# Subject: RFQ for Hiring of Professional / Consultancy Services of Chartered Accountant firm for Independent Auditor to Conduct Evaluation of ISA's SolarX Startup Challenge

# **SECTION 1: REQUEST FOR QUOTATION (RFQ)**

ISA kindly requests your quotation for the provision of goods, works and/or services as detailed in Annex 1 of this RFQ.

This Request for Quotation comprises the following documents:

Section 1: This Request Letter

Section 2: RFQ Instructions and Data

Annex 1: Schedule of Requirements

Annex 2: Quotation Submission Form

Annex 3: Technical and Financial Offer

When preparing your quotation, please be guided by the RFQ Instructions and Data. Please note that quotations must be submitted using Annex 2: Quotation Submission Form and Annex 3 Technical and Financial Offer, by the method and by the date and time indicated in Section 2. It is your responsibility to ensure that your quotation is submitted on or before the deadline. Quotations received after the submission deadline, for whatever reason, will not be considered for evaluation.

The ISA recognizes the importance of valuing diversity and promoting inclusion in all our work programs and partnerships. The ISA highly values engaging with organizations and/or teams that reflect its geographical and diverse nature.

Thank you and we look forward to receiving your quotations.

Issued by: Vishal Pratap

Signature:	

Name: Procurement Unit

Date: 24/08/2023

# SECTION 2: RFQ INSTRUCTIONS AND DATA

Introduction Deadline for the Submission of Quotation Method of Submission	Bidders shall adhere to all the requirements of this RFQ, including any amendments made in writing by ISA. This RFQ is conducted in accordance with the ISA Financial Regulations and Procedures and ISA Procurement Manual         Any Bid submitted will be regarded as an offer by the Bidder and does not constitute or imply the acceptance of the Bid by ISA. ISA is under no obligation to award a contract to any Bidder as a result of this RFQ.         ISA reserves the right to cancel the procurement process at any stage without any liability of any kind for ISA, upon notice to the bidders or publication of cancellation notice on ISA website         4 <sup>th</sup> September 2023 by 1900 HRS IST         If any doubt exists as to the time zone in which the quotation should be submitted, refer to http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/.         For eTendering submission - as indicated in eTendering system. Note that system time zone is in EST/EDT (New York) time zone.         Quotations must be submitted as follows:         □ E-tendering         ⊠ Dedicated Email Address         □ Courier / Hand delivery         □ Other Click or tap here to enter text.         Bid submission address: procurement@isolaralliance.org         • File 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.         • Max. File Size per transmission: 10 MB         • It is recommended that the entire Quotation be consolidated into as few at
	Accountant firm for Independent Auditor to Conduct Evaluation of ISA's SolarX Startup
	Challenge
Cost of preparation of quotation	ISA shall not be responsible for any costs associated with a Bidder's preparation and submission of a quotation, regardless of the outcome or the manner of conducting the selection process.
Supplier Code of Conduct, Fraud, Corruption,	All prospective suppliers must read the ISA Supplier Code of Conduct and acknowledge that it provides the minimum standards expected of suppliers to the ISA. The Code of Conduct, which includes <b>principles on labour, human rights, environment and ethical conduct</b> may be found at: <u>https://isolaralliance.org/images/ISA%20Supplier%20Code%20of%20Conduct_14.4.2023.final%20version.pdf</u>
	Moreover, 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 to observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement process and contract implementation.
Gifts and Hospitality	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, dinners or similar. In pursuance of this policy, ISA: (a) Shall reject a bid 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, 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
Conflict of Interest	contract. ISA requires every prospective Supplier to avoid and prevent conflicts of interest, by disclosing to ISA if you, or any of your affiliates or personnel, were involved in the preparation of the requirements, design, specifications, cost estimates, and other information used in this RFQ. Bidders shall strictly avoid conflicts with other assignments or their own interests, and act without consideration for future work. Bidders found to have an undisclosed conflict of interest shall be disqualified.
	The ISA shall have the discretion to disqualify or proceed with a bidder who has disclosed 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.
	Bidders must disclose in their Bid their knowledge of the following: a) If the owners, part-owners, officers, directors, controlling shareholders, of the bidding entity or key personnel who are family members of ISA staff involved in the procurement functions and/or the Government of the country or any Implementing Partner receiving goods and/or services under this RFQ.
	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 RFQ, among others. Conditions that may lead to undue advantage against other Bidders may result in the eventual rejection of the Bid.
General	Any Purchase Order or contract that will be issued as a result of this RFQ shall be subject to the
Conditions of Contract	General Conditions of Contract
	https://www.isolaralliance.org/images/ISA_GTB.pdf
Special	□ Cancellation of PO/Contract if the delivery/completion is delayed by 10 days
Conditions of Contract	□ Others [pls. specify]
Pre-bid	Not Applicable
Conference Eligibility	A vendor who will be engaged by ISA may 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. Failure to do so may result in termination of any contract or PO subsequently issued to the vendor by ISA.
	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.
	Bidders must have the legal capacity to enter a binding contract with ISA and to deliver in the country, or through an authorized representative.
	A vendor who will be engaged by ISA may 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. Failure to do so may result in termination
	of any contract or PO subsequently issued to the vendor by ISA.
	Minimum Average annual turnover of USD Fifty Thousand over past 3 years
	Latest 3 years Audited Financial Statement – income statement and balance sheet to indicate Its
	financial stability, liquidity, credit standing, and market reputation, etc.
Currency of Quotation	Quotations shall be quoted in USD or INR
Joint Venture,	If the Bidder is a group of legal entities that will form or have formed a Joint Venture (JV),
Consortium or Association	Consortium or Association for the Bid, they shall confirm in their Bid 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 Bid; 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, Consortium or Association. Refer to Clauses 22 – 27 under Solicitation Process in the Procurement Manual (will be provided on request) for details on the applicable provisions on Joint Ventures.
Only one Bid	<ul> <li>on request) for details on the applicable provisions on Joint Ventures, Consortium or Association.</li> <li>The Bidder (including the Lead Entity on behalf of the individual members of any Joint Venture, Consortium or Association) shall submit only one Bid, either in its own name or, if a joint venture, Consortium or Association, as the lead entity of such Joint Venture, Consortium or Association.</li> <li>Bids submitted by two (2) or more Bidders shall all be rejected if they are found to have any of the following:</li> <li>a) they have at least one controlling partner, director or shareholder in common; or b) any one of them receive or have received any direct or indirect subsidy from the other/s; or</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>b) they have the same legal representative for purposes of this RFQ; or</li> <li>c) 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 Bid of, another Bidder regarding this RFQ process;</li> <li>d) they are subcontractors to each other's Bid, or a subcontractor to one Bid also submits another Bid under its name as lead Bidder; or</li> <li>e) some key personnel proposed to be in the team of one Bidder participates in more than one</li> </ul>
	Bid received for this RFQ process. This condition relating to the personnel, does not apply to subcontractors being included in more than one Bid.
Duties and taxes	The United Nations (privileges and immunities) Act, 1947 is applicable to ISA pursuant to a notification by the host country. Therefore, ISA is exempt from all direct taxes, except charges for public utility services, and is exempt from customs restrictions, duties, and charges of a similar nature in respect of articles imported or exported for its official use in India. All quotations shall be submitted net of any direct taxes and any other taxes and duties, unless otherwise specified below:
	<ul> <li>All prices must:</li> <li>⊠ be inclusive of VAT and other applicable indirect taxes</li> <li>□ be exclusive of VAT and other applicable indirect taxes</li> </ul>
Language of	English
quotation	Including documentation including catalogues, instructions and operating manuals.
Documents to	Bidders shall include the following documents in their quotation:
be submitted	Annex 2: Quotation Submission Form duly completed and signed
	Annex 3: Technical and Financial Offer duly completed and signed and in
	accordance with the Schedule of Requirements in Annex 1
	Company Profile.
	Registration certificate of CA firm
	🗵 Company Profile.
Quotation	Quotations shall remain valid for 90 days from the deadline for the Submission of Quotation.
validity period	

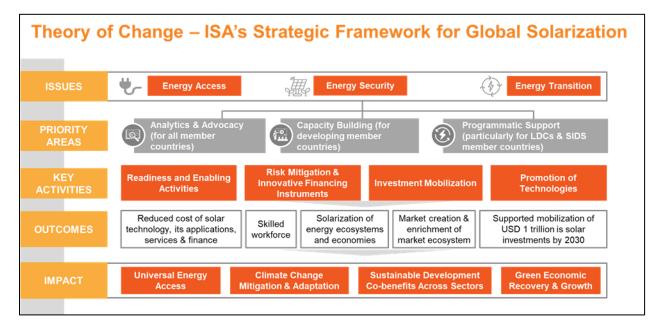
<b></b>	
Price variation	No price variation due to escalation, inflation, fluctuation in exchange rates, or any other market
	factors shall be accepted at any time during the validity of the quotation after the quotation has
	been received.
Partial Quotes	⊠ Not permitted
	Permitted Insert conditions for partial quotes and ensure that the requirements are properly
	listed in lots to allow partial quotes
Alternative	⊠ Not permitted
Quotes	
Payment Terms	☑ Within 30 days upon ISA's acceptance and receipt of invoice.
Conditions for	☑ Written Acceptance of Goods & Services, based on full compliance with RFQ requirements.
Release of Payment	☑ 100% Submission of final audited report to ISA.
Contact Person	E-mail address: procurement@isolaralliance.org
for	Attention: Quotations shall not be submitted to this address but to the address for quotation
correspondenc	submission above. Otherwise, offer shall be disqualified.
e, notifications	Any delay in ISA's response shall be not used as a reason for extending the deadline for
and	submission, unless ISA determines that such an extension is necessary and communicates a new
clarifications	deadline to the Proposers.
Clarifications	Requests for clarification from bidders will not be accepted any later than 2 days before the
	submission deadline. Responses to request for clarification will be communicated thru email.
Evaluation	⊠The Contract or Purchase Order will be awarded to the lowest price substantially compliant
method	offer
Evaluation	Full compliance with all requirements as specified in Terms of Reference
criteria	⊠Full acceptance of the General Conditions of Contract
	⊠Comprehensiveness of after-sales services
	Earliest Delivery /shortest lead time
	<b>Others</b> Click or tap here to enter text.
Right not to	ISA is not bound to accept any quotation, nor award a contract or Purchase Order
accept any	
quotation	
Right to vary	At the time of award of Contract or Purchase Order, ISA reserves the right to vary (increase or
requirement at	decrease) the quantity of services and/or goods, by up to a maximum twenty-five per cent (25%)
time of award	of the total offer, without any change in the unit price or other terms and conditions.
Type of	□ Purchase Order
Contract to be	
awarded	Contract for Works
	Other Type/s of Contract [pls. specify]
Expected date	15 September 2023
for contract	
award.	
Publication of	ISA will publish the contract awards valued at USD 100,000 and more on the ISA website.
Contract Award	
Policies and	This RFQ is conducted in accordance with ISA Financial Regulation and Procedures and ISA
procedures	procurement manual
Other Provisions	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.
	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.
	<u> </u>

# **ANNEXURE 1**

### 1. About International Solar Alliance

International Solar Alliance is a global platform of 116 countries working towards increased deployment of solar energy technologies to improve energy access, energy security and facilitate energy transition. To assist the alliance in their collective work, a Secretariat has been established in India, which supports Member Countries to develop low-carbon growth trajectories. ISA works on three strategic priority areas: 1) Policy & Capacity Building; 2) Programmatic Support and 3) Analytics & Advocacy. It has established partnerships with multilateral development banks, development financial institutions, private and public sector organizations, civil society, and other international institutions to achieve its objectives.

The strategic framework and Theory of Change of ISA are depicted in the figure below:



The three core focus areas of ISA are elaborated below:

- i) Analytics & Advocacy: The ISA undertakes several analytics and advocacy initiatives aimed at strategic engagement and knowledge dissemination for its diverse set of stakeholders. To scale up solar investments, ISA has been supporting countries through its advocacy for capacity building, investment mobilization, and other forms of technical support. Two of the flagship analytics and advocacy initiatives include the One Sun One World One Grid (OSOWOG) Initiative; and the Roadmap for mobilizing one trillion dollars in solar investment by 2030. Building on the existing knowledge products, like Ease of Doing Solar, and its network of stakeholders, ISA plans to expand its knowledge products and publish three flagship reports annually on solar technologies, investments, and markets.
- ii) Capacity Building: To enable large-scale solarization efforts at the required scale in developing economies, ISA has identified capacity building and institutional strengthening in developing member countries as one of the key priority areas in its Theory of Change and undertaken several initiatives for relevant stakeholders including policymakers, technicians, financiers, scientists, entrepreneurs, project developers on aspects related to procurement, business models, financing and other areas to

build a skilled and qualified professional workforce for management of solar energy projects, programmes and policies.

iii) Programmatic Support: The ISA Secretariat has been providing programmatic support to member countries for reducing energy poverty through the promotion of various solar energy solutions. The ISA has nine thematic programmes on Solar Applications for Agriculture Use, Solar Mini-Grids, Solar Rooftop, Solar Parks, Solar based E-Mobility and Storage, Solarizing Heating and Cooling Systems, Solar for Green Hydrogen, and two overarching programmes focusing on Affordable Finance for Solar, and waste management for battery and solar photovoltaics

## 2. Context

Recognizing the urgent need for accelerating the innovations and investments across the solar energy sector in the emerging geographies, the International Solar Alliance (ISA) launched the first leg of the SolarX Start-up Challenge at the 27th Conference of Parties (CoP27) in Egypt in November 2022. With SolarX, ISA aims to crowdsource innovative solutions to the persistent challenges faced by member countries in their respective solar sectors. The challenge is designed to identify and promote implementable, cost-effective, and scalable solutions that address the pressing issues of the solar industry in ISA member countries. By creating a pool of entrepreneurs and start-ups in the solar energy sector, the challenge aims to foster a 3-fold benefit in technology, finance, and innovation, thereby building on the start-up ecosystem within the solar energy sector. This initiative spans across all ISA member countries, with different editions held annually in different regions.

The first edition was held for the African Continent. The African leg attracted a remarkable number of startups with over 180+ applications from 28 countries, showcasing the international interest and potential for innovations in driving advancements in solar energy. In this regard, ISA is looking for an individual to support the initiative's Evaluation and Reporting. The selected consultant will provide robust support for evaluation, and reporting activities associated with the ISA SolarX Startup Challenge to ensure transparency, effectiveness, and continuous improvement.

The selected entity is expected to provide best practices in conducting evaluation of the SolarX Challenge from their experience of working with different international/multi-/bi-lateral organizations.

### 3. Programme area: Evaluation

### 4. Scope of Work

In order to effectively evaluate the impact of the SolarX Startup Challenge that has been conducted as the first edition for the African region (2022-23), the selected entity is expected to support ISA in conducting evaluation and reporting through the following indicative tasks:

### **Evaluation**

# Impact Assessment and Reporting

1) Assess the success of the program

-Through contribution of the SolarX challenge in fostering technological advancements, attracting investments, and promoting innovation within the solar energy sector.

-Evaluate the extent to which the challenge's goals are being met, including the identification of solutions for solar sector challenges in member countries.

-Integrate the successful/failure insights (financing/business models/innovation etc) and provide recommendations on next steps

-Draft comprehensive reports highlighting achievements, challenges, lessons learned, and best practices. Assist in Implementing measures to verify the authenticity of reported outcomes and impacts from participating start-ups.

-Facilitate knowledge sharing by crafting case studies and success stories spotlighting innovative business models. Showcase scalability and replicability of identified solutions emerging from the challenge.

### 5. Deliverables

- I. Detailed report on the evaluation study for the SolarX and its effectiveness as a program highlighting achievements, challenges, lessons learned, and best practices (as identified in the challenge).
- II. Recommendation Report on the learnings and recommendations (based on the evaluations done) for the future editions of the SolarX challenge.
- 6. Duration of the Contract: 1 month (Sep-Oct 2023)

# **ANNEXURE 2: QUOTATION SUBMISSION FORM**

Bidders are requested to complete this form, including the Company Profile and Bidder's Declaration, sign it and return it as part of their quotation along with Annex 3: Technical and Financial Offer. The Bidder shall fill in this form in accordance with the instructions indicated. No alterations to its format shall be permitted and no substitutions shall be accepted.

Name of Bidder:	lick or tap here to enter text.		
RFQ reference:	Click or tap here to enter text.	Date: Click or tap to enter a date.	

### **Company Profile**

Item Description	Detail	
Legal name of bidder or Lead entity for JVs	Click or tap here to enter text.	
Legal Address, City, Country	Click or tap here to enter text.	
Website	Click or tap here to enter text.	
Year of Registration	Click or tap here to enter text.	
Legal structure	Choose an item.	
Are you a UNGM registered vendor?	□ Yes □ No If yes, insert UNGM Vendor Number	
Quality Assurance Certification (e.g. ISO 9000 or Equivalent) (If yes, provide a Copy of the valid Certificate):	⊠ Yes □ No	

contracts Cont		& Reference act Details ding e-mail	Contract Value	Period of activity	Types of activities undertaken
			vant experience	r	
		Bank Account Number: Click or tap here to enter text.			
		Account Currency: Click or tap here to enter text.			
		SWIFT/BIC: Click or tap here to enter text.			
		Bank Address: Click or tap here to enter text. IBAN: Click or tap here to enter text.			
Bank Information		Bank Name: Click or tap here to enter text.			
Is your company a member of the UN Global Compact		🛛 Yes 🗆 No			
Does your organization demonstrate significant commitment to sustainability through some other means, for example internal company policy documents on women empowerment, renewable energies or membership of trade institutions promoting such issues ( <i>If yes, provide a Copy</i> )		⊠ Yes □ No			
Does your Company have written Statement of its Environmental Policy? (If y provide a Copy)		⊠ Yes □ No			
Does your Company hold any accreditation such as ISO 14001 or ISO 14064 or equivalent related to the environment? (If yes, provide a Copy of the valid Certificate):		⊠ Yes □ No			

#### **Bidder's Declaration**

Yes	No	
		<b>Requirements and Terms and Conditions:</b> I/We have read and fully understand the RFQ, including the RFQ Information and Data, Schedule of Requirements, the General Conditions of Contract, and any Special Conditions of Contract. I/we confirm that the Bidder agrees to be bound by them.
		I/We confirm that the Bidder has the necessary capacity, capability, and necessary licenses to fully meet or exceed the Requirements and will be available to deliver throughout the relevant Contract period.

Yes	No	
		<b>Ethics</b> : In submitting this Quote I/we warrant that the bidder: has not entered into any improper, illegal, collusive or anti-competitive arrangements with any Competitor; has not directly or indirectly approached any representative of the Buyer (other than the Point of Contact) to lobby or solicit information in relation to the RFQ ;has not attempted to influence, or provide any form of personal inducement, reward or benefit to any representative of the Buyer.
		I/We confirm to undertake not to engage in proscribed practices, , or any other unethical practice, with the UN or any other party, and to conduct business in a manner that averts any financial, operational, reputational or other undue risk to the UN and we have read the United Nations Supplier Code of Conduct : <u>https://www.un.org/Depts/ptd/about-us/un-supplier-code-conduct</u> and acknowledge that it provides the minimum standards expected of suppliers to the UN.
		<b>Conflict of interest:</b> I/We warrant that the bidder has no actual, potential, or perceived Conflict of Interest in submitting this Quote or entering a Contract to deliver the Requirements. Where a Conflict of Interest arises during the RFQ process the bidder will report it immediately to the Procuring Organisation's Point of Contact.
		<b>Prohibitions, Sanctions:</b> I/We hereby declare that our firm, its affiliates or subsidiaries or employees, including any JV/Consortium members or subcontractors or suppliers for any part of the contract 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 and 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.
		<b>Bankruptcy</b> : I/We 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.
		<b>Offer Validity Period:</b> I/We confirm that this Quote, including the price, remains open for acceptance for the Offer Validity.
		I/We understand and recognize that you are not bound to accept any Quotation you receive, and we certify that the goods offered in our Quotation are new and unused.
		By signing this declaration, the signatory below represents, warrants and agrees that he/she has been authorised by the Organization/s to make this declaration on its/their behalf.

Signature: \_\_\_\_

Name: Click or tap here to enter text.

Title: Click or tap here to enter text.

Date: Click or tap to enter a date.

# **ANEX 3: TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL OFFER - SERVICES**

Bidders are requested to complete this form, sign it and return it as part of their quotation along with Annex 2 Quotation Submission Form. The Bidder shall fill in this form in accordance with the instructions indicated. No alterations to its format shall be permitted and no substitutions shall be accepted.

Name of Bidder:	Click or tap here to enter text.		
RFQ reference:	Click or tap here to enter text.	Date: Click or tap to enter a date.	

### **Technical Offer**

#### Provide the following:

- a brief description of your qualification, capacity and expertise that is relevant to the Terms of Reference.
- a brief methodology, approach and implementation plan;

#### **Financial Offer**

Provide a lump sum for the provision of the services stated in the Terms of Reference your technical offer. The lump sum should include all costs of preparing and delivering the Services. All daily rates shall be based on an eight-hour working day.

#### **Currency of Quotation: USD**

Ref	Description of Deliverables	Price
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
	Total Price	

#### **Compliance with Requirements**

	You Responses		
	Yes, we will comply	No, we cannot comply	If you cannot comply, pls. indicate counter - offer
Delivery Lead Time			Click or tap here to enter text.
Validity of Quotation			Click or tap here to enter text.
Payment terms			Click or tap here to enter text.
Other requirements [pls. specify]			Click or tap here to enter text.

I, the undersigned, certify that I am duly authorized to sign this quotation and bind the company below in event that the quotation is accepted.

Exact name and address of company	Authorized Signature:	
Company NameClick or tap here to enter text.	Date:Click or tap here to enter text.	
Address: Click or tap here to enter text.	Name:Click or tap here to enter text.	
Click or tap here to enter text.	Functional Title of Authorised Signatory:Click or tap here to enter text. Email Address: Click or tap here to enter text.	
Phone No.:Click or tap here to enter text.		
Email Address:Click or tap here to enter text.		