

CUSTOMS

APPLICANT:	Ministry of Trade and Industry in Trinidad & Tobago
COUNTRY OF INCORPORATION:	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
BENEFICIARIES / SUPPORTING AGENCIES / PROJECT PARTNERS	(8) MINISTRIES AND (25) GOVERNMENT AGENCIES We have since added one more Ministry and Government Agency. Email: kushal.beepat@gov.tt
DESCRIPTION OF APPLICANT	<p>As one of the frontline Ministries within the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) is leading the drive to position Trinidad and Tobago as a manufacturing base, and the business, trade, and financial hub of the Americas.</p> <p>The Ministry's core responsibility is to grow trade, business and investment, particularly through driving the non-energy sectors of the economy.</p>

BLOCKCHAIN APPLICATION

CUSTOMS	<p>CHALLENGE PRESENTED</p> <p>Digital Transformation and the establishment of E-Government platforms promote the transition towards systematic upgrades and a greater “ease of doing business” throughout sectors in the region, particularly Customs and Trade. However, in activating these digital solutions and electronic systems, challenges have presented in:</p> <p>The interoperability of the new systems with pre-existing stakeholders’ systems A lack of integration and regulatory framework across platforms (across countries) and the costs associated with this.</p> <p>Existing Data remains in silos creating task and system duplication which slows processes The system is not “Tamper Proof” and documentation fraud has implications for fee structure, document validation, compliance and data analytics.</p> <p>The validation of declared documents is time consuming or ineffective. Brokers, Importers/Exporters, Manufacturers, Distributors and Consumers are the stakeholder sectors most affected with competent authorities and the affiliated government and border regulatory statutes remaining the limiting factors for process expediency.</p>
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SUMMARY OF READINESS TO PARTICIPATE

Over the last 3 months the team has researched blockchain technology and its application to Trade Single Windows in collaboration with the IADB and Nextrade Group. The team has completed a comprehensive report on the potential application of blockchain technology to the resolution of a number of long-term challenges facing the SEW, which includes payment infrastructure, traceability and limited interoperability. The Ministry is currently executing The Strengthening of the Single Electronic Window (SEW) for Trade and Business Facilitation Programme (Strengthening Project) funded by the IADB. Funds are available from this programme to allocate to a pilot project. The SEW Unit has identified four technical resources who can work on a pilot project.