

# 15 leading firms make it to final round of award

**MANAMA:** Final evaluation and deliberations on the finalists have commenced prior to the forthcoming announcement of Bahrain Award for Entrepreneurship winners.

To be held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier, the awards will be given on March 6.

The annual award's second edition was launched in November last year and it is organised by Tamkeen in co-operation with its strategic partners and knowledge advisors which include the Economic Development Board, Bahrain Development Bank Group, Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Industry, Commerce and Tourism Ministry, Unido AICEI and EY Bahrain.

Over 130 companies applied for the Award in various categories, with only 15 candidates making it in the final selection, out of which three finalists were selected in each one of the five award categories:

**Micro-Enterprise of the Year:** Nasreen Ashkanani – Popilicious, Alia Almoayed – Alia Almoayed Nutrition Consultancy and Fatema Al Zayyani – 3DOTs Company.

**Start-Up of the Year:** Shaikh Mohammed Al Khalifa and Aysha Al Araifi – Bossy Kitchen,

Khalifa Al Mannai – Mannai Technological Facilitations and Dr Sara Al Reefy – London Breast Care Centre.

**SME of the Year:** Dr Lamyah Mahmood – Dr Lamyah's Laser Specialist Dental Centre, Nada Alawi – Annada e-Commerce Trading and Sama Yateem – Play.

**Enterprise of the Year with International Footprint:** Ammar Basheir – Ammar Basheir Designs, Mohamed Mustafa Rafea – Midal Cables, and Bader Murad – Bader Models.

**Sustainable Business Award:** Amal Almoayed – Ashrafs, Hala Almoayed – Almoayed Contracting Group and Khulood Abdul Qader – Curve Jewellery.

The Female Entrepreneurship Award will be awarded to the highest-scoring female finalist by rank in the evaluation results, exclusive of the female winners in the other award categories.

The Lifetime Achievement Award, a non-competitive category will be awarded to non-applicants, specifically to a Bahraini entrepreneur for pioneering efforts and contributions of long-standing merit to national development.

"The jury is currently conducting a comprehensive assessment, deliberation and review of all finalists as per the award's rigid evaluation standards," Bahrain Award for Entrepreneurship project manager Faisal Sultan said.

"Award winners will receive support for their business requirements including participation in the Unido Entrepreneurship Development Programme, consulting and mentoring from Bahrain Development Bank, plus a host of other privileges that will help them pursue their business ventures."

The jury members are Al Salam Bank chairwoman and inJAz Bahrain executive director Shaikha Hessa bint Khalifa Al Khalifa, chief executive of Alf Khair, a social enterprise in Saudi Arabia and founder and creative director of luxury brand Baraboux, Princess Reema bint Bandar Al Saud, Naspers Group chief operating officer for Middle East and Africa Anvita Varshney, 500 Startups founding partner Dave McClure, Wamda co-founder and chief executive Habib Haddad, Roland Berger regional managing partner Kushal Shah, Deutsche Telecom marketing director Mohammed ElSayad, WAIN founding member Nina Curley, serial entrepreneur, mentor and angel investor Tarek Amin, Mowgli Foundation founder Tony Bury and Confederation of Indian Industry executive director Anjan Das.



■ Mr Sultan