





Sharjah FDI Office (Invest in Sharjah) is Sharjah's investment promotion agency and a strategic partner for global investors looking to grow their business in the emirate.

As Sharjah investment promotion agency, we are committed to guiding foreign investors to the tremendous opportunity and potential Sharjah offers. Our vision is to inspire businesses by building on the strong foundations of Sharjah's sustainable growth and economic diversification.

### We offer Investors:

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Expert market knowledge and intelligence



Access to investment opportunities across a range of sectors and industries



Bespoke advice and stepby-step guidance



Aftercare services



Invest in Sharjah facilitates the investment process by fostering close collaboration between the public and private sector. By bringing investors and opportunities together, we fuel growth and prosperity, and we streamline an end-to-end solution to investing in the emirate.

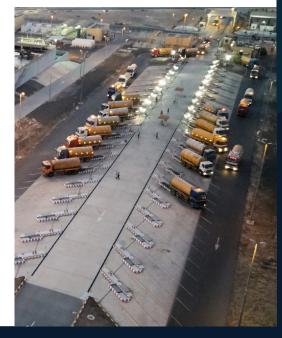


We are a passionate and ambitious team dedicated to opening doors and guiding your success. We are here and ready to support you to achieve your plans and ambitions in Sharjah and realise your investments in the emirate.

# Advanced Manufacturing: Building The Future



Sharjah's Advanced Manufacturing sector has several distinctive advantages: the emirate is an ultraconnected transport hub, it is home to extensive research and development facilities across both academia and industry, and the emirate facilitates a thriving industrial sector. The emirate is known for embracing new technology and innovation, and offers 0% income tax.





Income tax

As a result, Sharjah has long been a leader in light manufacturing, including growing textiles, plastics, paper, and food processing. The emirate is now emerging as a leader in advanced manufacturing including drones and precision defense products, as well as additive manufacturing, better known as 3D printing.



Sharjah's government invests heavily in supporting industry; 43% of Sharjah's budget was allocated for developing and upgrading its infrastructure in 2021. The emirate's business environment is competitive; industrial activity in the emirate benefits from relatively low operational costs, estimated by some businesses to be 25-30% lower than neighbouring emirates.



16.3% OF GDP BASED ON INDUSTRY MANUFACTURING



150,000 EMPLOYEES IN THE EMIRATE'S INDUSTRIAL CITY



62%

OF INDUSTRIAL HUBS DEDICATED
TO EBELGUT FORWARDING



33 INDUSTRIAL ZONES

Sharjah exports vast quantities of electrical goods and machinery each year. Manufacturing contributes 16.5% to Sharjah's GDP, and is the emirate's second-largest sector. With a rich and dynamic value-chain, there are abundant opportunities for investors in Sharjah's manufacturing sector.

# A Unified UAE Strategy For Promoting Industry

As well as significant investments by Sharjah's government, the federal government has a number of projects designed to support the manufacturing and industry sectors. The country's ambitious **Operation 300bn strategy,** launched in March 2021, aims to increase the industrial sector's contribution to GDP from Dh133 billion in 2021 to Dh300 billion over the next 10 years.





One goal of the strategy is to improve the UAE's ranking on the Competitive Industrial Performance Index from 35th place globally to 25th. Products manufactured in the UAE will fall under a unified industrial brand identity under the slogan 'Make it in the Emirates'.

Sectors of focus include petrochemicals, metals, food, agriculture, water, and healthcare, space, biotech, medi-tech, pharmaceuticals, clean and renewable energy, including hydrogen production, machinery and equipment, rubber and plastic and electronics and electrical gadgets.

The industrial strategy includes a priority on R&D as part of efforts to promote the adoption of advanced technologies and innovation. The volume of spending on R&D in the industrial sector will increase from Dh21 billion to Dh57 billion in 2031, bringing the contribution to GDP to 2%.



The UAE was ranked 9th globally for embracing advanced technologies in the Global Soft Power Index (2021).



The World Bank has ranked the UAE as 1st in the Arab world in the Human Capital Index.



The UAE ranked 1st in the region in the Global Talent Competitiveness Index 2020 by IMD.

Meanwhile, the government's Fourth Industrial Revolution strategy aims to position the UAE as a global model in adopting leading-edge technologies to serve society and achieve happiness and sustainability.



The National Strategy for Advanced Innovation seeks to position the UAE among the world leaders in innovation, focusing on seven key areas: exploration, future skills, quality of health, living and life, green power, transport, and harnessing technology to serve humankind.

#### SHARJAH RESEARCH TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION PARK

Established in 2016, the Sharjah Research Technology, and Innovation Park (SRTIP), vis a world-class innovation ecosystem that promotes R&D and supports collaboration between industry, government and academia.



Sharjah's open innovation lab at SRTIP, known as **SoiLAB**, promotes technical innovation and entrepreneurship to the highest international levels in Sharjah. SoiLAB is a technical centre and collaborative workspace designed for learning, creating, experimenting and innovation. The space is open to students, artists, entrepreneurs and tech enthusiasts and provides access to a diverse range of equipment from 3D Printers to metal and wood working machinery and caters for individual and collaborative efforts.

At SRTIP, the **Middle East Additive Manufacturing Centre** in partnership with Immensa is becoming a global centre for 3D printing. The Centre will be equipped with a range of industrial 3D printers including globally leading machines such as Concept Laser from GE Additive.

#### LEADING INDUSTRY-FOCUSED FREE-ZONES

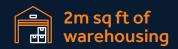
Sharjah has had particular success developing its manufacturing sector through free zones and industrial zones. Sharjah is home to two major industry-focused free zones: the Hamriyah Free Zone (HFZ) and the Sharjah Airport International Free Zone (SAIF Zone). The two are under the same management and together account for a large proportion of industrial activity in the emirate.



### EMIRATES INDUSTRIAL CITY



83m sq ft of land



At Emirates Industrial City in Sharjah, more than 150,000 professionals provide a broad range of expertise. At 83 million square feet in area and with 23 leasable warehouses, the facilities are second-to-none, providing industry-leading amenities across manufacturing supply chains. In addition to warehouses, there are industrial plots, open yards, showrooms, and administrative buildings.



# The Epicentre of GCC Industry

By virtue of its location, Sharjah sits as a gateway to the world's fastest growing markets across Asia, Africa and Europe. The emirate also offers unparalleled access to the rest of the UAE, one of the top five most globally connected countries in the world according to the DHL Global Connectedness Index 2020.

Sharjah's strategic location and network of airports, seaports and highways offers direct access not only to the US\$3.7 trillion GCC common market, but further beyond into global markets

#### US\$ 3.7 Tm

GCC Common Market



Sharjah's International Airport connects the emirate to more than 170 locations across the Middle East and the Indian subcontinent. The airport serves as a hub for Air Arabia, the region's leading low-cost carrier, making it ideal for regional growth. Global air travel is also available via Dubai International Airport, just 25km away.

Home to three seaports, Port Khalid, Port Khorfakkan and Hamriyah Freezone, Sharjah is the only emirate with ports on both the Arabian Gulf and Indian Ocean. The Port of Khorfakkan offers the shortest access from the GCC to Asia.

Sharjah is also the only emirate that borders all six other emirates, and offers access to the rapidly-developing northern emirates.

The government has invested significantly in highways, shortening the journey time to Dubai to around 25 minutes, while a new highway connecting Sharjah City to Khorfakkan on the UAE east coast has reduced travel time to the port to 45 mins.



### Opportunities for Investors



### INDUSTRIAL AND INTELLIGENT AUTOMATION

By 2023, the GCC's industrial automation market is expected to be worth \$10.3 billion. The next decade will be dominated by digitalisation and big data, with trends around AI, the Internet of Things, and robotics setting the agenda. Sharjah's highly-skilled graduates, supportive government, and free zones offer opportunities in both software and hardware development.

\$10.3 bn

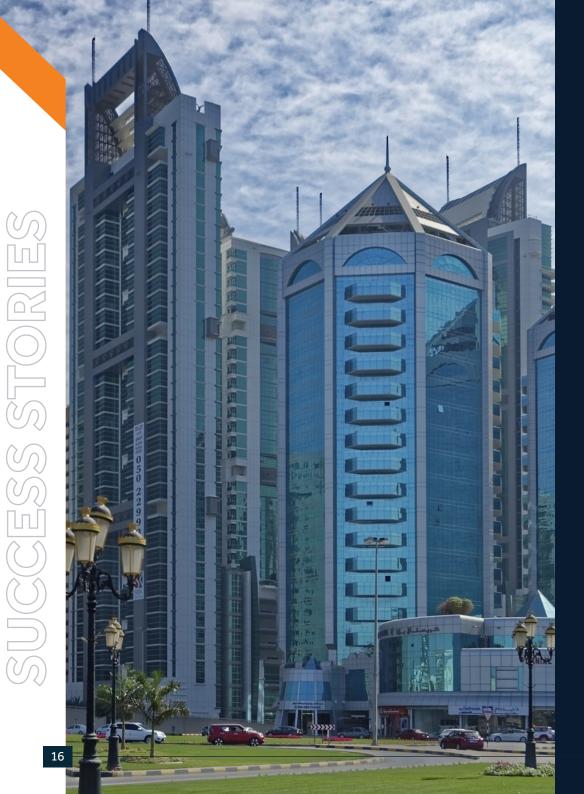
GCC Industrial Automation Market

# ADDITIVE MANUFACTURING

The UAE's additive manufacturing sector, also known as 3D printing, is expected to be worth \$600 million by 2025, propelling the UAE to the forefront of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Building on Sharjah's current strengths in the manufacturing sector, and exploiting demand from the region's oil and gas and automotive sectors, Sharjah is well-placed to become a regional leader.







## **Success Stories**

# ADVANCED ARMOUR ENGINEERING (AAE)

AAE is an industrial and defence precision manufacturing company exporting worldwide from Sharjah's SAIF Zone. The company specialises in defense and security, transport, architectural metalwork, construction equipment, oil and gas equipment sector and maritime. AAE currently exports to over 12 countries and is firmly seen as the partner of choice of many of the leading Blue Chip OEMs in the region.

#### **ENATA MARINE**

Enata Marine specialises in manufacturing for the aerospace, marine and architecture sectors at its 7,000 sqm hub at Hamriyah Port in Sharjah. The company uses cutting-edge technology to create everything from drones to cruising catamarans and mega yachts.

#### **MARIA MEDICAL**

Maria Medical Technology is a manufacturer and distributor of aesthetic devices and medical cobots based in SRTIP. The company uses AI and robotics to create innovative healthcare equipment that lowers costs and leads to better outcomes.



