

# Kingdom’s payments core clears Global Audit

Critical systems meet world standards

- **BENEFIT** acs security audit
- Zero flaws in certification check
- Boost to national payment resilience

**Mahir Haneef**  
TDT| Manama

Bahrain’s national payments backbone has passed a sweeping international audit with zero flaws, reinforcing its cyber resilience and operational continuity amid rising regional digital risks. BENEFIT, which powers the Kingdom’s real-time transfers, debit card switching, and digital payment infrastructure, has secured recertification for two globally recognised standards: ISO 27001:2022 for information security and ISO 22301:2019 for business continuity. The compa-



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**BADRAN BUKAMAL, HEAD OF RISK MANAGEMENT AND INFORMATION SECURITY AT BENEFIT**

ny cleared both audits without a single non-conformity.  
**Vital infrastructure**  
This clean result carries weight beyond corporate performance. As the operator behind essential services like Fawri+, Fawri, Fawateer, and national ATM networks, BENEFIT forms the digital core of Bahrain’s fi-

nancial system. Any failure in its systems would cascade across banks, retailers, consumers, and government agencies. The recertification confirms BENEFIT’s alignment with the newest and most stringent ISO protocols. ISO 27001:2022 in particular demands higher levels of leadership accountability, risk-based thinking, and embedded

security governance across operations. These are requirements not all fintechs have successfully met.  
**Leadership speaks**  
Badran Bukamal, Head of Risk Management and Information Security at BENEFIT, called the audit result a milestone built on long-term focus. “This accom-

plishment represents the culmination of years of dedication and hard work by our team, who have once again demonstrated their ability to meet and exceed the highest international standards in cybersecurity and operational sustainability.”  
He added that BENEFIT is committed to remaining ahead of emerging threats and maintaining uninterrupted services for its partners and clients. “These accreditations reflect our vision to position BENEFIT as a secure and dependable fintech provider, trusted by both customers and partners.”  
**Setting the benchmark**  
As Gulf nations accelerate their shift toward digital finance, Bahrain’s example offers a model of readiness. With rising pressure on financial infrastructure operators to prove resilience, BENEFIT’s flawless audit result gives the Kingdom a reputational edge in cybersecurity and business continuity. The company says it will con-

**Bahrain’s Fawri+ payment network, operated by BENEFIT, handles over 90% of the country’s real-time money transfers, making its uptime and cyber protection essential to the financial system.**

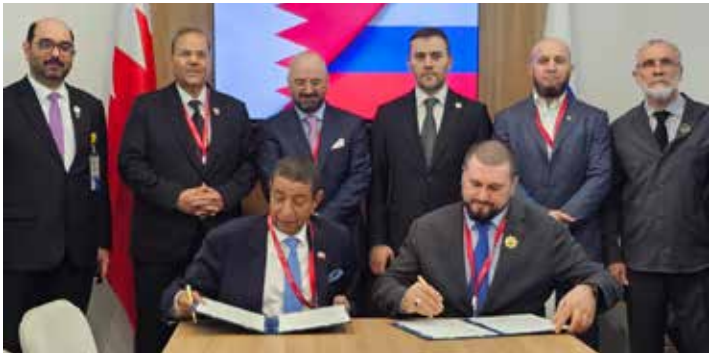
# Bahrain expands Russian ties through **seven** MOUs

Private-sector MOUs highlight economic outreach

- **Chamber** signs seven Russian MOUs
- Focus on SME cooperation
- Bahrain expands trade bridges

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Bahrain is expanding its global economic footprint, signing seven private-sector MOUs with Russian economic bodies at the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum 2025. The agreements underscore the Kingdom’s growing drive to link its private sector with major international markets. Bahrain Chamber, led by its Chairman H.E. Sameer Nass, engaged with several prominent Russian institutions to strengthen cooperation across trade, investment, industry, tourism, and logistics. The forum served as



a platform to formalise commercial partnerships and build long-term cross-border business opportunities.  
**Chamber signs seven MOUs**  
The Chamber signed memo-

randums of understanding with the Chamber of the Russian Federation, Roscongress Foundation, and regional chambers representing Moscow, Chechnya, Krasnodar, Yakutia, and Lipetsk. Each agreement focuses



on exchanging economic and commercial information, organising joint exhibitions and trade delegations, and facilitating partnerships that support sustainable development. “These MOUs reflect our strat-

egy to connect Bahraini businesses with promising global markets,” said H.E. Nass. “They represent real opportunities for SMEs and key sectors looking to expand into new regions.”

**Supporting SMEs**  
Khalid Najibi, First Vice Chairman of the Bahrain Chamber, said the agreements align with the Chamber’s mission to unlock international investment opportunities. “We are committed to enabling Bahraini businesses to grow globally and strengthen their competitiveness.” Board Member Ahmed Al Saloom added that the MOUs provide tangible benefits for small and medium enterprises. “Strategic partnerships like these give our businesses real leverage to expand and innovate internationally,” he said.  
**Global presence**  
The Chamber reaffirmed its support for Bahraini SMEs and its commitment to opening global market pathways in line with Bahrain’s Economic Vision 2030. Officials noted that the private sector remains central to national development and that such linkages will further solidify Bahrain’s economic presence on the global stage.