

To Establish Egypt's Largest 200MW Data Center:

A \$1 Billion Investment – Strategic Partnership Between Vodafone Business, Elsewedy Electric, and Cassava Technologies

By: Islam Tawfik

Eng. Raafat Hindy, Minister of Communications and Information Technology, witnessed the signing and launch of new partnerships involving Vodafone Business, Elsewedy Electric Group, and Cassava Technologies. The initiative aims to establish the "Africa Data Centres Egypt" project to build one of Egypt's largest data centers, as well as the country's first sovereign AI data center. These partnerships will bolster Egypt's digital infrastructure, support state efforts to localize advanced technologies, enhance local data hosting and processing capabilities, and cement Egypt's position as a regional hub for data, cloud services, and artificial intelligence. The signing ceremony was attended by Eng. Hany Mahmoud, former Minister of Communications and Information Technology; Eng. Mohamed Shamroukh, Head of the National Telecom Regulatory Authority (NTRA); Eng. Ahmed El-Zaher, CEO of the Information Technology Industry Development Agency (ITIDA); and various executive leaders from the Ministry, NTRA, and ITIDA, alongside senior executives from the participating companies and organizations. "Africa Data Centres Egypt" Project The partnership between Vodafone Business, Elsewedy Electric, and Cassava Technologies entails the establishment of "Africa Data Centres Egypt." This project aims to build a state-of-the-art data center—set to be one of the largest in Egypt—by combining Vodafone Business's global expertise in cloud and enterprise services, Elsewedy Electric's capabilities in infrastructure, energy, and execution, and Cassava Technologies' pan-African data center expertise. The project targets an initial capacity of 20 megawatts



over the first three years, with a planned expansion path reaching 200 megawatts. This will enable large enterprises, cloud service providers, and global companies to launch and scale their operations within Egypt. The project is expected to attract approximately \$200 million in foreign direct investment during its first phase, with total investments reaching \$1 billion upon completion of the target capacity. Additionally, it will create up to 200 direct jobs and around 2,000 indirect jobs, relying on Egyptian talent for the center's construction, operation, and management. The strategic partnership between Vodafone Business and Cassava Technologies also involves developing and providing advanced infrastructure for sovereign AI in Egypt. This includes launching a first-of-its-kind data center designed to run advanced AI applications and use cases locally, while providing advanced computing capabilities and NVIDIA technologies. This infrastructure will support the large-scale development and deployment of AI applications, ensuring data hosting and processing take place within Egypt. Growing Private Sector Confidence For his part, Eng. Raafat Hindy, Minister of Communications and Information Technology, emphasized that the establishment of new data centers in Egypt reflects the rapid development of the country's ICT sector and underscores the private

sector's growing confidence in the opportunities offered by Egypt's digital economy. He explained that these partnerships embody a shift in technology investment—moving from a focus on delivering digital services to investing in capacity building and the advanced digital infrastructure that underpins future economies. Furthermore, this initiative represents a step in a broader effort to build a competitive national digital ecosystem, reinforcing Egypt's position as a regional hub for data exchange, computing, and artificial intelligence. For his part, Mohamed Abdallah, CEO and Managing Director of Vodafone Egypt, stated. The Regional CEO for International Markets at Vodacom Group stated: "These partnerships reflect Vodafone's commitment to its role as a long-term technology partner in supporting Egypt's digital transformation and turning our investments into genuine drivers of economic development. By developing digital infrastructure, supporting artificial intelligence applications, and empowering vital sectors, we contribute to attracting further investment, creating job opportunities, and growing digital exports." With the rapid growth of cloud services and artificial intelligence, a nation's ability to host and process data locally has become a key factor in enhancing its competitiveness. Egypt has a significant opportunity to cement its position as a regional

hub for data and technology, particularly given that Africa currently accounts for less than 1% of global data center capacity. In this context, Eng. Ahmed El Sewedy, CEO and Managing Director of Elsewedy Electric, explained that the partnership for the "Africa Data Centres Egypt" project combines the Group's expertise in energy, infrastructure, and large-scale project execution with its partners' expertise in data centers and technology. The goal is to develop a project capable of meeting the needs of the Egyptian market and attracting global companies to operate from Egypt. For his part, Hardy Pemhiwa, CEO and Managing Director of Cassava Technologies, stated that Egypt represents a strategic and pivotal market in the Group's vision to develop digital infrastructure across Africa and the Middle East. He noted that the partnership with Vodafone Business and Elsewedy Electric aims to develop flexible, scalable data center infrastructure that meets the highest global standards, thereby supporting the growth of enterprises, cloud service providers, and technology companies, while attracting global investment to Egypt. In this regard, Eng. Mahmoud El-Khatib, Vice President of Enterprise at Vodafone Egypt, said: "Vodafone Business's strategy is based on leveraging our global expertise and technology partnerships to deliver the latest solutions and advanced technologies locally, supporting the development of Egypt's digital economy." The establishment of ADC Egypt—in partnership with Elsewedy Group and Cassava Technologies—embodies this strategy by developing Egypt's largest data center. This facility combines global expertise with local capabilities to build a scalable, world-class digital infrastructure.

At the opening of the "Tech Invest Egypt" conference:

Minister of Communications: We are developing more effective mechanisms to enable startups to sustain, grow, and expand within Egypt.

By: Bakinam Khaled

Eng. Raafat Hindy, Minister of Communications and Information Technology, emphasized that the Ministry views entrepreneurship as a pivotal pathway toward building an innovation-driven digital economy. He noted that the state spares no effort in overcoming obstacles and challenges facing startups—ranging from funding and growth to market access, as well as talent acquisition and retention. He explained that the Ministry's role goes beyond merely encouraging the establishment of new companies; it extends to partnering with the business community to understand these challenges and develop more effective mechanisms. These mechanisms aim to empower serious companies to sustain operations, grow, and expand—first within Egypt, and subsequently into regional and international markets. These remarks were made during the opening of the sixth edition of the "Tech Invest Egypt" conference. Organized by the General Division for Digital Economy and Technology at the Federation of Egyptian Chambers of Commerce—in strategic partnership with the Information Technology Industry Development Agency (ITIDA)—the event was held under the theme "Empowering Talent... Growing Investments." Attendees included Ahmed El-Wakil, Chairman of the Federation of Egyptian Chambers of Commerce; Eng. Khalil Hassan Khalil, Chairman of the General Division for Digital Economy and Technology; Eng. Ghada Labib, Deputy Minister of Communications and



Information Technology for Institutional Development; Eng. Ahmed El-Zaher, CEO of ITIDA; and Eng. Alaa Ezz, Secretary-General of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce. Supporting Entrepreneurs and Innovators In his opening remarks at the forum, Engineer Raafat Hendy expressed his pleasure at participating in an event that brings together a select group of entrepreneurs, innovators, and companies operating in the technology sector. He commended the General Division for Digital Economy and Technology for organizing this forum, which has become an effective platform for dialogue, partnership building, and creating opportunities for promising Egyptian companies.

In the same context, the Minister stated: "I am pleased to note that we are collaborating with our partners to develop new tools that foster innovation and entrepreneurship in AI within the state's administrative apparatus. We are preparing to announce a competition aimed at stimulating innovation and leveraging the capabilities of entrepreneurs and startups to deliver impactful technological solutions. These

solutions will be piloted in a specific ministry before being rolled out to other government entities; we will announce the details and participation guidelines in the near future."

For his part, Ahmed El-Wakil, Chairman of the Federation of Egyptian Chambers of Commerce, emphasized that organizing the "Tech Invest Egypt 6" conference serves as a prime example of partnership between the government, the business community, and the technology sector. He highlighted the role Chambers of Commerce play in supporting investment, facilitating communication between companies and relevant stakeholders, conveying the business community's needs, and working to create an environment more conducive to growth and expansion. The Chairman of the Federation of Egyptian Chambers of Commerce affirmed that the chambers would continue to support all initiatives aimed at enhancing the investment climate and expanding the use of technology across various sectors.

Eng. Khalil Hassan Khalil, Chairman of the General Division for Digital Economy and Technology at the Federation of Egyptian Chambers of Commerce, stated that the sixth edition of the "Tech Invest Egypt" conference—held in strategic partnership with the Information Technology Industry Development Agency (ITIDA)—comes at a critical juncture. This timing coincides with the rapid transformations sweeping the global economy and the new opportunities presented by technology and artificial intelligence to reshape business models and boost economic competitiveness.

For the Second Consecutive Year, WE Schools Win First Place in the National "Startup Teen" Competition

By: Wael Magdy

For the second year in a row, WE Schools of Applied Technology have reaffirmed their leadership in innovation and entrepreneurship by securing first place in the national "Startup Teen" competition—an event focused on entrepreneurship and technical innovation organized by iSchool. The competition saw strong participation from WE Schools across eight governorates, with 79 students presenting 19 innovative projects. Nine teams reached the semi-finals out of 102 teams nationwide, with two teams advancing to the finals—representing one-third of the teams competing for the title.



The WE Schools team from Alexandria won first place for their project, "Basita" (Simple). This innovative application offers integrated solutions for home maintenance and finishing services by

directly connecting customers, technicians, and suppliers, thereby ensuring greater price transparency and more reliable services.

Engineer Tamer El Mahdy, Managing Director and CEO of Telecom Egypt, emphasized that this achievement reflects the success of the company's strategy to invest in youth capabilities. He highlighted the goal of building a generation equipped with technical skills, an innovative spirit, and an entrepreneurial mindset—capable of transforming ideas into tangible solutions and promising projects that support Egypt's digital economy and sustainable development.

Techne Summit 2026 Returns Across Cairo and Alexandria with More Than US\$1 Million in Potential Startup Prizes and Investment

By: Islam Tawfik

Techne today announced the 2026 edition of Techne Summit, returning to Cairo and Alexandria with two distinct experiences designed around different stages of the entrepreneurship and innovation journey. The announcement was made during a press conference hosted by the Embassy of Sweden in Cairo, reflecting the long-standing relationship between Sweden and Techne and a shared commitment to strengthening innovation, entrepreneurship and cross-border collaboration between Sweden, Egypt and the wider region. "Sweden continues to rank among the world's most innovative nations, driven by strong research and a culture that encourages creativity and collaboration. Swedish companies contribute heavily to global progress in areas as AI and clean innovation. Through our long-standing partnership with Techne, we remain committed to supporting Egypt's growing innovation landscape and strengthening ties with Sweden's own ecosystem. With Techne Summit returning to Cairo and Alexandria as anchors of Middle East Innovation Week, we're proud to keep supporting platforms that inspire new ideas and partnerships" H.E. Dag Juhlin-Dannfelt, Ambassador of Sweden to Egypt Two Summits .. Two Different Missions For 2026, Techne is sharpening the positioning of its two flagship editions around two complementary stages of the innovation journey: START in Alexandria. GROW in Cairo.

Techne Summit Alexandria: START

Taking place from October 3 to 5 at Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Techne Summit Alexandria remains deeply rooted in Techne's entrepreneurial and startup community.

The Alexandria edition is primarily designed for early-stage startups, aspiring entrepreneurs, students, investors, accelerators, incubators and ecosystem supporters.

Its programme focuses on accessible beginner-to-intermediate content, practical learning, mentorship, founder development, startup exposure and opportunities for entrepreneurs to connect with investors and the wider ecosystem.

Across thirteen tracks, including EdTech, Investment, Marketing & Media, HealthTech, FinTech, and Clean & Climate Innovation, Alexandria provides an environment for entrepreneurs to start, learn, connect and build.

Techne Summit Cairo: GROW

Taking place on September 26 and 27 at Ghurnata, Heliopolis, Techne Summit Cairo focuses on the next stage of the journey .. growth, scale and market leadership.

The Cairo edition is designed around scaleups, corporates, investors, policymakers, government leaders and established technology companies, with an agenda focused on access to capital, expansion, corporate innovation, emerging technologies, policy, regulation and regional growth.

The programme is structured around five core



themes: Capital & Growth, AI & Emerging Tech, Corporate Innovation, Policy & Markets, and Creative Economy & Heritage.

Together, the two editions create a clear progression within the Techne platform .. helping entrepreneurs START in Alexandria, while supporting companies and industries to GROW in Cairo.

"As startup & innovation communities have evolved, the needs of our audiences have evolved with it. Alexandria remains deeply connected to founders, young entrepreneurs and the early stages of the innovation journey. Cairo gives us the opportunity to go further into growth, investment, corporates, policy and regional expansion. START and GROW give each edition a clearer purpose, while keeping both part of the same Techne Summit platform."

Tarek El Kady, Founder and CEO, Techne More Than US\$1 Million in Potential Startup Opportunities Competitions will play a prominent role across Techne Summit 2026, giving participating startups

access to more than US\$1 million in potential prizes, awards and investment opportunities.

A major highlight will be the Startup World Cup Regional Competition, taking place on October 4 during Techne Summit Alexandria at Bibliotheca Alexandrina.

The winning startup will progress to the Startup World Cup Grand Finale in San Francisco, competing for the opportunity to secure US\$1 million in investment from Pegasus Tech Ventures.

Additional startup competitions, challenges and opportunities will be announced as part of the 2026 programme.

Across Cairo and Alexandria, Techne Summit will also feature more than 90 workshops, alongside one-to-one mentoring, AI-powered matchmaking, investor meetings, startup meetings and networking experiences.

The 2026 edition brings together key strategic partners including Meta, ITIDA and the Digital Economy and Technology General Division (DETGD), alongside TrianglZ as Platinum Sponsor.

Meta has partnered with Middle East Innovation Week and Techne Summit 2026 as a Strategic Partner to help advance AI innovation, inclusion, and capability-building across Egypt and the wider MENA ecosystem. The collaboration will connect founders, businesses, students, and young people with practical AI opportunities through Meta AI Academy (including a workshop and hackathon), Meta Transform with AI, and My Digital World.

Techne Summit as an Anchor Event of Middle East Innovation Week

Techne Summit Cairo and Techne Summit Alexandria will also serve as major anchor events within Middle East Innovation Week 2026, while remaining distinct Techne Summit events.

Middle East Innovation Week, MEIW, is a separate decentralized regional platform bringing together independently organized activities from companies, governments, investors, universities, accelerators, communities and ecosystem organizations across the region.

Techne Summit Cairo takes place on September 26 and 27, while the official MEIW community event programme begins on September 28.

Community-led activities will run across Egypt from September 28 to 30, followed by UAE Spotlight on October 1 and 2, Techne Summit Alexandria from October 3 to 5, and Saudi Spotlight and the regional closing programme from October 6 to 8.

The majority of MEIW participating events, partners and regional activations will be announced on September 23, coinciding with Saudi National Day and marking the platform's regional activation.

MEIW is expected to connect approximately 60,000 participants from more than 70 countries, including 450 speakers, 200 investors and more than 1,000 startups across Techne Summit and participating partner and community events

Cyshield Signs Cooperation Protocol with National Bank of Egypt to Enhance Cybersecurity Incident Response and AI-Powered Security Operations

By : Sarah NourEldeen

Cyshield, a leading Egyptian cybersecurity and digital solutions company, has signed a cooperation protocol with the National Bank of Egypt (NBE) to develop and enhance the Bank's cybersecurity capabilities and strengthen the efficiency of its cybersecurity incident response and management framework, supporting the protection of its digital systems and infrastructure against evolving cyber threats.

Under the protocol, Cyshield will support the development of NBE's Cybersecurity Incident Response and Management Center, in addition to providing an advanced Security Operations Center (SOC) automation platform powered by Agentic AI. The solution is designed to enhance the Bank's capabilities in security monitoring, analysis, detection, and response, enabling faster and more efficient



handling of cybersecurity incidents.

The cooperation also includes studying opportunities for the broader adoption of Artificial Intelligence technologies across relevant areas of the Bank's cybersecurity ecosystem. This aligns with NBE's strategy to leverage emerging technologies to further develop its digital and cybersecurity capabilities while maintaining high standards of information security and digital resilience.

The partnership comes as part of NBE's ongoing strategy to strengthen its information security framework and protect its digital

infrastructure. As one of Egypt's leading national banks and a key pillar of the country's banking and economic ecosystem, ensuring the security and resilience of its digital infrastructure remains a strategic priority. Through the partnership, Cyshield will contribute its specialized expertise across cybersecurity, Security Operations Centers, incident response and management, and AI-enabled security solutions, supporting NBE's efforts to continuously strengthen its cybersecurity posture and keep pace with the rapidly evolving cyber threat landscape.

DCO Concludes LEAP 2026 with Partnerships and Digital Cooperation Milestones

By : Wael Elgafry

The Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO) concluded its participation at LEAP 2026, during which the State of Palestine signed the DCO Charter, becoming a Signatory Member, and unveiled the Digital Prosperity Plan 2026–2028, co-developed with DCO to advance digital infrastructure and AI readiness, digital government, skills, startups, and SMEs.

The signing followed the DCO Council's earlier approval of eight candidate countries. Upon completion of accession procedures, DCO will expand from 16 to 24 Member States, representing approximately 980 million people and paving the way for a billion-strong voice for digital cooperation. Tajikistan is also on track to join the organization as an Associate Member, opening new opportunities to strengthen digital cooperation, access public-private partnerships, and collaborate on initiatives advancing digital innovation, skills, and inclusion, in line with its National Development Strategy through 2030. DCO Secretary-General Ms. Deemah AlYahya led a ministerial conversation "Governing Growth: Building Human-Centered Digital Economies in an AI-Driven Era," to discuss responsible innovation, digital business growth,

57 million mobile network operator (MNO) electronic wallets; 2.22 billion financial transactions executed, valued at EGP 2.96 trillion.

By: Mohamed Essam

In support of the state's plan to achieve financial inclusion, the National Telecom Regulatory Authority (NTRA) is committed to continuous coordination with telecom service providers to foster a digital payment environment. The NTRA also establishes regulatory frameworks for mobile electronic wallet payment services, thereby facilitating the adoption of electronic payment methods and accelerating the transition from a cash-based society to a cashless one. As part of its commitment to raising user awareness regarding electronic payment methods, the NTRA released a report on mobile electronic wallet usage indicators for the first half of 2025. The report reveals a total of 57.01 million electronic wallets nationwide, with 2.22 billion financial transactions executed, amounting to a total value of EGP 2.96 trillion.



The distribution of mobile electronic wallets across companies was as follows: Vodafone Cash (53%), e& Cash (23%), Orange Cash (20%), and We Pay (4%). Meanwhile, the distribution of "active" mobile electronic wallets across companies was: Vodafone Cash (57%), e& Cash (24%), Orange Cash (17%), and We Pay (2%). The distribution of the number of financial transactions across companies was as follows: Vodafone Cash 69%, e& Cash 20%, Orange Cash 10%, and We Pay 1%; meanwhile, the distribution of the value of financial

transactions was: Vodafone Cash 77%, e& Cash 14%, Orange Cash 8%, and We Pay 1%. A comparison of the report's findings between the first half of 2026 and the first half of 2025 reveals an upward trend in electronic wallet usage indicators. The number of electronic wallets rose by 23%, reaching 57.01 million in the first half of 2026 compared to 46.33 million in the first half of 2025. Wallet penetration increased by 15%, reaching 45% in the first half of 2026 versus 39% in the first half of 2025. Additionally, the volume of financial transactions executed via wallets grew by 62%, totaling 2.22 billion transactions in the first half of 2026 compared to 1.37 billion in the first half of 2025, while the total value of these transactions rose by 56%, reaching EGP 2.96 trillion in the first half of 2026 compared to EGP 1.90 trillion in the first half of 2025.

