

# Frontier Technology Exploratory Studies: Connecting Finance to Measurement

## Frontier Technology Livestreaming

Team of 1-2 researchers / strategists

Budget up to £30,769, inclusive of expenses

Team to be available from 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2018

Deadline for applications:

23:59 UK Time on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October

## Want to contribute to the UK Civil Service's most innovative programme?

Frontier Technology Livestreaming (FTL) is an [award winning](#) programme designed to help the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) apply frontier technologies to the biggest challenges in development. To find out more about the programme and its goals, visit our [Medium publication](#). The programme is expanding its offering to explore the potential for remote measurement technologies and digital platforms to create new opportunities for financing development projects

## Connecting Finance to Measurement - Background

An increasing number of donor funded programmes are applying cutting-edge technologies to increase transparency and foster trust in the results delivered by international development interventions. These technologies may deliver other benefits, such as automated, streamlined pickup of data and an increased ability for an intervention to more quickly evolve and adapt in response to faster, real-time, data-rich feedback. Early interventions have used technologies combining:

- Remote Measurement: low-cost, fast and trusted methods for measuring development project outputs and outcomes; in some cases, these include Internet of Things (IoT) sensors and communications;
- A Digital Platform – that manages, analyses and communicates key project metrics over time in a trusted way; in some instances, these utilise blockchain/distributed ledger technology;



- Payment By Results – whereby the digital platform may connect to a payment by results model such as development impact bonds (DIBs).

Example platforms and interventions include:

- G17 Eco: <https://www.worldwidegeneration.co/>
- Triggerise: <https://triggerise.org/>
- Alice: <https://alice.si/>
- Amply and Trustlab: <http://www.trustlab.tech/>
- ICRC: impact bond to provide physical rehabilitation services: <https://www.icrc.org/en/document/worlds-first-humanitarian-impact-bond-launched-transform-financing-aid-conflict-hit>
- Quality Education India DIB: improving learning outcomes in India with three different services: <https://www.britishasiantrust.org/news-and-events/our-activities/article/The-launch-of-the%20worlds-largest-Education-Development-Impact-Bond>
- IXO: <https://ixo.foundation/>
- Village Enterprise Impact Bond: improving incomes through microenterprise in Uganda: <http://villageenterprise.org/our-impact/development-impact-bond/>
- Project 1800: <http://www.global-geneva.com/project-1800-saving-the-sdgs-and-the-world/>

Note that DIBs listed above have not made use of remote measurement or digital platforms, but are examples of areas where these may be considered in future.

Early experiences with these technologies have raised challenges to enabling the success of this model:

- There is not a clear evidence base about whether such a model works in attracting increased finance. It is not known who the likely investors who would be interested in these applications are and what their motivations would be.
- It is not clear how mature, low-cost, fast, and trusted methods for measuring development project outputs and outcomes are and when they can be successfully applied. For example, is there an adequate proxy for the outcome measure or can a result be verified in a trusted way?
- What does such a model mean for the implementing organisation such as DFID, and what capacity does it need in order to deliver it?
- How can such a model be implemented in a way that enables flexibility and adaptation in delivery while avoiding incentivising a linear “cash-for-outputs” approach?”

## Application Instructions

Please submit via email to **FTLenquiries@imcworldwide.com** (with “Connecting Finance to Measurement” in the subject line):

- Current CV(s) tailored to role requirements;
- A cover letter noting how you / your team meet the requirements for the position and brief overview of your proposed approach (not to exceed one A4 page in total);
- Two references;
- Proposed daily fee rate in Pound Sterling (GBP);
- A proposed budget, inclusive of expenses and an indication of any in-kind co-investment proposed;
- Daily fee rates for prior two assignments;
- Description of how you learned of the role

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to interview.

**Deadline for submissions:** 23:59 UK Time on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October

## The Role and Scope

FTL is now seeking a team of 1-2 experts to conduct a scoping exercise and produce a report aiming to:

- Provide a landscape summary of the existing literature on this topic that sets out what the main development projects using this model are, how they have (or failed to) overcome implementation challenges and what the key lessons learned to date are.
- Choose (in consultation with DFID) several (4 or 5) of the most successful projects/ platforms/ providers for a deeper dive to further investigate how they are addressing their main challenges and what is preventing them from scale. It is envisioned that this will include interviews with the providers.
- Synthesise the findings from the literature review and interviews and include a set of recommendations regarding how DFID could more effectively use these technologies and model and where there are still challenges to be overcome. It is envisioned that this will focus on relevance for DIBs while also discussing lessons for other areas of DFID’s programming.

The preferred delivery date for a final report is no later than the 21<sup>st</sup> of December, 2018.

## Key Qualifications

- Expertise in remote measurement technologies harnessing any combination of IoT, Blockchain, and digital technologies;
- Experience and knowledge of international development interventions where these technologies have been applied;
- Knowledge and experience in the design and implementation of Development Impact Bonds;
- Expertise in other technical areas of international development (e.g. Monitoring and Evaluation, Health, Education, etc.) where remote measurement technologies may be applied.
- Prior experience and expertise working on donor-funded programmes;
- Previous track record in the delivery of scoping studies

Criterion	Maximum Total points
Expertise in remote measurement technologies harnessing IoT and/or Blockchain and/or digital technology platforms;	35
Experience and knowledge of international development interventions where these technologies have been applied;	20
Knowledge and experience in the design and implementation of Development Impact Bonds;	15
Expertise in other technical areas of international development (e.g. Monitoring and Evaluation, Health, Education, etc.) where remote measurement technologies may be applied;	10
Prior experience and expertise working on donor-funded programmes;	10
Previous track record in the delivery of scoping studies	10