

Cutting edge technology to boost UAE's Internet sector

BY WILLIAM FARIA

DUBAI: As Dubai gears towards the much-awaited Smart City initiatives in readiness for hosting the World Expo 2020 high-tech services are being implemented to serve residents as well as visitors more efficiently.

The emirate will soon have a cutting-edge Internet of Things (IoT) technology, a National Life Safety Dashboard, the first of its kind in the world that will provide a real-time, data analytics system allowing the Department of Civil Defence (DCD) and government authorities to efficiently view the safety status and operations of every building in Dubai.

Major General Rashid Thani Rashid Al Matroushi, Director-General of Dubai Civil Defence, DCD, disclosed this during a press conference on the sidelines of the first Internet of Things Expo (IoTX), that opened at the Dubai World Trade Centre (DWTC) on Monday.

The two-day event has drawn over 42 technology companies and was officially inaugurated by Ahmed Bin Humaidan, Director-General, Dubai Smart Government. Bin Humaidan later toured the exhibition halls accompanied by Helal Saeed Almarri, Director-General, Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing and DWTC, Trixie Loh Mirmand, Senior Vice President, Exhibitions

and Events Management, DWTC, among other senior government dignitaries.

The Internet of Things is the connection of almost anything from parcels to people via sensor technology to the web. Every building owner in Dubai will be provided with their individual building dashboard that displays the health and safety status of their buildings through an innovative Dashboard.

The Dashboard will also enable other Government departments to facilitate innovative services to building owners and occupants in Dubai. Co-located with the inaugural Big Data Show, IoTX has been conceived to increase the UAE and regional governments and firms

capacity to transform their business models and leverage monetisation opportunities from the ever-increasing array of smart devices, machines and products in our globally connected, tech-led societies.

Speaking to the media, Safder Nazir, Huawei's Regional Vice President of Smart Cities & IoT explained that Huawei has increasingly focused on developing a better connected world through its innovative technology solutions.

He added that the company's work developing solutions for government and businesses is to improve services and efficiency which also enables them to drive the Smart City agenda in the Middle East.

Huawei has established a broad

ICT solutions portfolio that gives customers competitive advantages in telecom and enterprise networks, devices and cloud computing. The Middle East is one of the fastest growing regions for Huawei around the world with a rapidly expanding ICT sector.

Through its work developing smarter solutions for enterprises, Huawei has enabled the automation of government and business functions providing more strategic value for organisations.

According to a recent Cisco economic analysis, IoT will generate \$8 trillion worldwide in Value at Stake over the next decade. This will come from five primary drivers: innovation and revenue (\$2.1 trillion); asset uti-

lization (\$2.1 trillion); supply chain and logistics (\$1.9 trillion); employee productivity improvements (\$1.2 trillion); and enhanced customer and citizen experience (\$700 billion).

This figure clearly demonstrates that digitisation and the IoT will deliver long term efficiencies and growth opportunities across a wide range of industries.

Industry gurus say that digital disruption is all around us and it is having massive implications for business. They say that the expansion of the Internet of Things and digitisation is a catalyst for growth, which is driving new economic models and enabling organisations to remain competitive and embrace the pace of change happening globally.