

Solar Technician

Full-time

Base Location: Barabanki district, Uttar Pradesh

Reporting Line: Head of Engineering

Earliest Start Date: 1 December 2024

Apply By: ASAP



About Oorja

Oorja (www.oorjasolutions.org) is an award-winning social enterprise based in New Delhi. We are on a mission to empower 1 million farmers globally by 2030 with the agricultural solutions they need to sustainably increase their income and quality of life.

Oorja is a Farming-as-a-Service company working at the intersection of sustainable agriculture and renewable energy. Our focus is on powering beneficial appliances that help users to generate stable incomes, create jobs, and mitigate carbon emissions. Despite urgent need, around 90% of marginal farmers cannot afford to invest in solar technology for their farms. Oorja wants to close this gap. We finance, install and maintain decentralised solar energy systems for community use. Oorja sells solar irrigation and milling affordable services on a Pay-Per-Use basis to smallholder farmers, without any upfront cost to them. We also offer offline and digital advisory services to strengthen climate resilience. We operate in rural areas of northern India where farmers are currently reliant on polluting and expensive diesel motors for their energy needs.

Our core strengths are our inclusive, farmer-centric business model and a diverse and driven team with shared passion for sustainable development. Some of our funders and partners in this mission are:



Role Background

Oorja is seeking a Solar Technician with 2+ years of experience in the solar industry and a diploma in engineering. Your primary responsibilities will be to perform routine maintenance, inspections and repairs on solar irrigation pumping systems, as well as assisting with technical site audits and installation and commissioning of new pumps. The nature of PV systems installed and operated by the company include solar irrigation pumps as well as flour mills. You must be able to work independently to achieve targets within set timelines and be highly motivated by customer satisfaction. You will report directly to the Head of Engineering. You should own a motorcycle or scooter and have a valid driver's license. You will be joining a dynamic and international team working together to make a difference to farmers' income and well-being.

Key Duties

- Technical operations and maintenance of solar pumps (BLDC and AC systems, submersible and surface pumps) and solar-powered agroprocessing mills (atta chakkis/pulverisers)
- Diagnose faults, troubleshoot and attend to routine repairs and part replacements
- Coordinate with suppliers and distributors for prompt repair or replacement of equipment/parts
- Conduct technical site audits of new potential sites for solar irrigation systems
- Measure and record system performance, operating parameters and other data in logsheets
- Escalate major faults, malfunctions and unresolved technical issues to Head of Engineering
- Conduct or supervise electrical, mechanical and civil works for installation of new ground-mounted solar project installations, typically of 1 – 10 kW_p PV capacity.

Roles and Responsibilities

For this position, you will be expected to serve a key role in our Engineering team. Your responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Operate and conduct routine maintenance on solar systems, including but not limited to cleaning and upkeep of PV modules, mounting structures, balance of systems equipment, inverters, charge controllers, power meters, safety systems, pumpsets, AC and BLDC motors, appliances and other ancillary equipment, to ensure systems meet the performance and reliability needs of customers
- Diagnose and troubleshoot any technical problems with generation, storage, distribution, metering or consumption in solar systems; check, inspect, configure, replace, install and test different components; conduct minor repairs or issue replacement parts within 48 hours of first notification; keep record of technical issues and prepare monthly technical report for reporting to supervisor
- Stay close to and travel frequently to all project sites and adhere to O&M guidelines provided through in-house training and technical manuals and to all applicable standards and safety requirements
- Conduct routine maintenance inspections and reports on a quarterly basis: measure and record system performance, operating parameters, maintenance and other relevant data from project sites and customers in a logsheet upon every site visit; provide regular written technical reports in the company's prescribed format to the Head of Engineering; participate in team calls; provide the Management team with field insights regarding the technology, customer behaviour and challenges faced during operations

- Coordinate with suppliers and distributors for prompt repair or replacement of equipment and spare parts
- Keep a daily log of all repairs and maintenance conducted and technical issue status on Airtable
- Escalate major faults and malfunctions or unresolved technical issues to the Head of Engineering as soon as possible, together with necessary evidence (photographs, videos, field reports, diagrams, etc.) for filing of warranty claims
- Conduct technical site audits of new potential sites for solar irrigation systems
- Install, integrate, test and commission new on-grid and off-grid solar systems and appliances (pumps, agroprocessing equipment, cold storages, etc.); conduct electrical and mechanical works and construction; supervise civil works; check electrical installation for sound wiring, polarity, grounding and integrity of terminations
- Support with any other engineering or operations related tasks as required from time to time.

Qualifications & Abilities

- ITI, polytechnic or university degree in Electrical Engineering from a recognised institution
- 2+ years of hands-on experience handling solar PV installations and troubleshooting in a rural environment
- Understanding of and commitment to following safety procedures
- Good knowledge of electrical system components and their integration, including PV, controllers, batteries, wiring, grounding and earthing; knowledge of AC induction and BLDC motors and cooling systems will be a benefit
- Native Hindi; spoken and written command of English is desirable
- Ability to self-motivate and drive to work independently
- Ownership of a motorcycle or scooty (mandatory)
- Ownership of a laptop (preferable)
- Valid driver's licence

Reporting Relationships

- Reports to Head of Engineering

What We Offer

- A highly enthusiastic, self-driven international team
- A melting pot of diverse talents – development professionals, researchers, engineers, farmers, scientists and community mobilisers
- Competitive remuneration package
- Comprehensive health and accident insurance
- One Saturday per month off
- Interesting field of work where you will build your understanding of solar technology and the development sector
- Close mentorship for career development
- A flat and open work culture and friendly work environment
- Experience and responsibility at an award-winning company in the renewable energy and agritech industries, among of the fastest growing segments of the global economy
- The chance to make a difference and to help improve people's life.

How to Apply

Even if you do not meet all the criteria, we still encourage you to apply. Please apply by filling the online application form here – www.oorjasolutions.org/apply-now.

Equal Opportunities and Non-Discrimination Statement

Oorja Development Solutions India Private Limited is an equal opportunity employer that values and respects the importance of a diverse and inclusive workforce. It is the policy of the company to recruit, hire, train and promote persons in all job titles without regard to religion, race, caste, gender, place of birth, sexual orientation, marital status or disability status. Oorja endeavours to provide a safe, diverse and comfortable workplace. Oorja will not adversely discriminate, and prohibits other adverse discrimination at the workplace, against any person on its premises, whether that person is in its employment or otherwise. If you can contribute to our organisation, you are welcome, regardless of your roots, religion, age or gender.