



12 NOVEMBER 2026

THE RITZ CARLTON JBR, DUBAI

More than 250 senior banking, finance and technology executives attend.

EVENT OVERVIEW

The awards celebrate institutions and individuals moving banking and finance forward across the Middle East and Africa.

RECOGNISED GROUPS

Banks, financial institutions, technology solutions providers, fintechs, service providers and individuals.

WHY ENTER

- 01 Advance market presence and build recognition
- 02 Recognise special efforts through challenging and competitive times
- 03 Promote landmark achievements and sharpen competitive edge
- 04 Network with senior banking and finance executives, fintech innovators and technology leaders
- 05 Showcase technology, fintech and AI implementation outcomes
- 06 Self-nominate or nominate a third party.

HOW TO NOMINATE

Nominations can come from institutions and individuals based in the MEA region for any of the relevant categories. PR companies may nominate as long as they have sought the permission of their clients.

For multiple nominations, institutions can submit separate entries for each category.

HOW TO ENTER

STEP 1: Choose your category

It is important to review the individual descriptions and criteria before choosing your category.

STEP 2: Upload relevant financial performance documents or other relevant information.

STEP 3: Confirm submission of your entry.



CATEGORIES, JUDGING & KEY DATES

TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATIONS

- Best Cybersecurity Implementation
- Best Cloud Transformation Innovation
- Best Islamic Finance Software Provider
- Best Islamic Digital Banking Provider
- Best Islamic Fintech Solutions Provider
- Best Core Banking Service Provider
- Best Reg Tech Solutions Provider
- Best Risk Management Solutions Provider
- Best Financial Technology Provider
- Best Banking as a Platform (BAAP) Provider
- Best Composable Banking Transformation
- Most Innovative BNPL Fintech Company
- Best Payments Fintech Company
- Best Payment Gateway Fintech Company
- Best Open Banking Fintech Company
- Most Innovative Fintech Company
- Best Fintech Services and Advisory Business
- Best Fintech Company for SMEs
- Best Reg-tech Fintech Company
- Best Personal Finance Fintech Company
- Best Expenses Management Fintech Company
- Best Overall Fintech Company
- Best Bank & Fintech Collaboration

BANKING & FINANCIAL SERVICES

- Best Mobile App Banking Service Implementation
- Best Islamic Digital Banking Services
- Best Online Banking Service
- Best Use of AI and ML in Banking
- Best Digital Transformation Implementation
- Overall Best User Experience/Engagement
- Special Achievement in Digital Innovation
- Best Payment Solutions Implementation
- Best Digital Banking Service
- Best AI Deployment/Implementation
- Best Use of AI in Asset Management
- Best Islamic Bank
- Best Overall Islamic Consumer Finance in the Middle East
- Best Islamic Consumer Finance
- Best Takaful Provider
- Best Retail Bank in the Middle East
- Best Premium Banking Services
- Best Global Retail Bank in the Middle East
- Best Commercial Bank
- Best Treasury Management Services
- Best Trade Finance Bank
- Best Cash Management Bank
- Best Bank for Corporate Services
- Best Bond Issue of the Year
- Debt Capital Markets Deal of the Year
- Equity Capital Markets Deal of the Year
- Best Sukuk Deal of the Year
- Best IPO of the Year
- Best M&A
- Best Syndicated Loan
- Best Structured Finance
- Best Investment Bank
- Best Tax and Accounting Firm for SMEs

SME BANKING

- Best Legal Advisory for SMEs and Startups
- Best Bank for SME Lending
- Best Bank for SME Transaction Banking
- Best Bank for SME Bank Accounts
- Most Innovative Financial Product for SMEs
- Best Islamic Bank for SMEs
- Best SME Bank
-
- INDIVIDUAL AWARDS
- Fintech Leadership Award
- Outstanding Contribution to Regional Banking
- Best Technology Executive of the Year for Financial Services
- Most Transformative Leadership Award
- Banker of the Year
- Lifetime Achievement Award

FINANCIAL ADVISORY & SERVICE PROVIDERS

- Best Law Firm
- Best Management Consultancy Firm
- Best Research and Consultancy Firm
- Best AI and Digital Transformation Advisory
- Best Ratings Agency
- Best Fixed Income Investment Services
- Best Investment Management Firm
- Best Real Estate Investment Firm
- Best International Real Estate Investing Firm in the Middle East
- Best REIT Management Firm
- Best Financial Inclusivity Initiative
- Best Sustainable Finance Initiative
- Leader in Financial Inclusion
- Best ESG Strategy

WEALTH & INVESTMENT

- Best Private Bank in the Middle East
- Best Wealth Management Institution for HNWIs - US\$1 Million and US\$20 Million
- Best Wealth Management Institution for HNWIs - US\$21 Million and US\$49 Million
- Best Wealth Management Institution for Ultra HNWIs - US\$50 Million and above
- Best Client Value Proposition
- Best Domestic Private Bank
- Best Family Office Service
- Best Foundation Services
- Best Private Client Services
- Best Digital Innovation and Services in Wealth Management
- Best Residency and Citizenship by Investment Firm
- Best Overall Wealth Management Service in the Middle East
- Best Global Private Bank in the Middle East
- Best Family Office Platform Provider
- Best Succession Planning Services
- Best Wealth and Investment Technology Provider
- Best Asset Management Firm – Conventional
- Best Asset Management Firm - Islamic
- Best Sukuk Islamic Fund
- Most Innovative Trading App
- Best Brokerage Firm & Solutions Provider
- Best Equities Investment Services

JUDGING

Entries are assessed using market knowledge, industry research and accurate company financial statements; the MEA Finance editorial team creates a shortlist; industry experts review shortlisted nominations; the judging panel and editorial team independently score each nominee from 1 to 5; combined scores determine the highest-scoring institution in each category; all scores remain confidential.

KEY DATES:

September 1: Open for entries

October 09: Submission deadline

November 12: Awards winners ceremony



SPONSORSHIP & CONTACT

- Pre-event
- Digital marketing
 - Print and online advertising
 - Editorial coverage
 - Awards website and e-invitation presence
 - Official sponsor logo
 - Optional event video interview
 - Social and e-newsletter onboarding
- On-the-day
- Onsite collateral, light boxes and/or banners
 - Menus and presentation screens
 - Sponsored-award presentation screen
 - Representative presents the award with trophy and stage photos
- Post-event
- Photo gallery
 - Magazine feature logo/name check
 - Awards video and website logo until the following year's event
 - PR images
 - Winners-congratulations email logo

PLATINUM — \$50,000

- Platinum Sponsors receive all of the benefits available to Category, Silver and Gold Sponsors plus:
- Print Advertising**
- Additional of 1 Full Page advertisement in MEA Finance Magazine print and digital edition, total 3 Full Pages
 - Extra Client Entertainment
 - Additional five invites to the awards ceremony and gala evening, total of (25) twenty-five seats
 - Enhanced Branding
 - Logo placement ahead of Category, Silver and Gold Sponsors on print ads, email shots, website and onsite branding
 - Exclusive logo placement on entrance branding
 - Opportunity to play 30 second television commercial during awards intermission
 - Thought Leadership
 - Welcome Note Speaker to open the event ceremony
 - Platinum sponsor name check and thanks by the MC in the opening remarks
 - Profile Opportunity
 - Full interview with chief executive of sponsor in one of the issue MEA Finance Magazine

GOLD — \$40,000

- Gold Sponsors receive all of the benefits available to Category and Silver Sponsors plus:
- Print Advertising**
- Additional of 1 Full Page advertisement in MEA Finance Magazine print and digital edition, total 2 Full Pages
 - Extra Client Entertainment
 - Additional five invites to the awards ceremony and gala evening, total of (20) twenty seats
 - Enhanced Branding
 - Logo placement ahead of Category and Silver Sponsors on print ads, email shots, website and onsite branding

SILVER — \$30,000

- Silver Sponsors receive all of the benefits available to Category Sponsors plus:
- Print Advertising**
- 1 Full Page advertisement in MEA Finance Magazine print and digital edition
 - Extra Client Entertainment
 - Additional 5 invites to the awards ceremony and gala evening, total of (15) fifteen seats
 - Enhanced Branding
 - Logo placement ahead of Category Sponsors on print ads, email shots, website and onsite branding

CONTACT US:

NAP ESTAMPADOR
+971 50 100 5488
nap.estampador@mea-finance.com

ANDREW COVER
+971 50 931 3236
andrew.cover@mea-finance.com

KENNETH MITCHEN
+971 55 289 1739
ken.mitchen@mea-finance.com

NATASHA CRISTI
+971 50 303 4235
natasha@mea-finance.com

Old Town Island, Burj Khalifa District PO Box 487177, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

