



PHD CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
VOICE OF INDUSTRY AND TRADE

Dr. Ranjeet Mehta

Executive Director

17 April 2024

HE Mr Nguyen Thanh Hai
Ambassador
Embassy of Vietnam
New Delhi

Excellency,

Greeting from PHDCCI!

Inviting Start Up Applications for the SolarX Challenge 2024

I hope this letter finds you well. As we strive to foster innovation and collaboration in the field of renewable energy, particularly solar power, I am writing to extend an invitation to the dynamic start-up community within Vietnam to participate in the upcoming ISA SolarX Challenge APAC region, in association with PHDCCI.

The SolarX Startup Challenge aims to discover innovative, cost-effective, and scalable local solutions that can catalyze investments in solar energy across ISA Member Countries. The initiative fosters a four-fold benefit; promoting the solar energy sector, reducing the energy crisis gap, boosting the solar start-up ecosystem, and bring entrepreneurs into the solar sector.

The APAC region stands as a vibrant epicenter for solar innovation and startups, driven by a rising awareness of the impacts of climate change and the imperative for sustainable consumption practices. Supporting solar entrepreneurs is paramount to fostering innovative, low-carbon business models that facilitate an enabling environment for accelerated deployment of solar deployment throughout the Asia-Pacific landscape. **Given the impressive strides made by Vietnam in renewable energy development, we believe that the start-up ecosystem here holds immense potential to contribute innovative solutions to the global solar energy landscape. Recognizing the pivotal role of Vietnam in shaping a sustainable future, the SolarX Startup Challenge welcomes participation from all startups, entrepreneurs, and innovators within the solar sector, in your country. 30 promising startups will be selected as winners of the challenge. Winning startups will not only receive financial support (cash grant of USD 15,000 each) but will also benefit from a robust acceleration program and mentorship from seasoned professionals.** Successful entrepreneurs will have the opportunity to engage with potential investors and explore diverse markets across the Asia-Pacific region. Centered on nurturing scalable business models and expediting global energy transitions, the SolarX Startup Challenge underscores our collective commitment to unlocking the vast potential for solar deployment.

“Voice of Industry & Trade”

We invite the solar startups, innovators, entrepreneurs, and other ecosystem players to participate in this transformative initiative. Please find attached a flyer for the program and a flip card of the problem statements being considered for the challenge. You may like to scan the QR Code, at the end of the letter, for applying. **USE CODE – APACPHDCCI before submitting for your application and share a screenshot with us on aparajita.mangotra@phdcci.in with a copy to ed@phdcci.in.** (The "Call for applications" is open till 20thth April 2024). For further details, kindly reach out to Ms Aparajita Mangotra, Senior Secretary, Sustainability Committee, PHDCCI, at aparajita.mangotra@phdcci.in.

We kindly request your assistance in disseminating this invitation to the relevant stakeholders and start-up communities within Vietnam and help us get a minimum of 5 applications from your country. Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we look forward to welcoming talented start-ups from Vietnam to participate in the ISA SolarX Challenge APAC region 2024, in association with PHDCCI.

BENEFITS/REWARDS

Use Code: APACPHDCCI

Cash Grants

Mentorship Opportunities

Market Access Opportunities

Investment Opportunities

APPLY NOW

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

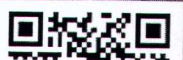
(Dr. Ranjeet Mehta)



SolarX Startup Challenge: APAC 2024

SolarX Startup Challenge aims to crowdsource implementable, cost-effective, scalable and innovative solutions to some of the persistent challenges faced by the solar energy sector. The first edition of the challenge was focused on the African region, aiming to promote innovation and discover local solutions, with the overarching objective of capacity-building of stakeholders across the globe, and the next edition of the challenge will be focused on the Asia-Pacific (APAC) Region, aiming at building the solar energy sector in the region along with promoting startup and innovation culture in the local ecosystems.

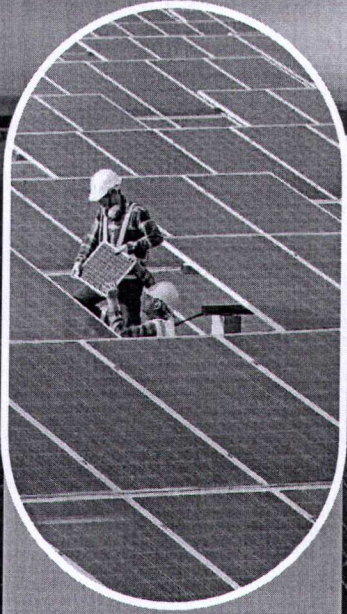
Benefits/Rewards



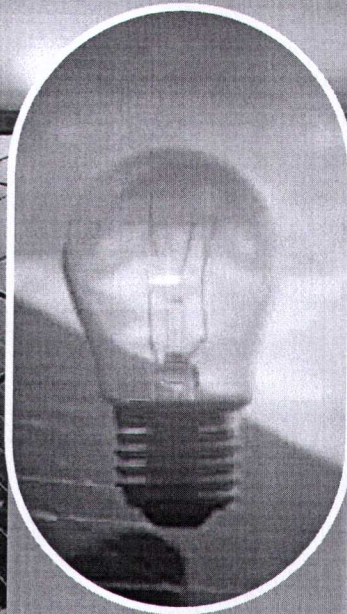
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Impact

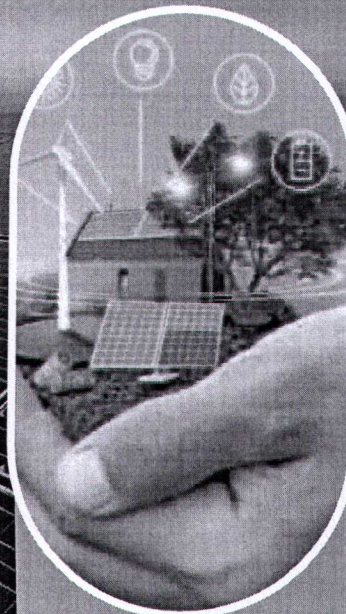
A four-fold impact in the form of



Promote Solar
Energy Sector



Reduce Energy
Crisis Gap



Boost Solar
Startup Ecosystem



Promote Entrepreneurs
of the Solar Sector

Applications Open till

30th April 2024

Program Partners

Invest India

International Solar Alliance

Sequoia Climate Foundation

Announcement of the SolarX Startup Challenge at COP28, Dubai



'Call-for-Applications' Open



Evaluation of Applications by International Technical Committee



Launch of the Challenge & Handholding Workshops for Startups



Declaration of Winners



Closure of Applications



Closure of APAC Chapter



Acceleration Program for Winners in APAC Locations



Cash Grants 15,000 USD/Winners



Mentorship Opportunities



Market Access Opportunities



Investment Opportunities



Develop scalable and sustainable off-grid solar solutions (Solar Home Systems {SHS}, Mini-Grids, Solar Microgrids) to address energy poverty in remote and underserved areas across APAC countries.



Develop scalable models to boost cost competitiveness in solar applications for **logistics, manufacturing, and supply chain**. By optimising energy-intensive production processes, solar-transportation vehicles, and solar-powered smart logistics systems.



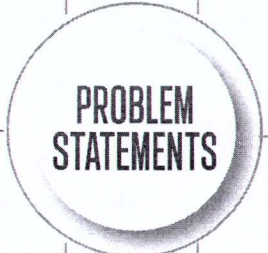
Development of innovative, **space-efficient solar technology**, essential to address the challenge of limited land availability in densely populated/land deficient countries.



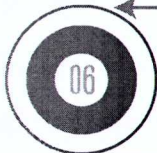
Development of **circular economy in solar** for recycling end-of-life solar panels, reducing electronic waste, and ensuring responsible disposal.



Develop **AI, IoT, GPS**-based SaaS tools to enhance manufacturing, deployment, and integration of solar energy for eg. land mapping, 3D modelling, project monitoring tools.



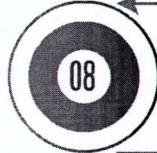
Innovate manufacturing for sustainable, efficient materials, to enhance energy output, cost reduction and improved efficiency in solar equipment, such as high-efficiency inverters, ACDBs, DCDBs, and other components.



Technical or business model innovations to reduce cost of grid integration, optimising energy distribution of rooftop solar, utility-scale solar, energy storage solutions to address intermittency issues associated with solar power generation.



Implementing **solar-powered technologies** such as high-efficiency DC pumps with smart controllers for water pumping, purification, and irrigation to promote sustainable water management in various regions.



Promoting the **development and adoption of solar-powered solutions** for innovative business models for emerging use cases such as eMobility Green Hydrogen, AgriPv, Transportation, Solar-Charging Infrastructure for electric vehicles, etc.



Other areas of Solar Application with on-ground applications.

