Improving Transparency in Public Procurement: A Solution for Paraguay's MSMEs

Ladies and gentlemen,

Today, I am thrilled to present an innovative solution aimed at enhancing transparency in the public procurement processes of Paraguay's central and local governments. This solution is designed to provide timely and actionable information to micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), helping them navigate the complexities of public tenders and actively participate in the fight against corruption.

Objective and Technology

Our solution leverages the power of a predictive natural language processing model, fine-tuned using BERT, a state-of-the-art multilanguage transformer. By analyzing historical data from similar tenders, our model can offer invaluable insights, such as price references, previous award history, and background information on other suppliers. This will enable MSMEs to bid more effectively and identify potential irregularities, thus filing more effective complaints.

Stakeholders and Benefits

1. Bidders and Contractors: By accessing timely and comprehensive information on public procurement processes, bidders can make more informed decisions, increasing their chances of success in tenders.

2. Government Agencies: Enhanced transparency will lead to more efficient and fair use of public funds, improving public trust and compliance with procurement laws.

3. Anti-Corruption Organizations Our solution complements existing efforts by providing a powerful tool for monitoring and reporting irregularities in public procurement.

Collaborations and Partnerships

To ensure the success and scalability of our solution, we are partnering with several key organizations:

1. VIGIA: A Paraguayan civic monitoring platform with over 400 users.

2. ASEPY: The Association of Entrepreneurs of Paraguay, which supports over 6,500 associates across the country.

3. REACCION: A youth-led anti-corruption organization.

4. Open Contracting Partnership (OCP): An international organization supporting transparency in public procurement.

These partnerships will bolster our credibility and expand our reach, ensuring that our solution makes a significant impact.

Scalability

Our solution has the potential to scale beyond Paraguay. Many Latin American countries, including Argentina, Peru, and Colombia, use the same open data structure (OCDS). We can adapt our model to process Spanish text inputs from these countries, promoting transparency and efficiency across the region.

Government Cooperation

Securing government buy-in is crucial. We have the support of the National Directorate for Public Contracts (DNCP) and are aligned with Paraguay's new public procurement law, which mandates that 20% of all public contracts be awarded to MSMEs. This alignment ensures that our solution addresses a pressing need and encourages collaboration with local governments.

Raising Awareness\*\*

A tool is only effective if it is used. We will start by engaging the 400 users of VIGIA and expand our outreach to ASEPY's 6,500 associates. By integrating our solution into existing tools and providing training and support, we will ensure widespread adoption and sustained use.

Risk Mitigation

To protect our users, complaints can be filed anonymously through the Public Contracting Information System (SICP). VIGIA and ASEPY can also present complaints on behalf of users, ensuring their safety and preventing retaliation.

Accountability

All complaints will be addressed through the SICP. If a complaint is ignored, users can escalate the issue, prompting an investigation. Additionally, VIGIA will generate social pressure by publicizing unresolved complaints on social media.

Data Validity

Our data will be sourced from the open data portal of the DNCP, a recognized global leader in OCDS compliance. This ensures that our model is built on accurate and reliable information.

Team and Commitment

Our team comprises experts in AI, business intelligence, management, and UI/UX design, ensuring we have the skills and experience necessary to develop and sustain this solution. With the support of VIGIA and ASEPY, we are committed to the ongoing development and success of this project.

In conclusion, our solution is not just a tool; it is a catalyst for change. By empowering MSMEs w