

**Local Media Report**  
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## **My Brands**

<b>Publication</b>	Gulfnews.com
<b>Page</b>	1
<b>Date</b>	30/05/2019
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## Abu Dhabi creates new holding company for airports, ports and power firms

Holding company will include Abu Dhabi Airports, Abu Dhabi Ports, and others.

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Passengers at Abu Dhabi International Airport  
Image Credit: File photo

Abu Dhabi: Abu Dhabi is creating a new holding company for seven state-owned firms with operations ranging from airports to power supply to make it easier for them to raise debt and improve services, three sources told Reuters.

The new holding company, Abu Dhabi Development Holding Company (ADDHC), will be led by Mohammad Hassan Al Suwaidi, a former executive of Abu Dhabi state fund Mubadala, and the seven firms could eventually be privatised.

Publication	Gulfnews.com
Page	1
Date	30/05/2019
Value (\$)	3250

The holding company's portfolio will include Abu Dhabi Airports, Abu Dhabi Ports, Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre, Abu Dhabi Media, Abu Dhabi Power Company, Khalifa Industrial Zone Abu Dhabi, and Abu Dhabi Health Services Co, said two of the sources.

These are companies which have received state investment for infrastructure and growth.

The government media office said it would name the companies when the information became publicly available.

"The holding company will allow the firms to operate at arm's length," a source familiar with Abu Dhabi's plans said.

It will be able to raise debt for its units, who can also raise debt themselves rather than through the department of finance, separating them from the emirate's own debt plans.

Abu Dhabi, rated AA by S&P and Fitch and Aa2 by Moody's, issued its last international bonds in 2017, raising \$10 billion. A rise in oil prices last year meant the emirate had no urgent need to borrow further.

Publication	Reuters.com
Page	1
Date	30/05/2019
Value (\$)	3250

## Abu Dhabi's airports, ports and power firms moved to new holding company

Hadeel Al Sayegh, Alexander Cornwell

2 MIN READ



DUBAI/ABU DHABI, May 29 (Reuters) - Abu Dhabi is creating a new holding company for seven state-owned firms with operations ranging from airports to power supply to make it easier for them to raise debt and improve services, three sources told Reuters.

The new holding company, Abu Dhabi Development Holding Company (ADDHC), will be led by Mohamed Hassan al-Suwaidi, a former executive of Abu Dhabi state fund Mubadala, and the seven firms could eventually be privatised.

The holding company's portfolio will include Abu Dhabi Airports, Abu Dhabi Ports, Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre, Abu Dhabi Media, Abu Dhabi Power Company, Khalifa Industrial Zone Abu Dhabi, and Abu Dhabi Health Services Co, said two of the sources.

Publication	Reuters.com
Page	1
Date	30/05/2019
Value (\$)	3250

These are all companies which have received large amounts of state investment for infrastructure and growth.

The government media office said it would name the companies when the information became publicly available.

“The holding company will allow the firms to operate at arm’s length,” a source familiar with Abu Dhabi’s plans said.

It will be able to raise debt for its units, who can also raise debt themselves rather than through the department of finance, separating them from the emirate’s own debt plans.

Oil-rich Abu Dhabi, rated AA by S&P and Fitch and Aa2 by Moody’s, issued its last international bonds in 2017, raising \$10 billion. A rise in oil prices last year meant the emirate had no urgent need to borrow further.

Abu Dhabi has seen some of its largest firms merge in the last two years in response to an earlier oil price slump.  
(Additional reporting by Davide Barbuscia & Stanley Carvalho Editing by Alexandra Hudson)

Publication	Seanews.com
Page	1
Date	30/05/2019
Value (\$)	3250

## Two Chinese 21,000-TEUers arrive at Khalifa Port's CSP Abu Dhabi Terminal

COSCO's 21,000-TEU Solar has arrived at the CSP Abu Dhabi Terminal of Khalifa Port in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), reports Xinhua



28 May 2019 - 19:00



COSCO's 21,000-TEU Solar has arrived at the **CSP Abu Dhabi Terminal of Khalifa Port** in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), reports Xinhua.

The CSP Abu Dhabi Terminal, built and operated by China's Cosco Shipping Ports Limited (CSP) and Abu Dhabi Ports, has a design capacity of 2.5 million TEU. Another Chinese containership, the 21,000-TEU Pisces,

arrived on May 5 at the same terminal.

The two ships are the largest vessels that the Khalifa Port has received since it started trial operations on April 20 with the arrival of the 14,000-TEU CSCL Mercury.

'The arrival of Solar and Pisces is a milestone for Abu Dhabi Ports and its partner CSP, which demonstrates not only our growth as a hub port in the region, but also our position as the heart of Cosco's network in the Middle East,' said Mohamed Juma Al Shamisi, CEO of Abu Dhabi Ports.

Publication	Seanews.com
Page	1
Date	30/05/2019
Value (\$)	3250

'The container industry is constantly looking for ways to improve efficiency, and the use of mega-vessels to cut cost and time,' he said.

'We have ensured that through CSP Abu Dhabi Terminal and Khalifa Port is able to handle the largest vessels of today and adapt to those of tomorrow,' Mr Shamisi said.

'We are excited to facilitate the arrival of two of the world's largest mega-vessels at CSP Abu Dhabi Terminal as it demonstrates the strength of our partnership with Abu Dhabi Ports,' said CSP Abu Dhabi Terminal CEO Ju Weiping.

The CSP Abu Dhabi Terminal, which was inaugurated in December 2018, connects Khalifa Port to CSP's global terminals, covering 285 berths at 37 ports worldwide.



<b>Publication</b>	Thenational.ae
<b>Page</b>	1
<b>Date</b>	30/05/2019
<b>Value (\$)</b>	3250

## World's largest 'mega-vessel' docks in Abu Dhabi port

► The Chinese-owned 'MV Solar' is just under 400 metres long



The MV Solar container ship arrived at Khalifa Port on May 25 and has since sailed to Saudi Arabia



The world's largest "mega-vessel" has docked in Abu Dhabi's Khalifa Port.

The Chinese-owned *MV Solar* is just under 400 metres long, 59 metres wide and has a depth of 16 metres.

Its berth at the terminal owned and operated by Cosco Shipping comes shortly after several other world-leading container ships docked at the port.

*MV CSCL Globe*, with a capacity of 19,000 TEU – a unit indicating cargo capacity – arrived on April 27, and *MV Pisces*, with a capacity of 20,000 TEU, docked on May 5.

*MV Solar*, which has a capacity of 21,000 TEU, arrived in the UAE on May 25 before heading to Saudi Arabia.

Publication	Thenational.ae
Page	1
Date	30/05/2019
Value (\$)	3250

The ships, which all started their journeys in Qingdao, China, further cement Abu Dhabi's position as a major trading hub.

Mohamed Juma Al Shamisi, CEO of Abu Dhabi Ports, said: "The arrival of both the *MV Cosco Shipping Solar* and *Pisces* is a milestone moment for Abu Dhabi Ports and its partner, CSP.

"Not only does it demonstrate our growth as a hub port in the region, but also our position as the heart of Cosco's network in the Middle East.

"The container industry is constantly looking for ways to improve efficiency, and the use of mega-vessels to cut costs and time is a trend shaping the future of the sector."

Updated: May 29, 2019 02:25 PM

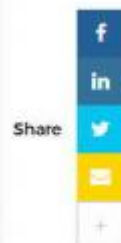
<b>Publication</b>	Logisticsmiddleeast.
<b>Page</b>	1
<b>Date</b>	30/05/2019
<b>Value (\$)</b>	3250

## King Abdul Aziz Port receives largest container ship in Saudi history

Solar is 400 meters long, 59 meters wide and has a draft of 16 meters, but what makes it a record-breaker is its immense cargo capacity of 21,300 TEU (twenty-foot equivalent unit).



Solar sailed from Port Khalifa to Dammam



by Logistics Middle East Staff Wed 29 May 2019 10:45 AM

After making history at Port Khalifa in Abu Dhabi yesterday, Cosco Shipping's Solar container ship has docked in Dammam's King Abdul Aziz Port, becoming the largest container ship ever to make port in Saudi Arabia.

<b>Publication</b>	Logisticsmiddleeast.
<b>Page</b>	1
<b>Date</b>	30/05/2019
<b>Value (\$)</b>	3250

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**COSCO sends giant mega container ships to test out new Port Khalifa terminal**

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Waleed Al-Faris, director-general of King Abdul Aziz Port said the ship's arrival was proof that the Dammam facility was a global logistics destination.

"King Abdul Aziz Port can handle any type of cargo with its diverse capabilities and solid infrastructure," he said. "It has four terminals operated by the best in class port operation companies."

The port includes two container terminals. The first, operated by the International Port Services Co., has a capacity of 2.5 million TEU and a 16-meter depth with 10 berths totalling 2,160 meters in length. It has 17 bridge cranes, five of which are operated remotely.

<b>Publication</b>	Logisticsmiddleeast.
<b>Page</b>	1
<b>Date</b>	30/05/2019
<b>Value (\$)</b>	3250

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**Saudi Arabia's King Abdul Aziz Port in Dammam gets new online booking system**

The second terminal, operated by the Saudi Global Ports Co., has a capacity of 1.5 million TEU with two berths totalling 700 meters in length and a 16.5-meter depth. It is equipped with six bridge cranes and has an additional 600,000 sq. meter area. The terminals are supported by a large number of mobile stackers and container cranes.

Earlier this year, the port welcomed CSCL Globe which, at the time of its launch in November 2014, was the largest container ship in the world, with a capacity of 19,100 TEU.

<b>Publication</b>	Ameinfo Prls
<b>Page</b>	1
<b>Date</b>	30/05/2019
<b>Value (\$)</b>	3250

## Behind the scenes: What's drawing investors to logistics?



The UAE logistics market has soared above the storm of currency fluctuations, geopolitical tensions and the volatility in oil prices to record strong growth in 2018 and the first quarter of 2019. In fact, according to the [2019 Agility Emerging Market Logistics Index](#), the UAE maintained its position within the Top 3 overall emerging markets and as the best in the region. It was also ranked the best in business fundamentals.

Investments in the logistics sector have been fuelled by a robust infrastructure pipeline, strong imports and exports, positive business sentiment, and projections surrounding the upcoming Expo 2020. The demand for industrial and logistics warehouses have also been driven by increased airport cargo throughput, port throughput, and road freight tonnes, a recent Deloitte study indicates.

<b>Publication</b>	Ameinfo Prls
<b>Page</b>	1
<b>Date</b>	30/05/2019
<b>Value (\$)</b>	3250

Another recent [JLL report](#) pointed to the boom in e-commerce and the impact of digital transformation as catalysts spurring investor interest in the supply chain and industrial logistics sectors. This is evident in the growth of on-demand services and the launch of Amazon.ae, replacing [Souq.com](#) in the UAE, almost 24 months after its \$580 million acquisition of the e-commerce platform. In 2018, about 51 percent of all e-commerce brands offered same-day delivery, and conversely, a [BRP Consulting study](#) indicates that by the end of 2019, 65 percent of retailers are projected to offer same-day deliveries.

Source: [2019 Agility Emerging Market Logistics Index](#)

The sale-and-leaseback of Transworld Group's logistics facility in the Jebel Ali Freezone in Dubai, [Trukkin raising \\$3.5 million in its latest round of funding](#), as well as Chinese manufacturing giant East Hope Group's plans to invest in a \$10 billion project in Abu Dhabi's Khalifa Industrial Zone (KIZAD), are all indicative of increased investor interest in the UAE's strong logistics sector.

<b>Publication</b>	Ameinfo Prls
<b>Page</b>	1
<b>Date</b>	30/05/2019
<b>Value (\$)</b>	3250

With an increasing number of technology-based startups disrupting the sector, the need to digitalize and modernize systems and processes is now greater than ever among both traditional players and newer companies. The growing internet and smartphone penetration in the region coupled with IoT technology boasting lower latency has not only eased processes such as locating fleets but has also seen competition skyrocket with speedy deliveries. With 5G around the corner, and other advancements such as AI, blockchain and robotic automation moving from use-cases to scaled implementation in the UAE, the logistics sector remains one of the hottest bets in the market.

Source: [2019 Agility Emerging Market Logistics Index](#)

It's no secret that DP World Jebel Ali, which is one of the most bustling and best-equipped ports in the region, has set the bar high with unmatched container handling facilities. Its proximity with the Jebel Ali Free Zone has made it a strong port-of-choice. Along with the Khorfakkan Container Terminal; the DP World Port Fujairah, which is the only one on the UAE's east coast and a regional leader in bunkering facilities; and the Mina Zayed port, the UAE's top ports and Free Zones have created an ideal environment for the growth of the logistics sector in the region. The nation's infrastructure spending, its vibrant local economy, and robust surrounding regional economies have also contributed to the development of the logistics industry.

The growth outlook for the logistics sector in emerging markets such as the UAE is positive. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has projected a growth of 4.5 percent in 2019, following a 4.7 percent expansion in 2018.



## **Industry**

Publication	Gulf Today
Page	18
Date	30/05/2019
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# Dubai has 18,975 Chinese investors with 5,977 business licences: DED



Over 18,975 Chinese investors own 5,977 active business licences in the emirate of Dubai, according to a report issued by the Business Registration & Licensing (BRL) sector in the Department of Economic Development (DED), Dubai.

Between 2014 and 2018, 232 licences were issued for Chinese investors, with 371 licences issued in 2014, 484 in 2015, 386 in 2016 and 502 in 2017. Last year, 618 licences were issued to Chinese investors, an increase of 22.8 per cent over the previous year.

Over the past years, Dubai has welcomed 6,364 Chinese investors who have established businesses in various sectors. In 2014, there were 354 registered Chinese investors for new commercial licences, 1,229 in 2015, 1,541 in 2016, 1,009 in 2017 and 1,186 investors in 2018.

Of these licences, 458 are Limited Liability Companies, in addition to 781 Sole Proprietorship, 137 Civil Companies, 46 Branches of Foreign Companies, 35 Limited Liability Companies, 18 Free Zone Branches, 16 Branches of Companies based in other emirates, 5 Government Commercialization Offices, one General Partnership Company, one Public Joint Stock Company and one Business Forum Licence.

The report showed that commercial activities accounted for 485 licences, followed by professional activities with 199 licences, 119 tourism

licences and 35 industrial licences. The number of female Chinese investors is 4,900, compared with 14,075 male investors.

Ready-made Comments topped the list of the top business activities for Chinese investors, followed by Electronics, Home Appliances, Mechanical, engineering & contracting trade, Construction, Electrical trade, Transportation, shipping & warehousing, Auto parts and Furniture.

The top five commercial activities included: clothing, footwear, gifts, textile & fabrics, and foodstuffs (excluding alcohol). Professional activities include: women's salon, beauty centres, women's health care, Home Salon.

The tourism activities included: internal tour operators, tour operator, travel and tourism agent, referral tour operator, and holiday rental houses, while industrial activities included metal works for buildings, office furniture, home furniture, plastic bags, and maintenance of all and natural gas wells.

About the Department of Economic Development, Dubai: The Department of Economic Development (DED) is the govern-

**DUBAI**

Last year, 618 licences were issued to Chinese investors, an increase of 22.8% over the previous year

ment body entrusted to set and drive the economic agenda of the emirate of Dubai, UAE. DED supports the structural transformation of Dubai into a diversified, innovative service-based economy that aims to improve the business environment and accelerate productivity growth. DED and its agencies develop economic plans and policies, identify and support the growth of strategic sectors, and provide services to domestic and international investors and businesses.

Meanwhile a total of 6,377 new companies joined the Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the first four months of 2019, taking the membership growth to 90 per cent, as compared to the same period last year.

The number of new trade permits reached 38,338 between January and April 2019, marking a year-on-year, y-o-y, increase of 3.3 per cent. Over the same period, the number of ATAs permits issued and received grew (5.3 per cent) to reach 2,408, while the value of goods for issued and received ATAs permits rose 643 per cent y-o-y to Dh6.65 billion.

A total of 18 ATAs permits were issued by the chamber in the first four months of 2019, accounting for a 38.2 per cent growth rate compared to the same period in 2018, while the value of

goods covered by these documents surged 100 per cent to Dh60.5 million over the same period.

Commenting on the latest performance figures, Hamad Basmaj, President and CEO of the Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry, described the membership growth as an indicator of the growing confidence among Dubai's business community, as well as the value-added services, which the Dubai chamber members are benefiting from.

Basmaj noted that the rise in membership demonstrated the positive impact of the various stimulus measures that were introduced by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Ruler of Dubai, over the last year, which have undoubtedly improved the existing business in the emirate, adding that the recently unveiled golden visa system would complement such efforts and expand the competitive advantages offered by Dubai.

"Despite global challenges, Dubai is proving to be the business capital and a major destination for foreign investments. The growth in the membership and the number of ATAs permits in the first four months of 2019 is a positive sign that our efforts to enhance the competitiveness of the private sector are bearing fruit."

**Business Bureau, Gulf Today**