

United States Department of Labor Bureau of International Labor Affairs
Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor, and Human Trafficking



GOOD PRACTICES TO REDUCE CHILD LABOR AND FORCED LABOR IN SUPPLY CHAINS
SOLICITATION NUMBER: DOL099RP20764

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OFFERER PROPOSAL

APPLICANT NAME:

SPECIALIZED TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES

SPECIFIED RECEIPT:

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ADDRESS:

5777 W. CENTURY BLVD, STE 1790 LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90045-5600

TYPE OF AGENCY:

Medium Sized Business

ABSTRACT:

Specialized Technology Resources (STR) is a leader in the CSR industry for ensuring product safety, product quality, and social responsibility at every stage of the supply chain. STR will implement a progressive initiative to identify, analyze, and disseminate effective practices related to the challenges of eradicating forced and child labor from global supply chains entitled, “Sustainability in Practice” (SIP). Utilizing the latest research, a body of monitoring data and audits from 150 countries, and stakeholder input, STR designed the *Sustainability in Practice* with strategic innovation. In conjunction with tasks completed, this includes developing tailored risk indexes for Child and Forced Labor probability tools; exposing USDOL staff to innovative tools and processes including: cross-referencing the Compendium to the new online Labor Law Library; developing training and “dissemination tools” with modern multi-media resources; and utilizing STR’s annual conference to advance stakeholder engagement globally.

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SUSTAINABILITY IN PRACTICE

INTRODUCTION

Specialized Technology Resources (STR) is a leader in the Corporate Responsibility industry for ensuring product safety, product quality, and social responsibility at every stage of the supply chain. STR will implement a progressive initiative to identify, analyze, and disseminate effective practices related to the challenges of eradicating forced and child labor from global supply chains entitled, “Sustainability in Practice” (SIP). This initiative will address imminent global labor concerns identified across regulatory and professional industries. While a pioneer in the social compliance field, STR is a global provider of monitoring, training, and consulting services directed toward meeting sourcing goals while reducing risk. This includes supply chain management, monitoring, research, data collection and evaluation, and innovation in industry tools development.

Utilizing the latest research, a body of monitoring data from 150 countries, 17,500 audits from the past year (representing hundreds of thousand of employees at the factory level), and input from stakeholders at all levels of production, STR designed the *Sustainability in Practice* initiative to provide tasks and deliverables with strategic innovation. In conjunction with the tasks’ implementation, this will include the following program components:

SUSTAINABILITY IN PRACTICE

HIGHLIGHTED PROGRAM COMPONENTS:

- Develop tailored Risk Indexes for Child and Forced Labor probability tools;
- Expose USDOL staff with exposure to innovative tools and processes including: cross-referencing the Compendium to the new online Labor Law Library comprising an unparalleled database of labor/safety legislation from 150 countries;
- Develop training and “dissemination tools” with modern multi-media resources; and
- Utilize STR’s annual conference to advance stakeholder engagement globally.

Accordingly, implementation of *Sustainability in Practice* will leverage STR’s dense network of stakeholders and build upon its extensive research capacity to inform the U.S. Department of Labor of solutions on the forefront of policy, legal, and industry data and information.

STR has an exceptional track record in conducting government and private sector consultations. Highlighted clients include the International Finance Corporation, Walgreens, Inc., Harvard University

(See recommendation letter), The Coca-Cola Companies, Inc., Wal-Mart, and Deutsche Investitions-und Entwicklungsgesellschaft mbH (see recommendation letters). STR has consulted thousands of companies and public agencies from 150 different countries and has generated some of the most accurate and novel reporting at all levels of production. Since 1991, STR has improved workplace conditions for the world's most vulnerable workers and helped many major brands manage and social, environmental, and security risks in their supply chains.

As a co-founder of the Global Monitoring Institute (GMI), STR is the only corporation in the sourcing field that focuses on research and tools development as a major component of company output. This has led to the company's persistent leadership in collaboration in the corporate social responsibility (CSR) field. The mission of the Global Monitoring Institute is to enhance the credibility and professionalism of the individuals and organizations performing corporate social responsibility monitoring. STR is not only one of the first founding members, but has dedicated time and resources to ensure the success of this Institute to further the professionalism, ethical standards, efficiency and effectiveness of this industry.

SUSTAINABILITY IN PRACTICE

TECHNICAL APPROACH

SUSTAINABILITY IN PRACTICE THE THEMATIC APPROACH

STR's concept of *sustainability* is based on recent discourse regarding the influx of new practices and methods to address supply chain management. While many of these practices and methods may be effective in reference to specific companies, factories, industries or time frames, STR recognizes that the life of a "good practice", much like the life of a corporation, can be indefinite, spanning over decades, if not a century. Much like monitoring a factory, which captures the status of operations at the moment, it may only represent a snapshot of circumstances. Consequently, STR approaches its analysis of practices and data with a perspective of implementation feasibility, or sustainability for the supply chain long-term.

Firms often respond to conditions of inadequate governance with CSR strategies. But there are several reasons why these strategies and practices may not be sustainable. First, CSR strategies are expensive. Firms may abandon their voluntary initiatives when times are tough or when competitors do not have similar strategies in place. Secondly, firms that provide quasi public goods through philanthropy or partnerships with NGOs or foundations may lack the expertise or consistent interest in providing these services. They may be distracted from their core mission. Third, corporations can be easily manipulated by activist stakeholder groups that may or may not represent the public. And finally, because CSR strategies are voluntary and relatively new, we know very little about which approaches are most effective in particular circumstances. STR plans to contribute to the discourse and provide insight while implementing the *Sustainability in Practice* program with these issues in mind. The team will conduct the following tasks with this thematic approach – assessing the sustainability of good practices as a major consideration.