

Bahrain and U.S. Sign \$17 Billion in Trade Deals to Strengthen Economic Alliance

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Bahrain and several U.S. companies have signed agreements worth approximately \$17 billion aimed at reinforcing economic cooperation between the two nations. The deals were announced during the visit of Bahraini Crown Prince and Prime Minister Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa to Washington, underscoring the strategic and commercial ties between Bahrain and the United States.

The new partnerships span multiple sectors, including digital infrastructure, technology, telecommunications, and aluminium production. One of the headline agreements involves Cisco Systems, which will assist Bahrain in upgrading its digital government infrastructure. Another key initiative includes the construction of an 800-kilometer submarine fiber-optic cable that will link Bahrain with neighboring countries, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Iraq, strengthening regional internet connectivity and data security.

In addition, Bahrain's private sector and financial institutions have pledged over \$10 billion in investments across the U.S. economy. Bahrain's sovereign wealth fund, Mumtalakat, also committed \$2 billion toward downstream aluminium manufacturing projects in the United States, aimed at creating jobs and increasing American production capabilities.

These agreements build upon a comprehensive economic and security partnership signed between the two countries in 2023. Bahrain, which hosts the U.S. Navy's Fifth Fleet and Naval Forces Central Command, continues to play a pivotal role in U.S. regional defense strategy. Crown Prince Salman emphasized that these commercial deals not only reflect shared economic goals but also represent a broader commitment to mutual prosperity.

From a strategic standpoint, the agreement benefits both sides: American firms gain access to capital and foreign markets, while Bahrain strengthens its role as a regional investment hub and key U.S. ally in the Gulf.

This model, grounded in private-sector collaboration rather than taxpayer-funded programs, illustrates a fiscally responsible approach to foreign engagement. The emphasis on infrastructure, manufacturing, and digital development fits into a broader economic framework that prioritizes innovation, job creation, and long-term investment over short-term spending.

In essence, the \$17 billion in deals mark a significant milestone in U.S.–Bahrain relations, showcasing how diplomatic partnerships rooted in economic pragmatism can yield measurable results for industries and workers on both sides of the globe.