

Nominee Information

Mr. Steve Smith



Video presentation



Gender: Male

Job title: President and Chief Executive Officer

I would be an asset to the ICVA board in two key areas - 1) understanding the global humanitarian landscape and the role of NGOs, and 2) experience in leading and governing a growing and global organization.

1) understanding the global humanitarian landscape and NGOs' role

I have over 20 years of experience across multiple sectors, the the past 12 years being in the global humanitarian sector. I have amassed a comprehensive understanding of global disasters for the past decade through our responsive efforts. Public speaking, media engagements, and public presentations have allowed me to promote Airlink and the NGO sector as a whole effectively.

My extensive network, cultivated through Airlink's collaboration with over 200 NGO humanitarian disaster response partners globally, keeps me constantly informed and connected. This network extends beyond NGOs to coordination bodies and many aviation and logistics companies.

I have firsthand experience in tackling challenges related to collaboration, funding from diverse sources, and creating impactful cross-sector partnerships. Our responses to crises, such as the Ukraine war, Haiti cholera outbreak, and Ebola epidemic, showcase my ability to lead multi-partner initiatives and foster cooperation between the private sector, NGOs, philanthropy, and government aid agencies.

Furthermore, Airlink's engagement across five themes of activity, namely Rapid Onset Disaster, Displaced and Migrant Populations, Health Systems Strengthening, Food and Water Insecurity, and Medium and Long-term Recovery, provides me with a nuanced understanding of on-the-ground realities across critical areas of sector activity on a global scale.

2) experience in leading and governing a growing and global organization

I have steered Airlink from its humble beginnings to becoming a pivotal partner in the NGO sector. Under my leadership, Airlink has achieved a remarkable 40-fold increase in both humanitarian impact and financial growth. My hands-on experience as the President and CEO of Airlink equips me with invaluable insights into the challenges faced by NGOs at every stage of growth.

At a macro level, I offer a distinct perspective rooted in Airlink's specialization in transport, logistics, and supply chain management in disaster response. Recognizing the critical significance of this often-overlooked aspect, I aim to shed light on its importance, considering that 73% of the cost of any aid program goes to the supply chain.

Airlink's unique position at the intersection of the private sector, NGOs, and aid agencies has afforded me practical insights into successful collaboration models and best practices in this domain.

In 2023, I was selected as a Presidential Leadership Scholar - a program run by four U.S. Presidential Libraries - George W. Bush, Bill Clinton, George H.W. Bush, and Lyndon B. Johnson - to learn from and harness the lessons learned during their administrations. I also serve on the Board of the Aero Club of Washington, DC.

In conclusion –

I am confident my experience will position me as a strong candidate for the ICVA board to champion and govern the priorities set in ICVA's 2030 Strategy. I would welcome the opportunity to contribute to the board's deliberations, bringing strategic insights and practical solutions to the challenges faced by the community ICVA supports.

Please indicate whether, if elected as a member of the Board, you would be willing to stand for election for

- **Chair –No**