

Oracle Announces Gulf Expansion Plans

[American technology billionaire Larry Ellison](#) plans to establish four more Oracle data centers in the Gulf within the next 15 months, he announced at the [company's annual user conference](#) in San Francisco on Monday.

Larry Ellison cofounded software firm [Oracle](#) in 1977 to tap into the growing need for customer relationship management databases. He gave up the Oracle CEO role in 2014 but still serves as chairman of the board and chief technology officer.

[Statista reports](#) that the public cloud services market in the Middle East and North Africa is projected to grow to \$1.9 billion by 2020, double what it was in 2016. Named as [one of the world's most valuable brands](#), Oracle launched its first data center in the Middle East in Abu Dhabi earlier this year to offer cloud storage to customers across the region and tap into the evolving and lucrative market in the MENA region.

To support its customers across the world, the company will launch 20 new cloud data hubs called "regions" worldwide by the end of 2020 in the US, Canada, Brazil, the UK, EU, Japan, South Korea, Australia, and India, among others. "Enterprise customers worldwide require geographically distributed regions for true business continuity, disaster protection, and regional compliance requirements. Multiple availability domains within a region will not address this issue," elaborated Don Johnson, EVP, Oracle Cloud Infrastructure.

The California-based technology firm also announced [Oracle Cloud Free Tier](#), for anyone to try the world's self-driving database and Oracle cloud Infrastructure for an unlimited time. While other hyper-scale cloud vendors provide a free 12-month trial of their relational database and then start charging, Oracle's Always Free Autonomous Database remains free for as long as it is used. This free version of its cloud infrastructure will give developers and students access to the company's autonomous data warehouse, computing and storage.

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