

His Excellency Faisal Al Bannai

Chairman of the Board of Directors, EDGE Group



His Excellency Faisal Al Bannai is Chairman of the Board of Directors of EDGE, one of the world's leading advanced technology and defence groups. He previously held the position of CEO and Managing Director. In April 2024, Al Bannai was appointed as Advisor to the UAE President for Strategic Research and Advanced Technology Affairs, with the rank of Minister as per a federal decree issued by the President of the UAE, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

Al Bannai is also Secretary General of the Advanced Technology Research Council (ATRC). Accelerating a culture of innovation and discovery in Abu Dhabi, ATRC focuses on high-impact R&D in the advanced technology domain. Al Bannai plays an instrumental role in building Abu Dhabi's knowledge economy across academia and the public and private sectors, reinforcing Abu Dhabi and the UAE's position as a global innovation hub.

He is currently a member of the Artificial Intelligence and Advanced Technology Council (AIATC), and a member of the Board of Trustees of Khalifa University of Science and Technology, a world-class research institution that nurtures critical thinkers in applied science and engineering. In addition, he serves as a board member of the Emirates Research and Development Council, the Smart and Autonomous Systems Council (SASC), and is a council member of UAE University.

Earlier in his career, Al Bannai founded Axiom Telecom, the largest distributor of mobile devices in the Middle East, with an annual turnover of US\$2.5 billion. He has been a member of the board of Axiom Telecom since 2005.

He has received several accolades, with the most notable being the 2024 'Pride of Emirates' medal presented by His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, and 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 recognised as the Technology Business Leader of the Year at the Gulf Business Awards (2017). He ranked at #20 on Forbes's Top CEOs in the Middle East 2021 list, as EDGE Group CEO and Managing Director. Earlier, he joined Arabian Business's 100 Inspiring Leaders in the Middle East ranking (2018), as well as the elite Gulf Business Arab Power List (2018, 2019, 2021).

He 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.