



CALL FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS

Application Form - Deadline: **November 22, 2019.**

No more than 300 words per response.

Important definitions for the purpose of this initiative:

Blockchain Technology: Blockchain is essentially a technology that enables the creation of distributed transaction databases that can be consulted and validated, but not altered, by users of a network. It allows for the secure storage, exchange, and handling of assets or value. It holds a host of opportunities for helping small economies to improve the efficiency and value-added of products or services offered by public and private organizations. The increased transparency, immutability, and traceability of Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT) such as blockchain can ultimately improve the ease-of-doing business, facilitate compliance to and monitoring of regulations, reduce transaction costs, address inclusive access to cost-effective digital payments within and across borders, as well as enable the monetization of ideas, talent and intellectual property.

Private Sector Development (PSD) Challenges: PSD challenges include any barrier or constraint that restricts the inclusiveness, competitiveness, and productivity of the private sector and its business environment in short and long term. Visit the Compete Caribbean website for publications that offer a comprehensive review of private sector development challenges and constraints.

A. CONTACT INFORMATION

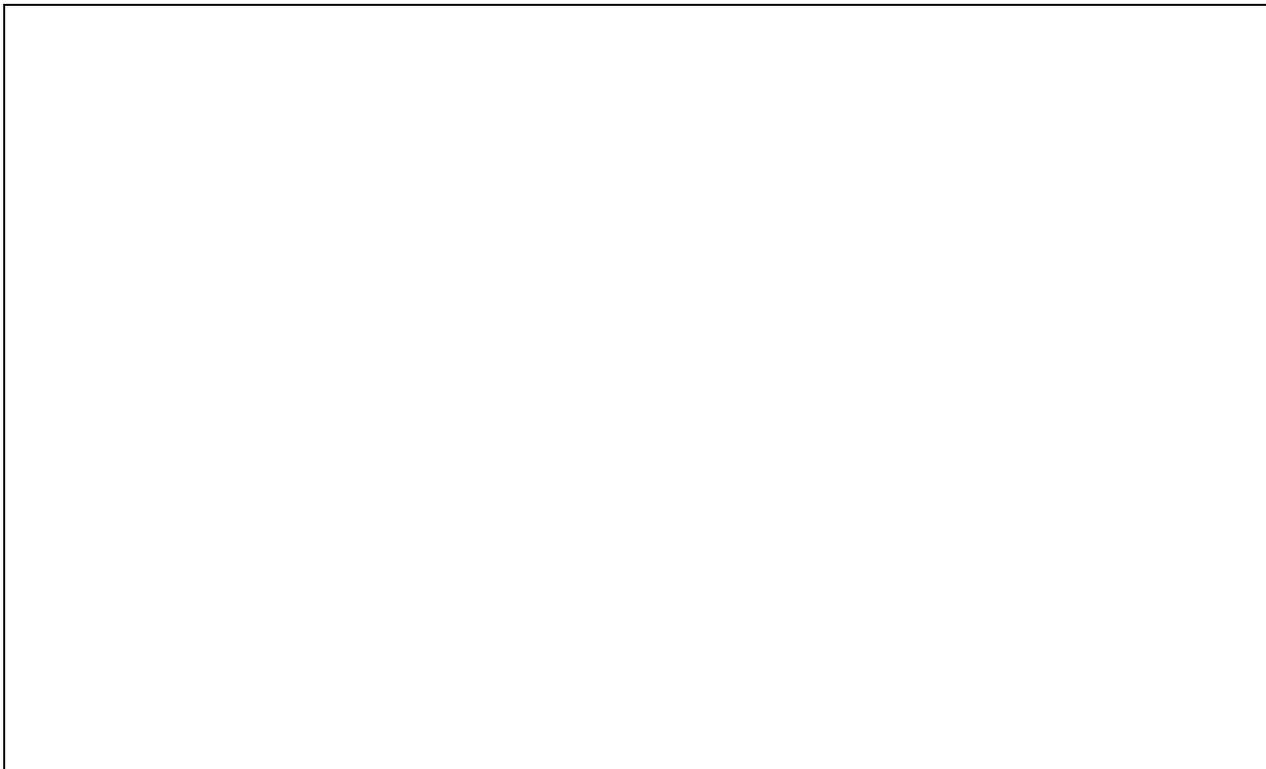
- A1. First Name:
- A2. Last Name:
- A3. Gender:
- A4. Affiliated University or Research Organization (if applicable):
- A5. Country(ies) of Citizenship:
- A6. Contact Information:
 - a. Preferred phone number: () ___ - ____
 - b. Email:
 - c. Country of Residence:

B. RESEARCH QUESTION AND MOTIVATION

In this section: (i) succinctly define the research question; (ii) clearly describe the private sector development challenge that will be addressed through this research; (iii) explain why it is highly relevant to the Caribbean region; and (iv) Describe the key stakeholders impacted by this problem/challenge. Use

data where applicable and cite references. Suggestions of challenges include, but may expand beyond, the following:

1. **Inclusive Tourism:** How to facilitate online booking and payment for tourism experiences offered by Caribbean MSMEs (eg: walking/hiking tour, cooking class, music show, etc.)? Can blockchain facilitate environmental branding through green certification?
2. **Trade facilitation:** How to use blockchain and smart contracts to enable interoperability of Caribbean systems and customs procedures?
3. Access to finance: Can blockchain enable digital footprints to increase access to finance and build credit history for underprivileged groups cost-effectively? Can it be used to track crop progress to de-risk lenders interested in farmers?
4. **Traceability:** Can blockchain enable farmers and agro-processors to be more rewarded for their production when it's handled or sourced in a high quality, environmentally, and socially responsible manner? As well as green certification?
5. **Creative industry:** How to use blockchain to track downloads and distribute revenues among artists, producers and copyrighters?
6. **High social impact:** Building the market at the base of the pyramid: use cases that support vulnerable populations including but not limited to remittances and financial inclusion, social transfers, digital identity for poor and vulnerable populations.
7. **Efficiency & transparency:** property records, land registration, professional certifications, etc.
8. **Blue or green economy:** Can blockchain be used to track the value/ownership of relevant resources or assets for more sustainable economic development?



C. PROPOSED TECHNOLOGICAL SOLUTION

Describe: (i) the proposed technological solution (ii) how the application of the proposed technological solution will address the identified private sector development challenge (consider implications on legal, environmental, economic, social, and gender and diversity frameworks) and (iii) the expected outcomes and/or potential impact. Please note that blockchain or DLT will be assessed as a potential solution to the problem identified, but if the findings reveal other forms of technologies such as artificial intelligence, internet of things, or even simpler software, please explain.

D. METHODOLOGY

Describe: (i) the proposed methodological approach to answer the research question; and (ii) a short description of the data to be used.

E. CURRICULUM VITAE(S)

Include as an annex the CV(s) of the researcher(s) that will be involved. Ensure that CV(s) clearly indicate research experience and any publications to date, especially those that are relevant to the topic at hand.