

Egypt recognized for government support of ICT sector

Egypt placed in latest Gartner 30 Leading Locations for Offshore Services report

Cairo, 22 December, 2009: Egypt continues to be a leading global outsourcing destination of choice, being included for the second year running, as one of Gartner's 30 leading locations for outsourcing services.¹

This year, Egypt has been recognized by various institutions for the significant level of support its ICT sector receives from the Egyptian government, as well as its advantageous cost structure.

Egypt, alongside Ireland, provides good government support to its ICT sector, creating an environment that is committed to developing educational systems, building a pool of skilled workers and actively promoting the country's attributes.

Commenting on this year's findings, Dr. Hazem Y. Abdelazim, CEO for Egypt's Information Technology Industry Development Agency (ITIDA) said: "Once again we are delighted that our investment into Egypt's ICT sector and our efforts in promoting Egypt as a leading global outsourcing location has been recognized. We remain committed to developing our educational systems and will ensure that we can continue to provide a sustainable pool of skilled workers to support our growing ICT industry."

¹ Gartner's 30 Leading Locations for Offshore Services, Ian Marriott, published 19th November 2009

* Egypt was ranked 15th in Heidrick & Struggles' Global Talent Index for its quality of universities and business schools in September 2007

Egypt has continually been commended for its abundant and sustainable talent pool*, regarded by the country as a long-term investment. The government focuses on developing and implementing programs to ensure there is enough supply of qualified and trained professionals to its growing outsourcing industry.

In order to compile the report, Gartner gathered information from numerous independent sources and identified 10 criteria to analyze how suitable countries are for offshore IT and IT-enabled service work, including language, government support, labor pool, educational system and cost.

Through continued support and investment, Egypt strives to remain one of the top performing countries and preferred choices for global outsourcing services.

The Maadi Technology Village, lying just outside of Cairo's city centre, will help attract foreign investment to the country by providing another first-class location for IT and outsourcing. It is projected to house close to 30,000 professionals within the coming two years and will comprise around 40 buildings on 75 acres of land exclusively dedicated to outsourcing BPO and call center operations.

After completion of the first phase comprising approximately 15,000 sqm of office space, construction of additional 60,000 sqm is currently under way, which is planned to be completed by mid 2011 and finalization of the entire 200,000 sqm will happen by 2012.

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About ITIDA:

The Information Technology Industry Development Agency (ITIDA) is a governmental entity affiliated to Egypt's Ministry of Communications and Information Technology. It is responsible for growing and developing Egypt's position as a leading global outsourcing location by attracting foreign direct investment to the industry and maximizing the exports of IT services and applications.

Located in the heart of the modern business environment at Smart Village, the six hundred acre business park on the outskirts of Cairo, ITIDA is a self sustainable entity that drives the IT industry in Egypt and raises awareness among the Egyptian people of the benefits and use of ICT to advance socio-economic welfare of the whole community.

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