

### ***Stars of Science* Narrows Field to Top Six Candidates after Final Engineering Round**

**Doha, 26 October 2014** – *Stars of Science*, broadcast on MBC4, narrowed down the field of its candidates to a top six in a dramatic elimination episode filled with lively competition and rivalry among the young innovators. Oman's Sultan AlSubhi and Bahrain's Thieab Al Dossary advanced after the strength of their product outlook convinced the jury to send them to the next stage. Riham Helmi of Egypt and Thamer Al Askar of Saudi Arabia came up just short in a valiant effort on the seventh episode of Qatar Foundation's popular "edutainment reality" program.

*Stars of Science*, now in its sixth season, pits innovators against each other in a competition to turn their ideas into reality. Twelve candidates aged 18 to 30 come to Doha, Qatar, where they are mentored by world-class engineering and design experts at the Qatar Science & Technology Park (QSTP). The innovators' resilience, ingenuity and teamwork are tested in challenges throughout the show as they develop their inventions from concept to commercialization with the ultimate goal of winning funding for their projects.

The Engineering stage was the culmination of weeks of work for the candidates, who developed their prototypes in close quarters throughout the program. Tension between the candidates ran high with the knowledge that only two of them would remain after facing a jury of tech experts in Episode 7. Candidates' projects varied widely, but all made use of advanced technology and complicated components, which led to frustrating setbacks and hurried efforts to fix glitches and improve on prototypes. In addition to technical challenges, the men and women had to consider the marketability of their projects. Riham, for example, had to overcome concerns about the cost and power of the LED lights in her UV Sanitizer Mobile Cover, which can be used to clean surfaces like door handles or keyboards.

Both Sultan and Thieab faced difficulties in producing prototypes for their projects as well. Sultan's Wudu Area Robotic Cleaner was designed to clean the ablution areas of prayer facilities and mosques but had to account for many changing variables like room size. Meanwhile, Thieab had to adjust his Tactile Communicating Bracelet, which adds an extra dimension to the multimedia experience by relaying pulses to the user's arm in sync with music. Several tests showed the many components

threatened to make it bulky and unwieldy. Thamer, meanwhile, was racing against the clock to produce an advanced prototype of his Virtual Sports Fan, a camera designed for stadiums that can be remotely controlled by users from the comfort of their homes.

The experts examining the candidates and their projects included perennial jurors Mr. Youssif Abdulrahman Al-Salhi, General Manager of Qatar Shell Research and Technology Center and Dr. Fouad Mrad, Executive Director of the United Nations ESCWA regional technology center. For the Engineering stage, *Stars of Science* welcomed new VIP jury member Mr. Suneet Singh Tuli, who as founder and CEO of DataWind Ltd invented an affordable tablet computer to increase access to computing and the internet.

The judging criteria were based on the performance of each candidate's prototype performance (40 points), the product's outlook (40 points), and the resourcefulness and leadership shown by the candidate (20 points).

In an episode that featured a strong lineup of working prototypes, jurors' questions often focused on each project's product outlook. Mr. Tuli, an expert on mobile devices, raised concerns about Riham's UV Sanitizer Mobile Cover, citing cost and the rapidly changing design of mobile phones as barriers to commercial success. Mr. Al-Salhi and Dr. Mrad questioned Sultan on how his Wudu Area Robot Cleaner would account for the many worshippers moving in and out of ablution areas, while Thieab was quizzed on why he thought people would choose his Tactile Communicating Bracelet over other wearable tech devices. Thamer faced some of the toughest critique, mainly focused on the potential for mass appeal and struggled to convince the jury of the Virtual Sports Fan's practicality.

"As an entrepreneur that has experience with both success and failure, I wanted to understand how the candidates intended to make their products successful in a competitive market," noted Mr. Tuli. "The world has many challenges, and it is encouraging that these young innovators are taking meaningful steps to come up with creative solutions. I believe that *Stars of Science* is an extremely useful way of showing audiences what can be achieved with education and ingenuity."

When Khaled Al Jumaily revealed the results of the jury's deliberation, it was Sultan who emerged as the clear winner of the episode, with 86 points. Thieab landed in second place with 70 points, securing his inclusion in the next stage. Riham and Thamer's run on *Stars of Science* came to an end, weaknesses in their project outlook a determining factor in the eyes of the jury.

The top six candidates remaining represent Tunisia, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia. On the next Stars of Science episode, to be shown on 1 November at 8:00 KSA on MBC4, viewers will see three of these candidates compete in the Design stage of the program in an effort to move on to the *Stars of Science* final. The live final, hosted by Khaled Al Jumaily, will air on MBC4 on 15 November at 8:00 KSA / 5:00 GMT 2014. Voting from the public and a 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 entrainment 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), 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.