

2<sup>nd</sup> Edition



# Press Coverage

## Artificial Intelligence Towards a Better Life

30<sup>th</sup> of September 2018  
Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi

Organized by  
 **FRENCH BUSINESS GROUP**  
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التحالف الأمني الدولي  
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ALLIANCE



الحوار الثقافي  
الإماراتي - الفرنسي  
DIALOGUE CULTUREL  
FRANCO - EMIRIEN  
2018 | 2019



Al Khaleej Arabic – 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018

Journalist : Mohamed Alaa <ma7amed3ala2@gmail.com>

**ضمن برنامج الحوار الثقافي الإماراتي الفرنسي  
«السوربون أبوظبي» تناقش «الذكاء الاصطناعي نحو حياة أفضل»**



نورة الكعبي  
وعمر العلماء  
والشعفار  
والرئيسي ووزان  
لنارك والسفير  
الفرنسي التصوير:  
عصام حمزة

المفتش العام لوزارة الداخلية، ووزان خليفة المبارك، الأمينة العامة لهيئة البيئة - أبوظبي، والدكتورة فاطمة الشامسي، نائبة المدير للشؤون الإدارية في الجامعة، ولودوفيك بوي، سفير الجمهورية الفرنسية لدى الدولة، وعدد من المديرين التنفيذيين والخبراء والمستشارين.

وقال لودوفيك بوي، إن الإمارات وفرنسا ترتبطان بعلاقات ثنائية قوية منذ تأسيس الاتحاد عام 1971 وهي تزداد متانة يوماً بعد الآخر، ولم يألؤ المؤسس المغفور له الشيخ زايد، طيب الله ثراه، ونظراؤه الفرنسيون جهداً في تعزيز علاقات الصداقة وتطويرها، بشركات مميزة، وتعاون عسكري، وروابط اقتصادية متنامية، ومشاريع مضيئة في المجالات الثقافية والترفيهية.

الكفاءات العلمية المتخصصة والقدرات المحلية في الذكاء الاصطناعي، يسهم في انتشار التطبيقات التي تعتمد على هذه التقنيات، وتطوير قدراتها في المستقبل الرقمي ليكون قادراً على التعامل معه.

وقال لودوفيك بوي، في كلمة افتتاحية: إن حكومة دولة الإمارات تستثمر في القدرات الوطنية، وتستقطب المواهب والشركات العالمية في الذكاء الاصطناعي، لتطوير أنظمة وتقنيات تلمس حياة الناس، وتحديث أبنائها إيجابياً يعود بالنفع والفائدة في مختلف النواحي.

فيما قال اللواء الرئيسي، إن استثمار القيادة في تطوير

أبو ظبي:  
محمد علاء

استضافت جامعة السوربون أبوظبي، أمس، الدورة الثانية من ملتقى «حوار أبوظبي» الذي يأتي ضمن برنامج الحوار الثقافي الإماراتي الفرنسي، ويضيء عبر جلسات نقاشية موضوع «الذكاء الاصطناعي نحو حياة أفضل» ونظمته مجموعة الأعمال الفرنسية في أبوظبي، بحضور نورة الكعبي، وزيرة الثقافة وتنمية المعرفة، وعمر سلطان العلماء، وزير الدولة للذكاء الاصطناعي، والفريق سيف الشعفار وكيل وزارة الداخلية، واللواء الدكتور أحمد الريسي،

Business Guide Confidential

<http://www.bgconfidential.ae/how-to-where-to/the-second-edition-of-les-entretiens-dabu-dhabi/>

# THE SECOND EDITION OF “LES ENTRETIENS D’ABU DHABI”



Artificial Intelligence towards a better life

After a successful first edition in December 2017 in Abu Dhabi, “**Les Entretiens d’Abu Dhabi**” are back at Sorbonne Abu Dhabi for one day.

The second edition will focus on the **future of Artificial Intelligence** and the arrival of the robot age. Artificial Intelligence is becoming more involved in everyday life and in most sectors of the economy.



To illustrate this, five different roundtables are being organized throughout the day ([detailed agenda here](#)) with experts, thinkers, and entrepreneurs from France, Abu Dhabi and all over the world.

**The five roundtable topics are:**

- **Roundtable 1: Culture & Knowledge**  
Culture What impact will Artificial Intelligence have on Culture and knowledge?
- **Roundtable 2: Security, Human Society & Ethics**  
How can Artificial Intelligence contribute to Security? What are the impacts of Artificial Intelligence on Human Society?
- **Roundtable 3: Mobility**  
How will Artificial Intelligence transform our mobility?
- **Roundtable 4: Sustainability and Energy**  
How can Artificial Intelligence contribute to energy in the smart city?
- **Roundtable 5: Finance**  
How will Artificial Intelligence and digitization influence banking?

**WHERE:**

Sorbonne University, Abu Dhabi

**WHEN:**

Sunday 30th of September 2018, 8am – 3pm

**MORE INFO:**

This event is free of charge and by invitation only.

For more details about this event, **[please check this page](#)** that will give you all the details about the organizers, the detailed agenda and the contact details related to this event

## The Gulf News

10/7/2018

Keep passport in pocket and pass through airport | GulfNews.com

GULF NEWS

# Keep passport in pocket and pass through airport

AI will help unleash power of expression in art and culture, minister says

Published: 19:04 September 30, 2018  
Rinsal Abdul Kader, Senior Reporter

Abu Dhabi: Passengers are already able to speed through passport control at UAE airports by scanning their travel documents at smart gates.

In near future, you simply walk through the airport by keeping passport or Emirates ID in your pocket and breeze through the gate, a senior official said on Sunday.

"The idea is you just keep your passport in your pocket when you arrive at the airport after walking out of the flight, thanks to advanced facial recognition technology, a biometric Artificial Intelligence [AI]-based application," said **Esmail Abdullah**, CEO of *Strata*, a composite aero-structures manufacturing facility wholly owned by Mubadala Investment Company.

There will be a number of cameras taking your picture and working behind the scenes to ensure that you are the same person [whose data was already sent by airline to the airport and matched]," said Abdullah, who is also Vice-President in Mubadala's Aerospace, Renewables and ICT, one of four global business platforms within Mubadala Investment Company.

**Read more:**

[500 Emirati students to be trained in artificial intelligence](#)  
[Pact to empower UAE's future leaders in AI](#)  
[Vice-President reviews AI training initiative](#)

A number of airports across the world are working on this technology, he told *Gulf News* in an interview on the sidelines of a conference in the capital on Sunday.

**Long queues**

Managing long queues at the airport is the biggest challenge and facial recognition technology will help solve this issue.

Passengers can quickly pass through electronic check-in kiosks by answering a few questions, said Abdullah who was a speaker at a conference titled "Artificial Intelligence towards a better life" organised by the French Business Group at Paris Sorbonne University as part of French-Emirati cultural dialogue.

"I believe that some of the airports in the UAE are also looking into this new technology," the official said.

**Omar Bin Sultan Al Olama**, Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence (AI), told the conference that although some people relate AI to job losses and related problems it would be a different story in art and culture.

AI will help unleash power of expression in art and culture, he said.

There was opposition to printing press and internet when they were invented, raising concerns about violation of intellectual property rights (IPRs).

However, these inventions further strengthened cultural exchanges across the globe, Al Olama said. Likewise the application of AI will also further help cultural exchanges, he said.

**Research**

Ludovic Pouille, French Ambassador to the UAE, said the French government plans to invest €1.5 billion (Dh6.4 billion) over the next four years to encourage research and attract talents from across the globe as part of the national strategy for AI.

He pointed out that AI could support economic growth. According to a consultancy's report, in the UAE alone, AI will cause the annual economic growth by 1.6 percentage points by 2030, he said.

Major General Dr Ahmad Naser Al Raisi, Inspector General at the Ministry of Interior, said application of AI is not limited to any one domain but its potential has been proven in almost all sectors.

The UAE government initiatives will make the country a hub of innovative research in the AI, he said.

## The National newspaper

Journalist: [Alkesh Sharma](#)

10/7/2018

Exclusive: Mubadala's Strata to manufacture aircraft engine components by 2020 - The National



### Exclusive: Mubadala's Strata to manufacture aircraft engine components by 2020

The company has \$7.5 billion worth of orders from Boeing and Airbus until 2030



Alkesh Sharma  
October 2, 2018

Updated: October 1, 2018 04:52 PM



Ismail Abdulla, chief executive of Strata Manufacturing, is aiming to diversify the business. Pawan Singh / The National

Strata Manufacturing, a manufacturer of aircraft mechanical structures wholly owned by Abu Dhabi's Mubadala Investment Company, is aiming to manufacture engine parts by the end of 2020 in a push to expand.

"As part of Strata's diversification drive, we are looking forward to start manufacturing airplane engine parts and currently we are in discussion with a number of industry players." Ismail Abdulla, chief executive of Strata Manufacturing told *The National*. "We are evaluating the market and by next year we will be doing something big in terms of engines."

Strata, which has \$7.5 billion (Dh27.8bn) worth of orders from Boeing and Airbus until 2030, will maintain revenues of Dh500 million this year, unchanged from 2017, as the industry faces market headwinds. Boeing, one of Strata's main customers, is caught in the crosshairs of a trade war between the US and China in which the world's second largest economy is threatening a 25 per cent tariff on the US-made aircraft.

The Middle East is one of the world's fastest-growing aviation markets and, in the UAE alone, the sector is expected to contribute Dh194.5bn to the country's economy by 2020 and provide approximately 750,000 jobs, according to global research firm Oxford Economics.

<https://www.thenational.ae/business/aviation/exclusive-mubadala-s-strata-to-manufacture-aircraft-engine-components-by-2020-1.775897>

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10/7/2018

Exclusive: Mubadala's Strata to manufacture aircraft engine components by 2020 - The National

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Strata has no immediate plans to venture into the segment of electric airplanes in the near future but it is open for discussion if any big player approaches it.

"From our perspective, we are actually concentrating on what we have today and focusing on enhancing our current product portfolio," Mr Abdulla said.

"However, if we are invited for a dialogue by some big player then we are open for that. Yes, there could be some flights with electric engines in the future but the number will be limited as a major challenge that everybody is facing today is regarding the storage capacity of batteries."

The Strata manufacturing plant sprawls across 31,000 square metres in the deserts of Al Ain. From just one production line in 2010 there are now 11, with more than 700 workers delivering parts for the world's most advanced passenger jets.

"We are reacting very fast to the growing market demands," Mr Abdulla said, emphasising its rapid adaption of assembly line technology. Currently all fabrication - cutting, rolling, shaping, heating or hammering metal products to assemble different parts of an aircraft - at Strata is done by hand.

But such work will soon be done by two automated tape laying machines recently purchased by the company.

As part of its joint venture with Belgian composite materials firm Solvay, Strata will be making carbon fibres for the first time, a durable material used in aircraft parts for the Boeing 777X, which Emirates is due to be the first customer of in 2020.

The materials will be produced in Al Ain, said Mr Abdulla.

Strata is seeking opportunities in Saudi Arabia and the Far East to expand its supplier base. It is in discussion with the kingdom's aero-structures maker Taqnia to outsource some of its manufacturing. In recent months, it has also reached new agreements with Boeing, Honeywell, IBM and Siemens. With these agreements, Strata will be able to increase its product offerings.

Mr Abdulla considers artificial intelligence, blockchain and 3D printing as top three technologies that could be the real game-changers in aviation industry in the coming years.

"The way aerospace manufacturers produce products today is not sustainable in the long run," he said. "This could be addressed by the right use of technology. At Strata, we differentiate ourselves from our competitors by investing big on technology."

Strata, which shipped close to 10,000 parts globally in 2017, has created a dedicated digitisation division to execute a number of AI- and big data-related projects.

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10/7/2018

Merger of AI and big data to steer businesses towards goals, say experts - The National



## Merger of AI and big data to steer businesses towards goals, say experts

Up to 97.2 per cent of global CEO-level executives say their companies are launching AI and big data initiatives



Alkesh Sharma  
September 30, 2018

Updated: October 2, 2018 10:27 AM



Ismail Abdulla, chief executive of Strata Manufacturing, emphasised the importance of AI in enhancing business returns. Antonie Robertson/The National

Artificial Intelligence (AI), coupled with big data analytics, could help industries to grow their businesses by understanding their customers better and offering them more customised services, said experts.

"The manufacturing sector generates maximum amount of data than any other industrial sector and AI is enabling us to correlate and understand it in a much more meaningful manner," Ismail Abdulla, chief executive of Strata Manufacturing, which is owned by Abu Dhabi's strategic investment company Mubadala Investment Company, told *The National*.

"Understanding this data, through AI applications, has eventually helped us to overcome various challenges in the past."

The big data and analytics software market, which in 2017 reached \$54.1 billion globally, is expected to grow at a five-year compound annual growth rate of 11.2 per cent, according to International Data Corporation. It has also predicted AI spending to reach \$52.2bn in 2021. AI spending is expected to surge at a CAGR of 46.2 per cent over 2016-2021.



10/7/2018

Merger of AI and big data to steer businesses towards goals, say experts - The National

"Last year, we had shipped close to 10,000 parts globally and we got huge data through those transactions. Now we are using AI to dive deep into that data to derive best results for our customers," said Mr Abdulla.

Under its research and development arm, Strata has created a digitisation division to execute a number of AI- and big data-related projects.

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Experts said that AI can also add value to future mobility by minimising human errors.

"Most of the transport modes that we use today are not designed around humans needs. AI can fill this immediate gap as it offers enormous possibility to redesign the passenger experience," Bibop Gresta, chairman and co-founder of Hyperloop, told *The National*.

"Currently, we are experimenting with AI to redesign human experience and create mobility solutions that cater to the customers' actual requirements."

Up to 97.2 per cent of global CEO-level executives affirm that their companies are investing in and launching new AI and big data initiatives, in a recent survey of NewVantage Partners, a strategic advisory firm based in Boston. Around 76.5 per cent of executives feel AI and big data are becoming closely interconnected and empowering each other within the organisations, added the survey.

"AI and big data have been real game changers for us. They have enabled us to install innovative capabilities in our ships in order to address the new-age demands," said Eric Papin, senior vice president and chief technology officer of Paris-based Naval Group.

Naval specialises in marine defence and has its Middle East headquarters in Dubai.

"However, the main challenge is to master the AI technology in defence because it is mainly used in civilian activities. We are gradually mastering it and creating an augmented crew that is secure and capable of handling sensitive tasks."

This year, the French government has announced plans to invest €1.5bn (Dh6.4bn) of public funding into AI by 2022 as part of a strategy to accelerate innovation.

"AI brings both Emirati and French communities together as we share the same goals," Anne Guennec, president of French Business Group, Abu Dhabi.

"New prospects are opening up.... we can certainly contribute in the development of AI in the Emirates thanks to French technology and know-how."

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Exclusive: France to spend €32m on sustainable presence at Expo 2020 and beyond - The National



## Exclusive: France to spend €32m on sustainable presence at Expo 2020 and beyond

Europe's third largest economy aims to showcase at least 500 companies at the expo



Alkesh Sharma  
October 4, 2018

Updated: October 4, 2018 03:47 PM



Erik Linquier, commissioner general for France - Expo 2020 Dubai, is eyeing long-term business relations with the UAE. Antonie Robertson / The National

With a focus on urban mobility and sustainability, France is investing close to €32 million (Dh137.6m) on its national pavilion for Expo 2020 in Dubai, 50 per cent more than what it budgeted during the last Expo in Milan.

"We had spent close to €21m (Dh90.3m) during Expo 2015 in Milan and this time there is a good jump. I can say that this big jump is clearly on purpose," Erik Linquier, commissioner general for France - Expo 2020 Dubai, told *The National*.

"Location of the expo is key. This will be the first expo after a very long time that will see a gathering of large number of people from different regions like Asia, Africa, Europe and the Middle East and that is a unique opportunity for us."

The budget is shared equally between the French government and the private companies, about 40 per cent of which is allocated to the infrastructure of the pavilion itself.

The six-month global exposition, starting on October 20, 2020, has three themes – opportunity, mobility and sustainability – that chime with those of the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals, a blueprint for a better global future adopted in 2015 and intended to be realised by 2030.

<https://www.thenational.ae/business/economy/exclusive-france-to-spend-32m-on-sustainable-presence-at-expo-2020-and-beyond-1.777154>

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10/7/2018

Exclusive: France to spend €32m on sustainable presence at Expo 2020 and beyond - The National

The French pavilion will be located within the Expo 2020 space dedicated to mobility and is expecting nearly 6 million visitors.

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"In terms of mobility or urban planning, emerging markets of Asia and Africa are the main targets of French companies. Our specific emphasis is on African communities and we will use our best connections to bring those countries to the expo," stated Mr Linquièr.

The French pavilion will offer an immersive journey for visitors with a 15-minute journey trying out the prototypes of mobility systems. For example, visitors to the pavilion can see autonomous vehicles and electric vehicles in action, as well as try out artificial intelligence and Internet of Things applications that are rising up in smart cities.

"Our main focus is to convey the French way of conceiving cities," said Mr Linquièr. This means "having more citizen-centric cities" that provide easy and efficient ways of getting around and emphasise environmental sustainability.

The pavilion will host companies that work in sea transport, autonomous vehicles, artificial intelligence and data analytics, among other sectors.

The commissioner said they plan to convert the French pavilion after the expo for continued public use and are considering a France-inspired museum or retail district.

The commission is looking for investors to ensure the long-term use of the pavilion, Mr Linquièr said.

"Currently a team of 15 people is working in Paris and Dubai coordinating with different companies in two countries. By 2020, there will be a team of 200 people and in the coming months, the whole team will be relocated to the UAE."

They are expecting 500 to 1000 different companies to participate at the pavilion.

During his visit to the UAE in November 2017, French President Emmanuel Macron said Expo 2020 is the beginning of a new phase that will see new projects and new initiatives between the UAE and France.

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