



**The 2015 GIST Tech-I Competition** offers young science and technology entrepreneurs an opportunity to win mentorship, training, and awards to advance their ventures. The top 30 applicants will be identified through global public voting (May 1-June 1) and will receive an all-expense paid trip to the 2015 Global Entrepreneurship Summit for the final round of the Tech-I Competition. Finalists will gain international visibility from pitching their ideas at the GES while competing for \$70,000 in awards. All finalists will also receive extensive training and mentoring before the GES, up to three months of mentorship after the GES, and a year's membership to the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), a non-profit organization based in Washington, D.C.

The 2015 Tech-I Competition will have two tracks for which S&T entrepreneurs can apply: the Idea Stage and the Startup Stage. **The Idea Stage** is targeted at entrepreneurs who have an idea or prototype but who have not launched their company. **The Startup Stage** is designed for new companies that are further along the growth process—for example, companies that have completed some market analysis, have a launch timeline or have recently launched a product/service for distribution, or have a realistic strategy to sell a product/service.

This year, the competition is seeking proposals from four sectors: **Agriculture, energy, health, and information communication technologies/ICT**). We note that there are many innovations on water, education, and the environment that can fit under these categories, as well.

#### **Application:**

Applications for the 2015 GIST Tech-I Competition are being accepted from **February 17 to March 20 at 09:00 A.M. EDT**. Applicants should send an Executive Summary of their science or technology innovation along with a 90 second video explaining their idea or product/service to [www.gistnetwork.org/tech-i](http://www.gistnetwork.org/tech-i). **U.S. citizens or permanent residents are not eligible to participate in the competition, applicants must be citizens of a GIST-eligible country, and must be between 18-40 years old on March 20, 2015.**

#### **Eligible Middle East countries:**

Middle East countries eligible to participate in the GIST initiative are: Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.