



ASTROLABS EXPANDS, LAUNCHING SECOND DUBAI TECH HUB

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AstroLabs officially opened its second Dubai coworking space today, more than doubling its capacity to host technology entrepreneurs from around the world. AstroLabs Dubai Lakeside is located in DMCC's vibrant Jumeirah Lakes Towers district of Dubai, next door to the original Parkside location.

"We decided to expand after seeing the local and international demand for a collaborative coworking community in Dubai. Today we host 130 technology companies run by founders from 38 countries and look forward to welcoming many more," said AstroLabs Founding Partner, Muhammed Mekki.

Besides adding desk capacity, the newly opened Lakeside location gives the community access to nine more meeting rooms, a second member's cafe, and several lounge areas. With floor-to-ceiling glass overlooking a lake, the ground-floor space is filled with natural light throughout the day.

AstroLabs is part of the Google for Entrepreneurs partner network, enabling members to work from over 20 hubs around the world and engage with Google expert mentors who regularly visit.

Connor Swenson, Partnerships Manager at Google for Entrepreneurs, said: *"AstroLabs has played a leading role in developing the startup ecosystem across MENA and we're excited to see their continued expansion. At Google, we know that innovation is thriving everywhere, not just in Silicon Valley. Startups are today's engines of progress, creating the opportunities and the jobs of the future. We care about progress, and we know that it takes help. Google for Entrepreneurs provides the resources, support, and international connections to help startups succeed. We're proud to continue supporting AstroLabs and enabling their community to go global and build companies we hope will change the world."*

Entrepreneurs setting up their companies at AstroLabs benefit from fast and affordable licensing through the DMCC, the world's leading Free Zone for commodities trade and enterprise. Global entrepreneurs accepted at AstroLabs can establish 100% foreign owned companies in this tax-free environment.

“This is an exciting moment for the technology ecosystem in Dubai and will come as great news to the growing number of innovative start-up companies and entrepreneurs looking to bring their ideas to life in the city,” said Ahmed Bin Sulayem, Executive Chairman, DMCC.

“DMCC has a longstanding relationship with AstroLabs, we understand their mission and have supported its growth since 2015. The collaboration works precisely because DMCC provides the business-friendly environment and modern infrastructure that enables start-ups to focus on their project, move quickly and make a real impact. We are proud to serve this special group of creatives and welcome the expansion of AstroLabs in DMCC. We also look forward to facilitating AstroLabs’ growing contribution to the Dubai economy and its long-term ambition to rank among the smartest cities in the world,” Bin Sulayem added.

In addition to coworking spaces, AstroLabs operates a specialized academy for digital and entrepreneurial skills across the Middle East. AstroLabs Academy powers regional incubators and accelerators with in-house developed curriculum and expert instructors, runs corporate training programs, and offers many open enrollment classes in Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

AstroLabs has already seen many of its alums including Deliveroo, Eventtus, Justmop, and Trukker expand into larger offices, raise venture capital, and make a substantial mark on the technology ecosystem.

About DMCC

Headquartered in Dubai, DMCC is the world’s most interconnected Free Zone, and the leading trade and enterprise hub for commodities. Whether developing vibrant neighbourhoods with world-class property like Jumeirah Lakes Towers and the much anticipated Uptown Dubai, or delivering high performance business services, DMCC provides everything its dynamic community needs to live, work and thrive. Made for Trade, DMCC is proud to sustain and grow Dubai’s position as the place to be for global trade today and long into the future.

www.dmcc.ae

About AstroLabs

AstroLabs runs collaborative coworking spaces that serve as a launchpad for top technology companies to establish a presence in Dubai and scale up globally. AstroLabs Academy designs and delivers specialized courses on topics in digital and entrepreneurship. To learn more, visit astrolabs.com or follow @AstroLabsME on Twitter.

About Google for Entrepreneurs

Google for Entrepreneurs provides financial support and the best of Google's resources to dozens of coworking spaces and community programs across 125 countries. Google for Entrepreneurs also creates Campuses: physical hubs where entrepreneurs can learn, connect,

and build companies that will change the world. To learn more about Google for Entrepreneurs, visit google.com/entrepreneurs or follow on Twitter (@GoogleForEntrep).