

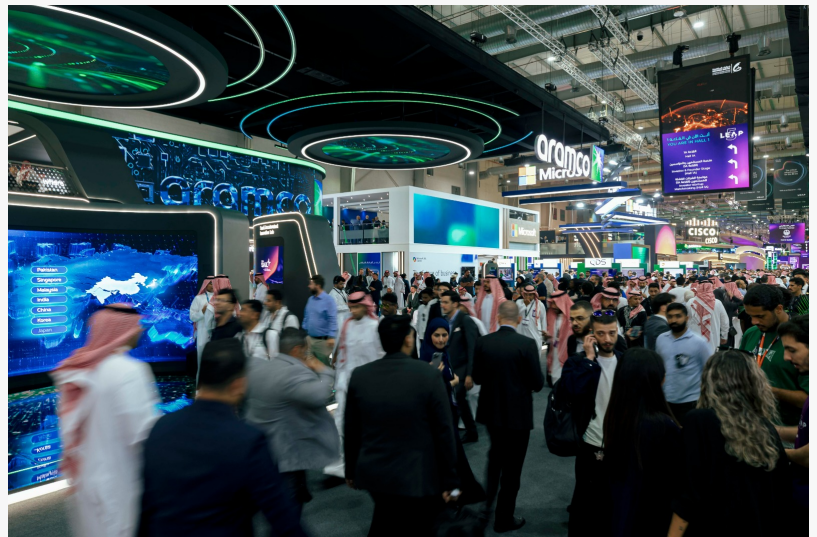
LEAP 5 opens with more than \$15 billion in technology investments and strategic partnerships

RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA, August 31, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Marking the start of its fifth edition, LEAP opened today with more than \$15 billion in technology investments and strategic commitments, reinforcing the event's position as a global launchpad for innovation and reflecting the rapid growth of Saudi Arabia's technology sector since the inaugural edition in 2022.

Opening LEAP 5, H.E. Eng. Abdullah Alswaha, Minister of Communications and Information Technology, highlighted the rapid expansion of Saudi Arabia's technology sector. Since LEAP's launch, the Kingdom's digital economy has grown by 69 per cent, from \$118 billion to \$199 billion, while women now represent 36 per cent of the technology workforce.

The opening day featured a series of major announcements across AI infrastructure, cloud computing and autonomous technologies. Among the headline announcements, HUMAIN unveiled HUMAIN M3, a new open-weights Arabic language model trained on more than one trillion Arabic tokens, alongside HUMAIN Voice, a conversational AI platform designed for multiple Arabic dialects including Saudi, Maghrebi, Egyptian and Levantine Arabic.

Tareq Amin, Chief Executive Officer of HUMAIN, said: "No company delivers something at this



scale on its own. What you are seeing is a country rallied around a mission, with partners across the Kingdom building alongside us. The leadership understood early that AI is a foundational technology rather than an additive one, and everything we are building serves that vision."

HUMAIN also announced a strategic partnership with Applied Intuition to deploy physical AI technologies across Saudi Arabia, beginning with autonomous trucking. The collaboration aims to establish the world's largest autonomous trucking network, with thousands of autonomous vehicles expected to operate across key Saudi logistics corridors by 2030.



Additional announcements included a \$5 billion joint investment between HUMAIN and AWS in the AWS HUMAIN AI Zone, supporting the development of advanced AI infrastructure and cloud capabilities in the Kingdom. Adobe also highlighted its contribution to Saudi Arabia's creative economy, which has reached \$4 billion over the past 12 months through investment in digital creativity and innovation.

Meanwhile, xAI announced one of its most significant international expansions to date, with a major Saudi-based data centre deployment beginning with 50MW of capacity and scaling to 500MW, while AMD and HUMAIN confirmed the deployment of AMD's largest inference cluster outside the United States.

The scale of investment and the presence of global technology leaders at LEAP reflects Saudi Arabia's growing position as a global centre for technology investment, infrastructure and innovation.

Mike Champion, Co-founder of LEAP and CEO of Tahaluf, said: "Since 2022, LEAP has helped establish Saudi Arabia as one of the world's most dynamic technology markets, bringing together investors, innovators and industry leaders to create tangible outcomes. As we enter fifth year, the scale of today's announcements reflects both the maturity of the event and the Kingdom's growing influence in shaping the future of the global technology sector."

Running until 3 September, LEAP 2026 continues this week with an extensive programme spanning artificial intelligence, digital infrastructure, investment, entrepreneurship and emerging technologies.

Catch all the announcements, keynote sessions and highlights from the LEAP Main Stage on Day

One via the official livestream: <https://youtube.com/live/-Hz94KAkEDc?feature=share>

For more information, please visit onegiantleap.com.

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About LEAP:

Saudi Arabia's desire to shoot for something beyond the realms of the possible presents the ultimate backdrop for LEAP.

LEAP showcases the Kingdom's technology ambition on a global stage as it continues to grow as a hub connecting three continents. The figures speak for themselves as LEAP 2025 had an attendance of over 200,000, making it the most attended tech event in the world. LEAP features the inspiring tech of tomorrow across all major sectors including health, finance, energy, education, digital entertainment, transport, smart cities and more. The event is also led by a speaker faculty of globally celebrated technology innovators, focusing on the most innovative tech case studies from around the world.

LEAP is not like any other tech event, from the ground up the community, stakeholders and project team are challenged every day to do something wildly creative and bold, something that reflects the seismic advances in tech adoption being seen in Saudi Arabia.

About Tahaluf:

Headquartered in Riyadh, Tahaluf brings together strategically important commercial communities from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the wider Gulf region, and from around the world to a portfolio of world-class exhibitions and digital platforms.

Tahaluf is a joint venture partnership between Informa PLC, the world's largest trade show organiser, the Saudi Federation for Cybersecurity, Programming and Drones (SAFCSP), and Events Investment Fund (EIF). Sela, the Saudi-owned event production company renowned for its creation of spectacular event experiences, intends to join the joint venture in the near future.

Tahaluf is responsible for the award-winning tech events LEAP, DeepFest and LEAP East, as well as Money 20/20 Middle East, the Global Health Exhibition, Cityscape Global, Black Hat MEA and CPHI Middle East.

For more information about Tahaluf, visit <https://tahaluf.com>

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