

EMPOWERING BUSINESS  
PIONEERING  
SUSTAINABILITY

BUSINESS SET-UP AND LEASING  
OPPORTUNITIES AT MASDAR CITY FREE ZONE



### **WHY SHOULD YOU LOCATE TO MASDAR CITY FREE ZONE?**

- Be part of an exciting vision for the future
- Abu Dhabi is the gateway to emerging opportunities
- A business-friendly environment
- An inspirational place to work
- A dynamic community built on collaboration

### **MASDAR CITY FREE ZONE BENEFITS**

- Benefits offered by Masdar Free Zone
- One-Stop Shop services
- Business and leasing opportunities

### **SETTING UP AT MASDAR CITY FREE ZONE**

- Step-by-step guide to setting up a company
- Company set-up options
- Frequently asked questions

# INNOVATING TODAY FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Masdar City Free Zone is a powerful business enabler and a strategic base from which businesses can build their network locally and globally, explore multiple investment opportunities, and test new technologies.

Partners and tenants benefit from a range of comprehensive business support services, such as quick and efficient licensing and visa processing, incentives that include 100 per cent company ownership, exemption from corporate and personal income taxes, and cost-effective leasing opportunities.

These benefits, along with the extensive selection of restaurants, cafés and retail outlets, combine to create a vibrant and convenient location to conduct business.

Masdar City is supported by a strong global logistics and transport network. The city is strategically located five minutes from Abu Dhabi International Airport, a 20-minute drive from downtown Abu Dhabi and only a 40-minute drive from Dubai.



The Masdar City Free Zone has been recognised with the following awards by fDi Magazine, part of the Financial Times:

## fDi Global Free Zone of the Year Awards 2018:

- Best Free Zone for R&D
- Best Free Zone for Renewable Energy
- Second place in the category of Best Free Zone – Middle East region

## fDi Global Free Zone of the Year Awards 2017

- Best Free Zone for Start-Up Support
- Best Free Zone for Renewable Energy
- R&D Incentives and Facilities Upgrade

## fDi Global Free Zone of the Year Awards 2016

- Best Free Zone for R&D Partnerships
- Two bespoke awards for Start-Up Support and Company Expansions
- Second place in the category of Best Middle East Free Zone for Large Companies



# ABU DHABI, THE GATEWAY TO EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES

Abu Dhabi is an exciting, vibrant, multicultural city and a truly international capital. Located at the crossroads of Asia, Africa and the Middle East, Abu Dhabi is the capital of the United Arab Emirates, a country with a heritage of tolerance and openness and a well-deserved reputation for welcoming citizens from more than 200 countries.

The emirate has also established a growing reputation as a source of global thought-leadership and innovation due to a series of forward-thinking projects and initiatives across a range of diverse sectors including energy, infrastructure, sport, culture and tourism.

Abu Dhabi is already recognised as a global pioneer in renewable energy. This is in part down to the vision and achievements of Masdar, who is committed to advancing the development, commercialization and deployment of renewable energy and clean technologies.

Today, Abu Dhabi is one of the world's most exciting and rewarding business environments: the emirate's journey towards economic diversification is creating a range of unique opportunities for individuals and businesses who want to contribute to its continuing growth and progress.



The Solar PV Plant at Masdar City



Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, Abu Dhabi



## AN INSPIRATIONAL PLACE TO WORK

Masdar City's unique, modern architecture embraces sustainability and creates a welcoming environment; its narrow shaded walkways naturally bring the temperature down and enhance the feeling of well-being. The city already boasts a thriving and entrepreneurial business community and is expected to host 50,000 residents and 40,000 professionals and students when complete.

Green open spaces, with an abundance of shade and passive cooling features, provide an outdoor, walkable lifestyle like nowhere else in Abu Dhabi. The entire city has been designed to capture natural breezes and increase outdoor comfort.

Getting into and around Masdar City is simple, due to a variety of low-carbon public transportation options, including the Personal Rapid Transit (PRT), the autonomous NAVYA shuttle, electric shuttle cars and electric and public buses. The city's future transportation options will include a Metro line, Light Rail Transit (LRT) and Group Rapid Transit (GRT).

Built as a pedestrian-focused destination, Masdar City is home to a walking, running and cycling track called Al Mamsha, as well as outdoor gym facilities and sports fields to encourage healthier lifestyles in a safe and convenient environment.



Personal Rapid Transit (PRT) at Masdar City



Masdar City Podium

# A DYNAMIC COMMUNITY BUILT ON COLLABORATION

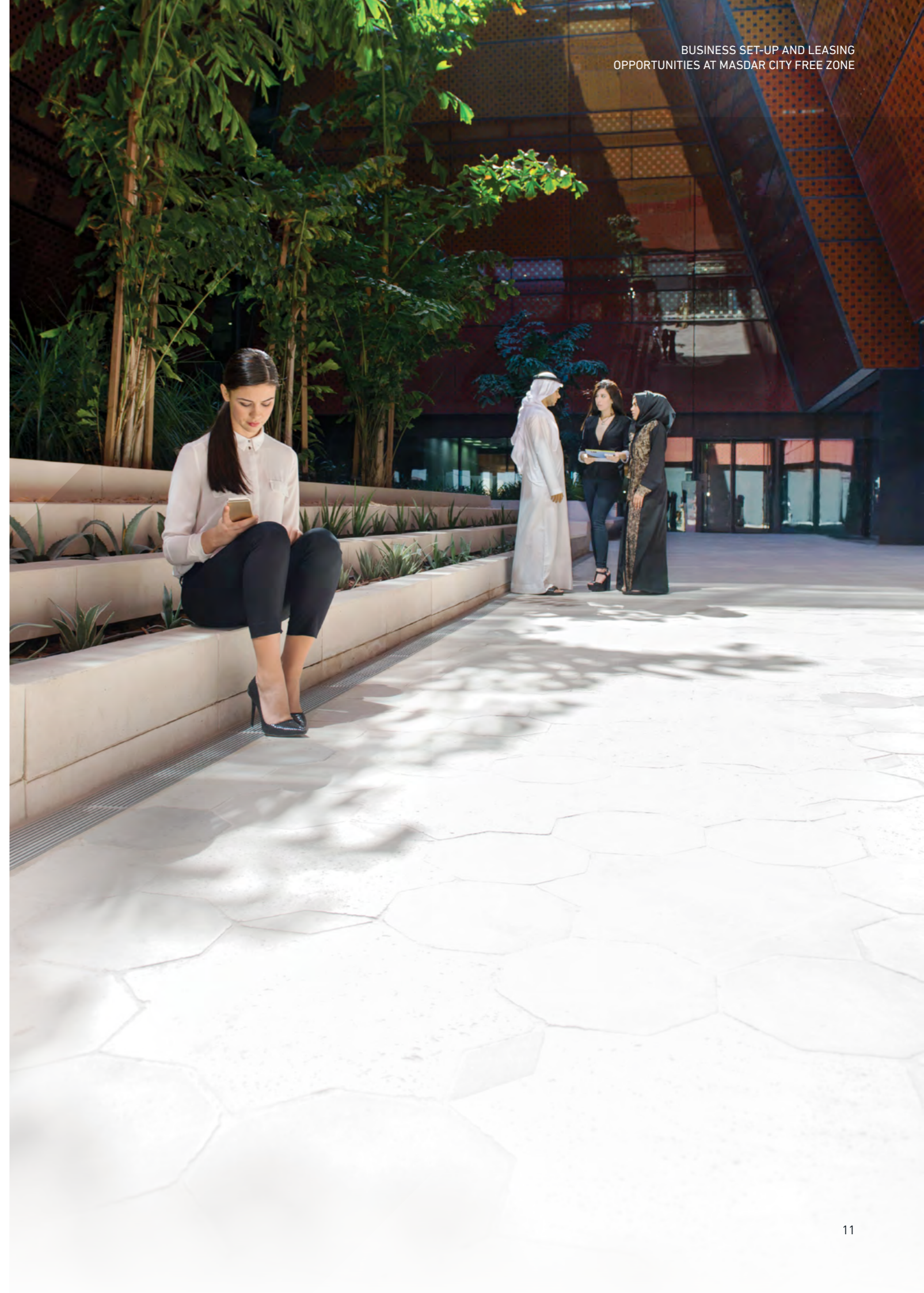
Being part of Masdar City's Free Zone offers tenants access to a unique business community that inspires innovation and future thinking through regular networking events, introductions, and referrals to other free zone companies. The city is home to start-ups, SMEs and multinationals from a wide range of industries with a dynamic mix of private and government companies. The city's innovation ecosystem connects knowledge with research and business with investment opportunities.

At the heart of this ecosystem is the Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence, which will begin its programmes in September 2020. The institute is an research-driven graduate university that focuses on artificial intelligence. Some of our anchor tenants include:

- Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation (ENEC)
- Global Green Growth Institute
- Lockheed Martin
- International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) Headquarters
- Saint-Gobain
- National Cooling Company Tabreed
- General Administration of Customs in Abu Dhabi
- Siemens Middle East Headquarters
- UAE Space Agency













## Some of our retailers include:



# BENEFITS OFFERED BY MASDAR CITY FREE ZONE

Masdar City Free Zone status gives tenants a range of advantages, including:

-  100% foreign ownership
-  100% exemption from corporate and personal income taxes
-  0% import tariffs
-  Quick and easy set-up with a one-stop shop for registration, government relations and visa processing
-  Freedom to repatriate capital and profits
-  A launch point into local, regional and international markets
-  Critical mass of knowledge and talent
-  R&D hub
-  Cost effective licensing and office space
-  Close proximity to Abu Dhabi International Airport and only a 40-minute drive to Dubai



Siemens Middle East HQ at Masdar City



Incubator Building, home to Masdar Free Zone's One-Stop Shop at Masdar City

## ONE-STOP SHOP SERVICES

The One-Stop Shop is a place where companies can access a wide variety of government and business services in one convenient location. The competitive pricing and comprehensive support system combine to offer immense value to its customers.

- Registration, licensing and leasing
- Visa services, including medical checks
- Dependents' sponsorship
- Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce membership
- Emirates ID card processing
- Document authentication
- PO box set-up
- Facilities and property management
- Meeting room and conference facilities

The One-Stop Shop is open from 8.30am to 4.30pm Sunday to Thursday and no appointment is required.



Masdar City Podium





# BUSINESS AND LEASING OPPORTUNITIES

Whether you are a developer, an investor or an occupier, Masdar City offers a broad range of opportunities, from buying or leasing development plots, to creating bespoke office and retail spaces.

## OFFICE SPACE

Masdar City has office space that caters for all sizes of businesses from start-ups, to SMEs and multi-nationals. Options include flexidesks in a shared workspace, serviced and executive offices, and larger core and shell units that provide the opportunity to create a unique office environment. All office buildings in Masdar City are conveniently located to ensure easy access for both staff and visitors.

## LAND

Developers can choose between buying or leasing land (Musataha) to develop their own projects that enhance the city's theme of mixed-use community living, with sustainability at its core.

The investment options include, but are not limited to, apartments, villas, townhouses, office buildings, schools, universities, retail outlets, light industrial facilities, research and development facilities, and hotels.

## BUILD TO SUIT

Large organisations can partner with Masdar City to engineer bespoke commercial, retail, residential, recreational, educational, health-care and corporate spaces. The dedicated team at Masdar City can design and deliver a complete project within specific business, technical, and financial parameters.

## RETAIL SPACE

Retailers have the opportunity to lease space to house food and beverage and service outlets throughout Masdar City.



International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) HQ



UAE Space Agency

# STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO SETTING-UP A COMPANY

Set-up your business in Masdar City Free Zone in just three simple steps – it's that simple. Plus, you will have a dedicated advisor to guide you through the process.



\*There is a minimum capital deposit of AED50,000 required for setting up a Limited Liability Company. To find out more please email [joinfz@masdarcityfreezone.com](mailto:joinfz@masdarcityfreezone.com) or visit [www.masdarcityfreezone.com](http://www.masdarcityfreezone.com).



# COMPANY SET-UP OPTIONS

There are a number of business set up options that you can choose from when starting or expanding your business.

### LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC)

An independent legal entity with a mixture of both individual and corporate shareholders.

### BRANCH

A branch of an existing UAE-based or foreign company incorporated in another jurisdiction or free zone.

### ENTREPRENEUR SUPPORT

Special licensing packages are available for new graduates and clean-tech start-up businesses.

# PACKAGES

	Package 1	Package 2	Package 3	Package 4	Package 5
Activity	With one activity	Maximum Upto 2 activities	Maximum Upto 2 activities	Maximum Upto 3 activities	Maximum Upto 4 activities
Visa Eligibility	No Visas	1 Employment Visa	2 Employment Visas	3 Employment Visas	4 Employment Visas
License / Lease Fee (Annual)	-	10,000	17,500	23,500	28,500
Registration fees (One Time) (For Special Names AED 1,000/- will be added subject to DED)	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
<b>Total Registration / License charges</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>12,500</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>26,000</b>	<b>31,000</b>

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## WHAT ARE THE LEGAL FRAMEWORKS FOR ENTITIES TO BE ESTABLISHED IN MASDAR CITYFREE ZONE?

Masdar City Free Zone offers the following three legal frameworks:

- Limited Liability Company – Corporate Shareholder
- Limited Liability Company – Natural Shareholder
- A Branch of a Foreign / UAE company – Branch

## WHAT IS THE MINIMUM CAPITAL REQUIRED FOR ESTABLISHING A COMPANY IN MASDAR CITY FREE ZONE?

There is no minimum capital requirement if you are setting up a branch of your company. However, for establishing an LLC, the minimum capital requirement is AED50,000 (US\$13,623.97).

## DO I HAVE TO EMPLOY UAE NATIONALS IN MY BUSINESS?

There is no compulsion to do so and you are free to hire staff from any country.

## CAN A MASDAR CITY COMPANY ENTER INTO PARTNERSHIP WITH ANOTHER BODY / ENTITY TO SET UP ANOTHER COMPANY OUTSIDE MASDAR CITY?

As a legal entity, a Masdar City company can enter into partnership as a shareholder in another entity, whether inside or outside Masdar as permitted.

## DO I NEED A LOCAL PARTNER TO INVEST IN MASDAR FREE ZONE?

No, 100 per cent foreign ownership is permitted in Masdar City Free Zone.

## CAN I ESTABLISH A BRANCH OF MY OWN COMPANY?

Yes, any company can establish a branch in Masdar City Free Zone.

## IS IT POSSIBLE TO OPEN A BRANCH OFFICE OF MY FREE ZONE COMPANY OUTSIDE THE FREE ZONE?

Companies incorporated and registered in Masdar City Free Zone have their own legal identity and have the right to open branches outside the free zone subject to the approval of the concerned authorities.

## CAN I BE A PARTNER IN MORE THAN ONE COMPANY?

There is no restriction on the number of businesses one person can be involved in.

## CAN I TRANSFER MY MONEY OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY FREELY?

Yes. Masdar City Free Zone allows unrestricted repatriation of capital and profits.

## IS THERE ANY CORPORATE / INCOME TAX APPLIED TO THE COMPANIES OR TO THE INDIVIDUALS?

Masdar City Free Zone follows a zero percent tax regime.

## CAN I SELL MY GOODS IN THE LOCAL MARKET?

The licence issued by Masdar City Free Zone is valid for operating your business only inside the free zone. Goods can be sold in the local market through distributors or agents.

## CAN I HAVE A LICENCE FROM MASDAR CITY FREE ZONE BUT OPERATE FROM DUBAI OR ANOTHER EMIRATE?

The licence issued by Masdar City Free Zone is valid for operating your business only inside the free zone. This licence cannot be used for setting up a business in any of the other Emirates. Goods may be sold to other Emirates through distributors.

## CAN A COMPANY TAKE A LICENCE AT MASDAR CITY FREE ZONE WITHOUT RENTING A FACILITY?

No, a company must lease a facility in order to receive a licence.

## HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO REGISTER A COMPANY AFTER SUBMITTING ALL LEGAL DOCUMENTS AND SETTLING PAYMENT?

Registering a company will take two working days after submitting all legal documents and settling payment.

## HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO SET UP A BUSINESS THROUGH MASDAR CITY FREE ZONE?

It takes an average of five days to set up a business once a completed licence application has been received.

## WHAT IS THE METHOD OF PAYMENT FOR FACILITIES AT MASDAR CITY FREE ZONE?

Advance payment is required.

## WHAT ARE THE ACTIVITIES ALLOWED IN MASDAR CITY FREE ZONE?

All trading activities of specific products are allowed as long as they are not hazardous.

## WHAT IS THE VALIDITY OF THE LICENCE?

Licences are valid for a period of one year and are renewable on an annual basis.

## IS IT NECESSARY FOR BUSINESSES LICENSED BY MASDAR CITY FREE ZONE AUTHORITY TO LEASE PREMISES IN YOUR ZONE?

Commercial licences issued by Masdar City Free Zone Authority are subject to leasing a facility within Masdar City.

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