المدينة الإعلامية قطر
Media City Qatar
Volume 01 | January

REWIND NEXT
2026

Message from Our Chairman

Meet Our CEO

The Sound of a Nation Rising نبض قطر by Qatar SoundBeat and the Milestones of the Last Quarter

The Trends Shaping What's Next

What's Coming Up at Media City Qatar

Message From Our Chairman

Every great story in media begins somewhere, ours begins in Qatar, with a mission to make the media and creative industries a driver of national growth.

In 2025 alone, Media City Qatar expanded by more than 200%, now home to over 300 licensed companies across news, gaming, digital media, and content creation. Together, they have produced thousands of hours of original content, trained local talent, and expanded Qatar's capacity to create and broadcast from Doha to the world.

This growth is driven by an organizational team that reflects true balance, with citizens and expats, women and men, in near-equal numbers, contributing side-by-side, across leadership and innovation initiatives.

This first issue of our newsletter reflects that spirit. It tells the stories of people and partnerships that are shaping Qatar's evolving media landscape and defining Where **Next** is Made.

Abdulla bin Ali Al Thani
Chairman, Media City Qatar

> “Every great story in media begins somewhere, ours begins in Qatar”

Meet Our CEO

This year, I continue to tell a story that is only getting started.

Media City Qatar is at a moment when its work, and the stories it enables, are trusted more than ever. What comes next is shaped by the foundations already laid and the ambition to carry them further.

I step into this role energized by the scale of progress already made and inspired by the opportunity to help guide its transformation into the next phase of growth.

The achievements of recent years reflects the strength of this organization's vision, people, and partnerships. My focus is to build on that foundation, adapt to an evolving media landscape, and lead Media City Qatar forward with purpose and agility.

My career has been shaped by connecting people, platforms, and ideas across different parts of the world, working at the intersection of telecom, media, and technology. I look forward to bringing that global perspective and expanding Media City Qatar's impact in the years ahead.

Hamad Omar A. Al-Mannai
CEO, Media City Qatar

> “My focus is to build on that foundation, adapt to an evolving media landscape, and lead Media City Qatar forward with purpose and agility.”

Media City Qatar Highlights

A Nation Heard: ‘Qatar SoundBeat’ Brings Qatar's Story to Life

Following the success of 2024's ‘Qatar ArtBeat’, Media City Qatar returned this National Day with ‘Qatar SoundBeat’, a song by the nation, for the nation. Inspired by Qatari life – from the flutter of the flag to the echo of an Arabian horse's gallop – the piece composed by Omar Rahbany, produced by Rahbani 3.0, and performed by the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra, transformed Qatar's rhythm into a celebration of unity and pride. The composition premiered before a live audience at the FIFA Arab Cup 2025™ finale, marking a defining moment for Qatar's national expression.

Supporting Global Football Coverage from the Heart of Qatar

Media City Qatar supported media coverage of the FIFA Arab Cup Qatar 2025™ as a tournament sponsor, with exclusive naming rights for the Main Media Center at Qatar National Convention Centre and the Broadcasting Hub at Souq Waqif. It also lent its support to the FIFA U-17 World Cup Qatar 2025™ and the FIFA Intercontinental Cup Qatar 2025™, separately marking the build-up to the sporting moments with a community celebration and trophy display at its headquarters.

Taking Arabic Stories to the Global Stage at MIPCOM Cannes

In the heart of Cannes, Media City Qatar announced its support for two original Arabic drama series produced with our licensed company, ImagiQ Productions. To be filmed in Qatar and Lebanon, the cast stars Dima Kandalaft in Behind the Scenes, and Mohamad Al Ahmad, and Aimée Sayah in When I Saw.

Growing the Gaming Industry Across the Arab World

From Tokyo to Doha, Media City Qatar and SEGA signed an MoU to strengthen the gaming industry in Qatar and the wider MENA region. Building on Media City Qatar's Japan Roadshow, the partnership explores Arabic localization, co-production, and talent development through training and workshops.

Empowering the Next Generation of Media Leaders

Media City Qatar is championing the next generation of media leaders through skills-driven programs. In partnership with Qatar Leadership Centre, Al-Monitor, and Semafor, the Independent Media Initiative Workshop helped emerging talents build newsroom-ready capabilities. Alongside it, the Euronews Academy Bootcamp with Qatar University delivered hands-on training in digital and mobile journalism.

Industry Insights & Trends

Artificial Intelligence

$320B
The estimated contribution of AI to Middle East economies by 2030 is projected to be $320B with Qatar's digital investments projected to reach $5.7B by 2026, accelerating the nation's smart transformation.

SOURCE:
PWC ‘US$320 billion by 2030? The potential impact of Artificial Intelligence in the Middle East’.
PWC ‘Qatar's tech momentum builds as business leaders accelerate AI adoption’

Gaming & E-Sports

$435B
The global gaming market is set to soar to $435B by 2030, with the Middle East expected to post the fastest growth at 12.9% CAGR.

SOURCE:
Invest Qatar ‘Why MENA is the next frontier for global e-game developers?’

Localisation & Cultural Relevance

75% of gamers in Qatar, the UAE, and Saudi Arabia say authentic Arab representation in global titles is essential.

SOURCE:
Arab News. ‘Arabic localization would be a ‘strategic game-changer’ for game developers in the GCC’

Social Media & Digital Content

68% of MENA audiences now use social media as their main news source, and over **66%** of respondents named mobile video as their favorite.

SOURCE:
Strategy& (PWC) and Google News Initiative ‘Building a Vibrant News Industry in the Middle East and North Africa’

Media & Entertainment

$18B
Projected value of MENA media and entertainment market by 2028 is $18B, driven by digital platforms growing to **74%** of total industry revenue.

SOURCE:
Strategy& ‘MENA Media and Entertainment Outlook, 2024 - 2028’

Spotlight on our Licensed Companies

insideNext
خلف الكواليس

InsideNext celebrates the companies turning ambition into action across Media City Qatar. Explore the people and projects shaping what's next in media and creativity.

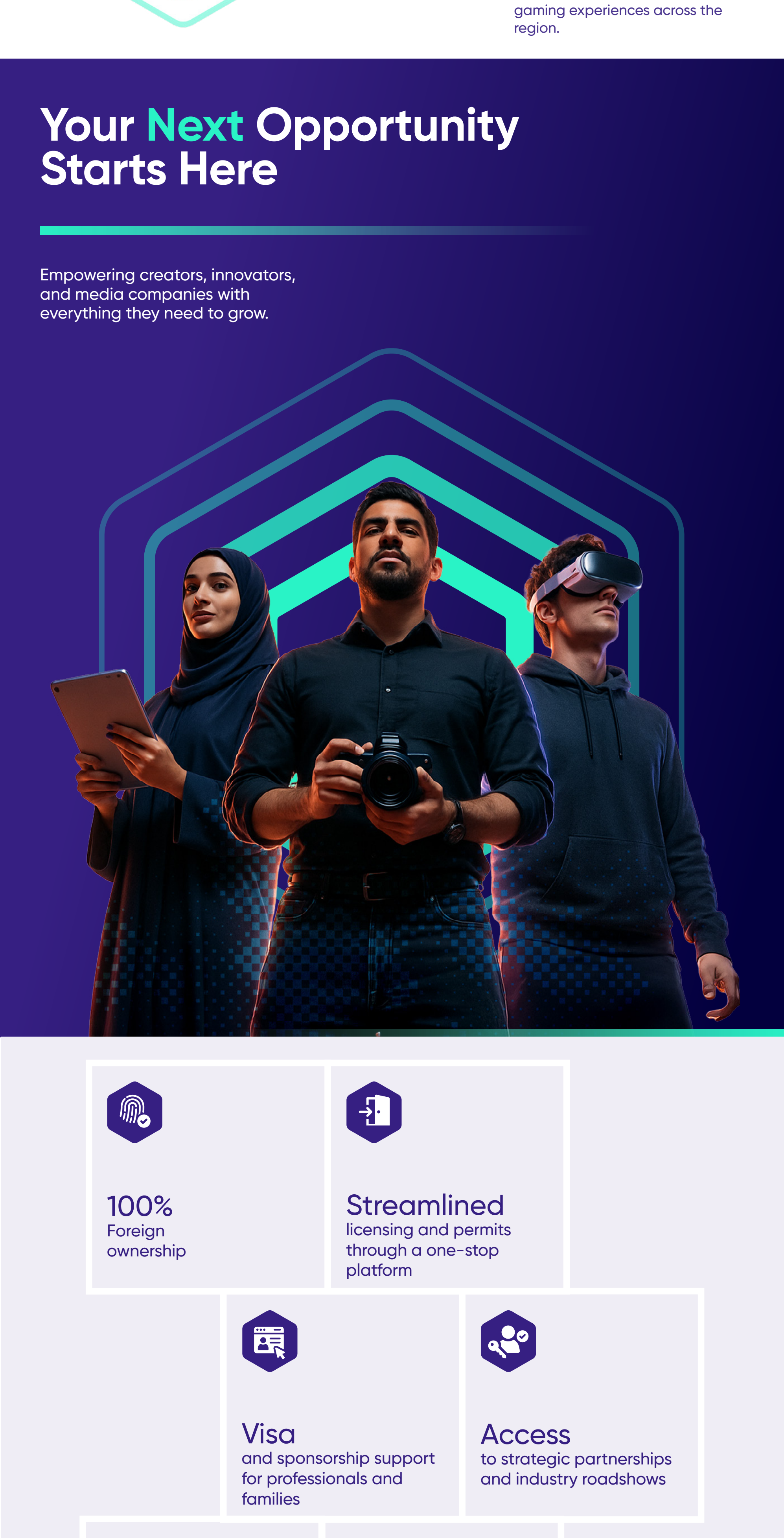
ID8 Media combines AI-driven strategy, branding, and media transformation to connect technology with storytelling. A licensed company, it powered ‘Qatar ArtBeat’ by developing digital systems that turned public input into a shared visual experience. Building on their many continued successes, its founders created The 8 Group, a collective of four companies covering key areas of the media landscape.

RCD Media Group is expanding its creative footprint in Doha under Media City Qatar, where it is developing the region's first post-production academy. Through training programs and masterclasses with world-renowned filmmakers, RCD is empowering emerging talent and shaping the future of storytelling from Qatar to the world.

Digital Dunes, based in Media City Qatar, is shaping a new MENA-focused vision for gaming through its partnership with Media City Qatar. Known for regional commercial hits such as Nida Harb III and the Doha-built Pro Soccer Legends, the studio continues to expand story-driven, culturally resonant gaming experiences across the region.

Your Next Opportunity Starts Here

Empowering creators, innovators, and media companies with everything they need to grow.



100%
Foreign ownership

Streamlined
licensing and permits through a one-stop platform

Visa
and sponsorship support for professionals and families

Access
to strategic partnerships and industry roadshows

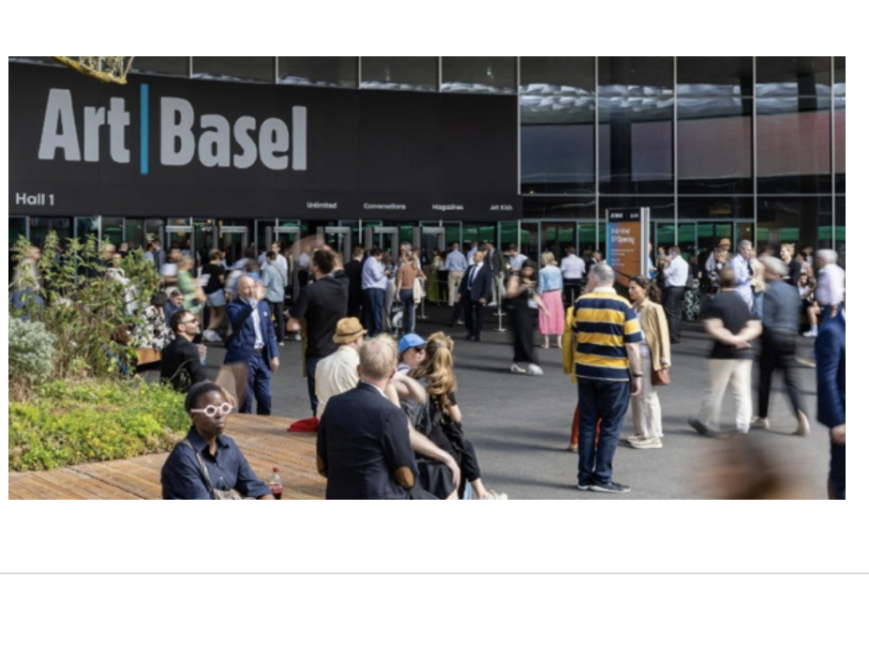
Incentives
grants and funding pathways for media and creative projects

Talent
development initiatives and training opportunities

Flexible
workspace options and business-friendly regulations

Upcoming Events 2026
1ST QUARTER

FEB
01-04



Web Summit Qatar

Returning to Web Summit 2026 as Media Village sponsor, Media City Qatar will power global media presence, connecting journalists, creators, and industry leaders shaping conversations about our digital future.

View Event Details →

FEB
05-07

Art Basel Qatar

Stay tuned for the first edition of Art Basel Qatar, held with Media City Qatar as an Official Partner.

View Event Details →

FEB
10

Qatar National Sports Day

Media City Qatar joins national champions in marking National Sport Day celebrating play, movement, and the spirit of togetherness.

View Event Details →

Media City Qatar Moves to Its New Home

Phase 1
August 2025

Media City Qatar began its new chapter in Msheireb Downtown Doha.

Phase 2
2026

Media City Qatar to welcome licensed companies into new co-working and private office spaces.

Phase 3
2027

Media City Qatar to introduce world-class studios, post-production, and creative facilities supporting Qatar's storytellers.

Careers & Community

Every Great Media Story Begins with Someone Bold Enough to Imagine It.

Explore success stories, career paths, learning programs, and other initiatives designed for those ready to help power Where Next is Made.

Explore More

Stay in Touch

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