



DMCC makes history with 'Global Free Zone of the Year' Award for third year running

- *Financial Times' fDi Magazine awards Dubai's DMCC its highest accolades, the Global and Middle East Free Zone of the Year Award*
- *DMCC won additional awards for SME, Smart City Strategy, Thought Leadership and other bespoke initiatives*

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[DMCC](#), the world's leading Free Zone for trade and enterprise in Dubai, has been named Global and Middle East Free Zone of the Year 2017 by Financial Times' fDi Magazine. This is the third year in a row it has earned the award.

DMCC has established world-class infrastructure, products and services to anchor Dubai's position as a leader within the global commodities sector and international trade. This award recognises the [Free Zone](#) for its sustainable growth, strong customer service, innovation and global thought leadership drive.

Ahmed Bin Sulayem, Executive Chairman, DMCC, said: *"Shaping the future of trade, DMCC has emerged as a major contributor to Dubai's economy over a 15 year period. Our growth will continue with several new strategic initiatives on the way, including our new district, Uptown Dubai. Winning 'Global Free Zone of the Year' for the third year in a row is an honour and a tribute to the over 13,700 companies which make up the DMCC Free Zone and contribute to our success every day, driving the next wave of growth and innovation."*

DMCC was also presented with Global and Middle East Free Zone of the Year for SMEs as well as a range of awards for Facilities Upgrades, Legal Support, Smart City Strategy, Red Tape Reduction and Thought Leadership.

"Despite ever-tougher competition, DMCC continues to stand out from the crowd and is our choice as the world's top Free Zone for the third year running. DMCC's state-of-the art facilities, which are being added to all the time, combined with its location at the heart of the world's most dynamic investment destinations, Dubai, and the vast array of services offered to its fast-growing list of member companies continues to make it an enviable site for investors to locate. But not content to rest on its laurels, DMCC is keeping at the forefront of technology and pioneering the use of electronic signatures and other services that save member companies time

and hassle. We believe the already strong DMCC offer is becoming even more compelling through such developments and applaud the Free Zone's management for success in our awards", said Courtney Fingar, Editor-in-chief of fDi Magazine on behalf of the judging panel.

Gautam Sashittal, Chief Executive Officer, DMCC, said: *"To be ranked number one out of 60 free zones around the world is a significant achievement and affirms that the DMCC Free Zone provides a truly connected marketplace enabling progressive companies to trade with confidence and grow their businesses."*

Initiatives and Achievements

The [DMCC Free Zone](#) added 2,016 new members in 2016 and over 600 in the first half of 2017. It has delivered an annual average growth rate of 33% in the last ten years.

In Dubai, more multinational companies were moving to the DMCC Free Zone than ever before. The development is strategically located in the heart of new Dubai, has a choice of 66 commercial and residential towers with over 600 retailers, all in close proximity to international airports and ports.

As for its customer service and smart technology drive, DMCC launched a [Business Apps Manager](#), a first of a kind suite of connected apps in the region developed for its member companies. This was completed in conjunction with AstroLabs Dubai, the only Google tech hub in the MENA region, which is in the DMCC Free Zone. It also expanded the DMCC Disputes Centre, added training courses for legal and tax laws, introduced the Energy Club and Food Trade Group and became a founding member of Dubai's Global Blockchain Council.

DMCC has begun to roll out its Smart District project. Centred on four strategic themes: mobility, community, sustainability and productivity; it launched a host of physical and digital initiatives to enable its community of over 92,500 individuals and 13,700 companies to connect, trade and flourish. The Free Zone is now as paperless as possible, with company formation and licensing fully digital including ePay and eSignature capabilities. This is a global first amongst Free Zones.

fDi also hailed DMCC for its flagship report on '[The Future of Trade](#)' which generated over 8,500 downloads by providing a view of how 'The Future of Trade' will unfold over the next ten years by building on insights shared by 150 experts across five continents over a twelve month period.

DMCC also unveiled its Thought Leadership programme, [Connected Thinking](#) at the start of 2017 designed to connect people and industries across the globe through monthly thought provoking reports that explore themes such as Brexit, Blockchain, VAT introduction, Gold Trade and Food Sustainability.

Most recently DMCC also announced that construction works have commenced on its new premium district, '[Uptown Dubai](#)', and that phase 1 with more than 2 million sq/ft of LEED Gold certified development will be underway by year's end.

A market-maker for global trade and enterprise with a mandate to facilitate trade through Dubai and to connect new markets and more established markets, DMCC provides all of the products, services, physical and financial infrastructure business makers need to trade with confidence.

www.dmcc.ae

About DMCC

Headquartered in Dubai, it 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, 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.

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About fDi Magazine Methodology

The methodology used by fDi Magazine was extensive with just over 60 applicants from free zones, government and investment promotion bodies submitting a short survey detailing their offer. The independent judges and FT specialist editorial team used a weighting scorecard system to adjudicate, with an emphasis placed on the core growth of free zones over the last 12 months, both in terms of tenants and increase in square footage. In addition, the team looked at key initiatives available within the free zones and implementation of new initiatives which are on offer to tenants.