

## Top Twelve Young Arab Innovators Chosen as Candidates on *Stars of Science* on MBC4

**Doha, 7<sup>th</sup> October 2014:** Twelve of the Arab world's most promising innovators have been chosen as candidates on Qatar Foundation's "edutainment reality" TV program *Stars of Science* on MBC4. The selection, which is a turning point in the sixth season of the popular program, marks the end of the casting phase and the beginning of a series of intensive project development stages where candidates will refine their ideas and compete against each other to become *Stars of Science* finalists.

The candidates, who have been hailed as the program's most diverse and talented group to date, originate from nine Arab countries in the Middle East and North Africa region. Their projects address issues in a broad range of fields including solar energy, mobile phone technology, personal health and sport. In the fourth episode, candidates' triumphant, emotional reactions were caught on camera when they were notified of their selection in a phone call from *Stars of Science* jurors.

In its sixth season, *Stars of Science* will debut a new format aimed at increasing competition, pitting small groups of innovators against each other for the chance to turn their ideas into reality. For the upcoming engineering stage, candidates are divided into blue, red or purple groups. Each group of four candidates works in the same room throughout the engineering stage, fostering a sense of both teamwork and friendly rivalry. At the conclusion of the stage, a jury comprised of prominent tech experts and industry leaders examines candidates' projects and selects the best two to progress to the next stage.

Mohammed Al Housani of Qatar with his Efficient Solar Energy System will compete against Khaled Alsulaim of Saudi Arabia with his Phone-to-Phone Battery Charger, Johnny Khalil of Lebanon with his Active Rugby Scrum Machine and Weam Mohammed of Sudan with her Non-Invasive Malaria Tester in the blue group.

Walaa Aniba of Tunisia and her Smart Headphones was placed in the red group with Rania Bou Jaoudeh of Lebanon with her Automatic Zucchini Corer, Ousama Dghaish of Jordan with his Car Refueling Tester and Ahmad Kurdi of Saudi Arabia with his Pool Warning System.

Riham Helmi of Egypt with her UV Sanitizer Mobile Cover will be joined in the purple group by Thieab Al Dossary of Bahrain with his Tactile Communication Bracelet, Sultan Al Subhi of Oman with his Wudu Area Robotic Cleaner and Thamer Al Askar of Saudi Arabia with his Virtual Sports Fan.

"These twelve individuals, who stood out among thousands of applicants considered in the *Stars of Science* international casting tour, are among the most talented, motivated and idea-driven young people in the region," noted Youssif Abdulrahman Al-Salhi, perennial juror and General Manager of Qatar Shell Research and Technology Centre. "*Stars of Science* aims to build interest in science and technology as well as accelerate the development of the region's next generation of innovators. I strongly believe that the candidates, by achieving their own aspirations, will inspire youth in their own countries to become interested in science and technology."

*Stars of Science* has launched a new website that allows fans to enrich their viewing experience with web exclusives, episode recaps and candidate profiles. The website is an interactive hub for technology-related discussion and helps Arab innovators connect with resources and each other.

Khaled Al Jumaily is reprising his role as host of *Stars of Science* for Season 6. For the first time, he is joined by Haneen Al Naqdi, who is co-hosting the program. Further insights into the candidates can be

seen in daily episodes starting Sunday, 5 October 2014 at 4.30 PM KSA/ 1 PM GMT on MBC 4. The first engineering elimination episode will be aired on 11 October 2014 at 8 PM KSA/ 5 PM GMT on MBC 4. Season 6 will culminate in a live final in which voting from the public and jury deliberation will determine the final outcome.

For more information please visit:

Website - [www.starsofscience.com](http://www.starsofscience.com)

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/StarsofScienceTV>

Twitter - <https://twitter.com/starsofscience>

Youtube- <http://www.youtube.com/user/Starsofsciencetv>

Instagram- starsofsciencetv

### **Stars of Science**

*Stars of Science* is an original TV format, initiated by Qatar Foundation, which encourages the Arab world's aspiring science and technology innovators. In this sixth season, 12 candidates are challenged to prove their resourcefulness during critical stages of the innovation cycle with an expert panel of academic jurors and industry leaders. Eliminations take place in Engineering and Design episodes until only four projects remain. These four finalists vie for a share of a \$600,000 prize, determined by a jury deliberation and voting from the public.

**The program airs from Saturday, September 13th to Saturday, November 15th 2014 on MBC4**

### **Qatar Foundation – Unlocking Human Potential**

Qatar Foundation for Education, Science, and Community Development (QF) is a private, non-profit organisation that is supporting Qatar on its journey from a carbon economy to knowledge economy by unlocking human potential, for the benefit of not only Qatar, but the world. Founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Emir, QF is chaired by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser.

QF's work encompasses education, research and community development. World-class universities are brought to Qatar to help create an education sector in which young people can develop the attitudes and skills required for a knowledge economy. At the same time, QF builds Qatar's innovation and technology capacity by developing and commercializing solutions through key sciences. The Foundation also works to foster a progressive society while enhancing cultural life, protecting Qatar's heritage and addressing immediate social needs in the community.

**For a complete list of QF's initiatives and projects, visit <http://www.qf.org.qa>**

## About MBC Group

MBC Group is the first private free-to-air satellite broadcasting company in the Arab World which was launched in London in 1991 and later moved to its headquarters in Dubai in 2002. Over the past 23 years, MBC Group has grown to become a well-established media group that enriches people's lives through information, interaction and entertainment. Based in Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates, MBC Group includes 18 television channels: **MBC1** (general family entertainment); **MBC2 and MBC MAX** (24-hour western movies); **MBC3** (children's edutainment with a mix of both local productions and western acquisitions); **MBC4** (entertainment for young families with women at its core while leaning more towards local content productions); **MBC Action** (an indigenous adrenaline-packed channel targeting young males with local and homegrown productions); **MBC Variety** (Western general entertainment and movie channel broadcasting uninterrupted premium western films and series); **Al Arabiya** (the 24-hour Arabic language news channel); **Al Hadath** (an extension of Al Arabiya News Channel with specific focus on actual happening events in the Arab world and beyond); **Wanasah** (24-hour Arabic music channel); **MBC DRAMA** (24/7 Arabic Drama); **MBC MASR** (general family entertainment channel geared towards the Egyptian family); **MBC + Drama** (paid channel on OSN and a joint channel between MBC & OSN); **MBC Bollywood** (delivering the freshest in Bollywood content geared towards the region via an Arabized interface); and most recently 4 sports channels- **MBC PRO SPORTS** (geared towards Saudi Football League fans in the Kingdom). The Group also includes two radio stations: **MBC FM** (Gulf music), and **Panorama FM** (contemporary Arabic hit music); as well as **O3 productions**, a specialized production unit. Furthermore, the Group includes online platforms: [www.mbc.net](http://www.mbc.net), [www.alarabiya.net](http://www.alarabiya.net), [www.shahid.net](http://www.shahid.net) (the first free VOD and catch up portal in the Arab world) and [www.actionha.net](http://www.actionha.net), and [www.mbcprosports.net](http://www.mbcprosports.net) among others. As of July 2011, seven of MBC Group's channels began to air in HD across the MENA Region: MBC 1 HD, MBC 2 HD, MBC 4 HD, MBC Action HD, MBC Drama HD, MBC Max HD and Al Arabiya HD News Channel. In 2013, MBC 3 HD was added to this bouquet, and in 2014 MBC Variety was also added.