



LOCAL AND GLOBAL BUSINESSES BACK QATAR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PARK'S BIGGEST EVENT OF THE YEAR IN DOHA

Qatar Foundation Member Reveals Line Up Of Global Sponsors For World Conference On Science Parks Hosted In The Arab World For First Time

Doha, 16 October 2014:– Qatar Foundation Research & Development's Qatar Science & Technology Park (QSTP) announced today that Qatar Petroleum, Qatar Financial Centre Authority, Qatar Airways and ExxonMobil are among those supporting the 31st International Association of Science Parks and Areas of Innovation World Conference (IASP 2014 Doha), Qatar's biggest innovation event of the year.

In support of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development to build Qatar's innovation and technology capacity through research in education and science, QSTP unveiled the list of those supporting and exhibiting at IASP 2014 Doha – a global gathering of science and technology park heads who set the innovation agenda.

The annual event, which is being hosted in the Arab world for the first time, has also generated significant interest and support from the regional and international innovation community.

The Skolkovo Innovation Centre – a high technology business park near the Russian capital Moscow, Russia, comes on board as Gold Sponsor; Qatar Petroleum is named Silver Sponsor; and Qatar Financial Centre Authority and Turkey's Teknopark Istanbul, a renowned innovation hub in the region, are the Bronze Sponsors.

National carrier Qatar Airways is the Official Carrier while ExxonMobil has been named as Lunch Sponsor.

Commenting on IASP 2014 Doha and the sponsors, Hamad Al-Kuwari, Managing Director of QSTP and Head of the IASP 2014 Organising Committee, said: "Science parks are where innovation and business meet – a place top global companies, government and researchers gather to plant, grow and harvest the next big ideas in science and technology.

"We are grateful to each of our sponsors – in Qatar and internationally – for supporting an event that helps set the innovation agenda around the world.

“Having hosted this annual conference 30 times before, it is significant that the International Association of Science and Technology Parks members chose Qatar to host this year’s global event – underscoring the growing importance and leadership of QSTP and the region in driving science and technology research and innovation.”

The four-day event, which begins on October 19, takes place at the Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC), one of the most sophisticated convention and exhibition centres in the world, with state-of-the-art facilities, cutting edge technology and iconic design.

The IASP 2014 pre-conference seminar begins on Sunday 19 October at the QNCC, with the opening ceremony on 20 October. YouTube Co-founder Chad Hurley will open the conference proceedings by addressing dignitaries, global innovation chiefs and students. For a full list of conference speakers please visit: <http://www.iasp2014doha.com/speakers-list>. Follow @QSTP on Twitter for live updates from the event.

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Notes to Editors:

About IASP 2014 Doha

IASP 2014 Doha is the 31st Annual World Conference of the International Association of Science Parks and Areas of Innovation. In 2012, Qatar Science & Technology Park won a competitive bid to host the conference, marking the first time it will take place in the Arab world. QSTP was selected because of its vision to create a vibrant culture of innovation and entrepreneurship – part of a wider and profound transformation of Qatar’s national economy. Hundreds of innovation leaders representing 54 countries will attend the event.

About Qatar Science & Technology Park

Qatar Science & Technology Park (QSTP), part of Qatar Foundation Research and Development (QF R&D), is Qatar’s primary incubator for technology development, fostering the environment required for accelerating commercialisation of research and supporting innovation and entrepreneurship. QSTP focuses on four themes as per the Qatar National Research Strategy (QNRS) announced in 2012; Energy, Environment, Health Sciences and Information & Communication Technologies. QSTP is located in Qatar Foundation’s Education City and has access to the resources of its cluster of

 leading research universities.

Members within the QSTP Free Zone include SMEs, international corporations and research institutions, which have collectively committed to investing in new programs, creating intellectual property, enhancing technology management skills and developing innovative new products in line with the QNRS. QSTP supports QF R&D's economic and human development objectives for Qatar and is increasingly being recognised as an international hub for applied research, innovation, incubation and entrepreneurship.

For more information, please visit the QSTP website at www.qstp.org.qa.

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 (QSTP), a world-class hub for technology innovation and commercialisation, as well as the Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF), a globally renowned scientific research funding organization, and prominent research institutes operating at the frontiers of science, including Qatar Biomedical Research Institute (QBRI), Qatar Computing Research Institute (QCRI) and Qatar Energy and Environment Research Institute (QEERI).

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