

# DIGITAL IDENTITY

**APPLICANTS:**

Ministry of Innovation, Science & Technology (MIST)

**COUNTRY OF INCORPORATION:**

Barbados

**BENEFICIARIES / SUPPORTING AGENCIES / PROJECT PARTNERS**

Citizens of Barbados

**DESCRIPTION OF APPLICANT**

The Ministry of Innovation, Science and Smart Technology (MIST) is a government ministry in Barbados, established to lead Barbados’ digital transformation, driving public sector performance through intelligent use of innovation, science and SMART technology. It aims to provide an enabling environment for the harnessing of innovation and information & communication technologies to generate employment, increase national wealth and improve the quality of life for all Barbadians.

**BLOCKCHAIN APPLICATION**

Digital Identity

**CHALLENGE PRESENTED**

The problem of access to government services and finance is affecting a large proportion of the Caribbean population. One of the main root causes is the lack of imperfect or trusted information about citizens. The financial institutions for example cannot serve those who lack all the required documents or if they do, the services provided are offered at a much higher price than for the average population elsewhere which creates what is called a “poverty penalty”. The Government of Barbados is proactively taking advantage of the opportunities offered by the digital revolution to improve social equity and economic inclusion. In this context, blockchain is being explored as a potential avenue to reduce the poverty penalty and facilitate more efficient access to public and private sector services.

**SUMMARY OF READINESS TO PARTICIPATE**

The MIST is currently working on the cabinet approval process to facilitate the digital transformation of the country starting with digital identify. Although there is no commitment to the type of solution that will be used, the government is actively exploring the pros and cons of different options.