

Gulf Capital and MEED recognise the best SMEs for 2021 for the 10th straight year

At the 10th anniversary celebrations of the Gulf Capital SME Awards, 14 companies were recognised as the best-in-class SMEs

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EINPresswire.com/ -- Gulf Capital and MEED-GlobalData celebrated 10 years of supporting the regional [SME](#) community by recognizing the best-in-class SMEs at the 10th [Gulf Capital SME Awards](#) at a ceremony hosted at Palace Downtown Dubai.



Attended by over 250 SME business leaders, and industry stakeholders, the awards ceremony was a moment to pause and recognise the remarkable achievements of 14 small and medium sized businesses who proved that despite the challenges posed by a global pandemic, strong business principles, a focus on people and culture and commitment to innovation are all the ingredients necessary to develop and grow a successful business in the region.

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This year, we saw how these organisations overcame the challenges of a global pandemic by adopting agile business plans, focusing on their people and culture and customers' needs.”

Dr Karim El Solh, CEO of Gulf Capital

In addition to the over-all winners recognized across 18 categories, the ceremony also celebrated a further 7 businesses as highly commended across categories including Customer Focus of the Year, Cigna People and Culture of the Year and the Gulf Capital Business of the Year.

This 10th annual edition of the awards proved one of the most competitive in recent years gathering over 340 submissions from companies that represented a combined annual turnover in excess of \$3 billion.

IMMENSA, winner of the coveted Gulf Capital Business of the Year award, was recognised for their extremely strong business model and the way they've tapped into the very competitive oil and gas market. Commenting on the accolades, Dr Karim El Solh, CEO of Gulf Capital, said: "It has been a remarkable journey over the last 10 years of supporting and recognizing SMEs at the Gulf Capital SME Awards.



Each year we see the remarkable

ambition of these entrepreneurs who continue to serve as the backbone of the regional economy and push the boundaries of innovation, customer focus and economic growth. This year, we saw how these organisations overcame the challenges of a global pandemic by adopting agile business plans, focusing on their people and culture and customers' needs. This is also a testament to the region's resilience and I would like to congratulate all of the winners for their remarkable achievement."

"This year's winners are a reminder of why the SME community have quickly become the foundation of the region's continued economic growth and development despite the global pandemic. Their commitment, passion and drive are an inspiration and we are delighted that we could create this opportunity to give them this much deserved recognition" says MEED Group Commercial Director, Sonia Kerrigan.

The complete list of winners include:

1. Business Innovation of the Year, ekar
2. Business Leader of the Year, Natasha Hatherall, Founder and CEO, TishTash Marketing
3. B2B Small Business of the Year, Tenderd
4. B2B Technology Start-up of the Year, IQ Robotics
5. B2C Technology Start-up of the Year, PawPots
6. B2C Small Business of the Year, SQUATWOLF
7. Customer Focus of the Year, Furchild
8. Digna People and Culture of the Year, TishTash Marketing and Public Relations
9. Disruption of the Year, PointCheckout
10. BedEx Start-up Business of the Year, Hayawiia
11. Gulf Capital Business of the Year, IMMENSA
12. Digital Business of the Year, ArtSmiley
13. Emirati Business of the Year, AquaFun
14. Entrepreneur of the Year, Ahmed Ben Chaibah, CEO, AquaFun
15. Micro Business of the Year, One Clique Systems
16. Marketplace Technology Start-up of the Year, Distichain
17. Sustainable Business of the Year Award, Trident Trackway

18. New Entrepreneur of the Year, Mohammad Absi Halabi, Founder & CEO, swiftbox

Highly commended:

1. Customer Focus of the Year, Time Lapse Middle East DMCC.
2. Disruption of the Year, IMMENSA.
3. Digital Business of the Year, Klaim.Ai
4. Emirati Business of the Year, Farmin
5. B2B Technology Start-up of the Year, FinFlx
6. Marketplace Technology Start-up of the Year, BuildHop and BuzzBee
7. Cigna People and Culture of the Year is, Qarar
8. Gulf Capital Business of the Year, TishTash Marketing and Public Relations

Gulf Capital SME Awards is supported by Founding partner: Gulf Capital, Official Health and Wellbeing Partner; Cigna, Official Logistics Partner; FedEx Express, Endorsing Partners; Dubai SME and Khalifa Fund for Enterprise Development, and Association Partners; Dtec, in5, StartAD, and TieDubai.

The awards were also supported by VIP reception attendees eZone, Dupod, Hayawita, IQ Fulfilment and Land Sterling.

About MEED

MEED is a senior management media brand, its flagship subscription products are the MEED Business Review publication and website, www.meed.com. As well as organising the MEED Projects Awards, Gulf Capital SME Awards, Daman Corporate Health Awards and the Arabian Hotel Investment Conference (AHIC).

MEED also has two high-value content businesses, MEED Projects and MEED Premium Insight Reports. MEED Projects is the Middle East's premium project tracking database and MEED Premium Insight Reports offer tailored research and in-depth analysis. Established in 1957, MEED, has been integral to delivering business information and news, intelligence and analysis on the Middle East economies and activities ever since.

MEED celebrated its 60th birthday in 2017. From small beginnings in a London flat on 8 March 1957, MEED has grown with the region, to become the Middle East's most-trusted source of business information.

About Gulf Capital

Gulf Capital is a leading thematic driven and socially conscious alternative investment firm with over fifteen years of investment experience in Growth Markets across Private Equity, Private Debt, Growth Capital, and Real Estate. Gulf Capital partners with dynamic entrepreneurs and exceptional management teams to provide them with growth capital, strategic advice, and

operational expertise to build market leading global businesses. The firm has a long and proven track record of investing in Growth Markets, having closed 36 investments since inception. It currently manages over \$2.5 billion in assets across seven funds and investment vehicles. Gulf Capital focuses on resilient, forward-looking sectors such as Technology, Fintech, Healthcare, Business Services and Sustainability. Its mission is to build value with world-class governance, deep expertise, and industry best practices to generate sustainable and superior performance for its key stakeholders.

For more information, please visit www.gulfcapital.com or LinkedIn @gulfcapital

For media enquiries, please contact:

For MEED

Sharath Ravi

Marketing Director

E: Sharath.ravi@meed.com

M; +97150 525 38 62

For Gulf Capital

Borouj Consulting

Randa Mazzawi or Rosie Azzi

E: randa@boroujconsulting.com; rosie@boroujconsulting.com

M: +971 504506120; +971 565515125

Sharath Ravi

MEED

+971 50 525 3862

sharath.ravi@meed.com

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