



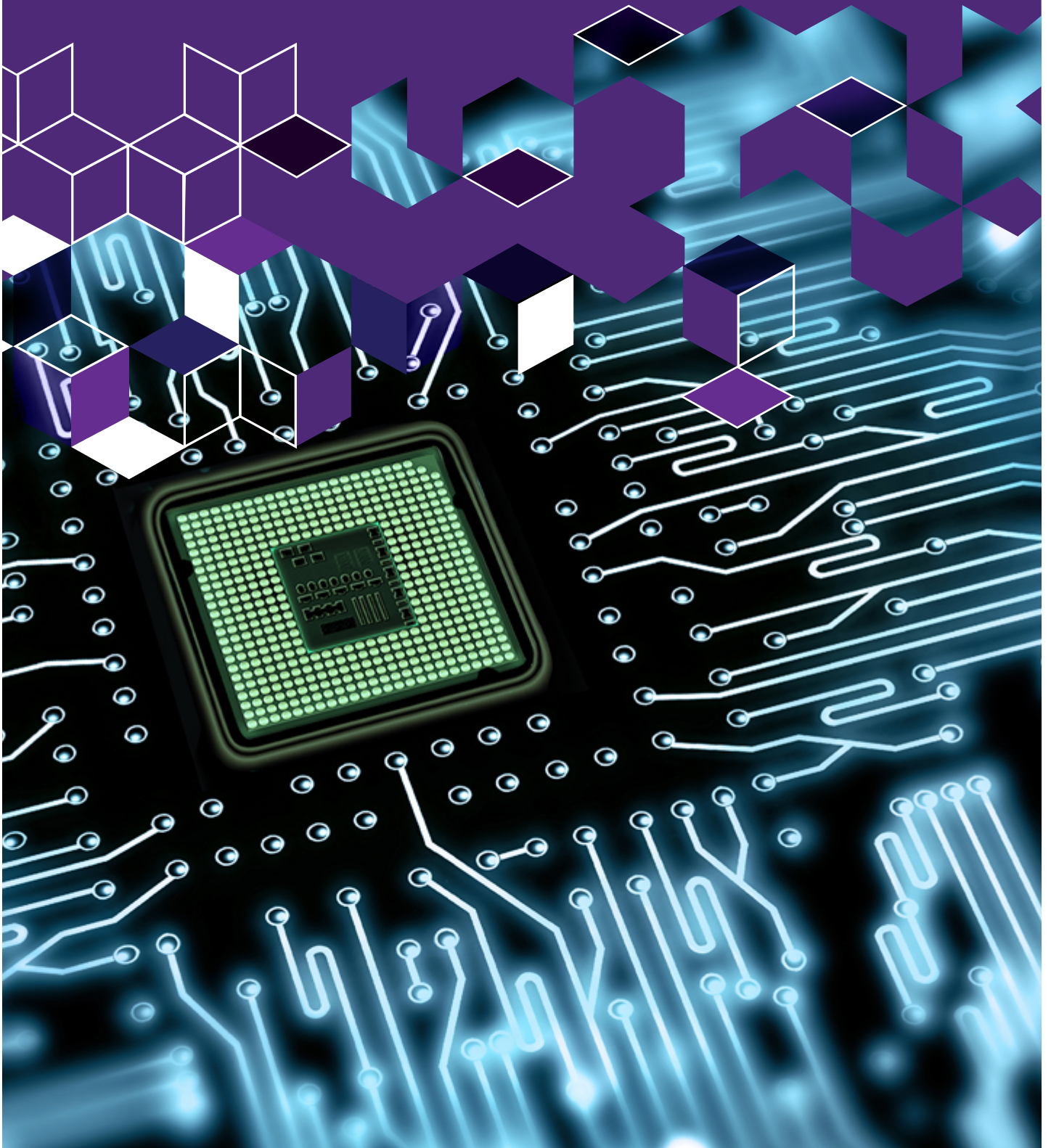
IDAL

INVEST IN LEBANON

TECHNOLOGY

FACT BOOK

2015



Content

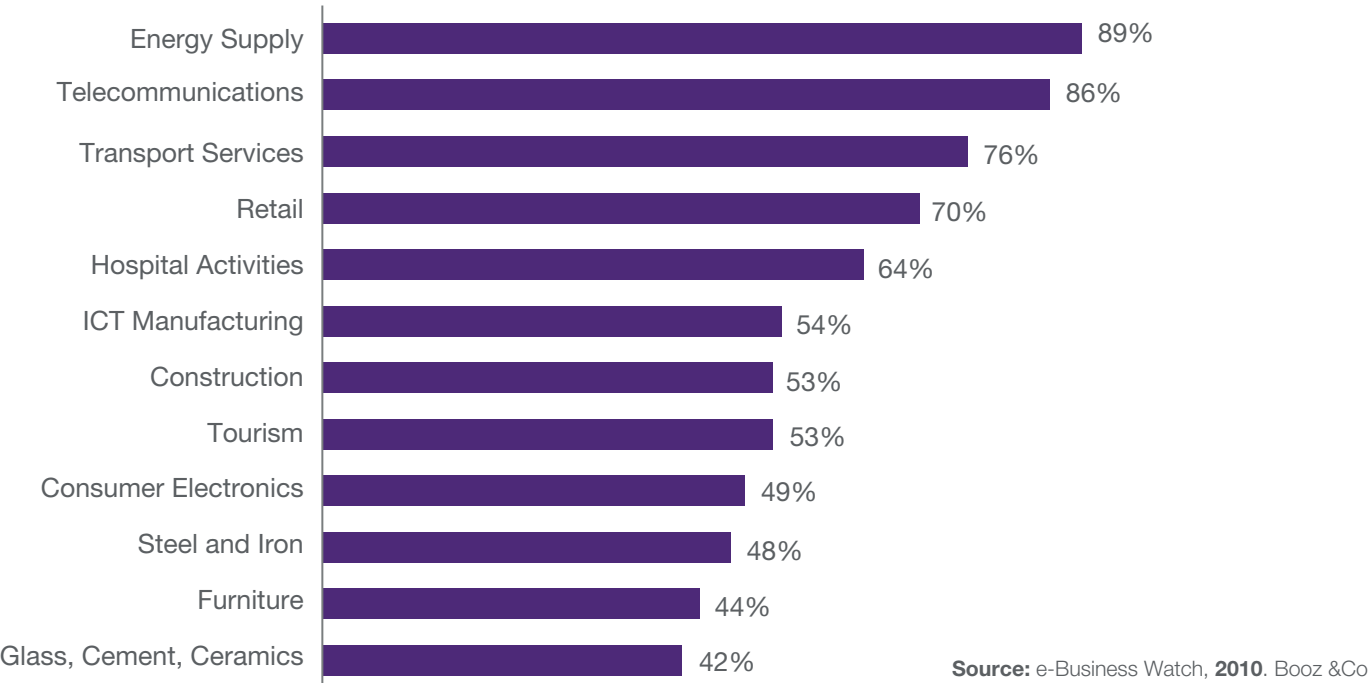
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SECTOR OVERVIEW

Technology innovations are increasingly acting as engines for the competitiveness and sustainability of world economies. Advances in the technology sector have not only driven the fast growth of the

sector itself, but also innovations and productivity across all other sectors and industries (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Innovation Activity Enabled by ICT for each Industry % | 2006-2009



Knowledge and technology intensive industries have played an important role in the economic performance of several countries, and represented 27% of the World GDP in 2012, according to Science and Engineering Indicators 2014. This represented 30% of the world’s GDP, with the US, EU, Japan and China providing the major centers of global activity.

While sector developments continue to be concentrated in North America, Europe and East Asia, activities are shifting towards emerging economies with low-cost production and high innovation potential, such as India, Malaysia and Middle Eastern countries.

The MENA region is riding the technology wave, highlighted by commitments from various national governments to diversify their economies and invest in industries with high technology focus.

Lebanon has also started to benefit from the restructuring of the global value chain and has

witnessed a surge of high tech companies specialized in the manufacturing of electrical equipment, clean technologies and in the design of hardware components and semi-conductors. These industries, characterized by high growth dynamics, are helping to create various opportunities for pioneering and innovative companies in Lebanon. The country’s trade activity in high tech products provides great insight into its potential and competitiveness.

The domestic technology sector hinges on export-oriented manufacturing which is reflected by the rising shares of Lebanese high tech products as a portion of total manufactured exports, from 2% to 13% over the 2007-2010 period (Figure 2). The growth of tech exports is remarkable relative to the region, with Lebanon recording the highest increase in both percentages and export values, according to the World Bank (Figure 3).

Figure 2: Share of high-tech exports in total manufactured exports | %

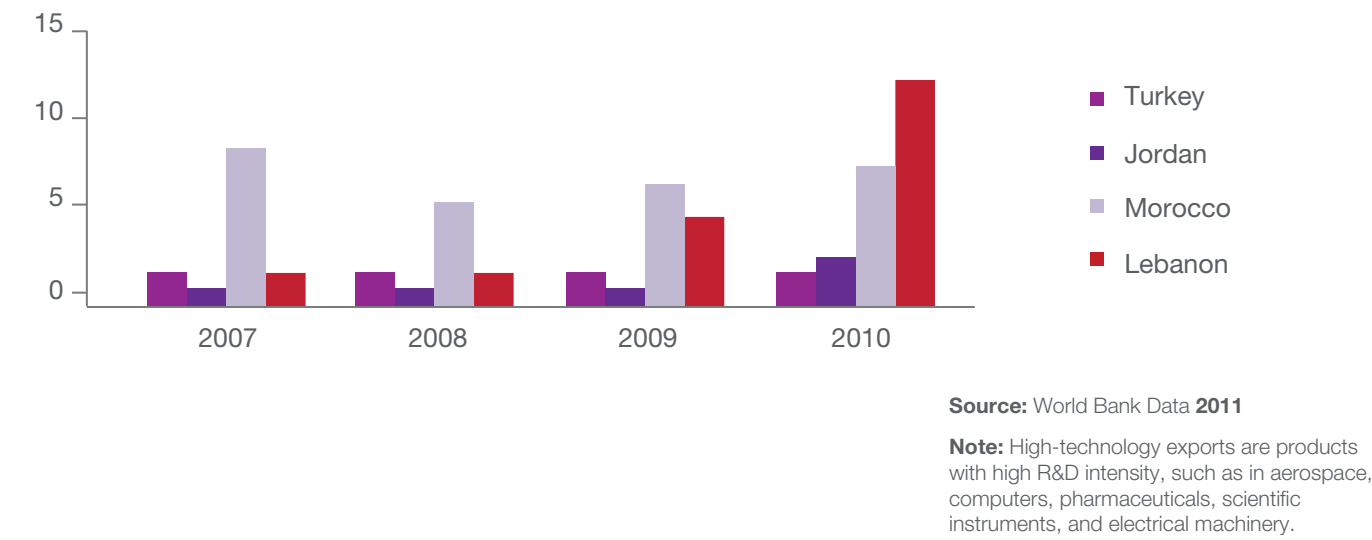
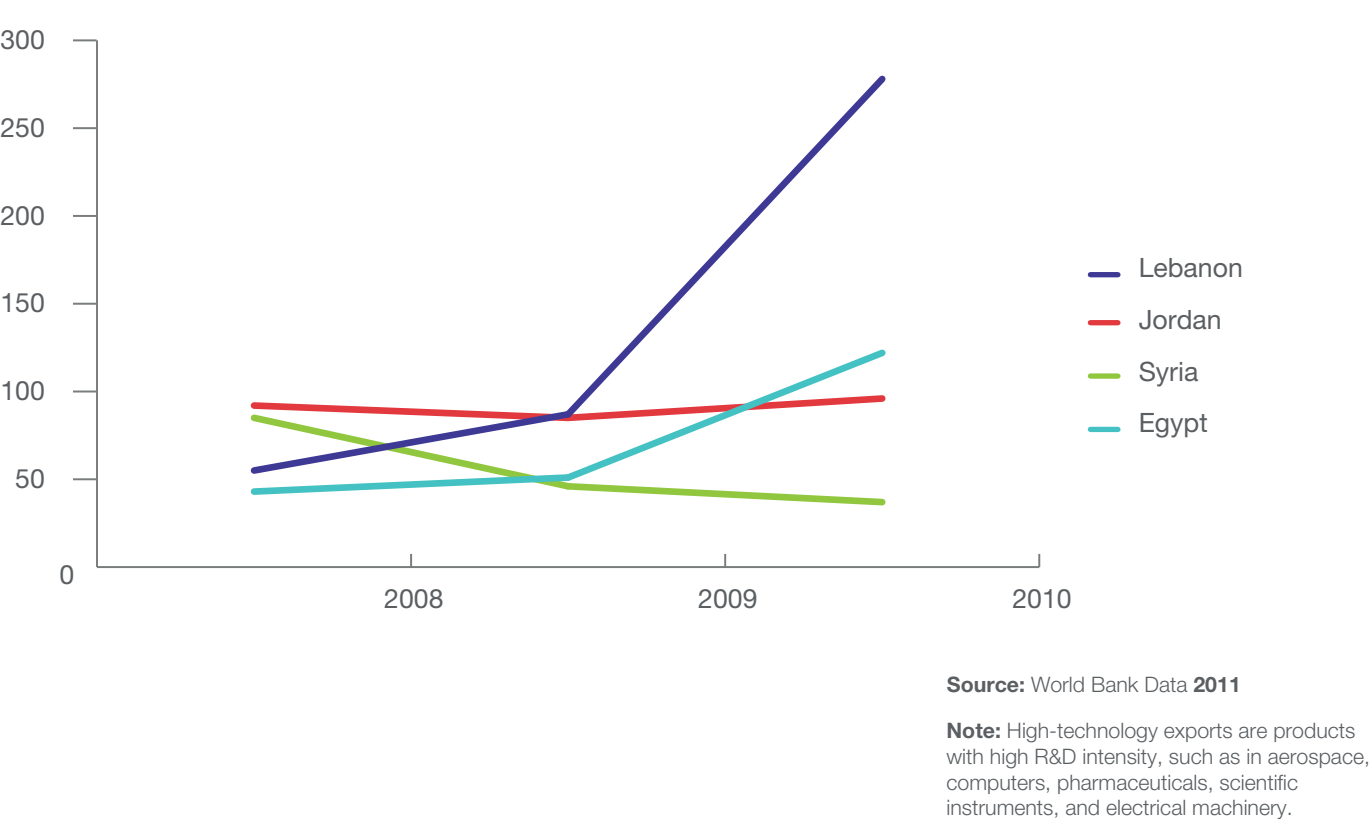


Figure 3: High-tech export values in current U.S. Dollars | 2008-2010



COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGES

A STEADILY RISING POOL OF QUALIFIED AND INNOVATIVE LABOR AT COMPETITIVE COSTS

- ▶ Lebanon's innovative power hinges on its human capital, a well-educated, multi-lingual and creative workforce.
- ▶ Around 3000 engineers¹ graduate each year and join a labor force currently comprising 1.3 million workers.²
- ▶ Lebanon occupies the 5th place worldwide for Quality of Math and Sciences Education (Figure 4), while it ranks 28th worldwide for the Quality of its overall Educational System. High tech companies operating in Lebanon benefit from human resources with the most competitive technical skills in the region at very

competitive costs relative to the EU, US and most neighboring countries (Figure 5).

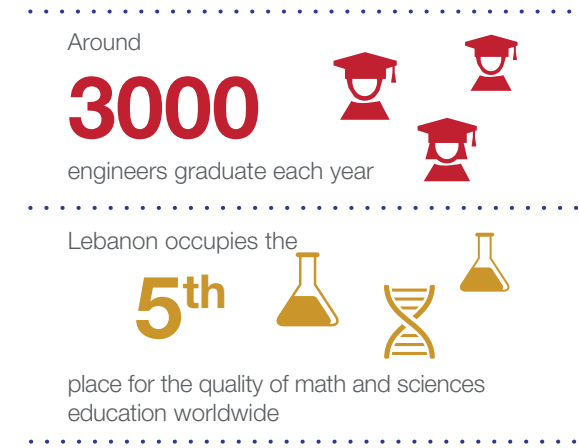
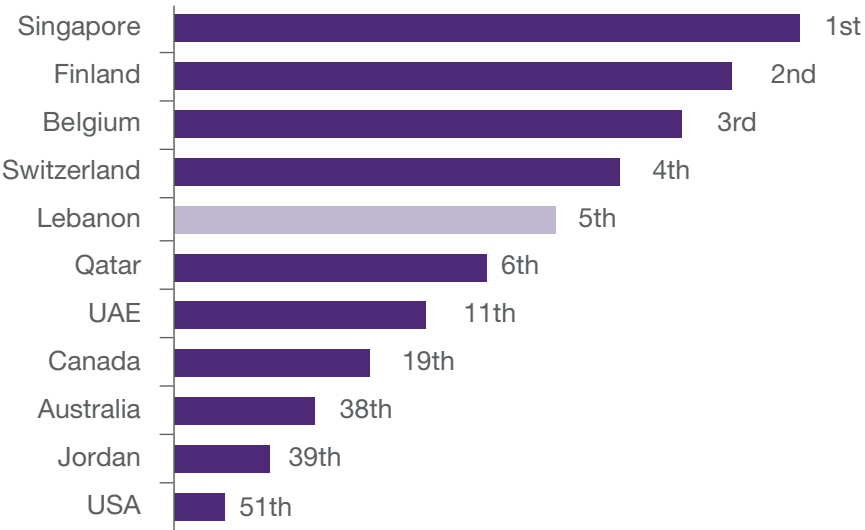
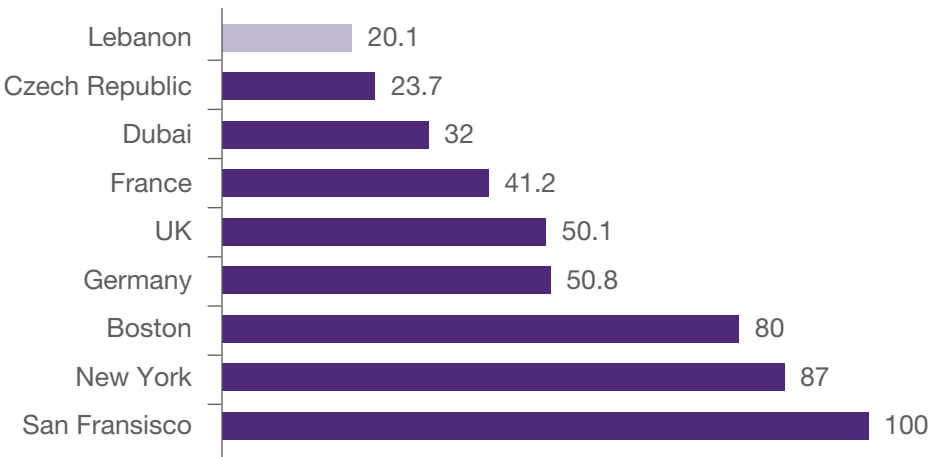


Figure 4: Quality of Math and Science Education Index | 2013 - 2014



Source: Global competitiveness report 2013-2014

Figure 5: Annual wages of software engineers in selected countries USD thousands | 2015



Source: Payscale

¹ This number includes; electrical, computer, mechanical, telecommunication and environmental engineers

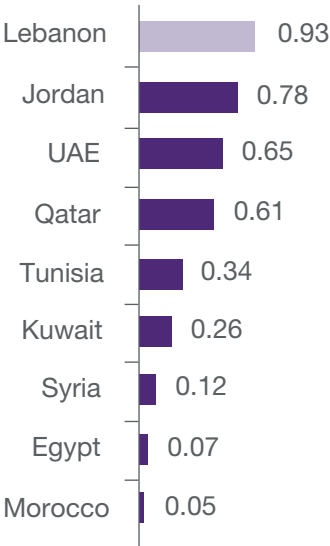
² Global competitiveness report 2014-2015

THE HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM & THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY IN LEBANON

Lebanon enjoys a strong reputation as home to an excellent scientific community, a network of world-class universities and an exporter of skills and innovation.

- ▶ Lebanon is home to 41 universities, and has the highest concentration of universities in the region (Figure 6). A growing number of research and training centers are being established mainly in the fields of environmental technologies, medical science and agriculture.

Figure 6: Number of Universities | per 100,000 population in selected regional countries



Source: IDAL's research

RISING GLOBAL AND REGIONAL DEMAND FOR INNOVATION

The technology market in the Arab world is far from being saturated and is witnessing a fast increase in the value of science and technology exports, recording 20% growth from 2006 to 2008 according to the World Bank. Lebanon's strategic position, located at the crossroads of Europe, North Africa and the Middle East allows it to serve expanding markets.

A FAVORABLE INVESTMENT & INNOVATION ENVIRONMENT

Given the spillover effect that technological innovations have on the growth of the economy as a whole, the government of Lebanon is committed to actively support and facilitate the establishment and expansion of innovative companies.

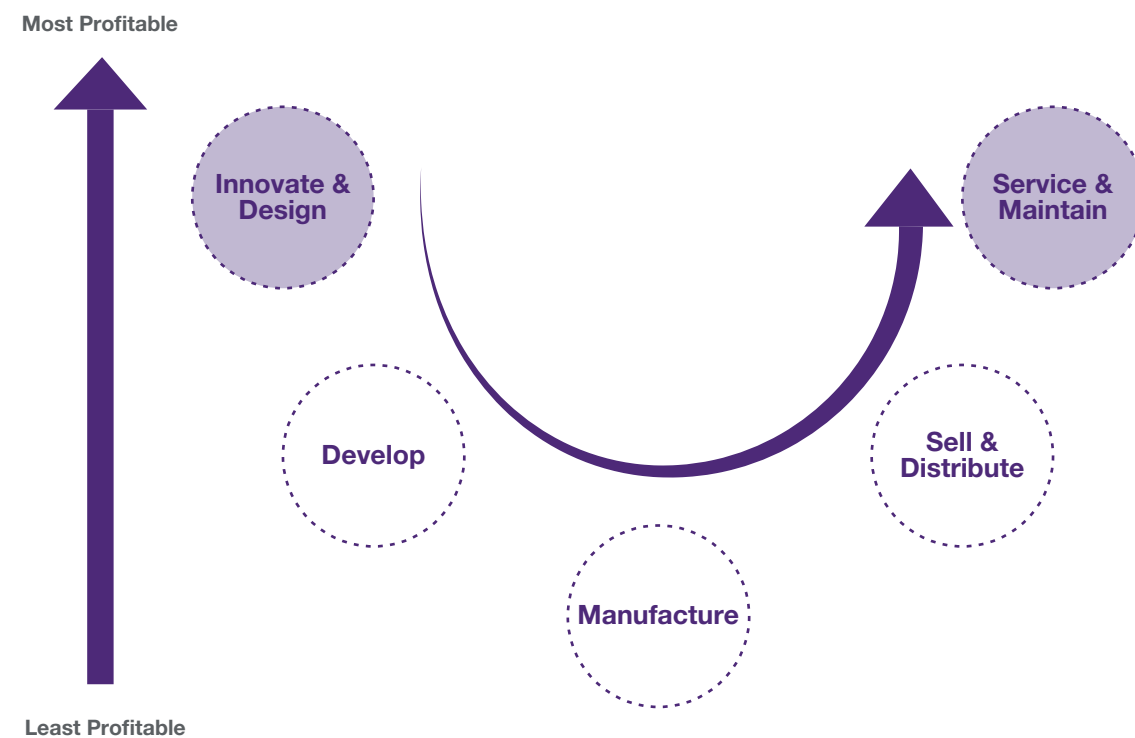
- ▶ **Investment Incentives:** The Investment Development Authority of Lebanon (IDAL) provides companies engaged in the technology sector with a set of fiscal and financial incentives including tax exemptions on corporate income tax along with administrative and facilitation services. *For more information, check out the Incentives for The Technology sheet on our website.* www.investinlebanon.gov.lb

- ▶ **Financing schemes:** The Lebanese landscape has recently witnessed the surge of Venture Capital funds offering entrepreneurs seed and growth capital to grow their businesses. Other more traditional sources of financing available include Kafalat and Central Bank loans. A number of business incubators and accelerators such as BIAT Center, UK Lebanon Tech Hub, and Berytech, also offer financial support along with incubation and training services. *For more information, check out Financing your Business on our website.* www.investinlebanon.gov.lb

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The tech industry's value chain is one of the most globalized and complex chains, with its products supplied by multiple companies and assembled by more than one manufacturer. Lebanon's potential lies in the design of high-end products and the manufacture of specialized components rather than in the mass manufacturing or assembly of equipment.

Figure 7: Industry Value Chain | profit curve



A considerable number of Lebanese small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are taking up the challenge of finding real world solutions and developing new products for the global market. However, the technology sector in Lebanon is still concentrated in very few players and niches, with a large number of promising areas not yet developed.

Ample opportunities exist, therefore, for local and foreign investors to explore, diversify and expand.

As such, Lebanon can act as a product development base, or as an outsourcing base mainly for the design & manufacturing of critical components as well as in services & maintenance. Opportunities thus exist in both ends of the value chain which are the most two profitable segments: Design and Services (Figure 7).

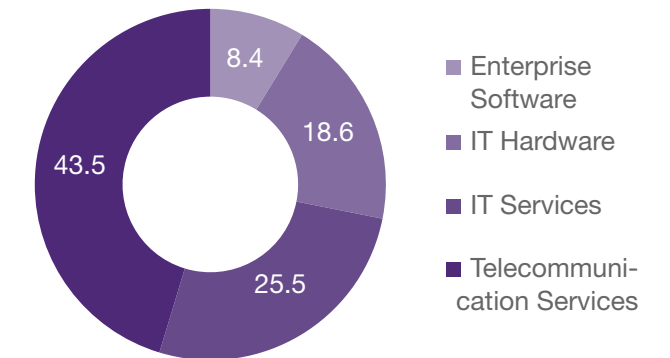
IDAL has identified 3 promising sectors with the potential to mature, mainly:

1. The manufacturing of ICT components, including eleelectronics, semiconductors, etc.
2. The manufacturing of medical technologies
3. Research and Development.

ICT MANUFACTURING

Globally, spending on ICT was estimated at USD 3.7 trillion in 2014, of which 43.5% was spent on telecommunication services, 25.5% on IT services, 18.6% on IT hardware and 8.4% on enterprise software (Figure 8). ICT manufacturing specifically is one of the world's fastest moving industries with very short product life cycles. At present, the world's five largest markets are the US, Japan, China, Germany and the UK. Globalization and the emergence of new markets and technologies have presented profound challenges and threats to the leaders of this sector.

Figure 8: Global ICT Spending % | 2015



Source: Gartner press release, 2015

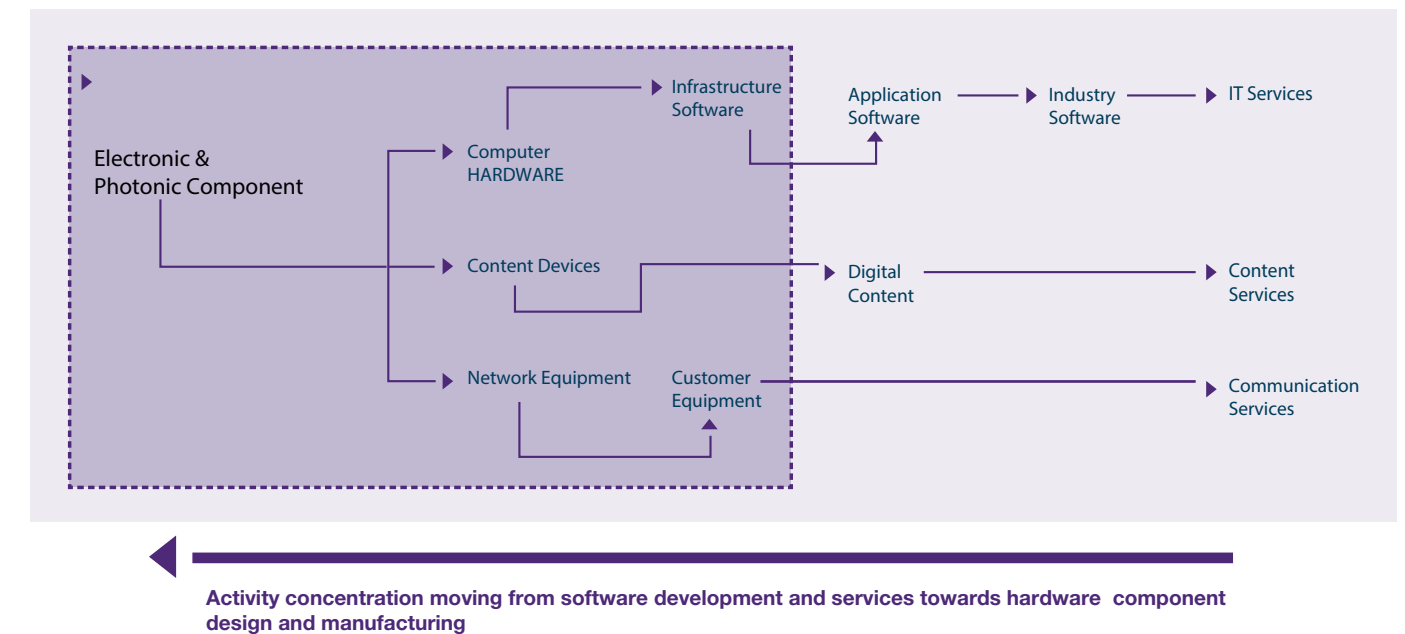
After achieving remarkable success in ICT services and the development of software applications, Lebanon's ICT industry is moving up the value chain.

Opportunities are now emerging in the manufacturing and design of hardware components. These ventures are generally initiated by Lebanese expatriates who relocate their processes to Lebanon, driven by the cost advantage of a talented local labor force. The performance of these companies has been noticeably positive over the last few years and

is expected to break-through in the near future, if the right ecosystem is made available locally.

While a significant progress has been made, the local hardware industry is at its early stages and is concentrated in specific activities and products (Figure 9). At present, activities in the hardware industry include systems concepts and infrastructure software, semiconductor design, design and production of circuit boards, fiber optic cables, electronic components and power supply systems.

Figure 9: Components, IT, Communications, Content and Associated Services Value Chain



INVESTMENTS MEDIATED BY IDAL

IDAL has provided 2 investment projects involved in ICT manufacturing with financial incentives and the needed facilitation services:

IPT Cards

IPT Cards is a Lebanese technology company specializing in the development, manufacture, and sale of cards embedded with integrated circuits, microprocessors, and memory chips. All production stages, from conception through research and development to manufacturing and sales, take place in Lebanon. Target markets are: the Middle East and the Gulf area, Asia and Africa, and Eastern and Central Europe.

USD 5.6 million
43 jobs created

Diamond Segments and Tools

Diamond Segment and Tools is a new Lebanese-Saudi manufacturing company which has acquired the trademark, know-how, and technology for the manufacturing of diamond segments and tools from a leading European firm. 95% of the production is exported to nearly 55 countries, including Germany, France, Italy, Switzerland and the USA, providing high-quality products at low cost.

USD 2 million
28 jobs created

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Lebanon can serve as an outsourcing base for certain companies involved in the semiconductor and communication industries, aiming at maintaining their competitiveness and flexibility.

Based on Lebanon’s competitive advantages, opportunities are mainly concentrated in three areas:

- 1 Design and manufacture of specialized, high end electrical components
- 2 Design and software engineering of hardware equipment and components
- 3 Manufacturing of telecom infrastructure products

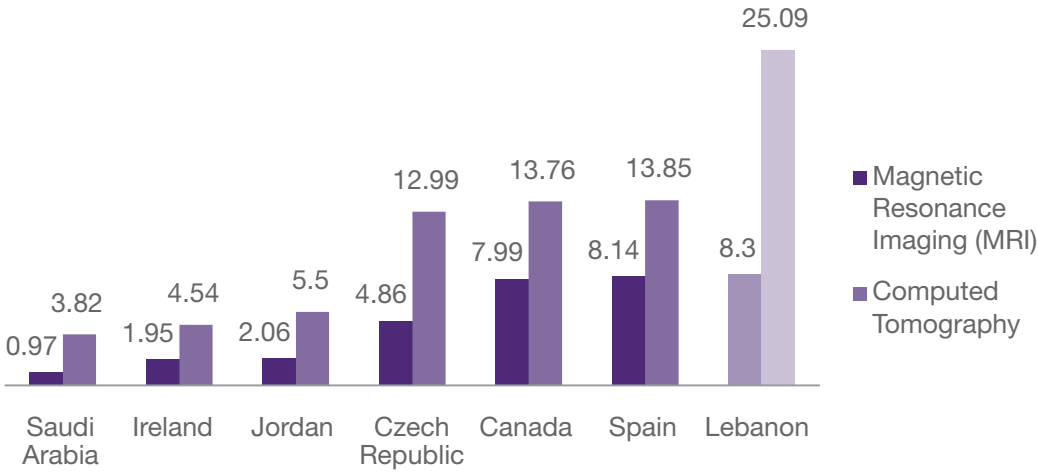
Opportunities exist for Lebanon stemming from the needs in the region for: Arabic and Islamic products, smart devices for the energy and utility sectors, devices and systems for urban and infrastructure management, all of which could be manufactured locally.

MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIES

The medical equipment industry has witnessed explosive growth in recent years. The global market was valued at USD 380 billion in 2014, and growth prospects are rapidly increasing, fueled by rapid technology and science advancements.³ Lebanon’s well developed medical and health infrastructure underlies the country’s potential to offer services ranging from research, product development, design and systems engineering of medical applications. Lebanon’s health care system is mostly privatized and provides a firm foundation for overall market growth. It is characterized by a high ratio of advanced medical equipment per capita, well above most higher-income countries.

The density of MRI equipment in Lebanon, (Figure 10) for example, is 9.54 per million people versus 2.44 in Jordan and 6.67 in Canada, which indicates the strong appetite of the domestic health sector to acquire and develop new technologies. In 2011, the local medical devices market was estimated at USD 271 million with a forecasted compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 11% for the next 4 years, reaching a value of USD 457 million by 2016.⁴ Despite being an important consumer of medical equipment and a major destination for medical tourism, innovators do not only rely on the domestic sector activities, but also export their innovations to both regional and global markets.

Figure 10: Total Density of Medical Equipment per 1,000,000 population | 2013



Source: Source: World Health Organization 2013

Competitive Strengths

Besides the competitive advantages that characterize Lebanon as a technology hub, a number of reasons are specific to the medical technology industry:

1 GROWING REGIONAL DEMAND FOR HEALTHCARE SERVICES AND INCREASING INWARD INVESTMENTS

In 2012, healthcare spending amounted to USD 69.6 billion in the MENA. Investment projects in healthcare infrastructure worth USD 14 billion are already in progress and are mainly concentrated in Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Kuwait.

2 WORLD-CLASS ACADEMIC FRAMEWORK AND STRONG SYNERGY BETWEEN HOSPITALS AND UNIVERSITIES

Most Lebanese medical schools and universities are internationally accredited and boast significant achievements so far in basic and applied research in medical sciences and engineering. Universities have also developed very close linkages between the country’s top hospital and medical institutions, facilitating technology and skills transfer.

3 HIGH CONCENTRATION & SPECIALIZATION IN MEDICAL RESEARCH

Fundamental biology and medical research are among the top 3 disciplines that have witnessed the biggest increase in the number of scientific publications over the past years. Medical articles constitute the highest share of published articles that are produced in Lebanon for international journals.

³ Pwc Health Research Institute 2013

⁴ Research and Markets

4 HIGHLY EDUCATED GRADUATES AND RESEARCHERS AT COMPETITIVE COSTS

Lebanon is characterized by the highest ratio of doctors to population (35 per 10,000 people) in the region and one of the highest in the world, with 85% of Lebanese physicians having received at least one specialization.

5 A WELL-DEVELOPED HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

The medical technology industry is backed by developed pharmaceutical and clinical industries. The local clinical industry is one of the most active clinical industries in the Middle East. The pharmaceutical sector enjoys a strong presence of large international pharmaceutical companies and a market value equal to USD 1.28 Billion in 2012. In all, health expenditures constituted 7.2% of Lebanon's GDP in 2013, compared to a MENA average of 4.5% and 9.3% for European countries.

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

The R&D potential in Lebanon is not yet fully explored. The last estimation of R&D personnel and expenditures dates from 2006, during which around 750 researchers were active in R&D activities with an estimated budget of USD 55 million. This is equal to 0.22% of the country's GDP that year, a percentage comparable to the regional average (0.2%) but well below the average in Europe (1.85% in 2007). However, Lebanon has the fundamentals to move along the path of innovation. The large number and unique specialization of scientific publications indicate that Lebanon enjoys a substantial scientific infrastructure and has the capacity to innovate and develop new products, whenever investments are made available. Lebanon enjoys a flourishing scientific and technological community embedded in 41 universities and higher education institutions, of which 12 include science and/or technology faculties, and 6 research centers.

.....
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INVESTMENTS MEDIATED BY IDAL



Cynoprod is a company specializing in the production of dental products which has selected Lebanon to cater for a growing regional market in the dental industry. This project benefited from the Investment Project Incentives offered by IDAL.

USD 675,000
10 jobs created

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Lebanon offers great potential in product development, supported by a set of competitive advantages in the complementary industries of the medical technology sector such as software engineering and development. An example of a breakthrough startup is CardioDiagnostics which offers state-of-the-art technology to monitor

cardiac patients through their daily lifestyles for cardiac abnormalities. CardioDiagnostics received international attention when it was announced as the winner of the Global Innovation through Science and Technology GISTech-I Competition and received funds from various international foundations.



INNOVATIVE WORKFORCE AND OPEN ECONOMY

The large inflow of foreign direct investments into the country since 2006 made the Lebanese economy the most open and internationalized among all the countries in the region, in terms of FDI/GDP and FDI/capita. Although still relatively small as an R&D base, the level of openness positively impacted the quality of technology transfer and the globalization of the Lebanese workforce.

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Over the past years, Lebanon developed a strong and increasing specialization in medical science, as a result of close links and partnerships between academic institutions, hospitals and research centers. Another area of specialization is agricultural sciences, with significant progress made as a result of new investments in the sector, mainly the opening of the Agricultural Sciences Department at the American University of Beirut.

MAIN STAKEHOLDERS

► **The National Council for Scientific Research (CNRS)** aims at promoting, coordinating and developing the scientific research capabilities in Lebanon, and runs various integrated action programs and manages 4 research centers, which are linked to regional and international networks for implementation of collaborative programs. The CNRS also manages a number of funding schemes in collaboration with other governments and institutes. Examples are Programme Cedre, The Grant Research program (GRP), which benefited more than 600 projects over the past few years.

Other government initiatives exist for the development and consolidation of a knowledge-based economy:

► **The Industrial Research Institute (IRI):** IRI is a not-for-profit institution under the Ministry of Industry, specializing in industrial research and scientific testing and analysis.

► **The Lebanese Industrial Research Achievements (LIRA):** the LIRA program aims at bringing together academic and industrial expertise by building effective cooperation and matching the activities of universities and research centers with the needs of the various industries. It also promotes, through training programs and partnerships, innovations resulting in increased competitiveness and productivity of the industrial sector.

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Science Technology and Innovation Plan developed by representatives of universities and national organizations identified a number of opportunities in 3 specific areas:

- 1 Industry and engineering
- 2 Environment and agriculture
- 3 Medicine and health care

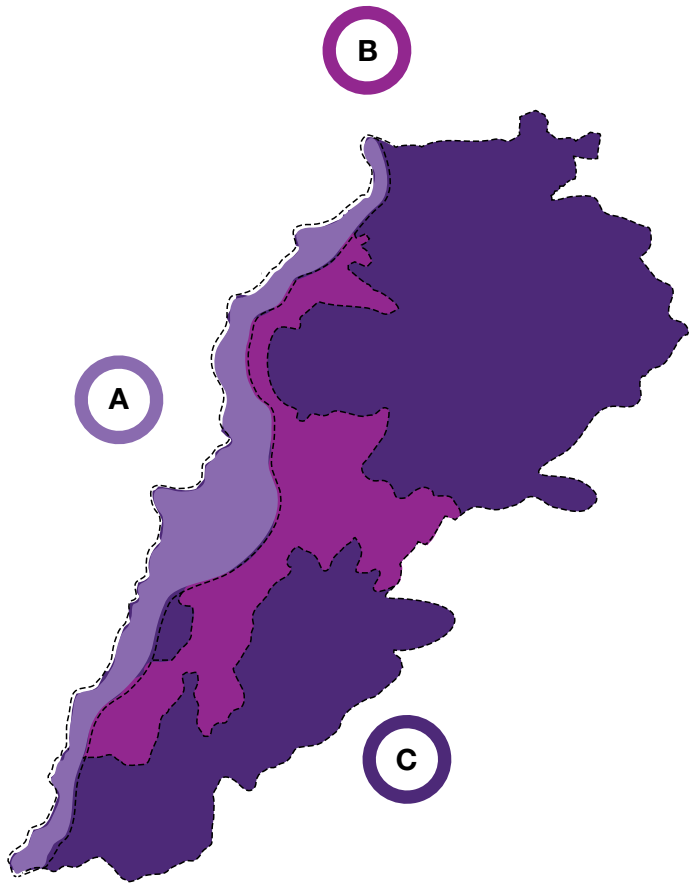
In a regional context and given Lebanon’s competitive edges in the field of medical sciences, health care and medical innovations will constitute a main pillar of the Lebanese science and technology base. Environmental technologies are also increasing in popularity among research centers with the promising future of renewable energy innovations.

INCENTIVES AVAILABLE TO PROJECTS IN THE TECHNOLOGY SECTOR

1. INCENTIVES PROVIDED BY IDAL

a. Region Based Incentives or Investment Project by Zone (IPZ)

Due to the importance of this sector to the economy, all projects located in Zone A and B benefit from Zone C exemptions which provides the maximum amount of incentives to projects.



Zone C

Eligibility Criteria:
Minimum Investment Requirement is USD 200,000

Incentives:

- **A 100% exemption from corporate income tax and taxes on project dividends for a period of 10 years.** The exemption shall be applicable as soon as excavation works for the project commence, in accordance with the provisions of the Law
- **Work permits for various categories,** exclusively needed for the project, provided that at least two Lebanese nationals are employed for each foreigner. All employees should be registered with the National Social Security Fund

b. Region Based Incentives or Package Deal Contract (PDC)

Eligibility Criteria:

Minimum Investment Requirement is USD 400,000

Minimum Number of Jobs Required: 25

Incentives:

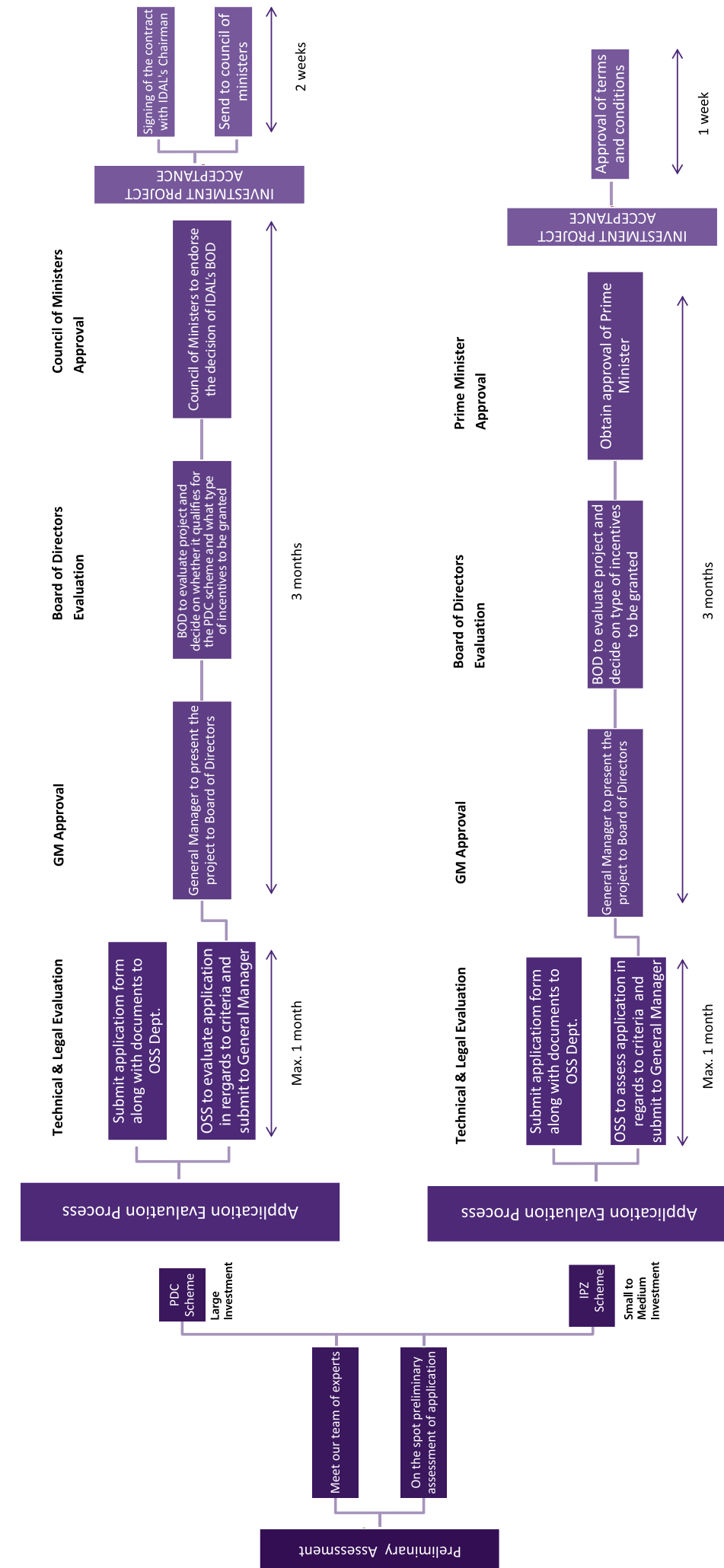
- ▶ **100% exemption from Corporate Income Taxes for up to ten years** starting as from the commencement date of the exploitation of the project
- ▶ **100% exemption of Taxes on Project Dividends for up to ten years** starting as from the commencement date of the exploitation of the project
- ▶ **Up to 50% Reduction on Work and Residency Permit Fees** regardless of their category and depending on the number of permits required. Also the value of the certificate of deposit entrusted to the Housing Bank shall be reduced by half
- ▶ **Up to 50% Reduction on Construction Permit Fees** related to the buildings to be established & needed for the execution of the project benefiting from the provisions of the Package Deal Contract
- ▶ **100% exemption from Land Registration Fees** at the Real Estate Register and from fees needed for annexation, sub-division, mortgage and registration of lease contracts at the Real Estate Register
- ▶ **Obtaining Work Permits** of all categories provided that the project benefiting of the Package Deal Contract preserves the interests of the local labor force through employing at least two Lebanese nationals against one foreigner, and registering them in the National Fund for Social Security
- ▶ **Exemption from the obligation of including** Lebanese natural and legal persons in the Board of Directors in Joint Stock companies



Additional Requirements to Benefit from these Incentives

- At least 60% of the workforce generated by this project needs to be skilled
- The project needs to allocate at least 3% from its total sales on research & development

3. APPLICATION PROCESS AT IDAL





CONTACT US

If you require any further information on investing in Lebanon or on the services IDAL can offer you, please do not hesitate to contact us at the following:

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