

RFP No.: 72/08/STAR-C/2024-ISA

**Country: Madagascar, Djibouti, and Zimbabwe
Issued on: 27/08/2024**

Request For Proposal

**For Country assessment and development of business plan for
setting up Solar Technology Application Resource Centre (STAR
C) in Madagascar, Djibouti, and Zimbabwe**



**International Solar Alliance (ISA)
Secretariat, Surya Bhawan, NISE Campus,
Gwal Pahari, Gurugram, Haryana – 122003, India
Website: www.isolaralliance.org**

Contents

Section 1. Letter of Invitation	4
Section 2. Instruction to Bidders.....	5
GENERAL PROVISIONS.....	5
1. Introduction	5
2. Fraud & Corruption, Gifts and Hospitality	5
3. Eligibility.....	5
4. Conflict of Interests.....	5
PREPARATION OF PROPOSALS	6
5. General Considerations.....	6
6. Cost of Preparation of Proposal.....	6
7. Language	7
8. Documents Comprising the Proposal	7
9. Documents Establishing the Eligibility and Qualifications of the Bidder.....	7
10. Technical Proposal Format and Content	7
11. Financial Proposals.....	7
12. Proposal Security	7
13. Currencies	8
14. Joint Venture, Consortium or Association	8
15. Only One Proposal	9
16. Proposal Validity Period.....	10
17. Extension of Proposal Validity Period	10
18. Clarification of Proposal.....	10
19. Amendment of Proposals	10
20. Alternative Proposals.....	10
21. Pre-Bid Conference	11
SUBMISSION AND OPENING OF PROPOSALS	11
22. Submission	11
Email Submission	11
23. Deadline for Submission of Proposals and Late Proposals	11
24. Withdrawal, Substitution, and Modification of Proposals	12

25.	Proposal Opening.....	12
EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS		12
26.	Confidentiality.....	12
27.	Evaluation of Proposals.....	12
28.	Preliminary Examination.....	12
29.	Evaluation of Eligibility and Qualification	13
30.	Evaluation of Technical and Financial Proposals	13
31.	Due Diligence	14
32.	Clarification of Proposals	14
33.	Responsiveness of Proposal.....	15
34.	Nonconformities, Repairable Errors and Omissions.....	15
D.	AWARD OF CONTRACT	15
35.	Right to Accept, Reject, Any or All Proposals.....	15
36.	Award Criteria.....	16
37.	Right to Vary Requirements at the Time of Award.....	16
38.	Contract Signature	16
39.	Performance Security	16
40.	Bank Guarantee for Advanced Payment.....	16
41.	Liquidated Damages.....	16
42.	Payment Provisions.....	16
43.	Other Provisions.....	16
Section 3. Bid Data Sheet.....		17
Section 4. Evaluation Criteria.....		20
Section 5. Terms of Reference		24
Section 6: Returnable Bidding Forms / Checklist.....		29
	Form A: Technical Proposal Submission Form	31
	Form B: Bidder Information Form	34
	Form C: Joint Venture/Consortium/Association Information Form.....	35
	Form D: Qualification.....	35
	Form E: Format of Technical Proposal	38
	Form F: Financial Proposal Submission Form.....	44
	Form G: Financial Proposal Form	44

Section 1. Letter of Invitation

The International Solar Alliance (ISA) hereby invites you to submit a Proposal to this Request for Proposal (RFP) for the above-referenced subject.

This RFP includes the following documents and the General Terms and Conditions of Contract which is inserted in the Bid Data Sheet (BDS):

Section 1: This Letter of Invitation

Section 2: Instruction to Bidders

Section 3: Bid Data Sheet (BDS)

Section 4: Evaluation Criteria

Section 5: Terms of Reference

Section 6: Returnable Bidding Forms

- Form A: Technical Proposal Submission Form
- Form B: Bidder Information Form
- Form C: Joint Venture/Consortium/Association Information Form (Not Applicable)
- Form D: Qualification Form
- Form E: Format of Technical Proposal
- Form F: Financial Proposal Submission Form
- Form G: Financial Proposal Form

If you are interested in submitting a Proposal in response to this RFP, please prepare your Proposal in accordance with the requirements and procedure as set out in this RFP and submit it by the Deadline for Submission of Proposals set out in Bid Data Sheet.

Please acknowledge receipt of this RFP by sending an email to procurement@isolaralliance.org, indicating whether you intend to submit a Proposal or otherwise. You may send the Technical Proposal and the Financial Proposal files separately. The financial and technical proposal shall be encrypted with different passwords and clearly labelled. Any Amendments to the RFP will be notified on ISA Website. Should you require further clarifications, kindly communicate with the contact person/s identified in the attached Bid Data Sheet as the focal point for queries on this RFP.

ISA looks forward to receiving your Proposal and thank you in advance for your interest in ISA procurement opportunities.

Issued by: Vishal Pratap

Title: Procurement Unit

Date: August 27, 2024

Section 2. Instruction to Bidders

GENERAL PROVISIONS	
<p>1. <i>Introduction</i></p>	<p>1.1 Bidders shall adhere to all the requirements of this RFP, including any amendments in Writing by ISA.</p> <p>1.2 Any Proposal submitted will be regarded as an offer by the Bidder and does not constitute or imply the acceptance of the Proposal by ISA. ISA is under no obligation to award a contract to any Bidder as a result of this RFP.</p>
<p>2. <i>Fraud & Corruption, Gifts and Hospitality</i></p>	<p>2.1 ISA strictly enforces a policy of zero tolerance on proscribed practices, including fraud, corruption, collusion, unethical or unprofessional practices, and obstruction of ISA vendors and requires all bidders/vendors observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement process and contract implementation.</p> <p>2.2 Bidders/vendors shall not offer gifts or hospitality of any kind to ISA staff members including recreational trips to sporting or cultural events, theme parks or offers of holidays, transportation, or invitations to extravagant lunches or dinners.</p> <p>2.3 In pursuance of this policy, ISA (a) Shall reject a proposal if it determines that the selected bidder has engaged in any corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for the contract in question; (b) Shall declare a vendor ineligible, either indefinitely or for a stated period of time, to be awarded a contract if at any time it determines that the vendor has engaged in any corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for, or in executing a ISA contract.</p> <p>2.4 All Bidders must adhere to the ISA Supplier Code of Conduct, which may be found at https://isolaralliance.org/images/ISA%20Supplier%20Code%20of%20Conduct_14.4.2023.final%20version.pdf</p>
<p>3. <i>Eligibility</i></p>	<p>3.1 A vendor should not be suspended, debarred, or otherwise identified as ineligible by any UN Organization or the World Bank Group or any other international Organization. Vendors are therefore required to disclose to ISA whether they are subject to any sanction or temporary suspension imposed by these organizations.</p> <p>3.2 It is the Bidder’s responsibility to ensure that its employees, joint venture members, sub-contractors, service providers, suppliers and/or their employees meet the eligibility requirements as established by ISA.</p>
<p>4. <i>Conflict of Interests</i></p>	<p>4.1 Bidders must strictly avoid conflicts with other assignments or their own interests, and act without consideration for future work. Bidders found to have a conflict of interest shall be disqualified. Without limitation on the generality of the above, Bidders, and any of their affiliates, shall be considered to have a conflict of interest with one or more parties in this solicitation process, if they:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Are or have been associated in the past, with a firm or any of its affiliates which have been engaged by ISA to provide services for the preparation of the design, specifications, Terms of Reference, cost analysis/estimation, and other documents to be used for the procurement of the goods and services in this selection process; b) Were involved in the preparation and/or design of the programme/project related to the services requested under this RFP; or c) Are found to be in conflict for any other reason, as may be established by, or at the discretion of ISA. <p>4.2 In the event of any uncertainty in the interpretation of a potential conflict of interest, Bidders must disclose to ISA, and seek ISA’s confirmation on whether or not such a conflict exists. The ISA shall have the discretion to disqualify or proceed with a bidder where there is a probable conflict of interest subject to further evaluation and review of various factors such as access to sensitive information which may confer unfair advantage as against other bidders. The decision on a probable conflict of interest shall be made in the best interest of the work of the ISA.</p> <p>4.3 Similarly, the Bidders must disclose in their proposal their knowledge of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) If the owners, part-owners, officers, directors, controlling shareholders, of the bidding entity or key personnel are family members of ISA staff involved in the procurement functions and/or the Government of the country or any Implementing Partner receiving services under this RFP; and b) All other circumstances that could potentially lead to actual or perceived conflict of interest, collusion or unfair competition practices. <p>Failure to disclose such an information may result in the rejection of the proposal or proposals affected by the non-disclosure.</p> <p>4.4 The eligibility of Bidders that are wholly or partly owned by the Government shall be subject to ISA’s further evaluation and review of various factors such as being registered, operated and managed as an independent business entity, the extent of Government ownership/share, receipt of subsidies, mandate and access to information in relation to this RFP, among others. Conditions that may lead to undue advantage against other Bidders may result in the eventual rejection of the Proposal.</p>
--	--

PREPARATION OF PROPOSALS

<p>5. <i>General Considerations</i></p>	<p>5.1 In preparing the Proposal, the Bidder is expected to examine the RFP in detail. Material deficiencies in providing the information requested in the RFP may result in rejection of the Proposal.</p> <p>5.2 The Bidder will not be permitted to take advantage of any errors or omissions in the RFP. Should such errors or omissions be discovered, the Bidder must notify the ISA</p>
---	--

<p>6. <i>Cost of Preparation</i></p>	<p>6.1 The Bidder shall bear any and all costs related to the preparation and/or</p>
--------------------------------------	--

<i>of Proposal</i>	submission of the Proposal, regardless of whether its Proposal was selected or not. ISA shall not be responsible or liable for those costs, regardless of the conduct or outcome of the procurement process.
<i>7. Language</i>	7.1 The Proposal, as well as any and all related correspondence exchanged by the Bidder and ISA, shall be Written in the language (s) specified in the BDS.
<i>8. Documents Comprising the Proposal</i>	8.1 The Proposal shall comprise of the following documents: c) Documents Establishing the Eligibility and Qualifications of the Bidder; d) Technical Proposal; e) Financial Proposal; f) Proposal Security, if required by BDS; g) Any attachments and/or appendices to the Proposal.
<i>9. Documents Establishing the Eligibility and Qualifications of the Bidder</i>	9.1 The Bidder shall furnish documentary evidence of its status as an eligible and qualified vendor, using the Forms provided under Section 6 and providing documents required in those forms. In order to award a contract to a Bidder, its qualifications must be documented to ISA’s satisfaction.
<i>10. Technical Proposal Format and Content</i>	10.1 The Bidder is required to submit a Technical Proposal using the Standard Forms and templates provided in Section 6 of the RFP. 10.2 The Technical Proposal shall not include any price or financial information. A Technical Proposal containing material financial information may be declared non-responsive. 10.3 Samples of items, when required as per Section 5, shall be provided within the time specified and unless otherwise specified by ISA, and at no expense to ISA 10.4 When applicable and required as per Section 5, the Bidder shall describe the necessary training programme available for the maintenance and operation of the services and/or equipment offered as well as the cost to the ISA. Unless otherwise specified, such training as well as training materials shall be provided in the language of the Bid as specified in the BDS.
<i>11. Financial Proposals</i>	11.1 The Financial Proposal shall be prepared using the Standard Form provided in Section 6 of the RFP. It shall list all major cost components associated with the services, and the detailed breakdown of such costs. 11.2 Any output and activities described in the Technical Proposal but not priced in the Financial Proposal, shall be assumed to be included in the prices of other activities or items, as well as in the final total price. 11.3 Prices and other financial information must not be disclosed in any other place except in the financial proposal.
<i>12. Proposal Security</i>	12.1 A Proposal Security, if required by BDS, shall be provided in the amount and form indicated in the BDS. The Proposal Security shall be valid up to thirty

	<p>(30) days after the final date of validity of the Proposal.</p> <p>12.2 The Proposal Security shall be included along with the Technical Proposal. If Proposal Security is required by the RFP but is not found along with the Technical Proposal, the Proposal shall be rejected.</p> <p>12.3 If the Proposal Security amount or its validity period is found to be less than what is required by ISA, ISA shall reject the Proposal.</p> <p>12.4 In the event an electronic submission is allowed in the BDS, Bidders shall include a copy of the Bid Security in their proposal and the original of the Proposal Security must be sent via courier or hand delivery as per the instructions in BDS.</p> <p>12.5 The Proposal Security may be forfeited by ISA, and the Proposal rejected, in the event of any one or combination, of the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) If the Bidder withdraws its offer during the period of the Proposal Validity specified in the BDS, or; b) In the event that the successful Bidder fails: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. to sign the Contract after ISA has issued an award; or ii. to furnish the Performance Security, insurances, or other documents that ISA may require as a condition precedent to the effectivity of the contract that may be awarded to the Bidder.
<p>13. <i>Currencies</i></p>	<p>13.1 All prices shall be quoted in the currency or currencies indicated in the BDS. Where Proposals are quoted in different currencies, for the purposes of comparison of all Proposals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) ISA will convert the currency quoted in the Proposal into the ISA preferred currency, in accordance with the prevailing UN operational rate of exchange on the last day of submission of Proposals; and b) In the event that ISA selects a proposal for award that is quoted in a currency different from the preferred currency in the BDS, ISA shall reserve the right to award the contract in the currency of ISA's preference, using the conversion method specified above.
<p>14. <i>Joint Venture, Consortium or Association</i></p>	<p>14.1 If the Bidder is a group of legal entities that will form or have formed a Joint Venture (JV), Consortium or Association for the Proposal, they shall confirm in their Proposal that : (i) they have designated one party to act as a lead entity, duly vested with authority to legally bind the members of the JV, Consortium or Association jointly and severally, which shall be evidenced by a duly notarized Agreement among the legal entities, and submitted with the Proposal; and (ii) if they are awarded the contract, the contract shall be entered into, by and between ISA and the designated lead entity, who shall be acting for and on behalf of all the member entities comprising the joint venture.</p> <p>14.2 After the Deadline for Submission of Proposal, the lead entity identified to represent the JV, Consortium or Association shall not be altered without the prior written consent of ISA.</p>

	<p>14.3 The lead entity and the member entities of the JV, Consortium or Association shall abide by the provisions of Clause 15 herein in respect of submitting only one proposal.</p> <p>14.4 The description of the organization of the JV, Consortium or Association must clearly define the expected role of each of the entity in the joint venture in delivering the requirements of the RFP, both in the Proposal and the JV, Consortium or Association Agreement. All entities that comprise the JV, Consortium or Association shall be subject to the eligibility and qualification assessment by ISA.</p> <p>14.5 A JV, Consortium or Association in presenting its track record and experience should clearly differentiate between:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Those that were undertaken together by the JV, Consortium or Association; and b) Those that were undertaken by the individual entities of the JV, Consortium or Association. <p>14.6 Previous contracts completed by individual experts working privately but who are permanently or were temporarily associated with any of the member firms cannot be claimed as the experience of the JV, Consortium or Association or those of its members, but should only be claimed by the individual experts themselves in their presentation of their individual credentials.</p> <p>JV, Consortium or Associations are encouraged for high value, multi-sectoral requirements when the spectrum of expertise and resources required may not be available within one firm.</p>
<p><i>15. Only One Proposal</i></p>	<p>15.1 The Bidder (including the individual members of any Joint Venture) shall submit only one Proposal, either in its own name or as part of a Joint Venture.</p> <p>15.2 Proposals submitted by two (2) or more Bidders shall all be rejected if they are found to have any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> h) they have at least one controlling partner, director or shareholder in common; or i) any one of them receive or have received any direct or indirect subsidy from the other/s; or j) they have the same legal representative for purposes of this RFP; or k) they have a relationship with each other, directly or through common third parties, that puts them in a position to have access to information about, or influence on the Proposal of, another Bidder regarding this RFP process; l) they are subcontractors to each other's Proposal, or a subcontractor to one Proposal also submits another Proposal under its name as lead Bidder; or m) some key personnel proposed to be in the team of one Bidder participates in more than one Proposal received for this RFP process.

	<p>This condition relating to the personnel, does not apply to subcontractors being included in more than one Proposal.</p>
<p><i>16.Proposal Validity Period</i></p>	<p>16.1 Proposals shall remain valid for the period specified in the BDS, commencing on the Deadline for Submission of Proposals. A Proposal valid for a shorter period may be rejected by ISA and rendered non-responsive.</p> <p>16.2 During the Proposal validity period, the Bidder shall maintain its original Proposal without any change, including the availability of the Key Personnel, the proposed rates and the total price.</p>
<p><i>17.Extension of Proposal Validity Period</i></p>	<p>17.1 In exceptional circumstances, prior to the expiration of the proposal validity period, ISA may request Bidders to extend the period of validity of their Proposals. The request and the responses shall be made in writing, and shall be considered integral to the Proposal.</p> <p>17.2 If the Bidder agrees to extend the validity of its Proposal, it shall be done without any change in the original Proposal.</p> <p>17.3 The Bidder has the right to refuse to extend the validity of its Proposal, and in which case, such Proposal will not be further evaluated.</p>
<p><i>18.Clarification of Proposal</i></p>	<p>18.1 Bidders may request clarifications on any of the RFP documents no later than the date indicated in the BDS. Any request for clarification must be sent in writing in the manner indicated in the BDS. If inquiries are sent other than specified channel, even if they are sent to an ISA staff member, ISA shall have no obligation to respond or confirm that the query was officially received.</p> <p>18.2 ISA will provide the responses to clarifications through the method specified in the BDS.</p> <p>18.3 ISA shall endeavor to provide responses to clarifications in an expeditious manner, but any delay in such response shall not cause an obligation on the part of ISA to extend the submission date of the Proposals, unless ISA deems that such an extension is justified and necessary.</p>
<p><i>19.Amendment of Proposals</i></p>	<p>19.1 At any time prior to the deadline of Proposal submission, ISA may for any reason, such as in response to a clarification requested by a Bidder, modify the RFP in the form of an amendment to the RFP. Amendments will be made available to all prospective bidders.</p> <p>19.2 If the amendment is substantial, ISA may extend the Deadline for submission of proposal to give the Bidders reasonable time to incorporate the amendment into their Proposals.</p>
<p><i>20.Alternative Proposals</i></p>	<p>20.1 Unless otherwise specified in the BDS, alternative proposals shall not be considered. If submission of alternative proposal is allowed by BDS, a Bidder may submit an alternative proposal, but only if it also submits a proposal conforming to the RFP requirements. ISA shall only consider the alternative proposal offered by the Bidder whose conforming proposal ranked the highest as per the specified evaluation method. Where the</p>

	<p>conditions for its acceptance are met, or justifications are clearly established, ISA reserves the right to award a contract based on an alternative proposal.</p> <p>20.2 If multiple/alternative proposals are being submitted, they must be clearly marked as “Main Proposal” and “Alternative Proposal”</p>
<i>21.Pre-Bid Conference</i>	<p>21.1 When appropriate, a Bidder’s conference will be conducted at the date, time and location specified in the BDS. All Bidders are encouraged to attend. Non-attendance, however, shall not result in disqualification of an interested Bidder. Minutes of the Bidder’s conference will be sent to all the participants of the pre-bid conference. No verbal statement made during the conference shall modify the terms and conditions of the RFP, unless specifically incorporated in the Minutes of the Bidder’s Conference or issued/posted as an amendment to RFP.</p>
SUBMISSION AND OPENING OF PROPOSALS	
<i>22.Submission</i>	<p>22.1 The Bidder shall submit a duly signed and complete Proposal comprising the documents and forms in accordance with the requirements in the BDS. The submission shall be in the manner specified in the BDS.</p> <p>22.2 The Proposal shall be signed by the Bidder or person(s) duly authorized to commit the Bidder. The authorization shall be communicated through a document evidencing such authorization issued by the legal representative of the bidding entity, or a Power of Attorney, accompanying the Proposal.</p> <p>22.3 Bidders must be aware that the mere act of submission of a Proposal, in and of itself, implies that the Bidder fully accepts the ISA General Contract Terms and Conditions. https://www.isolaralliance.org/images/ISA_GTB.pdf</p>
<i>Email Submission</i>	<p>22.4 Email submission, if allowed or specified in the BDS, shall be governed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Electronic files that form part of the proposal must be in accordance with the format and requirements indicated in BDS; b) The Technical Proposal and the Financial Proposal files MUST BE COMPLETELY SEPARATE. The financial proposal shall be encrypted with different passwords and clearly labelled. The files must be sent to the dedicated email address specified in the BDS. c) The password for opening the Financial Proposal should be provided only upon request of ISA. ISA will request password only from bidders whose Technical Proposal has been found to be technically responsive. Failure to provide correct password may result in the proposal being rejected.
<i>23.Deadline for Submission of Proposals and Late Proposals</i>	<p>23.1 Complete Proposals must be received by ISA in the manner, and no later than the date and time, specified in the BDS. ISA shall only recognize the date and time that the bid was received by ISA</p> <p>23.2 ISA shall not consider any Proposal that is submitted after the deadline for</p>

	the submission of Proposals.
<i>24. Withdrawal, Substitution, and Modification of Proposals</i>	<p>24.1 A Bidder may withdraw, substitute or modify its Proposal after it has been submitted at any time prior to the deadline for submission.</p> <p>24.2 Manual and Email submissions: A bidder may withdraw, substitute or modify its Proposal by sending a written notice to ISA, duly signed by an authorized representative, and shall include a copy of the authorization (or a Power of Attorney). The corresponding substitution or modification of the Proposal, if any, must accompany the respective written notice. All notices must be submitted in the same manner as specified for submission of proposals, by clearly marking them as “WITHDRAWAL” “SUBSTITUTION,” or “MODIFICATION”</p> <p>24.3 Proposals requested to be withdrawn shall be returned unopened to the Bidders, only for manual submissions. For online submissions, bids will be disregarded by ISA.</p>
<i>25. Proposal Opening</i>	25.1 There is no public bid opening for RFPs. ISA shall open the Proposals in the presence of an ad-hoc committee formed by ISA, consisting of at least two (2) members.
EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS	
<i>26. Confidentiality</i>	<p>26.1 Information relating to the examination, evaluation, and comparison of Proposals, and the recommendation of contract award, shall not be disclosed to Bidders or any other persons not officially concerned with such process, even after publication of the contract award.</p> <p>26.2 Any effort by a Bidder or anyone on behalf of the Bidder to influence ISA in the examination, evaluation and comparison of the Proposals or contract award decisions may, at ISA’s decision, result in the rejection of its Proposal and may be subject to the application of prevailing ISA vendor sanctions procedures.</p>
<i>27. Evaluation of Proposals</i>	<p>27.1 The Bidder is not permitted to alter or modify its Proposal in any way after the proposal submission deadline except as permitted under Clause 24 of this RFP. ISA will conduct the evaluation solely on the basis of the submitted Technical and Financial Proposals.</p> <p>27.2 Evaluation of proposals is made of the following steps: n) Preliminary Examination o) Minimum Eligibility and Qualification (if pre-qualification is not done) p) Evaluation of Technical Proposals q) Evaluation of Financial Proposals</p>
<i>28. Preliminary Examination</i>	28.1 ISA shall examine the Proposals to determine whether they are complete with respect to minimum documentary requirements, whether the documents have been properly signed, and whether the Proposals are generally in order, among other indicators that may be used at this stage. ISA reserves the right to reject any Proposal at this stage.

<p><i>29. Evaluation of Eligibility and Qualification</i></p>	<p>B. Eligibility and Qualification of the Bidder will be evaluated against the Minimum Eligibility/Qualification requirements specified in the Section 4 (Evaluation Criteria).</p> <p>C. In general terms, vendors that meet the following criteria may be considered qualified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. They are not included in the UN Security Council 1267/1989 Committee's list of terrorists and terrorist financiers. ii. They have a good financial standing and have access to adequate financial resources to perform the contract and all existing commercial commitments, iii. They have the necessary similar experience, technical expertise, production capacity where applicable, quality certifications, quality assurance procedures and other resources applicable to the provision of the services required; iv. They are able to comply fully with ISA General Terms and Conditions of Contract; v. They do not have a consistent history of court/arbitral award decisions against the Bidder; and vi. They have a record of timely and satisfactory performance with their clients. vii. The consulting firm should provide credentials, through adequate references or documentation, their current local presence in the ISA focus regions. Past experience of working with ISA and/or with multilateral/international organizations will be an added advantage.
<p><i>30. Evaluation of Technical and Financial Proposals</i></p>	<p>30.1 The evaluation team shall review and evaluate the Technical Proposals on the basis of their responsiveness to the Terms of Reference and other RFP documents, applying the evaluation criteria, sub-criteria, and point system specified in the Section 4 (Evaluation Criteria). A Proposal shall be rendered non-responsive at the technical evaluation stage if it fails to achieve the minimum technical score indicated in the BDS. When necessary and if stated in the BDS, ISA may invite technically responsive bidders for a presentation related to their technical proposals. The conditions for the presentation shall be provided in the bid document where required.</p> <p>30.2 In the second stage, only the Financial Proposals of those Bidders who achieve the minimum technical score will be opened for evaluation. The Financial Proposals corresponding to Technical Proposals that were rendered non-responsive shall remain unopened, and, in the case of manual submission, be returned to the Bidder unopened. For emailed Proposals submissions, ISA will not request for the password of the Financial Proposals of bidders whose Technical Proposal were found not responsive.</p> <p>30.3 The evaluation method that applies for this RFP shall be as indicated in the BDS, which may be either of two (2) possible methods, as follows: (a) the lowest priced method which selects the lowest evaluated financial proposal of the technically responsive Bidders; or (b) the combined scoring method which will be based on a combination of the technical and financial</p>

	<p>score.</p> <p>30.4 When the BDS specifies a combined scoring method, the formula for the rating of the Proposals will be as follows:</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p><u>Rating the Technical Proposal (TP):</u></p> <p>TP Rating = (Total Score Obtained by the Offer / Max. Obtainable Score for TP) x 100</p> <p><u>Rating the Financial Proposal (FP):</u></p> <p>FP Rating = (Lowest Priced Offer / Price of the Offer Being Reviewed) x 100</p> <p><u>Total Combined Score:</u></p> <p>Combined Score = (TP Rating) x (Weight of TP, e.g. 70%/100) + (FP Rating) x (Weight of FP, e.g., 30%/100)</p> </div>
<p>31. <i>Due Diligence</i></p>	<p>31.1 ISA reserves the right to undertake a due diligence exercise, also called post qualification, aimed at determining to its satisfaction, the validity of the information provided by the Bidder. Such exercise shall be fully documented and may include, but need not be limited to, all or any combination of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Verification of accuracy, correctness and authenticity of information provided by the Bidder; b) Validation of extent of compliance to the RFP requirements and evaluation criteria based on what has so far been found by the evaluation team; c) Inquiry and reference checking with Government entities with jurisdiction on the Bidder, or with previous clients, or any other entity that may have done business with the Bidder; d) Inquiry and reference checking with previous clients on the performance on on-going or contracts completed, including physical inspections of previous works, as necessary; e) Physical inspection of the Bidder’s offices, branches or other places where business transpires, with or without notice to the Bidder; f) Other means that ISA may deem appropriate, at any stage within the selection process, prior to awarding the contract.
<p>32. <i>Clarification of Proposals</i></p>	<p>32.1 To assist in the examination, evaluation and comparison of Proposals, ISA may, at its discretion, ask any Bidder for a clarification of its Proposal.</p> <p>32.2 ISA’s request for clarification and the response shall be in writing and no change in the prices or substance of the Proposal shall be sought, offered, or permitted, except to provide clarification, and confirm the correction of any arithmetic errors discovered by ISA in the evaluation of the Proposals, in accordance with RFP.</p>

	<p>32.3 Any unsolicited clarification submitted by a Bidder in respect to its Proposal, which is not a response to a request by ISA, shall not be considered during the review and evaluation of the Proposals.</p>
<p><i>33. Responsiveness of Proposal</i></p>	<p>33.1 ISA’s determination of a Proposal’s responsiveness will be based on the contents of the Proposal itself. A substantially responsive Proposal is one that conforms to all the terms, conditions, TOR and other requirements of the RFP without material deviation, reservation, or omission.</p> <p>33.2 If a Proposal is not substantially responsive, it shall be rejected by ISA and may not subsequently be made responsive by the Bidder by correction of the material deviation, reservation, or omission.</p>
<p><i>34. Nonconformities, Repairable Errors and Omissions</i></p>	<p>34.1 Provided that a Proposal is substantially responsive, ISA may waive any non-conformities or omissions in the Proposal that, in the opinion of ISA, do not constitute a material deviation.</p> <p>34.2 ISA may request the Bidder to submit the necessary information or documentation, within a reasonable period of time, to rectify nonmaterial nonconformities or omissions in the Proposal related to documentation requirements. Such omission shall not be related to any aspect of the price of the Proposal. Failure of the Bidder to comply with the request may result in the rejection of its Proposal.</p> <p>34.3 For Financial Proposal that has been opened, ISA shall check and correct arithmetical errors as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) if there is a discrepancy between the unit price and the line item total that is obtained by multiplying the unit price by the quantity, the unit price shall prevail and the line item total shall be corrected, unless in the opinion of ISA there is an obvious misplacement of the decimal point in the unit price; in which case the line item total as quoted shall govern and the unit price shall be corrected; b) if there is an error in a total corresponding to the addition or subtraction of subtotals, the subtotals shall prevail, and the total shall be corrected; and c) if there is a discrepancy between words and figures, the amount in words shall prevail, unless the amount expressed in words is related to an arithmetic error, in which case the amount in figures shall prevail. <p>34.4 If the Bidder does not accept the correction of errors made by ISA, its Proposal shall be rejected.</p>
<p>D. AWARD OF CONTRACT</p>	
<p><i>35. Right to Accept, Reject, Any or All Proposals</i></p>	<p>35.1 ISA reserves the right to accept or reject any Proposal, to render any or all of the Proposals as non-responsive, and to reject all Proposals at any time prior to award of contract, without incurring any liability, or obligation to inform the affected Bidder(s) of the grounds for ISA’s action. ISA shall not be obliged to award the contract to the lowest priced offer.</p>

<p><i>36. Award Criteria</i></p>	<p>36.1 Prior to expiration of the proposal validity, ISA shall award the contract to the qualified Bidder based on the award criteria indicated in the BDS.</p>
<p><i>37. Right to Vary Requirements at the Time of Award</i></p>	<p>37.1 At the time of award of Contract, ISA reserves the right to vary the quantity of services and/or goods, by up to a maximum twenty-five per cent (25%) of the total offer, without any change in the unit price or other terms and conditions.</p>
<p><i>38. Contract Signature</i></p>	<p>38.1 Within fifteen (15) days from the date of receipt of the Contract, the successful Bidder shall sign and date the Contract and return it to ISA. Failure to do so may constitute sufficient grounds for the annulment of the award, and forfeiture of the Proposal Security, if any, and on which event, ISA may award the Contract to the Second Ranked Bidder or call for new Proposals.</p>
<p><i>39. Performance Security</i></p>	<p>39.1 A performance security, if required in BDS, shall be provided in the amount specified in BDS. Within fifteen (15) days of the contract signature by both parties. Where a performance security is required, the receipt of the performance security by ISA shall be a condition for rendering the contract effective.</p>
<p><i>40. Bank Guarantee for Advanced Payment</i></p>	<p>40.1 Except when the interests of ISA so require, it is ISA's preference to make no advance payment(s) (i.e., payments without having received any outputs). If an advance payment is allowed as per BDS, and exceeds 20% of the total contract price, or USD 30,000, whichever is less, the Bidder shall submit a Bank Guarantee in the full amount of the advance payment.</p>
<p><i>41. Liquidated Damages</i></p>	<p>41.1 If specified in BDS, ISA shall apply Liquidated Damages resulting from the Contractor's delays or breach of its obligations as per the Contract.</p>
<p><i>42. Payment Provisions</i></p>	<p>42.1 Payment will be made only upon ISA's acceptance of the work performed. The terms of payment shall be within thirty (30) days, after receipt of invoice and certification of acceptance of work issued by the proper authority in ISA with direct supervision of the Contractor. Payment will be affected by bank transfer in the currency of contract.</p>
<p><i>43. Other Provisions</i></p>	<p>43.1 ISA may withdraw the RFP at any time by providing written notice to the bidder in any case in which the mandate of ISA applicable to the performance of the Contract or the funding of ISA applicable to the RFP is curtailed or terminated, whether in whole or in part.</p> <p>43.2. The ISA is striving to achieve gender parity in all its activities. In this regard, female-owned organizations and/or teams with significant gender diversity are strongly encouraged to submit a proposal.</p> <p>43.3. The ISA recognizes the importance of valuing diversity and promoting inclusion in all our work programs and partnerships. The ISA strives to engage with organizations and/or teams that reflect its geographical representation and diversity.</p>

Section 3. Bid Data Sheet

The following data for the services to be procured shall complement, supplement, or amend the provisions in the Request for Proposals. In the case of a conflict between the Instructions to Bidders, the Data Sheet, and other annexes or references attached to the Data Sheet, the provisions in the Data Sheet shall prevail.

BDS No.	Ref. to Section.2	Data	Specific Instructions / Requirements
1	7	Language of the Proposal	English
2		Submitting Proposals for Parts or sub-parts of the TOR (partial bids)	Not Allowed
3	20	Alternative Proposals	Shall not be considered
4	21	Pre-proposal conference	September 03, 2024, 2 PM – 3:00 PM (IST) Meeting Link: Join the meeting now
5	10	Proposal Validity Period	90 days
6	14	Bid Security	NIL
7	41	Advanced Payment upon signing of contract	Not Allowed
8	42	Liquidated Damages	<p>Will be imposed as follows:</p> <p>a. Where the contractor fails to fulfill the performance of the deliverables in accordance with the specified timelines in the approved strategy document or</p> <p>b. Where there is non-satisfactory performance of the contract in line with the contract terms,</p> <p>the contractor shall be liable to pay ISA the liquidated damages of a daily charge of 3% (three percent) of the total contract sum, for each</p>

			<p>day of the daily occurrence, up to a maximum amount of 20% (twenty percent) of the contract sum; which surcharge is deductible from the vendor's outstanding invoices.</p> <p>Provided that ISA may the event of the contractor's default or failure to meet a timeline issue a Notice of Breach as a warning of first instance; and in the second instance terminate the contract; and the invoice due shall be calculated on a pro-rata basis following the provision of this section.</p>
9	40	Performance Security	Not Required
10	18	Currency of Proposal	Indian Rupees or United States Dollar
11	31	Deadline for submitting requests for clarifications/ questions	3 days before the submission deadline
12	31	Contact Details for submitting clarifications/questions	<p>Focal Person in ISA: Procurement Unit</p> <p>E-mail: procurement@isolaralliance.org</p> <p>Address: International Solar Alliance, 3rd Floor, Surya Bhawan, NISE Campus, Gwal Pahari, Gurugram, Haryana - 122003, India</p>
13	18, 19 and 21	Manner of Disseminating Supplemental Information to the RFP and responses/clarifications to queries	<p>Direct communication to prospective Proposers by email</p> <p>E-mail: procurement@isolaralliance.org</p>
14	23	Deadline for Submission	September 17, 2024 - 11.00 PM (Indian Standard Time)
14	22	Allowable Manner of Submitting Proposals	<input type="checkbox"/> Submission by email
15	22	Proposal Submission Address	E-mail: procurement@isolaralliance.org
16	22	Electronic submission (email) requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Format: PDF files only ▪ File names must be maximum 60 characters long and must not contain any letter or special character other than from Latin alphabet/keyboard. ▪ All files must be free of viruses and not corrupted. ▪ Password for financial proposal <u>must</u> not be provided to ISA until requested by ISA

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Max. File Size per transmission: 5 MB
17	27 36	Evaluation Method for the Award of Contract	Combined Scoring Method, using the 70%-30% distribution for technical and financial proposals respectively The minimum technical score required to pass is 70%.
18		Expected date for commencement of Contract	September 30, 2024
19		Maximum expected duration of contract	16 Weeks from the signing of contract
20	35	ISA will award the contract to:	One Proposer only
21	39	Type of Contract	Services contract
22		Other Information Related to the RFP	<i>[All other instructions and information not yet mentioned so far in this Data Sheet but are relevant to the RFP must be cited here, and any further entries that may be added below this table row]</i>

Section 4. Evaluation Criteria

Preliminary Examination Criteria

Proposals will be examined to determine whether they are complete and submitted in accordance with RFP requirements as per below criteria on a Yes/No basis:

- Appropriate signatures
- Power of Attorney
- Minimum documents provided
- Technical and Financial Proposals submitted separately
- Bid Validity
- Bid Security submitted as per RFP requirements with compliant validity period

Minimum Eligibility and Qualification Criteria

Eligibility and Qualification will be evaluated on Pass/Fail basis.

Subject	Criteria	Document Submission requirement
ELIGIBILITY		
Legal Status	Vendor is a legally registered entity. JV/Consortium/Sub-contract is allowed under this contract	Form B: Bidder Information Form
Eligibility	Vendor is not suspended, nor debarred, nor otherwise identified as ineligible by any UN Organization or the World Bank Group or any other international Organization in accordance with ITB clause 3.	Form A: Technical Proposal Submission Form
Conflict of Interest	No conflicts of interest in accordance with clause 4.	Form A: Technical Proposal Submission Form
Bankruptcy	Not declared bankruptcy, not involved in bankruptcy or receivership proceedings, and there is no judgment or pending legal action against the vendor that could impair its operations in the foreseeable future.	Form A: Technical Proposal Submission Form
QUALIFICATION		
History of Non-Performing Contracts¹	Non-performance of a contract did not occur as a result of contractor default for the last 3 years.	Form D: Qualification Form
Litigation History	No consistent history of court/arbitral award decisions against the Bidder for the last 3 years.	Form D: Qualification Form

¹ Non-performance, as decided by ISA, shall include all contracts where (a) non-performance was not challenged by the contractor, including through referral to the dispute resolution mechanism under the respective contract, and (b) contracts that were so challenged but fully settled against the contractor. Non-performance shall not include contracts where Employers decision was overruled by the dispute resolution mechanism. Non-performance must be based on all information on fully settled disputes or litigation, i.e. dispute or litigation that has been resolved in accordance with the dispute resolution mechanism under the respective contract and where all appeal instances available to the Bidder have been exhausted.

Previous Experience	Sl. No.	Criteria	Documents required	Form D: Qualification Form (Previous Relevant Experience)
	1.	The agency should have developed at least two country assessment reports/ Detail Project Reports/ Evaluation Reports on solar energy or related projects.	Provide Copies of work orders and summary of the work	
	2.	The lead agency should have worked on solar energy in Africa region or Asia Pacific.	Provide Copies of work orders	
	3.	The agency should have at least 8 years of experience in solar energy domain and at least 5 years of experience in capacity building.	Provide list of the projects undertaken- with start and completion date	
Financial Standing	Minimum average annual turnover of US\$ Hundred Thousand for the last 3 years			Form D: Qualification Form
	Bidder must demonstrate the current soundness of its financial standing and indicate its prospective long-term profitability			Form D: Qualification Form

Technical Proposal of Bidders who passes the minimum eligibility criteria will only be evaluated.

Technical Proposal Evaluation Criteria

Summary of Technical Proposal Evaluation Forms		Points Obtainable
1.	Bidder's qualification, capacity and experience	150
2.	Proposed Methodology, Approach and Implementation Plan	700
3.	Management Structure and Qualification of Key Personnel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Team Leader should have minimum 10 years of experience working on projects on Solar Energy. • 3 team members should have relevant experience on conducting trainings, developing knowledge management tools and incubation of enterprises integrating renewable energy. • One team member should be based out of the country to act as a national expert for the assignment • Presence of a strong in-house team of documentation and communication experts. 	150
Total		1000

Section 1. Bidder's qualification, capacity and experience		Points obtainable
1.1	References of similar projects undertaken by the organization over the last eight years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two country assessment reports/ Detail Project Reports/ Evaluation Reports on solar energy capacity building or deployment- 70 Marks (Share a copy of the report or online link) • Experience of organising capacity building activities/ trainings at international level. (No. of countries X 10) - 20 Marks • Working experience in Africa or Asia Pacific or Latin America region- 30 Marks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Work experience in one region (Africa or Asia Pacific region). 15 Marks ○ Work experience in two or more regions (Africa and Asia Pacific region). 15 Marks 	120
1.2	General Organizational Capability which is likely to affect implementation: management structure, financial stability and project financing capacity, project management controls, extent to which any work would be subcontracted	10
1.3	Experience on similar engagements with UN agencies, Government agencies or Bilateral organizations.	20
Total Section 1		150

Section 2. Proposed Methodology, Approach and Implementation Plan			Points obtainable
2.1	Understanding of the requirement: Have the important aspects of the task been addressed in sufficient detail?		80
2.2	Description of the Offeror's approach and methodology for meeting or exceeding the requirements of the Terms of Reference?		100
2.3	Details on how the information from the countries shall be collected, controlled, consolidated, presented and delivered in user-friendly ways		100
2.4	Is the methodology has enough details on developing an effective the business plan for the STAR Centre?		60
2.5	Do they substantially address the country context of the countries in terms of the 4 functions identified in the scope of work?		80
2.6	Assessment of the implementation plan proposed including whether the activities are properly sequenced and if these are logical and realistic?		100
2.7	Outline of the DPR and business plan proposed		120
2.8	Demonstration of ability to plan, integrate and effectively implement sustainability measures in the execution of the contract		60
Total Section 2			700

Section 3. Management Structure and Key Personnel			Points obtainable
3.1	Composition and structure of the team proposed. Are the proposed roles of the management and the team of key personnel suitable for the provision of the necessary services?		30
3.2	Qualifications of key personnel proposed		120
3.2 a	Team Leader	50	
	- General Experience		
	- Specific Experience relevant to the assignment		
	- Regional/International experience		
	- Language Qualifications		
3.2 b	Team members	70	
	- General Experience		
	- Specific Experience relevant to the assignment		
	- Regional/International experience		
	- Language Qualifications		
Total Section 3			150

Kindly provide against each point the reference page number where narration/proof of the response to each of the above point is provided in the bid.

Section 5. Terms of Reference

Background

Recognizing the urgent need to support the developing country (ISA members) 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 overarching objective of the STAR C initiative is to provide solar technology and application resourcing services to Member Countries so that these countries can achieve the ISA's vision of scaled up and accelerated large scale deployment of solar energy to meet the respective countries' priority energy access, energy transformation and energy security.

ISA aims to have a number of STAR centres across the globe acting as a shared facility that provides capacity for deployment of solar energy applications and research, business modelling, incubation, training, standardization and testing engaging faculty members from different disciplines/ institutes of excellence and provide/use shared facilities, labs, testing centres etc.

To have accelerated impact, ISA aims to strengthen the existing regional and national level infrastructure, mainly institutes, training centre and facilities performing one or more functions. ISA member countries can build upon the existing institutes or set up new institution as a STAR- Centre. Several institutions in the same region, each covering one or more activities of the STAR-C programme, can qualify as STAR-C. National centres undertaking research on innovative solar technologies and/or providing technical training aiming at empowering policy makers, engineers, project developers, training trainers. These centres could be research and innovation centre, national universities, test centres, national training institutions, R&D centres, vocational training centres etc. They could be performing one or more functions on thermal and photovoltaic solar energy, about assisting academic trainees, policy-makers, industry and end users.

ISA will play the role of facilitator and will support the institutes awarded STAR-C by means of:

▶ **STAR Centre Management**

- ISA can provide financial support for a coordinator undertaking coordination, partnership building with public and private sector and managing resources/trainings of the centre. The financial support will be for one year, ensuring sustainability through the centre.

▶ **Trainings and Skill Enhancement**

- Material support: ISA can provide training materials to the institutions for capacity building of master trainers and trainees. ISA will also connect the institutes with the industry organizations and foundations, which can support by providing training equipment, lab infrastructure, training modules, etc.
- Training infrastructure: ISA can provide support in setting up the Technical and Practical labs (PV and Thermal Benches with equipment, instruments and tools).

▶ **Testing**

- ISA can provide technical and financial support for setting up infrastructure for testing of the solar energy technologies and components such as modules, inverters and solar pumps etc. meeting the relevant international and/or national standards.

▶ **Knowledge or expertise centre**

- ISA can provide infrastructure for setting up a database which will provide renewable energy data, analytical tools, and technical assistance to developers, policymakers, and decision makers. This will have extensive collection of renewable energy resource data, maps, and tools

▶ **Innovation**

- ISA can provide technical support in setting up a platform for building a stronger entrepreneurial ecosystem - taking research from lab to market, addressing the country specific problems through research and development on technologies and solutions and leveraging funding for setting up the business and then capital for scaling the business.

▶ **Guidelines and Standards:**

- ISA can provide technical and financial support for drawing standards of products and services related to all solar PV, solar thermal and end-use applications derived from these solar technologies. These standards will be based on the relevant international standards and standards developed by country's standards body.

ISA in partnership with Government of **Madagascar, Djibouti, and Zimbabwe** has agreed to setup a Solar Technology Application Resource Centre (STAR-C) in the three countries at designated institutions. The STAR Centres in the three countries are expected to undertake 4 major functions as listed below.

1. **Trainings:** The STAR Centre will adopt training resources of standard quality. It will establish selection criteria for trainees, develop training modules and competency training schemes on solar product, applications and services. The centre will deliver training to government officials, technicians, engineers and industry associations.
2. **Testing, guidelines and standards:** The STAR Centre will undertake testing (solar components, technologies) for training purpose based on international standards. Adopting international standards related to all solar PV, solar thermal and end-use applications.
3. **Knowledge management:** Centre providing renewable energy data, case studies, guidelines, analytical tools, policies and technical assistance to developers, policymakers and decision makers.
4. **Incubation:** Creating innovative products and services serving local context and leading breakthroughs in scaling up deployment. Identifying and incubating start-ups or enterprises. This would enable development of innovative ideas to address country specific bottlenecks.

Objective

The objective of the assignment is to undertake a country assessment for setting up Solar Technology Application Resource Centre in three countries (**Madagascar, Djibouti, and Zimbabwe**) and develop a Project Report outlining the need of the countries with respect to training, testing, innovation, and knowledge generation; hardware/software requirement; human resources and a detail business plan for these centres to generate revenue for sustenance. To meet the objective, the bidder shall undertake the following tasks:

Scope of Work

1. Situation analysis in consultation with all stakeholders in three countries (Madagascar, Djibouti, and Zimbabwe)

- a. Analyse the need of the country on the agreed functions with the country counterparts (Training, Testing, Knowledge management and innovation) to be performed by these STAR Centres.

Deliverable: A chapter on situation analysis of the country on the functions to be performed by STAR Centre.

- b. Enlist the kind of successful trainings (ongoing/completed) undertaken by different institutions in the country, assess the quality of trainings, modules used, outcome of the trainings, fee charged for the training, duration of the training and other relevant details. Identify the gap in the trainings and areas for improvement.

Deliverable: Chapter on existing training infrastructure and gaps in training for improvement on solar energy for different category of audience.

- c. Map testing facilities available in the country and kind of infrastructure available and tests being undertaken by these facilities for testing of solar PVs, inverters, solar installation components and applications like water pumping, street lighting etc.

Deliverable: Chapter on existing testing infrastructure and gaps in testing for accelerated deployment of solar energy in the country.

- d. Investigate and document the existing knowledge dissemination processes among government agencies and private sector. Enlist knowledge products developed by the identified host institute in the field of solar energy.

Deliverable: Chapter outlining the outcome of the investigation and framework for knowledge centre (including hardware and software specifications).

- e. Undertake assessment of the existing infrastructure (soft and hardware including human resources) at the host institution for organising trainings for technicians, government officials, bankers.

Deliverable: Chapter on infrastructure (including human resources) required for training.

- f. Undertake assessment of ongoing research and development in the field of solar energy including testing and standardisation.

Deliverable: Chapter on potential areas for innovation and infrastructure required.

Deliverable: Chapter on status of women participation in the country's solar sector and initiatives being taken to increase the share of women workforce in the solar value chain.

- g. Organise individual and group consultations in the countries to carry out this task. Consultation with stakeholders and producing record of the meeting is mandatory.

2. Develop the Detail Project Report (DPR) for setting up a STAR centre (Separate DPR for Madagascar, Djibouti, and Zimbabwe).

- a. Develop a format for the DPR in consultation with ISA.
- b. Detail out the need and functions of the STAR Centre in the three countries along with a work plan for 3 years.

- c. **Training:** Detail out the type of trainings, duration, audiences, infrastructure required, human resources required, outcome of training, potential partnership with existing national or international institutions.
- d. **Testing:** Detail out the kind of testing required, test protocols, available national standards, requirement of standards, potential clients for testing, testing infrastructure required, potential partnership with existing national or international institutions.
- e. **Knowledge Centre:** Detail out the kind of knowledge to be hosted for the STAR centre to act as central data management resource, potential beneficiaries, infrastructure required including hardware and software, intended results, potential partnership with existing national or international institutions.
- f. Identify potential partnership with local NGOs/ institutions for amplifying the impact of STAR Centre.
- g. Identify cost of the individual hardware and software required for providing training, undertaking testing and for setting up the knowledge management centre. Enlist available brands/make of the instruments/equipment in the country or in the region of the three countries.
- h. Develop budget for initial operationalisation of the STAR centre at the host institution and yearly budget for running the centre with the above identified functions.
- i. Organise individual and group consultations in the three countries to carry out this task.
Consultation with stakeholders and producing record of the meeting is mandatory.
Deliverable: A detail project report consisting of each of the above for each country (Madagascar, Djibouti, and Zimbabwe)

3. Business plan for long-term sustenance of the STAR Centre for Madagascar, Djibouti, and Zimbabwe.

- a. Map and consult all relevant stakeholders to identify potential avenues for generating revenues for sustaining STAR centres.
- b. Develop a business plan and financial strategy that ensures self-sustenance of the STAR centre
- c. Propose management systems and tools to track the business progress.
- d. Identification of potential investors/donors/clients for services.
- e. Ensure buy in of all relevant stakeholders through conducting validation meetings in the three countries.
- f. In the business plan, focus should be drawn to engage private sector for supporting these centres and taking services of these centres.
- g. The business plan should also outline, how these centres can benefit from each other in the region and globally.
Deliverable: A detail business plan capturing the above for each country (Madagascar, Djibouti, and Zimbabwe)

4. Specifications for procurement of hardware and software

- a. Enlist the hardware/software to be procured for setting up the STAR Centre for all functions.
- b. Develop design and specifications for each hardware/software to be set up in the STAR-C; propose tentative cost based on availability of the equipment/instrument in the country/region.
- c. Develop qualification criteria for selection of vendors.
- d. Enlist potential brands of the equipment with cost.
Deliverable: List of equipment/instruments to be procured with specifications, brands, and cost (Madagascar, Djibouti, and Zimbabwe)

5. List of potential bidders

- a. Identify at least 5 vendors/companies from the countries/region with sufficient capacity and reach for supplying the equipment identified in the procurement list for setting the STAR-C in the respective countries (**Madagascar, Djibouti, and Zimbabwe**)
- b. Sensitise the prospective bidders through interaction to build confidence in them for ISA and motivate them to participate in the ISA procurement process. Keep ISA in loop while undertaking sensitization of the potential bidders.

6. Remote assistance in setting up the STAR-C

- a. Assist in setting up of the STAR-C in the three countries as and when required during procurement process and setting up of the equipment in the STAR-C to ensure the appropriateness of the quality, standards, and specifications of the equipment as envisaged in the report. The assistance should be remotely offered through on-line meeting/review.

General Guidance

- a. All three countries will have separate Situation Analysis, DPR and Business Plan.
- b. Support from the identified host institution can be expected wherever the institution has been identified by the country.
- c. Selected bidder may collaborate with local institutions in the respective countries to facilitate data/information collection and networking with the relevant stakeholders.
- d. Selected bidder will organise periodic meetings with ISA, at least biweekly.
- e. ISA will provide the contact details of the ISA National Focal Point in the three countries and will develop contacts with other stakeholders wherever possible. Selected bidder will develop its own contacts among relevant stakeholders.
- f. Data collection, interaction with stakeholders and any other information required for the preparation of this report shall be the sole responsibility of the contractor.

Facilities to be provided by ISA

- a. If required and depending on the availability, ISA may provide existing documents/information. The contractor shall inform ISA in advance (at least 3 days) for any information required. Making information available will be the sole discretion of ISA.

Expected duration of the contract/assignment

Target date of commencement of contract: 1st September 2024

Target date of completion of contract: 31st December 2024

Duty Station

The work can be done remotely, country consultations is a mandatory requirement. One team member must be based out of the country to act as national expert responsible for reaching out to stakeholders and organising audience with them during interviews and validation workshops.

Professional Qualifications of the Successful Contractor and its key personnel

- a) The agency should have developed two country assessment reports/ Detail Project Reports/ Evaluation Reports on solar energy capacity building or solar deployment-. (Share the copy of the assessment report or completion certificate).
- b) The lead agency should have worked on solar energy in Africa or Asia Pacific or Latin America region.
- c) The agency should have at least 8 years of experience in solar energy domain and at least 5 years of experience in conducting trainings on solar energy. (Highlight in bold the tasks undertaken and submit work order/completion certificate to establish the experience)
- d) The Team Leader should have minimum Master’s Degree on environment or energy/B.Tech/ B.E in the related field.
- e) The Team Leader should have minimum 10 years of experience working on projects in Solar Energy domain.
- f) 3 team members should have relevant experience on conducting trainings, developing knowledge management tools and incubation of enterprises integrating renewable energy. (Highlight in bold tasks undertaken with these expertise in their CVs).
- g) At least one team member should be based out of the country being assessed who will act as national expert. The national expert is expected to possess knowledge about the energy and solar sector of the country and should be responsible for reaching out to relevant stakeholders for sensitising about the assessment and fix up meetings for interviews, sharing invites to participate in workshop etc.
- h) Presence of a strong in-house team of documentation and communication experts.
- i) The bidder should share the CV of the professionals as per the requirement highlighted above.

k. Timeline and Payment Terms

- a) The contract price is a fixed output-based price regardless of extension of the herein specific duration.
- b) The timeline for submission of the deliverable/s will be as outlined below. The same timeline will be followed if the bidder is submitting proposal for preparation of more than one report.

Outputs	Percentage	Duration (after signing of contract)
Submission of the Work plan and the draft framework	10%	One week
Submission of the final framework for the DPR.	20%	2 Weeks
Submission of the draft DPR with all the deliverables listed in the scope of work	30%	12 Weeks
Submission of the final DPR incorporating inputs from ISA	20%	14 Weeks
Submission of the specifications of hardware and software for procurement along with potential brands and cost. Submission of list of potential bidders with sufficient capacity	20%	16 Weeks

to procure the listed hardware for each country.		
Remote assistance in setting up of STAR-C *		As and when required during the procurement and commissioning of equipment (maximum up to 6 months from the submission of the final report)

The timeframe may be modified on the basis of mutual consultation between the agency and ISA; however, all deliverables should be completed within the contract duration. All deliverables should be formatted and submitted in ready-to-use/print formats.

Section 6: Returnable Bidding Forms / Checklist

This form serves as a checklist for preparation of your Proposal. Please complete the Returnable Bidding Forms in accordance with the instructions in the forms and return them as part of your Proposal submission. No alteration to format of forms shall be permitted and no substitution shall be accepted.

Before submitting your Proposal, please ensure compliance with the Proposal Submission instructions of the BDS 22.

Technical Proposal Envelope:

Have you duly completed all the Returnable Bidding Forms?	
▪ Form A: Technical Proposal Submission Form	<input type="checkbox"/>
▪ Form B: Bidder Information Form	<input type="checkbox"/>
▪ Form C: Joint Venture/Consortium/ Association Information Form	<input type="checkbox"/>
▪ Form D: Qualification Form	<input type="checkbox"/>
▪ Form E: Format of Technical Proposal	<input type="checkbox"/>
▪ [Add other forms as necessary]	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you provided the required documents to establish compliance with the evaluation criteria in Section 4?	<input type="checkbox"/>

Financial Proposal Envelope

(Must be submitted in a separate sealed envelope/password protected email)

▪ Form F: Financial Proposal Submission Form	<input type="checkbox"/>
▪ Form G: Financial Proposal Form	<input type="checkbox"/>

FORM A: TECHNICAL PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM

Name of Bidder:	[Insert Name of Bidder]	Date:	Select date
RFP reference:	[Insert RFP Reference Number]		

We, the undersigned, offer to provide the services for [Insert Title of services] in accordance with your Request for Proposal No. [Insert RFP Reference Number] and our Proposal. We are hereby submitting our Proposal, which includes this Technical Proposal and our Financial Proposal sealed under a separate envelope.

We hereby declare that our firm, its affiliates or subsidiaries or employees, including any JV/Consortium /Association members or subcontractors or suppliers for any part of the contract:

- a) is not under procurement prohibition by the United Nations, including but not limited to prohibitions derived from the Compendium of United Nations Security Council Sanctions Lists;
- b) have not been suspended, debarred, sanctioned or otherwise identified as ineligible by any UN Organization or the World Bank Group or any other international Organization;
- c) have no conflict of interest in accordance with Instruction to Bidders Clause 4;
- d) do not employ, or anticipate employing, any person(s) who is, or has been an ISA staff member within the last year, if said ISA staff member has or had prior professional dealings with our firm in his/her capacity as ISA staff member within the last three years of service with the ISA;
- e) have not declared bankruptcy, are not involved in bankruptcy or receivership proceedings, and there is no judgment or pending legal action against them that could impair their operations in the foreseeable future;
- f) undertake not to engage in proscribed practices, including but not limited to corruption, fraud, coercion, collusion, obstruction, or any other unethical practice, with the ISA or any other party, and to conduct business in a manner that averts any financial, operational, reputational or other undue risk to the ISA and we *embrace the principles of the ISA Supplier Code of Conduct*.

We declare that all the information and statements made in this Proposal are true and we accept that any misinterpretation or misrepresentation contained in this Proposal may lead to our disqualification and/or sanctioning by the ISA.

We offer to provide services in conformity with the Bidding documents, including the ISA General Conditions of Contract and in accordance with the Terms of Reference

Our Proposal shall be valid and remain binding upon us for the period of time specified in the Bid Data Sheet.

We understand and recognize that you are not bound to accept any Proposal you receive.

I, the undersigned, certify that I am duly authorized by [Insert Name of Bidder] to sign this Proposal and bind it should ISA accept this Proposal.

Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

[Stamp with official stamp of the Bidder]

FORM B: BIDDER INFORMATION FORM

Legal name of Bidder	[Complete]
Legal address	[Complete]
Year of registration	[Complete]
Bidder's Authorized Representative Information	Name and Title: [Complete] Telephone numbers: [Complete] Email: [Complete]
Are you a UNGM registered vendor?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, [insert UGNM vendor number]
Are you an ISA vendor?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Countries of operation	[Complete]
No. of full-time employees	[Complete]
Quality Assurance Certification (e.g. ISO 9000 or Equivalent) (If yes, provide a Copy of the valid Certificate):	[Complete]
Does your Company hold any accreditation such as ISO 14001 related to the environment? (If yes, provide a Copy of the valid Certificate):	[Complete]
Does your Company have a Written Statement of its Environmental Policy? (If yes, provide a Copy)	[Complete]
Contact person ISA may contact for requests for clarification during Proposal evaluation	Name and Title: [Complete] Telephone numbers: [Complete] Email: [Complete]
Please attach the following documents:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Company Profile, which should <u>not</u> exceed fifteen (15) pages, including printed brochures and product catalogues relevant to the goods/services being procured ▪ Certificate of Incorporation/ Business Registration ▪ Tax Registration/Payment Certificate issued by the Internal Revenue Authority evidencing that the Bidder is updated with its tax payment obligations, or Certificate of Tax exemption, if any such privilege is enjoyed by the Bidder ▪ Trade name registration papers, if applicable ▪ Local Government permit to locate and operate in assignment location, if applicable ▪ Official Letter of Appointment as local representative, if Bidder is submitting a Bid in behalf of an entity located outside the country ▪ Power of Attorney

FORM C: JOINT VENTURE/CONSORTIUM/ASSOCIATION INFORMATION FORM

Name of Bidder:	[Insert Name of Bidder]	Date:	Select date
RFP reference:	[Insert RFP Reference Number]		

To be completed and returned with your Proposal if the Proposal is submitted as a Joint Venture/Consortium/Association.

No	Name of Partner and contact information <i>(address, telephone numbers, fax numbers, e-mail address)</i>	Proposed proportion of responsibilities (in %) and type of services to be performed
1	[Complete]	[Complete]
2	[Complete]	[Complete]
3	[Complete]	[Complete]

Name of leading partner (with authority to bind the JV, Consortium, Association during the RFP process and, in the event a Contract is awarded, during contract execution)	[Complete]
--	------------

We have attached a copy of the below document signed by every partner, which details the likely legal structure of and the confirmation of joint and severable liability of the members of the said joint venture:

Letter of intent to form a joint venture **OR** JV/Consortium/Association agreement

We hereby confirm that if the contract is awarded, all parties of the Joint Venture/Consortium/Association shall be jointly and severally liable to ISA for the fulfillment of the provisions of the Contract.

Name of partner:

Name of partner:

Signature: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____

Name of partner:

Name of partner:

Signature: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____

FORM D: QUALIFICATION FORM

Name of Bidder:	[Insert Name of Bidder]	Date:	Select date
RFP reference:	[Insert RFP Reference Number]		

If JV/Consortium/Association, to be completed by each partner.

Historical Contract Non-Performance

<input type="checkbox"/> Contract non-performance did not occur for the last 3 years			
<input type="checkbox"/> Contract(s) not performed for the last 3 years			
Year	Non-performed portion of contract	Contract Identification	Total Contract Amount (current value in US\$)
		Name of Client: Address of Client: Reason(s) for non-performance:	

Litigation History (including pending litigation)

<input type="checkbox"/> No litigation history for the last 3 years			
<input type="checkbox"/> Litigation History as indicated below			
Year of dispute	Amount in dispute (in US\$)	Contract Identification	Total Contract Amount (current value in US\$)
		Name of Client: Address of Client: Matter in dispute: Party who initiated the dispute: Status of dispute: Party awarded if resolved:	

Previous Relevant Experience

Please list only previous similar assignments successfully completed in the last 3 years.

List only those assignments for which the Bidder was legally contracted or sub-contracted by the Client as a company or was one of the Consortium/JV partners. Assignments completed by the Bidder's individual experts working privately or through other firms cannot be claimed as the relevant experience of the Bidder, or that of the Bidder's partners or sub-consultants, but can be claimed by the Experts themselves in their CVs. The Bidder should be prepared to substantiate the claimed experience by presenting copies of relevant documents and references if so, requested by ISA.

Project name & Country of Assignment	Client & Reference Contact Details	Contract Value	Period of activity and status	Types of activities undertaken

Bidders may also attach their own Project Data Sheets with more details for assignments above.

Attached are the Statements of Satisfactory Performance from the Top 3 (three) Clients or more.

Financial Standing

Annual Turnover for the last 3 years	Year	USD
	Year	USD
	Year	USD
Latest Credit Rating (if any), indicate the source		

Financial information (in US\$ equivalent)	Historic information for the last 3 years		
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
	<i>Information from Balance Sheet</i>		
Total Assets (TA)			
Total Liabilities (TL)			
Current Assets (CA)			
Current Liabilities (CL)			
	<i>Information from Income Statement</i>		
Total / Gross Revenue (TR)			
Profits Before Taxes (PBT)			
Net Profit			
Current Ratio			

Attached are copies of the audited financial statements (balance sheets, including all related notes, and income statements) for the years required above complying with the following condition:

- a) Must reflect the financial situation of the Bidder or party to a JV, and not sister or parent companies;
- b) Historic financial statements must be audited by a certified public accountant;
- c) Historic financial statements must correspond to accounting periods already completed and audited. No statements for partial periods shall be accepted.

FORM E: FORMAT OF TECHNICAL PROPOSAL

Please ensure that the information below is adapted in accordance with the technical evaluation criteria included in Section 4. The below sections correspond to the sample criteria included in this template RFP in Section 4]

Name of Bidder:	[Insert Name of Bidder]	Date:	Select date
RFP reference:	[Insert RFP Reference Number]		

The Bidder's proposal should be organized to follow this format of Technical Proposal. Where the bidder is presented with a requirement or asked to use a specific approach, the bidder must not only state its acceptance, but also describe how it intends to comply with the requirements. Where a descriptive response is requested, failure to provide the same will be viewed as non-responsive.

SECTION 1: Bidder's qualification, capacity and expertise

- 1.1 Brief description of the organization, including the year and country of incorporation, and types of activities undertaken.
- 1.2 Specific organizational capability which is likely to affect implementation: management structure, financial stability and project financing capacity, project management controls.
- 1.3 Relevance of specialized knowledge and experience on similar engagements for fund-raising done in the region/country.
- 1.4 Quality assurance procedures and risk mitigation measures.
- 1.5 Organization's commitment to sustainability.

SECTION 2: Proposed Methodology, Approach and Implementation Plan

This section should demonstrate the bidder's responsiveness to the TOR by identifying the specific components proposed, addressing the requirements, providing a detailed description of the essential performance characteristics proposed and demonstrating how the proposed approach and methodology meets or exceeds the requirements. All important aspects should be addressed in sufficient detail and different components of the project should be adequately weighted relative to one another.

- 2.1 A detailed description of the approach and methodology for how the Bidder will achieve the Terms of Reference of the project, keeping in mind the appropriateness to local conditions and project environment. Details how the different service elements shall be organized, controlled and delivered.
- 2.2 The methodology shall also include details of the Bidder's internal technical and quality assurance review mechanisms.
- 2.3 Description of available performance monitoring and evaluation mechanisms and tools; how they shall be adopted and used for a specific requirement.
- 2.4 Implementation plan including a Gantt Chart or Project Schedule indicating the detailed sequence of activities that will be undertaken and their corresponding timing.
- 2.5 Demonstrate how you plan to integrate sustainability measures in the execution of the contract.
- 2.6 Any other comments or information regarding the project approach and methodology that will be adopted.

SECTION 2A: Bidder's Comments and Suggestions on the Terms of Reference

Provide comments and suggestions on the Terms of Reference, or additional services that will be rendered beyond the requirements of the TOR, if any.

SECTION 3: Management Structure and Key Personnel

- 3.1 Describe the overall management approach toward planning and implementing the project. Include an organization chart for the management of the project describing the relationship of key positions and designations. Provide a spreadsheet to show the activities of each personnel and the time allocated for his/her involvement.
- 3.2 Provide CVs for key personnel that will be provided to support the implementation of this project using the format below. CVs should demonstrate qualifications in areas relevant to the Scope of Services.

Format for CV of Proposed Key Personnel

NAME OF PERSONNEL	[INSERT]
POSITION FOR THIS ASSIGNMENT	[INSERT]
NATIONALITY	[INSERT]
LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY	[INSERT]

	<p><i>[SUMMARIZE COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY AND OTHER SPECIALIZED EDUCATION OF PERSONNEL MEMBER, GIVING NAMES OF SCHOOLS, DATES ATTENDED, AND DEGREES/QUALIFICATIONS OBTAINED.]</i></p>
<p>EDUCATION/ QUALIFICATIONS</p> <hr/>	<p>[INSERT]</p>
<p>PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS</p> <hr/>	<p><i>[PROVIDE DETAILS OF PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS RELEVANT TO THE SCOPE OF SERVICES]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ NAME OF INSTITUTION: [INSERT] ▪ DATE OF CERTIFICATION: [INSERT]

EMPLOYMENT
RECORD/
EXPERIENCE

[LIST ALL POSITIONS HELD BY PERSONNEL (STARTING WITH PRESENT POSITION, LIST IN REVERSE ORDER), GIVING DATES, NAMES OF EMPLOYING ORGANIZATION, TITLE OF POSITION HELD AND LOCATION OF EMPLOYMENT. FOR EXPERIENCE IN LAST FIVE YEARS, DETAIL THE TYPE OF ACTIVITIES PERFORMED, DEGREE OF RESPONSIBILITIES, LOCATION OF ASSIGNMENTS AND ANY OTHER INFORMATION OR PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE CONSIDERED PERTINENT FOR THIS ASSIGNMENT.]

[INSERT]

[PROVIDE NAMES, ADDRESSES, PHONE AND EMAIL CONTACT INFORMATION FOR TWO (2) REFERENCES]

REFERENCES	REFERENCE 1:
	[INSERT]
	REFERENCE 2:
	[INSERT]

I, the undersigned, certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, these data correctly describe my qualifications, my experiences, and other relevant information about myself.

Signature of Personnel

Date (Day/Month/Year)

FORM F: FINANCIAL PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM

Name of Bidder:	[Insert Name of Bidder]	Date:	Select date
RFP reference:	[Insert RFP Reference Number]		

We, the undersigned, offer to provide the services for [Insert Title of services] in accordance with your Request for Proposal No. [Insert RFP Reference Number] and our Proposal. We are hereby submitting our Proposal, which includes this Technical Proposal and our Financial Proposal sealed under a separate envelope.

Our attached Financial Proposal is for the sum of [Insert amount in words and figures].

Our Proposal shall be valid and remain binding upon us for the period of time specified in the Bid Data Sheet.

We understand you are not bound to accept any Proposal you receive.

Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

[Stamp with official stamp of the Bidder]

FORM G: FINANCIAL PROPOSAL FORM

Name of Bidder:	[Insert Name of Bidder]	Date:	Select date
RFP reference:	[Insert RFP Reference Number]		

The Bidder is required to prepare the Financial Proposal following the below format and submit it in an envelope separate from the Technical Proposal as indicated in the Instruction to Bidders. Any Financial information provided in the Technical Proposal shall lead to Bidder's disqualification.

The Financial Proposal should align with the requirements in the Terms of Reference and the Bidder's Technical Proposal.

Currency of the proposal: USD

Table 1: Summary of Overall Prices

Sl. No.	Service Description	Amount(s) in USD		
		Madagascar	Djibouti	Zimbabwe
1.	Submission of the Work plan and the draft framework			
2.	Submission of the final framework for the DPR.			
3.	Submission of the draft DPR with all the deliverables listed in the scope of work			
4.	Submission of the final DPR incorporating inputs from ISA			
5.	Submission of the specifications of hardware and software for procurement for all functions of STAR center in the country along with potential brands and cost. Submission of list of potential bidders with sufficient capacity to procure the listed hardware for the country.			
6.	Total			

* A detailed breakdown has to be submitted by each bidder.

Note:

1. The bidder may choose to bid for either of the three countries or any combination out of the three countries.
2. The evaluation of the proposals received will be done separately for the three countries.