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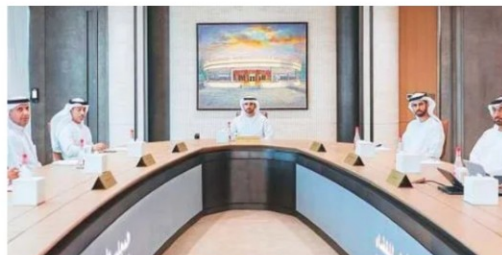
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■ Sheikh Hamdan launched a Dh1 billion International Space Cooperation Programme to support research and development in the space sector during a meeting yesterday.

Hamdan launches Dh1b global space programme

Initiative to help R&D in space sector and localise advanced technologies

DUBAI

Gulf News Report

Sheikh Hamdan Bin Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of the UAE, Dubai Executive Council Chairman, and Chairman of the Supreme Space Council, yesterday launched a Dh1 billion International Space Cooperation Programme to support research and development in the space sector and localise advanced technologies.

Launched during a meeting held yesterday, the programme aims to empower Emirati talent to help shape the future of this vital industry.

Future economy

Tweeting on the occasion, Sheikh Hamdan said: "The space sector is a strategic priority for the UAE as we continue building a future economy driven by knowledge and innovation, while strengthening our position among the world's leading nations in this field."

"We are proud of the UAE's pioneering space achievements, which continue to inspire future generations, and confident in our youth's ability to turn ambition into achievements that contribute to a better future for humanity on Earth and beyond," Sheikh Hamdan added.

He affirmed that the UAE's space sector is one of the key strategic sectors supporting a

knowledge- and innovation-based national economy. He noted that the programme would contribute to localising advanced technologies, empowering national talent and connecting UAE-based research institutions with their global counterparts through projects with sustainable economic and technological impact and partnerships based on innovation and the exchange of expertise.

Strengthening position

Sheikh Hamdan also stressed the importance of continuing efforts to strengthen the UAE's position among the world's leading space economies in alignment with the objectives of the National Space Strategy 2031, which was recently launched by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai. These include doubling the returns of the space economy, increasing the sector's added value by 60 per cent and nurturing national capabilities in space research, development and manufacturing.

Strategic direction

The launch of the International Space Cooperation Programme supports the UAE's strategic direction for the space sector, focused on building a resilient national space ecosystem that attracts investment while ensuring sustainability through the development of national capabilities. The strategy seeks to diversify knowledge and technology sources, strengthen global leadership in space partnerships and market access and develop space infrastructure and facilities that meet the highest international standards.