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## Blockbuster 1001 inventions exhibition attracts more than 50,000 visitors during six week run

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WAM Abu Dhabi, 3rd Jan. 2012 (WAM): The award winning 1001 inventions exhibition, an anchor attraction of the inaugural Abu Dhabi Science Festival (ADSF), organised by the Technology Development Committee (TDC), was declared a great success when its first showing in the Middle East concluded last week. During its five week run the exhibition attracted more than 50,000 visitors.

Professor Salim Al Hassani, Chairman of 1001 inventions, said: "We are delighted that the Abu Dhabi Technology Development Committee welcomed us to the UAE as a Programming Partner in organising the inaugural Abu Dhabi Science Festival. This is the first 1001 Inventions show in the Arabic language. It unveils the cultural roots of modern science and inspires the new generation to innovate and contribute towards the betterment of society. The visitor numbers, their variety and the positive feedback we have received demonstrate a resounding success. We gratified that through the 1001 inventions exhibition was able to contribute to the Abu Dhabi government's efforts in instilling a passion for science, technology, and innovation (STI) in the hearts of the Emirate's youth." In addition to visitors from the general public, around 9,000 children attended through school tours from across the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. The school tours were organised in partnership with Abu Dhabi Education Council (ADEC), ADSF's education partner. Teachers and students praised the tours as they provided students with an opportunity to learn about science and technology in Muslim heritage, which was brought to life through a host of engaging interactive exhibits and experiences.

Celebrating this success, Ahmed Al Calily, Director General of Technology Development Committee (TDC), which organised the inaugural Abu Dhabi Science Festival, said: "We would like to thank 1001 Inventions, which played an essential role as one of our programme partners in showcasing the scientific contributions made by pioneers of Muslim civilization. We hope this will help develop a life-long interest in STI among the youth of Abu Dhabi and inspire them to become the scientists of tomorrow." He added: "We are pleased with the success of the first Abu Dhabi Science Festival, which attracted more than 100,000 people. The excellent reviews we had from visitors to the 1001 inventions exhibition is a strong endorsement of the festival's content, and the approach we took in delivering it." WAM/TF