

# PPP law initial focus of new Uzbek agency

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With Uzbekistan announcing that it is establishing a coordinating agency to facilitate planning and implementation of PPPs, the new agency's focus in its first year will likely be on helping to draft and shepherd passage of a PPP law through the country's Supreme Assembly, according to a legal adviser in Tashkent.

Shavkat Mirziyoyev, Uzbekistan's president, signed last week (October 2018) a resolution forming the authority dubbed the Agency for Development of Public-Private Partnerships. Under the Ministry of Finance, it will facilitate activities among different ministries to bolster the economy's priority areas, including the "implementation of transport-communications and social infrastructure projects", according to the country's development strategy (2017-2022) signed last year by the president.

The five-year strategy, spearheaded by the Development Strategy Center, is also focused on the "further development of road transport infrastructure".

Directed by the deputy finance minister, the new PPP authority will cultivate the institutional and legal framework for PPPs. It will also develop methods to assess, implement and evaluate PPPs, including project financing.

Nodir Yuldashev, a partner at central-Asia law firm Grata, said: "We believe the agency's primary task for the next year will be to ensure drafting and enacting a special law through the Parliament."

Until the Supreme Assembly enacts a PPP law, noted Yuldashev, presidential decrees are expected to fill the void, providing legal cover for PPPs – including current ones on medical institutions and roads.

The independent agency, which will network with multilateral development banks and project investors, will have the authority to monitor how effectively funds from the government budget are used on PPPs.

The authority will also likely boost transparency about project tenders and progress.

The office within the finance ministry responsible for the agency did not respond to questions *IJGlobal* submitted after speaking with an official.

The launch of the PPP agency is the latest sign that Uzbekistan's energy and infrastructure markets have turned a corner.

The progressive signals include the government's launch of its five-year development strategy through the Development Strategy Center and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)'s reengagement by opening a new office in Tashkent and passing a new five-year country strategy.

[EBRD](#) also announced this month (October 2018) that it had signed its first infrastructure projects in Uzbekistan in nearly 10 years, committing €333 million (\$385 million) in loans to six projects in the capital city of Tashkent and three regions.

"A special authorised body to develop PPPs will by all means help the Uzbek economy," added Yuldashev. "We will benefit from this advanced financing arrangement and stimulate a wide range of business opportunities and FDI in Uzbekistan."

Uzbekistan is not the only country trying to build a solid framework around its PPP market.

Bangladesh's PPP Authority realised that its long-term success depended on high standards and a sound methodology. *IJGlobal* [reported](#) last week (October 2018) that it had received bids from law firms to advise on its future pipeline of projects.

Live tenders being run by the Bangladeshi agency include:

- communication and branding advice – closes 30 October (2018)
- development of a mixed-use property in Chittagong with Ministry of Textiles and Jute’s Bangladesh Jute Mills – 5 November
- construction of an international-standard tourism complex with the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism’s Bangladesh Parjatan – 11 November

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