



ABU DHABI GLOBAL MARKET  
سوق أبوظبي العالمي



# NON-FINANCIAL SERVICES & STRUCTURES

## REGISTRATION AUTHORITY

### ADGM – The world’s newest international financial centre

Abu Dhabi Global Market (“ADGM”), an international financial centre in the capital of the United Arab Emirates, fully opened for business on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2015. At the heart of its strategy is the spirit of long-term partnership and collaboration – locally, regionally and internationally.

A financial free zone, ADGM is an independent jurisdiction encompassing the entire 114 hectares (1.14 sqkm) of Al Maryah Island with rules and regulations aligned with international best practice.

ADGM’s three independent authorities provide a holistic environment enabling registered companies to conduct and operate with confidence. The **Registration Authority** is responsible for promoting the environment, registering and incorporating companies and supporting the business community. The **Financial Services Regulatory Authority** regulates all financial services on the island based on a risk-based and outcome-focused regulatory philosophy. **ADGM Courts** provides a legislative framework based on Common law, which allows registered companies to draw on a well-established set of precedents.

### Abu Dhabi – The economic powerhouse of the UAE

Abu Dhabi is the capital and seat of government of the UAE and the largest of the seven emirates. The Emirate has a successful financial heritage with a well-diversified portfolio across asset classes, geographies and sectors. Alongside financial services, growth is actively encouraged in a number of key sectors.

#### ENGINES OF ECONOMIC GROWTH & DIVERSIFICATION

- Telecommunications
- Aviation
- Tourism
- Financial Services
- Education
- Energy
- Healthcare

This committed focus on diversification provides enormous opportunities across the range of financial and professional services that will facilitate, support and benefit from economic growth.

#### ABU DHABI QUICK FACTS

- Owns 9% of the world’s proven oil reserves
- Owns 5% of the world’s gas reserves
- Accounts for 2/3 of the approx \$400 BN economy of UAE
- Per capita GDP of \$97,000
- Average GDP growth of 11% p.a. since 2005
- Stable inflation rate of 3.2%
- 49% of GDP from non oil & gas sectors

### Why ADGM?

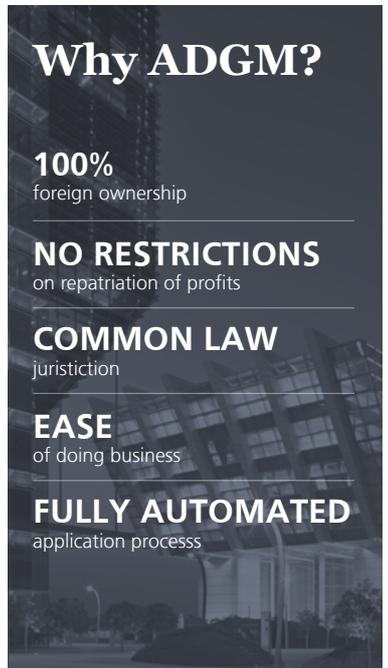
**100%** foreign ownership

**NO RESTRICTIONS** on repatriation of profits

**COMMON LAW** jurisdiction

**EASE** of doing business

**FULLY AUTOMATED** application process



# ADGM - A modern & business-friendly environment

## Where businesses spend more time doing what they do best - business.

The Registration Authority guides and supports companies through application and set-up. It also provides a range of services to facilitate market entry, growth and the emergence of a vibrant, sustainably successful business community.

A dedicated Business Development team is supported by a **Registration & Incorporation** team who review and process all applications and a **Corporate Relations** team who facilitate all immigration and medical testing requirements. Together they ensure a one-stop-shop for all clients and professionals working on Al Maryah Island.

In its commitment to service excellence, ADGM also has a **Client Experience** team dedicated to listening to any feedback organisations may have regarding the application process, availability of information and any suggestions for improvements.

- ✓ **FAST & EFFICIENT REGISTRATION PROCESS**
- ✓ **TRANSPARENT PRICING SYSTEM - NO HIDDEN COSTS**
- ✓ **FULLY DIGITAL APPLICATION PROCESS**
- ✓ **ALL SERVICES IN-HOUSE**
- ✓ **EVERYONE WELCOME & TREATED THE SAME**

## Benefits of ADGM

### LEGAL AND REGULATORY

- Firms recognised as registered UAE firms
- 100% foreign ownership
- Common law jurisdiction
- Best-in-class independent regulatory framework
- Variety of legal structures available

### OPERATIONAL

- Efficient digital process and procedures
- Support with permits and government services
- A deep pool of skilled professionals

### TAX ENVIRONMENT

- 0% tax
- 0% personal and corporate income tax
- No restrictions on repatriation of profits
- Growing number of Double Tax Treaties (68 in force and 26 in progress)

### INFRASTRUCTURE

- Grade 'A' offices and modern infrastructure
- Global connectivity through world-class airlines
- Leading hotels, healthcare and lifestyle amenities

## 1<sup>st</sup> time in the Middle East

Common law of England and Wales on civil and commercial matters directly applicable

## Operating in ADGM

Support through application and company incorporation via a fully digital registration process.

Assistance with work permits and visas, securing first class office space and other government services.

Facilitating connectivity and learning within the business community through a program of events and initiatives.

## At the cross roads of East meets West Abu Dhabi has it all

Over four decades, Abu Dhabi has transformed itself from a desert landscape into a thriving business hub surrounded by lush residential communities. Home to many talented and skilled professionals, Abu Dhabi is a modern and vibrant metropolis rich in impressive architecture, at the forefront of global green initiatives and planning for the next generation's transformation. Abu Dhabi is a family-friendly environment with excellent schools and universities, healthcare, leisure and hospitality facilities and an impressive array of cultural activities and events.

Abu Dhabi boasts a lifestyle and quality of life for its citizens and residents that make it one of the world's leading destinations for families, professionals, institutions and travellers.



# Non-financial services & activities in ADGM

## PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES



Legal
Accounting
Consulting
Human Resources
Information Technology
Training Providers

- Tap into local and regional business opportunities
- Access to business ecosystem with advisory and business support needs
- ADGM support services to facilitate market entry

## CORPORATE STRUCTURES & SOLUTIONS



Special Purpose Vehicles
Holding Companies
LLPs
LPs
GPs

- A broad range of legal structures, providing simple structuring flexibility
- Easy online registration process and ongoing reporting requirements
- Transparent and competitive cost structures
- Full spectrum of ownership structures including 100% foreign ownership and 50/50 JVs

## FAMILY OFFICES & HNWI SOLUTIONS



Single Family Offices
Corporate Structures
Management Functions

- Tools for long-term family planning and succession arrangements
- Conventional and Islamic perspective solutions
- Tax efficient wealth planning
- Community of experienced professionals, advisors and financial services providers, catering to all family wealth requirements

## CORPORATE & MANAGEMENT FUNCTIONS



Company Headquarters
Treasury Functions
Management Offices

- 0% tax
- Unlimited repatriation of profits
- Growing number of Double Tax Treaties
- International legal platform
- Courts with renowned judges from across Common law jurisdictions
- Access to quality financial and professional services providers

## IN FOCUS: ADGM legal structures

We have a range of legal structures that can be used to hold, invest, secure and manage assets and operations. Two types of ADGM legal structures are highlighted below.

### HOLDING COMPANY

An ADGM Holding Company is typically a parent corporation, existing as a Private Limited Company (Ltd). It can own other companies (subsidiaries), property such as real estate, patents, trademarks, stocks and other assets, wherever they may be.

### SPECIAL PURPOSE VEHICLES

In creating the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) model, ADGM has drawn on the best available structures internationally and therefore offers a number of different vehicles in which to fulfil narrow, specific or temporary corporate objectives. ADGM SPVs offer a competitive cost regime with a committed focus on speed and ease of process.

In addition to the standard SPVs, ADGM has also introduced a new Restricted Scope Company structure.

#### Restricted Scope Company (RSC)

An ADGM RSC is a company (usually a Private Limited Company) with limited public disclosure

requirement. RSCs are particularly useful for Single Family Offices or SPVs established to hold investments or own assets.

#### Key features and benefits of ADGM SPVs:

- No restrictions on nationality of ownership
- No restrictions on the number of shareholders
- 1 shareholder and 1 director permitted
- Corporate directors are permitted
- No secretary requirements
- No minimum share capital
- Different classes of shares possible

# ADGM-AWARD WINNING INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE

Home of the world's newest international financial centre, Al Maryah Island is a vibrant business and lifestyle community and an urban hub in the heart Abu Dhabi, the capital city of the UAE.

A 114 hectare (1.14 sqkm) island that is owned, developed and leased by Mubadala Development Company, Al Maryah Island occupies a unique location with unparalleled connectivity directly midpoint between Abu Dhabi's existing downtown district, the development on Al Reem Island, and the new cultural district on Saadiyat Island.

The first phase of the island is complete and includes Abu Dhabi Global Market Square with 4 Grade 'A' office towers, Al Hilal Bank commercial tower, Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi, The Galleria mall, the 5 star Rosewood Abu Dhabi Hotel and Residence and the Four Seasons Hotel Abu Dhabi.

Due for completion in 2018 is the US\$1 billion Al Maryah Central, a 3.1 million square foot mixed-use development including an iconic regional shopping centre anchored by two globally renowned department stores, the first international Macy's and Bloomingdales.

**114 HECTARE**  
exciting mixed-use development

**MUBADALA**  
development of first-class office-space, retail and leisure amenities

**CENTRAL LOCATION**  
in Abu Dhabi



Al Maryah Island Skyline



## Require more information?

The Registration Authority Business Development team will provide further information and discuss your business needs and concerns in greater detail. We will strive to help you make informed decisions that will benefit your business growth ambitions.

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