



AT A GLANCE: SOLAR TECHNOLOGY APPLICATION RESOURCE CENTRES (STAR C)



CONTACT US

Saba Kalam, Programme Specialist, STAR C,
International Solar Alliance
Surya Bhawan, National Institute of Solar Energy Campus Gwal Pahari,
Faridabad-Gurugram Road, Gurugram,
Haryana – 122003, India

Email: info@isolaralliance.org | sabakalam@isolaralliance.org





About Solar Technology Application Resource Centres (STAR C)

Capacity building and **institutional strengthening** of developing Member Countries are priority areas in **ISA's Theory of Change**. Recognising the urgent need to support the ISA Member Countries with high potential for solar technology deployment, the ISA Assembly agreed to establish an international network of **STAR C (Solar technology Application Resource Centre)**. The aim is to build the necessary human capacity and skills within member countries to undertake energy transition on their own while also boosting economic growth and job creation.

While ISA Member Countries are devising new policies and regulations to reduce dependency on fossil fuels and consistently trying to foster an enabling environment for accelerated growth of solar energy, there is an urgent need to build local capacities and capabilities.

What is a STAR Centre?

STAR Centres act as the technology, knowledge, and expertise hub on solar energy and a go-to place for the member countries at regional and country levels. ISA's STAR Centre programme aims to meet ISA Member Countries' capacity-building needs by building capable solar workforces, sensitising policy makers and financial institutions, incubating enterprises, standardising products and services, and creating knowledge repository on information related to solar energy. The STAR Centres also act as an interface between countries sharing solar energy development experiences, undertaking joint research, promoting development & demonstration, capacity building, and creating regional & global networks.

ISA is working towards setting up several STAR Centres, which may serve as a shared facility within a particular region.

What will a STAR Centre do?

The STAR Centres will take on one or more functions related to training, testing, innovation, and knowledge management. Based on the prominence of the function it plays, a STAR Centre can be categorised as a STAR Training Centre or a STAR Testing Centre.

Four primary functions are envisaged for these Centres: capacity building, testing, innovation, and knowledge management.

- The STAR Centre develops **custom training resources** of standard quality and delivers competency-based training schemes on technical and financial aspects of solar products, applications, and services. The Centre provides training to government officials, technicians, engineers, and industry associations.
- The STAR Centre undertakes testing of solar components and technologies based on national and international standards. In some countries, the STAR Centre can develop national standards based on international experiences.
- The Centre collects and analyses existing knowledge and information about solar energy for dissemination to a larger audience. It will act as a **knowledge management centre** providing solar energy data, guidelines, analytical tools, relevant policies, and technical assistance to solar developers, decision-makers, and local institutions.
- The centre also takes the lead in identifying and **incubating start-ups or enterprises** for integrating solar energy with income-generating activities. This would create a significant number of green jobs and enable the development of innovative ideas to address country-specific energy-related challenges. Customising solar energy based on local needs, the centre will create innovative products and services serving the local context and leading breakthroughs in scaling up off-grid and grid-connected solar installations.

Advantages:

- **One-stop shop for capacity building, testing, standardisation, and incubation:** Develop local technical knowledge and awareness among decision-makers. Act as a dedicated resource centre delivering expertise to government, private sector, communities, and individuals and enabling decision-makers to prioritise mainstreaming solar energy in the energy mix.
- **Drive investment:** Engage financial institutions on the economic viability of solar projects, identifying and mitigating risks as well as leverage large-scale and low-cost finance for solar energy deployment leading to enhanced energy access and security of Member Countries.
- **Promote green jobs:** By developing a pool of resources in countries lacking uptake of solar energy and raising the professional standard of those engaged in solar energy in member countries. Institute international certification facilitating the creation of cross-border job opportunities. Point of source for businesses to employ a certified pool of technicians and engineers.
- **Incentivise innovation** and capable enterprises, standardised products & services.
- **Strengthen local capacity**, thus helping in de-risking investments making countries investment-ready.

The Goal: 50 STAR Centres by 2030