MTI MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY SINGAPORE

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE REPORTING

SINGAPORE AND THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES DEEPEN ECONOMIC COOPERATION AT THE 17TH ABU DHABI-SINGAPORE JOINT FORUM

1. Minister for Trade and Industry (Energy and Industry) Dr Tan See Leng co-chaired the 17th Abu Dhabi-Singapore Joint Forum (ADSJF) with Chairman of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Executive Affairs Authority (EAA) H.E. Khaldoon Al Mubarak in Singapore today.

2. The ADSJF is an annual platform for Singapore and the UAE to strengthen economic cooperation and explore new areas of mutual interest. During the Forum, Minister Tan and H.E. Al Mubarak reaffirmed the strong and longstanding ties between Singapore and Abu Dhabi, and discussed opportunities to deepen cooperation in areas including Artificial Intelligence (AI), space, energy and health. They also exchanged views on strengthening bilateral economic cooperation, supporting mutual efforts to build resilience and exploring new sectors for cooperation.

3. Minister Tan said, "Singapore and the UAE share a longstanding and resilient partnership. Our companies continue to find new business opportunities to collaborate in the UAE. The ADSJF provides a valuable platform for us to exchange views on areas of mutual interest, especially in emerging sectors such as AI, the digital economy, and urban infrastructure."

4. H.E. Al Mubarak said, "The Abu Dhabi-Singapore Joint Forum continues to serve as an important platform for advancing the longstanding partnership between the UAE and Singapore. This year's agreements in investment, government capacity-building and industrial development reflect our shared commitment to creating new opportunities for cooperation and advancing our engagement across strategic sectors."

5. At the sidelines of the Forum, Minister Tan and H.E. Al Mubarak also witnessed:

    a. the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Investment Cooperation between the Ministry of Trade and Industry and UAE's Ministry of Investment;
    b. the signing of a Letter of Intent between Singapore Business Federation, Singapore Manufacturing Federation and Khalifa Economic Zones Abu Dhabi (KEZAD) to facilitate the Abu Dhabi-Singapore industrial corridor;
    c. the signing of an MOU renewal between Singapore's Civil Service College and the UAE's Department of Government Enablement – Abu Dhabi (DGE) to strengthen public sector capabilities; and
    d. the signing of an MOU between Witthal Gulf Industries and KEZAD to establish a sustainable hub.

6. The UAE is Singapore's largest trading partner in the Middle East and 13th largest trading partner overall in 2025. Bilateral trade in goods between the UAE and Singapore amounted to S$27.9 billion in 2025. The UAE is also one of Singapore's top investment destinations in the Middle East. In 2024, Singapore's stock of direct investments abroad amounted to S$4.2 billion, while UAE stock of foreign direct investments in Singapore amounted to S$10.9 billion.

Annex A: Photos of the ADSJF
Annex B: Factsheet on the MOU between the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Ministry of Investment
Annex C: Highlights of Singapore Companies' Projects in the UAE

MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
28 SEPTEMBER 2026

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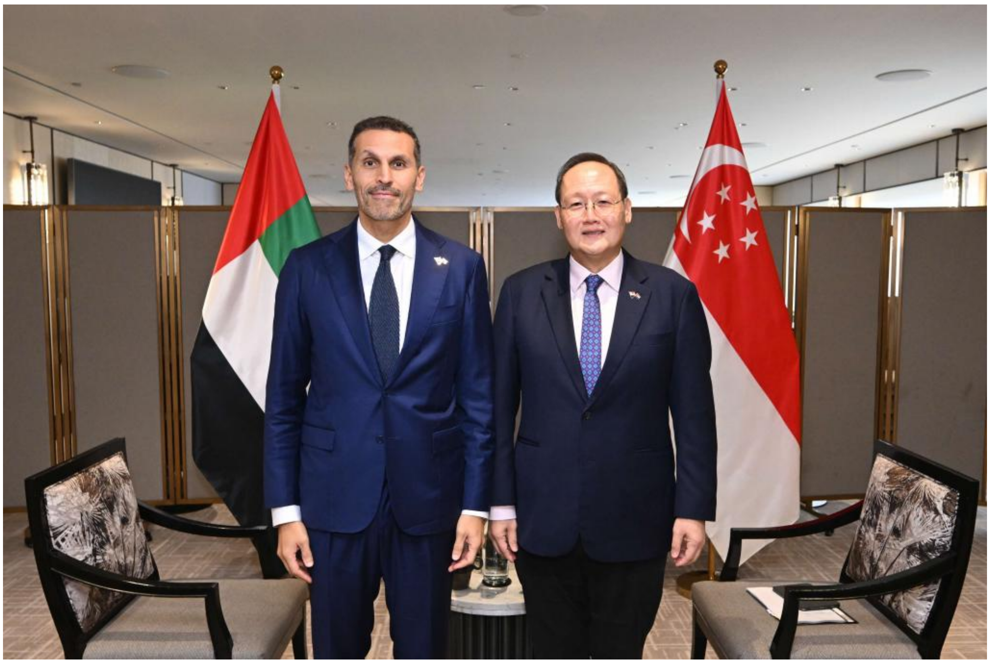
ANNEX A

PHOTOS OF THE ADSJF



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Caption: Minister for Trade and Industry (Energy and Industry) Dr Tan See Leng co-chaired the 17th Abu Dhabi-Singapore Joint Forum (ADSJF) with Chairman of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Executive Affairs Authority (EAA) H.E. Khaldoon Al Mubarak in Singapore on 28 September 2026.

The high-resolution photos may be downloaded at this link: https://go.gov.sg/17thadsjfphotos

The photos should be credited to Ministry of Trade and Industry, Singapore.

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FACTSHEET

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ANNEX B

FACTSHEET ON THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY, SINGAPORE AND THE MINISTRY OF INVESTMENT, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES ON INVESTMENT COOPERATION

1. The Ministry of Trade and Industry of Singapore and the Ministry of Investment of UAE have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on investment cooperation at the 17th Abu Dhabi-Singapore Joint Forum.

2. The MOU was signed by Permanent Secretary (Energy & Trade) of the Ministry of Trade and Industry Augustin Lee and Undersecretary of UAE's Ministry of Investment, His Excellency Mohammad Abdulrahman Alhawi. It was witnessed by Minister for Trade and Industry (Energy and Industry) Dr Tan See Leng, Chairman of UAE's Executive Affairs Authority His Excellency Khaldoon Al Mubarak, Singapore's Ambassador to the UAE, Kamal Vaswani and UAE's Ambassador to Singapore, His Excellency Abdulnasser Jamal Alshaali.

3. Under the MOU, Singapore and the UAE commit to identify and facilitate investment opportunities between both countries. Key areas of cooperation include:

    a. The identification and promotion of investment opportunities across key sectors of mutual interest, and facilitation of partnerships between public and private entities.
    b. Facilitation and co-organisation of roundtables, forums, business missions and networking events.
    c. Encouragement of capacity building activities in the field of investment promotion and facilitation, including training programmes, technical assistance, and institutional partnership.

MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY SINGAPORE

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ANNEX C

HIGHLIGHTS OF SINGAPORE COMPANIES' PROJECTS IN THE UAE

Companies and POC	About the Companies and Details of Projects
Mercantile Pacific ***Name:*** *Karan Narula* ***Designation:*** *Vice Chairman & Managing Director* ***Email:*** *karann@mercantilepacific.com*	Mercantile Pacific is a Singapore-headquartered technology distribution and circular economy platform operating across more than 80 markets and serving an ecosystem of over 10,000 B2B partners. The Group delivers integrated solutions across the technology lifecycle, spanning new device distribution, trade-in, precision remanufacturing, certified devices, recommerce and lifecycle management. Its platform combines global distribution reach with industrial-scale refurbishment infrastructure, enabling certified technology products to be processed to consistent quality standards and redistributed efficiently across an established network. The Group is addressing one of the circular technology industry's key structural challenges: delivering standardised, repeatable and certifiable product quality at industrial scale. To do so, Mercantile is making long-term investments in advanced manufacturing infrastructure, robotics, intelligent automation, precision engineering, digital traceability and data-led quality assurance to industrialise processes that have traditionally remained fragmented and labour-intensive. With support from Enterprise Singapore, Mercantile plans to establish an additional approximately three-acre facility in Dubai, expanding its capabilities beyond smartphones into wearables, hearables, laptops, storage devices and data-centre equipment. The facility will further integrate precision remanufacturing with Mercantile's global distribution architecture, strengthening Singapore-UAE collaboration in advanced manufacturing, sustainable technology and circular economy infrastructure. **Company Quote** "Singapore has provided Mercantile with a strong foundation to build globally, while the UAE has become a critical pillar of our next phase of growth. With the support of Enterprise Singapore and the partnerships we have established in the UAE, we are able to make

Companies and POC	About the Companies and Details of Projects
	long-term investments in infrastructure, automation, robotics and precision engineering to scale circular technology in a fundamentally different way. Our ambition is not simply to process a greater volume of devices. We are focused on addressing one of the industry's most important challenges: delivering certified devices with consistent, repeatable quality at industrial scale. By integrating advanced remanufacturing capabilities with our distribution network across more than 80 markets, we aim to create a globally scalable platform that extends the useful life of technology while setting a new benchmark for quality, traceability and circularity." *– Karan Narula, Vice Chairman & Managing Director, Mercantile Group*
Sembcorp Industries ***Name:*** *Archanaa N. Raja* ***Designation:*** *Communications Head Corporate Affairs & Sustainability (Gas and Related Services)* ***Email:*** archanaa.raja@sembcorp.com	Sembcorp Industries (Sembcorp) is an energy and urban solutions provider. Headquartered in Singapore, Sembcorp delivers sustainable solutions to support energy transition and urban development by leveraging its sector expertise and global presence. The UAE, and Abu Dhabi in particular, has been a key market for Sembcorp for nearly two decades. Through long-standing partnerships with leading UAE institutions, including Abu Dhabi National Energy Company (TAQA), Sembcorp has established a track record in developing and operating critical energy and water infrastructure. Among Sembcorp's investments in the UAE, the Fujairah 1 Independent Water and Power Plant is a well-established hybrid desalination and power facility with a strong track record of operational reliability. It is owned by Emirates Sembcorp Water & Power Company, a joint venture between Union Power Holding Company, a subsidiary of TAQA and Sembcorp Gulf Holding Co Ltd, a subsidiary of Sembcorp Industries. Sembcorp was awarded the Taweelah C Independent Power Producer project in Abu Dhabi in 2026 as part of a consortium with TAQA and Aljomaih Energy and

Companies and POC	About the Companies and Details of Projects
	Water Company. The project comprises a 2.6 GW combined-cycle gas turbine power plant that will enhance grid reliability and support integration of renewable energy into Abu Dhabi's power system. **<u>Company Quote</u>** "The UAE has been an important market for Sembcorp for two decades, and we are proud to build on our long-standing presence through landmark projects such as Fujairah 1 and the Taweelah C Independent Power Producer project. These investments reflect the strength of our partnership with Emirates Water and Electricity Company, TAQA and other local stakeholders, as well as the strong economic ties between Singapore and the UAE." *– Lim Kwang Ming, Chief Financial & Investment Officer, Gas and Related Services, Sembcorp Industries*
ST Engineering ***Name:*** *Desiree Wong* ***Designation:*** *VP, Group Corporate Communications* ***Email:*** *desiree.wongmy@stengg.com*	ST Engineering is a global technology, defence and engineering group with businesses spanning the aerospace, smart city, defence and public security sectors. Headquartered in Singapore, it has operations across Asia, Europe, the Middle East and the U.S., serving customers in more than 100 countries. In the UAE, ST Engineering has a longstanding track record in delivering urban traffic management solutions in support of the emirate's mobility goals. Through its Urban Solutions business, it has delivered intelligent transport solutions that help optimise traffic flow, reduce congestion and improve commuter experiences. These include Dubai's iTraffic system, an AI-powered traffic management system that monitors and manages the city's road networks, and Dubai's Salik traffic toll system that was developed with ST Engineering's tolling business, TransCore, in a partnership dating back to 2006. With Enterprise Singapore's support in facilitating stakeholder engagement, ST Engineering was appointed to deliver the Intelligent Transportation Central Platform project in Abu Dhabi, providing transport authorities with citywide transport network

Companies and POC	About the Companies and Details of Projects
	visibility for integrated operations and more seamless commuter journeys. ST Engineering is also supporting UAE's space ambitions through its Space business which will deliver a synthetic aperture radar (SAR) satellite to FADA, the space-focused entity under EDGE Group, as part of the UAE National SAR Constellation Programme, Sirb. **Company Quote** "The longstanding ties and close economic cooperation between Abu Dhabi and Singapore continue to create opportunities for industry collaboration. For ST Engineering, this has enabled us to contribute to meaningful projects across the mobility and space domains, in support of the UAE's development ambitions. We look forward to deepening our partnerships in the UAE and contributing to the region's continued growth and transformation. *– Tan Lee Chew, Group Chief Commercial Officer (Market Development) and President Smart City & Digital Solutions, ST Engineering*
Surbana Jurong ***Name:*** *Daphne Lim* ***Designation:*** *Director, Global Communications* ***Email:*** *daphne.lim@sjgroup.com*	Surbana Jurong (SJ Group) is a Singapore headquartered urban, infrastructure and managed services consulting firm with cross-disciplinary capabilities spanning design, development and project services. Its work covers buildings, cities, infrastructure, integrated energy solutions, maritime management, defence and programme management. In 2026, SJ Group was appointed as a designer for the Dubai segment of the Etihad Rail high speed line between Abu Dhabi and Dubai, under the Larsen & Toubro-led consortium responsible for the rail corridor's design and civil construction. The project forms part of the UAE's first high-speed rail network and is expected to significantly enhance inter-city connectivity between the country's two largest economic centres. SJ Group's projects in the region reflect its growing role in advancing urban mobility inter-city connectivity in the UAE.

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<tr><th>Companies and POC</th><th>About the Companies and Details of Projects</th></tr>
<tr><td></td><td><u>Company Quote</u>

“High-speed rail is redefining how people and economies connect across the UAE. SJ Group is honoured to contribute our design expertise to the Etihad Rail high-speed line together with our consortium partners. We look forward to supporting the delivery of a transformative rail corridor that will bring Abu Dhabi and Dubai closer together, while strengthening our contribution to the region’s evolving infrastructure landscape.”

– Kelvin Wong, Group Chief Commercial Officer, SJ Group</td></tr>
<tr><td>Witthal International

Name: Sureshkumar Nalappa (Vijayendra)
Designation: Founder and Managing Director
Email:
vijayendra@witthalgulf.ae</td><td>Founded in 2016, Witthal International is a Singapore-based commodities trading company specialising in minerals and rubber products, with a diversified portfolio spanning energy, automative and sustainability solutions.

In 2025, Witthal Gulf announced a USD 42.5 million (SGD 54.3 million) investment to establish an industrial-scale lithium-ion battery recycling facility at Khalifa Economic Zones Abu Dhabi (KEZAD). With support from Enterprise Singapore in facilitating engagements with relevant stakeholders and authorities, the facility will have an annual recycling capacity of 10,800 tonnes of end-of-life lithium-ion batteries, recovering critical materials such as black mass, copper, and aluminium.

Building on this investment, Witthal Gulf and KEZAD are collaborating on the phased development of the Sustainable Hub, a platform focused on circular economy solutions, energy transition, clean technology, advanced manufacturing, research and development, and digital traceability of critical minerals. The initiative will support technology transfer, innovation and knowledge exchange between Singapore and the UAE.

Both parties signed an MOU at ADSJF 2026 to formalise the collaboration.

<u>Company Quote</u></td></tr>
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Companies and POC	About the Companies and Details of Projects
	"Witthal is delighted to expand its footprint in the UAE by establishing the Sustainable Hub in collaboration with KEZAD and local stakeholders. This hub will drive circular economy initiatives, promote cooperative R&D, and accelerate technology transfer between Singapore and the UAE. We remain committed to expanding our regional portfolio and advancing bilateral industrial and economic ties between Abu Dhabi and Singapore. – *Sureshkumar Nalappa (Vijayendra), Founder and Managing Director, Witthal Gulf*