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PUBLICATION:	Egyptian Gazette
DATE:	22-April-2016
COUNTRY:	Egypt
CIRCULATION:	40,000
TITLE :	Three Egyptian start-ups win LE320,000 in financial grants
PAGE:	05
ARTICLE TYPE:	Agency Generated News
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AVE:	6,096

Three Egyptian start-ups win LE320,000 in financial grants

Nayrouz Talaat

THREE winning Egyptian start-ups this week received a total of LE320,00 in financial grants in the "Startupper of the Year" competition, for coming up with innovative ideas for solving critical problems in key sectors: health, agriculture, and the social life of people with disabilities.

The competition is one of the activities organised by one of the international oil companies operating in Egypt, in support of the country's socio-economic development.

On Wednesday, the "Startupper of the Year 2016" competition awarded financial support amounting to LE160,000, LE90,000, and LE70,000 to the first, second, and third winning projects, respectively.

The entrepreneurial scene is currently growing in Egypt in parallel with a number of support initiatives by both the private and government sectors, to help encourage innovative and entrepreneurial ideas. According to Ian Lepetit, Managing Director of Total Egypt, "Egypt's start-up industry is one of the fastest growing in the region, if not the world. There is great potential for Egyptian entrepreneurs provided they have access to finance and technical support."

The winning projects focused on different sectors in Egypt, Ahmed Abbas, who won the first grant with his Sun City Energy project, told *The Egyptian Gazette* that he had developed an efficient mobile solar water pump which could benefit five million Egyptian farmers.

Winner of the second grant, Ahmed El Keiey, told the same paper that his project 'Tech for Case' is based on connecting patients to medical resources, in order to facilitate access to healthcare.

Amina El Saie and Ramez Maher, who won the third grant, told the Gazette that their project "Entaleq" was a website and application that was designed to allow people with disabilities to identify the places to which they could have easy access and which fitted in with their needs.

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