Consultancy Opportunity

Technical support for beneficial ownership reform in Mexico

Context

Open Ownership drives greater corporate transparency across the world by making it easy to publish and access high-quality, linked data about who owns companies. We focus exclusively on beneficial ownership (BO) transparency and are engaged with nearly 40 countries across the globe, helping them to implement or improve their BO registries and data.

Our multi-disciplinary team works closely with technical and policy implementers, advising them on how to navigate the numerous challenges involved in collating, verifying and publishing high quality BO data. To support these various donor-funded technical assistance programmes, we have developed a broad range of implementation tools and products, including the [Beneficial Ownership Data Standard](#) and the [Principles of Effective Beneficial Ownership Disclosure](#).

Purpose of this project

In cooperation with several other international organisations, Open Ownership recently secured funding to provide significant new technical assistance to support pro-transparency reforms in Mexico. This is an adaptive programme that will respond to the changing needs and circumstances in-country, but is provisionally envisaged to include: advising on how to improve data interoperability between existing company datasets; providing guidance on best practice for BO data collection and verification; and working with local technical implementers to resolve challenges related to the publication of BO data. One key aim of the support is to help the development of mitigation strategies for corruption risks during emergency procurement processes linked to the COVID-19 pandemic.

To help us deliver this ambitious programme of support, we are seeking to expand our roster of Spanish-speaking technical consultants to work closely with our in-house team of technical experts. Tasks and responsibilities will continue to evolve over the lifetime of the project, but the consultant will be expected to:

- Deliver (with support from OO's core team) technical presentations on BO data and the Beneficial Ownership Data Standard (BODS);
- Answer specific implementation questions about how to use BODS to represent data, explain why BODS is the way it is, as well as inform future standard development by reporting common problems/unmet user needs;
- Facilitate discussions with technical stakeholders in implementing countries and their contractors to discuss system designs for data collection, storage and publication;
- Document implementers' technical capacity and identify areas where OO could support implementation by delivering discrete technical assistance projects; and

- Build close working relationships with implementers that enable OO to learn from their successes, failures and roadblocks in developing beneficial ownership systems.

Person Specification

We welcome applications from consultants with:

- Exceptional communication skills in Spanish and English;
- Knowledge and understanding of open data initiatives;
- Experience implementing systems which publish or consume large amounts of data, ideally using public data standards or APIs;
- Experience of running technical training sessions or workshops for software developers, analysts and project/product managers;
- Experience of managing technical support for a product or technology in an environment of continuous improvement; and
- The ability to self-organise and work autonomously in a remote organisation.

Experience working with public sector organisations in Latin America, or with prior knowledge of the fields of corporate transparency or anti-corruption are also desirable.

We are a distributed team, and are actively looking to diversify our geographical presence. Preference will be given to Mexico-based candidates, though we are also open to applications from consultants based elsewhere in Latin America who have experience working in the Mexican context. We want to hear all voices, and particularly encourage individuals of diverse and marginalised communities to apply.

Assignment details & application

This is an evolving programme of technical assistance and the scope and length of the consultancy assignment remain subject to change. At a minimum, the consultancy will involve 10 days' work between September 2020 and March 2021, but given Open Ownership's expanding portfolio of work in Mexico and elsewhere in Latin America, we anticipate that this could increase up to a maximum of 40 days. Extensions beyond the first 10 days would be subject to the consultant's availability, stakeholder needs and satisfactory completion of early assignments.

To apply, qualified candidates should send a CV and a covering letter to recruitment@openownership.org by **Monday 13th September 2020**. In your covering letter, please highlight your most relevant experience and skills for this consultancy, and indicate the location where you would be based during the assignment. Please also answer, in 200 words or less, one or both of the following questions: 1) 'What makes you excited about working to promote greater corporate transparency?'; 2) 'What was your most challenging but rewarding experience assisting with government reform?'.

The selection process will consist of two interviews and a timed exercise. Compensation rates will be set in accordance with the experience and location of the successful consultant, but will generally fall within a range of USD150–USD250 per day.