

MENA Startup Ecosystem News

DECEMBER 2025

Oraseya Capital ranks #1 as 2025's Most Active Investor in the UAE; earns Venture Capital Firm of the year recognition

Ranked by [MAGNiTT](#) as the most active investor in the UAE for the second consecutive year, Oraseya Capital continues to set the pace and builds on its 2024 leadership with even stronger deal activity. [Entrepreneur Middle East](#) also awarded it as the Venture Capital Firm of the Year, underscoring its growing impact on the region's innovation ecosystem.

By number of deals in the UAE, Oraseya Capital ranks:

- 1st Most Active Investor
- 2nd Most Active Early-Stage Investor
- 2nd Most Active Series B Investor
- 3rd Most Active Series A Investor

Across MENA it proudly ranks:

- 2nd Most Active Series B Investor
- 3rd Most Active Investor
- 4th Most Active Early-Stage Investor

INVESTMENTS (non-exhaustive)

STARTUP	SECTOR / INDUSTRY	LOCATION	AMOUNT & ROUND	INVESTORS
noon	E-commerce	UAE	\$500M, Pre-IPO	Public Investment Fund (PIF), Mohammed Alabbar
Premialab	Fintech	UAE	\$220M, Growth	led by Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co (KKR); from Balderton Capital
DSShield	Cybersecurity	KSA	\$54M, Undisclosed	Merak Capital
Rewaa	RetailTech	KSA	\$45M, Series B	led by Wa'ed Ventures, Idrisi Ventures, Unity Ventures; from Vision Ventures, RZM Investments, Sedco Capital, Saned Partners, Palm Ventures, Abdulrahman Saleh Al-Rajhi & Sons Company
Nawah Scientific DeepTech		Egypt	\$23M, Series A (Equity & Debt mix)	led by Life Ventures Holding; from Den Ventures, Empire M, AfricInvest, Elsewedy, angels, banks
COGNNA	Cybersecurity	KSA	\$9.2M, Series A	co-led by Impact46 and BNVT Capital; from Vision Ventures and Tali Ventures
VOLZ	TravelTech	Algeria	\$5M, Series A	led by Tell Group; from Groupe GIBA
Reno	PropTech	UAE	\$4M, equity and debt	led by Sanabil 500, Hub71, Plus VC, Zero 100 VC, FlyerOne Ventures, Sandstorm VC, AngelSpark and Swiss Founders Fund
Nabt	AgriTech	KSA	\$3.4M, Seed extension	led by SHG Group; from Merak Capital, angels
Lucid Capital	FinTech	UAE	\$2.5M, Seed	led by Tharawat Holding; from Singular Link
Newera.ai	AI	KSA	\$2.1M, Pre-Seed	led by Embark; from angels
Byit Capital	PropTech	UAE	\$1.1M, Undisclosed	A15, Beltone Holding, angels
Hypemasters	GameTech	UAE	\$1M, Undisclosed	led by Impact46; from GEM Capital
Qwacks	GameTech	KSA	\$480K, Pre-Seed	Merak Capital
Ballurh	SaaS	KSA	Undisclosed	Falak Angels Network

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STARTUP	SECTOR / INDUSTRY	LOCATION	AMOUNT & ROUND	INVESTORS
Croptimus	AgriTech	Egypt	Undisclosed	Venture X
iVoiceUp	RegTech	Egypt	Undisclosed	led by A15
Qadi	RegTech	UAE	Undisclosed, Pre-Seed	led by Incubayt
QPioneers	AI	KSA	Undisclosed	Q Fund
Relik	Cybersecurity	UAE	Undisclosed, Seed	KBW Ventures, Naatt Holding, Fort Holding, Ayman Sejiny
Rology	HealthTech	Egypt	Undisclosed	Philips Foundation, Johnson & Johnson Impact Ventures, Sanofi Global Health Unit's Impact Fund, and MIT Solve Innovation Future
Trendle	RetailTech	Kuwait	Undisclosed, Seed	Fifty Studios Holding, angels
UNITS	Logistics	KSA	Undisclosed	Falak Angels Network

ACQUISITIONS

COMPANY	SECTOR / INDUSTRY	LOCATION	ACQUIRER, LOCATION	DETAILS
CoinMENA	Crypto	Bahrain	Paribu, Turkiye	\$240M
eFlow	EdTech	UAE	EDT&Partners, Singapore	Undisclosed

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STARTUPS

MENA startup funding ends 2025 at \$171.5M in December

MENA startup funding in December reached \$171.5M across 44 startups. Saudi Arabia led with \$115M, followed by Egypt with \$27.3M and the UAE with \$21.4M, highlighting activity across the region despite concentrated funding patterns at year-end. Cybersecurity led with \$63.4M, followed by SaaS at \$47.9M and Deeptech at \$23M. B2B startups raised \$154.7M across 33 rounds, reinforcing strong enterprise-led investment appetite.

Breadfast in talks with IFC for \$13M backing to expand q-commerce footprint

International Finance Corporation (IFC) is considering a \$13M equity investment in Egypt's Breadfast as the company looks to accelerate expansion and strengthen quick commerce capabilities. Breadfast operates an AI-powered online grocery platform offering 60-minute delivery, fresh food, private-label products, and ready-to-eat meals. The investment would support expansion into secondary cities and technology upgrades following environmental and social reviews.

HUMAIN receives first shipment of latest NVIDIA AI chips

Riyadh-based HUMAIN, a global artificial intelligence company launched by Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund in May 2025, develops advanced AI technologies and builds an integrated AI-powered digital ecosystem. HUMAIN has received its first shipment of the latest NVIDIA AI GPU chips to strengthen capacity for large-scale model training and accelerate deployments ahead of the new year.

Regeny launches fast-charging EV hub near DXB Airport

Regeny EV Charging launched a fast-charging hub at the Mövenpick Grand Hotel Al Bustan near Dubai International Airport, featuring four 160 kW DC ultra-fast chargers. EV adoption in the UAE is rising, supported by federal and Dubai initiatives. The hub offers 24/7 access, fleet-ready design, and future expansion, enabling rapid, reliable charging for private and commercial EV users, strategically positioned in Garhoud with reliable infrastructure supporting sustainable mobility.

Taager enters Morocco with new Casablanca operations

Egypt-born and Saudi Arabia-HQ social e-commerce platform Taager launched operations in Casablanca, marking its first North African expansion. Founded in 2019, Taager enables individuals to start and scale online businesses by providing products, storage, shipping, and customer collection. Earlier this year, Taager completed a \$6.75M pre-Series B funding round led by Africa-focused tech growth fund Norrsken22.

Coursera, Udemy agree \$2.5B all-stock merger

Coursera and Udemy signed a definitive all-stock merger agreement valuing the combined company at \$2.5B based on December 16, 2025 closing prices. Udemy shareholders will receive 0.800 Coursera shares per Udemy share, implying a 26% premium. Coursera shareholders will own 59% and Udemy shareholders 41%. The deal aims to deliver \$115M cost synergies, accelerate AI-native product development, and close in H2 2026.

PureHealth launches AI-powered standalone diagnostic laboratory

PureHealth unveiled its AI-powered Lab under subsidiary PureLab in Abu Dhabi. The seven-storey, 70,000-square-foot facility integrates AI-driven automation, robotics, and real-time quality control, processing over 30M samples annually. Offering 1,800 test parameters across specialties, it supports oncology centres, virtual consultations, and sustainable features, aligning with UAE's vision for smart, patient-centered healthcare and net-zero emissions.

Paymob-RTG strike regional partnership to merge payments, AI development

Egypt-based fintech Paymob and Robusta Technology Group (RTG) signed a strategic partnership to build an integrated digital ecosystem combining digital payments, AI and advanced user experiences. The collaboration aligns with Egypt's Vision 2030, aiming to accelerate digital transformation for merchants, SMEs and enterprises, support regional expansion, and strengthen Egypt's position as a hub for digital innovation.

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VENTURE CAPITAL

Oraseya Capital named 'Venture Capital Firm of the Year' at Entrepreneur Middle East Awards 2025

Oraseya Capital, the investment arm of Dubai Integrated Economic Zones Authority (DIEZ), was named 'Venture Capital Firm of the Year' at Entrepreneur Middle East Awards 2025. In 2025, it accelerated Series-A and B investments, added 25 new deals, and expanded its portfolio to 61 companies across fintech, AI, PropTech, SaaS, and digital health. Through SANDBOX, it supports pre-Seed and Seed founders, reinforcing Dubai's innovation ecosystem and D33 economic agenda.

Oraseya Capital Launches Dune Venture Days

Oraseya Capital will present its first Dune Venture Days at WORLDEF Dubai, taking place at Dubai CommerCity on February 12–13, 2026. The program will gather influential investors and innovators to exchange ideas and explore the next wave of opportunities, featuring sessions on MENA tech, expansion playbooks, IPOs, exits, and venture debt. As part of the event, the Zero-to-One Startup Competition will be held on the second day, where the top 10 shortlisted early-stage ventures will pitch live in front of a jury composed of leading VCs and ecosystem leaders competing for a single prize of AED 100,000 grant sponsored by Dubai Integrated Economic Zones Authority (DIEZ).

WORTH THE READ

Magnitt

- [FY 2025 Most Active Investors in MENA, Africa and SEA](#)
- [FY 2025 State of Venture Capital in MENA](#)
- [FY 2025 Saudi Arabia Venture Capital Report](#)
- [FY 2025 State of Venture in Emerging Venture Markets](#)

Wamda

- [Why the Middle East's \\$4 Trillion is our strongest asset](#)
- [Fintech, AI shift the economics of GCC business travel](#)
- [10 tech forces shaping GCC's innovation landscape in 2026](#)
- [How MENA's female founders thrive in an ecosystem built for men](#)

Zawya

- [UAE marks 2025 with strategic AI transformation, infrastructure leadership](#)
- [Balancing speed and ethics: The UAE's moment to lead in responsible AI](#)
- [Middle East emerging as key AI data center nexus](#)

Hub71

- [The Rise of AI Startups in MENA 2025: Why this is the Breakthrough Year](#)

STARTUP PROGRAMS

Sandbox by Oraseya Capital welcomes its seventh Cohort



Having received over 1,200 applications, SANDBOX Accelerator welcomed 17 high caliber startups into Phase 1 of the program where 8 startups were shortlisted to the Phase 2 of the Accelerator program, receiving USD 150K investment from Oraseya Capital.

The founder-centric program spans five months providing extensive support to help these startups grow and scale. Startups that made it to Phase 2 benefit not only from funding but also from mentorship and access to Oraseya's extensive network.

Applications are open for the 8th Cohort, interested Applicants may send in their applications by clicking [Apply Now](#).

Propeller launches Kernel Camp, an 8-week deep-tech residency in Silicon Valley for MENA founders

Kernel Camp is an eight-week AI infrastructure and deep-tech residency for early-stage founders from the MENA region, taking place in San Francisco in April–May 2026. The program targets technically strong founders building demo-ready products and offers fully sponsored housing, expert-led sessions, one-on-one mentorship, site visits, and a demo day, designed to accelerate the region's most ambitious early-stage technology founders, following Propeller's \$50M Fund III to bridge MENA and US deep-tech ecosystems.

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