

MASDAR
CITY
FREE ZONE



MASDAR CITY FREE ZONE FACTSHEET

WELCOME TO MASDAR CITY FREEZONE

Welcome to the Masdar City Free Zone, where innovation meets opportunity in a dynamic, business-friendly environment. As a premier hub for technology and enterprise, our free zone is designed to facilitate your business's success with a range of benefits tailored to meet your needs.

Strategically positioned within Masdar City, renowned for its forward-thinking urban development, our free zone offers exceptional infrastructure, state-of-the-art facilities, and a supportive ecosystem for businesses to thrive. We provide streamlined licensing processes, variety of office offerings, and a robust network of resources to help you establish and grow your operations efficiently.

In this fact sheet, you will explore our diverse clusters and tailored offerings, all crafted to support and enhance your business endeavours. We invite you to discover how the Masdar City Free Zone can be the ideal environment for your business's growth and success.

UNRIVALED BENEFITS OF MASDAR CITY FREE ZONE

- 1. Home to Government-Led Clusters for High-Impact Industries:** Home to the Smart & Autonomous Vehicle Industries (SAVI) and part of AgriFood Growth & Water Abundance (AGWA) clusters, and key players such as Abu Dhabi Department of Energy, Masdar (ADFEC), Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence, Advanced Technology Research Council, Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation, and the UAE Space Agency.
- 2. R&D Innovation Hub:** A hub for research and development, fostering innovation through projects like SAVI, Beam Trail, and G42. Collaborations with industry leaders such as Siemens Energy and Honeywell provide access to top talent in the field.
- 3. Integrated Sustainable Community - Work Live Play Learn:** Featuring sustainable LEED Platinum and net-zero energy buildings, complemented by sustainably certified parks and premium facilities, creating a balanced community for work and lifestyle.
- 4. Diverse Office Space Solutions:** Offers a variety of office spaces tailored to your needs, including cutting-edge R&D facilities, modern business centers, flexible virtual desks, and purpose-built environments.
- 5. Market Access & Growth:** A thriving community with networking and collaboration opportunities, offering access to the MENA region's markets.
- 6. Variety of Business Activities:** Your one-stop shop for seamless business setup, offering dual licenses and supporting a wide range of sectors, including renewable energy, ICT, life sciences, and smart mobility.
- 7. Competitive Business Packages Setup Options:** A range of attractive business packages, featuring a low-cost option and a dedicated program for women entrepreneurs.
- 8. Strategic Location:** Just 10 minutes from Zayed International Airport and 45 minutes from Dubai, providing easy access to various global markets.
- 9. Global Gateway:** Abu Dhabi, recognized as one of the safest cities in the world, is a strategic hub for international business, facilitating access to diverse markets and strategic growth.
- 10. Biotech Research Hub:** Focused on biotechnology advancements with initiatives like the Emirati Genome Project, G42 and the region's first Bio-Bank and commercial-scale vivarium supporting drug discovery.
- 11. Smart Mobility Leader:** Masdar City is home to the Smart & Autonomous Vehicle Industries (SAVI) cluster, a center for innovation that contributes to future urban transport solutions.

JOIN ONE OF OUR INDUSTRY CLUSTERS

Masdar City has created a rich ecosystem that powers technological innovation and climate change solutions. While we welcome and support businesses from a variety of sectors, we're investing strategically in six distinct industry clusters that are moving the world forward:



Life sciences

The Masdar City Free Zone life sciences cluster is rapidly emerging as a hub for life sciences and biotechnology, driven by strategic partnerships with the Abu Dhabi Department of Health (DOH) and the Abu Dhabi Investment Office (ADIO). These collaborations provide essential resources and regulatory support, fostering the growth and impact of the cluster. Backed by the region's most advanced R&D institutions, leading contract research organizations (CROs), and government-backed initiatives, the cluster offers unparalleled opportunities for collaboration, innovation, and expansion.

With investments exceeding AED 1 billion, the Masdar City Free Zone is poised to become a leading center for life sciences in Abu Dhabi. One of the Free Zone's unique features is its ability to provide build-to-suit facilities, tailored to the specific needs of biotech companies. This flexibility enables the creation of custom spaces that meet the high demands of advanced research and development.

Currently home to over 50 biotechnology companies, the Free Zone offers some of the most advanced R&D facilities in the region. It supports groundbreaking research in rare diseases, genomics, cell and gene therapy, as well as pre-clinical and clinical trials, positioning Masdar City Free Zone as a premier destination for innovation in life sciences within Abu Dhabi and beyond.



Energy

Our energy cluster serves as a dynamic hub of innovation and sustainability, bringing together a variety of leading organizations committed to advancing renewable energy, clean technologies, and energy efficiency. Strategic partnerships with the Abu Dhabi Department of Energy amplify efforts within the energy cluster. These collaborations ensure optimal integration of sustainable practices and resources, ultimately enhancing the region's energy landscape.

These prominent entities are at the forefront of the transition to sustainable energy, actively working on the development and implementation of groundbreaking solutions that address pressing environmental challenges. Through their collaborative efforts, they aim to reduce global carbon footprints and foster the transition to a low-carbon economy.

By prioritizing sustainability, these organizations are not only enhancing energy systems but also contributing to a more resilient and environmentally friendly future for communities around the world. Their initiatives are vital for inspiring further advancements in clean energy and promoting a greener planet for generations to come.



Artificial intelligence

Our AI cluster is at the forefront of artificial intelligence research and development. By fostering AI innovation, we aim to develop intelligent systems that address complex global challenges, enhance efficiency, and promote sustainable development across various sectors.

Organizations in the AI cluster include the Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence, the Advanced Technology Research Council, and the Technological Innovation Institute.

This cluster drives advancements in AI with significant implications for industries ranging from healthcare to smart cities.



Smart mobility / SAVI

Masdar City Free Zone is home to SAVI (Smart and Autonomous Vehicles industries), which is transforming the way we move. Focusing on smart, electric, and autonomous vehicles, transportation systems, and infrastructure, SAVI is at the forefront of revolutionizing urban mobility. Masdar City collaborates closely with the Abu Dhabi Investment Office (ADIO) to create a dynamic environment that supports the growth and impact of the mobility cluster, ensuring that innovative transport solutions align with national mobility policies. This strategic partnership enhances the region's capabilities in smart mobility. Positioned as a hub for smart mobility in the MENA region, SAVI is pivotal in revolutionizing transportation across air, land, and sea.



Space tech

The space-tech cluster comprises organizations that are pioneering advancements in satellite technology and related research. This dynamic group is focused on unlocking the vast potential of space technology to address critical challenges such as climate monitoring, resource management, and global communications. The UAE Space Agency collaborates closely with Masdar City to support groundbreaking projects that enhance climate monitoring and global communications.

These partnerships facilitate access to expertise, and international collaborations, thereby attracting quality competencies and raising the productivity of research and development in space programs. By harnessing innovative space solutions, the cluster aims to support sustainable development through the provision of valuable data and insights. These contributions are essential for protecting our planet and enhancing quality of life on Earth. protecting our planet and enhancing quality of life on Earth.



Agri-tech

Our agri-tech cluster is dedicated to creating sustainable food production systems that utilize fewer resources while achieving higher yields. By aligning with national food security initiatives, Masdar City ensures that agri-tech developments are not only technologically advanced but also strategically positioned to benefit the broader community. Led by the Abu Dhabi Investment Office (ADIO), The AgriFood Growth & Water Abundance (AGWA) will drive advancements in areas such as alternative proteins, functional ingredients, algae farming, and reverse osmosis membranes.

This integrated cluster provides advanced infrastructure, skilled talent, and collaboration with R&D institutions and academia, fostering an ecosystem where innovative solutions can flourish and ultimately contribute to a sustainable food system.

This initiative aims to develop innovations that ensure food security and promote environmental sustainability by reducing water usage, minimizing land degradation, and lowering carbon emissions associated with traditional farming practices. Within this cluster, a variety of organizations are employing cutting-edge technologies, ranging from vertical farming solutions to AI and hydroponics, to cultivate a greener tomorrow. By focusing on these advancements, the agri-tech cluster is playing a crucial role in reshaping the future of agriculture for a more sustainable world.

A POWERFUL BUSINESS ENABLER

Masdar City Free Zone hosts organizations from around the world, ranging from start-ups testing new climate-change solutions to multi-nationals leading their industries. All of our tenants benefit from comprehensive support at our One-Stop Shop, which helps them set up quickly and gain access to local and international networks, investors, and partnership opportunities. This streamlined approach ensures that businesses can focus on innovation and growth without the usual administrative burdens.

Masdar City Free Zone offers specialized business packages that cater to the diverse needs, sizes, and aspirations of different companies. From startups and space-tech firms to AI innovators, women entrepreneurs, life sciences ventures, and sustainable mobility companies, each has a tailored package designed to ensure it thrives. These packages provide targeted support and resources, enabling businesses to focus on their core objectives and achieve their goals within a supportive and dynamic ecosystem.

FREE ZONE BENEFITS:



100%

foreign ownership



100%

UAE income tax exemptions



0%

import tariffs



Freedom

to repatriate capital and profits



Quick and easy

set-up with a One-Stop-Shop for registration, government relations, and visa processing



Critical mass of **world-class talent**



Cost-effective

licensing and office space



Sustainable community

featuring electric transportation options and the greenest office space on the market

STRATEGICALLY LOCATED:

Located 10 minutes from Zayed International Airport and 45 minutes from Dubai, Masdar City Free Zone is a gateway to international markets.



STEP BY STEP GUIDE TO SETTING UP YOUR COMPANY:

1

- Access the e-services portal.
- Fill out the initial information.
- Propose a company name.
- Make an initial online payment of AED 2,000 for the name reservation.
- We will review your information and obtain the required approval for the name reservation from the Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development.
- An email notification will be sent to you, guiding you to the next step.

2

- Access the e-services platform.
- Submit the required detailed information and documents.
- We will review and approve all submitted information and documents.
- We will issue your organization's legal documentation through the system (Resolution, Articles of Association, Memorandum of Association).
- Our advisors will reach out to you to present our existing lease options.

3

- Sign the legal documentation.
- Finalize the lease process and payments by visiting Masdar City Free Zone's One-Stop-Shop or through courier service.
- Access your license and certificate of registration/incorporation on our e-services platform.



CLIMATE TECH ACCELERATOR



CATALYST

Catalyst is a Masdar City and bp jointly organized, startup technology accelerator based in Masdar City, Abu Dhabi. With a clear vision to help build a robust startup ecosystem focused on sustainability in Abu Dhabi, Catalyst supports innovative seed ideas with startup value that are focused on using technology to make our world more sustainable.

Through funding, training, one-on-one mentorship, and access to the support of the award-winning Masdar City Free Zone and the state-of-the-art research facilities of MBZUAI, Catalyst offers a distinct advantage over other business accelerators.

FACILITATING PARTNERSHIP

Financial and Legislation Services



ABU DHABI GLOBAL MARKET
سوق أبوظبي العالمي
AN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE

Masdar City and the Abu Dhabi Global Market (ADGM) have joined forces to enhance foreign investment in Abu Dhabi, promote innovative projects that advance the UAE's economic competitiveness, foster institutional integration, and more. Under this partnership, ADGM can provide businesses that establish their license in Masdar City Free Zone with the option to be governed by the rules of Common Law.

Web Services



Masdar City has collaborated with Amazon Web Services to empower startups in Masdar City Free Zone by offering scalable and secure services. This collaboration gives start-ups access to AWS Activate, a program that provides up to \$50,000 USD worth of AWS credits and tools that will help them innovate and scale even faster.

Residency Support



مكتب أبوظبي للمقيمين
ABU DHABI RESIDENTS OFFICE

As you plan to make your move to Abu Dhabi, Masdar City Free Zone offers support through Abu Dhabi Resident's Office to ensure your transition is smooth. We also assist with processing applications for the UAE's Golden Visa.

Banking Services



Masdar City Free Zone has partnered with leading banks to support tenants with setting up business bank accounts, accessing virtual cards, and more.





Postal and Courier Services



Emirates Post Group supports Masdar City Free Zone tenants with their postal and courier needs.

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