



Position Description

Title: Researcher - Surveillance Technologies Accountability Project
Status: Part-time Consultancy
Duration: February - December 2021
Location: Remote

Description: Heartland Initiative, Inc. (Heartland) is a nonprofit practice-based research organization that promotes the fundamental rights and freedoms of people in conflict-affected and high-risk areas (CAHRA). Heartland’s work responds to a growing need at the intersection of business and human rights, where public and private stakeholders understand that business activities can contribute to either the escalation or mitigation of conflicts and their attendant human rights violations. Through tailored learning services, Heartland works with stakeholders to develop solutions that simultaneously prevent and mitigate human rights harms while managing the heightened legal, reputational, and financial risks faced by companies and investors in CAHRA.

The Researcher provides research, analysis, writing, and editorial support for the Surveillance Technologies Accountability Project (STAP) and reports to the President and Executive Director of Heartland. The candidate must have the ability to make independent judgments related to programmatic matters, and to communicate effectively with a range of stakeholders from the human rights, corporate, legal, academic, and governmental sectors. The superior candidate will have exceptional skills in research, analysis, and report writing related to information and communication technology (ICT), surveillance technology, and other dual-use technologies, presenting findings, problem-solving, and relationship-building, as well as a proven ability to handle confidential and sensitive information. To be considered, applicants must ascribe to Heartland’s core value of respect for universal human rights and dignity.

Responsibilities: Responsibilities will include (but are not limited to):

- Conducting extensive research, analysis, and reporting related to surveillance technologies, including salient human rights issues associated with the industry, rights-violating companies and end-users, corporate case studies, various legal, policy, and other interventions to advance corporate accountability, and the role of private equity firms
- Contributing to the development of a human rights due diligence model tailored to the surveillance technologies industry
- Building relationships and liaising with diverse stakeholders including project partners, investors, companies, donors, civil society, and governmental representatives
- Efficiently and effectively responding to questions from and presenting information to networks, staff, partner organizations, and members of the business and human rights community.



Qualifications: Applicants should also meet the following minimum requirements:

- Strong work ethic and willingness to take ownership for wide-ranging responsibilities
- Substantive knowledge of the ICT and human rights sector
- Strong written and verbal English communication skills
- Well-developed and professional client service skills
- Resourcefulness and ability to work proactively in a fast-paced environment
- Ability to effectively communicate with individuals from a variety of disciplines, cultures, and backgrounds
- Willingness to work remotely

The ideal candidate will also possess the following:

- Advanced degree in political science, international relations, international conflict resolution, international law, human rights, or other relevant areas of study
- Substantive knowledge of the surveillance technologies industry
- Experience in ICT and human rights-based research, writing, and strategic communications
- Academic/professional experience in the ICT industry

Working Conditions: In certain circumstances, position will need to be available during non-standard business hours to support the President and Executive Director as appropriate. This position requires strict confidence and professionalism in daily office transactions.

How to Apply: Please submit a résumé/CV and brief cover letter outlining your interest in the role to Sam Jones (sam@heartland-initiative) by 1 March 2021.

At Heartland, we are committed to providing an environment of mutual respect where equal opportunities are available to all qualified applicants and employees without regard to race, color, religion, creed, gender, sex, national origin, age, disability, marital or veteran status, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, and any other characteristic protected by applicable law.