

مَمْلَكَة الْبَحْرَيْن
KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN

Kingdom of Bahrain National Digital Economy Strategy 2030





Introduction

Bahrain's National Digital Economy Strategy (NDES) aims to create an innovative & borderless economy, agile government, and an attractive global digital hub.

The strategy is a testament to the Kingdom's vision, and underscores Bahrain's commitment to embracing global technologies and leading in digital transformation.

NDES is a first-of-its-kind comprehensive digital strategy, mobilizing public and private sectors to foster sustainable development across all industries within Bahrain.

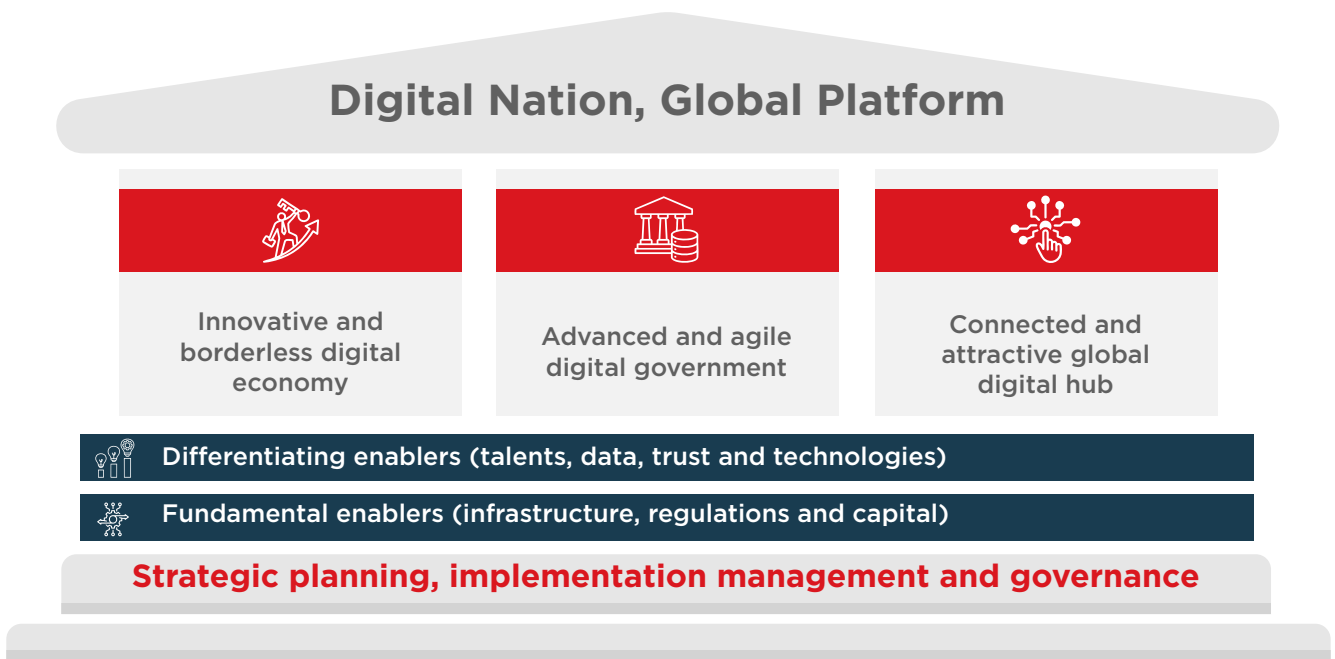
The strategy promises to provide significant economic and developmental benefits, measured through key strategic KPIs.

By focusing on enabling factors such as talent, infrastructure, and regulatory support, the Kingdom ensures a robust, phased implementation of its objectives.

Bahrain's Digital Economy Strategy will transform how individuals and businesses operate in the Kingdom, while harnessing a capable and thriving workforce.

Strategic Framework

Bahrain's National Digital Economy Strategy (NDES) aims to create an innovative & borderless economy, agile government, and an attractive global digital hub.



Sample of Key Transformative Initiative

The strategy is a testament to the Kingdom's vision, and underscores Bahrain's commitment to embracing global technologies and leading in digital transformation



-  Digital twins for Manama and Diyar Muharraq
-  Blockchain implementation in government services
-  Artificial Intelligence capabilities development
-  Digital solutions for SMEs to increase competitiveness
-  Digital export infrastructure development
-  Smart contracts for economic exchanges
-  Establishment of a national innovation cluster
-  Digital ID for single authentication, e-Signature and identification
-  Global digital alliance, trade agreements and partnerships
-  Enhancement of Cybersecurity

Key Partners and Stakeholders

NDES is a first-of-its-kind comprehensive digital strategy, mobilizing public and private sectors to foster sustainable development across all industries within Bahrain

Government Entities

 بنك البحرين المركزي Central Bank of Bahrain	 مجلس التعليم العالي Higher Education Council
 وزارة الخارجية Ministry of Foreign Affairs	 وزارة المالية والاقتصاد الوطني Ministry of Finance and National Economy
 وزارة العدل والشؤون الإسلامية والأوقاف Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Waqf	 وزارة الصناعة والتجارة Ministry of Industry and Commerce
 وزارة الداخلية MINISTRY OF INTERIOR	 وزارة الشؤون القانونية Ministry of Legal Affairs
 وزارة المواصلات والاتصالات Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications	 وزارة التربية والتعليم Ministry of Education
 هيئة المعلومات والحكومة الإلكترونية Information & eGovernment Authority	 المركز الوطني للأمن السيبراني National Cyber Security Center
 هيئة جودة التعليم والتدريب Education & Training Quality Authority	

Private Entities

 مجموعة بنك البحرين للتنمية BAHRAIN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP
 EDB BAHRAIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD
 صادرات البحرين EXPORT BAHRAIN
 Mumtalakat
 تمكين Tamkeen
 هيئة تنظيم الاتصالات TELECOMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY مملكة البحرين - Kingdom of Bahrain

Beneficiaries

 Citizens
 Residents
 Tourists
 Local businesses
 International firms
 Potential investors

Tangible Outcome / Benefit

Bahrain's Digital Economy Strategy will transform how individuals and businesses operate in the Kingdom, while harnessing a capable and thriving workforce

01 End-to-end digital journeys
Individuals and companies can conduct more economic transactions entirely digitally

02 Accessible SME productivity tools
SMEs have easy access to vetted cloud application packages for better productivity

03 Seamless international transactions
Businesses in Bahrain and beyond transact seamlessly in a fully digitalized manner

04 Increased economic opportunities
Local workforce sees increased opportunities within the Bahraini market, as well as remote opportunities they are now eligible for

05 Future-ready workforce
Bahraini graduates are equipped with advanced digital skills and are prepared for future job markets

Strategic initiatives

The strategy consists of 49 strategic initiatives to achieve the ambition with the support of more than 20 government and semi-government agencies.

1. Innovative & Borderless Digital Economy		
No.	Initiative Title	Description
1.01	Priority sector strategy alignment	Ensure digital initiatives align with national priority sectors like finance, oil & gas, logistics, tourism, industry, and healthcare.
1.02	Digitalization of national champions	Empower national champions to scale digital use cases and create ripple effects across the digital ecosystem.
1.03	SME digital program	Support digital SMEs with special grants, toolkits, and programs that accelerate digital adoption and financial transformation.
1.04	Enhance legal & admin. environment	Eliminate regulatory and administrative hurdles and introduce 'virtual addresses' to ease company registration and operations.
1.05	Playbook for digital and tech. businesses	Create a playbook to replicate tech success stories and attract "fast followers" from local and global ecosystems.
1.06	Digital export support scheme	Support digital exports through marketing, foreign market data, compliance support, and digital capacity building.
1.07	National innovation clusters	Define RDI priorities, build innovation clusters (with academis, public & private sector), and launch pilot projects with global partners targeting key digital needs.
1.08	Technology testbed program	Position Bahrain as a testbed for emerging tech through RDI incentives, funding support, and global hackathon attraction.a

Strategic initiatives

2. Advanced & Agile Digital Government

No.	Initiative Title	Description
2.01	Seamless citizen/business journeys	Accelerate digital-native government services and unify platforms for seamless, standardized user journeys.
2.02	Digital ID expansion	Scale digital ID across sectors and borders, enabling secure access and monetization of digital ID solutions.
2.03	Intra-governmental data exchange	Redesign data infrastructure to enable smart, adaptable, and user-friendly exchange across government entities.
2.04	International engagement in digital topics	Position Bahrain as a global leader in digital economy standards, driving cross-border data flows and digital ID regulation.
2.05	Blockchain national guidelines	Develop a comprehensive blockchain playbook by capturing lessons from past efforts and promoting best practices.

Strategic initiatives

3. Connected & Attractive Global Digital Hub

No.	Initiative Title	Description
3.01	Global operating platform	Launch sector-specific global platforms (e.g., trade, insurance, contracting) leveraging Bahrain's legal and digital infrastructure
3.02	Data sovereignty law promotion	Position Bahrain as a trusted data host by securing bilateral agreements and streamlining Data Sovereignty Law procedures.
3.03	Digital Ambassador Program	Appoint digital ambassadors in global tech hubs to gather insights, promote Bahrain, and connect with innovation ecosystems.
3.04	Digital SPVs hub	Establish a platform to register SPVs combining Islamic finance, cell company laws, and digital banking tools.
3.05	Global digital alliance & trade agreements	Forge alliances with nations and institutions to advance cross-border digital trade and public sector innovation.
3.06	Digital residency program	Offer digital residency to attract foreign businesses and individuals to operate under Bahrain's digital economy framework.
3.07	Digital talent program	Introduce targeted packages to attract digital talent and nomads, including cloud credits, training incentives, and visas.

Strategic initiatives

4. Differentiating Enablers (talents, data, trust & technologies)

No.	Initiative Title	Description
4.01	ICT in education strategy	Develop ICT in education strategy to ensure early exposure of children to ICT and continuous alignment between digital developments, market needs and the education system across basic, secondary and tertiary education incl. vocational and technical training
4.02	Basic & secondary ICT curriculum	Update school curricula with advanced digital subjects and hands-on exposure through coding, AI, and competitions.
4.03	STEM curriculum in tertiary education	Partner with universities and industry to review STEM curricula and design new specializations aligned with tech trends.
4.04	STEM scholarships for tertiary education	Expand national scholarships to prioritize STEM fields and incentivize students to pursue tech-related degrees.
4.05	Digital insights in “Skills Bahrain”	Empower “Skills Bahrain” to bridge the gap between training, talent, education institutes as well as local & international employers in the digital space.
4.06	Industry exchange placements	Create local and international placements for Bahraini students and researchers to gain real-world digital skills and mentoring.
4.07	Create Demand for Coders	Partner with global bootcamps and institutions to deliver coding training with job placement for national talent.
4.08	Digital upskilling and reskilling	Provide attractive digital upskilling programs with special subsidies, stipends, job-aligned outcomes in partnerships with recognized and global providers.
4.09	Employment-based training	Co-fund priority digital training & education programs with job placements for Bahraini talents in local institutions.
4.10	Standards for training providers	Upgrade local digital training quality by partnering with global platforms (e.g., Coursera, LinkedIn) and leveraging talent insights.

Strategic initiatives

4. Differentiating Enablers (talents, data, trust & technologies)

No.	Initiative Title	Description
4.11	Pilot use cases for a digital twin	Pilot digital twin models in 2 different cities/projects to support urban planning, disaster response, and infrastructure management.
4.12	Sectorial data exchanges	Launch public-private data hubs to centralize and monetize sector-specific data across healthcare, education, legal, and finance.
4.13	Global data exchanges	Build international data exchanges leveraging national champions, legal frameworks, and digital trade alliances.
4.14	Open Data policy & Data lake	Strengthen open data policies and legislation to drive transparency and innovation across government and industry.
4.15	Data management body	Establish a central entity to coordinate data initiatives and set quality, usage, and governance standards.
4.16	National cyber sec. plan	Align cybersecurity with digital economy goals to ensure a secure ecosystem and enable trusted digital solutions.
4.17	Cyber sec standards and awareness	Adopt global cybersecurity standards and launch national awareness campaigns targeting individuals and enterprises.
4.18	Digital emerging technologies body	Create a national authority to monitor and guide adoption of emerging tech like AI, IoT, Blockchain, and Digital Twins.

Strategic initiatives

5. Fundamental Enablers (infrastructure, regulations & capital)

No.	Initiative Title	Description
5.01	International connectivity	Expand and diversify international cable infrastructure to boost connectivity, redundancy, and national security.
5.02	5G spectrum slicing regulation	Enable private 5G networks for industry, government, and R&D use, enhancing control, performance, and innovation potential.
5.03	SME digital guarantees	Launch a government-backed financing scheme for SME digital transformation with trusted tech partners.
5.04	Start-up funding & financing programs	Expand startup funding by increasing public-private investments and leveraging past relevant programs & initiatives.
5.05	Digital courts	Set up a court specializing in digital cases and technologies, supported by the international court of arbitration capabilities for global matters.
5.06	Digital law officers	Train and certify legal professionals in digital court processes and emerging technology-related cases.
5.07	Digital laws & regulations committee	Form a committee to develop, implement, and review laws around e-signatures, blockchain, cloud data, and more.
5.08	Regulations for smart legal contracts	Establish Bahrain as a hub for smart contracts with flexible legal frameworks and a designated digital contracting zone.

Strategic initiatives

6. Strategic planning, implementation management & governance

No.	Initiative Title	Description
6.01	Digital economy strategy governance	Set up the required mechanisms to monitor the implementation of the National Digital Economy under the defined governance model.
6.02	Digital economy GDP contribution	Implement a recurring process to estimate the digital economy's GDP contribution despite attribution challenges.
6.03	Digital economy strategy review	Establish an annual review cycle and continuous assessment of pilots to keep the National Digital Economy Strategy responsive and aligned.