

UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE – UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

30 NOVEMBER – 12 DECEMBER 2023

THE SOLAR HUB



SOLARX: PROMOTING ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR SOLAR ACROSS THE GLOBE

Thematic Arena 3, TA3-190, Opportunity District, Expo City, Dubai

6 DECEMBER, 2023 | 12:30 PM – 14:00 PM

Background & Rationale

In the realm of solar energy, the pursuit of innovation holds paramount significance as we strive to combat global climate change, foster economic growth, bolster international competitiveness, and eradicate the scourge of energy poverty. Yet, it is disheartening to witness the sluggish pace at which low-carbon technologies are being developed and disseminated across various sectors and nations, especially in the developing economies, including the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), impeding our collective efforts to stabilize the climate and achieve sustainable development goals.

To address these challenges, the International Solar Alliance (ISA) has taken a significant step forward by successfully launching the first leg of the SolarX Start-up Challenge at the 27th Conference of Parties (CoP27) in Egypt in November 2022. With SolarX, ISA aims to crowdsource innovative solutions to the persistent challenges faced by member countries in their respective solar sectors. The challenge is designed to identify and promote implementable, cost-effective, and scalable solutions that address the pressing issues of the solar industry in ISA member countries. By creating a pool of entrepreneurs and start-ups in the solar energy sector, the challenge aims to foster a 3-fold benefit in technology, finance, and innovation, thereby building on the start-up ecosystem within the solar energy sector. This initiative spans across all ISA member countries, with different editions held annually in different regions. The first edition was held for the African Continent. The African leg attracted a remarkable number of startups with over 180+ applications from 28 countries, showcasing the international interest and potential for innovations in driving advancements in solar energy.

Building on this momentum, ISA is excited to announce and launch the second leg of the SolarX Start-up Challenge (*i.e. the SolarX Startup Challenge 2.0*) during the 28th Conference of Parties (CoP28) in Dubai. This eagerly anticipated phase will focus on the Asia Pacific region, recognizing its immense potential as a hub for solar energy advancement. This initiative presents a unique opportunity to foster collaboration, encourage entrepreneurship, and catalyze investments in the solar energy sector in the region.

Session Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sensitize about the overall framework of the challenge ▪ Launch the SolarX Startup Challenge 2.0 for Asia Pacific (including the digital launch of the webpage and “Call for Applications”) ▪ Foster discussions among the key stakeholders on “Need for boosting the solar startup landscape and driving innovative solutions in emerging geographies”
Potential Outcomes	The launch of the second leg of the SolarX Start-up Challenge at CoP28 will offer ample outreach for participants and partners. The COP28 will help the program to gain interest from relevant stakeholders through intensive media coverage of the event across the world. The event will provide ISA and its partners with an opportunity to globally launch and promote the challenge, facilitating meaningful discussions, thereby empowering member countries to unlock their true solarization potential.

Agenda	
12:30 - 12:35 PM	Welcome and Opening Remarks Pragya Gupta , Resource Mobilization Specialist, ISA Secretariat
12:35 - 12:45 PM	Keynote Address Jt. Secretary, MNRE/Senior Official MNRE, Govt of India
12:45 - 12:55 PM	Presentation on SolarX Startup Challenge 2.0: ISA Secretariat Presentation on SolarX Application Process and Timelines: Partner (Invest India)
12:55 - 13:05 PM	Showcasing the Innovative Solutions from the 20 Winning Startups from the First African Leg
13:05 - 13:35 PM	Panel Discussion Moderator <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ISA Secretariat Panellists <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Representative Invest India ▪ Representative CIFF ▪ Representative GEAPP ▪ Representative Sequoia Climate Fund ▪ Representative WAIPA ▪ Representative GOGLA ▪ Representative Africa50 ▪ Representative African Development Bank ▪ Representative Climate Investment Coalition ▪ Representative Africa Infrastructure Development Association (AfIDA) ▪ Representative PR Energy ▪ Government Representative, Ethiopia, Madagascar, LAC
13:35 - 13:45 PM	Open the ‘Call for Applications’
13:45 - 13:55 PM	Audience Interaction
13:55 - 14:00 PM	Concluding Remarks