

# NBB Signs Strategic Agreement with Procural to Advance Digital Procurement Capabilities

Manama

The National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) has signed a strategic agreement with Procural, a Bahrain-based digital procurement and tendering platform. The collaboration supports NBB's ongoing digital transformation initiatives to enhance efficiency, transparency and value across its procurement activities.

Procural operates a cloud-based system that manages core sourcing functions, including e-tendering, supplier onboarding, bid evaluation and purchase planning. Integrating the platform into NBB's procurement framework will strengthen operational agility, elevate process governance and create a more



streamlined channel for vendor interaction.

Commenting on the occasion, Nabeel Mustafa, Group Chief Operating Officer at NBB, said, "This partnership represents an important step in our ongoing digitalisation journey. By adopting analytics-enabled procurement tools, we are enhancing the Group's operational performance while establishing a modern, structured approach to vendor engagement. It also reflects our commitment to supporting the Kingdom's SME sector by making our procurement process more accessible to businesses of all sizes."

For his part, Uzair Usman, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Procural, added, "We are honoured to partner with NBB, a cornerstone institution within Bahrain's financial services sector. By managing their sourcing activities through Procural, the Bank is building a transparent and accessible digital channel for suppliers. This partnership also expands NBB's reach to a wider pool of suppliers, giving growing local enterprises the confidence to compete for opportunities in a leading national institution within a fair environment."

The agreement reinforces NBB's efforts to incorporate smarter, more effective operations that further benefit its partner and stakeholder ecosystem.

## Gulf Air Integrates MedAire Medical Support to Enhance In-Flight Safety

Manama

Gulf Air, the national carrier of the Kingdom of Bahrain, is expanding its partnership with MedAire, an International SOS company and leader in travel health and aviation security solutions, to further strengthen passenger and crew safety and wellbeing.

As part of this expansion, Gulf Air is integrating new medical support services within its existing aviation security platform to support its continued international growth, adding four MedAire medical solutions: MedLink for in-flight medical emergencies, Passenger Fit-to-Fly screening, the Inflight App for real-time medical data collection, and Crew Support for layover assistance—significantly enhancing the medical resources available to Gulf Air's teams.

Gulf Air Chief Operations Officer Captain Qassim AlBastaki said: "This expanded agreement is a strategic step in reinforcing Gulf Air's safety and wellbeing framework, ensuring passen-



gers and crew benefit from 24/7 expert medical and security support as we continue to grow our international network. As we add more long-haul routes, immediate access to medical guidance becomes essential for safeguarding the wellbeing of our passengers and staff. This integrated approach reflects our commitment to safety and wellbeing across the 50 destinations we serve."

MedAire Business Development Director, Middle East & Asia, Reely Rajan said: "Gulf Air's decision to extend our collaboration underscores their commitment to the highest standards of health and safety as they expand globally. By integrating MedAire's medical expertise with Gulf Air's established aviation security services, the airline benefits from a unified platform of support, from pre-flight assessments and in-flight emergencies to crew wellbeing worldwide."

Gulf Air flies to more than 50 destinations across 28 countries in the Middle East, Asia,



Representatives from MedAire and Gulf Air teams

Africa, Europe, Indian Subcontinent and America from its hub at Bahrain International Airport. Gulf Air is also expanding its network with a return to America after nearly 30 years, supported by flights between Bahrain and New York JFK operating three times a week. This marks an important step in the airline's wider international growth.

MedAire's medical support includes access to MedLink physicians for in-flight assistance, clinical guidance for Fit-to-Fly assessments, digital tools that relay medical information from the aircraft, and round-the-clock advice for crew during layovers. These services provide consistent medical support across Gulf Air's global network.

## Bahrain Islamic Bank (BisB) Honored by Visa for Exceptional Performance, Delivering Impactful Initiatives



Bahrain Islamic Bank (BisB), the leading provider of innovative Islamic financial solutions for simplifying money matters in the Kingdom of Bahrain, has been recognized by Visa for its outstanding performance and commitment to delivering high-impact initiatives in 2025, including "We Write in Arabic" and "Innovation Studio"

## Musk wins US court appeal of \$56 bn Tesla pay package

AFP | Washington

A Delaware appeals court cleared the way Friday for Elon Musk to receive a long-contested \$56 billion Tesla pay package, reversing an earlier judgment in the protracted case.

The decision by the Delaware Supreme Court rejects a pair of judgments by Chancellor Kathaleen McCormick of the state's Court of Chancery and sets the stage for the world's richest person to get another windfall.

In a pair of 2024 rulings, McCormick invalidated the 2018 package, which once loomed as historically large but have since been eclipsed by the tech tycoon's most recent Tesla package.

The five-judge appeals panel



Elon Musk looks on during the US-Saudi Investment Forum (file photo)

determined that McCormick ruled improperly in ordering a rescission, the tossing out of Musk's package in its entirety.

"It is undisputed that Musk fully performed under the 2018 grant, and Tesla and its stock-

holders were rewarded for his work," the ruling said as it reversed the rescission.

Though approved by a majority of Tesla shareholders, the 2018 package ended up in court when Tesla shareholder Richard Tarnetta challenged the award as excessive.

In a statement posted online Friday, attorneys representing Tesla shareholders said they were considering next steps.

The court struck down the award in January 2024 following a five-day trial, calling the process "deeply flawed." The board proved vulnerable to manipulation by Musk, "the paradigmatic 'Superstar CEO,'" wrote McCormick, who upheld her determination in December 2024 following an appeal.