

Mr Ali Asghar
Founder and CEO
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Ali has nearly 20 years of experience in banking, private equity and management. Currently Ali is the founder and CEO of Emerging Circle, an Internet based platform to facilitate crowd sourced debt funding for small and medium enterprises, initially in the United Arab Emirates and over time in the broader emerging markets. Previously, Ali established and headed up the Dubai office for Lazard, a publicly traded US investment bank, where he led a number of M&A, debt advisory and fund raising transactions in the Gulf region across various industry sectors.

Prior to Lazard, Ali was with Time Warner, where he set up the M&A group for America Online and was General Manager of the Citywide WiFi and Wireless Broadband group. He started his carrier in the United States with McKinsey & Co and subsequently worked at Warburg Pincus and Morgan Stanley, all in New York City. He has worked on transactions with an aggregate value of over \$6 billion.

Ali has a B.A. in Finance and B.Sc. in Computer Engineering from the University of Pennsylvania and MBA from Harvard Business School and AM in Middle Eastern Studies from Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.