

QATAR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY PARK WELCOMES NEW BATCH OF TECH PROJECTS INTO 3-MONTH ACCELERATOR PROGRAMME

Doha, Qatar, 11 October 2015 -- Qatar Science & Technology Park (QSTP), part of Qatar Foundation Research and Development (QF R&D), has welcomed 14 local technology projects to its Accelerator program in its second round since the launch earlier this year.

QSTP is Qatar's primary accelerator and incubator for technology-based start-ups and is one of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF)'s initiatives created to foster new talent. It is designed specifically to accelerate the talent's route to the market in a bid to truly nurture and support innovation and entrepreneurship in Qatar.

In September, QSTP's Innovation team hosted a special welcome reception for the new Accelerator participants. Projects in this latest cohort cover several sectors crucial to Qatar's economic development, including health, education, communications, sport and construction.

Participants were accepted into the program through a public application process and through QSTP program partners, including Qatar Computing Research Institute (QCRI) and The Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy's Challenge 22 initiative, contributing three and five projects, respectively.

The official roster of projects for the second round was unveiled at the reception: Ergonomic T-Shirt, Braille Touch, MaktApp, Metis, Plug & Play, EcoGym, V3V, Tweet Mogaz, Aingel, Tactile Palm Communicator, Scalable Synthesis Aerogels, FitPet, Monitoring Exercise, and a new Hololens Fan Experience.

QSTP officials praised the innovative spirit of the group and noted the Accelerator's growth as it kicked off the second cycle: "We are energised and excited by the success of QSTP's local technology Accelerator as we welcome and congratulate this inspiring group of entrepreneurs," said Hamad Al Kuwari, QSTP Managing Director.

"Above all, we strive for results that propel these projects and the innovators behind them. The Accelerator has become a meeting place for technology ideas and partners across Qatar and I believe it represents a true cross-section of the sectors and people that will define our technology future," he added.

Officials also praised the scale, scope and ingenuity of each new project, noting how closely they align with real needs and opportunities in the marketplace. Saleh Al Mansoori's MaktApp, for instance, aims to offer SMEs a portfolio of cloud services and all-in-one IT solutions. FitPet, a health promotion mobile app for Qatar, will provide daily activity data of its users, including health-related social media interactions.

The QSTP Accelerator is an intensive three-month program designed to provide aspiring entrepreneurs with training and mentorship to help them take their ideas to the market. It combines funding and mentoring, setting out three clear objectives or outcomes for those admitted into the program: create a conceptual prototype, verify commercial viability, and access potential investors.

In June 2015, the Accelerator's first ever Demo Day marked the completion and culmination of an intense and inspiring three months. Qatar's most promising entrepreneurs took the stage to pitch their ideas to key players in Qatar's entrepreneurial ecosystem and prepared themselves for entry and growth in the market.

Officials also used the occasion to announce that applications for the third cycle of the QSTP Accelerator Program are now open. Interested applicants are encouraged to learn more here: <http://www.qstp.org.qa/home/support-programs/accelerator>

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Notes to Editors:

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 recognized 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 center 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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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 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>