DGCX Introduces GCC's First Same-Day Physical Gold Contract

The Dubai Gold & Commodities Exchange (DGCX) has launched the Gulf region's first Same-Day (T+0) Physical Gold Contract, marking a significant milestone in the evolution of Middle Eastern precious metals trading. The new framework enables institutional participants to complete trade matching, clearing and physical ownership transfer within the same trading day, strengthening Dubai's position as a leading global bullion hub.

Traditionally, physical gold trading in the region has relied on bilateral Over-the-Counter (OTC) transactions, which offer flexibility but often involve non-standardized pricing, credit exposure and delayed settlement. DGCX's regulated exchange-based model introduces greater transparency, standardization and operational efficiency.

Under the T+0 framework, bullion is pre-verified, assayed and stored in DGCX-approved vaults before trading begins. Once orders are matched, the exchange's Central Counterparty (CCP) simultaneously clears the transaction and transfers Electronic Vault Receipts (EVRs), enabling buyers to obtain legal ownership—or take physical delivery of certified gold bars—before the end of the trading day. This significantly reduces settlement risk, improves liquidity and releases working capital that would otherwise remain tied up during traditional T+2 or T+3 settlement cycles.

The contract is backed exclusively by Dubai Good Delivery (DGD) or equivalent LBMA-accredited one-kilogram, 999.9 fine gold bars maintained within a secure and fully documented chain of custody. This removes the need for repeated assaying and supports seamless ownership transfers.

Beyond improving operational efficiency, the new contract is expected to strengthen regional price discovery by reducing pricing inefficiencies between Dubai, London and COMEX markets. It also aligns well with Sharia-compliant finance by supporting immediate asset-backed settlement.

By combining exchange-cleared security with the speed of same-day physical settlement, DGCX has introduced an important innovation that enhances liquidity, reduces counterparty risk and reinforces Dubai's role as one of the world's premier centres for physical gold trading.