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Hamdan unveils plan to boost space sector

INVESTMENTS IN SPACE INFRASTRUCTURE TO BE DOUBLED

DUBAI
 Gulf News Report

The UAE's Supreme Space Council has approved a new strategic direction for the nation's space sector, setting targets to raise the added value of the space economy by 60 per cent.

The meeting was chaired by Sheikh Hamdan Bin Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, UAE's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, and Chairman of Dubai Executive Council.

On his X account, Sheikh Hamdan said: "We approved a new strategic direction for the sector with clear targets that include raising the added value of the space economy by 60 per cent, doubling investments in space infrastructure and revenues, and strengthening the UAE's position among the world's top 10 space economies by 2031."

Three main objectives

The new strategic approach is built around three main objectives: Positioning the UAE as a hub with the most agile, investment-friendly space ecosystem; establishing the country as a global leader in space partnerships and market access; and ensuring the nation



■ Sheikh Hamdan chaired a meeting of the Supreme Space Council and approved clear targets that include raising the added value of the space economy by 60 per cent.

possesses world-class space infrastructure and facilities that meet the highest standards.

Sheikh Hamdan also reviewed the results of the Space Economic Survey, which tracked the sector's progress over the past five years, and launched the National Space Industries Programme.

Achievements

The survey revealed a 49 per cent increase in total public and private sector spending on space over the past five years. Spending on space research and development also increased ninefold since 2019.

It also revealed a 51 per cent increase in the number of Emirati women working in the space sector compared to last year.

The National Space Industries Programme consists of a comprehensive package of initiatives, including economic and investment policies that incentivise emerging and established space companies, as well as financial and operational initiatives to support their growth and sustainability.

It focuses on supporting efforts to double both the number of companies operating in the space industry and the UAE's space exports over five years.