Talal Abdulkarim

Board & Executive Adviser · Leadership, Strategy & AI-Driven Growth · Partnerships & Commercial Development

Doha, Qatar · talalak@me.com · linkedin.com/in/talalabdulkarim · talalabdulkarim.com



EXECUTIVE BIOGRAPHY

LEADING SINCE	GROWTH IN YEAR ONE	SUBSCRIBERS IN A YEAR	INTEL SALES GOALS	LEADERSHIP WORKSHOPS	VENTURES FOUNDED
1985	300%	1M+	3×	100+	12+

Talal Abdulkarim is a board and executive adviser who helps organisations turn strategy, partnerships and emerging technology into measurable growth. His four-decade career spans technology, media, consulting and entrepreneurship in the United States and the Gulf.

Entrepreneurship runs in his family, which ran a long-established business in Damascus, where he led office-equipment projects from 1982. In the United States he joined Intel Corporation, where he brought in and led Intel's first Wi-Fi home networking product to three times its sales goals, created the Intel Web Outfitter Services team, cut test-preparation time by 75%, and saved the company millions as a lead negotiator. He was also headhunted by Intersolv to create the Year 2000 software test plan that became the US reference standard.

At Al Jazeera Media Network he served as Technical Adviser to the Board and built new units from scratch — founding the Projects and Encryption Departments and the network's first call centre, and adding more than one million subscribers in under a year. Later, at the Al Jazeera Media Institute, he delivered 300% growth in the first year against a 12% target set with BCG.

As a Senior Consulting Partner at FranklinCovey Middle East he delivered more than 100 leadership programmes for organisations including Saudi Aramco, SABIC, Al Rajhi Bank, Nestlé, PepsiCo, IBM and Microsoft, and he founded MENA Smart, a Dubai leadership firm built on a new 20/80 presentation-to-activity model. He has founded or co-founded more than twelve ventures, including MENA Domains, MENA Speakers, Nora Sweets and Built By Icons.

Today he leads business development, partnerships and sponsorship for Al Jazeera's Digital Division and advises leaders on adopting AI to create real business value. He holds Master's and Bachelor's degrees in Technology Management from Portland State University, is PMP certified, and works fluently in Arabic and English.

"AI won't replace leaders. Leaders who use AI will replace those who don't."

Talal Abdulkarim