

ADX Unveils "the ADX Group" to Further Advance Abu Dhabi's Investment Landscape with Innovation & Global Connectivity

- Establishing a future-ready capital market with enhanced market infrastructure comprising new post-trade businesses, state-of-the-art trading platform, and broadened market access and connectivity
- Launched two independent subsidiaries – Abu Dhabi Clear (AD Clear) and Abu Dhabi Central Securities Depository (AD CSD)
- Introduced new trading and investment solutions, faster and more efficient trade clearing and settlement services

Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 24 February 2025 – The Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange (ADX), the second largest exchange in the Middle East, is pleased to launch “the New ADX Group” market infrastructure and two new subsidiaries, Abu Dhabi Clear (AD Clear) LLC and Abu Dhabi Central Securities Depository (AD CSD) LLC. This milestone aligns with Abu Dhabi’s long-term economic vision and augments ADX’s efforts towards being a developed market.

ADX announced its new market infrastructure at a celebrative event with more than 500 regional and global industry participants in Abu Dhabi on Monday, 24th February. The ADX Group’s (The Group) achievement is a testament of its commitment towards deepening its capital market, attracting more investments into the UAE, and strengthening Abu Dhabi’s position as an international financial centre and premier investment hub.

H.E Ghannam Al Mazrouei, Chairman of the ADX Group, said, "With the launch of ADX Group, we are not just building a financial marketplace; we are shaping the future of investment in Abu Dhabi and contributing to long-term economic development of the UAE and in the region.

More regional and global investors will benefit from seamless access to the ADX platform to unlock opportunities for expansion in the emirate’s thriving sectors and industries. The ADX Group will continue to innovate to ensure a robust and reliable international marketplace to raise capital, facilitate greater investment flow, and uphold financial resilience and stability.”

Mr Abdulla Salem Alnuaimi, Group Chief Executive Officer of ADX, added, “The ADX Group is leading the way in using new technology to expand and strengthen Abu Dhabi's investment landscape. Our enhanced trading system aims to increase resilience and performance by 400%, reinforcing the emirate’s position as a global financial hub. We express our sincere appreciation to our trading and clearing members, custodians, banks, and industry partners for their invaluable support and collaboration in achieving the transformation and success.”

The ADX Group – Gateway to tomorrow’s opportunities and new growth

The ADX Group’s new business model aims to transform and future-proof its thriving capital market. The Group, empowered by new post-trade capabilities and services, a state-of-the-art trading system, and new clearing & settlement platforms aims to unlock more investment opportunities and deepen market liquidity by providing investors and industry participants with greater and faster access to market activities and growth sectors in Abu Dhabi.

These advancements will enable the ADX Group to introduce more diverse product offerings and services to address the evolving needs of institutional and retail investors, issuers and businesses in the UAE and wider Middle East region.

Advancing Abu Dhabi's capital market with cutting-edge technology and investment infrastructure

At the heart of this transformation is a strategic technology partnership with Nasdaq to deliver a Core Platform Upgrade (CPU), which introduces advanced capabilities across trading, clearing, and post-trade services. All enhancements further boost ADX's operational readiness, attract new types of new market participants, and increase trading activities. Key features include:

- A key element of the CPU modernizes the trading infrastructure and integrates multiple asset classes (equities, ETFs, debt instruments, and derivatives) into a single, high-performance platform.
- Optimization for high-frequency trading and algorithmic strategies, offering faster execution of trades and deeper market liquidity.
- New order types and negotiated deal features for greater trading flexibility and efficiency, enabling more sophisticated trading strategies.

Magnus Haglind, SVP and Head of Marketplace Technology at Nasdaq, added: “We are excited about the opportunity to partner with ADX and help deliver this forward-thinking vision for its marketplace. Capital markets are already an integral part of the global economy, but by modernizing the infrastructure that powers it we can remove barriers to wider participation and help local and national economies thrive. By leveraging Nasdaq's integrated trading, clearing and settlement platform, ADX will be underpinned by world-leading technology, capable of attracting global sources of liquidity and accelerating the region's exciting growth story.”

As part of the Group's digital and technology enhancements, ISO 20022 messaging protocols were introduced to improve transaction processing, enhance data transparency, and support seamless integration with international financial institutions.

To improve user experience, the ADX Group launched a robust customer-management system, a new corporate website, and mobile app to empower investors with direct access to real-time market data, advanced analytics, and more services for portfolio management.

Establishing a holistic, trusted and efficient investment ecosystem with new post-trade businesses , AD Clear and AD CSD

The ADX Group's new Post Trade Division, comprising **AD Clear and AD CSD**, supports the smooth function of the securities market by providing essential clearing, settlement, depository, and risk management services for both local and international investors. These services will help boost market efficiency and facilitate the flow of capital to further economic growth.

- **AD Clear** is the new Central Counterparty Clearinghouse, created to improve clearing and settlement efficiency, reduce counterparty risk, and ensure compliance with global standards. It is a wholly owned independent subsidiary of the ADX Group.
- **AD CSD**, another wholly owned independent subsidiary of the ADX Group, serves as a leading regional central securities depository. It plays a key role in maintaining the

resilience, efficiency, and stability of the capital market by safekeeping securities, clearing and settling trades, transferring shares, and managing corporate actions.

ADX's growth over the years

Since 2020, ADX has consistently outperformed the MSCI Emerging Markets Index and the ADX General Index has increased by 86% in the past 5 years. It has become one of the largest exchanges globally, 7th by market capitalization for emerging market exchanges.

As the largest capital market in the UAE, ADX offers investors with the most valuable listed companies in the country. It has ranked top 10 globally by IPO proceeds for two consecutive years and accounts for 27% of the IPO proceeds raised in the Middle East in 2024. ADX serves a vibrant and diverse community representing over 200 nationalities investing in our 188 listed securities, covering equities, ETFs, bonds, sukuks, and derivatives.

The ADX Group is designed for the future, serving the evolving needs of issuers, brokers, institutional investors, listed companies, industries and market players worldwide.

For more information about ADX Group and its new subsidiaries, please visit www.adx.ae.

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About Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange

Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange (ADX) was established on November 15, 2000, by Local Law No. (3) Of 2000, the provisions of which vest the market with a legal entity of autonomous status, independent finance and management. The Law also provides ADX with the necessary supervisory and executive powers to exercise its functions. On March 17, 2020, ADX was converted from a "Public Entity" to a "Public Joint Stock Company PJSC" pursuant to law No. (8) of 2020. ADX is part of ADQ, one of the region's largest holding companies with a broad portfolio of major enterprises spanning key sectors of Abu Dhabi's diversified economy.

ADX is a market for trading securities; including shares issued by public joint stock companies, bonds issued by governments or corporations, exchange traded funds, and any other financial instruments approved by the UAE Securities and Commodities Authority (SCA). ADX is the second largest market in the Arab region and its strategy of providing stable financial performance with diversified sources of incomes is aligned with the guiding principles of the UAE "Towards the next 50" agenda. The national plan charts out the UAE's strategic development scheme which aims to build a sustainable, diversified and high value-added economy that positively contributes to transition to a new global sustainable development paradigm.

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