as fitting Egypt's telecom market. Such a framework was actually prepared and approved to act as a regulatory tool facilitating IoT service providers in this field. Moreover, it aims to support the State future plans to establish further smart cities.



Eng. Hossam El-Gamal, the Executive President of NTRA, has declared that the new regulatory framework aims to polarize investments to establish IoT networks and sophisticated app platforms.

It also helps with enforcing the State's policy of Industry 4.0 and foster digital information through establishing a large number of sophisticated systems, operated via IoT technologies, across the different sectors of State. These technologies would also contribute to mechanizing business cycles and providing sophisticated e-services to citizens.

Such a framework seeks to allow creating a number of modern smart systems in smart cities and communities. It also helps with the transformation from traditional to modern smart systems to expedite and facilitate the process of e-service provision. It's worth noting that IoT services is a terminology indicating any equipment interconnected via telecom networks, where data are exchanged to fulfill the requirements and needs of citizens in all life aspects. IoT apps are also diversified according to different aspects of usage including end-user, commercial and industrial, infrastructure as well as government activities.

**EGYPTIAN B2B FASHION MARKETPLACE GABEZ RAISES \$2 MILLION PRE-SEED**



By : Mohamed Shawky - Mohamed Hainy  
Egyptian ecommerce startup, Gabez, has announced a \$2 million pre-seed investment led by Disruptech Ventures, with participation from Egypt Ventures, the Afropreneur fund, EFG Hermes, Tamaynah and undisclosed angel investors.

Launched as recently as 2021 by Wael Olama and Mohamed El-Zahaby, Gabez specialises in fashion, acting as a B2B marketplace to connect retailers and manufacturers, while making the online trading cycle more efficient and effective. Using a data-driven approach, Gabez looks to cure the many obstacles present in procurement and production selection, while offering on-credit facilities to aid in the collection process, and even handles retailers' cash transactions with suppliers through third-party aggregators.

**TENCENT GAMES AND KRAFTON, INC. SCORE A LEGAL VICTORY AGAINST PUBG MOBILE CHEATERS**



By : Wael Elhoseny - Mohamed Elkholy  
Federal Courts in the United States and Germany have ruled in favor of Tencent Games and KRAFTON, Inc. in their cases against members of a hacking group. In a decisive triumph of the defendants' activities of creating and distributing hacks and cheats that provide their users an unfair advantage when playing PUBG MOBILE, the defendants are ordered to pay Tencent Games and KRAFTON around \$ 10 million (U.S. dollars) in damages.

recovered funds in further development of anti-cheating technology in PUBG MOBILE. These rulings are not only a resounding win for Tencent Games and KRAFTON but for the broader video game industry and its collective battle against illegal hack and cheat creators. "Millions of players worldwide enjoy PUBG MOBILE and we will ensure a level playing field for everyone. Sadly, the actions of hacker groups undermine the fairness of the game. These Judgements send a clear message that we will not tolerate cheating in PUBG MOBILE," stated Rick Li, Producer of PUBG MOBILE, Tencent Games.

**Third Cohort of 'Google for Startups Accelerator: MENA' welcomes 11 rising startups**

By : Bakimam Khaled - Mohamed Elkholy

Google welcomes the latest startups selected for the third cohort of 'Google for Startups Accelerator Middle East and North Africa', a three-month digital accelerator program for top Seed to Series A technology startups based in the region. The startups were selected based on the major problems they are solving and how their products create value for users, in addition to their willingness to use Machine Learning technology to solve business challenges and successfully scale in the long run.



Here are the 11 technology startups that have been selected for the third cohort of the Accelerator - five of which are either women-led or women co-founded businesses: Jumlaty (Saudi Arabia): An online app that delivers groceries and household products in bulk for the lowest prices. MindTales (UAE): An online platform that helps diagnose, monitor and manage mental health. Omnia (Saudi Arabia): Quick-Commerce Operations Platform for retailers and dark-store operators to ship online orders in minutes from existing retail stores.

**During the World Youth Forum : Huawei Showcases its Vision on the Future of Technology and Digital Transformation in Africa Post Pandemic**

By : Wael Elhoseny - Nahla Malked  
Huawei, the world pioneer in information and communication technology solutions, participated in a round table entitled "The Future of Technology and Post-Pandemic Digital Transformation", conducted within the 4th edition of the World Youth Forum that is held from 10-13 January 2022 in Sharm El-Sheikh under the auspices of H.E. President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt. The round table shed light on the role of technological advancement in exposing and combating the challenges of the pandemic in various areas.

highlighting the Egyptian strategic partnerships for promoting digital transformation in light of Egypt Vision 2030. "Sustainable development can only be done if we managed to use ICT effectively, and education is the key to doing so. We are keen to invest in human resources especially young people to digitally empower and prepare them for the labor markets in the future as new ICT-related jobs will appear. We doubted the allocated budget to human development, targeting a huge package of training programs. One of those programs is: Huawei ICT talent bank (ITB), through which we targeted to train and upskill 10,000 trainees in the most advanced fields and technologies. This cooperation is of great value to us, we hope to continue our cooperation with Huawei as our plan targets



200,000 trainees," Dr. Talast said. Presenting Huawei's vision for the future of the technology, Mr. Philippe Wang - Executive Vice President Huawei - Northern Africa, participated in the round table, highlighting the company's efforts to support digital transformation strategies, in Africa. Mr. Wang tackled the technological infrastructure and its impact on digital transformation and sustainable development strategies and their post-pandemic challenges in Africa and developing countries, in addition to the factors influencing the formation of the digital future in Africa.

opened countries, to achieve sustainable development. "My participation in this round table at the World Youth Forum is a great opportunity to exchange expertise in the field of ICT. It also opens the door to tackle the methods to maximize the potential of Africa and help it utilize its diverse resources. We, at Huawei, are keen to empower the African young people through our training programs that target developing the youth skills and bridge the gap between education and the labor market in various ICT areas, to advance Africa's digital transformation to achieve sustainable development. This comes as part of Huawei's efforts to digitally empower Africa and bridge the digital divide," Mr. Philip Wang said.

**LG WORLD PREMIERE AT CES SHOWCASES TODAY'S INNOVATIONS FOR A BETTER TOMORROW**



By : Basel Khaled - Nahla Ahmed  
At CES 2022, LG Electronics (LG) is presented its vision for an enhanced lifestyle and a better future for all. Hosted by LG CEO William Cho, LG World Premiere will introduce the company's diverse innovations for the new year and detailed its continuous efforts to create a more inclusive user experience and sustainable future. LG's theme for CES 2022, The Better Life You Deserve, emphasizes LG's ultimate goal to elevate all aspects of daily life through technological and design innovation. This vision is brought to life through three short films: A Better Life for You, A Better Life for All and A Better Life Tomorrow.

LG's concept of the upgradable appliance is the focus of the first short film, A Better Life for You. With enhanced abilities to learn and evolve to better meet the needs of users' individual lifestyles, LG's upgraded ThinQ platform empowers compatible products with even more features to deliver additional conveniences in 2022. A Better Life for You shows how advancements in LG's entertainment solutions are delivering a more personalized, interactive experience to viewers enjoying content on larger screens at home. Audiences were introduced to LG StudioYME, a wireless private mobile wireless display that goes anywhere in the house to deliver the ultimate viewing experience of a traditional TV. Also making their worldwide debut, LG PuriCare™ AeroTower is an all-in-one home air care solution designed to deliver the benefits of an air purifier, fan and heater while the LG titanium indoor gardening appliance offers a simple, clean and reliable way to grow healthy greens all year round.



**Citi Launches Sustainability-Linked Supply Chain Financing in Algeria**

By : Nahla Malked - Bakimam Khaled  
Algeria - Citi has launched its first Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Sustainability-linked Supply Chain Finance (SSCF) program in Algeria with the aim of supporting clients as they advance their ESG priorities, improve the resilience of their supply chains and manage their working capital needs. Supply Chain Finance (SCF) programs benefit companies and their suppliers as they optimize their working capital positions respectively. In using Citi's SCF program, for example, the bank would provide financing to a client's suppliers from the date of collection of specific goods/provision of services to the date on which payment is owed to these suppliers. The cost of this financing is borne by suppliers at a rate lower than their usual cost of funds. As a result, suppliers benefit from cash flow acceleration, quicker payment, and improved financing costs.



## TIDA Collaborates with CBI to Help Egyptian IT SMEs Increase Outsourcing Exports to Europe

By: Mohamed Elkholy - Basel Khaled  
The Information Technology Industry Development Agency (TIDA) announces an open call for applications for supporting the exports of Egyptian IT Outsourcing SMEs to the European market program, offered by the Centre for the Promotion of Imports from developing countries (CBI) of The Netherlands' Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The 3-year program aims to support Egyptian ITO SMEs in their export journey to the EU by offering technical assistance through a practical business export coaching project. The program also prepares Egyptian companies with the skills and knowledge needed to enter the European market.

The beneficiary SMEs will receive 3 years of company coaching provided by international and local experts, and assistance with the creation of an international market strategy. Additionally, the program will provide guidance, advice and coach-



ing the companies on the type of certification suitable for their market entry strategy. It will also help improve the company's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), in addition to offering market orientation support, and finding export business opportunities. TIDA CEO, Amr Mahfouz said: "CBI's export coaching program is among a set

of actions that help achieve our ambitious strategy, aiming at tripling the size of Egypt's BPO and ITO exports over the next five years."

The program targets small or medium-sized enterprises (SME) and Women-led companies in Egypt that offer Information Technology Outsourcing (ITO) services, interested in an improved market position in the EU, and want to contribute to an enhanced ecosystem for SMEs, Mahfouz explained.

CBI detailed a number of requirements for applying companies including that the SME must be at least 50% or more locally owned or has a local management structure, and that the SME employs at least 10 FTEs and maximum of 250 FTEs.

SMEs applicants should also have been active in the ITO industry for at least 3 to 4 years, have no joint venture with a company based in a non-developing country, and no licensing commitments that prohibit or limit the export of products to

the European Union. Management of applying companies should also be able to communicate in English. The deadline for completing the application form is 31 January 2022.

CBI is to finance most project costs. Participants will only bear the cost of travel expenses for European market entry activities; investment in product offers, employees, and certification.

The program comes within the framework of the cooperation agreement signed by the Centre for the Promotion of Imports from developing countries (CBI) of The Netherlands' Ministry of Foreign Affairs with The Information Technology Industry Development Agency (TIDA), the Chamber of Information Technology and Communications (CIT), Etesal Association and Nile University, to launch its comprehensive program to develop the export capabilities of the Egyptian IT SMEs.



By: Pause, play.

By Utkarsh Pandey, category manager, Middle East, Dell Technologies.

## fast forward: It's more than just a game

In early 2020, as the world around us came to an abrupt halt, there was one sector that found itself catapulted on to the center stage.

With limited mobility and more time on their hands, across the globe more people were reaching for the joystick - some even for the first time - making the gaming industry one of the fastest-growing forms of entertainment over the last 24 months.

Today this thriving, mega-dollar industry is emerging to be a gamechanger and shaping a future that is both inclusive and rewarding.

Pause. A Window to an Inclusive World  
Many took to gaming to connect with the outside world. As anxious, communities and social gathering were put on pause, gaming offered a window to another world. Some approached it to support their physical and emotional well-being, others reached out to pass the time or learn a new skill, some simply to remain connected and be a part of a lively community. The uncertain pandemic timeline brought many first-timers to the gaming field and helped the industry grow in leaps and bounds.

This growth and transformation of the industry has resulted in a new gamer profile, breaking the old myth that the players are primarily males and are isolated from a social life. Today there are no gender or age barriers to becoming a videogame fanatic and more people are playing to relax, for entertainment and to reduce stress.

For instance, a global report from Alienware and Researchscape titled, 'State of Gaming' showed that most gamers are dynamic and balanced. The players don't just focus on playing at a high level, but also give priority to relating with other players. One out of every four gamers surveyed have made new friends (26%), have gotten closer to friends who play (25%) and have made close ties through videogames (25%), proving that videogames can unite people in an incredibly unique way.

Play. Dynamic Industry Growth  
In the Middle East, the gaming culture is constantly growing and is proving to be an important market for this segment. The sector is expected to grow at a CAGR of 12.1% between 2021-2026, according to market estimates with KSA, UAE and Bahrain emerging as top markets for gamers and streamers. The local gaming and eSports community also continues to proliferate with homegrown streamers who have garnered loyal fans and built a close-knit group of dedicated subscribers. In the YouTube gaming world, UAE and KSA rank among the top 10 global markets with a highly engaged audience comprising both men and women across age groups.

This fervor and appetite for localized content can be further witnessed in the number of dedicated industry events taking place annually, including Middle East Games Con, Dubai Girls Games eSports Festival and Insomnium Gaming Festival. As the industry expands, one can expect many more regional gamer and streamer talents to emerge alongside tailored Arabic gaming content designed specifically for the region.

Fast Forward: Game Loading...  
So, how is the sector which shape shifted, especially in the last 24 months, going to evolve in the coming years? The industry is expected to move further and turbocharge its growth in the near future.

With around 70% of the Middle East population under the age of 30 years and with approximately 100 million gamers in the Middle East, the industry is expected to go mainstream and see its usage moving beyond virtual gaming rooms and into classrooms, businesses, and eventually define the future of work.

Gaming in education will help address learning difficulties, support collaboration and build truly impactful inclusive knowledge-sharing environments. Over the next decade, organizations will empower workers by cultivating real-time collaboration practices that are embedded in gaming, coding and distributed communities. Skills such as strategic thinking, hand-eye coordination, response time, teamwork and leadership capabilities, honed through gaming, will be highly regarded in the professional world.

Locally, coding gaming technologies will not only open job opportunities in a digital economy but also nurture aspiring young talent and future global champions. Furthermore, this widespread usage will also see the sector tapping into fast growing technologies such as 5G, Edge, cloud computing and AI and ML. With the amount of data generated, gaming will become a significant user of these technologies. From the latest processors to powerful discrete graphics cards, they make every experience more intense and real. Today, gaming laptops and desktops can render the incredible visuals that many modern games are known for. However, new games are constantly pushing the envelope when it comes to beauty and complexity and cutting-edge gaming requires cutting-edge machines that are engineered with the specific, demanding needs of the gaming industry in mind.

The future for gamers is here. The stereotype we once had about gamers is now in the past. Today a gamer is dynamic, social, and successful. And just like the adrenaline-packed videogame technology, the regional player's profile is continually innovating - and 'loading'.

## International start-ups to compete in \$600,000 Rocket Fuel Start-up Pitch Competition at LEAP22

By: Basel Khaled - Nahla Ahmed  
Start-ups from around the world are being invited to go head-to-head to win a share of a USD \$600,000 prize fund at the Rocket Fuel Start-up Pitch Competition, and to pitch their businesses to powerhouse VCs and leading international investors.

The competition will be held as part of LEAP, the world's largest debut technology event, which will take place in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in February 2022.

Entries are now open for the Rocket Fuel Start-up Pitch Competition, which will challenge start-ups in a pitch contest to find some of the most exciting and impactful new businesses from around the world. Ninety start-ups will be invited to pitch their business ideas live on stage during LEAP on 1st and 2nd February.

The finalists will have just five minutes to present their best pitches to a panel of international and local investors during LEAP, and convince them that they have what it takes to be one of the top 10 businesses who will go into the Grand Final on



3rd February. These 10 best entrepreneurs will then get another chance to showcase the merits of their businesses, scored on creativity, innovation, potential, functionality and impact on people and society. The winner will be presented with the LEAP Award for the strongest, most outstanding start-up across the whole competition, and will be awarded the grand prize of \$200,000. The finalists will also compete for three other awards, including The Shooting Star Award for best early-stage start-up, which

will win \$100,000; the Aviatric Award for best female-led start-up; and the Technology for Humanity Award for the start-up that best embodies the spirit of LEAP "Technology for Humanity". The winners of these awards will each receive a prize of \$150,000.

LEAP has assembled a world-class judging panel of celebrity investors and business leaders to assess the Rocket Fuel Pitch Competition contestants and put them through their paces. The panel will include: Steven Bartlett, businessman, speaker, investor and content creator, best known for the BBC's 'Dragons' Den; Baroness Karen Brady, business executive and television personality; James Can, entrepreneur and television personality; Kelly Hoppen, interior designer, author and entrepreneur; Michael Salgado, retired Real Madrid footballer and celebrity investor; Dr. Nabeel Koshak, CEO and board member of the Saudi Venture Capital Co., a prominent Saudi academic, entrepreneur and angel investor, and Hattan

Ahmed, Director of Entrepreneurship at King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST)

"Innovation and entrepreneurship are at the core of the technology sector, so it is fitting that the Rocket Fuel Start-up Pitch Competition will recognize some of the best start-ups worldwide as part of LEAP. Saudi Arabia is developing its own booming start-up ecosystem, supported by the Saudi government and private investors, and we look forward to welcoming outstanding international start-ups to join us in Riyadh for LEAP," said H.E. Eng. Hattam Al-Ahali, Vice Minister at Ministry of Communications and Information Technology. LEAP is the largest debut technology event in history, taking place from the 1st - 3rd of February 2022 in Riyadh, and is set to become a truly global platform for the entire innovation ecosystem, connecting pioneers and disruptors with business and government leaders, entrepreneurs, investors and more to experience and learn about the technologies of the future.

## US-BASED REEF TO LAUNCH CLOUD KITCHENS IN MENA WITH AMERICANA GROUP

By: Wael ElHosny - Mohamed Halmy  
Considered the largest operator of delivery kitchens, logistics and proximity hubs in North America, US-based REEF is set to team up with the region's largest F&B operator, Americana Group, to launch cloud kitchens that will operate REEF, Americana and third party brands across MENA.

The joint venture will strengthen REEF's global expansion, which saw progress in the region in November 2021, when the company acquired

UAE-based cloud kitchen company iKcon, its first venture in MENA.

REEF boasts a proximity ecosystem of over 8,000 locations and a team of over 18,000. The company has partnered with several international brands to spread its cloud kitchens. For REEF the MENA region's F&B offers a unique opportunity.

"By uniting the region's largest and most established F&B operator with REEF's culinary ecosystem, this partnership will bring convenient access to some of the most loved brands to neighborhoods across the Middle East and North Africa," said Michael Beacham, President of REEF Kitchens. "Americana is renowned for their outstanding operations and a deep commitment to quality. We look forward to an enduring partnership and helping to build the future of the industry together."

They couldn't have found a better partner than Americana Group, which owns exclusive franchise rights for the management and operation of over 1,950 restaurants, including KFC, Pizza Hut, Hardee's, Krispy Kreme, Wimpys, and TGI Fridays, in 13 markets across MENA.

## Two information days announced for INVESTMED grant scheme to support entrepreneurship

By: Bakimam Khaled - Wael ElHosny  
Two upcoming information days will answer questions and respond to potential applicants to the INVESTMED sub-granting programme.

Grants are available for start-ups and Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs), and for Business Support Organisations (BSOs), aiming to support entrepreneurship and growth in the key sectors in the Southern Mediterranean.

Online events on 27 January (BSOs) and 1 February (MSMEs) will present the full details of both programmes and everything applicants need to know, including the chance to ask specific questions or raise concerns.

Businesses and business support organisations working in the blue economy, green economy, or cultural and creative industries in Egypt, Lebanon and Tunisia are encouraged to apply - full details are available for MSMEs and here for BSOs.

To sign up for the info days, follow INVESTMED on Twitter at @InvestmedPA

## EGYPT'S MONEYFELLOWS TO BRING DIGITAL 'GAM'EYA' TO GOVERNMENT SECTOR

By: Nahla Maked - Mohamed Elkholy  
Egyptian fintech, MoneyFellows, has partnered with e-Cards, a subsidiary of government backed digital payment specialist, e-Finance, to provide facilitated financing solutions for beneficiaries of government and union pensions, as well as state-provided cash support programmes.

As one of the leading fintechs in Egypt, MoneyFellows has found incredible success in taking money circles (or gam'i 'eya) into the digital world, giving users a chance to pool their money into a single fund, with one member withdrawing the lump sum every rotation.

Founded in 2014 by Ahmed Wadi, the startup will now be able to serve a wider range of Egyptians through its partnership with e-Cards, taking Egypt another step towards wider financial inclusion.

"It makes us extremely proud to be able to extend our products and services to millions of Egyptians, empowering them to achieve their financial goals," said Wadi. "Tapping into the governmental sector through this partnership is a welcome challenge to prove our commitment



and efforts playing our part for financial inclusion and empowering better economic well being."

In e-Cards, MoneyFellows has a partner that, with almost two decades of experience, offers a wide range of integrated and end-to-end smart solutions, such as multi-application EMV cards, utility cards, transportation solutions, digital identity solutions and digital KYC solutions.

## UiPath spokesperson: Ashraf El Zarka Position: VP of Middle East and Pakistan, UiPath

By: Bakimam Khaled - Wael ElHosny  
Ashraf El Zarka is VP of Middle East and Pakistan at UiPath, a leading enterprise automation software company. In his role, he will drive UiPath's growth strategy in the region focusing on supporting customers on their automation journey and on nurturing and strengthening the partner ecosystem. A software professional with more than 25 years of experience, Ashraf joined from Oracle, where he spent the past 10 years managing and growing teams across different regions across the MEA, most recently from the position of Cloud Tech-



nology Lead for Gulf States. Previously, he held various regional roles with Cisco and EMC.

With a long-standing passion for the transformative power of technology and its potential to bring value to organizations, Ashraf holds a degree in Computer engineering from the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (AAST MT). In addition, he has successfully completed the Accelerated Executive Insight (AEI) program jointly conducted by the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business and IESE.

## Egypt: iHERITAGE launches a call for action for the development of ICT products for UNESCO World Heritage Sites



By: Mohamed Elkholy - Basel Khaled  
CEBEA, the Confederation of Egyptian Business Associations and the Egyptian partner in the iHERITAGE

project, is announcing a call for action for research institutions to provide the scientific research needed to develop prototypes of the following ICT solutions to enhance the access to the Pyramids of Giza and the Grand Egyptian Museum. For each ICT product, the research shall build the technologies and technicalities, historical periods and settings depicted (landscape, etc.), human costumes, appearances, and so on to create panoramas of the past in Virtual, Augmented, and Mixed Reality. Interested institutions are kindly requested to submit their offer to info@cebea.org no later than 30 January.

iHERITAGE's objective is to support technological transfer and commercialisation of new AR/VR (Augmented Reality/Virtual Reality) tools aimed at enhancing the access to Mediterranean UNESCO cultural heritage through augmented and immersive experiences, by creating cross-border living labs for research and innovation.

## KSA'S FOODICS ANNOUNCES FULL ACQUISITION OF JORDAN'S POSROCKET

By: Mohamed Shawky - Nahla Maked  
Saudi Arabia's leading foodtech startup, Foodics, has announced the full acquisition of POSRocket, a Jordanian company that sits as the second largest restaurant cloud technology provider in the region.

Founded in 2014 by Khobar-based entrepreneurs, Ahmad Al-Zaimi and Musab Al-Othmani, Foodics enables restaurants and F&B businesses to undertake a number of different tasks - including managing schedules, sales, inventory and timesheets - with an iPad-based POS system.

With the acquisition giving Foodics full ownership of POSRocket, it will allow the startup to consolidate a market that has looked to dominate regionally, while taking market leadership positions in Egypt, Kuwait, Oman and, of course, Jordan.

The acquisition has been communicated by Foodics as its first, suggesting that the startup could look to this method of expansion moving forward, as it looks to expand beyond the region.



