

## **BBC Studios extends partnership with beIN MEDIA GROUP across Qatar, MENA & Turkey**

**LONDON, DOHA – BBC Studios, a global content company and commercial subsidiary of the BBC Group, has today signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with beIN MEDIA GROUP, one of the world’s leading entertainment and sports groups and owner of MIRAMAX studios. The MOU establishes a strategic partnership between the two companies to explore opportunities for the co-development, co-production and distribution of content in Qatar, the Middle East and Turkey**

Paul Dempsey, President for Global Markets at BBC Studios, and Yousef Al-Obaidly, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of beIN MEDIA GROUP, placed pen to paper to sign the agreement – which is set to run for an initial three year term from 1 August 2018 – at BBC Studios’ London headquarters in Television Centre.

In a symbolic deal for both companies, the partnership continues to extend their creative ties and has been a strategic priority for each organisation. As part of the agreement, BBC Studios and beIN intend to seek opportunities for the development and/or production of content, while exploring the acquisition of additional BBC Studios’ digital content by beIN to complement the current BBC programming on beIN’s platforms.

Included in the MOU is the agreement by BBC Studios and beIN to explore investment in content production and for the two companies to collaborate on knowledge exchange and media business development opportunities in the State of Qatar.

Paul Dempsey said, *“This MOU builds on BBC Studios’ successful existing partnership with beIN MEDIA GROUP and stands to bring our expertise in development and production to an even wider international audience. It further demonstrates our commitment to working with partners globally to create world-class programmes.”*

Yousef Al-Obaidly added, *“We are incredibly excited about furthering our trusted partnership with BBC Studios. This memorandum of understanding establishes a new milestone of cultural collaboration between our organisations, bringing together two of the strongest global entertainment brands to deliver stand-out original content, cutting-edge innovation and – ultimately – more value to our customers. We are also delighted to support BBC Studios’ intention to explore broader business opportunities together with beIN MEDIA GROUP in Qatar.”*

Earlier this year, beIN launched BBC Earth, BBC Studios’ global factual brand, as a linear channel across the Middle East and North Africa via its direct-to-home service. BBC Earth joined BBC Studios’ pre-school brand, CBeebies, which has been on the beIN platform since 2016. BBC Earth and CBeebies are also available as bespoke channels in Turkey via pay-tv operator Digiturk, which – along with MIRAMAX studios – is also part of beIN MEDIA GROUP’s rapidly-growing and market-leading global and entertainment and sports business.

**ENDS**



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NOTES TO EDITORS

#### **About BBC Studios**

BBC Studios, a global content company with British creativity at its heart, is a commercial subsidiary of the BBC Group. Formed in April 2018 by the merger of BBC Worldwide and BBC Studios, it spans content financing, development, production, sales, branded services and ancillaries. BBC Studios' award-winning British programmes are internationally recognised across a broad range of genres and specialisms. It has offices in 22 markets globally, including six production bases in the UK and production bases and partnerships in a further nine countries around the world. The company, which makes 2500 hours of content a year, is a champion for British creativity around the world and a committed partner for the UK's independent sector. BBC Studios has revenue of £1.4bn, and returns around £200m to the BBC Group annually, complementing the BBC's licence fee and enhancing programmes for UK audiences.

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#### **About beIN MEDIA GROUP**

beIN MEDIA GROUP is one of the world's foremost media groups, bringing an unrivalled array of entertainment, live sport action, and major international events to millions of viewers in MENA, Turkey, France, Spain, the USA, Canada, and the APAC region. beIN MEDIA GROUP's sports network, beIN SPORTS, covers the best and most exciting sports in the world including football (all top global leagues and competitions), basketball (NBA and Euroleague), American football (NFL), cricket, rugby, tennis, cycling, volleyball, motor sports, college sports and more. In addition to its global sports network, beIN MEDIA GROUP is a major player in entertainment through production and distribution as well as in the digital space. In November 2015, a new platform was launched in MENA, beIN MENA, which offers a complete spectrum of entertainment including blockbuster movies, series kids programs, and factual entertainment – all delivered through state of art technology. Through its iconic MIRAMAX film studio, beIN also holds an extensive library of legendary Hollywood blockbusters and a growing presence in series and movies production. beIN MEDIA GROUP acquired Digiturk the leading PAY TV operator in Turkey, in August 2016.

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