



Call for Proposals for the Innovation Challenge

Objective of the Challenge: The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is currently implementing "Greening the future, advancing rights and stability_Moldova" and intends to initiate an *Innovation Challenge to support startups, private or state-owned enterprises, non-profits, and/or academic institutions to develop innovation in energy sector within the Sandbox mechanism*. Innovation Challenge is organized under **Activity 2.1.2. "Develop and implement a Sustainable Energy pilot in a sandboxed environment through which the government and partners will be able to test, evaluate, create a pipeline of eligible pilots for sandbox and scale-up technologically advanced solutions in EE and/or Renewable energy"**.

The total estimated budget of the procurement is **USD 80,000 (2 prizes up to \$ 40,000 each)**.

Eligible applicants: Registered startups, private or state-owned enterprises, non-profits, and/or academic institutions, individuals and associations.

Applicants must be based in Republic of Moldova or demonstrate a clear intention to deploy their solution or project here. Foreign legal entities can apply if they establish a branch in Moldova for the entire duration of the sandbox project.

At the stage of applying, and regardless of organization type, the applicants must present an innovation addressing the call's defined development challenge. The innovation should have a potential for financial sustainability and scaling. Furthermore, the applicants should engage users, partners, and stakeholder in the development of their innovation, ensuring viability in its specific context.

Expected date of contract start: October 2026

Expected length of contract: up to 12 months

Estimated prize: up to US \$40,000

Other information on this Innovation challenge and forms/templates are listed below:

Annex 1 - Guidelines for Sandbox Innovation Challenge

Annex 2 – Budget Template

Annex 3 – Evaluation Criteria

Annex 4 - Innovation Challenge Agreement Template

Annex 5 - Application Form

A Pre-Bid Information Session on UNDP Moldova Sandbox Innovation Challenge has been scheduled in Zoom.

Meeting details:

Date and time - August 24, 2026, 14.00 (Chisinau, Moldova Local Time).

Zoom Link - <https://undp.zoom.us/j/84952335418?pwd=Spb1jGjdF4ZpmU4IGNcP1ulLUkfWSP.1>

Meeting ID: 849 5233 5418

Passcode: 845816

When preparing your proposal, please be guided by the Instructions and Data. All the details regarding the background of the call, criteria for selection and evaluation can be found in the Terms of Reference. The applicants must submit their proposals using the forms and templates provided in the system.

Please note that proposals must be submitted directly in the system responding to the questions and uploading required documents by the date and time indicated in the online portal. It is your responsibility to ensure that your proposal is



submitted before the deadline. Proposals received after the submission deadline outside the online portal, for whatever reason, will not be considered for evaluation.

Proposals must be submitted directly in NextGenERP supplier portal following this link: <http://supplier.quantum.partneragencies.org> using the profile you may have in the portal.

Follow the instructions in the user guide to search for the tender using **Negotiation ID: UNDP-MDA-01075** in this document.

In case you have never registered before, you can register a profile using the registration link: <https://estm.fa.em2.oraclecloud.com/fscmUI/redwood/supplier-registration/register-supplier/register-supplier-verification?id=TUW16eK6qsD94MNMxATNMoYCOHny7FmchTkUZsdOqrAW4sy6L5xSAB033Q%3D%3D> and following the instructions in guides available in UNDP website: <https://www.undp.org/procurement/business/resources-for-bidders>. Do not create a new profile if you already have one. Use the forgotten password feature in case you do not remember the password or the username from previous registration.

Thank you and we look forward to receiving your Proposals.



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Thank you and we look forward to receiving your Proposals.

1.2 Tender Timeline



Open Date 13/08/26 15:03 PM
Close Date 10/09/26 13:30 PM
Time Zone Coordinated Universal Time

1.3 Terms

Negotiation Currency USD (US Dollar)

1.4 Attachments

File Name or URL	Type	Description
Annex 1 - Guidelines Sandbox.p	File	
Annex 3 - Evaluation Criteria	File	
Annex 2 - Budget Template Sand	File	
Annex 4 - Sandbox Innovation C	File	
Annex 5 - Application Form.doc	File	

Note: The attachments above are part of general attachments to this Tender. There may be more attachments uploaded with requirement or price schedule. All attachments can be accessed from the portal directly



2 PART: TENDER REQUIREMENT AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

**Response is required*

Please review carefully the requirements and questions in this section.

Provide answers where required (marked with *asterisk symbol) and upload supporting documents when requested so (marked with *asterisk symbol).

2.1 Section 1. General Information

1. Introduction

Applicants shall adhere to all the requirements of this Innovation Challenge, including any amendments made in writing by UNDP. This process is conducted in accordance with the UNDP Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures (POPP) on Contracts and Procurement and with the provision in the Terms of reference attached herewith.

Any proposal submitted will be regarded as an offer by the Applicant and does not constitute or imply the acceptance of the Proposal by UNDP. UNDP is under no obligation to award an agreement to any Applicant as a result of this Process.

UNDP reserves the right to cancel this process at any stage without any liability of any kind for UNDP, upon notice to the applicants or cancellation of the negotiation/solicitation in the online portal.

2. General Information

Title of the Call: EoI26/03344 GTF Sandbox Innovation Challenge

Agency: UNDP

Managing Unit: UNDP-MDA

Countries for project implementation: Republic of Moldova

Eligible Applicants: Registered startups, private or state-owned enterprises, non-profits, and/or academic institutions, individuals and associations. Applicants with a prototype, Minimum Viable Product (MVP)*

or further developed solutions are encouraged to apply.

Expected date of contract start: October 2026

Expected length of contract: up to 14 Months

Estimated prize: Up to US \$40,000.

2.2 Section 2. Documents to be submitted

*1. Completed Application Form (Annex 5), in English.

Have you provided completed Application Form (Annex 5), in English ?



***2. Completed Budget Template**

Have you provided completed Budget Template (Annex 2), in USD, exclusive of VAT and other indirect taxes, with the total not exceeding US\$ 40,000?

***3. Project proposal / implementation plan**

Have you provided project proposal / implementation plan, including work plan, timeline, expected results and indicators ?

***4. Signed statement confirming acceptance**

Have you provided signed statement confirming acceptance, without deviation or reservation, of the UNDP General Terms and Conditions, the Special Conditions and the terms of the applicable Model Innovation Challenge Agreement?

***5. Signed declaration listing any engagement with UNDP**

Have you provided signed declaration listing any engagement with UNDP Moldova during the 2023-2027 period (Low Value Grants, Responsible Party Agreements, works/service contracts or others, completed and active), including the amounts received?

***6. CVs of the key personnel proposed**

Have you provided CVs of the key personnel proposed, showing the relevant technical and business domain experience?

***7. Evidence of any co-financing claimed**

Have you provided evidence of any co-financing claimed (letter of commitment, board decision, bank statement or equivalent), where the application relies on co-financing?

***8. Certificate of registration**

Have you provided certificate of registration / extract from the State Register of Legal Entities and the statute for non-profits and associations?

***9. Document evidencing the authority of the person signing the application**

Have you provided document evidencing the authority of the person signing the application and the agreement (extract from the register, power of attorney or board decision)?

***10. Annual financial statements**

Have you provided annual financial statements for the last completed financial year, where available?

***11. Signed curriculum vitae of the applicant**

Have you provided signed curriculum vitae of the applicant?

***12. Evidence of registration as an entrepreneur**



Have you provided evidence of registration as an entrepreneur / self-employed person, where the applicable law requires it for the proposed activity?

2.3 Section 3. Applicant's Declaration

***1. Requirements and Terms and Conditions**

I/We have read and fully understand the Innovation Challenge, including the Information and Data, Terms of Reference, Guidelines, the Contract Template and any Special Conditions of Contract. I/we confirm that the Applicants agrees to be bound by them.

***2. Capacity and capability**

I/We confirm that the Applicant(s) 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.

***3. Ethics**

In submitting this Proposal I/we warrant that the Applicant(s): 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 Innovation challenge ;has not attempted to influence, or provide any form of personal inducement, reward or benefit to any representative of the Buyer.

***4. Code of Conduct**

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 : <https://www.un.org/Depts/ptd/about-us/un-supplier-code-conduct> and acknowledge that it provides the minimum standards expected of suppliers to the UN.

***5. Conflict of Interest**

I/We warrant that the Applicant(s) has no actual, potential or perceived Conflict of Interest in submitting this Proposal or entering a Contract to deliver the Requirements. Where a Conflict of Interest arises during the Innovation challenge process the bidder will report it immediately to the Procuring Organisation's Point of Contact.

***6. Prohibitions and Sanctions**

I/We hereby declare that our firm, ultimate beneficial owners, 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.

***7. Bankruptcy**



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.

***8. Offer Validity Period**

I/We confirm that this Proposal, including the price, remains open for acceptance for the Offer Validity.

***9. Acceptance of contract**

I/We understand and recognize that you are not bound to accept any Proposal you receive, and we certify that the goods offered in our Proposal are new and unused.

***10. Signatory person**

I/We hereby confirm that this offer in the system is submitted by an authorized person from the company and it warrants and agrees that he/she been authorized by the Organization/s to make this declaration on its/their behalf.

2.4 Section 4. Minimum Eligibility Criteria

1. Initially all applicants' legal entities and individuals will be shortlisted based on the following minimum eligibility criteria:

- **Language: English. All answers in the application form and all supporting documents must be submitted in English.**
- **Geographical area of operations: applicants must be based in the Republic of Moldova or demonstrate a clear intention to deploy their solution or project in the Republic of Moldova.**
- **Application: complete and duly submitted, in English, through the UNDP Quantum Platform and before the communicated deadline, including all documents listed under "Documents to be submitted by the applicant" below.**
- **Thematic area: The innovation challenge will target solutions and projects that correspond to at least one of the following domains:**
 - **Collective Self-Consumption and Energy Communities** - solutions to promote shared production and local use of electric energy, regulatory frameworks, grid integration, and others.
 - **Electromobility** – infrastructure development for electric vehicles, smart charging solutions, and vehicle-to-grid integration to optimize energy consumption and support the transition to clean



transportation, and others.

- **Flexibility and balancing services** – innovations that improve grid stability through demand response mechanism, battery storage solutions, real-time energy trading, and others.
- **Integration of renewable energy sources, and biogas & biomethane production** – converting agricultural waste into biogas, expansion of renewable energy capacities in solar, wind, and others.
- **Smart Grids** - infrastructure development, modernization, Integration of renewables, balancing solutions, and others.

2.5 Section 5. Selection Process

1.

I. Applications that pass the minimum qualification criteria are scored against the five criteria below, each carrying a maximum weighted score of 20% (total 100%). The minimum qualification criteria above are assessed on a pass/fail basis; an application that fails any one of them is rejected at screening stage and is not scored.

II. Minimum technical qualifying score: 70% of the total weighted score. Applications scoring below 70% are not technically qualified and are not eligible for award.

III. Award: the two highest-ranked applications reaching the minimum technical qualifying score are recommended for award of up to US\$ 40,000 each. In the event of equal total scores, the application with the higher score under criterion 1 (Innovative scale) ranks first. UNDP reserves the right to award fewer than two prizes, or none, and to award to the next-ranked qualifying application where a selected project is not approved by the Commission for innovative testing spaces in the field of energy regulation or by the Government of Moldova.

Evaluation Table:

Element of evaluation	Metrics for scoring	Maximum weighted score
Innovative scale of the proposed project: potential to make an important contribution to the development of the	0% if, lacks originality and does not introduce any new concepts compared to existing common	20%

field of energy, accordingly, production, transport, distribution, storage of energy from renewable sources, supply and consumption of energy, but without limiting to the use of renewable energy sources, its storage or to advanced alternative solutions for supply, distribution or consumption of electricity, thermal energy and natural gas.	practices in Moldova. No potential for disruption or differentiation from existing solutions; up to a maximum of 20% when highly innovative, unique, and groundbreaking. Strong potential to transform existing technical and/or financial practices or markets.	
Justification for the request for approval of exemptions from legislative or regulatory provisions that prevent or hinder substantially the implementation of the innovative testing project. Exemptions from the regulatory framework requested for the implementation of the innovative testing project do not contravene the international obligations assumed by the Republic of Moldova.	0% if, no justification or no need to exemptions from legislative or regulatory provisions for developing and testing the solution; up to a maximum of 20% when in force legislation and regulations represents a barrier for developing the proposed solution.	20%
Impact Potential: Anticipated ability to contribute to the improvement of regulatory rules and process of learning in the regulatory field. Anticipated social, environmental, and economic benefits; measurable outcomes and key performance indicators; alignment with the challenge's objectives.	0% if, lacks a clear impact strategy and measurable outcomes, no methodology linking activities to outcomes, and weak alignment with objective; up to a maximum of 20% when highly transformative with significant, measurable social, environmental, regulatory, and economic impact. Clear methodology and strong KPIs.	20%
Feasibility and Scalability: Clarity of objectives and implementation plan; resource availability and realistic timelines; technological and operational feasibility. Potential for co-financing. Potential for expansion and growth beyond the current scope; ability to adapt to changing market conditions; strategies for scaling without compromising quality or impact.	0% if, objectives and implementation plan are unclear. Resource requirements are unrealistic, and execution is highly uncertain due to feasibility risks; up to a maximum of 20% when clear objectives, well-structured implementation plan, and strong resource allocation are provided. Highly feasible with minimal execution risks. highly scalable with clear strategies for growth and adaptation. Can expand while maintaining quality and impact.	20%
Management	0% if, management team lacks relevant experience and expertise. Roles are unclear, and capacity to execute the project is highly uncertain; up to a maximum 20% when highly skilled, experienced	20%



Competence and experience of the management team. Clear roles and responsibilities within the team and demonstrated capacity for effective project execution.	management team with clearly defined roles. Strong leadership and a proven track record of execution, technical experts with relevant experience as part of the team	
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3 PART: Schedule of Requirement and Price Schedule

Instructions **This Negotiation is divided into two Lots (Lot 1 and Lot 2). The two Lots are identical: same scope, same deliverables and the same ceiling of US\$ 40,000. They correspond to the two prizes available under this Innovation Challenge.**

Bidders must submit a price for both Lots, and the prices must be identical in both Lots:

the amount entered for Deliverable 1 must be the same in Lot 1 and in Lot 2;
the amount entered for Deliverable 2 must be the same in Lot 1 and in Lot 2.

3.1 Line Information

Line Description	Category	Item	UOM	Requested Quantity	Unit Price	Total Price	Additional Attributes
1-LOT 1							
2-LOT 2							
1.1-Agreement signature and approved implementation plan - Project 1	Business and corporate management consultation services						
1.2-Submission and acceptance of the Final Report, incorporating results from the Initial Progress Report, Interim Report, and Detailed Technical Report - Project 1	Business and corporate management consultation services						



Line Description	Category	Item	UOM	Requested Quantity	Unit Price	Total Price	Additional Attributes
2.1-Agreement signature and approved implementation plan- Project 2	Business and corporate management consultation services						
2.2-Submission and acceptance of the Final Report, incorporating results from the Initial Progress Report, Interim Report, and Detailed Technical Report - Project 4	Business and corporate management consultation services						

*For Additional Attributes of lines, please review the negotiation lines from supplier portal.