

QATAR NATIONAL RESEARCH FUND AWARDS EXCEPTIONAL GRANT FOR SOLAR ENERGY APPLICATIONS RESEARCH

Project By Qatar Environment And Energy Research Institute Provides Innovative Solution To Energy Harvesting

Doha, 9 May 2015: Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF), a member of Qatar Foundation Research and Development (QF R&D), has awarded a grant for research on the applications of solar energy to Qatar Environment and Energy Research Institute (QEERI), a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Research Development (QF).

Awarded under QNRF's National Priorities Research Program – Exceptional Proposals (NPRP-EP), the project entitled '*Coherent Energy Transfer in Novel Excitonic Materials for Solar Energy Applications*' provides an innovative solution to the global question of energy harvesting. The study promises to revolutionise the field of solar cells, placing Qatar at the forefront of a niche and critical research area.

By continuing to invest in cutting-edge science, QNRF aims to enhance Qatar's research culture in support of QF's mission to build the nation's innovation and technology capacity, and help Qatar develop into a hub of research excellence.

"The grant awarded to QEERI in the latest batch of the NPRP-EP is truly exceptional as it has the potential to place Qatar at the vanguard of the sustainable energy sector. Not only does it address one of the grand challenges outlined in the Qatar National Research Strategy (QNRS), but it also attempts to solve some of the issues facing the commercialisation of solar energy, and could have a global impact" said Dr Abdul Sattar Al-Taie, Executive Director at QNRF.

"QNRF has developed several programmes, one of which is the NPRP-EP, in order to nurture Qatar's research environment by supporting science that seeks to address the key areas and grand challenges outlined in the QNRS," he added.

Led by Dr Sabre Kais, a Principal Investigator for computation and theory at QEERI, the project seeks to provide the means to surmount obstacles inherent in known bulk semiconductor devices using 'excitonics'. The technology has the potential to make a significant impact not only on the development of solar cells, but also on the next generation optoelectronics and photonics - where the fundamental issue is the efficient transport of energy over long distances.



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“The NPRP-EP grant offers increased support beyond those available under the NPRP to projects that are world-class and of great importance to Qatar, with the potential for high-impact outcomes as they address the QNRS,” said Noor Al-Merekhi, NPRP Programme Manager.

For more information about the NPRP-EP and QNRF’s various capacity-building programs, visit: www.qnrf.org

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About Qatar Foundation Research and Development (QF R&D)

Leading Qatar’s vision to become an international centre for research and development excellence and innovation, QF R&D is home to Qatar Science & Technology Park, a world-class hub for technology innovation and commercialisation, as well as Qatar National Research Fund, a globally renowned scientific research funding organisation.

About Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF)

Driven by the aim of fostering a culture of research in Qatar, QNRF was established in 2006 to advance knowledge and education by acting as a support system for researchers. It is a member within the Research & Development establishment at Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development.

QNRF administers funding for original, competitively selected research and furthers collaborations within academia, the public, governmental and non-governmental sectors through effective, mutually beneficial partnerships. While QNRF actively seeks internationally recognised researchers, it is dedicated to funding research that meets the needs of Qatar. For more information, visit: www.qnrf.org

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