

'WSSL' and 'Dilmune Cloud' Crowned as Winners in the latest Edition of StartUp Bahrain Pitch

Manama

As part of its ongoing efforts to support the growth of the entrepreneurship ecosystem and Bahraini startups, StartUp Bahrain – the Kingdom's leading national platform supported by Labour Fund (Tamkeen) – hosted the 25th edition of StartUp Bahrain Pitch in collaboration with the SMEs Development Board, aiming to encourage innovation among Bahraini youth and further strengthen the Kingdom's entrepreneurial ecosystem.

This edition featured a judging panel comprising a distinguished group of experts and investors in entrepreneurship, including Hamad Al Fahad, Executive Director and Managing Partner at Tajawuz, Sara Al Sharif, Investment Manager at BeVentures, Laith Al Khalili, Associate Partner at Mumtalakat, and Hassan Haider, Founder and Partner at Plus VC. The judging panel evaluated the participating startups and provided valuable feedback and guidance aimed at supporting the development, growth, and scalability of their ventures.

The event showcased several innovative startups, including WSSL, a Business to Business platform designed to streamline laundry service operations



through an innovative operating model, and Hawaa, a Crowdsourced logistics and mobility platform connecting users with freelance drivers.

The event also featured Dilmune Cloud, an integrated cloud management platform offering hosting, storage, application deployment, and database services through a unified dashboard, in addition to Mustashar, a legal platform that connects users with lawyers to provide company setup, contract, and legal consultation services with flexible templates and pay-per-service options.

Following the startups' presentations and evaluations by the judging panel, the winners were announced: WSSL was awarded first place and Dilmune Cloud was awarded second place.

On this occasion, Faisal Basel expressed his gratitude for

winning first place, stating: "We are proud to have achieved first place in this edition of StartUp Bahrain Pitch. This accomplishment motivates us to continue developing our business and strengthening our market presence. Participating in the event provided a valuable opportunity to benefit from the feedback of experts and investors, while also building meaningful connections that support the growth and expansion of our venture."

Second place winner Osama Aljamal from Dilmune Cloud also expressed pride in this achievement, noting that participating in StartUp Bahrain Pitch represented a valuable opportunity to engage with leading entrepreneurs and investors, present their business idea to industry specialists, and benefit from the experience in further developing their startup and

enhancing its positive impact on both the local and regional levels.

Tamkeen's support aligns with its strategic priorities for 2026, which focus on areas with the highest impact on the economy and Bahrainis. It also reflects Tamkeen's role in shaping career pathways through programs that connect skills with opportunities in the labor market, adopting innovative approaches to stimulate private sector growth and financing, and implementing programs that enhance the Fund's efficiency and effectiveness by developing internal mechanisms and continuously strengthening governance.

For more information about StartUp Bahrain and to participate in future editions of StartUp Bahrain Pitch, follow @start-upbahrain on social media.

Zain Bahrain Marks Global Accessibility Awareness Day with Impactful Community Initiative



Zain Bahrain organized a special visit to the Bahrain Mobility International Center in recognition of Global Accessibility Awareness Day, as part of the company's ongoing commitment to inclusion, community engagement, and fostering meaningful human connections beyond the workplace. During the visit, employees spent quality time with children with disabilities, shared joyful moments, and distributed gifts in an initiative that reflects Zain Bahrain's people-centric values and dedication to supporting the local community. The initiative also aligns with Zain Group's '4WARD - Progress with Purpose' strategy, which focuses on driving sustainable social impact, empowering communities, and building a more inclusive and connected future.

Beyon Signs Commitment Agreement for Kuwait's Fixed Telecommunications Network Development Project, with Kuwait Ministry of Communications and KAPP

● Investments Exceeding KWD 825 million

● A Strategic Project Supporting Kuwait's Digital Infrastructure and Transformation Objectives

Manama

Beyon announced the signing of a Public Private Partnership (PPP) commitment agreement with the Ministry of Communications in Kuwait and the Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects (KAPP), formalizing its selection as the Winning Investor for the Fixed Telecommunications Network Development Project in Kuwait.

The agreement was signed at the Government Communication Center of the Council of Ministers by H.E. Shaikh Abdulla bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Beyon Chairman, Eng. Mishal Al-Zaid, Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Communications, and Ms. Asma Al-Mousa, Acting Director General at the Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects (KAPP), in the presence of H.E. Mr. Omar Saud Al-Omar, Kuwait Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology and Acting Minister of Information and Culture, and H.E. Dr. Yaqoub Al-Sayed Yousef Al-Rifai, Kuwait Minister of Finance and Chairman of the Higher Committee for Public Private Partnership Projects, and H.E. Mr. Salah Ali Al-Maliki, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the State of Kuwait, alongside



several senior officials from the participating entities.

The project is considered one of the largest digital infrastructure initiatives in the State of Kuwait, with expected investments exceeding KWD 825 million over the 50-year partnership term. The project aims to develop, design, finance, build, operate, and maintain Kuwait's fixed telecommunications network through a modern operating model based on the establishment of a specialized company to manage and operate wholesale infrastructure in line with international standards.

The project includes a comprehensive re-engineering of Kuwait's national telecommunications network, including the development of the last-mile access network, modernization of transport and backhaul networks, development of Next Generation Network (NGN) systems, and the gradual decommissioning of the legacy copper network, paving the way for a more efficient, reliable, and sustainable digital infrastructure.

The project also includes a commitment by the Project Company to provide high-speed

fiber connectivity to 90 percent of plots within the first five years of the project, supported by technical capabilities enabling symmetrical speeds of up to 10Gbps. This will enhance Kuwait's ability to support cloud services, artificial intelligence technologies, smart cities, and advanced digital government services.

The project will be financed and developed by the project company and therefore will not impose a financial burden on the State of Kuwait. In addition to the financial returns that the State of Kuwait will generate from the project, it will also create specialized employment opportunities for Kuwaiti nationals. Furthermore, Kuwaiti citizens will have the opportunity to participate in the ownership of the Project Company through a public offering of 50 percent of its shares following full operational commencement, strengthening community participation in the development of strategic national assets. Public sector entities in Kuwait will also retain a shareholding in the Project Company.

H.E. Mr. Omar Saud Al-Omar,

Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology and Acting Minister of Information and Culture, affirmed that the agreement represents a pivotal stage in the development of Kuwait's national digital infrastructure and reflects the State's direction toward building a modern telecommunications network that supports the digital economy and enhances Kuwait's readiness for future technological developments.

H.E. Mr. Omar Saud Al-Omar also stated that the project extends beyond the development of a conventional telecommunications network and establishes strategic infrastructure that will serve as the backbone for future digital services, including cloud computing, artificial intelligence applications, and advanced government services. He added that the project reflects the State's approach toward maximizing the efficiency of national asset management and ensuring the long-term sustainability of technical and investment development.

He further added that the project represents an advanced

model for public-private partnership, contributing to knowledge transfer, enhanced competitiveness, encouraging digital investments, and improving the efficiency of services provided to users and businesses in the State of Kuwait.

From his end, H.E. Dr. Yaqoub Al-Rifai, Minister of Finance, stated the project is a strategic initiative that reflects the success of the public-private partnership model in attracting high-quality investments with long-term economic and developmental impact. He noted that the agreement represents an important step toward enhancing the efficiency of national infrastructure and achieving sustainable added value for the State of Kuwait.

Dr. Al-Rifai added that the project combines both economic and technical factors by enabling private sector participation in the development and operation of one of the country's most important strategic assets within a regulatory and operational framework that ensures efficiency, sustainability, and optimized returns for both the State and society.

Meanwhile, Eng. Mishal Al-Zaid, Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Communications, stated that the project represents a comprehensive re-engineering of Kuwait's fixed telecommunications network and transitioning it toward a modern operating model based on an independent and professional infrastructure capable of supporting the requirements of digital growth over the coming decades.

Eng. Al-Zaid added that the project will contribute to improving the reliability and capacity of the national network,

reducing service disruptions, and enabling service providers to offer more advanced and efficient digital solutions, positively impacting the quality, speed, and stability of services provided to end users.

He further noted that Beyon Group was selected following a comprehensive technical, financial, and legal evaluation process involving competition among regional and international specialized companies and consortiums, affirming that the Group possesses extensive experience in managing large-scale fiber infrastructure networks and implementing structural separation models within the telecommunications sector.

Commenting on the occasion, H.E. Shaikh Abdulla bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Chairman of Beyon Group, expressed the Group's pride in partnering with the State of Kuwait on this strategic project, affirming the deep-rooted and historic ties between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the State of Kuwait, which have consistently served as a distinguished model of Gulf unity and strategic cooperation between the two brotherly nations. He further noted that the commitment agreement represents an important milestone in regional cooperation within the telecommunications and digital infrastructure sector.

He added that Beyon will leverage its technical and operational expertise to develop an advanced national network that supports Kuwait's future ambitions and contributes to the delivery of world-class digital infrastructure that supports economic growth, advanced digital services, and the State's readiness for the requirements of the modern digital economy.