

Business

Ooredoo continues winning streak with host of new awards in 2021

DOHA: Ooredoo Group and its operating companies were recognized with more than 30 prestigious international and local business awards over the past six months, including 14 in 2021. These awards recognize excellence in the areas of market-leading product offerings, business and technology innovation, as well as a commitment to corporate social responsibility and a great workplace environment.

In the first quarter of the year, Ooredoo Group won four awards at the Middle East Stevie Awards to add to earlier wins at the CV Magazine Corporate Excellence Awards, the International Business Magazine Awards and the Global CSR Excellence and Leadership Awards, among others.

Sheikh Mohammed Bin Abdulla Al-Thani, Deputy Group Chief Executive Officer, Ooredoo, said: "These awards reflect the unwavering drive and dedication of the company and its people to uphold the highest standards, even in the most challenging times. It is gratifying to see our efforts to deliver best in class mobile connectivity and innovative products being widely recognized. This only inspires us to continue in our mission to enrich people's digital lives and enhance their online experience so they can enjoy the best of the internet."

2021 Middle East Stevie Awards

Ooredoo won four new awards at this year's Middle East Stevie Awards, taking two gold, one silver and one bronze. The Stevie Awards are the world's premier business awards competitions, recognizing business achievement worldwide. Ooredoo Qatar won a Gold Award for the category of 'Innovation in Technology Development - Telecommunications Industries'

for its innovative work in the area of 5G and smart cities. The award recognized Ooredoo Qatar's leadership role in accelerating 5G transformation in the country and for pioneering innovative 5G-use cases across industries including sports, healthcare, transportation and smart city applications.

Ooredoo Kuwait was named the winner of a Gold Stevie in the category 'Innovation in Business Information Apps' for its customer-centric solutions and flagship features under the My Ooredoo app. These include 'ANA', Kuwait's first customizable digital mobile plan, and 'Ooredoo Surprise', which provides personalized offers based on customers' usage patterns and interests to ensure the best customer experience possible. Ooredoo Kuwait also received a Silver Stevie Award in the category 'Innovative Achievement in Growth' and a Bronze Stevie in the category 'Innovation in Customer Service Management, Planning & Practice - Telecommunications Industries'.

Excellence in corporate social responsibility

Ooredoo won a series of awards for its commitment to good corporate governance, leadership and social responsibility during the pandemic. Ooredoo Myanmar won two prestigious awards for Global CSR Excellence and Leadership at World CSR Day 2021. These awards recognize the company's work with communities in Myanmar in the areas of 'Best COVID-19 Solutions for Community Care' and 'Women Empowerment'.

Ooredoo Oman won the title for most 'Outstanding Telecommunications Company' at the 2021 Corporate Excellence Awards. These Awards are organized by Corporate Vision



Magazine and showcase companies and individuals across a range of industries that are most committed to innovation, business growth and providing the best products and services to their clients.

Ooredoo: A great place to work

Ooredoo Group won a raft of awards recognizing its strong corporate culture and highlighting it as a great place to work. Ooredoo Oman was awarded 'Best Employee Experience Oman 2021' at the International Business Magazine (IBM) Awards 2021, while Indosat Ooredoo was the winner in three categories at the Indonesia Best Employer Brand Awards 2021. The company won the awards for 'Excellence in HR through Technology', 'Talent Management', and 'Best Employer Brand'. The awards are hosted annually by The Employer Branding Institute and the World HRD Congress.

At the Global HR Excellence Awards 2021,

Ooredoo Myanmar won the award for 'Innovation in Recruitment'. The company was also recognized at the Dream Companies to Work For awards 2021, where it picked up the prize in the 'Organization with Innovative HR Practices' category. Ooredoo Myanmar was also certified as a 'Great Place to Work for 2021' by the Great Place to Work Institute.



Sheikh Mohammed Bin Abdulla Al-Thani

The company becomes the very first organisation in Myanmar to achieve the Great Place to Work certification three years in a row.

New business awards during Q4 2020

In the last quarter of 2020, Ooredoo also added to its awards tally picking up a further 16 prestigious international business awards. These included wins at the MENA Digital Awards 2020, Stevie Awards for Women in Business 2020 and the Asia Pacific Enterprise Awards (APEA) 2020, to name a few.

Sheikh Mohammed concluded: "Our focus remains on investing in our people and delivering innovative digital products and services to our customers, both consumers and businesses. Across our international footprint, Ooredoo is acting as a digital enabler, making a real difference in the communities we serve. We will continue to leverage our expertise in mobile technology to realize positive social and economic change."

Michelin launches new app, advanced range of next-gen tires

DUBAI: Michelin, the world's leading provider of advanced and high-performance driving solutions, will take motoring performance, information and enjoyment up a gear with the regional launch of its new smartphone app and next-generation range of MICHELIN Pilot Sport Cup 2 tires.

The ultimate resource for motorists and sports drivers, the MICHELIN Track Connect app delivers unparalleled access to key information and essential data related to a car's handling, grip and the suitability of its tires and highly specific advice for optimal tire pressure, inflation, temperature and much more. It also provides information on driver's style, performance and skill for an all-round superior experience behind the wheel, whether on the racetrack or commuting around the city.

Paired with the new range of MICHELIN Pilot Sport Cup 2 tires, the MICHELIN Track Connect app works as an onboard coach via sensors fitted inside each tire and can make accurate suggestions for tire pressure to reflect driving conditions such as dry, damp or wet both for the track or road. Developed in close collaboration with dedicated motorsports fans and car clubs, Michelin's app and new tire range represent the next generation of readable and adaptable data, which is presented in an intuitive and highly engaging way thanks to an easy-to-use interface that operates via iOS and Android phones.

Information is updated in real time while driving and stored to be accessed after a session or journey,

with the app indicating any adjustments that need to be made before the next trip. The MICHELIN Pilot Sport Cup 2 tires represent the latest advancement in on-the-road mobility technology with superb construction, durability and sporty performance. A major upgrade on the current range of tires currently on the market, MICHELIN Pilot Sport Cup 2 tires deliver faster and more consistent lap times, excellent steering control plus improved handling. Drivers will also be impressed with the standout elevated style of the premium touch sidewall design.

Marc Pasquet, President - Michelin, Africa, India and Middle East region, said: "We are excited to introduce drivers and motorsports enthusiasts alike in the region to our high-performance range of MICHELIN Pilot Sport Cup 2 tires and the MICHELIN Track Connect smartphone app. Offering cutting edge levels of data, information and personalization, when paired together these two features will give motorists unrivalled access to key statistics and analytics that will help to improve their performance on the track and better understand how their car handles, and how they drive, day to day."

"The MICHELIN Track Connect really does put motorists in the

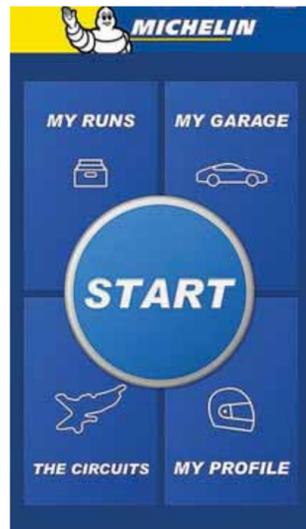


Marc Pasquet



driving seat in terms of accessing key metrics that can have a huge impact on their time behind the wheel and adds another dimension of personalization and accessibility to their track experience, while the MICHELIN Pilot Sport Cup 2 tires provide the highest possible standards of grip, performance, reliability and, above all, enjoyment on the road."

When driving, the new MICHELIN Pilot Sport Cup 2 tires will offer drivers a faster experience, enhanced steering control and optimized footprint on the road for maximized steering precision. MICHELIN Track Connect is available to download on iOS and Android and the MICHELIN Pilot



Sport Cup 2 tires will be available from June, across the Middle East in various sizes from 17" to 21" and with a new checkered-flag premium touch sidewall design.

Tesla with 'no driver' in deadly Texas crash

NEW YORK: Two men were killed in a crash in Texas while riding in a Tesla car that police said almost certainly had no one behind the wheel, US media reported Sunday. The vehicle was driving at high speed late Saturday north of Houston when it slammed into a tree and burst into flames, the Wall Street Journal reported, quoting Harris County constable Mark Herman.

"Our preliminary investigation is determining - but it's not complete yet - that there was no one at the wheel of that vehicle," he said. "We're almost 99.9 percent sure." When police arrived, one of the two victims was sitting in the front passenger seat and the other in the rear seat.

Herman said police had not yet determined whether the driver-side airbag had deployed and whether the car's driver assistance system was



SHANGHAI: A man is seen inside a Tesla car during the 19th Shanghai International Automobile Industry Exhibition yesterday. —AFP

engaged at the time of the crash. AFP was not able to reach the local police for comment.

On its website, Tesla warns that the driver assistance systems it offers do not make their vehicles fully

autonomous and that active driver supervision is still necessary. But videos regularly show moving Teslas with drivers asleep or without their hands on the wheel for extended periods of time. —AFP

Coke hopes vaccines will reverse slide

NEW YORK: Coca-Cola reported yesterday a decline in first-quarter earnings amid continued weakness in away-from-home sales, but said increased vaccine availability was boosting sales in some markets. The soda giant, which relies on sporting events, concerts and other public venues for a significant fraction of its sales, described performance as a mixed bag, depending on the region.

Coca-Cola scored stronger volumes in China and India, but lower volumes in the United States and Europe due to lingering effects from COVID-19. "We are encouraged by improvements in our business, especially in markets where vaccine availability is increasing and economies are opening up, and we

remain confident in our full year guidance," said Chief Executive James Quincey.

Volumes "remain closely linked to consumer mobility," which relies on vaccines, Coca-Cola said. "Through the first quarter, volume trends steadily improved each month, driven by recovery in markets where coronavirus-related uncertainty has abated," Coca-Cola said. "The path to recovery, however, remains asynchronous around the world."

Net income was \$2.2 billion, down 19 percent from the year-ago period, while revenues rose five percent to \$9.0 billion. Besides its trademark cola products, Coca-Cola has been expanding its hard seltzer products in Latin America, Europe and the United States, and launching more flavored water items. The company's forecast includes a jump in by "high single digits to low double digits" in earnings per-share in 2021. Coca-Cola rose 1.0 percent to \$54.24 in pre-market trading. —AFP

Fire-hit chipmaker Renesas plans full capacity by May

TOKYO: Japanese chipmaker Renesas Electronics said yesterday it was on track to restore full capacity by May after a plant fire, as manufacturers around the world battle to secure semiconductor supplies. By the end of this week, the company hopes to bring production at the blaze-hit factory near Tokyo to 30 percent of previous capacity, before fully restoring it in May, Renesas chief Hidetoshi Shibata told reporters in an online briefing.

"We remain committed to our plan to achieve 100 percent in May," he said. "We have received help not just domestically but from foreign suppliers. And they have been extremely generous. With help from all sorts of outside groups, we miraculously have been able to come this far."

The news came as car makers battle semiconductor supply problems in part because of increased demand for chips from manufacturers of laptops, tablets and gaming devices. Renesas is a key supplier of automotive semiconductors. It is not yet clear exactly what caused the March fire, which burnt 600 sq m of factory floor.

Japan's government and some of Renesas' own customers, including auto giant Toyota, have offered help. Shibata did not discuss which firms assisted in restoring the damaged factory and kept mum about which customers would get early supplies of semiconductors.

During a summit on Friday in Washington, Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga and President Joe Biden agreed to "partner on sensitive supply chains, including on semiconductors, promoting and protecting the critical technologies that are essential to our security and prosperity", according to a joint statement. —AFP