



His Excellency Faisal Al Bannai **CEO and Managing Director, EDGE**



His Excellency Faisal Al Bannai is CEO and Managing Director of EDGE, an advanced technology group for defence and beyond. EDGE is poised to disrupt and transform a wide variety of industries through emerging technologies, and is comprised of five strategic business clusters: Platforms & Systems, Missiles & Weapons, Cyber Defence, Electronic Warfare & Intelligence, and Mission Support.

Al Bannai is also Secretary General of the Advanced Technology Research Council (ATRC). ATRC was set up to accelerate a culture of innovation and discovery in Abu Dhabi. Leveraging high-impact R&D in the advanced technology domain, he plays an instrumental role in building Abu Dhabi's knowledge economy across academia and the public and private sector, reinforcing its position as a global innovation hub.

He is also currently a Member of the Board of Trustees for Khalifa University of Science and Technology, a world-class research institution that nurtures critical thinkers in applied science and engineering.

Earlier in his career, Al Bannai founded DarkMatter, a global cyber security service provider, which he expanded into a US\$400 million business. Prior to this, he founded Axiom Telecom, the largest distributor of mobile devices in the Middle East, with an annual turnover of US\$2.5 billion.

He has received several accolades, with the most notable being the 2005 Lifetime Achievement Award, presented by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai. Al Bannai was also recognised as the Technology Business Leader of the Year at the Gulf Business Awards (2017), and also recently joined the Arabian Business' 100 Inspiring Leaders in the Middle East ranking (2018) as well as the elite Gulf Business Arab Power List (2018, 2019).

Al Bannai holds a bachelor's degree in Finance from Boston University in the US and a master's degree in Shipping Trade and Finance from City University in the UK.