



Press Release

Top Four Candidates Enter *Stars of Science* Finale

Finalists in the running for total of \$600,000 prize money

Doha, November 2 2013: With one week to go before the finale, Qatar Foundation's science and technology edutainment reality TV program *Stars of Science*, on MBC4, revealed the final four candidates of the competition who made it through a challenging round of pitches in the Semi-Final Business stage.

The four finalists competing for their share of the total \$600,000 prize money are:

• MOHAMMED DOUMIR	Algeria	28	<i>Dr. Doumir</i> - Camel Racing Diagnostic Boots
• MOHAMMED AL KUWARI	Qatar	29	<i>I7</i> - Automated Verdict in Disputed Football Scoring
• SHERIF YAHIA	Egypt	27	<i>Sawti</i> - Speech Synthesizer for the Language Impaired
• WALEED JAN	KSA	24	<i>Re-braille</i> - Mechanical Braille Editor

During the Business phase, five candidates were assessed on their innovation's business model, market analysis and understanding as well as how they communicated and pitched their ideas by *Stars of Science's* prestigious panel of business judges. The judging panel included James Woudhuysen, Professor of Forecasting and Innovation at the De Montfort University in Leicester, Ms. Noora Al Mannai, former Chief Executive Officer of Enterprise Qatar and Nasser Al Khater, Communications and Marketing Director for the Qatar 2022 Supreme Committee.

Anwar Almojarkesh from Syria, part of the top five candidates and inventor of *Safe and Sound*, the assistive pillow for hearing impaired people, was beaten by a narrow margin following a heated debate with the Jury.

Ms. Noora Al Mannai commented on this year's finalists: "This year, the candidates' ideas were more mature and the quality of products much more convincing. I am proud to say that the candidates have really taken advantage of the resources provided to them especially given the fact that they had such a short period of time to improve their prototypes. All of the products are so clear, simple yet in demand and innovative – I fully believe each candidate has the potential to give back to their society."

Mr. Nasser El Khater, Executive Director of Marketing and Communications of the Qatar 2020 Supreme Committee, added: "What each candidate should remember is that they don't need to win this competition to be successful; all candidates have ideas that are viable and commercial. This isn't something they should give up on right now just because they didn't make it through to the final four. Regardless of who wins, each candidate needs to focus and continue developing their ideas and business plan, as well as speak to potential investors. I believe that Arabs are inventive and creative and applaud programmes such as *Stars of Science* who provide these young innovators with the resources and support to develop their ideas."

For the first time in the competition, the final four will be put to public vote during the live finale for their ranking taking place on Friday November 8th 2013 at 8:00pm KSA time on MBC4.

The prizes will be distributed amongst the four candidates as follows:

- **First prize:** \$300,000
- **Second prize:** \$150,000
- **Third prize:** \$100,000
- **Fourth prize:** \$50,000

Viewers can now vote via SMS or by calling a specific number for their country. Voting lines are open from now until the last presentation on the night of the live finale.

For the latest updates and voting numbers, log on to:

- www.starsofscience.com
- <https://www.facebook.com/StarsofScienceTV>
- <http://twitter.com/starsofscience>
- <http://www.youtube.com/starsofsciencetv>

These sites also include information on the applications process for *Stars of Science* Season six which is currently accepting submissions from applicants until December 15th 2013.

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Notes to Editors

About Qatar Foundation – Unlocking Human Potential

Qatar Foundation for Education, Science, and Community Development (QF) is a private, non-profit organization that is supporting Qatar on its journey from 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> <<http://www.qf.org.qa>>

About *Stars of Science*

Stars of Science is an original TV format, initiated by Qatar Foundation, which has been broadcast on over 17 TV channels throughout the Arab world and is now on MBC4. Currently in its fifth season, *Stars of Science* supports 16 young innovators who have an idea based on a novel scientific feature. Each project is developed for commercialization through several stages of the innovation cycle which includes proof of concept, engineering prototyping, design production and business feasibility.

The four finalists are ranked by a jury and viewers in a live show where the winning products are launched. The 4 finalists receive a distributed cash prize worth \$600,000 to help them develop their potential product further.

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 22 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 13 television channels: **MBC1** (general family entertainment), **MBC2 and MBC MAX** (24-hour movies), **MBC3** (children's edutainment), **MBC4** (entertainment for young families with women at its core), **MBC Action** (an indigenous adrenaline-packed channel with local and homegrown productions), **MBC Persia** (24-hour movie channel dubbed in Farsi) , **Al Arabiya** (the 24-hour Arabic language news channel); **Al Arabiya Al Hadath** (an extension of Al Arabiya News Channel) ; **Wanasah** (24-hour Arabic music channel); **MBC DRAMA** (24/7 Arabic Drama); **MBC MASR** (general family entertainment channel geared towards the Egyptian family), and **MBC + Drama** (paid channel on OSN). 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, www.alarabiya.net, www.shahid.net (the first free VOD and catch up portal in the Arab world) and www.actionha.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.

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