



HOW TO START A **FINTECH COMPANY** IN DUBAI, UAE





The UAE, particularly Dubai, is prominently emerging as a global hub for technology and innovation, and a fintech startup in the Emirate could be the best investment you can make. The city's progressive regulatory landscape actively supports innovation and strategic initiatives, which not only increase the chances of success but also foster a tech-forward economy. So, if you have plans to **start a fintech company in Dubai**, this guide will serve you with all the critical details required to establish your project in this vibrant and dynamic ecosystem.

AN OVERVIEW OF THE UAE'S FINTECH INDUSTRY

The term 'Fintech' is a combination of two words – finance and technology, blending the latest technology and innovation to revolutionize systems and procedures and offer financial services. According to the Mordor Intelligence reports, the total value of assets in the UAE fintech market has reached AED 46.67 billion in 2025 and is anticipated to grow to AED 81.55 billion by 2030, strengthening the UAE's position as a leading fintech hub in the Middle East.

The fintech industry in Dubai is constantly evolving, with some of the fastest-growing trends, such as Digital payments, Digital investments, Neobanking, and others. Besides, many global businesses have invested considerably in this sector. In such a competition, moving with the right approach can help you grab a major chunk of it.



KEY TRENDS IN THE FINTECH INDUSTRY

The key trends in the UAE's fintech landscape are as follows:-

Digital Payments

- Enables cashless payments through online transactions, mobile wallets, and peer-to-peer transfers.
- Core technologies: APIs, Blockchain, AI
- **Examples:** PayPal, Stripe, Square

RegTech

- Improves regulatory compliance, fraud prevention, and risk management for financial institutions.
- Core technologies: AI, Machine Learning, Data Analytics
- **Examples:** ComplyAdvantage, Onfido

InsurTech

- Improve the delivery of tech-driven insurance models and on-demand policies.
- Core technologies: AI, IoT, Blockchain
- Examples: Lemonade, Root Insurance



Blockchain

- Revolutionize the financial industry through cryptocurrency exchanges, DeFi, and digital assets.
- Core technologies: Blockchain, Smart Contracts
- **Examples:** Binance, Coinbase, Uniswap

Thus, the fintech landscape is expected to grow in the coming years, building an attractive platform for fintech ventures.

These are some of the key players in the fintech landscape:

- DIFC Fintech Hive
- Emerging Payments
- Fintech Dubai
- NOW Money

REASONS TO START A FINTECH COMPANY IN DUBAI

Starting a business in the UAE's fintech industry comes with a host of advantages, such as –

- **Supportive Regulatory Environment:** DFSA's conducive regulatory framework and initiatives for fintech startups allow companies to test their products and services in a controlled environment, while ensuring compliance with regulations.
- **100% Ownership:** Foreign investors can own their fintech company 100% and gain full control over their business.
- **Global Business Hub:** Dubai is renowned as a global business hub that opens fruitful doors for potential partners, investors, and clients worldwide.
- **Large and Growing Market:** The UAE's young and tech-savvy population, with a high smartphone penetration rate and widespread internet connectivity, presents ample opportunities and creates a large and growing market for fintech companies to develop innovative digital solutions.
- **Skilled Workforce:** Dubai has a skilled workforce that has a strong background in finance and technology, making it easy for fintech companies to find the right talent to build and scale their business.
- **Favorable Tax Regime:** The favorable tax regime of the UAE helps fintech businesses save money and grow more quickly.
- **Cultural Diversity:** Fintech companies can take advantage of the UAE's diverse population to test and adapt fintech solutions for various market segments.



- **Access to Capital:** The UAE provides fintech startups significant access to funding and government-backed initiatives, such as the Mohammed Bin Rashid Innovation Fund, for their growth and expansion.
- **Strategic Location:** The strategic location of the UAE at the crossroads of East and West enables easy and unparalleled access to global markets, enabling fintech companies to tap into a diverse customer base and establish international partnerships.
- **Vibrant Ecosystem:** The fintech ecosystem of the UAE is vibrant and dynamic, with various accelerators, incubators, and networking events that are dedicated to supporting fintech startups and providing them with valuable resources, mentorship, and networking opportunities.
- **Strict IP Laws:** The UAE's robust intellectual property laws help keep investors secure for their intellectual property in the country.
- **Networking Opportunities:** Dubai houses several international companies that increase the funding opportunities and create networking prospects with innovators and investors across the globe.

So, if you are looking to **start a fintech company in Dubai**, our business consultant at Dubiz will assist you through the process, ensuring a smooth and hassle-free experience.

Steps to Start a FINTECH COMPANY IN THE UAE

The process to start a fintech company in Dubai involves several steps. This segment will walk you through the entire process of obtaining a fintech company license systematically –

1. CHOOSE THE RIGHT JURISDICTION

Selecting the appropriate jurisdiction is a critical step, and the UAE offers several options with various benefits:

1. **Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC):** This free zone is known for its independent regulatory framework and business-friendly environment that offers fintech startups benefits like zero taxes on corporate income, easy access to various markets, and more.
2. **Abu Dhabi Global Market (ADGM):** The RegLab in ADGM provides a controlled environment for fintech firms to test innovative solutions. Furthermore, fintech firms can enjoy full foreign ownership, a 0% corporate tax rate, and a comprehensive legal system in this jurisdiction.
3. **Dubai Multi Commodities Centre (DMCC):** With 100% foreign ownership, exemption from import/export duties, and access to a vibrant business community, DMCC provides a supportive environment for fintech companies.

2. REGISTER YOUR COMPANY

Once you have finalized the jurisdiction, register the company by following the steps below:

- **Choose a Business Name:** Find a name that complies with the naming regulations of the chosen jurisdiction and register it with the concerned authority.
- **Submit an Application:** Complete the application form and submit it along with the necessary documents, such as passport copies, a business plan, and address proof.
- **Obtain Initial Approval:** The authority will review the application and confirm whether the criteria are met. Accordingly, it will grant initial approval to proceed with the license application.
- **Prepare Legal Documents:** Draft and notarise the essential corporate documents, such as the Memorandum of Association (MOA) and Articles of Association (AOA).
- **Pay Fees:** Pay the required fee for company registration and licensing.

3. ACQUIRE THE NECESSARY LICENCES

The type of license required for the fintech company depends on the primary activity or nature of the business:

- **Fintech license:** For businesses offering digital financial services, such as payment processing, robo-advisory, and blockchain solutions.
- **Cryptocurrency license:** For businesses dealing with cryptocurrencies.

To obtain these licenses, businesses must meet all compliance requirements and abide by the anti-money laundering (AML) and know-your-customer (KYC) regulations.

4. SET UP YOUR OFFICE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- **Lease Office Space:** Depending on the jurisdiction you choose, lease an office space to conduct your fintech operations. If you opt for free zones, you can benefit from flexible office solutions, such as co-working spaces.
- **IT Infrastructure:** To support your fintech operations, you would require a strong infrastructure tailored to your business needs. For example, high-speed internet, secure servers, software solutions, etc.
- **Hire Staff:** The UAE is home to a diverse pool of talent migrated from all over the world. For efficient operations, consider hiring skilled professionals who are proficient and experienced in this industry.

Cost involved in **SETTING UP A FINTECH COMPANY**

The cost of starting a fintech company in Dubai is around AED 16,000*. However, it varies based on multiple factors, such as the business activity, the preferred jurisdiction, etc. For instance, a Mainland business will cost you more compared to a free zone company.

Disclaimer: The mentioned prices are just an estimated cost and is always subject to change. Therefore, it is recommended to consult with our knowledgeable experts at Dubiz to effectively manage costs and get an instant estimate.



CONCLUSION

The UAE is mushrooming with a young and tech-savvy population, making it an ideal place to **start a fintech company in UAE**. However, it takes planning and smart decisions to get it done effectively. For instance, choosing the right setup and license, leveraging new technology, building strong connections with investors and creditors, following the AML and KYC policies, marketing through digital means, securing funds, and most importantly, staying flexible and informed on existing trends.



Grow your Fintech Business **WITH DUBIZ**

If you are aspiring to set foot into this thriving industry, Dubiz Business Setup will help you do your research and navigate the legal and regulatory landscape in compliance with the requirements. Our business setup consultants hold years of experience in assisting entrepreneurs and investors in establishing their businesses in the UAE. They offer comprehensive support every step of the business setup journey and help you make the right decisions that align with your business activity and goals.



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