



Choose This Year's Top Arab Innovator In *Stars of Science*'s Live Finale on MBC4

Doha, November 18, 2015

The seventh season of *Stars of Science*, Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development's "edutainment reality" TV program on MBC4, will culminate in the selection of the Arab world's best young innovator in the live finale this Friday, November 20, 2015 at 7PM KSA/ 4 PM GMT.

Combining tens of thousands of SMS and telephone votes from viewers across the region, and with a final vote from the *Stars of Science* jury, Friday's finale will reveal the ranking of four finalists. All week, viewers have been voting via the telephone for Algeria's Mourad Mohamed Benosman on extension number one, Syria's Yaman Abou Jieb on extension number two, Egypt's Omar Hamid on extension number three, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Hassan Albalawi on extension number four. Further details on the voting can be found on <http://www.starsofscience.com/English/vote-now>

Stars of Science, now in its seventh year, is a competition between innovators to develop their ideas into prototypes throughout the season, bringing to fruition QF's vision of unlocking human potential and fostering a culture of quality and excellence. Following the screening of applicants from countries throughout the Arab world, jurors selected 12 candidates between the ages of 18 and 30 to be mentored by world-class engineers and designers at the Qatar Science & Technology Park (QSTP) in Doha, Qatar. Candidates focus on different aspects of the innovation process throughout engineering and design stages, with those who fall short being eliminated. Participants compete on skills such as creativity, ability to work in teams and resilience in the face of the setbacks and challenges encountered during the competition.

Mourad Mohamed Benosman, from Algeria, who holds a PhD in Biomedical Engineering, is a seasoned innovator who has been awarded a patent for his 'ECG Wearable Stress Analyzer'. The device, named Digiheart, is a heart monitor that enhances disease prevention by making a distinction between physical and mental stress. Mourad's love for innovation is only surpassed by his love for his family – he hopes to make them proud by bringing home a victory.



Syria's Yaman Abou Jieb, who continues to inspire those around him with his creative ways of harnessing solar energy, argues that his 'Solar Washing Machine', dubbed Glean, will change the world for the better. Yaman hopes to leverage the power of the sun to expand access to washing machines to the people around the world and in his country which lacks regular access to electricity. The words that guide him – "Don't underestimate yourself; focus on the big picture" – have brought him tantalizingly close to a *Stars of Science* victory.

Egyptian Omar Hamid, a perfectionist with a tendency to take the unconventional route, has used his entrepreneurial skills for the social good. His 'Prayer Chair', named Sanda, fits perfectly with this mission. Designed for those who have difficulties performing the physical movements of Islamic prayer, Sanda offers assistive sitting and standing in a compact design to decrease pressure on joints during the important ritual. For Omar, a win would bring him closer to his goals of positively impacting the Muslim community.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Hassan Albalawi has remained true to his mantra throughout the season – "when I face a problem, I don't sleep until I solve it." Hassan has worked relentlessly to perfect his 'EEG Cap Analyzer', named Wakecap, a device worn on the head that detects and warns of drowsiness. As a competitor, he has used the knowledge gained through his PhD studies in Electrical Engineering as well as everyday experiences as a source for inspiration. Hassan is passionate and driven to prove that the Arab world can be a hub for innovation once more.

Viewers and jurors will come together to decide which of the four talented and inspiring finalists will take home the grand prize of \$300,000 to turn his novel idea into a groundbreaking product. The finalist who comes in second place will earn \$150,000, while \$100,000 is awarded for third place, and \$50,000 is awarded to the fourth place finalist.

The night promises a number of additional surprises, including the announcement of three new grants from QSTP that will be offered to three candidates from the season, worth up to \$100,000, as part of its Accelerator Program.



The exciting live finale of this season of *Stars of Science*, hosted by Khaled Al Jumaily, will air on MBC4 on Friday, November 20, 2015, at 7PM KSA/ 4PM GMT. Tune in, and help choose the next Arab innovator!

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Website – www.starsofscience.com

Facebook – <https://www.facebook.com/StarsOfScienceTV>

Twitter – <https://twitter.com/starsofscience>

YouTube – <https://www.youtube.com/user/StarsOfScienceTV>

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Stars of Science

Stars of Science, an “edutainment reality” TV format initiated by Qatar Foundation, is the region’s leading innovation program. *Stars of Science* fosters and advances the Arab world’s aspiring science and technology entrepreneurs. In this seventh season, 12 candidates are challenged to prove their resourcefulness during critical stages of the innovation cycle while collaborating with industry leading mentors. An expert panel of jurors assesses and eliminates candidates and their innovative products in Engineering and Design episodes until only four remain. These four finalists vie for a share of a \$600,000 prize, determined by a jury deliberation and voting from the public.

***Stars of Science* airs from Friday, September 18th, to Friday, November 20th, 2015 on MBC4.**

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>

About MBC Group

MBC Group (Middle East Broadcasting Center) is the largest and leading private media company in the Middle East & North Africa region. For the past 23 years, MBC Group was able to enrich people's lives through information, interaction and entertainment. In 2002, nearly a decade after the launch of MBC1 in London, back in 1991, and as the 1st private free-to-air Arab satellite TV channel, MBC Group moved its headquarters to Dubai Media City, United Arab Emirates, where it remains.

Today, MBC Group includes 20 TV 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 a female-focus); MBC Action (an indigenous adrenaline-packed channel targeting young males with local and homegrown productions); MBC Variety (Western films and general entertainment with uninterrupted broadcasting); Al Arabiya News Channel (the 24-hour Arabic language news channel); Al Hadath (an extension of Al Arabiya News Channel with a specific focus on real events in the Arab world and beyond); Wanasah (24-hour Arabic music channel); MBC DRAMA (24/7 Arabic drama); MBC MASR (general family entertainment geared towards the Egyptian family); MBC MASR 2 (providing the Egyptian audience with superior quality entertainment, in addition to live coverage of some of the Egyptian league's football matches); MBC + Drama (a joint paid-for channel between MBC and OSN); MBC Bollywood (delivering the freshest in Bollywood content geared towards the region via an Arabized interface); and most recently four sports channels, MBC PRO SPORTS (geared towards the "Saudi Football Premier League" fans in the Kingdom); and MBC USA (the channel is present on "Dish Network" in the US, and targets Arab audiences aboard; the channel is dedicated to offer and broadcast a wide range of content from the prominent MBC channels including movies, series and global formats).

In July 2011, seven channels within MBC Group began to broadcast in HD across the MENA Region: MBC1 HD, MBC2 HD, MBC4 HD, MBC Action HD, MBC Drama HD, MBC Max HD and Al Arabiya HD. In 2013, MBC3 HD joined the collection of HD channels followed by MBC Variety HD in 2014.

MBC Group also includes two FM radio stations: MBC FM (Gulf music) and Panorama FM (contemporary Arabic hit music); as well as O3 Productions, a premium content drama production company. Furthermore, MBC 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, and www.mbcprosports.net among others.