**terms and conditions for**

**the solarx startup challenge 2025:**

**latin america and the caribbean edition.**

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# INTRODUCTION.

The International Solar Alliance (ISA), aiming to discover and accelerate the next generation of startups in the solar sector and to promote the development of diverse initiatives that drive implementable, cost-effective, scalable, and innovative solutions to the challenges currently facing the solar energy sector, launches, and IDOM CONSULTING, ENGINEERING, ARCHITECTURE, S.A.U., the SolarX Startup Challenge 2025: Latin America and the Caribbean Edition (hereinafter, the “Challenge”).

The Challenge aims to crowdsource ideas to build the solar energy sector in the region and foster a culture of startups and innovation within local ecosystems.

Winners may obtain various benefits, such as cash grants of USD 15,000 per winning team, mentorship opportunities, market access, and investment possibilities.

The results of the Challenge will be communicated to the Participants beforehand, and the winners will be announced at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP30), to be held in Belém, Brazil, in November 2025.

This document, titled “Terms and Conditions For The SolarX Startup Challenge 2025: Latin America And The Caribbean Edition” (hereinafter, the “Terms”), provides important information for those who wish to participate in the Challenge, offering the necessary informational tools for the submission of their solutions.

# OBJECTIVE

* 1. **Main Objective**

The main objective of the Challenge is to use "crowdsourcing" (the gathering of ideas from various sources) to identify implementable, scalable, and innovative solutions to the persistent challenges of the solar energy sector in Latin America and the Caribbean region. The Challenge seeks to promote innovation, discover local solutions, and, ultimately, build capacity among key ecosystem actors.

* 1. **Expected Impact**

The Challenge is designed to generate a positive impact across four key dimensions:

* Promote the solar energy sector in the region.
* Reduce the energy gap.
* Boost the solar startup ecosystem.
* Promote solar sector entrepreneurs.

# DEFINITIONS.

For these Terms, and unless expressly stated otherwise, words written with an initial capital letter shall have the meaning assigned to them below. Except for those terms defined in the body of this document, the meaning of words shall be understood in the technical sense of the specialty to which they belong or, failing that, in their natural and obvious sense.

**Challenge:** Refers to the "SolarX Startup Challenge 2025: Latin America and the Caribbean Edition," an initiative that seeks to find innovative solutions to the challenges of the solar energy sector.

**Startup:** An emerging company that seeks to develop an innovative business model, generally in the early stages of its growth. These companies are typically focused on technology and rapid scaling.

**Latin America and the Caribbean:** Refers to the region in the Americas that includes the following countries: Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

**Organizers:** The Organizers of the Challenge shall be understood as: the International Solar Alliance (ISA) as the owner and funder of the Challenge, and IDOM CONSULTING, ENGINEERING, ARCHITECTURE, S.A.U. (IDOM) as the organizer and executor for Latin America and the Caribbean.

**Participant or Applicant:** Refers to any Entity that applies to participate in the Challenge following these Terms.

**Initiative / Proposal:** Refers to any project submitted by the Participants within the framework of the Challenge.

**Entity:** Refers to the company, organization, or collaborative agreement that applies to the Challenge, whether for-profit or non-profit, and with or without its legal personality, provided that it is formally constituted under the applicable legislation in its country of origin.

This definition includes, among others, the following figures:

**Independent Legal Entities:** Such as a Corporation (S.A.), Simplified Stock Corporation (S.A.S.), Limited Liability Company (S.R.L., Ltda.), Cooperatives, Foundations, NGOs, and their equivalents.

**Collaborative Agreements:** Such as a Joint Venture, consortium, or temporary union. In this case, the application must be submitted by the legally constituted companies that make up the agreement, who will act with joint liability towards the Organizers.

**Platform:** Refers to the technology platform through which those interested in participating in the Challenge may enter and submit their Proposal: <https://solarx.isa.int/registration_lac>

**Winner:** Refers to any Participant that is selected by the Evaluation Committee at the end of the selection process and is, therefore, eligible to receive the benefits and prizes described in these Terms.

**Evaluation Committee:** The body in charge of carrying out the evaluation activities of the implementable, cost-effective, scalable, and innovative solutions presented by the Participants, and choosing the winning Proposals of the Challenge, following the evaluation criteria proposed by the Organizers.

**Minimum Viable Product (MVP):** A version of a product or service with sufficient features to be functional and demonstrable to customers. It is a requirement to apply, as projects at the idea stage are not accepted.

**Personal Data:** Any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person; an identifiable natural person can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to an identifier such as a name, an identification number, location data, an online identifier or to one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of that natural person.

**Processing of Personal Data:** Any operation or set of operations which is performed on personal data or sets of personal data, whether or not by automated means, such as collection, recording, organization, structuring, storage, adaptation or alteration, retrieval, consultation, use, disclosure by transmission, dissemination or otherwise making available, alignment or combination, restriction, erasure or destruction.

**Data Controller:** The natural or legal person, public authority, agency, or other body which, alone or jointly with others, determines the purposes and means of the processing of personal data.

**Data Processor:** The natural or legal person, public authority, agency, or other body that processes personal data on behalf of the controller.

**Consent of the Data Subject:** Any freely given, specific, informed and unambiguous indication of the data subject's wishes by which he or she, by a statement or by a clear affirmative action, signifies agreement to the processing of personal data relating to him or her.

# USE AND INTERPRETATION.

* 1. References to any gender include all genders, and the singular includes the plural and the plural, the singular, unless the context requires otherwise.
  2. "Including” shall be construed as “including, but not limited to,” unless the context indicates an exhaustive list.
  3. References to laws or legal provisions shall include all laws or legal provisions added, extended, consolidated, amended, or replaced from time to time, and any order, regulation, instrument, or other subordinate provision made thereunder.
  4. References to these Terms or to another document shall, where appropriate, be construed as references to such document as it may be amended or replaced.
  5. The headings included in these Terms are inserted for convenience only and shall not be considered a part of them, nor shall they limit the scope of their terms and provisions.

# GENERAL CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION.

* 1. Carefully read the content of these Terms of Reference and the other annexes and documents that are part of the Challenge.
  2. Ensure that you meet the conditions and fulfill the requirements indicated herein before the submission of the Proposal.
  3. Proceed to consolidate the information and documentation necessary to participate in the Challenge.
  4. Comply with the instructions provided in these Terms of Reference for the submission of your Proposal.
  5. Keep in mind the planned closing date for the Challenge and the other dates of interest outlined in the timeline.
  6. Under no circumstances will proposals submitted after the specified deadline be accepted.
  7. By submitting their Proposal, the Participant declares that they have studied and understood the Terms of Reference and all annexed documents, that they have obtained clarification on any stipulations they considered uncertain or doubtful, that they are familiar with the nature of the Challenge, and that they have submitted their Proposal freely, accurately, and coherently.
  8. Any interpretations or deductions that the Participant makes from what is established in the Terms of Reference will be their sole responsibility. Consequently, the Organizers will not be liable for any oversights, errors, omissions, conjectures, assumptions, misinterpretations, or other unfavorable events incurred by the Participant that may affect the preparation of their Proposal.
  9. The Participant is obligated to be accountable for the truthfulness of the information provided by them during the Challenge. In this sense, it is presumed that the information in the Proposal submitted by the Participant and that which will be supplied during the program corresponds to reality. Nevertheless, the Organizers reserve the right to verify all information provided by the Participant by requesting clarifications or new documents.
  10. It is the responsibility of every Participant to carry out the studies and verifications they deem necessary for the formulation of the Proposal, including but not limited to technical studies, among others, assuming all associated costs and risks. The submission of the Proposal implies that the Participant has conducted the relevant studies, analyses, and assessments to participate in the Challenge.
  11. There will be no participation fee for the submission of Proposals.
  12. Expenses for consulting, logistics, materials, or, in general, any costs incurred by Participants for the preparation and submission of Proposals will not be reimbursed.
  13. The winners will be announced and promoted within the framework of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP30), to be held in Belém, Brazil, where their Proposals may gain visibility before ecosystem organizations. Neither the Challenge nor the Organizers guarantees investment in any of the projects, only their exposure to the invited stakeholders.
  14. At any time, and without giving rise to any claim for damages, the Organizers may suspend or terminate the Challenge at any stage by publishing the corresponding notice.

# THEMATIC AREAS (PROBLEM STATEMENTS).

To apply for the Challenge and be eligible for selection, Participants must offer a solution that aligns with the challenges that the SolarX Startup Challenge 2025: Latin America and the Caribbean Edition aims to address, and must comply with the participation requirements established in this document.

These are the thematic areas the Challenge seeks to address and impact:

**P1: Develop scalable, sustainable, and resilient off-grid solar solutions.**

* Focus on solar home systems, mini-grids, and solar micro-grids to combat energy poverty in remote areas and regions outside of interconnected energy systems in Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) countries.
* Develop sustainable short and long-term solutions to ensure reliable energy access during extreme weather events and recovery periods.

**P2: Create scalable models to enhance cost-competitiveness in solar applications.**

* Optimize energy-intensive production processes and smart logistics systems powered by solar energy, especially in logistics, manufacturing, and supply chains.

**P3: Develop innovative and space-efficient solar technology.**

* Address challenges of limited land availability in densely populated or land-scarce countries.
* Include a component that suggests the development of enabling regulations to promote the adoption of these technologies.

**P4: Promote a circular economy in the solar sector.**

* Focus on recycling end-of-life solar panels, reducing electronic waste, and ensuring responsible disposal.
* Include the ideation of policies and collection mechanisms as possible outcomes for this area.

**P5: Develop AI, IoT, and GPS-based tools (SaaS) for the solar sector.**

* Create tools for land mapping, 3D modeling, project monitoring, and other applications to improve the manufacturing, deployment, and integration of solar energy.

**P6: Innovate in the manufacturing of sustainable and efficient materials.**

* Improve energy production, reduce costs, and increase the efficiency of solar equipment, including high-efficiency inverters, ACDB, DCDB, and other components.

**P7: Develop technical or business model innovations to reduce grid integration costs.**

* Optimize energy distribution for rooftop solar systems, solar parks, and energy storage solutions to address the intermittency of solar power generation.
* Consider differences in existing infrastructure between regions and ensure that the proposed business models are adaptable to diverse contexts.

**P8: Implement solar-powered technologies for sustainable resource management.**

* Include high-efficiency DC pumps with smart controllers for water pumping, purification, and irrigation.
* Incorporate solar-powered cooling solutions for air conditioning and refrigeration that sustainably and efficiently meet regional cooling needs.

**P9: Promote solar-powered solutions for emerging use cases.**

* Focus on e-mobility, green hydrogen, agrivoltaics, transportation, and solar charging infrastructure for electric vehicles.
* Foster innovations in sustainable tourism powered by solar energy, including eco-resorts, power systems at docks, solar-lit trails, and charging stations.

**P10: Other solar application areas with practical on-the-ground impact.**

* Explore and support revolutionary solar technologies or applications that address unique challenges in LAC countries, with clear criteria to ensure that selected startups demonstrate innovation, sustainability, and transformative potential.

# PARTICIPATION IN THE CHALLENGE.

## **Participant Eligibility Requirements.**

## To be considered eligible, the Participating Entity must meet the following criteria:

* + 1. **Type of Entity.** The application must be submitted by a formally constituted Entity. An Entity is understood as a company, organization, or collaborative agreement applying to the Challenge, whether for-profit or non-profit, and with or without its legal personality, provided that it is formally constituted following the applicable legislation in its country of origin. This includes, among others, figures such as Corporations (S.A.), Simplified Stock Corporations (S.A.S.), Limited Liability Companies (S.R.L.), Cooperatives, NGOs, or agreements such as Joint Ventures. The Entity must provide the corresponding certificate of incorporation.
    2. **Product/Service Stage.** The Entity must have a Minimum Viable Product (MVP); applications that are only at the idea stage will not be considered for the evaluation process. Likewise, it must present the proposed product or service, references or details about the product, and an explanation of the innovation of the product or service, in accordance with the thematic areas addressed in the Challenge.
    3. **Age.** The Entity must be a maximum of ten (10) years old, calculated from its date of registration or incorporation to the opening date of the Challenge.
    4. **Revenue Generation.** The Entity is required to generate revenue from sales to customers. It is not necessary for it to be profitable; therefore, a company with losses or negative margins is eligible to participate. This requirement will be verified with the Entity's Financial Statements, prepared following local laws and globally accepted practices.
    5. **Exceptions.** The Evaluation Committee may consider, at its discretion, Participants who have a ready MVP but have not yet started to generate sales.
    6. **Geographic and Product Scope.** The Entity may be incorporated in any country in the world. However, the proposed product or service must be implementable in the Latin America and the Caribbean region and must be focused on solving one or more of the thematic areas of the Challenge. Preference will be given to Entities that work in the region and are part of the ISA member countries.
    7. **Language Proficiency.** At least one (1) member of the Participant team must have the ability to communicate fluently and effectively in English. This is necessary to ensure full participation in the program's activities, such as presentations to the Evaluation Committee, workshops, and communications with mentors and organizers.
    8. **Relationship with Organizing Entities.** Participants cannot be current employees or suppliers of the Organizers, either by having an active employment or contractual relationship, or by having had such a relationship up to six (6) months prior to the publication of the Challenge.
    9. **Alignment with the Challenge's Thematic Areas.** The Participant must indicate in their application which of the thematic areas (problem statements) of the Challenge, established in section 6 of this document, their Proposal is working on. If a product or service does not directly relate to one of the listed areas, the Participant must choose the one that is closest to their field of operation.
  1. **Other Criteria.**
     1. It is not necessary for the Entity to have won previous awards or recognitions in the sector to apply with its Initiatives.
     2. It is not a requirement for the Entity to possess a patent, copyright, or trademark for its product or service to apply.
     3. It is not mandatory for the Entity to be filing tax returns to apply.

# TIMELINE.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **DATE** | **EVENT** |
| **November 2024** | Launch of the SolarX Startup Challenge for the Latin America and the Caribbean Region at COP29. |
| **May 20 to July 31, 2025** | Challenge Application Period. |
| **August - October 2025** | Shortlisting of applications and the evaluation process. |
| **November 2025** | Communication of results to participants and Announcement of Winners at COP30. |
| **November 2025 - March 2026** | Global Acceleration Program for the winners. |

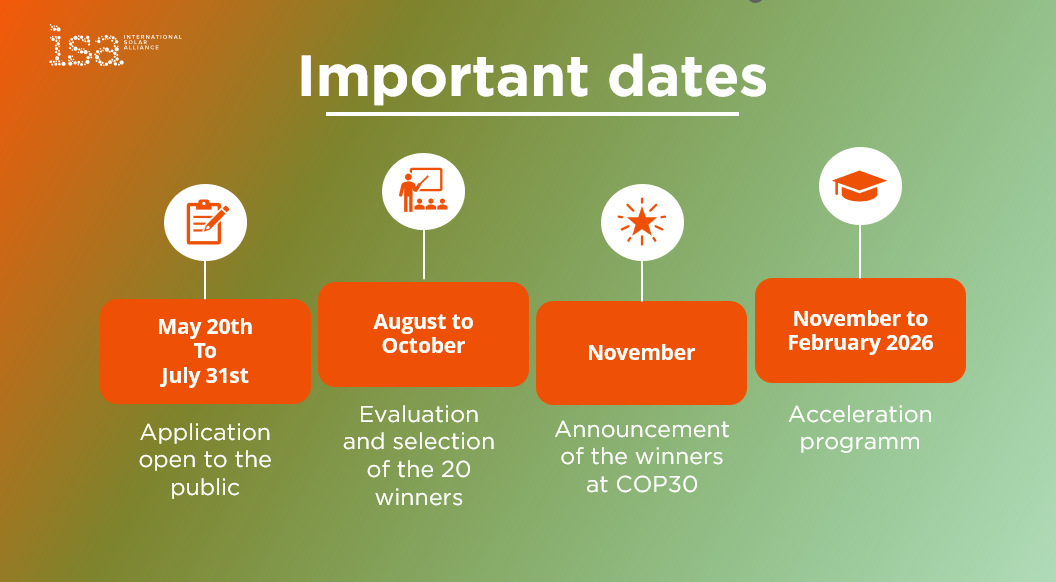
***\*Dates are subject to change***

## **Important Notes on the Timeline.**

* + 1. Before the launch event, interested parties will have access to information about the Challenge through the social media channels provided by the Organizers and their website.
    2. The closing date of the Challenge is the final deadline to participate and submit Proposals. This date is not subject to extensions; therefore, if Proposals are not submitted within the timeframe established in the timeline, they will not be able to participate in the competition.
    3. The Organizers reserve the right to suspend, extend, and/or modify the dates of the Challenge and its stages at any time, at their sole discretion. Any changes to the timeline will be notified via email or through the channels agreed upon with the Participants.
    4. For any questions, comments, or suggestions, please contact the following email address: [solarxchallenge2025latam@isa.int](mailto:solarxchallenge2025latam@isa.int).

## **Timeline Information Summary.**

## 



# PROPOSAL SUBMISSION.

## **Submission of the Proposal.**

Participants must submit their Proposal on the dates established in the Challenge timeline, by following these steps:

* + 1. Access the webpage: <https://solarx.isa.int/registration_lac> and enter the requested information.

It is the sole responsibility of the Participant to ensure that all information and documents are uploaded correctly and that the application is submitted completely before the deadline.

* + 1. Receive the application confirmation email for the Challenge from the Organizers.

## **Evaluation and Selection Process.**

Once the Challenge is closed, the Proposals will undergo an evaluation and selection process consisting of the following phases:

* + 1. **Shortlisting and Evaluation Phase.** In the first stage, a shortlisting of the received Proposals will be carried out to verify compliance with the eligibility requirements and to evaluate their alignment with the objectives of the Challenge. The Proposals that pass this phase will move on to the next stage.

In the next stage, the shortlisted Participants must conduct a virtual presentation of their Proposal to the Evaluation Committee (Zoom or Microsoft Teams Platform). The Committee will review each Proposal in detail to select the winning Initiatives of the Challenge.

Finally, the result of the final evaluation conducted by the Evaluation Committee will be communicated to the Participants via their email address.

* + 1. **Announcement of Winners.** The results of the evaluation will be communicated to all participants via their email. Likewise, the Winners of the Challenge will be publicly announced at an event to be held within the framework of COP30 in Belém, Brazil, to give them visibility.
    2. **Acceleration Program.** After the announcement, the Winners will be invited to participate in the Global Acceleration Program, which is part of the benefits of the Challenge.

# EVALUATION.

* 1. **Evaluation Criteria.**

The Evaluation Committee will assess the Proposals based on their capacity to offer implementable, scalable, and innovative solutions. The following criteria, among others, will be taken into account:

* + 1. The alignment of the Proposal with one or more of the thematic areas defined for the Challenge.
    2. The potential for replicability, scalability, and deployment of the solution, especially in Latin America and the Caribbean region.
    3. The innovation of the product, service, or business model.
    4. Others as deemed appropriate by the Committee.

The Evaluation Committee may consider, at its discretion, Proposals with innovative products that are ready to be demonstrated but have not yet started sales.

# Evaluation Committee.

The final evaluations will be conducted by an Evaluation Committee composed of high-level experts from various organizations in the solar and investment ecosystem.

The Committee will be chaired by Mr. Ashish Khanna, Director General of the International Solar Alliance (ISA).

* + 1. **Potential Committee Members:**
* Mr. Pratap Raju, of Climate Collective.
* Mr. Peter Damgaard Jensen, of Climate Investment Coalition.
* Mr. Praviin B Kumaar, of Global Off-Grid Lighting Association (GOGLA).
* Ms. Aparajita Mangotra, of the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI).
* Mr. Jithin Kumar Varrier, of Sharjah Research, Technology and Innovation Park (SRTIP).
* Ms. Aastha Grover, of Invest India.
* Mr. Alexander Hogeveen Rutter, of The Third Derivative.
* Mr. Ismail Ersahin, of the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA).
* Shri Bhupinder Singh Bhalla, Ex-Secretary, Ministry of New And Renewable Energy (MNRE).
* Mr. Jens Nielsen, of World Climate Foundation.

**Important Note:** The final composition of this committee is subject to confirmation. The Organizers of the Challenge reserve the right to add new profiles to the Evaluation Committee after the publication of these Terms of Reference.

# BENEFITS AND INCENTIVES FOR PARTICIPANTS.

Twenty (20) Winning Participants will be selected. The Participants selected as Winners of the Challenge will have access to a series of prizes and benefits designed to accelerate the growth of their startups.

The benefits include:

* 1. **Economic Grant:** Each winning team will receive a grant of USD 15,000 (fifteen thousand United States dollars). The grant will be delivered via bank transfer, following the supporting documents provided by each Entity. However, the remaining conditions regarding the transfer will be defined with each winning team.
  2. **Global Acceleration Program:** Access to the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Global Acceleration Program, which includes:
     1. **Mentorship and Training Opportunities:** Access to sessions with experts and leaders from the solar industry and the innovation ecosystem, as well as a program of practical workshops to strengthen the technical and business capabilities of the Startups. These workshops will combine virtual and in-person formats.
     2. **Market Access:** Opportunities to connect with strategic partners and explore new markets in ISA member countries.
     3. **Investment Opportunities:** Exposure to a global network of investors and key industry stakeholders. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Organizers only facilitate the visibility of the Participants before ecosystem organizations that may be interested in investing in the Initiatives; however, neither the Challenge nor the Organizers commit to this happening and do not guarantee investment in any of the projects, only their exposure to the invited stakeholders.
     4. **International Visibility:** Promotion and presentation of the Winning Proposals within the framework of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP30), to be held in Belém, Brazil.

# PARTICIPANT WITHDRAWAL.

If a Participant wishes to withdraw from the Challenge, they must communicate this in writing to the Organizers, clearly and explicitly explaining the reasons for their withdrawal.

# USE OF INFORMATION AND AUDIOVISUAL CONTENT RIGHTS.

Participants who apply to the Challenge authorize the Organizers to disseminate, publish, and communicate through any medium, their names, image, and information about the Proposals, to publicize information about the Challenge, the selected projects, and other important information regarding participation, without this generating any type of remuneration for the Participants.

Likewise, Participants authorize the Organizers to take photos, images, videos, and audio during the activities of the Challenge, and authorize them to use said photos, images, videos, and audio for use in media and any format, to promote and communicate the Challenge. Similarly, Participants grant authorization for the Organizers to use and disclose the images and description of the projects to promote and showcase the results of the competition. The authorization includes the ability for the Organizers to send said information to third parties, to increase opportunities for connection with investors and potential clients, contributing to the success and expansion of the projects participating in the Challenge.

Participants agree that the Organizers may use the information provided in the Challenge to publish and disseminate their image in any media for advertising and promotional purposes related to the competition, without such activities conferring upon them any right to remuneration or benefit whatsoever.

# CONFIDENTIALITY.

For those projects that contain confidential information, Participants must notify the Organizers of this circumstance before submitting their Proposals in order to ensure the proper handling of this information. In the absence of such notification, it will be understood that the information provided by the Participant is not of a confidential nature.

All content, documentation, and information of any kind delivered and sent by Participants and classified as confidential will be treated as such by the Organizers and their entire team. Likewise, the information provided will not be used or published for purposes other than those agreed upon for the Challenge, which are defined in this document.

Participants voluntarily and expressly agree that all information delivered and sent to apply for the Challenge will be used and analyzed to make the corresponding selections during the Challenge and for statistical purposes. The information received will be used by applying the pertinent security measures to ensure it is not altered, modified, or lost.

# PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA.

Participants freely and voluntarily authorize the Organizers to collect, use, transfer, store, consult, and process the personal information they have provided in the Challenge, which will be contained in the databases and files owned by the Organizers. The information provided by the Participants for their application to the Challenge will have the sole purpose of evaluation and use in the selection process, and other activities inherent to the development of the competition. The foregoing follows the Privacy and Personal Data Treatment Policy available in this document.

Participants freely and voluntarily declare that they are aware of the rights granted to them by law as data subjects.

The Organizers implement and maintain the necessary measures to ensure the security of the Participants' information and to prevent its loss, adulteration, or access or consultation by third parties, through industry-standard technologies and internal procedures.

For any request related to personal data, please contact the following email address: solarxchallenge2025latam@isa.int.

# RESERVATIONS AND LIMITATIONS.

This document is limited to establishing the terms and conditions of the SolarX Startup Challenge 2025: Latin America and the Caribbean Edition and does not at any time constitute an employment or contractual relationship with the Participants beyond what is expressly provided herein.

The Organizers reserve the right to annul, suspend, and/or modify the conditions and terms required for participation in the Challenge, a fact that will be informed to the Participants, and therefore, they may not make any claim or request any compensation. Likewise, the Organizers reserve the right to choose the Participants who comply with the conditions of the Challenge, in accordance with what is established in this document.

Participants must bear all costs arising from their participation in the Challenge.

The Participant is aware and agrees that they cannot use the Challenge website to upload any illegal content, that violates public order or public morals, that is disrespectful, defamatory, vulgar, obscene, racist, xenophobic, or that causes damages to the Organizers, their teams, and/or third parties in any way. Nor may they upload advertising or commercial content, content that violates intellectual property or copyright rights, or material containing viruses or files that interrupt, destroy, or limit the functionality of the Platform.

It is presumed and understood that Participants access the Challenge voluntarily, exonerating the Organizers from any liability regarding the data provided, and it is understood that said data is correct, truthful, and complete. Participants assume full responsibility for the lack of truthfulness or accuracy of the information, and in such a case, the Organizers may deny, withdraw, and suspend Participants who provide false, inaccurate, or information that violates legal provisions and the guidelines established in this document.

The Organizers may at any time automatically disqualify, without prior notice, any Participant who alters or affects the operation of the Challenge website, as well as the Terms of the Challenge, who uses fraudulent or illegal means to gain an advantage in being selected, or who uses any type of practice that does not comply with the Terms of the Challenge.

# INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY.

All works, inventions, products, models, and other elements developed during the Challenge by the Participants, companies, Organizations, and teams will remain the property of the latter. The Organizers recognize and accept that any creation, invention, or result is the exclusive property of its creators.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, Participants understand and accept that the information uploaded by them to the competition Platform may be used by the Organizers and their associated teams, exclusively for evaluations, selections, and other activities necessary for the development of the Challenge. It is guaranteed that this use will be to manage and promote the event, always respecting the intellectual property rights of the Participants.

Participants accept and warrant that they are the legitimate owners of the information and are authorized to upload and publish intellectual and industrial property content in the Challenge, and, therefore, are not infringing on any third-party's copyright, intellectual property, industrial property, trademarks, patents, trade secrets, commercial rights, privacy, or publicity rights.

# TRADEMARKS OF THE ORGANIZING ENTITIES.

Participants may not use the registered trademarks, trade names, logos, or designs of the Organizers, nor use any type of content from the Challenge website without prior authorization.

# OBLIGATIONS OF THE PARTICIPANTS.

* 1. To comply with these Terms of Reference and the other documents or annexes of the Challenge.
  2. To comply with the agreements on intellectual property, confidentiality, and use of trademarks described in the Challenge.
  3. To provide truthful and complete information to the Organizers and their work team within the framework of the program.
  4. In the event of being selected as a Winner, to participate in the different activities offered by the Organizers within the framework of the Challenge.
  5. To assume all costs and responsibilities that their participation in the Challenge implies.
  6. To treat the Organizers, their work team, other Participants, strategic allies, and, in general, the people who make the development of the Challenge possible, cordially and respectfully.
  7. The Participant is obligated to be accountable for the truthfulness of the information provided by them during the Challenge. In this sense, it is presumed that the information in the Proposal submitted by the Participant and that which will be supplied during the program corresponds to reality. Nevertheless, the Organizers reserve the right to verify all information provided by the Participant by requesting clarifications or new documents.
  8. It is the responsibility of every Participant to carry out the studies and verifications they deem necessary for the formulation of the Proposal, including but not limited to technical studies, among others, assuming all associated costs and risks. The submission of the Proposal implies that the Participant has conducted the relevant studies, analyses, and assessments to participate in the Challenge.

# ACCEPTANCE OF THE TERMS.

By applying to participate in the Challenge, Participants accept that they meet the previously established eligibility requirements, commit to comply with the Terms described in this document, and acknowledge that the Organizers may cancel, modify, or suspend the Terms of the Challenge as they deem appropriate, without prior notice.

Participants accept that the final decisions regarding the Challenge are at the sole discretion of the Organizers and that they will notify the Participants via email and/or through the Platform.

Participants agree to participate in the Challenge at their sole responsibility and own risk, and agree to hold the Organizers harmless against any third-party claims related to their ideas or projects.

# GOVERNING LAW AND JURISDICTION.

These Terms shall be governed by the laws of the Republic of Colombia. Any dispute arising from the interpretation or execution of these Terms shall be resolved directly by the Participants and the Organizers, who commit to making their best efforts in good faith to reach an agreement within a maximum period of twenty (20) business days, counted from the date on which either the Participants or the Organizers give written notice to the other party regarding any claim.

Any controversy, legal proceeding, or claim resulting from the Terms of the Challenge or their interpretation, which could not be resolved following the preceding paragraph, shall be submitted to the jurisdiction of the Arbitration Tribunals of the City of Medellín, Republic of Colombia.

# PUBLICATION OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE.

The Organizers will open the Challenge process with the publication on their website of these Terms of Reference, starting from the date indicated in the timeline.

# CONTACT.

In case of any questions related to the competition or this document, interested parties may submit their inquiries, expressing them clearly, to the following email address: [solarxchallenge2025latam@isa.int](mailto:solarxchallenge2025latam@isa.int). The submission of inquiries and the corresponding responses will not suspend the deadline for the submission of Proposals.

Should modifications or additions to the Terms of Reference be required, addenda will be issued as needed or based on the observations submitted. These documents will be published on the website.

**privacy and personal data**

**processing policy**

**solarx startup challenge 2025:**

**latin america and the caribbean edition.**

# INTRODUCTION.

For the Organizers of the "SolarX Startup Challenge 2025: Latin America and the Caribbean Edition," hereinafter, the "Challenge," the protection of your personal data and your privacy is a priority. The purpose of this Privacy and Personal Data Processing Policy, hereinafter the "Policy," is to inform you clearly and transparently about how the information you provide when participating in the competition is collected, used, stored, and protected.

This Policy governs the processing of the personal data of those individuals who participate in the Challenge by submitting their Proposals on the website: https://solarx.isa.int/registration\_lac, hereinafter the "Platform," as well as those who participate in the organization, development, and evaluation of the program, and the data of third parties that are processed within the framework of the competition.

We invite you to read this policy carefully to understand your rights and our obligations within the framework of the applicable data protection regulations, including the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) of the European Union.

By submitting your application to the Challenge, you accept the practices described in this document.

This Policy was originally written in the Spanish language. In the event of any discrepancy between the original and a translated version, the Spanish original shall prevail.

# DEFINITIONS.

For this Policy and taking into account the definitions stipulated in the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) of the European Union, the following definitions are presented:

**User or Data Subject:** The natural person who uses the services of the Platform, those who participate in the organization, development, and evaluation of the program, and any individual to whom the personal data relates.

**Personal Data:** Any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person. An identifiable natural person can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to an identifier such as a name, an identification number, location data, an online identifier or to one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of that natural person.

**Data Processing:** Any operation or set of operations which is performed on personal data or sets of personal data, whether or not by automated means, such as collection, recording, organization, structuring, storage, adaptation or alteration, retrieval, consultation, use, disclosure by transmission, dissemination or otherwise making available, alignment or combination, restriction, erasure or destruction.

**International Data Transfer:** Any processing of personal data that involves a transfer of said data outside the territory of the Data Subject's country of residence.

**Data Controller:** The natural or legal, public or private person who, by themselves or in association with others, determines the purposes and means of the data Processing.

**Data Processor:** The natural or legal person, public authority, agency, or other body that processes personal data on behalf of the Data Controller.

**Consent of the data subject:** Any freely given, specific, informed and unambiguous indication of the data subject's wishes by which he or she (the Data Subject), by a statement or by a clear affirmative action, signifies agreement to the processing of personal data relating to him or her.

**Database:** Any organized set of personal data that is subject to Processing.

**General Data Protection Regulation:** Hereinafter, "GDPR". It is the regulation that governs data protection throughout the European Union, regardless of where the data is processed.

**Challenge:** Refers to the "SolarX Startup Challenge 2025: Latin America and the Caribbean Edition," an initiative that seeks to find innovative solutions to the challenges of the solar energy sector.

**Startup:** An emerging company that seeks to develop an innovative business model, generally in the early stages of its growth. These companies are typically focused on technology and rapid scaling.

**Latin America and the Caribbean:** Refers to the region in the Americas that includes the following countries: Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

**Organizers:** Refers to the Organizers of the Challenge, which include the International Solar Alliance (ISA) as the sponsoring entity, the Sequoia Climate Foundation as a Program Partner, and IDOM CONSULTING, ENGINEERING, ARCHITECTURE, S.A.U. (IDOM) as the entity in charge of operating the program.

**Initiative / Proposal:** Refers to any project submitted by the Participants within the framework of the Challenge.

**Platform:** Refers to the technology platform through which those interested in participating in the Challenge may enter and submit their Proposal: <https://solarx.isa.int/registration_lac>.

# PRINCIPLES.

In the processing of your personal data, the following principles specifically apply, without excluding the other principles regulated and mentioned in the GDPR.

**Principle of Lawfulness:** Our Users' data is processed in accordance with the provisions of the laws governing the matter and in the other provisions that develop them. We do not process data that is partial, incomplete, fragmented, or misleading.

**Principle of Purpose Limitation:** The Processing of our Users' data adheres to a defined, legitimate, explicit, and informed purpose, following current laws and the General Data Protection Regulation. In this document, the User can learn about the purposes of their data Processing.

**Principle of Freedom (Consent):** We process data only with the prior, express, and informed consent of the Data Subject. Personal data may not be obtained or disclosed without prior authorization, or in the absence of a legal or judicial mandate that exempts consent.

**Principle of Transparency:** We guarantee the Data Subject's right to obtain, at any time and without restrictions, information regarding the Processing of their personal data (such as, for example, the identity of the controller, the purpose, or the disclosure of data to third parties).

**Principle of Security:** The information subject to Processing is handled with the necessary technical, human, and administrative measures to provide security to the records, preventing their alteration, loss, consultation, use, or unauthorized or fraudulent access.

**Principle of Confidentiality:** All persons involved in the Processing of personal data are obliged to guarantee the confidentiality of the information, even after their relationship with any of the tasks involving the Processing has ended.

**Principle of Storage Limitation:** The storage of data is limited to the purposes for which it is processed. Once those purposes have been achieved, the data is deleted or, at least, stripped of any element that allows the data subjects to be identified.

**Principle of Data Minimization:** The personal data collected will be adequate, relevant, and limited to what is strictly necessary concerning the purposes for which they are processed.

# SCOPE OF APPLICATION.

This Policy applies to the Processing of the personal data of those individuals who participate in the Challenge by submitting their Proposals on the Platform, as well as those who participate in the organization, development, and evaluation of the program, and the data of third parties that are processed within the framework of the competition.

1. **DATA CONTROLLER FOR THE PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA.**

The following is information about the Data Controller for the processing of personal data.

* **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**
* **Email:** **(Insert)**
* **Contact Phone: (Insert)**
* **Address:** Surya Bhawan, 3rd Floor, National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) Campus, Gwal Pahari, Gurugram, Haryana, India

1. **LEGAL BASIS AND CONSENT FOR PROCESSING.**
   1. **Main Legal Basis: Your Consent.**

To process your personal data within the framework of the Challenge, we rely primarily on your free, prior, explicit, and informed consent. We obtain this consent when, upon submitting your application on the Platform, you actively check the box accepting the Terms and Conditions and this Privacy Policy.

Said authorization must be granted by the Data Subject. Remember that you have the right to withdraw your consent at any time, without affecting the lawfulness of the processing based on consent before its withdrawal.

* 1. **How We Collect Your Data.**

We collect your personal information through different means. At each point of collection, you will be informed about the specific details of the processing (purpose, recipients, etc.) through informational clauses. The main means are:

* **Directly from you:** Through the forms you complete on our Platform, social media, or any other direct communication channel with the Organizers.
* **Through Social Media:** The Challenge may have a presence on social media. The information you share on these platforms (messages, comments, etc.) may be public and is subject to the privacy policies of each social network. We recommend that you consult them before interacting to understand how they process and share your information.
* **Through Cookies and Similar Technologies:** When you browse the Challenge website, we may collect information related to your navigation.
  1. **Types of Data We Collect.**

In general, the personal information we process is limited to the data necessary to manage your participation in the Challenge, such as: name, identification number, country of residence, physical address, email, contact phone number, and any other data requested in the application form.

We may also collect photos, images, videos, and audio during the activities of the Challenge, for which the Data Subject authorizes the Data Controller to carry out the Processing of this information and to use said photos, images, videos, and audio, including their use in media and any format, to promote and communicate the Challenge.

* 1. **Specific Information about Cookies.**

Cookies may be used to improve your experience on our website. In such cases, we distinguish between:

* **Essential Cookies:** These are necessary for the basic functioning of the site and do not require your consent.
* **Non-Essential Cookies (for analytics, performance, etc.):** These help us understand how you use the site to improve it. These cookies will only be activated if you give us your explicit consent through the cookie management banner that will appear when you visit our site.

You can accept, reject, or configure your preferences for non-essential cookies at any time. Most browsers also allow you to manage cookies from their settings. Please note that if you block or decide to delete cookies, your browsing experience may be limited.

* 1. **Other Legal Bases for Processing**.

The Data Subject's authorization will not be necessary in exceptional cases expressly permitted by the GDPR or the applicable data protection law, such as to comply with a legal obligation or a judicial requirement.

# PURPOSES AND USE OF DATA.

The Data Controller will carry out operations that include the collection, storage, use, circulation, international transfer, and/or deletion of personal data. This Processing will be carried out exclusively for the authorized purposes provided for in this Policy and the specific authorizations granted by the Data Subject. Personal data will be processed for the following purposes:

* 1. **Essential Purposes for the Management of Your Participation.**

By participating in the Challenge (by submitting your proposal, participating in the organization, development, and evaluation stages of the competition, and/or any other activity carried out within the framework of the program), you accept that we will process your data for the following purposes, which are indispensable for the development of the competition:

* **To Manage Your Application:** To collect, store, and use your data to administer your registration, verify that you meet the eligibility requirements, and manage your Proposal on the Platform.
* **Execution and Coordination of the Challenge:** For the proper development and execution of the program, your personal data will be processed by the Organizers and may be shared between them (ISA, as the Controller, and IDOM, as the Processor and program operator). This is necessary for the administration of the Platform, communications, competition logistics, and its overall coordination.
* **To Evaluate Your Proposal:** To share your application with the members of the Evaluation Committee so they can carry out the winner selection process. This may involve international data transfers, as the committee is composed of experts from different parts of the world.
* **To Communicate with You:** To use your contact details to send you administrative and operational communications about your status in the Challenge (e.g., confirmation of receipt, shortlisting notification, etc.).
* **To Manage the Winners:** In the event of being a winner, use your data to coordinate the awarding of prizes and your participation in the Global Acceleration Program.
* **Promotion and Dissemination of the Event:** To use your name, image, and the non-confidential description of your project to promote and communicate the Challenge and its results.
* **Visibility of Proposals:** To transmit your personal data and the information of the projects submitted within the framework of the Challenge to third parties and/or strategic partners interested in investing in and implementing the solutions presented by you in the competition. The foregoing is for the purpose of allowing the proposal to have visibility before organizations in the ecosystem.
  1. **Purposes Based on Our Legitimate Interest.**

We also process certain data for purposes that are necessary for the proper administration and security of the program, based on our legitimate interest:

* **Security and Technical Improvements:** To perform analyses to improve the User experience, the performance, and security of our Platform, as well as to control access.
* **Statistical Analysis:** To create aggregated and anonymous statistics about participation in the Challenge to report to our partners and improve future editions.
* **Due Diligence:** To check the backgrounds of the members of the Evaluation Committee in public databases to prevent conflicts of interest, fraud, money laundering, or the financing of terrorism.
* **Legal Defense:** To retain and use the necessary information to exercise or defend our rights in the event of legal proceedings or claims.

# USER'S RESPONSIBILITY.

By providing us with your data through the different service channels, the User warrants that they are over eighteen (18) years of age and that the data provided is true, accurate, complete, and up-to-date. For these purposes, the User confirms that they are responsible for the veracity of the communicated data and that they will keep said information appropriately updated so that it reflects their real situation, making themselves responsible for any false or inaccurate data they may provide, as well as for any direct or indirect damages that may arise therefrom.

# DATA RETENTION PERIOD.

We only retain your personal data for the time necessary to fulfill the purpose for which it was collected, to comply with legal obligations, and to address potential liabilities that could arise from the fulfillment of the purpose for which the data was collected.

In any case, and as a general rule, we will keep your personal information as long as a contractual relationship links us or you do not exercise your right to erasure and/or restriction of processing, in which case, the information will be blocked, with no further use beyond its retention, for as long as it may be necessary for the exercise or defense of claims, or should any type of liability arise that needs to be addressed.

# DATA SUBJECT RIGHTS AND CONTACT.

#### **Rights.**

#### You, as the Data Subject, have specific rights over your personal information that you can exercise at any time. We explain what they are and how you can exercise them below.

#### **Right of Access:** You have the right to request confirmation from us as to whether we are processing your personal data and to access it.

#### **Right to Rectification:** You have the right to request the correction of your personal data if it is inaccurate or to have it completed if it is incomplete.

#### **Right to Erasure:** You have the right to request the deletion of your personal data when, among other reasons, it is no longer necessary for the purposes for which it was collected.

#### **Right to Restriction of Processing:** You have the right to request the restriction of the processing of your data. In this case, we will only keep it blocked for the exercise or defense of claims.

#### **Right to Object:** You have the right to object to the processing of your data for specific purposes, such as direct marketing.

#### **Right to Data Portability:** You have the right to receive the personal data you have provided to us in a structured, commonly used, and machine-readable format, and to transmit it to another controller without hindrance from us.

#### **Right to Withdraw Consent:** For any processing based on your consent, you have the right to withdraw it at any time.

#### **How Can You Exercise Your Rights?**

#### **Channel of Communication:** To exercise any of your rights, you can send us a clear request to the following email address[s olarxchallenge2025latam@isa.int](mailto:s olarxchallenge2025latam@isa.int).

#### **Content of the Request:** To expedite the process, your request should indicate:

#### Your full name.

#### The specific right you wish to exercise (Access, Rectification, etc.).

#### A clear description of your request.

#### Supporting documents for the request (if applicable).

#### Physical and/or email address for notifications.

#### Signature of the data subject.

#### **Identity Verification:** To protect your privacy and ensure that only you or your authorized legal representative exercises the rights over your data, we may request that you prove your identity. If you are acting through a representative, they must provide a document that proves said representation.

#### **Response Times:** Exercising your rights is free of charge. We will respond to you within a maximum period of one (1) month from the receipt of your request. This period may be extended by another two (2) months if necessary, taking into account the complexity and number of requests, in which case we will inform you of such an extension.

# DATA SHARING AND INTERNATIONAL TRANSFERS.

We share your information with third parties in the cases described below, applying due security measures and regulatory compliance.

* 1. **Communication with Data Processors.** For the proper operation of the Challenge, we need to share your data with service providers who act as our Data Processors. This means they process the data on our behalf and strictly follow our instructions. This includes:
* To IDOM, as the program operator, to manage logistics and communications.
* To technology platform providers (hosting, management software, etc.).

These Processors are obligated to maintain the confidentiality and security of the information.

* 1. **Disclosure of Data to Third Parties.** We will only share your data with third parties who are not our service providers (such as strategic partners or potential investors) if we have obtained your explicit and specific consent for that purpose, as described in the "Purposes" section of this Policy. You will have the freedom to accept or reject this option without it affecting your participation in the Challenge.
  2. **International Data Transfers.** Given the global nature of the Challenge, your data may be shared with Data Processors or third parties (with your consent) located in various regions, including Latin America, the Caribbean, Spain, and other countries.

Some of these countries may not have a level of data protection equivalent to that of Europe. To ensure your information is protected in these cases, transfers are carried out under one of the following legal safeguards:

* To countries that the European Commission has determined to offer an adequate level of protection.
* Through the use of Standard Contractual Clauses (SCCs) that impose on the data recipient the same protection obligations that apply within the EU.

# SECURITY MEASURES.

To protect your information against loss, alteration, or unauthorized access, use, or disclosure, we have implemented a set of appropriate technical, administrative, and organizational security measures.

These measures are based on a risk analysis and are periodically reviewed to ensure their adequacy and effectiveness. They include, among others, the following:

* 1. **Organizational Measures:**
* **Logical Access Control:** Access to databases is restricted, ensuring that even our employees and collaborators can only access the information strictly necessary to perform their duties.
* **Confidentiality Commitment:** All our employees and the third parties who provide services to us have signed confidentiality agreements or clauses, obligating them to maintain the confidentiality of the information they process.
* **Secure Destruction:** Media containing personal data, whether physical or electronic (CDs, hard drives, etc.), are not disposed of without first applying secure deletion or physical destruction procedures that prevent the recovery of the information.
  1. **Technical Measures:**
* **Data Encryption:** We use encryption methods to protect the confidentiality of personal data, both when it is extracted from our facilities (in transit) and when it is stored (at rest), especially in high-risk cases.
* **Network Security:** We maintain activated and correctly configured firewalls on the computers and devices where personal data is stored or processed to prevent unauthorized remote access.
* **Systems Management:** We implement a patch and update management process to ensure that the operating systems and software on our devices are kept up-to-date and protected against known vulnerabilities.
* **Backups:** We perform periodic backups to allow for the recovery of the availability and access to personal data in a timely manner in the event of a physical or technical incident.
  1. **Security Breach Management:**
* **Incident Response Procedure:** In the event of a security breach affecting your data, we have a procedure to investigate the incident, assess the risk, and take the necessary corrective measures.
* **Notification to the Authority:** We will notify any relevant security breach to the competent supervisory authority within a period not exceeding seventy-two (72) hours from when we become aware of it.
* **Notification to Data Subjects:** If the security breach poses a high risk to your rights, we will notify you directly.
  1. **Limitation of Security.**

While we take all reasonable measures, no security system is impenetrable. Absolute security cannot be guaranteed. If the information under our control is compromised as a result of a security breach, we will take all appropriate measures to investigate the incident and comply with our notification obligations.

# CHANGES TO THE PRIVACY POLICY.

We reserve the right to modify this Privacy Policy at any time to adapt it to new legislation or new industry practices. Any change will be effective upon its publication.

* 1. **Notification of Changes:**
* For minor changes (such as grammatical or stylistic corrections, or any other), we will simply update the "Last Updated" date at the end of this document.
* If we make substantial changes that affect your rights or the way we process your data (e.g., new purposes, new recipients, etc.), we will notify you in advance, through a prominent notice on our Platform or by sending a direct communication to your email address.
* We recommend that you review this Policy periodically. Your continued use of the Platform after the changes have been published will constitute your acceptance of them.
* For any clarification regarding this Policy, you can contact us via the email address indicated in the "Data Subject Rights and Contact" section.

**Last updated: July 4th/2025**