Yousef Shamoun

Akhtaboot

“ I saw an opportunity to create jobs in the Middle East. ”

COUNTRY	Jordan
INDUSTRY	Prof. Services
EMPLOYEES	35
YEAR SELECTED	2010
PARTNER	Mohamad Haj Hasan
WEBSITE	www.akhtaboot.com

COMPANY SNAPSHOT

Akhtaboot is quickly becoming the strongest online recruitment site in the Middle East, linking the right person to the right career opportunity through a user-friendly platform that offers superior functionality and searching capability wrapped up in a charismatic brand. Aktaboot can now match its vast amount of daily visitors (job seekers) with countless registered employers — including international players such as Google, FedEx, and LC Electronics.

As the Middle East works to create over 200 million jobs by 2020, Akhtaboot has both real potential for growth and an opportunity to have a significant impact on the region. The combination of surging rates of internet users and high unemployment in the Middle East has yielded a promising environment for Akhtaboot to become the industry leader, linking internet-savvy youth to newly created jobs in Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, UAE, and beyond.

Founded in 2007 by Mohamad Haj Hasan and Yousef Shamoun, Akhtaboot – Arabic for “octopus” – is an online recruitment company based in Amman. Mohamad and Yousef both grew up in Jordan and gained experience abroad before their paths intersected. Mohamad graduated from MIT in 2003 with a degree in Finance & Economics. He then worked in New York as a Financial Analyst at Dresdner Kleinwort Wasserstein and in Dubai as a Vice President at Rasmala Investments. During that time, he became fascinated with the economics of Internet businesses, particularly online recruitment. Yousef graduated in 2002 from McGill University in Canada, earning a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering with a minor in Management. He worked in Jordan as a Mechanical Engineer, and then as a Senior Sales & Marketing Engineer at a regional IT company. Yousef went on to earn his MBA from Georgetown University in 2006.

Mohamad and Yousef each returned to Jordan excited about the idea of launching an online recruitment business. Mutual friends introduced the entrepreneurs, and together they researched the online recruitment industry in the Middle East. As the Head of Sales & Marketing, Yousef lent his keen eye to the creation of the Akhtaboot brand and the company’s lovable octopus mascot. Meanwhile, Mohamad taught himself the fundamentals of web design and development, later assuming the role of Head of Product Development. On July 7, 2007, with the financial support of their family and friends, Mohamad and Yousef launched Akhtaboot.

Most recently, Akhtaboot has launched The Akhtaboot Cares Initiative, a program that partners with educational institutions in the Middle East in order to create specific training programs for students about to graduate. Through these partnerships Akhtaboot attempts inform future graduates about their options and ease the, sometimes harsh, transition into the professional world.