

iGA recognises trailblazers in Tech Innovation

Nationwide entries now open



● Awards open May 21

● AI, apps among categories

● Open to all sectors

TDT | Manama

IGA launches eGovernment Excellence Award 2025. The Information and eGovernment Authority (iGA) has announced the opening of submissions for the 13th edition of the



eGovernment Excellence Award, a national competition recognising digital innovation across public, private, and non-profit sectors.

Entries will be accepted from Wednesday until June 28 via the official award platform www.egovaward.bh. Participants are invited to showcase their best practices, platforms, applications, and ICT initiatives that advance digital transformation.

Diverse categories

This year's awards span multiple categories, including Best Website, Best Practice in eParticipation, Best Integrated eServices, and Best Applications for Smart Devices. Other honours include Best Project for Digital Transformation, Best Utilisation of Artificial Intelligence, and Best Work Environment for Digital Innovation.

A Citizen Award also invites individuals to submit creative digital ideas or initiatives that

enhance eServices or improve access and usability for the public. Submissions must be new entries that did not win in the 2023 edition.

Focus on innovation

iGA officials noted that the awards reflect the Kingdom's commitment to fostering a culture of digital excellence and innovation.

The Best AI Utilisation category, for example, highlights how organisations use artificial intelligence to enhance operations.

Similarly, the Best Work Environment for Digital Innovation award celebrates policies and internal cultures that enable creative, future-ready solutions in institutions. Private sector entities and NGOs can compete in the Smart Devices App category, in support of the national initiative to streamline digital services across the MyGov, ALTajir, and Bahrain mobile applications.



The eGovernment Excellence Award was first launched in 2007 to highlight the Kingdom's pioneering role in regional digital governance.

Briefing and support

A dedicated information session will be held soon for interested applicants, with the date and venue to be announced by the iGA. Participants are encouraged to review eligibility criteria and category requirements on the award site before submission.

Abdulla bin Adel Fakhro, Minister of Industry and Commerce, participated as a keynote speaker in the fourth edition of the "Make in the Emirates 2025" forum, organized by the Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology of the United Arab Emirates, from 19 to 22 May, at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC). During his participation in the dialogue session held under the title "Integrated Industrial Partnership for Sustainable Economic Development", the Minister elaborated on a set of paths Bahrain took to support smart manufacturing and enhance local content. Fakhro, met Dr. Sultan bin Ahmed Al Jaber, UAE Minister of Industry, where they discussed a number of issues of common interest.



Matski Group, which owns Matski Center for Dental and Dermatology marked its third anniversary and announced the acquisition of Smart Care Medical Centers at a gala event held at the Ritz-Carlton, Seef, on May 19, 2025. The event was held under the patronage of Mr. Vinod K. Jacob, Ambassador of India to Bahrain, who praised the achievements of Indian entrepreneurs in the Kingdom, noting that Indian investment in Bahrain now exceeds \$1.4 billion, with bilateral trade projected to reach \$2 billion in 2025. The Ambassador praised the owner and founder of Matski Group, as a shining example of the positive impact of Indian business leadership in the Kingdom.

EU plans two-euro flat fee on small parcels from outside bloc

AFP | Brussels, Belgium

The EU yesterday said it is preparing to impose a two-euro (\$2.25) flat fee on the billions of low-value packages that flood into the bloc each year, the great majority from China.

Trade chief Maros Sefcovic told the European Parliament that e-commerce platforms would be expected to pay the fee per parcel, which aims to help the European Union tackle the challenges from the massive influx of cheap items.

The fee would remove the customs-free status of packages worth less than 150 euros



that are imported directly to consumers, often via platforms like Chinese-founded Temu and Shein.

In 2024, 4.6 billion such packages entered the EU -- more than 145 per second -- with 91% originating in China. The EU expects the numbers to rise.

Sefcovic said the figure represents a "completely new challenge to the control, to the safety, to making sure that the standards are properly checked of the products which are shipped to the European Union".

He pointed to the "huge" workload for customs officials, "therefore I wouldn't look at the handling fee as a tax, simply the fee to compensate the cost".

Brussels also hopes part of the revenues from the fee will go towards the EU budget.