

Responsible Business Transparency Protocol (RBTP): Executive Briefing

Current Challenge:

Companies face increasing pressures for verifiable supply chain data & material traceability across supply chain resilience & risk management, heightened ESG & sustainability regulatory and disclosure requirements, and expanding customer expectations for supply chain data transparency.

However, these requirements are difficult for companies to meet due to:

- *System fragmentation* - multiple supply chain data management systems already in use at companies and often multiple different systems used within the same company
- *Data quality* - data received from supply chains is often self-reported and not verified; manual work to pull and input data across different platforms also produces data errors that are then passed along the supply chain
- *Reporting fatigue and duplicative requests for similar information* – expanding ESG reporting requests require companies to enter often overlapping sets of data into different systems or report templates, requiring significant resources
- *Trade & legal confidentiality concerns* – business concerns with data disclosure complicate getting necessary suppliers to all join a preferred technology platform for data-gathering

The Solution:

The Responsible Business Transparency Protocol (RBTP) is a UN-recognized data exchange framework developed by the Responsible Business Alliance (RBA). Built on the UN Transparency Protocol (UNTP) and W3C verifiable credentials, it enables **verifiable**, **portable**, and **interoperable** supply chain data exchange across the automotive, electronics, and related sectors. RBTP is platform-agnostic, allowing companies to retain control over their data while enabling n-tier traceability.

Core Challenge	RBTP Solution
System Fragmentation	RBTP is platform-agnostic , i.e. any existing platform or solution can be adapted to exchange UNTP-aligned data
Data quality	Data is standardized and verified , and different data sets, sources, etc. aligned to UNTP format can be integrated automatically and compared more readily
Reporting fatigue and duplicative requests	Data can be created once and shared with multiple parties, and data is portable between systems that can exchange UNTP-aligned data
Trade & legal confidentiality concerns	Companies maintain ownership over their data, choose what to disclose to different parties, and are not required to join a particular platform or software

Business Value Proposition:

Implementing RBTP-aligned data delivers strategic and operational benefits for companies across multiple dimensions:

Data Quality & Comparability

- Standardized data formats enables consolidation of data across disparate internal systems and enhances cross-supplier benchmarking and AI-driven analytics.
- Supports selective disclosure and confidentiality controls for sensitive data.

Compliance & Risk Management

- Enables automated verification of ESG and audit conformance claims.
- Reduces exposure to supply chain fraud and identity misrepresentation, and non-compliance.

Efficiency & Cost Reduction

- Leverage integration with RBA-housed data for audits, supplier questionnaires, facility database, etc. as RBA member company benefit
- Minimizes manual data processes and duplicative ESG requests - reducing reporting fatigue for both your company and suppliers
- Open-source tooling reduces vendor lock-in and integration costs

N-tier Traceability

- As more companies in your supply chain adopt RBTP-aligned data, enables full end-to-end traceability

Next Steps:

- *Vendor Alignment* - Request that supply chain data system vendors work with the Responsible Business Alliance (RBA) to support vendors' RBTP integration.
- *Pilot RBTP for your supply chain* - Test the RBTP for your supply chain either through a collaborative or company-specific pilot hosted in RBA's reference implementation.
- *Integrated System Testing of RBTP* – After pilot, deploy RBTP in internal company test environments.
- *Scalable production release* – After integrated system testing, full data credential exchange across supply chain actors.

The RBA provides support through reference implementations, technical workgroups, and supply chain & vendor engagement.