



Search for Arab World's Best Innovator Continues in Epic Season 9 of *Stars of Science*

Qatar Foundation science initiative sets the stage for Arab youth to build innovation legacy

Doha, Qatar, September 21, 2017 – *Stars of Science* is back! The number one Arabic reality TV show driving interest in science and innovation among Arab youth returns this Saturday for a ninth season. The Qatar Foundation (QF) science initiative goes to the limit to find, mentor, and enable the finest young innovators in the Arab region today. And an all-new jury line up and special appearances by popular alumni will keep viewers on the edge of their seats.

Stars of Science sees ambitious candidates develop innovations that will help improve lives and benefit communities. Dreamers and doers will compete to make their mark on the world through science and innovation, but their adventure lasts only if they impress the jury and convince their audiences. It's a competition of brain over brawn, resilience over strength, with only one candidate crowned the Arab world's top innovator at the end of a grueling 10-week season.

Success on *Stars of Science* does not come easy. Thousands of hopefuls come out swinging for a spot on the show, and the extraordinary opportunity is not just sought by the geeky. The show has seen them all - the adventurers, the philosophers, and the money-makers. They do have one thing in common though: a passion for problem-solving that's larger than life. Four finalists will survive elimination rounds for a share of a cash prize of USD 600,000, ranked by jury and public online votes in the final week of airing.

Khalifa Al Kubaisi, Head of Press Office, QF, said: "The objective of *Stars of Science* is to bring about positive change. It serves as an accelerator for developing new products that benefit the communities we live in. Building innovation capabilities in the Arab world is very much needed. The TV show offers a thought-provoking glimpse into amazing talents, pushing boundaries to make that happen. They are bold and brave, but we also see them struggle with setbacks and obstacles. By encouraging young Arabs to become science and technology problem-solvers, we cultivate a culture of innovation and progress."

Throughout the season, *Stars of Science* innovators must satisfy a three-headed jury to avoid elimination. The formidable Professor Fouad Mrad returns, as does his partner-in-crime, the shrewd Professor Abdelhamid El-Zoheiry. The new addition of cool-as-ice visionary Dr. Khalid M. Al-Ali promises to bring a laser sharp focus to the group.

Professor Mrad said: "*Stars of Science* has developed into a powerful platform to supercharge innovative ideas and transform them into cutting-edge products. The show has been instrumental in shedding light on the endless possibilities of science in everyday life. The number of young Arabs filing for patents, starting businesses, and developing new products after participating on the show is testimony to this. They have set the bar high, so the new batch of innovators better roll up their sleeves. I'm planning to



disturb their calm seas and excite their spirit. No doubt the magnificent Professor Zoheiry and first-time juror Dr. Al-Ali will throw in a few surprises of their own.”

Stars of Science features 10 fast-paced episodes that challenge all innovators to outperform their fellow competitors. Episodes are grouped into four rounds: casting, prototyping, customer validation, and the finale. The winner, determined by a combination of jury and public online voting, receives USD \$300,000 in funding for their groundbreaking idea, while finalists in second, third, and fourth places will be awarded USD \$150,000, USD \$100,000, and USD \$50,000, respectively.

Stars of Science has a strong track record of empowering pan-Arab innovators and problem-solvers, catapulting brilliant ideas into successful projects and businesses. The show equips innovators with the knowledge and skills to become the entrepreneurs, researchers, and scientists of the future. Since launching in 2008, *Stars of Science* alumni have raised USD \$14,545,918 independently through revenues, venture capital, and research grants. They have established more than 19 businesses around the region and have volunteered their time to encourage and inspire tens of thousands of Arab youth across the region. *Stars of Science* alumni have also been involved in workshops, talks, and community building activities that include maker spaces, schools, and traveling fabrication laboratories.

The show will be aired on different TV channels across the region. For a full broadcast guide, please visit www.starsofscience.com

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Stars of Science

Stars of Science, the flagship “edutainment reality” TV format initiated by Qatar Foundation, is the Arab world’s leading innovation show that enables the region’s aspiring science and technology entrepreneurs.

Throughout the season nine innovators are challenged to develop creative solutions to regional problems within the fields of computing & information technology, energy, environment, and health. An expert panel of jurors assesses and eliminates innovators and their projects in Prototyping and Customer Validation episodes until only four remain. These four finalists vie for a share of \$600,000 in funding, determined by a jury deliberation and online voting from the public.

Stars of Science airs every Saturday on XXX at Xm KSA / Xpm GMT starting September XX till November XX 2017.

Qatar Foundation – Unlocking Human Potential

Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF) is a non-profit organization that supports Qatar on its journey to becoming a diversified and sustainable economy. QF strives to serve the people of Qatar and beyond by providing specialized programs across its innovation-focused ecosystem of education, research and development, and community development.

QF was founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Emir, and Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, who shared the vision to provide Qatar with quality education. Today, QF’s world-class education system offers lifelong learning opportunities to community members as young as six months through to doctoral level, enabling graduates to thrive in a global environment and contribute to the nation’s development.

QF is also creating a multidisciplinary innovation hub in Qatar, where homegrown researchers are working to address local and global research and development challenges. By promoting a culture of lifelong learning and fostering social engagement through programs that embody Qatari culture, QF is committed to empowering the local community and contributing to a better world for all.

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