

Elsevier-ISES Renewable Transformation Challenge 2025 Terms & Conditions

ABOUT & OBJECTIVE

The objective of the ELSEVIER-ISES Renewable Transformation Challenge Promotion (“Challenge”) is to recognize and honor outstanding work towards a world powered by renewable energy and with accessible energy for all. This objective is consistent with the vision of the International Solar Energy Society (ISES), which is for a world powered by 100% renewable energy used efficiently and wisely and accessible for all. To achieve this vision, a global transformation of our energy systems to efficient and affordable renewable energy must take place.

The Challenge promotion is administered every two (2) years to recognize accomplishments by organizations such as private enterprises, NGOs, and research institutions for undertaking projects and programs that help move the world toward an energy system supplied entirely by renewable energy sources, or for conducting the critical analyses that provide meaningful roadmaps for the transformation. The award winner represents one step towards furthering ISES’ vision. This vision can only be achieved through private and civil society initiatives towards innovative and successful programs that adopt the use of renewable energy technologies, and the intelligent application of energy efficiency measures. In the context of this Challenge, the energy transformation applies to all end-use energy consumption: power, heat, and transport.

Applications for the Challenge are invited from organizations who can demonstrate that they have established successful projects, innovative technologies, financing schemes, policy initiatives, or renewable energy programs, or from institutions that have undertaken research and analyses and identified solutions that demonstrate how this goal is being met. The Challenge can include either supply side (energy generation for end-use energy consumption) or demand side (including energy efficiency) programs, or both, and applicants may address any or all of the end-use energy sectors mentioned above.

Innovative ideas will be given preference over incremental improvement projects.

The Challenge is not a funding body and applications still in the conceptual stage with little supporting evidence of viability are unlikely to proceed past the first evaluation phase.

Details of how the application supports progress towards the 100% renewable energy transformation must be very clear.

The winning proposal will be the one that best demonstrates a contribution to the transformation to a world powered by renewable energy and that ideally has potential to widen access to energy, particularly in developing countries.

SPONSORS

The International Solar Energy Society (ISES), (Wiesentalstr. 50, 79115 Freiburg, Germany) and Elsevier Ltd. (Elsevier) (collectively the “Sponsors”) are pleased to jointly sponsor this challenge to the global solar energy community. Elsevier shall sponsor the cash component of the prize in the amount of Twenty Thousand Euros (€20,000.00) whereas ISES shall sponsor the non-cash components of the prize for a free

registration to the ISES Solar World Congress 2025 in Fortaleza, Brazil, and also one Gold (lifetime) membership to the Society.

ELIGIBILITY

The Challenge is open to (a) individuals who attained the age of majority in his/her state/provinces of residence as of the date of entry into the Contest from which the award application has been submitted or (b) groups of individuals from an organization operating in the not-for-profit and for profit sectors in any country worldwide (excluding Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Russia, Sudan, Syria, Ukraine (Crimea, Luhansk and Donetsk regions)), including but not limited to NGOs, research or academic institutions.

Participants will confirm that their participation in the Challenge is in compliance with all applicable conflict of interest laws and regulations as well as the policies and rules of their employer. For the avoidance of doubt, the offer is void where prohibited by law or participant's employer and is not available to any elected or appointed official or employees of any government entity, without prior written approval allowing the participant to accept the award, signed on behalf of the government office or entity that employs the participant.

Employees of Sponsor and its parents, subsidiaries, affiliated companies and agents, and their immediate families of those living in the same household, are not eligible to enter as participants.

WHEN AND HOW TO ENTER

This Challenge commences on 1 March 2025. The deadline for application entry shall be until 30 April 2025 ("Entry Period").

To access the application, participants must follow the instructions on the Renewable Transformation Challenge website at elsevier.com/subject/energy/renewable-transformation-challenge ("Challenge Site") and then register on the application site at rtc2025.skild.com. Upon successful registration, participants will receive a link to the application form.

To enter, all applications must be submitted online using the online application tool available and completing the application form provided during the Entry Period. Supporting materials, such as videos (up to 2 minutes) or photos may be submitted as well. All video materials should be linked (either through the applicant's website or YouTube channel) as videos cannot be uploaded in the online application form.

Applications that are (i) submitted other than as specified; (ii) submitted before or after the Challenge Period; or (iii) incomplete, defective, forged, or irregular in any way or not in compliance with these Official Challenge Rules will be disqualified. Elsevier's servers and clock shall serve as the official clock for the Challenge and participants' proof of submission does not constitute proof of receipt by Sponsor. Applications will be acknowledged as received but will not be returned.

All applications must be in English.

Applications must be the original work of, and created solely by, the individuals or organizations submitting the application. In cases of applications submitted by a team, only one member of the team may apply.

Modifying, enhancing or altering a third-party's pre-existing work does not constitute original work.

APPLICATION FORM

Application form shall include the following:

- 1) Contact details of individual or organization applying
 - First Name
 - Last Name
 - Country of Residence
 - Organization Name (in case participant is an organization)
 - Country of registration of organization
 - Email-id (which shall be used only in case of winning the competition)
 - Educational and professional background including publications, patents, projects, etc.
 - Title of application

- 2) Executive summary - Describe the project and make clear its primary objective

- 3) Description of application:
 - a) Describe the technical aspects including details of technologies utilized or innovative technologies, financing schemes, policy initiatives, or renewable energy programs proposed.
 - b) Describe of methods and strategies, including the individuals/organizations responsible for further developing the work necessary.
 - c) Describe the operational aspects.
 - d) Describe the social & economic short- and long-term transformative impact. Being affordable for use in developing countries is a plus.
 - e) Proof of innovation and creativity
 - f) Describe how the research, project, technology or program will contribute to achieving 100% renewable energy.
 - g) Describe its applicability and short- and long-term transformative impact, e.g. how many people reached, how many installations planned or completed or secured, how has access to energy services been improved, estimate MWh generated, etc.
 - h) If applicable: Describe its implementation plan.
 - i) Demonstrate its replicability and scalability, e.g. how it can or will be used in different countries or cultural contexts, how it can be scaled to different groups.

Applicants should answer as many questions as possible as they relate to their project. If any of the above questions cannot be answered, the applicant should explain why these questions were not applicable.

- 4) Budget - If you win the award, how will the prize money be used? Please note that the RTC is not a funding organization. Please provide information about how the funds will go to support the advancement of the project, program.
- 5) Disclosure of competing interests
- 6) Acknowledgement and Acceptance of Renewable Transformation Challenge Rules. All applicants will be required, as part of the online registration process, to read and acknowledge acceptance of the Renewable Transformation Challenge Official Rules.
- 7) Supporting Documentation (if applicable)

JURY and JUDGES

A jury and judging committee comprised of solar and renewable energy specialists, including representatives of the International Solar Energy Society, Elsevier, and/or their partner organizations (collectively the “Jury”) will evaluate all applications. The Jury will determine the winning application from the top ten rated applications identified by the Jury.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Each application will be assigned to two to three (2-3) members of the Jury who will evaluate the application applying the following evaluation criteria:

- 1) Clearly demonstrates that the application supports a transformation towards 100% renewable energy;
- 2) Be replicable, scalable and sustainable;
- 3) Set a benchmark for innovation – new ideas or concepts will be given preference over incremental improvement projects;
- 4) Have practical applicability and a clear demonstration of impact; e.g. does it consider a feasible implementation plan of the project?
- 5) Be suitable for application in developing countries; consider the project’s social impact on local communities.

Sponsors reserve the right to exclude or disqualify any application which does not meet, or may not meet, all the requirements listed above, as determined in Sponsors’ sole discretion.

IMPORTANT DATES

Release of application documents & start of application period: 01 March 2025

Deadline for applications: 30 April 2025

Jury Review Period: 1 May 2025 – 31 May 2025

Review of top ten rated applications and selection of the winner by the Jury: 1 June 2025-21 June 2025

Winner informed: 25 June 2025

Winner announced publicly: 1 September 2025

Awards ceremony and ISES Solar World Congress 2025 Fortaleza, Brazil: 4-7 November 2025, *exact date of the Gala Awards Dinner TBD. Please note, all dates are subject to last minute change due to specific reasons.*

SELECTION OF WINNER & NOTIFICATION

One (1) winner will be selected by the Jury and the winner will be informed on or about 25 June 2025. Decisions of the Jury will be final and binding in all respects. This is a contest of skill. Your odds of winning

depend on how well your application compares with the others submitted in the Challenge pursuant to the judging criteria. All applicants will be informed of the results.

The potential winner will need to complete and return, in his/her official capacity, an Affidavit of Eligibility and Liability Release and, unless prohibited by law, a Publicity Release (“Affidavit”) within forty-eight (48) hours of receipt of the notice from the Sponsor. Failure to timely execute and return the required documents or the return of any notification as undeliverable may cause the prize award to be forfeited, at Sponsor’s sole discretion, and another winner will be selected. Odds of selection depend upon the number of qualified Contest Entries received.

PRIZES & AWARDS CEREMONY

The winner will receive a prize in the amount of Twenty Thousand Euros (€20,000), one (1) free registration to attend the ISES Solar World Congress 2023 in Fortaleza, Brazil from 4-7 November and Congress Awards Banquet, and one (1) Gold (Lifetime) membership to the International Solar Energy Society.

The Awards Ceremony will take place during the Congress Awards Banquet. A short presentation will be included in the awards ceremony about the winner’s application. The Winner will be asked to provide information, photos and other materials such as videos for this short presentation.

The winner will be invited to give a short (5 min) address to the audience after receiving the award.

WINNER FOLLOW-UP

The Winner will be publicized on the ISES website at ises.org, at the Challenge website at elsevier.com/subject/energy/renewable-transformation-challenge the Solar Energy journal homepage at sciencedirect.com/journal/solar-energy, in the ISES newsletter, social media and other channels.

The Winner will be contacted in advance of the Solar World Congress in 2027 to be asked to provide an update on the progress of their work since 2025, and how the prize money has been utilized to benefit their work. They will be asked to provide supplemental information, such as photos and videos, in order to present an update on the project, work, etc. at the Solar World Congress 2027. This information will be made available publicly through ISES and Elsevier websites, press releases, social media, etc.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

There is no entry fee or payment necessary to enter or win. This Challenge is subject to all jurisdictional laws and regulations and is void where prohibited or restricted. Applicants agree to be bound by these rules and guidelines and the decision of the sponsors and jury members in regards to the challenge. Any applicant found to be acting in violation of these rules may be disqualified based on the Sponsors’ sole discretion.

CONSENT TO WINNING APPLICATION

Winner (or winning teams) first name and county of residence and their applications will be announced and, with their photograph, and may be featured on the ISES or Elsevier websites or their affiliates. By accepting the prize, winner (or winning team) grant the Sponsors and their affiliates, the additional rights, without limitation or further permission or compensation, to use and publish their photograph in conjunction with their credited name(s). Rights granted by winners are for advertising, publicity and promotional purposes and are in perpetuity and in any medium the Sponsors see fit including but not limited to websites, television, social media, or printed materials. However, Elsevier shall comply with the Elsevier internal compliance policy before conducting any marketing activities.

USE OF INFORMATION

By entering this Challenge and submitting an application, participants grant the Sponsors and their affiliates the rights, without limitation or further permission or compensation, to: 1) Use and publish their name and likeness; 2) use, reproduce, publish, display and distribute the Applications and other materials submitted, including via their websites, social media platforms, newsletters, etc. None of the application materials and information submitted by participants will be treated as confidential, so please do not submit proprietary information. Participants further agree that personally identifiable information may be processed, stored, and otherwise used for the purposes of the Challenge, including, but not limited to, checking participant's identity, postal address, and telephone number, or to otherwise verify eligibility to participate. The personal data submitted through the Challenge Website is subject to its privacy policy at elsevier.com/subject/energy/renewable-transformation-challenge and will be used by Sponsors in accordance with its privacy policy at elsevier.com/legal/privacy-policy.

GENERAL PRIZE RESTRICTIONS

Prizes will be awarded to the Nominees listed in the winning Entries. The entrants who submitted the Nominees do not win any prize. Prizes may not be transferred nor assigned. All expenses and costs related to acceptance and use of any prize not expressly listed above are entirely each respective winner's responsibility. No cash or other substitution may be made, except by the Sponsor, who reserves the right to substitute the prize in whole or in part with another prize of comparable or greater value if the intended prizes are not available for any reason as determined by the Sponsor in its sole discretion. Winners will be responsible for all applicable taxes (not limited to federal, state local and/or income) and will be required to provide his/her Social Security number or tax ID for tax reporting purposes as Sponsor will file an IRS Form 1099 with the Internal Revenue Service for the fair market value of each prize. In the event that any potential winner is disqualified for any reason, that prize will be forfeited and awarded to an alternate winner. Sponsor shall not be responsible for any cancellation, delay, diversion, or any act or omission whatsoever by the mail carrier or any other person providing any of these services.

AGREEMENT TO THE OFFICIAL RULES

By participating in the Contest, each entrant fully and unconditionally agrees to and accepts these Official Rules and the decisions of the Sponsor which are final and binding on entrants and Nominees in all matters related to the Contest. For the Contest Entry to be determined as a potential winner, the Nominee must provide written consent to accept the nomination and fully and unconditionally agree to and abide by the Official Rules and the decisions of the Sponsor and if chosen at random to be a winner, of the Contest. Failure to provide written consent within five (5) days of receipt of notification may result in

disqualification of the Contest Entry for such Nominee. Except where prohibited by law, acceptance of prize constitutes permission for Sponsor to use the winner's names, hometown, likeness, statements (where applicable) and other identifiable information for promotional, advertising and marketing purposes in any media throughout the world without additional prize, incentive, consideration, consent or review; and upon request, winners will provide written consent to such use.

GENERAL CONDITIONS / RELEASE

By participating, entrants and Nominees (a) release Sponsor, their respective directors, officers, agents and employees from any and all liability for any claims, costs, injuries, losses or damages of any kind caused by their participation, including the unauthorized or illegal access to personally identifiable or sensitive information or the acceptance, possession, use, or misuse of the prize; and (b) acknowledge that said parties have neither made nor are in any manner responsible or liable for any representation or guarantee, expressed or implied, in fact or in law, relative to a prize including, but not limited to the prize quality or availability. Neither Sponsor nor any service providers are responsible for incorrect or inaccurate transcription of Contest Entry information, or for any human or other error, technical malfunctions, lost/delayed data or voice transmission, omission, interruption, deletion, defect, line failures of any telephone network, computer equipment, software, inability to access any online service or Website or to complete a telephone call or facsimile transaction, or any other error or malfunction, or any injury or damage to participant's or any other person's computer related to or resulting from participation in this Contest. Any Contest Entry will be void if altered, deleted, destroyed, forged, fraudulent, improperly accessed, inaccurate, incomplete, interrupted, late, non-deliverable, tampered with, unauthorized or unintelligible. Sponsor's failure to enforce any term of these Official Rules shall not constitute a waiver of that provision. If for any reason the Contest is not capable of being executed as planned, or infection by computer virus, bugs, tampering, unauthorized intervention, fraud, action of entrants, technical failures or any other causes which in the opinion of the Sponsor, corrupt or affect the administration, security, fairness, integrity, or proper conduct of this Contest, Sponsor reserves the right at its sole discretion to disqualify any suspect Contest Entry or entrant and to cancel, terminate, modify or suspend the Contest. In the event of any cancellation, termination or suspension, notice thereof will be posted on the Website and the determination of the Contest winners will be made per the specifics described in the SELECTION OF WINNER DETERMINATION section from among all eligible, non-suspect Contest Entries received as of the date of the termination, cancellation or suspension, as Sponsor determines in its sole discretion provided that in such circumstances Sponsor reserves the right not to name any winners. Entries not complying with all rules are subject to disqualification.

COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS

ISES and Elsevier agree to comply with all applicable laws, ordinances, codes, regulations, standards and judicial and administrative orders (collectively, "Applicable Laws") relating to its duties, obligations and performance under this Terms and Conditions and Applicable Laws prohibiting bribery and fostering transparency, including, without limitation the US Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, the UK Bribery Act and the US Physician Payment Sunshine Act and those other laws enforced in the country where business is being conducted and/or the party's place of business or residency. Each party agrees to engage only in legitimate business and ethical practices in commercial operations and in relation to its dealings with any employee or official of a government agency or any other government owned, operated or controlled entity (including, without limitation, state run universities, hospitals and libraries), or political parties or candidates (jointly "Government Official"). Neither party nor any of its officers, directors, employees or agents shall pay, offer, give, promise or authorize the payment, directly or indirectly, of any monies, gifts or anything of value to any commercial contact or Government Official for the purpose or intent to induce such person to use his/her authority to help the other party or any affiliate of the other party for personal gain (any such act, a "Prohibited Payment"). A Prohibited Payment does not include a payment of reasonable and bona fide expenditures, such as travel or lodging expenses, which are directly related to

the promotion, demonstration or explanation of products or services or the execution or performance of a contract provided that such payments are permissible under the Applicable Laws.

CONSTRUCTION

The construction, validity, interpretation and enforceability of these Official Rules shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the United Kingdom, without giving effect to its conflicts of law principles.

RULES

By entering the Challenge, entrant agrees to abide by the terms and conditions of these Official Rules, which are final on all matters pertaining to the Contest, agrees to be bound by the decisions of the Jury, and warrants that he/she is eligible to participate in the Challenge. The Challenge is subject to all applicable national, regional, and local laws and regulations.

CONTACT

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