



Blockchain for International Development (BID)

Submission Proposal to the Department of State:
Boldline Religious Freedom Challenge



Boldline Religious Freedom Challenge
Department of State/Boldline Accelerator
Development Organization for Societies in Transition Proposal
Submission Date: August 23rd, 2018

Utilizing Blockchain Technology To Streamline & Sustain International Development Projects

Proposal Submission Information

- 1) Name of Organization: Development Organization for Societies in Transition (DOST)
- 2) Fill Address & Postal Code: 1831 Belmont Rd NW, Unit 401, Washington, D.C. 20009
- 3) For-Profit or Not-For-Profit Status: Not-For-Profit
- 4) Industry Affiliation:

Development Organization for Societies in Transition (DOST) is an Non-for-profit international organization dedicated to improving the living standard of people through rigorous participation of beneficiaries, service delivery and public private partnership. DOST was formed to create a conscious minded and well educated society throughout Pakistan to reduce poverty, eliminate trafficking, advance gender equality, promote economic equality, improve health and education, as well as assist the Pakistani government in the process of Social Development.

5) Links to Biographies:

- John T. Pinna is the Executive Director of DOST. A 20-year veteran of international development, he works tirelessly to develop programming with practical impacts on the lives of some of the most vulnerable populations in the world, working in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, Egypt, Tunisia, and others. An advocate for religious freedom, Pinna led the 2011 campaign for the reauthorization of the United States Commission for International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) and has executed programming for the U.S. department of State, USAID, EU, and several additional entities. Born in August 24, 1975 in New York, Pinna is a third generation Afghan American, an Indo-Greek of Bactrian descent from Nuristan Province in Afghanistan. Pinna considers himself a pluralist who happens to be Muslim. He maintains a deep connection to Afghanistan, Pakistan, and the Central Asian Region. He can be reached at john@themitchellfirm.com or www.linkedin.com/in/jtpinna/
- John Cosenza is the Research Adviser to the Executive Director of DOST. John graduated from Marist College with a dual degree in History & Political Science and graduated from Norwich University with a Master's Degree in Diplomacy & International Business. John is an experienced professional with a unique combination of primary and secondary research skills. He has experience working in the private and non-profit sector conducting secondary, qualitative, and quantitative research for multiple organizations including the world's largest marketing and advertising agency, an international marketing consultancy firm, a Washington, D.C. based lobbying & consultancy firm and NGO. In addition to his research,

John has co-authored multiple articles with Mr. Pinna focusing on international human rights issues and international religious persecution. He can be reached at <mailto:john.cosenza1@gmail.com> or www.linkedin.com/in/john-cosenza/

- Stephan Tual is an internationally recognized expert in smart contracts and decentralized blockchain applications. He is the Founder of Atlas Neue, a revolutionary financial services company which creates, funds and supports exciting venture in blockchain technology. Stephan is the Former CCO of Ethereum, a next generation blockchain application that has raised over \$18 million dollars as part of the world's largest crowdfunding event, now valued at over USD \$90 billion. Stephan is also the founder and COO of Slock.it, a project at the intersection of the Internet of Things (IoT) and blockchain technology. Stephan has founded three startups and brings 25 years of enterprise IT experience. Stephan can be reached via www.linkedin.com/in/stephantual/
- James Nguyen is a founder and Managing Partner at Anti Hero Capital and has been following blockchain technology since 2014. James is heavily involved in the cryptocurrency space and is regarded as one of Asia's leading commentators. Having appeared on CNBC, Sky News, ABC Radio, CoinTelegraph, NSW Parliament house and The Australian among others, he is recognized for his analysis and evaluation of the asset class. He is also a contributing writer for Forbes covering Australia's crypto scene in addition to being an advisor for multiple of the industry's most esteemed cryptocurrencies. James can be reached via <https://www.linkedin.com/in/james-nguyen-b3a41aa2/>
- Roger Silen is the founder of GoldBack Coin, the world's first scalable, gold-backed cryptocurrency. Roger is a Serial Entrepreneur and accomplished foreign exchange currency trader. He opened his first digital currency account in 2004 and has been engaged in the space for over a decade. Roger is also a Master Forex Trader, blockchain and cryptocurrency advocate. Roger can be reached via www.linkedin.com/in/rogersilen/
- Hashaw Elkins is a recognized business analyst and project management consultant. She has led projects in operations, marketing, training, and human interest across multiple industries and sectors- ranging from the Fortune Global 500 to international nongovernmental organizations. She is passionate about inspiring and empowering people to sustainably bridge the gaps between assessment and execution. Hashaw can be reached via <https://www.linkedin.com/in/hashawelkins>
- Gordon Cowan is a recognised UK based entrepreneur who has developed and built up various fintech companies. He is an individual who has extensive industry experience, strong product/company building experience, with a background in blockchain technology. He is currently involved in bringing blockchain tech into the aviation industry using blockchain technology for enhanced reconciliation and data sharing. Gordon possesses a broad range of understanding of and experience in government, directly at Scottish and U.K. ministerial and intergovernmental level. Extensive experience in delivering a wide range of inward investment, innovative contracts and projects with multiple international stakeholders. Gordon can be contacted via <http://linkedin.com/in/gordoncowan>

- Benjamin Holden is a Serial Entrepreneur with a passion for crypto currency. Over the last 2 years, Ben has been involved in crypto currency trading and OTC transactions. During this time, he has built a solid network within the space and has relationships with some high level crypto/blockchain professionals. He has also been involved in helping raise capital for blockchain companies through his project funding business WyldeFox. Ben can be reached via <https://www.linkedin.com/in/benjamin-holden>

6) U.S. Government Partnership History:

The Development Organization for Societies in Transition (DOST) has partnered with various branches of U.S. government on multiple occasions to successfully execute its mission in building a more stable world. A few examples include the following; from 2011-2013, DOST partnered with the U.S. Department of State Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) to promote social entrepreneurship programming in Tunisia. In 2014, DOST partnered with the U.S. Department of State for the Initiative for Advancement of Journalism Excellence (AJE), a journalism training program in Iraq utilizing physical training and online project learning sites for maximum impact. In 2014, DOST partnered with the U.S. Army Research Institute for the Behavioral and Social Sciences to execute the Military Ethics and Leadership Development Initiative (MLEL), a campaign to assess and promote ethical leadership and recruitment. DOST has been awarded grant funding from the U.S. government to initiate and implement development projects focused on gender and economic empowerment through mobile technologies.

7) State of Business Plan:

The stage of this partnership business plan is new. DOST has functional partnerships with multiple organizations across sectors, including The Mitchell Firm, Trans-Global Enterprises, and others as well as partnerships with interested stakeholders.

8) Signed Commitment Statement:

The Development Organization or Societies in Transition (DOST), all stakeholders, and partners including John Cosenza, and myself, John Pinna, will happily participate in the full three-day accelerator program in the Washington, D.C. metro area.

Respectfully,



John T. Pinna

I. Problem Statement (250 Words Max)

The United States government currently requires more efficient processes in place to streamline funding operations for the numerous international projects it supports. Infrastructure that will enable international projects to be sustainable, self-sufficient, and practical must leverage blockchain technology. Measuring the impact of government funding on international religious freedom is of particularly critical importance to U.S. foreign policy. Blockchain can provide the necessary transparency to cultivate policies regarding religious freedom that are meaningful and impactful. Blockchain is already being examined for use by institutions such as the United Nations. It is time for the U.S. to benefit from blockchain. Typically, the U.S. government will finance an international project in a region or country to alleviate issues such as a lack of infrastructure or educational institutions, to promote human rights or to combat the growing rise of ethnic or religious persecution. Governance and transparency for the funding of such projects can be a difficult task. Often, funds are difficult to raise, transfer to appropriate parties and stakeholders, and most importantly: track. The challenge is to ensure that millions of U.S. government dollars securely end up used for their intended purposes by the correct individuals. Without the assurances afforded by blockchain, funds can easily be wasted, misplaced or misused. Blockchain has the further benefit of building trust networks. This technology has the potential to quickly and easily scale from projects focused on international religious freedom to support governance and transparency for a wide range of international government-funded projects.

II. Idea (250 Words Max)

Development Organization for Societies in Transition (DOST) is proposing the use of blockchain technology to effectively streamline and secure the funding process of international development projects. Through partnerships, smart contracts, and the development of tokens, we seek to bring this advanced technology to the forefront of U.S. government funding. Blockchain technology provides a technological advantage during the transition of funds by providing a digital ledger in which transactions of digital currencies are recorded. There are multiple benefits to utilizing this technology when funding international development projects including; 1) blockchain would enable transparency. Every branch of the U.S. government that funds international development projects can witness the transferring of funds to each party or involved stakeholder, which ensures there is a legitimate and practical process. 2) Blockchain ensures a secure process via direct transfers. Every transaction is recorded on a digital ledger which makes tracking easier, allowing for the measurement of impact on international religious freedom.. 3) Blockchain will encourage more financial inclusion for vulnerable and marginalized populations. These communities will be more empowered toward self-reliance by directly sending and receiving digital currencies. 4) Lastly, blockchain also has the potential to promote a multi-source income process. In addition to the U.S government, funds could also be acquired from several different sources via a channel open to the public and other organizations. In turn, the nature and processes of international development funding can be revolutionized to include a streamlined service open to several interested stakeholders in a secure environment.

III. Resource Requirement (250 Words Max)

The approximate total cost to fund this project will be in the range of USD \$1,000,000 - \$1,500,000. The following costs are broken down further. We anticipate approximately \$300,000 would be necessary to purchase the necessary hardware, software cloud space, app development, and establishing the infrastructure for tokens. We anticipate an additional \$300,000 would be necessary for staff. There will be 3 major staff people: Project Manager, Information & Knowledge Management Officer, developers, and any further subject matter expertise. Each will cost roughly \$70,000 dollars for a total of \$210,000. Benefits including health, dental, etc. insurance will cost approximately another \$80,000. Another \$50,000 will be required for consulting services while an additional \$100,000 will be necessary for additional expenses such as travel expenses.

IV. Best Potential Partners (250 Words Max)

DOST will partner with multiple organizations specializing in development, fintech, and blockchain development to execute this mission. Best Potential Partners include; Blockchain For Impact, Trans-Global Enterprises, The Department of State Bureau of Conflict Stabilization Operations, the PeaceTech Lab at the United States Institute of Peace, the United Nations Office of Information and Communications Technology and the New York State Cloud Computing Center at Marist College. John Pinna has worked with each of these organizations and is close to a number of delegates belonging to each organization. DOST will also take advantage of existing partnerships with a number of Information Technology (IT) and blockchain subject matter experts.

V. Ideal End State (150 Words Max)

Our goal is to provide a more efficient and secure process for the U.S. government to fund international projects across macro and micro levels. On a micro level, we propose a new methodology that will enhance the process behind funding international development projects. Blockchain would streamline funding services and guarantee a secure environment. On a macro level, we propose a brand-new matrix for the U.S. government to alleviate the burden of failing projects across the globe. We intend creating a new model the U.S. government can effectively implement moving forward and replicate in various agencies and branches. Utilizing blockchain to fund international development projects will revolutionize antiquated processes that limit our nation's ability to alleviate much of the world's contemporary problems. This proposal fulfills the challenge and mission of the Boldline Religious Freedom challenge as an innovative approach to solve complex intricacies of funding international development projects.