

Terms of reference: US business advisor

1. Introduction

CoST, the Infrastructure Transparency Initiative, is looking to engage an experienced consultant to engage US firms and business associations who operate or are interested in operating in the global infrastructure market especially Latin America to better understand their attitudes on integrity within sector.

Integrity in infrastructure is a major challenge with on average a third of investment worldwide lost through mismanagement, inefficiency and corruption. The size and complexity of infrastructure investments, particularly in sectors such as critical minerals or ports, create opportunities for bribery, fraud, collusion, opaque ownership that distort markets, undermine fair competition, weaken public institutions, and threaten secure supply chains.

CoST works with government, the private sector, and civil society to improve transparency and integrity in infrastructure investment. Through its collective approach, CoST has built a track record currently supporting 18 member partners in 16 countries, with data publication on thousands of infrastructure projects representing billions of dollars in public investment. While many governments now publish infrastructure data, businesses and other stakeholders often lack the practical tools and capacity to use this information to identify risks and promote reforms.

With the support of the US Department of State's International Bureau of Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL), CoST is addressing this challenge by transforming the private sector from a passive compliance actor into an active partner in strengthening integrity across infrastructure markets principally in Latin America. It is looking to achieve this by:

1. Strengthening public-private collaboration to support beneficial ownership through multi-stakeholder initiatives using infrastructure data to identify integrity risks, foster dialogue, and promote reforms while reducing risks companies face in Panama, Ecuador and Thailand.
2. Developing a dynamic web-based platform that will provide the private sector with a searchable roadmap of integrity risks and mitigation measures at each stage of the infrastructure life-cycle, supported by interactive dashboards, search functionality, and practical guidance.

CoST is seeking to improve market transparency and integrity by developing the content of these tools with US company's input. This will result in the broader US private sector being able to compete more fairly in different markets by using these tools after their development. Based on our experience, where business and aligned actors have access to practical integrity tools and robust infrastructure data, they will be better equipped to identify risks, strengthen procurement integrity, and advocate for reforms that reduce opportunities for mismanagement and corruption.

2. Role

CoST is recruiting a consultant to engage U.S. companies, business associations, chambers of commerce and investors to identify:

- Their attitudes on infrastructure integrity, the risks of working in different global markets especially Latin America and how the risks are managed.

- The type of resources and support required to identify and manage integrity risks in different geographical markets such as Latin America and sectors such as critical minerals and ports and
- If and how CoST can potentially act as a convenor for a dialogue on infrastructure integrity as part of a private sector membership supporter scheme.

Candidates should have an extensive network within the US construction and engineering industries working in international markets, especially in Latin America, and understand the potential risks that a company may face when entering different markets and sectors.

The contract would be for 2-3 days a week over an initial three months starting in November 2026 with the potential for an extension.

3. To apply

If you are interested in this role, please submit a resume along with a 1-page proposal on how you would approach this assignment to Nicolas Ronderos (n.ronderos@infrastructuretransparency.org) by October 30th at 5pm GMT. Please indicate your day rate in the covering email.