

**Solution Analysis**

| **Innovation: What makes your solution innovative and useful?** |
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| Question prompts:   * Has anything similar been done before? * How does this solution address specific corruption-related challenges in your community, municipality, country or region? |
| This solution seeks to increase transparency in the public procurement processes of Paraguay's central and local government, by providing timely information to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), through a predictive natural language processing model using the fine tuning of a BERT multilanguage transformer, based on historical values of similar tenders, helping bidders to participate more efficiently in tenders and identifying potential irregularities in the processes in which they participate in order to file more effective complaints.  There is a precedent of a similar project carried out in Paraguay by the [Center for Social Development](https://cds.com.py/) (CDS), the project involved conducting a comparative study on the historical variances between estimated and actual bid amounts in the domain of road construction. However, the emphasis of this project was on civic monitoring, and it lacked a specific focus on contractors or prospective bidders, as well as the absence of real-time information.  In contrast to the aforementioned initiative, this solutions is aimed at contractors and potential contractors, providing them real-time information. In addition, it promotes more equitable and transparent public contracting processes, which will lead to an improvement in the use of public resources. |
| **Stakeholders: Who are the potential users and who will benefit from your solution or tool?** |
| Question prompts:   * Who will use your product? Citizens? Governments? Public Servants? |
| This product will be used by bidders that will have access to timely information on the public procurement processes in which they wish to participate, including price reference, previous award history and background of other suppliers, helping them to identify potential irregularities in the processes and file more effective complaints. |
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| **Stakeholders: How will your solution complement existing anti-corruption efforts?** |
| Question prompts:   * Who are the people and organizations that are working on anti-corruption solutions in your community? Your municipality? Your city? Your country? * How can you partner with those who are advocating for the same solutions you are? * Which people and organizations will support your solution? Which may challenge it? * You will have Accountability Lab as one partner. Which other organizations can you partner with to increase your knowledge and credibility? |
| This project will support the work of [VIGIA](https://www.vigia.com.py/), a paraguayan civic monitoring platform used by micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to browse public procurement looking for business opportunities and/or having a way to flag wrongdoings, which already has +400 users. The project is adapting a [model pipeline](https://github.com/ofiscal/contract-transparency---copia) from the [Observatorio Fiscal de la Pontificia Universidad Javeriana de Colombia](https://www.ofiscal.org/) to include information from contract description.  Additionally, one of the main driving forces behind the [VIGIA](https://www.vigia.com.py/) initiative is [ASEPY](https://asepy.org/) that promotes and supports entrepreneurship and the development of small and medium-sized enterprises in Paraguay, with more that 6,500 associates across the country in more than 60 product categories.  This solution can also partner with [REACCION](https://reaccion.org.py/), a youth led anti-corruption organization outside the capital, as well as it could have the support of [Open Contracting Partnership](https://www.open-contracting.org/) (OCP) that already support both [VIGIA](https://www.vigia.com.py/) and REACCION through different projects. |
| **Scalability: Can your solution potentially be used in other spaces?** |
| Question prompts:   * Within the implementation country, is there a way to localize your solution? * What data is available on the local or municipal level that can help you launch and/or scale your solution? * Do you have a plan to scale your solution? |
| There are more than 8 countries in LATAM where this solution can be scaled up, because they all use the same structure of open data [OCDS](https://www.open-contracting.org/data-standard/) (Argentina, Perú, República Dominicana, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Honduras, Costa Rica).  We have various ways to escalate these tools, with two key approaches being the incorporation of diverse datasets and utilizing transfer learning outcomes in other alert models.  For the first approach, the model can be tailored to process Spanish text inputs, readily available in public contracting databases across many countries.  The second approach involves employing additional inputs for red flag models, thereby incorporating contract descriptions into the information considered.  Moreover, the solution could be promoted through the Association of Entrepreneurs of Latin America ([ASELA](https://www.facebook.com/ASELAORG/?locale=es_LA)), which has more than 200,000 members in 11 countries, as well as through alliances with anti-corruption organizations based in those countries. |
| **Cooperation: How do you plan to secure government buy-in and cooperation?** |
| Question prompts:   * Which government agencies or ministries could potentially support your solution? Who within those agencies/ministries can you speak with? * How do you plan to pitch your idea to government officials? * Keep in mind that some may see your solution as a threat. How can you position your solution as a way to help the government or make their jobs easier? |
| This solution will have the support of the [National Directorate for Public Contracts](https://www.contrataciones.gov.py/) (DNCP) , already an important ally of [VIGIA](https://www.vigia.com.py/) and [ASEPY](https://asepy.org/).  Also, it is necessary to highlight that Paraguay has recently passed a new public procurement law, which mandates that 20% of all the public contracts must be awarded to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). This presents a significant challenge to local governments aiming to foster transparency in procurement processes involving Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). These governments are potential collaborators for a decentralized tool implementation, aligning well with the tool's objectives. |
| **Awareness: How do you plan to sensitize stakeholders to your solution?** |
| Question prompts:   * A great tool does not help fight corruption if it isn’t used. How do you plan to raise awareness about your solution so that they understand what it is and how to use it? * How do you plan to keep the solution relevant and in the user’s consciousness? * How will you incorporate a positive message about the possibility for change and reform? |
| The first group we will act upon immediately in this project, is the +400 users of [VIGIA](https://www.vigia.com.py/), who are already sensitized, and will later expand to the 6,500 associates of [ASEPY](https://asepy.org/), as well as other business associations.  The solution will be a part of a set of relevant tools that [VIGIA](https://www.vigia.com.py/) and [ASEPY](https://asepy.org/) already provides to current contractors and other entrepreneurs interested in becoming public contractors. |
| **Risks: What are the risks associated with creating and/or using your solution?** |
| Question prompts:   * How will individuals who use your tool to counter corruption be kept safe? Do you need to protect the identity of your users? If so, how will you do it? * How will you protect your users against retaliation? |
| There are no risks associated with the use of this solution, mainly because currently the complaints can be presented anonymously in the Public Contract System. In addition, [VIGIA](https://www.vigia.com.py/) and [ASEPY](https://asepy.org/) would present the complaints in the case it should be more convenient or necessary. |
| **Accountability: What accountability mechanisms are in place to support the effective and successful use of your solution?** |
| Question prompts:   * If citizens are reporting through your solution, where do the complaints go and how are they addressed? Who is addressing the complaints? * If reports go unaddressed, what are the risks to your reputation? How can you safeguard against it? |
| Any public procurement complaint must be presented through the Public Contracting Information System (SICP) and should be addressed by the caller contracting unit.  In case the complaint is not addressed, there is the possibility of filing another complaint through the SICP, in which it should be stated that the soliciting party did not respond to the consultations made in due time and form, in order to launch an investigation that can result in the annulment of the contracting procedure.  In addition to this procedure, and in order to generate social pressure, VIGIA also publishes tweets tagging the entity caller and their most important authorities, such as ministers or directors. |
| **Data: How will you verify the validity of your data?** |
| Question prompts:   * What sources will you pull data from for your platform? * How will you ensure that the data you use is accurate? |
| The data will be extracted directly from the open data portal of the [National Directorate of Public Contracts](https://www.contrataciones.gov.py/) (DNCP) of Paraguay, which is currently a worldwide reference in OCDS format. |
| **Team Resources: Can your team build a feasible solution?** |
| Question prompts:   * Do you have the right skills and experience on your team to create this tool? If not, what would you need to build it? * Does your team have the commitment to continue working on this tool should you be chosen as one of the teams with the most feasible solution? |
| This solution is being developed by a team that includes both product development and technical capabilities of their members: Daniel Duque, part of the AI Team of [Observatorio Fiscal](https://www.ofiscal.org/) de la Universidad Javeriana (CO); Cristian Sosa, CEO of [VIGIA](https://www.vigia.com.py/) and current VP of [ASEPY](https://asepy.org/) (PY); Daniel Rojas, BI Analyst (CO); Dayanni Olivo, management and resources director at [Directorio Legislativo](https://directoriolegislativo.org/es/) (AR) and Yefry Núñez, CEO of Ready Recycling and Flash SOS, UI/UX designer and front end developer.  Furthermore, as it was mentioned before, the solution will be a part of a set of relevant tools that [VIGIA](https://www.vigia.com.py/) and [ASEPY](https://asepy.org/) already provide to their members, guaranteeing the funding for the solution, contributing with the sustainability and even scalability, with the team committed to continue working on the next phases of the project. |