

IDC Honors Middle East's Tech Pioneers at Digital Excellence Awards

Dubai – With more than 500 of the region's most influential ICT leaders in attendance, the IDC Middle East CIO Summit 2020 closed last week with a ceremony to mark the third annual edition of the IDC Digital Excellence Awards. The awards were designed specifically to recognize the efforts of the Middle East's foremost ICT pioneers in conceptualizing and successfully delivering game-changing digital transformation projects and initiatives.

"As competition intensifies and industries continue to be disrupted, the time has come for organizations to make the strategic, organizational, technological, and financial decisions required to drive them to digital excellence," says Jyoti Lalchandani, IDC's group vice president and managing director for the Middle East, Turkey, and Africa. "Tough calls are required to spearhead a holistic process that aligns digital initiatives, technologies, and roadmaps across the entire organization. A single enterprise strategy that crosses all business and functional areas is an absolute must, and the Middle East is home to numerous organizations that are now leading the way in this regard."

Nominations were open across 4 categories and IDC received over 130 submissions. Following an intensive interview process with senior IDC analysts, IDC's CIO Advisory Council for the Middle East reviewed the shortlisted nominations to declare the winners and finalists for each category as follows:

CIO of the Year

Winner: Mohammed AlEnazi, Fawaz A. Alhokair & Co.

Finalists: Dr. Zakareya Ahmed Al-Khajah, Information & eGovernment Authority (Bahrain); Praful Thummar, Jazeera Airways; Jayakumar Mohanachandran, Precision Group.

CISO of the Year

Winner: Illyas Kooliyankal, Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank

Finalists: Tushar Vartak, RAKBANK; Khalid Waheed Abdulrahman, Al Baraka Banking Group

Excellence in Line-of-Business Transformation

Winner: Sultan Abukoshaim, Saudi Standards, Metrology and Quality Organization (SASO)

Finalists: Krishnan Gopi, GEMS Education; Alya Hussain AlZarouni, Dubai International Financial Centre

Excellence in Digital Innovation

Winner: Enova

Finalists: Petrofac; Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC); Abu Dhabi Customs

IDC would like to thank the following esteemed members of the CIO Advisory Council for being part of the judging process:

- H.E. Wessam Al Abbas Lootah, CEO, Smart Dubai
- Eng. Ali Nasser Alsiri, CEO of eGovernment Program (YESSER), Saudi Arabia
- Ahmed Al Mulla, Former Executive Vice President of Corporate Services, Emirates Global Aluminum
- Fuad Al Ansari, Vice President of Information Technology, ADNOC Refining
- Dr. Salim Al Ruzaiqi, CEO, Ministry of Technology and Communications, Oman

- Brig. Khalid Nasser Al Razooqi, General Director of Artificial Intelligence, Dubai Police
- Jason Roos, CIO, King Abdullah University of Science and Technology

IDC's valued partners for the IDC Middle East CIO Summit 2020 include: Host Partner – IBM; Strategic Partner – Dubai Internet City; ICT Partner – Ministry of Technology & Communications (Oman), Summit Partners – Riverbed and VMware; Digital Transformation Partner – Injazat, A Mubadala Company; Artificial Intelligence Partners – Intel, Salesforce, and UiPath; Future-of-Work Partners – Citrix and SAP; Technology Session Partners – Veeam, HCL Technologies, OpenText, Micro Focus, SentinelOne, FireEye, Rackspace, Blue Prism, IBM, OutSystems, and Hitachi Vantara; Industry Partners – Equinix, OpenText, Commvault, Intel, and IBM; Exhibit Partners – Mimecast, Freshworks, Symphony SummitAI, T2, CommScope, Qlik (in partnership with SquareOne Technologies), Jabra, Dropbox, Gulf Bridge International (GBI), Rimini Street, MDSap, ManageEngine, eHosting DataFort (in partnership with Software AG), TÜV Rheinland, and Datamato; Dinner Partner – DETASAD.

For more information about the IDC Middle East CIO Summit 2020, please visit www.idcciosummit.com/dubai. You can also search for news or

tweet about the Summit using the hashtag #IDCMECIO.

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