Vodafone Qatar ropes in global startups to support ‘5G GigaNet Society’ vision

SATISH KANADY
THE PENINSULA

Vodafone Qatar, in its earnest drive to enable Qatar to become one of the most connected countries in the world, is set to harness the power of connected technology with the support of 5 Top Global startup companies. Vodafone Qatar showcased these companies, which could make real use of 5G, in the just-concluded QITCOM 2019. The startups, which have been identified as top five global success stories by Vodafone Group’s 5G challenge, told The Peninsula they are ready to share their expertise to make Vodafone Qatar’s vision to create Qatar a ‘5G GigaNet Society’. Don Dhaliwal, Partner of CONiGITAL, an autonomous vehicle company using deep AI and automation techniques, sees Qatar as an exciting market. “Qatar has already shared their interest in our AI,” Dhaliwal said. The UK-based CONiGITAL is currently developing its own platform, ConICAV, which targets the £907bn connected autonomous vehicle (CAV) market. ConICAV allows self-driving vehicles to work together in real-time using 5G connectivity. Conigital’s software includes automation in the vehicles and their environments, and makes it easy and efficient for autonomous vehicles to slot into existing transportation systems. ONTOP, the real-world gaming experiences that can unite millions of players and spectators alike, is also looking for potential partners in Qatar with the support of Vodafone Qatar. This Portuguese company brings AR fun with well-crafted social mechanics for smartphones and smartglasses. A new type of entertainment that adds digital worlds over our own reality through AR and 5G technologies. Supponor, the British sports marketing company uses 5G to offer incredibly low latency in augmented reality (AR) tech. David Patton, VP Business Development, Supponor believes the company can be the game changer in FIFA 2022 liver streaming. The startup is pioneers in the new field of virtual replacement for live sports broadcasting. That means instead of the same few logos around the pitch being seen by everyone watching a football match, rights and media owners can work with local sponsors and partners to show relevant localised advertising in AR.
Minister Al Kaabi visits Muntajat

Muntajat, the marketing arm of Qatar Petroleum, received HE Saud Shari Al Kaabi, Minister of State for Energy Affairs, President and CEO of Qatar Petroleum with the Muntajat officials.

During his visit, the Minister acknowledged the prominent role Muntajat plays in the development of the State of Qatar’s energy sector, as part of the QP Companies’ strategy of contributing to national growth and sustainability in line with the Qatar National Vision 2030. He spoke about the new major expansions and projects within the petrochemical sector that will come to fruition, expressing his support and trust in Muntajat’s mission to continue moving forward in the future with its leadership under Minister Al Kaabi’s direction and vision, with the ultimate goal of reaching global leadership and achieving its mission to become a world leader in the marketing and distribution of Qatar’s downstream products.

Commenting on the Minister’s visit, Abdalrahman Al Ali, Muntajat’s CEO, said that, “Receiving the Minister of State for Energy Affairs at Muntajat has been a true honour. His Excellency’s continuous support and trust encourage us to continue moving forward into the future taking Muntajat to the next level with pride and optimism.” He also expressed his gratitude to Muntajat’s team of professionals for their local dedication, cementing Muntajat’s readiness to take on new challenges and achieve its mission to become a world leader in the marketing and distribution of Qatar’s downstream products, and his trust in Muntajat’s team to frame its mission and understand its future.

The four international panel speakers at the event highlighted the latest thinking on the chosen themes, to share experiences at the domestic and international levels. The four international panel speakers at the event highlighted the latest thinking on the chosen themes, to share experiences at the domestic and international levels.

Al Attiyah Foundation hosts experts to discuss CO2 emission cut

The Al-Attiyah Foundation, the leading energy and sustainable development think tank, hosted renowned experts to explore the challenges and opportunities faced by heavy industry in the race to reduce CO2 emissions.

The four international panel speakers at the event highlighted the latest thinking on the chosen themes, to share experiences at the domestic and international levels.
**QIC ranked as “Top Investment House” in the MENA region**

The Ministry of Transport and Communications (MoTC) and Microsoft have announced a new partnership that will accelerate the digital transformation agenda across Qatar with the MoTC and Microsoft Amitei poised to lead this transformation.

The collaboration is considered by both the sides as a solid starting point for government entities and organizations in Qatar to embark on or continue their digital transformation journey through the use of innovative technologies, which are poised to set a strong foundation to revolutionize the country's growth and transformation in the country. Microsoft Amitei will collaborate closely with MoTC and further deepen this strategic partnership that will be revisited in the coming new years.

In the presence of Minister of Transport and Communications H E Jasim Saif Al Ali, the government-owned company that operates in the telecommunications sector, it was underlined that the MoTC and Microsoft partnership will help the country to build a sustainable, productive and connected society.

Microsoft, in its role as Digital Transformation Aligned Business Partner for Digital Government, will enable government organizations and agencies to transform the way they work, helping them to achieve their current and long-term strategic goals.

**Vodafone Qatar ropes in startups**

Qatar's telecom giant, Vodafone Qatar, has roped in global startups as it continues to develop its vision for the future while favoring sustainable and digital technology sectors to support ‘5G GigaNet Society’ vision.

With the 5G emerging standards, Vodafone Qatar is considering a number of global startups and uses to increase their competition, development and reach markets targeted second phase. Through this partnership, Vodafone Qatar also seeks to expand its ecosystem and supporting resources and job growth by empowering customers, partners, Independent Software Vendors (ISVs), and startups as they continue to harness the power of the intelligent cloud.

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**QIC ranked as “Top Investment House” in the MENA region**

Qatar Insurance Company, the leading insurer in the Middle East and North Africa region is once again recognised as the “Top Investment House” scoring a survey conducted by The Asset magazine in collaboration with Benchmark’s Research. The survey ranked top investment houses in Qatar and the list was issued by Asian issuers in USD, EUR and JPY, on the number of votes won by their investors.

MoTC, government entities and private sector organizations to empower them to achieve transformation in their services and technology infrastructure, according to QIC. Vodafone Qatar also works closely with the EU’s General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and it is certified for a large portfolio of international security and privacy standards which form the basis of Qatar government policies, including MoTC’s National Information Assurance and the Cloud Security and Privacy Protection regulations.

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MoTC, Microsoft partner on digital transformation agenda

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Asian firms in discussion on QFC

**THE PENINSULA**

The Qatar Financial Centre concluded its roadshow in Asia which brought the QFC to visit to Taipei, Tokyo and Seoul, Japan.

The roadshow witnessed the signing of agreements, panel discussions, numerous B2B meetings and networking events with professionals from distinguished Taiwanese corporations.

The roadshow also included a seminar on Business and Investment Opportunities in Qatar through the lens of distinguished Taiwanese corporations.

The QFC officials provided an overview of the multi-billion dollar investment opportunities available to businesses in Qatar, as well as how to set up a business at the QFC quickly.

During the roadshow, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the QFC and the Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA) to promote future collaboration and strengthen business ties between Qatar and Taiwan.

The event was attended by senior representatives from the QFC, Bureau of Foreign Trade of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Taiwan, TAITRA - Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA), Financial Supervisory Commission of the Republic of China (MOF), and Taiwan Business Council (SMBC) of the Ministry of Economic Affairs (MIEA) in Taiwan.

The officials during the roadshow in Japan.

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**QICC holds technical seminar to present range of cables solutions manufactured in Qatar**

**THE PENINSULA**

As QICC moves forward to an extensive range of high-in-class cables, products, and services, the CEO, Max André Delamoney along with his team of cable experts in different departments of QICC delivered a technical seminar presentation held at the Oryx Rotana recently.

QICC Qatar Intelligent Cable Company (QICC) develops, manufactures and markets a total variety of electrical cables which include Low and Medium voltage power cables, control cables, building wires, fire safety cables etc. made in Qatar with an increased focus on the reliability and protection of human life.

This seminar aims to showcase QICC’s products to establish new networks and products and collaboration between electricity corporations. It is a fruitful tool which allows to introduce and to highlight the importance of unique safety and reliability features required in wires and cables to various stakeholders.

The presentation further elaborated the company’s experience, expertise, and construction of the cables made in Qatar. “Technical Seminar was really good and useful the new cable jointing method and body cable, fur termination method are amazing, and the factory tour was excellent it really easy to follow and to understand the step by step process, said Mohammed Daryoush, Manager of Parsons Point.

“The seminar is very informative and important to us many new technologies that we might use in the future job is jammed.” QICC Nexans is really one of the top or maybe number one among all the cable vendor in terms of Technology. Quality, good service and good products have good technical Knowledge. The understanding of location also are good,” said another participant Manny Villorente, Design Engineer at ACES.

QICC can have the best of worlds cables solutions for use in Qatar with the full support of the 120 years of expertise of Nexans, which is putting an executive shake-up.

“Acclaimed remarks from US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross that “phase one” of the US-China trade talks is done. That—— is the trade development.”

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**US stocks up on trade optimism, McDonald’s drops**

**NEW YORK**

Wall Street stocks added to records early Monday, boosted by optimism over US-China trade talks, while McDonald’s retreated in an executive shake-up.

Analysts cited remarks from US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross that “phase one” of the US-China trade talks is done.

The news seems to be gaining ground!” 11 Knaben street market strategist at TD Ameritrade, said of the trade developments.

Kishin also attributed the buoyant sentiment to better-than-expected corporate earnings.

About 15 minutes into trading, the Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 0.5 percent at 27,391.77.

The broad-based S&P 500 also gained 0.3 percent to 3,080.87, while the tech-rich Nasdaq Composite Index advanced 0.6 percent, to 8,439.58. The Dow fell just short, putting the blue-chip index in record territory. Among individual companies, McDonald’s dropped 0.8 percent after the fast food chain CEO Steve Easterbrook was dismissed over a consensual relationship with an employee that violated corporate policy and “demonstrated poor judgment,” the company said.
US says ‘extremely engaged’ in Asia after Trump skips ASEAN summit

US said engaged in Asia trade, pulling out of major Pacific pact

AFP

US Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross insisted yesterday that his country was “extremely engaged” with Asia despite Donald Trump skipping a regional leaders summit.

Ross and US national security advisor H.R. McMaster were among the most senior members of the Washington delegation that travelled to Bangkok for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) meeting, also attended by Indian, Japanese and Korean leaders.

Mr Ross said meetings had been attended by the president or vice president.

Trump is accused of withdrawing from global multilateralism, but Ross was quick to play down this interpretation.

“The Trump administration is extremely engaged in and fully committed to the region,” he said at a business forum on the sidelines of the Asean meeting.

“We continue to negotiate with our allies, knowledgeably and regionally.”

At the US-Asean meeting in Singapore last year, the US president addressed several Southeast Asian foreign ministers after some leaders failed to turn up.

Only the leaders of Thailand, Vietnam and Laos were in attendance, a departure from earlier Asean meetings over the weekend that heads-of-state were present for.

Trump has raised tensions in Asia, for building a massive trade surpluses with the US and has vowed to pursue bilateral deals in the region in favour of sprawling free trade agreements.

He signed a free trade agreement with Japan earlier this year and also renegotiated a trade deal with South Korea.

Soon after he took office Trump pulled out of a major Asia-Pacific trade pact – the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) – which would have been the world’s biggest free trade pact – calling the deal a “job killer”.

It has since been reborn as a watered down deal without the US, and another China-backed trade pact is now set to be the world’s largest when it is signed.

The 10-nation Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) could be finalised next year. It includes 30 percent of global GDP and half of the world’s people.

It includes 10 Asean states plus China, India, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand – notably excluding the US.

Washington remains locked in a trade war with China, with both sides slapping tit-for-tat tariffs on billions of dollars worth of goods.

Ross said an agreement to row back some of those tariffs was “very far along.”

Trump has said the deal could be signed in time with China US leader Xi Jinping meeting in the US state of Iowa.

Trum then attended the Asean summit in the Philippines in 2017 while Vice President Mike Pence appeared last year to some White House officials who denied that Washington had finalised this year’s negotiations, saying Trump and Pence were unable to be “very engaging” for a string of governors’ races.

AFP

US says ‘extremely engaged’ in Asia trade, pulling out of major Pacific pact

AFP

US Secretary of Commerce, Wilbur Ross (second right), smiles as Japan’s Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry minister special adviser Tatsuro Tamura (second left) and US officials attend a meeting of regional leaders in Bangkok yesterday.

The BDDK, the central bank in Turkey, is fine with the NPLs, and would need to regulate them even as the cost of servicing them has increased due to tapering of interest rates.

Unlu&Co, a Turkish asset manager, said it has been reborn as a fund called the ‘March of the NPLs’.

The company is being squeezed from all directions in Turkey’s domestic economic scenario.

A second wave of regulation has been introduced, which included a reduction in the time period companies can acquire a NPL on their balance sheet to 5 years from 12 years.

Regulatory changes have also added to costs, as the companies have to cover the costs of due diligence, loan valorisation, legal fees, taxes and more.

In addition, in the past few years, the sale of NPLs has become more difficult, as the banks have a lower interest in selling them.

Many banks are instead looking at turning these into a portfolio, which would need to make some adjustments to the regulatory framework.

Microsoft wants to teach drones, robots and drill engines to think

So how do you teach a drone, robot or drill engine to think? Microsoft has a project running in Orlando that aims to answer this question.

Microsoft researchers have created a software that can teach these autonomous devices how to think.

The software allows engineers to teach drones to control complex tasks, such as flying or navigating obstacles.

The software can also be used to teach robots to perform tasks like picking up objects or interacting with humans.

The project, called the “Teaching Drones to Think” project, is led by Microsoft researchers and is supported by a grant from the US National Science Foundation.

The researchers hope that this technology will be used to make autonomous systems safer and more reliable.

They believe that this technology could be used in a variety of applications, such as in the transportation, agriculture, and healthcare industries.

The software could also be used to teach drones to carry out tasks in dangerous environments, such as in search and rescue missions or in the exploration of underwater areas.

The researchers are also working on developing a way to use the software on a large scale, which could be used to train thousands of drones at once.

The researchers plan to continue working on the project, with the goal of making autonomous systems more reliable and safer to use.
Goldman’s upbeat call on EMs faces trial by data

The biggest concern remains the potential for US-China trade talks to run sour, or for the proposed phase one deal, due to be signed this month, to remain underwhelming in nature.*

The biggest concern remains the potential for US-China trade talks to run sour, or for the proposed phase one deal, due to be signed this month, to remain underwhelming in nature," said Paul Goetz ( pictured), a London-based money manager at Fidelity whose developing-nation fund has outperformed 90 percent of peers this year. "We remain skeptical about the potential for any uplift of rebound on emerging-market growth or trade between now and year-end."

The US and China signaled further progress yesterday in trade talks that could culminate in a meeting between President Donald Trump and China’s President Xi Jinping later this month.

The Bank of Thailand is set to cut its benchmark rate on Tuesday, with the strength of the baht and rising global risk sentiment the thrust of a downturn remains, according to Fidelity International, which favors hard-currency debt and ascertainment in domestic bond markets such as those of China, South Korea, Taiwan and Egypt.

The next key question is whether there is enough of a stimulus in economic data to justify and sustain the better performance of emerging-market assets, and indeed support a further leg higher, strategists led by London-based Kamakshya Trivedi wrote in a report. "The next key question is whether there is enough of a stimulus to sustain the better performance of emerging-market assets, and indeed support a further leg higher," strategists said.

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China publishes data on trade, inflation and social financing. Improving corporate earnings, falling interest rates, signs of progress in the US-China trade talks and an encouraging pole

Note: Goldman Sachs views China’s economy as being in its best streak since January 2018, after five consecutive quarters of growth. It sees the US-China trade talks as crucial to the potential for an economic recovery.

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