

Press Release

In Giant Leap Forward, Virgin Hyperloop One Announces Technology Can Be Powered Completely Off-Grid In Middle East

The system would be up to ten times more energy-efficient than short haul flights, 50 per cent more efficient than high-speed trains, says Virgin Hyperloop One executive prior to Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week

ABU DHABI, UAE - JANUARY 11, 2020 – Virgin Hyperloop One (VHO), the world's leading hyperloop company, announced its participation at this year's Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week (ADSW), a global platform that seeks to accelerate sustainable development. The annual event is taking place in the UAE's capital, Abu Dhabi, from January 11th – 18th 2020. VHO is presenting at ADSW's headliner event, the World Future Energy Summit (WFES) to discuss what it will be like to travel in the 21st century.

At speeds of over 1000km/h, hyperloop can connect all Gulf cities within an hour from each other. The system has zero direct emissions and could move close to 45 million passengers per year in the region leveraging solar panels which cover the tube.

Jay Walder, Chief Executive Officer at VHO, said, "As cities around the world feel the impacts of climate change, we need viable solutions. Transportation is one of the biggest areas that needs to be addressed. Yet we have seen little progress since the introduction of the railway and commercial air travel. At VHO, we are committed to a massive leap forward to offset the impacts of vehicle, train and air travel in a way that no current technology can. We estimate that per passenger, hyperloop is 50 per cent more energy-efficient than high-speed rail and up to 10 times more than flying. As a result, all Gulf cities could be less than an hour away from each other, powered by a zero-emission network that is energy neutral and could be completely unplugged from the grid in the Middle East."

In line with the UAE's federal 'Energy Strategy 2050', VHO's clean energy solution supports the strategy's goals to increase the contribution of clean energy in the total energy mix from 25 per cent to 50 per cent by 2050 and reduce carbon footprint of power generation by 70 percent, thus saving AED 700 billion by 2050.

Having already attracted major investors from the UAE, such as VHO's lead investor, DP World, a hyperloop connection would see passengers travel the region at incredible speeds, cutting the travel time from Abu Dhabi to Jeddah to 48 minutes for example.

Speaking about the participation at Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week and a connected Gulf, **Harj Dhawali, Managing Director of the Middle East and India at Virgin Hyperloop One**, said, "We are very excited to participate at this year's Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week. The event provides us with a unique opportunity to promote hyperloop technology as the world's most sustainable mode of mass transportation and engage in meaningful dialogue and for a more connected region."

In October, VHO announced the results of a strategic study commissioned to build the world's first extended test and certification hyperloop track in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The Virgin Hyperloop One Center of Excellence (CoE), if approved, could create more than 124,000 high-tech local jobs and drive a \$4billion increase in KSA GDP by 2030, according to the study.

-Ends-

Note to the Editor:

Earlier in 2019, VHO has also joined the Ellen MacArthur Foundation's CE100 network in the US, which brings together the country's leaders from across industries that are committed to accelerating the transition to a circular economy.

About Virgin Hyperloop One

Virgin Hyperloop One is the only company in the world that has successfully tested its hyperloop technology at scale, launching the first new mode of mass transportation in over 100 years. The company successfully operated a full-scale hyperloop vehicle using electric propulsion and electromagnetic levitation under near-vacuum conditions, realizing a fundamentally new form of transportation that is faster, safer, cheaper, and more sustainable than existing modes. The company is now working with governments, partners, and investors around the world to make hyperloop a reality in years, not decades. They currently

have projects underway in the U.S., India, and the Middle East. Learn more about Virgin Hyperloop One's technology, vision, and ongoing projects [here](#).

About Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week

Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week (ADSW) is a global platform for accelerating the world's sustainable development. The week brings together a unique fusion of policy makers, industry specialists, technology pioneers and the next generation of sustainability leaders. Through its initiatives and events, ADSW is a catalyst for sharing knowledge, implementing strategies and delivering solutions to drive human progress.

ADSW is committed to furthering our understanding of the major social, economic and environmental trends shaping the world's sustainable development. For more information, visit: <https://abudhabisustainabilityweek.com/en>.

For media enquiries, please contact:

Christoph Diesch

Edelman Middle East

christoph.diesch@edelman.com

+971 56 996 2086

Josephine Dairi

Edelman Middle East

Josephine.dairi@edelman.com

+97154 309 8452