CYBERSECURITY INDUSTRY PROGRAM REPORT
(HADATHA)

2021 – 2025

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Opening Statement

In alignment with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040 and in support of the nation's ongoing transition toward a digital economy, this report is issued to document the five-year achievements of the Cybersecurity Industry Programme in the Sultanate of Oman, which constitutes one of the key executive programmes under the National Digital Economy Programme.

The Ministry of Transport, Communications, and Information Technology, in cooperation with various partners from both the public and private sectors, has been committed to translating the noble directives to make the digital economy a contributor to the national economy. This has been achieved through the National Digital Economy Programme, which comprises several executive programmes, among which the Executive Programme for the Cybersecurity Industry stands as one of the essential pillars and principal components.

We look forward to this report serving as a reference for decision-makers and stakeholders in the cybersecurity industry and contributing to strengthening the achievement of national goals and the objectives of national economic programmes.

 May Allah guide us to success

● **H.E. DR. ALI BIN AMER AL-SHIDHANI**

Undersecretary of the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology (For Communications and Information Technology)

The National Oman CERT at the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology oversees the implementation of the Cybersecurity Industry Programme. Its vision is to establish a specialised cybersecurity industry that enhances and diversifies economic growth by creating a regional cybersecurity sector focused on human capital and grounded in innovation, creativity, and excellence.

The program comprises six strategic pillars: Cybersecurity Skills Set; Startups, SME support & Development; Promote Innovation; Market and investors Incentives; Services & Experts Exports ; in addition to Promotion and Cooperation

The program has implemented numerous key initiatives, most notably: establishing specialised centres for cybersecurity innovation and industry; training and qualifying national professionals in cybersecurity fields; studying the alignment of educational outputs with labour market needs; supporting several startups and innovative cybersecurity projects; developing national indicators to measure cybersecurity readiness; launching the "Hadatha" Cybersecurity Industry Excellence Initiative; and structuring a number of investment opportunities.

This report provides a comprehensive overview of the achievements realised over the past five years, supported by data and indicators within the strategic pillars of the Cybersecurity Industry Program.

In the upcoming phase of the program (2026–2030), we seek to focus on developing national industries for cybersecurity products and services, qualifying national cybersecurity companies to meet international standards, and expanding their service offerings regionally and globally.
Further objectives include enhancing investment opportunities and income-generating avenues for cybersecurity specialists and freelancers

Finally, we extend our appreciation to all our partners from government, private sector, academic institutions, researchers, and specialists for their valuable contributions to achieving the objectives of this program. We look forward to continuing our joint efforts in the coming period to reinforce the role of cybersecurity within the digital economy as a fundamental contributor to the national economy.

ENG. BADR BIN ALI AL-SALEHI
Director General of Oman National CERT

Cybersecurity Industry Program Framework

⌂

◀ Oman Vision 2040

National Digital Economy Program

- **Executive Programs and Plans**
- **Strategic Targets**

Cybersecurity Industry

Ranked 10th in the Cybersecurity Index

2025

◀ Cybersecurity Industry Program (Hadatha)

- **Vision** — A specialized cybersecurity industry that enhances and diversifies economic growth.

- **Mission** — Establishing a specialized cybersecurity industry in the region focused on human capital and founded on innovation, creativity, and excellence.

- **Strategic Pillars**

  - **Cybersecurity Skills Set**
  - **Promote Innovation**
  - **Startups, SME support & Development**
  - **Services & Experts Exports**
  - **Market and Investors Incentives**
  - **Promotion and Cooperation**

For more details about the Cybersecurity Industry Program (Hadatha), you can visit the following **link** 🔗

Achievements of the Cybersecurity Industry Program "**Hadatha**"

The Sultanate of Oman ranks within the first tier of countries with the highest level of cybersecurity readiness globally... **More details**

2020
96 points

97.02 points
2024

Number of beneficiaries of the Cybersecurity Industry Program (حداثة HADATHA للأمـن السيبــراني)

Locally & Internationally

13,000

120
Number of events, workshops, and competitions locally and internationally

6
Number of new startup companies

36
Number of studies and frameworks

17
Number of local products

2

Number of International Awards

32

Number of Cooperation Memorandums

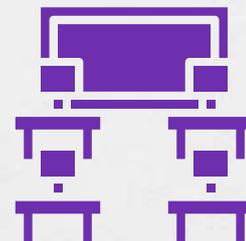Launch Cybersecurity Industry Watch Center

3 Omani Companies

Received International Accreditation

Framing **6** Investment Opportunities

Launched **3** of Hadatha Cybersecurity Centers

36

Number of Approved Initiatives in "Hadatha"

حداثة HADATHA
للأمــن السيبــراني

| PROMO-TION & COOP-ERATION | SERVICES & EXPERTS EXPORTS | STARTUPS, SME SUPPORT & DEVELOP-MENT | MARKET AND INVESTORS INCENTIVES | PROMOTE INNO-VATION | CYBER-SECURITY SKILLS SET |

• **Pillar:**

CYBERSECURITY SKILLS SET

Cybersecurity Skills Set

Specialized Training Programs

Training **20** Job Seekers in Collaboration between the Ministry of Transport and Communications and Information Technology and Exceed Company

Training Program for **20** Job Seekers in Collaboration with Tatweer Company and the Youth Center

Providing **2,976** Specialized Training Opportunities for Government Sector Employees by the Advanced Cybersecurity Academy

Training **15** Job Seekers in Cybersecurity – within the "Najeh camp" Program

Cybersecurity Training

A set of training programs was provided in collaboration with the **Makeen Platform**

- Makeen Bootcamps
- Makeen for Advanced Digital Certificates
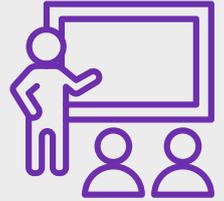- Najeh Program for job seeker

Beneficiaries **66** Participants

Cybersecurity as a Career Path

16 workshops delivered to raise awareness about cybersecurity as a career path

Beneficiaries **+600**

Enhancing the Skills of Cybersecurity Personnel

- Collaboration with the Advanced National Cybersecurity Academy to deliver awareness programs aligned with the **National Cybersecurity Framework**
- Training provided to **61** institutions in managing and securing their information systems

1,200 specialists

Cybersecurity Skills for the Labor Market

A Gap Analysis Study and an Education Alignment Plan Were Prepared to Meet the Needs of the Local Market, The Report Includes a **List of Educational Programs**

● Pillar:

PROMOTE INNOVATION

Promote Innovation

Hadatha Cybersecurity Centers

Launch **3** Hadatha Centers for 🔗 cybersecurity industry at:

- University of Technology and Applied Sciences, Muscat
- Sultan Qaboos University
- Middle East College

- Publishing the Sultanate's experience on the International Telecommunication Union website
- Developing the challenges page in the field of Cybersecurity 🔗

National Innovation Framework

The national innovation framework in cybersecurity was prepared and presented at the regional and international levels

Conducting Awareness Workshops

18 Workshops

Workshops to Raise Awareness on Innovation in Cybersecurity

+357

Beneficiaries

Collaboration with Local, Regional & International Laboratories

- Signing Cooperation Agreements for the Cybersecurity Industry Program (UAE, Jordan)
- Collaboration with Huawei Middle East Company Laboratory in China

Cybersecurity Accelerators

2 Cybersecurity Accelerators

+100 Participants

Cybersecurity Pre-Incubation Program

Implementation of a Cybersecurity Pre-Incubation Program in cooperation with the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority

20 Participants

Cybersecurity Research and Development Team

- A database of innovators in the field of cybersecurity has been established

- A dedicated category was allocated within the Hadatha Initiative to recognize excellence in the cybersecurity industry for individuals interested in submitting academic studies and research in cybersecurity

- A study was conducted and a comprehensive list of cybersecurity challenges was developed

- Launch of the Cybersecurity Challenges Page 🔗

Cybersecurity Hackathons and Competitions

+700

Beneficiaries

- Innovate Oman Competition
- Hactivate Competition
- Out-of-the-Box Competition
- Capture the Flag (CTF) Competition
- Makeathon Competition
- Cybersecurity Hackathon for the Financial Sector
- Hadatha Cybersecurity Industry Hackathon 🔗
- First GCC Cybersecurity Industry Hackathon 🔗
- Hadatha Sectoral Hackathon for the Telecommunications Sector

- **Pillar:**

STARTUPS, SME & SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT

Startups, SME support & Development

Hadatha Award in Cybersecurity 2024

83 Participants

9 Winners

22 Individuals

1 Non-profit organizations

8 Small and medium-sized startups

50 Government entities

2 Private companies

Hadatha Excellence for Cybersecurity Industry 2025

86 Participants

9 Winners

18 Individuals

1 Academic sector

57 Government entities

10 Private sector

Vulnerability Hunter Platform

Launch **2** Vulnerability-hunting platforms in cooperation with private sector companies

National Cybersecurity Index

Implemented editions

5

During period 2021-2025

5 Annual reports

Institutional readiness levels

2021

32 Governments Entities

2025

58 Governments Entities

Development of an electronic platform to assess and enhance the annual readiness of government entities

Implementation of **8** workshops for government entities participating in the National Cybersecurity Index

Support and Development of Small and Medium Startup Enterprises

CREST

- Accreditation and recognition of **3** Omani companies under the CREST CAMP initiative to accelerate cybersecurity maturity among cybersecurity service providers/ cybersecurity companies

- Providing **10** participation opportunities for startup and local cybersecurity companies in events and competitions

- Onboarding **6** new local companies into the cybersecurity market in the Sultanate

- Support and promotion of **5** national cybersecurity products in local and international events
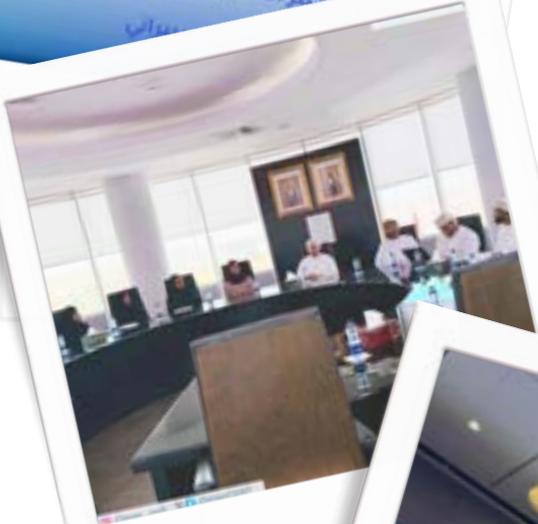
- Issuance of the National Cybersecurity Services and Products Guide

- Pillar:

MARKET AND INVESTORS INCENTIVES

Market and Investors Incentives

Licensing and regulation of cybersecurity activities

11 Accreditation of cybersecurity companies under the accreditation program of the Ministry of Transport, Communication and Information Technology

Identification of cybersecurity market needs

Preparation of a study on cybersecurity market needs in 2023 updated in 2025

Private cybersecurity insurance

- A working group was formed by the financial sustainability committee to activate private cybersecurity insurance for government entities
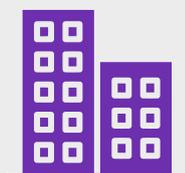
5 companies providing cybersecurity insurance services

3 Local companies

2 International companies

Foreign investment attraction in the cybersecurity sector

- Preparation of a document outlining foreign investment opportunities in the cybersecurity sector
- Meetings held with **17** investors to present and promote investment opportunities in cybersecurity

Cybersecurity Investment Opportunities

- Preparation of a dedicated document on cybersecurity investment opportunities 🔗
- Launch of **6** investment opportunities
- Preparation of a report on investment opportunities in the cybersecurity industry
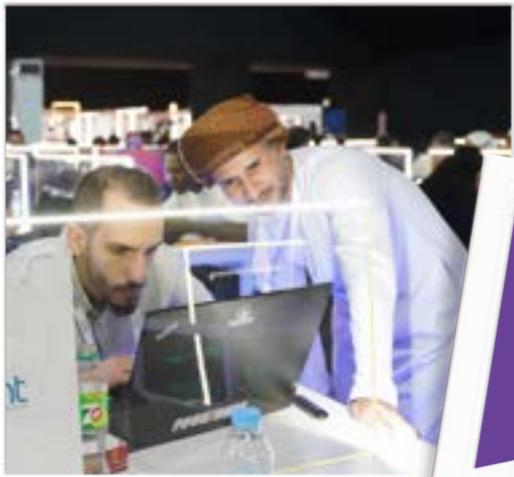
Global Cybersecurity Index

- The sultanate of Oman ranks within the first global tier of countries must prepared in cybersecurity
- A working committee was established to fulfill global cybersecurity readiness requirements in accordance with relevant entities

Pillar:

SERVICES &
EXPERTS
EXPORTS

Services & Experts Exports

Enhancing export capabilities of cybersecurity companies

- Activation of a joint cooperation agreement to organize the global CYSIC series in **2** countries and enabling **3** local cybersecurity companies to export their services abroad

- **6** Agreements concluded by companies as a result of their participation in international and local events

Engaging cybersecurity specialist and experts in international participation

Engagement of **6** national cybersecurity specialists in regional and local competitions, events, and exhibitions

Classification framework for small and medium cybersecurity enterprises

Preparation of the classification framework file for smaller medium enterprises and the services they provide

Development of a database of small and medium enterprises operating in the cybersecurity sector

Pillar:

PROMOTION AND COOPERATION

Promotion and Cooperation

Freelancing in cybersecurity

- Conducted **10** awareness workshops to educate participants about freelancing in the field of cybersecurity

+315 Beneficiaries

- Prepared a comprehensive list of freelancing platforms at local, regional, and international levels 🔗

Cybersecurity Industry Watch Center

Launched the cybersecurity industry watch center at COMEX 2025

More details about the Cybersecurity Industry Watch Center 🔗

Promotion of the cybersecurity industry program locally and internationally

Conducted **18** workshops to introduce the cybersecurity industry

+630 Beneficiaries

Participated in **6** regional and international reports to promote the center and the cybersecurity industry program

Participated in **30** international events to promote the cybersecurity industry program

Organized **5** local conferences and workshops, with invitations extended to international speakers

Implemented the national cybersecurity industry campaign

Promotion Of cybersecurity services and expertise internationally

Conducting **2** editions of the Hadatha cybersecurity industry forum
(Salalah – Muscat)

350 Participants

Organized **25** cybersecurity exercises targeting Arab, African, Islamic, and international communities

11 Local cybersecurity companies participated in local and international events and exhibitions

Establishing and Strengthening International Cooperation

- The Sultanate of Oman was elected to chair the Board of Directors of National Cybersecurity Centers for the Organization of Islamic Cooperation from **2028 - 2013**

- Signed **32** memoranda of cooperation with international and local organizations and companies

- Cybersecurity Diplomacy in collaboration with the Center for Humanitarian Dialogue

9 workshops

11 countries

- ·Cybersecurity Industry Environment Assessment Initiative In collaboration with Huawei

4 workshops

14 countries

Developed a framework for the cybersecurity industry targeting countries of the

- Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)
- The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)

Signed a framework agreement and implemented a project to establish a National Cybersecurity Center for the **State of Palestine**

Regional Cybersecurity Week

No. of participants

+5,500

Participating companies

41

Experts/Speakers

+206

Countries

70

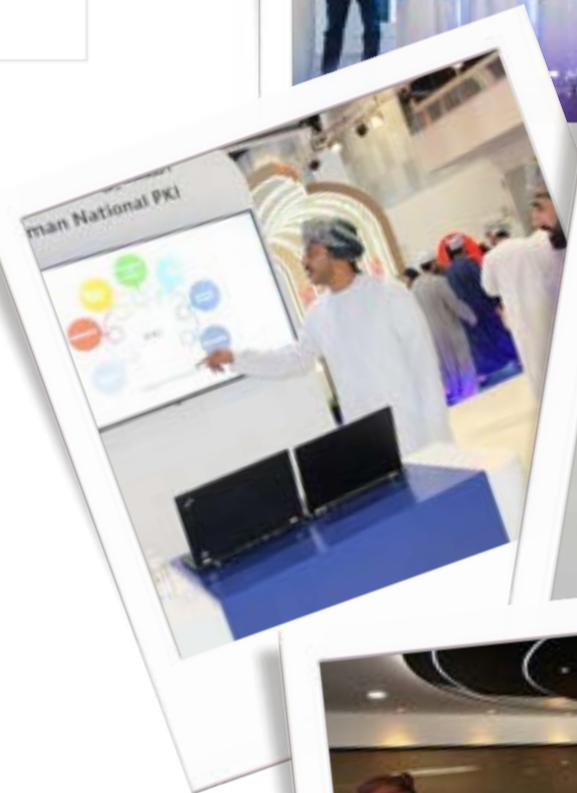Achieved **5** Guinness World Records Awards

Cybersecurity Industry Guideline

The Cybersecurity Industry Guideline was prepared targeting all categories: individuals, government and academic institutions, investors, and the private sector
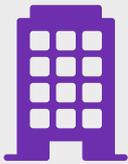
ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE TECHNOLOGY SECTOR

Achievements in the Technology Sector

Government Network Security

Secured the network lines of

80

main government buildings

Secured the network lines for

17

directorates of the Ministry of Transport, Communications, and Information Technology

Established secure connections with

4

certified cloud computing companies

Completed

3,732

change requests for government network configurations

Countered

+3,020,983,403

intrusion attempts targeting the government network

Activated secure interconnection between the government network and the GCC network

Securing Government Applications and Websites

Secured

121

websites

Countered

+373,027,660

intrusion attempts on government electronic portals

Prevented

+274,181,011

malicious violations and attacks targeting secured government portals

Processed

3,588

security reports related to the safety and stability of government websites

Electronic Trust Services (Theqa Services)

Connected

245
electronic systems

across

69
government and private institutions, integrating with various electronic certification systems

Achieved

+195
million

successful electronic transactions using electronic certification on national ID cards, residency cards, and mobile SIMs

Issued

+38
million

digital certificates for electronic certification on National ID cards, residency cards, and mobile SIMs

Issued

+4,811
certificates for the Electronic Signature Tool for government employees and investors

Issued

+2,046
electronic certification certificates for devices

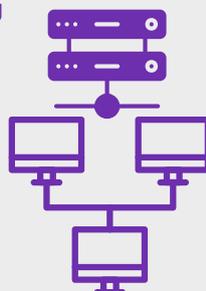# Upgrade Electronic Certification System

THEQA

11 August 2025
the Digital **Theqa Services** were officially launched

Connected 7
electronic systems

across **7**

government and private institutions, integrating with various electronic certification systems

Achieved

+ 15,000
successful electronic transactions

using electronic certification on National ID cards, residency cards, and the Theqa app

Issued

+ 9,000

electronic trust certificates for National ID cards, residency cards, and the Theqa app

Achieved

+ 12,000

total downloads of

Theqa app

Download

Cybersecurity Evaluation and Incident Response

Total number of security incidents

786

Total number of security threat alerts and notifications

171

Conducted **25**

security evaluations for digital transformation initiatives and Ministry systems

National Digital Forensics Lab

Total number of cases handled by the National Digital Forensics Lab

2,032

Digital cases

Total number of digital evidence analyzed

6,831

Digital Evidences

CONCLUSION

CYBERSECURITY INDUSTRY PROGRAM
REPORT

2021 – 2025

(HADATHA)