

BEYOND THE BLUEPRINT

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+4 BREAKTHROUGH
STARTUPS
TO WATCH

2026



Young Founders
Rising Through
Adversity

Beyond the Blueprint

"We suffer from an incurable disease: hope."

"نُصابُ يَداءٍ لا دواءَ له... اسمه الأمل" - Mahmoud Darwish

Resilience is not the strength of standing alone, but the courage of standing together. It is found in the quiet moments when people share what little they have, lift one another after hardship, and continue building even when the road ahead is uncertain.

True strength lives in communities that refuse to give up on each other – where hope is passed from hand to hand, and every act of kindness becomes a small victory against despair.

Astro Technology PS



Meet The Startup (Astro Technology PS)

Imagine a youth-led startup bold enough to tackle complex technological challenges and turn them into real, scalable solutions. **Astro Technology PS**, founded by Mu'men Hijazi, Mu'men Awad, Kareem Saleh and Fathi Al Heelo, builds customized digital tools for startups and businesses looking for reliable, affordable technology to bring their ideas to life.

Rather than chasing trends, the team focuses on practical innovation, developing systems that help companies launch faster and operate more efficiently. While preparing this article, one thing became clear: **Astro Technology PS** reflects the mindset of its founders. Fathi, in particular, stands out as a direct and consistent communicator.

Even amid the difficult circumstances currently unfolding in Palestine, his responsiveness and clarity were a reminder of the determination driving many young founders building in challenging environments.

How the Platform Works in Practice

The platform works as such, a new startup with only an idea could rely on Astro to design and build the entire digital backbone of their product, from a working platform to the tools needed to manage users, services, and day-to-day operations.

In practice, this might look like a founder approaching Astro with an idea for an e-commerce platform. The team would help design the interface, develop the backend infrastructure, and build the tools needed to manage orders, customers, and payments all in one place. Instead of piecing together multiple apps and services not specifically tailored to the specific business, the business would instead receive a streamlined system tailored specifically to its needs. Think of it like how Shopify gives entrepreneurs a complete toolkit to run an online store, except Astro builds a fully customized version designed specifically for that company's product, customers, and growth goals. Nothing generic, just tailored systems built from the ground up with creativity, precision, and real founder swag.

Although offering such a broad range of services at such an early stage may seem highly ambitious for a young company especially compared to the typical startup approach of focusing on a narrow niche, it is a bold vision that the team is already beginning to back up with real results.

Achievements and Challenges

Achievements

Even at the MVP stage, the company has already gained international recognition. During the NASA International Space Apps Challenge, one of the world's largest global hackathons, the team placed 3rd in Palestine and earned Global Nominee recognition. For anyone hesitant about starting a business or entering competitions, there's real inspiration in these young founders in Palestine—they clearly aren't letting the obstacles around them stop them from building. Even more impressive, Astro Technology PS has been built entirely self-funded, with every milestone driven by the founders themselves.

Challenges

When you look at their accomplishments, the challenges behind them become clear. The team has had to find creative ways to finance their work, build in an environment where regulations can shift quickly, and, perhaps most difficult of all, continue developing their startup while living through the realities of war. Gaining global visibility can also be difficult, which is why the team has looked outward to international competitions like the Space Apps Challenge to showcase their abilities and connect with the broader tech community.



Foundational Values

For founders Mu'men Hijazi, Mu'men Awad, Kareem Saleh and Fathi Al Heelo, Astro Technology PS is more than a company: it's a statement about what Palestinian youth are capable of building. The team believes technology can open doors to independence, innovation, and opportunity, even in difficult circumstances. Their message to young people is simple: don't wait for opportunities, create them and invest in your skills.

Astro Technology PS may still be early in its journey, but it already shows what happens when talent, discipline, and belief come together. It's the kind of story that captures what seems to be true of every generation of Palestinian founders: determined, resourceful, and always building against the odds.