



A Secure Horizon for Tech: Egypt's Strategic AI & Digital Roadmap

The Q1 2026 ITIDA Report

Anchored by the AI Everything MEA summit and EGP 200M in Upper Egypt startup investments, Egypt's roadmap defines a regional powerhouse built on world-class talent and resilience.

From Aswan to the World: Scaling Egypt's Tech Frontier

The Aswan Bootcamp Series has officially concluded, marking a milestone in ITIDA's mission to build an inclusive, innovation-driven ecosystem across Egypt. Aligned with MCIT's Digital Egypt Strategy, this initiative empowers local talent to scale, export, and compete globally.

Key Highlights:

- Massive Impact: Supported 61 tech startups from Upper Egypt, bridging the gap between local

- talent and global markets.
- Investor Confidence:** Participating startups have already secured an estimated EGP 200 million in investment.
- Strategic Resilience:** When international funding shifted, ITIDA fully funded the program to ensure these high-potential ventures reached the finish line.
- Global Partnerships:** Delivered in collaboration with Plug and Play, connecting entrepreneurs with world-class mentorship and networks.



"What we are witnessing in Aswan is a practical reflection of our commitment to empowering youth across all governorates, ensuring they are drivers of sustainable innovation." — Eng. Ahmed El-Zaher, CEO of ITIDA

What's Next?

Building on this momentum, ITIDA is expanding its reach with upcoming programs dedicated to supporting startups in the Delta, further cementing Egypt's status as a regional hub for technology and entrepreneurship.

Featured Spotlight: AI Everything MEA – Egypt 2026

A Landmark Vision Under Presidential Patronage

Held this February under the esteemed patronage of H.E. President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, AI Everything MEA – Egypt marked a turning point for the nation's digital landscape. As a Strategic Partner, ITIDA helped position Cairo as a global hub, hosting over 350 AI enterprises from 30+ countries to showcase production-scale AI in sectors like fintech, healthcare, and cybersecurity.

Summit Highlights: From Infrastructure to Innovation

- Strategic Leadership:** ITIDA CEO Ahmed El Zaher opened the summit, framing AI as the engine for Egypt's future economic growth and global competitiveness.
- AI at Scale:** High-level panels featuring Eng. Mahmoud Sofrata and Dr. Ahmed Tantawy addressed the shift from pilot projects to mission-critical deployments, emphasizing that security and trust are now foundational to AI infrastructure.
- Sovereign AI & Compute:** Dr. Haltham Hamza (Chairman, ITIDA-SECC) explored how hardware trade-offs and "sovereign compute" strategies are essential for long-term technological independence.
- EgyptInnovate Launch:** A major milestone was the launch of the EgyptInnovate platform, designed to unify startups, academia, and government into a single, scalable innovation ecosystem.

The Signal to the World

The summit concluded with a high-impact hackathon, proving that Egypt is no longer just an AI adopter, but a creator. By partnering with GITEX Global, Cairo sent a clear message: Egypt is a market that moves fast, governs responsibly, and translates vision into action.

"This was about alignment at scale—connecting global technology platforms with national digital ambition."

While the 2026 event has concluded, the strategic momentum is just beginning. We look forward to seeing you again in June 2026 for the next chapter.



Empowering Organizations and Individuals through Tailored Training Programs

1. Strategic Launches & Ecosystem Growth

Focuses on high-level platforms and national digital transformation.

- EgyptInnovate Platform Launch:** Introduced at AI Everything MEA, this ITIDA-led digital gateway now connects over 780 entities and 81,000 users, centralizing Egypt's innovation landscape through data-informed matchmaking.
- EME Accelerator for Deep-Tech:** In a strategic partnership with GIZ and TUM International, ITIDA launched this 6-month program to scale startups in electronics, semiconductors, and AI, providing them with European technical expertise and access to advanced laboratories at the Knowledge City.
- Empowering North Sinai:** Under a strategic partnership with Arish University, ITIDA launched the first InnovEgypt entrepreneurship training for 65+ local participants, alongside inclusive digital skills programs for persons with disabilities and the Egyptian Red Crescent.
- Train to Hire Phase 4:** ITIDA concluded company registration for Phase 4 on March 31, 2026, following a successful Phase 3 that engaged 19 companies and trained over 5,000 candidates across the ITS, BPS, and electronics sectors.

2. Entrepreneurship & Global Partnerships

Active calls and programs for startups and R&D.

- EME Accelerator for DeepTech:** Applications are open until April 20, 2026, for this 6-month program in collaboration with GIZ and TUM International, offering electronics startups access to European mentorship and global investor networks.
- Egypt-Spain Innovation Bridge:** ITIDA launched ESITIP Call#10 to drive joint R&D; a matchmaking event was held on March 31 to facilitate partnerships ahead of the May 21, 2026 deadline.
- InnoStart Electronics Pre-Incubation:** Applications are now open at Creativa Giza for innovators in AI, IoT, and embedded systems to transform deep-tech concepts into validated MVPs.
- Global Innovation Mission – Japan 2026:** In partnership with JICA, ITIDA invited Egyptian startups to join the official delegation to SusHi Tech Tokyo 2026 (late April) for high-level exposure to the Japanese market.
- AI Startup Strategy Webinar:** On March 12, 2026, Dr. Ahmed S. ElSheikh shared four strategic pillars for transforming AI prototypes into resilient, scalable businesses in a hypercompetitive market.

3. Industry R&D & Software Excellence

Technical competitions, certifications, and product funding.

- Advanced Tech Training:** ITIDA-SECC is boosting software expertise this April with a specialized lineup covering DevOps, Advanced Architecture, and Generative AI in requirements engineering.
- ITAC PDP Round #40:** Launched on March 1, 2026, the Product Development Projects program is currently accepting submissions to fund the transformation of prototypes into commercial products.
- ITIL® 4 Foundation Certification:** ITIDA-SECC is currently accepting registrations for this globally recognized framework to help IT professionals align service management with business needs.
- Software Testing Day 2026 – Call for Speakers:** Experts had until February 28 to submit proposals for the 4th edition themed "Shaping the Future of Intelligent Testing in the Age of AI."
- Software Testing Competition – May 2026:** ITIDA-SECC opened a high-stakes competition for AI-driven testing solutions, with an initial idea submission deadline of February 5, 2026.

4. Talent Development & Knowledge Sharing

Academic support and specialized technical webinars.

- SECC Tech Night on Explainable AI:** Dr. Ahmed S. ElSheikh led a session at Creativa Giza on Explainable Generative AI, focusing on designing transparent, enterprise-ready systems.
- Electronics Elevate Session #3:** On January 24, 2026, Eng. Amr Ali (CTO of Swift-Act) provided engineers with practical frameworks for applying the IEC 62443 security standard to embedded systems.
- Global AI in Government Webinar:** Held on January 22, 2026, this session explored international case studies and the implementation of Egypt's National AI Strategy for public service.
- ITAC Graduation Projects (Round #21):** Senior students had until February 26, 2026, to apply for funding of up to EGP 30,000 to bridge the gap between academic ideas and industry solutions.
- WriteIT Workshop for Graduation Projects:** On February 10, 2026, ITIDA hosted this online session to guide students through the technical and financial requirements for strong project proposals.

Visits

- Train to Hire Monitoring Visit:** ITIDA recently conducted a quality assurance visit to the Cairo site of the Train to Hire program, managed in collaboration with Fingerprint. The current phase involves 19 companies and aims to train over 5,000 participants in high-demand fields like Full Stack Development, AI/NLP, and Big Data, with a target employment rate of at least 70%.

- Language-Focused Monitoring Visit:** ITIDA conducted a follow-up visit to the Sutherland Alexandria site to monitor the Train to Hire program. This specific track focuses on high-standard practical training in English, French, and German, ensuring participants are equipped with the specialized linguistic skills required for the global outsourcing and business services sector.

ITIDA Engagements

- 21st ITIDA Employment Fair:** Held on 15 February 2026 at the New Borg El Arab Technology Park, this milestone event connected a vibrant pool of graduates and job seekers with leading ICT and technology employers to drive career exploration and local talent acquisition.
- 20th ITIDA Employment Fair:** This milestone edition featured 32 exhibitors offering over 5,900 job vacancies, alongside 1,000+ simulated interviews and 11 specialized workshops, reinforcing ITIDA's commitment to bridging the gap between Egypt's diverse talent pool and high-scale market demand.

Startup Ecosystem | Navigating the Entrepreneurial Scene

Market Performance & Trends

- Regional Dominance:** Fintech remained the leading sector for funding across the MENA region, including Egypt, followed by Proptech and SaaS.
- AI Momentum:** Egypt is positioning itself as a leader in AI, ranking first in Africa for Government AI Readiness. Major upcoming events like AI Everything MEA Egypt 2026 (February) were heavily promoted in January to showcase local AI startups like Olimi AI.

Key Investors & Ecosystem Support

Top active investors in the Egyptian market as of January 2026 include:

- F6 Ventures:** Lead investor with approximately 65 active Egypt-based investments.
- Falak Startups:** A major accelerator with 59 investments, focused on empowering the next generation of entrepreneurs.
- Algebra Ventures:** A key player in Series A and B rounds with 41 investments.
- A15:** An entrepreneurial firm specializing in digital products and tech brands (33 investments).

Active Programs & Deadlines (January 2026)

Several initiatives opened applications or launched new cycles during this month:

- ITIDA Japan Mission:** Startups were invited to apply by January 26, 2026, for a delegation to SusHi Tech Tokyo 2026.
- Orange Corners Egypt:** Launched new accelerator and incubator cohorts in January 2026, specifically targeting Upper Egypt and the Nile Delta.
- InnovEgypt Winter 2026:** TIEC opened registration for its fully-funded innovation and entrepreneurship training program for university students.

Notable Startups Mentioned

- Olimi AI:** Specializing in voice AI agents capable of understanding multiple Arabic dialects.
- Shires:** An Egyptian startup launched in 2025 enabling fractional real estate ownership; it prepared for significant expansion in early 2026.
- Taager:** A social e-commerce platform providing end-to-end logistics for online merchants.
- Khazna:** A prominent fintech company expanding mobile-based financial services.

Confirmed 2026 Fundraising Rounds

- Business For Teens:** This EdTech platform secured a six-figure pre-seed funding round in January 2026 led by investor Salah Abou El Magd to expand its interactive business programs for youth across Egypt and the GCC.
- Shares:** A real estate startup founded in 2025 that enables fractional ownership. It was a primary target for investment in early 2026 by EDAFA, as it prepared for expansion into Saudi Arabia.
- Upper Egypt Startups (Group Deal):** In March 2026, a cohort of 61 startups from the Aswan Bootcamp Series (supported by ITIDA and Plug and Play) collectively secured approximately \$3.7 million (EGP 200 million).

2026 Strategic Investment Initiatives

The funding landscape was bolstered by several new institutional moves:

- Egypt Startup Charter:** Launched on February 7, 2026, this unified initiative aims to mobilize \$1 billion over five years to support the ecosystem.
- EDAFA:** The Saudi-Egyptian VC firm announced a target of \$10 million in new investments specifically for Egyptian startups during 2026.
- EFG Hermes:** Launched five new funds for retail investors in February 2026 via its EFG Hermes ONE app to increase liquidity in the local market.

