Quality assurance is a critical and stabilizing force within the off-grid solar energy industry. In 2007, the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and World Bank first recognized the need to support healthy market growth and protect consumers. Since then, Lighting Global Quality Assurance has promoted the manufacturing, distribution, and procurement of quality pico-PV products and solar home system kits.

The off-grid energy market has changed dramatically since 2007. Advancements in technology and consumer affordability are pushing the market toward higher-power systems that enable the use of appliances and productive uses. As consumers continue to climb the energy ladder, the need to extend quality assurance beyond lighting grows. VeraSol builds upon the strong foundation laid by the World Bank Group and expands its quality assurance framework to include appliances and productive use equipment currently housed under Equip Data. To better serve consumers, companies, and markets, VeraSol now encompasses technical foundations for these products and plans to expand its services in the coming years.

VeraSol is managed by CLASP in collaboration with its partner, the Schatz Energy Research Center at Humboldt State University. Foundational support is provided by World Bank Group’s Lighting Global program, UKaid, the IKEA Foundation, and others.
Benefits for Market Actors

**MANUFACTURERS**
Easily assess their own products, compare them against competitors’ products, and make smarter product development decisions.

**DISTRIBUTORS**
Quickly and easily identify good quality products that reduce the financial and reputational risks associated with guaranteeing products to end consumers.

**INVESTORS**
Reduce risk by investing only in companies that trade in products that meet VeraSol’s standards for quality, performance, and durability.

**DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTIONS**
Increase impact and cost effectiveness by limiting eligibility for programs to products that meet VeraSol standards or certain minimum requirements.

**GOVERNMENTS**
Use our QA framework as a basis for tax and duty policies, voluntary market stimulation programs, and product regulations. Harmonized national standards reduce the resources needed to develop and implement policy.

**CONSUMERS**
Access high-quality products at an affordable price. They can trust manufacturers’ performance claims and avoid purchasing products that won’t perform as expected.
Our Impact

39.8 MILLION QUALITY-VERIFIED PRODUCTS SOLD, BENEFITING 180M PEOPLE

Reported Product Sales of Quality-Verified Products (Cumulative)

Millions of People Benefiting from Quality-Verified Products (Cumulative)

2007
- IFC and World Bank create the Lighting Africa Program

2008
- Lighting Africa Quality Test Method developed with support from Fraunhofer

2010
- First off-grid lighting products meet the Lighting Global Quality Standards

2012
- Lighting Asia Program launches

2013
- Lighting Global Quality Test Method published by the IEC as TS 62257-9-5.

2015
- CLASP awards contract to implement Lighting Global Quality Assurance with the Schatz Energy Research Center.

2017
- CLASP adds off-grid refrigerator data to its database & tests off-grid appliances in 10 markets

2019
- Under Efficiency for Access, CLASP launches Equip Data, containing comparable data for televisions, fans, refrigerators, and solar water pumps

2020
- Lighting Global Quality Assurance and Equip Data are rebranded as VeraSol. The program is operated by CLASP in partnership with the Schatz Energy Research Center.
Frequently Asked Questions

Lighting Global Quality Assurance is well established in the off-grid solar energy sector. Why change the name to VeraSol?

The off-grid solar energy industry has grown and changed since Lighting Global Quality Assurance first launched. Off-grid companies now make, distribute, and sell products beyond basic lighting solutions. As the number and range of off-grid products has grown, so has the need to identify good-quality products. A new name and brand will allow VeraSol to serve a more diverse range of market actors and product categories, including off-grid appliances and productive uses.

Where will products be tested or quality-verified?

Lighting Global Quality Assurance test laboratories will continue to test products under the VeraSol Test Lab Network, formerly the Lighting Global Test Lab Network. VeraSol will expand its lab network and capacity to test a range of off-grid appropriate appliances and productive use equipment. Laboratories in the network currently have the capacity to test pico-PV products and SHS kits, as well as off-grid-appropriate fans, televisions, refrigerators, and solar water pumps.

Will this transition make it difficult for me to get my Lighting Global quality-verified products to market?

We will make every effort to work with companies, programs, and governments to ensure a smooth transition from Lighting Global Quality Assurance to VeraSol and help companies obtain the documentation they need to comply with import rules and other regulations. We believe that, working together, we can minimize market disruption. The VeraSol team will work in partnership with the World Bank Group to leverage its long-standing relationships and communicate essential information to key audiences well in advance of any major changes.

Will the brand transition affect the testing and quality verification process for pico-solar products and SHS kits?

Products will continue to be tested using the same IEC test methods and the results reviewed by the same team of experts as today. For the time being, products that meet the Lighting Global Quality Standards will continue to be issued Lighting Global verification letters. Later this year, we plan to begin evaluating products against the newly adopted IEC Quality Standards and issuing VeraSol verification letters. We will work with companies and others to determine the appropriate timing for these changes.

Does this mean the IFC and World Bank have discontinued their involvement and support for quality assurance?

No, the IFC and World Bank have not discontinued their support for quality assurance. While Lighting Global Quality Assurance was instrumental in shaping the off-grid solar energy sector, it was always the World Bank Group’s intention to grow the quality assurance program into a standalone program under the leadership of CLASP. Lighting Global has been working closely with CLASP since 2016 to build its capacity to operate the quality assurance program. The program is now ready to launch under a new brand. The IFC and World Bank will continue to work closely with VeraSol through foundational support and strategic guidance.

Does this mean the Lighting Global program no longer exists?

No, Lighting Global will continue to operate as a market development program offering business development services to companies. Lighting Global will continue to work in close coordination with CLASP to promote quality off-grid solar solutions and support a smooth transition from Lighting Global Quality Assurance to VeraSol.

Who is behind VeraSol?

VeraSol is managed by CLASP in close coordination with the Schatz Energy Research Center at Humboldt State University (Schatz Center). CLASP and the Schatz Center managed standards development, product testing, quality verification, and technical assistance for Lighting Global Quality Assurance since 2016. They will continue to do so under VeraSol. VeraSol is supported by an expanding group of institutions and organizations. Foundational support for VeraSol is provided by the World Bank Group’s Lighting Global program, UKaid, the IKEA Foundation, and others.

Where can I find information on quality-verified pico-PV products and SHS kits? What about off-grid appliance data?

Currently, all product information on quality-verified pico-PV products and SHS kits may be found on the products page of the Lighting Global website. Likewise, all performance data for off-grid appropriate fans, televisions, refrigerators, and solar water pumps may be found on Equip Data. Please visit VeraSol.org for links to the Lighting Global products page and Equip Data. All of these product data will be housed together on VeraSol.org after June 2020.

How do I get in touch with the VeraSol team?

For general inquiries, contact info@VeraSol.org. Visit our website to sign up for our newsletter and important program updates. You may also follow us on Twitter at @VeraSol_QA and LinkedIn at VeraSol Quality Assurance.