

HEADLINE

UAE announces Projects of the 50 to usher in the next phase of growth for the country

UAE announces Projects of the 50 in celebration of the country's 50th National Day. The initiatives revolve around progressive reforms and economic programs to usher in the next phase of growth for the country. Projects such as the Tech Drive (AED5 billion fund), Emirates Investment Summit, 100 coders a day initiative, PyCon MEA, Fourth Industrial Revolution Network, Invest.ae all emphasize on the role of technology and investments in building the country's sustainable future

STARTUPS

KSA-based storage and last-mile delivery startup **Diggipacks** acquired undisclosed amount of shares in Egypt's FWRUN, in an effort to consolidate both companies' expertise, resources, and technology supporting Diggipacks expansion to the Egyptian market and FWRUN to the Kingdom.

UAE-based, freight network **TruKker** acquired **TruckSher (Pakistan)** as part of its expansion into the Pakistan land freight sector, marking the former's first M&A towards geographic expansion

Emaar Malls, the retail arm of Dubai-based real estate developer Emaar Properties, is considering selling e-commerce startup **Namshi** for \$600-700 million according to Reuters. Emaar is also considering listing Namshi abroad via a special purpose acquisition company (SPAC). Namshi was acquired by Emaar Malls in 2017 from Global Fashion Group for \$151 million

Egypt-based FinTech and E-payment solutions provider **Fawry** successfully acquired shares in social commerce marketplace **Brimore**. Valued at \$1M, the minority acquisition comes in a series of efforts by Fawry to expand its network of partners through strategic acquisitions.

Jordan-based leading online card game studio **Jawaker** gets acquired by **Stillfront Group** for \$205M, to ground the latter's position and expand its gaming portfolio in the MENA region.

eyewa, the largest online eyewear retailer in the Middle East, opens its first store in the UAE at City Centre Mirdiff. This follows their Series B Funding of \$21 million and is part of a brisk Mena-based growth push to see the retail brand launching 100 outlets in key locations across the region by 2023

Kuwaiti Real Estate company **3S International** acquires proptech startup **Taskeen Al Oula (Taskeen App)** for undisclosed amount, as part of 3S International's plan to expand the provision of its real estate technical services, leveraging Real Estate technology.

UAE-based **InsurTech Sehteq** has signed a definitive term sheet of acquisition by Boston-based cloud computing and SaaS startup **Cloud Klair**, to take effect post-January 2022.

Automotive marketplace **Contactcars.com (Egypt)**, acquires **Sa3ar Technology Solutions** – a platform that provides car valuation technology and a dealer-specific auction platform.

INVESTMENTS

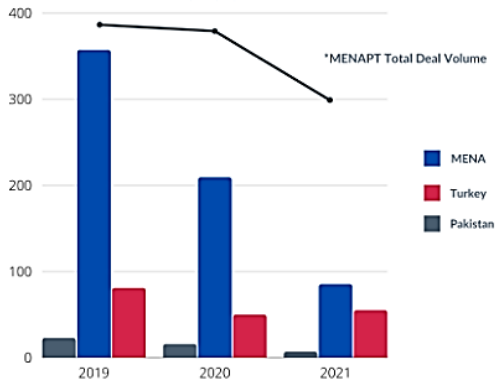
Startup	Sector / Industry	Location	Amount & Round	Investors
Unifonic	Communications	KSA	\$125M undisclosed round	led by SoftBank Group Corp, via Sanabil (KSA sovereign wealth fund)
MNT-Halan	Finance	Egypt	\$120M undisclosed round	led by Apis Growth Fund II, Development Partners International (DPI), and Lorax Capital Partners
Capiter	E-commerce	Egypt	\$33M Series A	led by Quona Capital and MSA Capital, from Savola Group, Shorooq Partners, Foundation Ventures, et al
Leena AI	Human Resources	UAE	\$30M Series B	led by Bessemer Venture Partners, from Greycroft
Nomad Homes	Real Estate	UAE	\$20M Series A	led by 01 Advisors and The Spruce House Partnership
Zbooni	E-commerce SaaS	UAE	\$9.5M Series A	March Holding, Enterprise Fund, Chalhoub Group
Cartona	E-commerce	Egypt	\$4.5M Pre-Series A	led by Global Ventures, from Kepple Africa Ventures, T5 Ventures and angels
Enhance Fitness	Health	UAE	\$3M Series A	led by Global Ventures
JOI Gifts	Consumer services	UAE	\$2.5M Series A	led by Knuru Capital, from MENA Moonshots, Wa'ed
Elkaso	F&B	UAE	\$2.1M Pre-Seed	led by Global Founders Capital and MSA Capital, et al
Moya App	Consumer services	KSA	\$2M undisclosed round	led by MLM Invest
Kashat	Finance	Egypt	\$1.75M bridge	led by Launch Africa, from Cairo Angels
CashIn	Finance	KSA	\$1.6M Seed	led by BIM Ventures, from angels
KLAIM	Health / Finance	UAE	\$1.6M Pre-Series A	led by Mad'a Investments, from Arzan Venture Capital, Wealth Well, Techstars
Miswag	E-commerce	Iraq	\$1.6M Pre-Series A	Khudairi Group and Euphrates Iraq Fund
Scalers	Education / Training	KSA	\$533K Seed	Undisclosed
Supy	F&B	UAE	\$1.5M Pre-Seed	led by COTU Ventures and Valia Ventures (USA)
Rumbl	Health	KSA	\$1.07 Seed	led by Investor's Mine Angel Group
Hotdesk	Coworking	UAE	\$1M Seed	led by Virtuzone, from Zayani Venture Capital, angels
Sotech	Health / IoT	Egypt	\$1M Pre-Seed	led by Innlife
Koala Picks	Consumer services	UAE	\$408K undisclosed round	Undisclosed
CloudFret	Logistics	Morocco	\$390K undisclosed round	Azur Innovation Fund
DataPathology	Health	Morocco	\$232K undisclosed round	led by WitamaxOne
Lacaisse.ma	Finance	Morocco	Undisclosed	led by WitamaxOne
Pravica	Blockchain	Egypt	Undisclosed	Crypto Valley Venture Capital (Sweden)
Shiphaly	Travel / Retail	Egypt	Undisclosed	Undisclosed
Starzly	Media / Entertainment	UAE	Undisclosed amount, Seed	SEEDRA Ventures, 500 Startups, Nama Ventures
Yegertek	SaaS	UAE	Undisclosed	NB Ventures

INVESTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Early Stage vs Later Stage Investments

Source: Magnitt

2019- 2021YTD: MENAPT Early-Stage Deal Volume Evolution

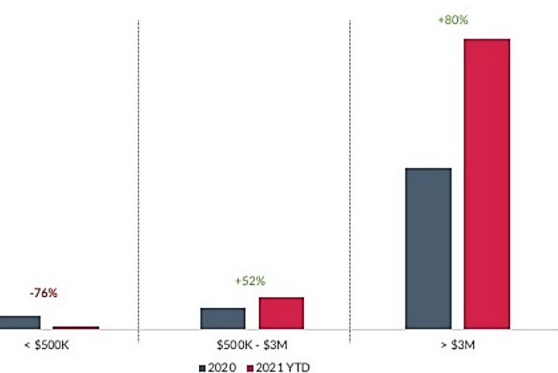


- Funding in Early-Stage startups declined across geographies in MENAPT since 2019.
- Magnitt's August 2021 Venture Investments show Early-Stage rounds (below \$500K) fell by 59% YoY despite MENA's 35% YoY increase in the amount of funding raised in 2021 YTD
- A 40% drop in total amount of deals across MENA was recorded between 2019 and 2021, similarly, Early-Stage funding rounds observed a 47% drop in share of total rounds in the past 3 years YTD.
- Investments show a redirection of funds towards lower-risk later stage rounds accounting for increase in both deal volume and funding value.
- Deals raised by the likes of Halan (\$120M) and Tabby (\$50M) and the ecosystem's largest ever round (\$415M) by Kitopi shot later-stage funding up by 80% across MENA since the end of 2020. Rounds sized between \$500K and \$3M, pre-dominantly Series A+ deals, also witnesses 52% more investment than in 2020.
- The receding tides in early-stage venture investment lies in Covid-19's impact on **accelerator programs as activities in this space dwindled**. A comparison of H1 2020 and H1 2021 volume of VC deals show a **65% decline in accelerated deals**. Whereas, non-accelerated deals dropped only by 1%.

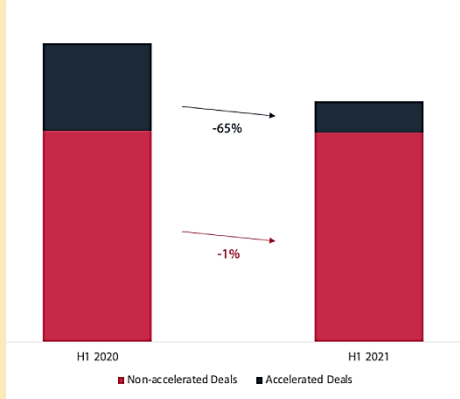
2020 vs 2021 YTD: Deal volume evolution by ticket size



2020 vs 2021 YTD: Funding evolution by ticket size



H1 2021 vs H1 2020: MENA Volume of VC Deals



ACCELERATORS / INCUBATORS

New incubator KUBE Ventures launches in UAE focusing on hospitality and tourism to reshape the hospitality, leveraging two crucial entities to empower new ideas: KUBE Circle (community) and KUBE Conscience (governance)

Plug and Play Abu Dhabi partners with Abu Dhabi Investment Office (ADIO) to launch an innovation platform for startups to solve tech challenges and bottlenecks defined by key industry stakeholders and thought leaders from Plug and Play Abu Dhabi's ecosystem

UPCOMING EVENTS

[Techne Summit Hybrid event](#): 02-04 Oct

Deadline to apply: [Visa Sustainability Challenge with Etihad \(Pitch Competition\)](#) | 07 Oct

[Gitex 2021](#): 17-21 Oct, Dubai

[Dubai Expo 2020](#): 20 Oct 2021-10 Apr 2022, Dubai

ARTICLES WORTH READING

Magnitt

- [The Many Paths to Exit](#)
- [Emerging Ventures Markets \(EVM\) Top 3 Exits in Aug 21](#)
- [SEEDS of Growth: Highlights from Healthcare](#)
- [Food & Beverage: Top 3 Funding Rounds in 2021](#)
- [Foodics: One Platform at a Time](#)
- [Venture Studios and the Early-Stage Challenge](#)
- [Never too early for Early-Stage](#)
- [How to make SPACS work](#)

Wamda

- [Report: The impact of Covid-19 on the state of mental health & wellbeing of entrepreneurs in MENA](#)
- [Dark stores will create more collaborators than competitors](#)
- [Is there hope for startups in the tourism sector?](#)

Khaleej Times

- [UAE Projects of the 50: First set of plans revealed](#)

VC NEWS

Wa'ed, the entrepreneurship arm of Saudi Arabia's Aramco, has set aside SAR19.1 million (\$5.9 million) in Seed grants and loans to Saudi entrepreneurs to fund the best new startups. Wa'ed has deployed more than \$106 million in VC investment, loans and incubation services into more than 100 Saudi-based startups since its creation in 2011

US-based venture capital firm **500 Startups** closed its largest fund to date at \$140 million and rebranded to **500 Global**. The global flagship funding brings assets under management to \$1.8 billion and will invest in accelerators, seed stage and late stage companies

Flat6Labs has announced the second close and increase of its **Tunisia-based Anava Seed Fund (ASF)** from \$3 million to \$10 million. Sawari Ventures joins the fund's investors with \$1.6 million.

