



The UAE is positioned as a gateway between Asia, Africa, and Europe. With world-class ports like Jebel Ali and leading aviation hubs such as DXB and DWC, the country is ideally suited for global distribution. Abu Dhabi's investment in Etihad and AD Ports further strengthens the UAE's capabilities as a regional logistics leader.

Al Maktoum International Airport is currently undergoing a transformative expansion with the addition of the massive new passenger terminal and additional runways. Upon completion, all operations at DXB, including those of Emirates, will be progressively transferred over the coming years, establishing the airport as the largest in the world by capacity. The modern logistics infrastructure park around Al Maktoum with its proximity to Jebel Ali and Khalifa Port makes it the leading regional logistics hub.

DP World is also investing heavily in building port and logistics infrastructure across the wider region in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Eastern Africa. The AD Ports Group is planning similar expansions. This provides a solid foundation for other UAE-based logistics groupsglobal logistics providers, to piggyback off these investments to provide forwarding and integrated logistics services to clients across the region.

One such example of regional expansion is French CMA-CGM. CMA Terminals now has a Port Terminal at Khalifa Port, halfway between Abu Dhabi and Dubai, able to process 1.8 million TEU a year. CMA-CGM also operates port terminals in India. In 2024, CEVA Logistics and Almajdouie Logistics signed a joint venture in Saudi Arabia. The new partnership will combine the companies' logistics and transport operations to meet the growing demand for integrated logistics solutions in the Kingdom.

The Middle East's e-commerce market is rapidly expanding, making the UAE an ideal hub for e-fulfillment. With efficient trucking, sea and air transport options, companies can distribute products seamlessly across the region into Eastern Africa, India and beyond.

This is already happening with UAE-based e-commerce platforms such as Amazon and Noon. DUBUY by DP World is a leading e-commerce platform



Trump made the announcement with Damac Group founder **Hussain Sajwani** in Florida.

connecting into the region and Africa. Its digital trading concept provides an African gateway with local warehouses for imports, exports and regional trade.

The UAE's unique geographic position allows it also to serve as a sea-sea and sea-air logistics hub, providing efficient inventory holding for goods arriving from China and South Asia before distribution across the Middle East, Africa, and parts of Europe.

The UAE's investments in AI and data centres

The UAE's government forward looking business planning has enabled further diversification and transformation of the UAE economy. It is investing heavily into the digital economy of tomorrow, enabling it to take a global leadership role.

The UAE is actively positioning itself as a leader in digital technologies, artificial intelligence and data infrastructure. Companies like G42 and MGX are expanding the country's AI footprint, with substantial investments in global data centres. MGX, backed by the government of Abu Dhabi, is one of the investors in OpenAI's Stargate. It has also announced a \$30-50 billion USD deal with the French government to build data centres in France.

Additionally, Dubai-based EDGNEX

DAMAC has just announced a \$20 billion USD investment in U.S. data centres, reflecting the UAE's further commitment to becoming a key global player in the digital economy.

Developing a successful ReGlobalisation strategy

Businesses globally and in the Middle East must take a structured approach to ReGlobalisation, using logistics and manufacturing data to evaluate alternative supply chain configurations. Decision-makers should weigh the costs, risks, and long-term benefits of regionalizing operations to align with the shifting global trade landscape.

ReGlobalisation presents new challenges but also substantial opportunities, particularly for companies leveraging the UAE's strategic advantages. As supply chains continue to evolve, the UAE is uniquely positioned to help businesses build resilience and maintain competitive advantage in a rapidly changing world.

For more insights on how ReGlobalisation can benefit your company in the UAE and the Middle East Region, how to mitigate supply chain risks with smart regional distribution and scalable go-to-market solutions, please contact the authors.