**JANUARY 17, 2023 CRYPTONAIRE WEEKL CRYPTO INVESTMENT JOURNAL AZUKI RELEASES IMMERSIVE** HILUMIA METAVERSE CITY AZUKI HILUMIA



MARKETS

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# EDIIORS LEITER

Bitcoin roared back into life last week and skyrocketed above \$21,000. The sharp 22% rally in Bitcoin improved sentiment and boosted buying in several altcoins. This pushed the total crypto market capitalization above \$1 trillion on January 16, according to coinmarketcap data.

The crypto recovery soared last week after the consumer price index (CPI) data showed a 0.1% drop in December, meeting economist expectations. Although the headline CPI at 6.5% from a year ago is much higher than the Federal Reserve's 2% target, analysts are bullish because inflation is showing signs of cooling off.

We were expecting \$18,385 to act as a strong obstacle but Bitcoin blew past this resistance with ease. This shows aggressive buying by the bulls at lower levels.

The sharp rally of the past few days has pushed the relative strength index (RSI) into deeply overbought levels. Usually, this leads to a minor correction or consolidation.

On the downside, the first support zone is between \$20,500 and \$20,000. If Bitcoin stays above this zone, the likelihood of a rally to \$22,800 and then to \$25,000 increases.

A break and close above \$21,500 could offer a buying opportunity but it is advisable to keep a tight stop loss because vertical rallies may be followed by sharp pullbacks.

If the price turns down and breaks below \$20,000, the BTC/USD pair could drop to the 20-day exponential moving average (EMA). This level is likely to attract strong buying by the bulls. If the price rebounds off the 20day EMA, the pair could again climb toward \$21,500.

Lastly please check out the advancement's happening in the cryptocurrency world.

Enjoy the issue

Karnan Shah

Karnav Shah Founder, CEO & Editor-in-Chief









# CRYPTONAIRE WEEKLY



Cryptonaire Weekly is one of the oldest and trusted sources of Crypto News, Crypto Analysis and information on blockchain technology in the industry, created for the sole purpose to support and guide our Crypto Trading academy clients and subscribers on all the tops, research, analysis and through leadership in the space.

Cryptonaire weekly, endeavours to provide weekly articles, Crypto news and project analysis covering the entire marketplace of the blockchain space. All of us have challenges when facing the crypto market for the first time even blockchain-savvy developers, investors or entrepreneurs with the everchanging technology its hard to keep up with all the changes, opportunities and areas to be cautious of.

With the steady adoption of Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies around the world, we wanted not only to provide all levels of crypto investors and traders a place which has truly great information, a reliable source of technical analysis, crypto news and top emerging projects in the space.

Having been publishing our weekly crypto magazine 'Cryptonaire Weekly' for since early 2017 we have had our fingertips at the cusp of this exciting market breaking through highs of 20k for 1 Bitcoin to the lows of \$3500 in early 2021. Our Platinum Crypto Academy clients (students and mentee's) are always looking for shortcuts to success to minimize expenses and possible loses. This is why we created our Crypto Magazine. Those who wish to invest their assets wisely, stay updated with the latest cryptocurrency news and are interested in blockchain technology will find our Weekly Crypto Magazine a valuable asset!





#### Featuring in this weeks Edition:

- Azuki
- TalentIDO
- ICONOMI
- ReduX Technologies
- UnoFarm
- XRPayNet

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- Markets Analysis
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REDUX TECHNOLOGIES ADDRESS PRESSING GREEN PROBLEMS WITH CRYPTO BENEFITS

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# WEEKLY CRYPTOCURRENCY MARKET ANALYSIS

Hello, welcome to this week's 268th edition of Cryptonaire Weekly Magazine. The global crypto market cap is \$990 Billion, up \$140 Billion since the last week. The total crypto market trading volume over the last 24 hours has increased by 3.58% to \$50.24 Billion. The DeFi volume is \$4.20 Billion, 8.35% of the entire crypto market's 24-hour trading volume. The volume of all stable coins is \$45.04 Billion, 89.65% of the total crypto market's 24-hour trading volume.

Bitcoin's price has increased by 22.81% from \$17,230 last week to around \$21,160 and Ether's price has increased by 18.49% from \$1,325 last week to \$1,570. Bitcoin's market cap is \$408 Billion and the altcoin market cap is \$582 Billion.

Bitcoin roared back into life last week and skyrocketed above \$21,000. The sharp 22% rally in Bitcoin improved sentiment and boosted buying in several altcoins. This pushed the total crypto market capitalization above \$1 trillion on January 16, according to coinmarketcap data. The crypto recovery soared last week after the consumer price index (CPI) data showed a 0.1% drop in December, meeting economist expectations. Although the headline CPI at 6.5% from a year ago is much higher than the Federal Reserve's 2% target, analysts are bullish because inflation is showing signs of cooling off. A combination of aggressive buying by the bulls and short covering by the bears resulted in the strong up-move last week. Coinalyze data shows that nearly \$500 million in short positions were liquidated since January 14.

Bitcoin's rise above \$20,000 could be good news for Bitcoin miners. Glassnode data estimates the mining costs to be roughly \$18,800, which suggests that

Percentage of Total Market Capitalization (Dominance)			
Bitcoin		41.18%	
Ethereur	Υ	19.40%	
Tether		6.72%	
BNB		4.84%	
USD Coi	n	4.43%	
XRP		1.98%	
Binance	USD	1.64%	
Cardanc	)	1.22%	
Dogeco	in	1.13%	
Others		16.55%	

miners could be turning profitable again. This could reduce the aggressive selling by the miners. Another positive is that Glassnode estimates Bitcoin's "realized price," which gives the average cost basis at which all Bitcoin were purchased, to be around \$19,700. The market intelligence firm added that Bitcoin's average trading price in the past 155 days was about \$18,000. That means traders who recently purchased Bitcoin are already in profit.

Although the rally has pushed Bitcoin above \$20,000, Bloomberg Intelligence senior macro strategist Mike McGlone is not confident that the rally will continue. In an interview with Scott Melker, McGlone said that the Federal Reserve is still tightening and "you can't be too excited about any markets." However, SkyBridge Capital founder Anthony Scaramucci believes that 2023 is a "recovery year" for Bitcoin. He expects Bitcoin to continue moving up and reach \$50,000 to \$100,000 in two to three years.

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## CRYPTO TRADE OPPORTUNITIES



We were expecting \$18,385 to act as a strong obstacle but Bitcoin blew past this resistance with ease. This shows aggressive buying by the bulls at lower levels.

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Previous Analysis...



We mentioned in our previous analysis that if Ether breaks above the downtrend line, it will signal a potential trend change and could rally to \$1,700.

The ETH/USD pair broke above the downtrend line on January 12 and touched \$1,603.91 on January 16. The bears are trying to pose a strong challenge at this level and the overbought levels on the RSI indicate a few days of consolidation or a minor correction is possible.

If bulls do not give up much ground from the current level, the pair could resume its up-move and reach \$1,700 and thereafter \$1,800. This zone could act as a strong barrier but if bulls overcome it, the pair could soar to \$2,000.

The bears will have to sink the price back below the 20-day EMA to gain the upper hand. Until then, the advantage remains with the bulls.

Previous Analysis...



We highlighted in our previous analysis that buyers had the edge and a break above the 50-day simple moving average (SMA) could open the doors for a rally to \$300 and then \$318 and that is how it played

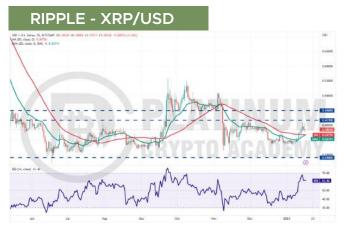
out.

Binance Coin reached \$318 on January 14 but the bulls could not clear this hurdle. This suggests that the bears are defending this level aggressively.

A minor positive in favor of the buyers is that they have not ceded ground to the bears. This suggests that the bulls are not rushing to the exit. This increases the likelihood of a break above \$318. If that happens, the BNB/USD pair could soar to \$360.

Contrary to this assumption, if the price slides below \$290, the pair could touch the 20-day EMA. Such a deep pullback will suggest that the pair may extend its stay inside the \$250 to \$318 range for a few more days.

Previous Analysis...



XRP broke above the moving averages on January 11 and reached the overhead resistance at \$0.41 on January 14. This level is attracting selling by the bears.

Buyers again tried to propel the price above this resistance on January 16 but the long wick on the candlestick shows that the bears are not willing to relent.

A minor positive is that the moving averages are on the verge of a bullish crossover. This indicates that bulls have a slight edge.

If the price turns up from the current level, the bulls will make one more attempt to drive the XRP/USD pair above the overhead resistance. If they manage to do that, the pair could soar to \$0.45.

Conversely, a break below the moving averages will signal that the pair may remain stuck between \$0.29 and \$0.41 for a while longer.

Previous Analysis...



The bears tried to pull Cardano back into the channel on January 10 and 11 but the bulls successfully defended the breakout level. This started an up-move, which reached \$0.37 on January 14.

The bears are trying to halt the rally but the bulls have not allowed the price to slip back to the 20-day EMA. This suggests that the bulls are holding on to their positions as they anticipate a move higher.

If bulls thrust the price above \$0.37, the ADA/USD pair could challenge the overhead resistance at \$0.39. If this level is scaled, the rally could touch \$0.44.

This bullish view could invalidate in the near term if the price turns down and breaks back into the channel.

Previous Analysis...





# FIGHT ENERGY SHORTAGE AND CLIMATE CHANGE!



A MORF-Refractor is a unique high-tech conversion and recycling system that produces high-quality synthetic fuels such as heating oil, diesel, jet fuel, gasoline, gas, and coal.

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# 1 \$REDUX = \$0.12

Connect your wallet to buy token:

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BUY REDUX WITH EUR or CHF

WHITEPAPER 🕹

### **ABOUT**

#### REDUX TECHNOLOGIES

ReduX-converters are technically mature devices that, aftelong-term testing in series, have now gone into industrial production. The price per unit is in most applications within the first year of use and is fully amortized through the savings in fuel.

ReduX

WATCH VIDEO













# AZUKI RELEASES IMMERSIVE HILUMIA METAVERSE CITY



hiru Labs, the company behind the most successful anime-inspired NFT Project, Azuki, launches it's own metaverse.

Marking the projects one year anniversary, Azuki Hilumia, released by the Los Angeles based company, is representative of the companies past, present and future.

It was mid-morning, January 12th 2022, when four men living in California released 8,700 NFTs. Priced at \$3,400 each, the collection sold out in 180 seconds, raking in over \$29 million, \$2m followed in private offerings a few days later.

Whilst impressive, heads really turned 4 weeks later, 11th February 2022, with the Azukis hitting almost \$300m in transactions recorded across market places like opensea. According to The NFT Markets official rarity tracker, the most expensive Azuki currently stands at a whopping 420 ETH, over \$650,000!

The Garden, a unique metaverse within the Azuki ecosystem is provided to holders for a unique experience, "it is a corner of the internet where art, community, and culture fuse to create magic. The lines between the physical and digital worlds are blurring and the rules are being rewritten", the projects states.

One year on now, Azuki holders or community members can now explore the projects vision, often led in direction by the community itself. Whilst not being an official road map the objective is to provide an immersive experience of the Azuki Mindmap.

This unrivalled experience of Hilumia for Azuki and Beanz NFT owners boasts locations such as Slowpoke's Toy Haven, Ember Square, Golden Skate Park, Garden Express, and Food For Thought. Each world comes with its own immersive experience of carefully selected music, detailing and sound effects.

When entering the Hilumia Hub users can interact, share and express themselves with members and the Azuki team, exploration of the worlds is taken to new levels, breathtaking attention to detail is on offer and without doubt, a defining moment in the NFT space. Native Physical Backed Token (PBT) threads its ecosystem together. PBT will also play a part in how Azuki bridges digital and physical.

2023 is set to be a defining year for the project, already benefiting from an increase in floor price since the launch. To explore further NFT insights for the Azuki collection visit <a href="The NFT Markets">The NFT Markets</a> official Azuki listing.



ICONOMI, an FCA registered crypto copy trading firm, is excited to announce some updates to our platform which they believe will greatly benefit your investment experience. Here are the key changes:

Accelerating rebalance speed: This will improve the efficiency of trading execution, which could lead to better returns for you and help you stay on top of changing market conditions and adjust your strategy accordingly

Introducing some changes to our fees.

Turning ICONOMI team into crypto compliance experts by partnering with Elliptic to monitor on-chain transactions (on top of Chainalysis). They are always working to increase security and protect your assets. This partnership will give you the confidence in using ICONOMI for your cryptorelated needs.

ICONOMI is constantly working to improve its platform and provide the best possible experience for you. They are confident that these updates will enhance the security and trust of the users, and they are excited to see the impact they have on the platform.

Discussing the ICONOMI Project, Editor in Chief at Cryptonaire Weekly, Mr. Karnav Shah noted, "It's rare you come across a project that explores wider utilities of the blockchain technology and expands the horizons like the ICONOMI project is doing with their Crypto trading platform that gives copy crypto strategies trading solutions to its users. We are truly excited to share the ICONOMI project and explain its fundamentals to our readers. We are certain that we will have more about this promising venture in our subsequent publications."





TalentIDO, a unique social token ecosystem functioning as a digital talent recruitment and development platform, has its TAL Token currently live. Individuals and fans can now own a share of the future through the platform token.

It has been a long time coming but it is finally here. The TAL Token is NOW LIVE. More information is available at http://talentido.io.

With the latest announcement, the platform aims to attract more investors, especially those seeking to promote and nurture talent in the sports field.

TalentIDO, with its native token TAL, was scheduled for launch in Q4-2022, which occurred as planned towards the end of the year and it is currently live.

The TAL Token uses the Binance Smart Chain for smart contract functionality.

The latest product launch stays in line with the platform's commitment to securing, nurturing and uplifting sports talent. Mr Karnav Shah, editor-inchief of Cryptonaire Weekly, says, "TAL is the social token of the platform which contributes value to the network and facilitates exchange within the TalentIDO network. The sportsman, fan, and scout can invest in TAL to obtain marketplace benefit and earn from token growth."

Grab the opportunity and participate in the TalentIDO tokenomics. Visit the official website and become a part of the sport talent revolution, as well as stay up-to-date with TalentIDO's activities.





# ADVANCEMENTS IN THE CRYPTOCURRENCY WORLD BITCOIN STEPS OUT OF 'FEAR' FOR THE FIRST TIME IN NINE MONTHS

The Bitcoin Fear and Greed Index reached an index score of 52 over the weekend, marking the first time it's hit neutral territory in three quarters.

The highly-referenced Bitcoin Fear and Greed Index moved into neutral territory over the weekend following several months of fear.

On Jan. 15, the index reached a neutral level of 52, its highest since April 5, 2022. The move follows a 24% gain for Bitcoin (BTC) over the past seven days.

#### Al Crypto Platform Delivered Average Of 17 Winning Alerts Every Month In 2022

The market sentiment tracker hit a multi-year low of nine in June 2022. Since then it has been hovering between 20 and 30 in the "extreme fear" category. Furthermore, it registered its longest-ever streak of extreme fear in mid-2022, as reported by Cointelegraph.

The fear and greed index uses "motions and sentiments from different sources," including current

volatility, market momentum and volume, social media and Google trends data.

The data from these sources is then used to create a specific number to summarize the emotional landscape regarding BTC and crypto markets.

It comprises five categories ranging from extreme fear to extreme greed, the latter not seen since October 2021.

At the time of writing, the index has dipped back down to 45, which puts it back into the "fear" category, suggesting that confidence has yet to make a full return.

Meanwhile, BTC has seen its second-longest streak of gains in history, with a 12-day run this month. The asset has gained 28% since the beginning of this year, wiping out all losses in the crash that followed the FTX collapse in early November 2022.

## **Bitcoin Surge** Causes Over \$500M Ten-Week High and in Liquidations, **Highest in 3 Months**



Crypto markets regained the \$1 trillion capitalization mark for the first time since November.

Crypto markets surged to regain the \$1 trillion market capitalization mark over the weekend amid signs of bottoming and a record number of short liquidations contributing to the uptick.

Nearly \$500 million in shorts, or bets against higher prices, were liquidated since Friday to mark the highest such levels since October 2022, data from Coinalyze shows.

The liquidation figure mean over 70% of traders booked losses as exchanges closed leveraged positions due to a partial or total evaporation of the trader's initial margin. Crypto exchange OKX saw \$256 million worth of short losses on Friday alone, the most among all crypto exchanges, followed by \$125 million on Binance and \$42 million on Huobi, CoinGlass data show.

Aptos' native APT tokens saw over \$10 million in liquidations in an unusual move as prices doubled over the past week.

Read more...

# **Ethereum Hits Turns Deflationary Again**

Ethereum prices have surged to their highest levels for ten weeks. Additionally, ETH issuance is back in the deflationary territory as network demand ramps

Ethereum prices closed in on \$1,600 during the morning of Jan. 16. Building further on weekend gains, ETH tapped its highest price since Nov. 8, reaching \$1,589 this morning.

The asset has made 3% over the past 24 hours and was trading at \$1,568 at press time. Furthermore, ETH has gained more than 30% over the past fortnight. It has slightly outperformed Bitcoin, which has notched up 27% over the same period and 2.1% on the day.

The bullish momentum for Ethereum is rising a couple of months before the Shanghai upgrade. This will enable the phased withdrawal of staked ETH parked on the Beacon Chain for more than two years.

#### **Ethereum Issuance Declines**

Ethereum's on-chain fundamentals have also strengthened this year following a terrible 2022. According to the Ultrasound Money tracker, ETH issuance has fallen into deflationary territory once again. The current supply growth is -0.09% per year, it reported at the time.



Read more...



#### Introduction

Climate change has become the buzzword in conversations around the world for the past few years and is likely to continue to be so in the near future too. It is mainly because human activities have been the main driver of climate change that are now caused by burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas.

Burning of fossil fuels emits greenhouse gasses that act as a blanket wrapped around planet Earth and traps the heat of the Sun, thereby raising the ambient temperatures around us. Carbon dioxide and methane are examples of greenhouse emissions that cause climate change.

These gases usually come from using fossil fuels to drive cars or by burning coal to generate heat and electricity. Deforestation also releases carbon dioxide and mining and landfill garbage are a main source of methane emissions.

Fossil fuels are still the most important source of energy on the planet, despite being widely accepted that their use is harmful for the environment and human health. Supplies of fossil fuels are limited and their formation takes millions of years.

As a result, the extraction and trade of fossil fuels often become sources of geopolitical conflicts and negatively affect supplies and the prices. Mining and combustion of fossil fuels hasten climate change by releasing greenhouse gasses. Fossil fuel combustion also produces particulate matter, which is harmful to human health, especially those of children.

The situation is so serious that greenhouse gas concentrations are now at their highest levels in 2 million years and the Earth is now around 1.1 degree warmer than it was in the late 1800s, according to the United Nations (UN). In fact, the last decade was the warmest on record.

Meanwhile, climate change is not only about rising temperatures. The consequences of climate change also include intense droughts in some places, water scarcity, severe wildfires, rising sea levels, floods, melting of polar ice, catastrophic storms and declining biodiversity, to name a few.

The ramifications of the above can affect our health, the ability to grow food, housing and overall safety.

Some people, especially those living in island nations and in developing countries, are more vulnerable to climate change than others. While rising sea levels and saltwater intrusion are forcing communities to relocate towards the nearby mainland, protracted droughts are putting people at the risk of famine.

Scientists have agreed in a series of UN reports that limiting the rise of global temperatures to 1.5 degrees would help us avoid the worst climate change impacts and maintain a livable climate.



#### **ReduX Technologies**

Meanwhile, notwithstanding all the negative aspects of fossil fuels, phasing them out quickly is not possible since it constitutes a cornerstone of the global economy. Hundreds of millions of combustion systems are still in use around the world.

So, the immediate solution ought to come from technologies that can make existing fossil fuel systems more efficient and climate-friendly. ReduX Technologies is a project that has the technologies to significantly reduce emissions and optimize efficiency of fuel consumption.

It is a fully operational business in green and alternative energy. The company has developed solutions to two of the main pressing issues of the world – energy shortage and reduction of carbon footprints and emissions. The solutions are based on new molecular technology.

The MORF process is based on the concept of molecular refraction, which allows the use of a much wider range of residual materials such as biomass, organic matter, waste oil/fats, sludge, plastic waste, etc. The latter is converted into high-quality fuels, gas and coal.

Low-grade organic residues can thus be industrially refracted into high-grade energy sources. The separated carbon is bound as a long-term carbon dioxide reservoir, thereby making the production process carbon dioxide negative.

MORF technology extracts the energy sources in gaseous, liquid form, and the separated solid carbon is bound long-term as a biological or chemical base material. ReduX is applicable in more than 3 billion combustion systems spread across the world.

Overall, MORF is a process that is carried out within minutes and which normally takes millions of years to carry out. The extracted solid remains bound in carbon and can be used as black earth or chemical products as carbon dioxide storage.



#### **Technology Insights**

Multiple steps of the ReduX converter bring the fuel to the required vaporization temperature in the fuel supply line of the internal combustion engine or the fuel supply line of the solid combustion point.

This reaction heat process must be carried out through the converter stages to ensure that the fuel does not outgas. Each of the ReduX unit's different response steps is measured and controlled by the control electronics.



#### Roadmap

As mentioned earlier, there are more than 3 billion systems in use that generate energy through the combustion of fossil fuels. The rollout of the entire project has been divided into three phases.

In the first phase from 2022 to 2024, the rollout will be in DACH countries and the initial target customers will be addressed in a compact and targeted information campaign. The model calculations show possible sales of 97.2 million Euros by mid-2023 with a pre-tax earnings of 46.5 million Euros. The average payback period is less than 12 months for customers, considering the system price of several thousand Euros.

The second phase of the ReduX Technologies project will begin almost simultaneously with the first phase. The campaign in the second phase will get off with the participation of the first technological companies. These companies are mainly from Japan and China but may even include South Korea.

There will be an additional focus on automobile companies and political communication in this sector. According to internal forecasts, sales could reach 2 billion Euros, with a pre-tax earnings of 860 million Euros in this case.

The third phase of the ReduX Technologies project will see it expanding globally, with a focus on the EU, China and the United States. These market opportunities will be pursued with the help of local partners or joint ventures. In this phase, model forecasts conceive sales of 20.6 billion Euros with a pre-tax earnings of 7.3 billion Euros.

Incidentally, all the projections are predicted on a conservative market penetration of 0.1 per cent to 0.5 per cent. Moreover, the positive contributions from CO2 credits and certificates have yet to be factored into any of the model calculations.

#### ReduX token

ReduX tokens exploit the potential of the crypto markets. Besides, the tokens have compatibility with the capital markets and exchanges. There will be a total supply of 2 billion \$REDUX tokens with an initial market cap of US \$17.75 million.

A little over 37 per cent of the total token supply will be earmarked for liquidity purposes while another 20 per cent will be set aside for staking rewards. The ReduX team will retain only 15 per cent for themselves while an additional 10 per cent will be kept for ReduX Innovation.

The proposed ReduX Technologies IPO is scheduled sometime in late 2023 or early 2024, when it will be possible to convert tokens into shares at seed share level for the first time. The latter will be possible because ReduX is creating a direct bridge for investors from the crypto space to the capital markets and stock exchanges.

#### **Application of ReduX**

The possible application of ReduX could be in multiple areas including in cars, buses, trucks, large vehicles, municipal vehicles and even open-sea and inland vessels. ReduX technologies can also be applied in ferries, generators, drones, helicopters and airplanes.

In fact, ReduX has proven itself in numerous field tests over many years. It has been used in coaches and buses, trucks and other large vehicles, including Mercedes-Benz, Volvo, MAN, DAF and Scania.



Besides, ReduX can provide fuel savings of up to 22 per cent as well as emission reduction of up to 70 per cent for marine engines. The ReduX technology is already recognized by multiple organizations or has been tested by them and, in some cases, has already received an award.

Conclusion

Individuals and organizations around the world regularly come up with some solutions to solve certain specific issues, which are the consequences of climate change. However, it is quite rare that a real industrial-based hi-tech company shows up for an ICO in the crypto markets.

ReduX is a Swiss hi-tech company that is creating a new kind of crypto investment with environmental sustainability at its core. The company has come up with a revolutionary technology that addresses two of the most pressing problems currently facing the world – energy and global emissions.

Moreover, the \$REDUX token also provides an opportunity to switch easily from the crypto markets into shares of the common capital markets. The project's tokenomics also indicate the tokens offer added benefits such as participation in CO2 certificates that ReduX gains with its technologies. ReduX currently has no competition in the market and it is possible to enter the market right away. So, it enjoys the first-mover advantage.

It cannot be denied that adapting to climate consequences protects people, homes, businesses, livelihoods, infrastructure and natural ecosystems. It covers current impacts as well as those likely in the future. Climate action requires significant financial investments but climate inaction is vastly more expensive in the medium to long-term.





# Republican Lawmakers Push Crypto Regulation With New House Subcommittee

ongressman
Patrick McHenry
wants to establish
"clear rules of the
road among federal
regulators."

After assuming control of the House of Representatives, Republicans are forming what they are calling a first-of-its-kind congressional group focused on digital assets.

The new Subcommittee on Digital Assets, Financial Technology and Inclusion was announced Thursday by Congressman Patrick McHenry (R-NC), as other subcommittees for the House Financial Services Committee were put forth. McHenry said he believes there's "a big hole in how we structure the committee," as it spends more resources on topics related to the digital asset sector instead of the larger financial industry, Politico reported Thursday.

The subcommittee will be chaired by Congressman French Hill (R-AR), who was also named as the full committee's vice-chairman. The new panel will provide "rules of the road" for federal regulators of the digital asset ecosystem, as well as develop policies that reach underserved communities through the promotion of financial innovation, according to a recent press release.

Some Republican lawmakers have been critical of how regulators have handled the digital assets industry, such as Congressman Tom Emmer (R-MN).

Read more...:

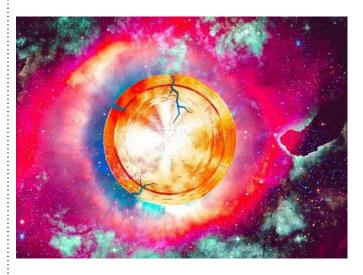
# Tron Founder Justin Sun Looking To Spend \$1,000,000,000 on Digital Currency Group's Assets

ustin Sun is reportedly eyeing the assets of Digital Currency Group (DCG), the parent company of embattled crypto broker Genesis and many other firms in the industry.

According to Reuters, the founder of block-chain network Tron (TRX) and advisor to crypto exchange Huobi is willing to allocate as much as \$1 billion of his personal funds to pur-

chase some of DCG's assets "depending on their evaluation of the situation." Genesis halted customer withdrawals in November due to liquidity issues arising from the collapse of crypto firms Three Arrows Capital and FTX. The brokerage says it has \$175 million worth of crypto derivatives locked into its FTX trading account.

As Genesis reportedly



faces more than \$3 billion in debt, its parent company DCG considers selling \$500 million worth of its venture capital assets to raise funds.

The conglomerate has venture capital holdings in over 200 cryptorelated projects, which include exchanges,

banks and custodians. It also holds many crypto assets.

Sun, however, did not specify which DCG assets he is interested in buying.



### Samsung's Asset Management Arm Launches Bitcoin Futures ETF in Hong Kong

amsung's asset management arm has launched a bitcoin futures exchange-traded fund (ETF). The new actively managed ETF is listed and traded on the Hong Kong stock exchange. It seeks "to provide economic exposure to the value of bitcoin," Samsung detailed.

Samsung's Bitcoin
Futures ETF
Samsung Asset
Management (Hong
Kong) Ltd., a wholly
owned subsidiary
of Samsung Asset
Management, a member
of the Samsung Group
of companies, launched
a bitcoin futures
exchange-traded fund
(ETF) on Friday called
"Samsung Bitcoin
Futures Active ETF."

The new ETF is a subfund of Samsung ETFs Trust III, an umbrella unit trust established under Hong Kong law, the company detailed, adding:

The investment objective of the sub-fund is to seek to provide economic exposure to the value of bitcoin by investing predominately in front-month bitcoin futures contracts and/ or micro bitcoin futures contracts traded on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME).

Samsung explained that the actively managed bitcoin futures ETF paves the way "for investment in future crypto-technology adoption." However, the company noted that the fund "does not invest directly in bitcoin and will not receive any bitcoin from bitcoin futures on CME."

Read more...

### Lunar New Year Shindig: McDonald's To Party In The Metaverse Using Artificial Intelligence

McDonald's is ramping up its efforts to appeal to a younger generation of consumers and diversify its customer base by featuring a variety of digital and physical components commemorating the Lunar New Year.

The fastfood chain giant announced a partnership with Chinese YouTuber Karen X Cheng, whose videos have garnered more than 500 million views. The tie-up will see McDonald's using Cheng's videos to promote its restaurants and products.

Cheng, a digital storyteller and entrepreneur, has been tapped by the fastfood company to produce a variety of digital and



physical components commemorating the event and showing support for the Asian-American and Pacific Islander community.

The campaign includes a commercial using artificial intelligence, a metaverse experience, and an augmented reality filter with artwork by Cheng.

Party In The Metaverse: McDonald's Brings Al For Lunar New Year McDonald's is expected to bring more than just food to life. The company's goal is to share the holidays with everyone, regardless of where they live.

In a statement, Elizabeth Campbell, McDonald's senior director for Cultural Engagement Strategy, said:

"Our collaboration with Karen X Cheng offers new, tech-forward ways to experience the Year of the Rabbit while also honoring the legacy of the holiday and uplifting the AAPI community."





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### Tether's 2022 Settlement Volume Flips Visa and Mastercard

ether USDT processed \$18.2 trillion in transactions in 2022, placing it ahead of traditional payment processors like Visa and Mastercard, according to a January 14 tweet.

In comparison, Mastercard and Visa processed transactions worth \$14.1 trillion and \$7.7 trillion, respectively.

Tether's high transaction volume testifies to the massive growth of stablecoins over the past years. Despite the challenges facing the crypto industry, stablecoins appeared to have thrived. Stablecoin adoption grew in countries where the current economic situation has placed their national fiat currency at a disadvantage.

Tether Had a Difficult 2022

Despite the growing adoption of stablecoins in 2022, Tether had a somewhat difficult year.

Over the past year, Tether has seen more concerns raised about its reserves and its solvency following the collapse of Terra UST in May and the FTX crypto exchange in November.

The stablecoin briefly lost its pea to the US Dollar at the height of Terra's crash FUD. During this period, the stablecoin issuer honored over \$10 billion in redemptions. BeinCrypto later reported that several traditional financial institutions took short positions against USDT because of the speculations surrounding its financial health.

Read more...

## Hong Kong to Publish Approved List of Crypto Assets for Retail Trading

ong Kong's security watchdog wants to limit retail investors to a few whitelisted crypto tokens.

Regulators in Hong Kong will soon decide which crypto tokens its citizens can invest in amid a raft of new digital asset policies coming this year.

The move is the latest crypto regulatory step taken by Hong Kong in a market that has a long association with significant digital asset trading volume.

Hong Kong to Issue Consultation Paper Hong Kong's Securities and Futures Commission (SFC) is preparing a list of crypto assets open to retail traders, Reuters reported on Wednesday. The SFC's new CEO, Julia Leung Fung-yee, said these whitelisted crypto tokens will be highly liquid ones deemed safe enough for non-professional investors. Leung made these comments during a panel session at the Asian Financial Forum held in Hong Kong on Jan. 11.

"Some virtual assets platforms have over 2,000 products, but we do not plan to allow retail investors to trade in all of them," Leung stated, adding, "We will set the criteria that would allow retail investors to [only] trade in major virtual assets."

Apart from the list of approved tokens, Leung added that the SFC will liaise with the public on regulations for retail crypto trading. The approved list is part of a broader crypto regulatory push that will include the publishing of a consultation paper before the end of Q1 2023.



## Google Adsdelivered malware drains NFT influencer's entire crypto wallet

sponsored advertising link on Google hid malware that siphoned thousands of dollars worth of crypto and NFTs from an influencer's wallet.

An NFT influencer claims to have lost "a life-changing amount" of their net worth in nonfungible tokens (NFTs) and crypto after accidentally downloading malicious software found via

a Google Ad search result.

The pseudo-anonymous influencer known on Twitter as "NFT God" posted a series of tweets on Jan. 14 describing how his "entire digital livelihood" came under attack including a compromise of his crypto wallet and multiple online accounts.

Last night my entire digital livelihood was



violated.

Every account connected to me both personally and professionally was hacked and used to hurt others.

Less importantly, I lost a life changing amount of my net worth

NFT God (@NFT\_ GOD) January 15, 2023 NFT God, known also as "Alex," said he used Google's search engine to download OBS, an open-source video streaming software. But instead of clicking on the official website, he clicked the sponsored advertisement for what he thought was the same thing.

Read more...



### Ethereum Developers Say Shanghai Upgrade Remains on Track for March

Developers this week successfully launched a devnet and a shadow fork to prepare the network for its much-hyped Shanghai upgrade.

Ethereum core developers say they are chugging steadily towards their goal of launching Shanghai and enabling staked ETH withdrawals on the network by March.

This week, the group launched "devnet 2," a developer network designed specifically to allow client teams to tweak the ETH withdrawal process and make sure they get it right. The network launch went mostly smoothly, with minor but expected hiccups, according to a developer call Thursday.

ETH withdrawal capability will launch as the central component of Ethereum's much-

anticipated Shanghai upgrade. A previous upgrade, known as the "merge," officially transitioned Ethereum to a proofof-stake system, which involves network participants known as validators pledging ETH to the network in order to verify transactions and keep the network secure. These validators also earn newly minted ETH as a reward for stakina.

Even before the merge, network users were given the opportunity to start staking on Ethereum in anticipation of the upgrade.

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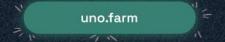


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# Crypto.com CEO Announces Cut to Global Workforce Amid Rallies in Broader Digital Asset Markets

ala jumps to \$0.03691 — a nine-week high as the company announces new developments including incorporating mobile gaming.

The chief executive of Crypto.com is announcing a cut to the firm's global workforce as the digital asset markets attempt to mount a recovery.

In a new company blog post, Crypto.com cofounder and CEO Kris Marszalek says that he's going to slash the firm's workforce by 20% due to unpredictable events within the industry, such as the recent high-profile collapse of crypto exchange FTX.

"Today we made the

difficult decision to reduce our global workforce by approximately 20%...

Several factors played into our decision to reduce headcount. While we continue to perform well, growing to more than 70 million users worldwide and maintaining a strong balance sheet, we've had to navigate ongoing economic headwinds and unforeseeable industry events."

According to Marszalek, even though Crypto. com already made cuts to its workforce in mid-2022, it wasn't enough to deal with the unforeseen disintegration of FTX.

Read more...





## Hardfork upgrades



# Polygon Announces Proposed Hardfork To Improve Chain Performance

eading Ethereum scaling solution
Polygon has unveiled its plans to implement a hardfork on its PoS chain on Jan 17, 2023. According to a tweet on Jan. 12, Polygon stated the proposed hardfork is "good news" for developers and users alike, as it will help create a "better" user experience.

Via a blog post on their official website, Polygon revealed more details on the upcoming hardfork stating it aims at upgrading the network performance by decreasing the occurrence of gas spikes and eliminating reorgs.

Polygon's Hardfork To Reduce Gas Spikes The Polygon PoS chain is arguably the biggest Ethereum layer-2 scaling solution, allowing developers and users to enjoy faster transactions and low gas fees while maintaining the security of the Ethereum network.

However, Polygon experiences a high network demand from time to time, which sometimes results in an exponential increase in gas fees known as "gas spikes". While higher gas fees are expected during increased network activity, "gas spikes" are considered an anomaly in blockchain operations.

With this upgrade, users should still anticipate a rise in gas fees during increased on-chain activity. However, extreme fluctuation in gas fees would be a thing of the past.



### Bitcoin Network's Mining Difficulty Rises to All-Time High, Making Block Discovery More Challenging

Bitcoin's mining difficulty printed a record increase on Jan. 15, 2023, rising 10.26% to 37.73 trillion at block height 772,128. The network's difficulty is now at an all-time high. This means, on average, it takes 37.73 trillion hashes, or attempts, to find a valid bitcoin block reward and add it to the blockchain.

2023's First Difficulty Increase Outpaces All but One of the Difficulty Increases in 2022
As of 8:15 p.m. Eastern time on Sunday, Jan.
15, 2023, approximately 286.36 exahash per second (EH/s) of hashrate is dedicated to the Bitcoin (BTC) blockchain. The Bitcoin

network experienced a difficulty retarget at 4:11 p.m. Eastern time, at block height 772,128, resulting in an increase of 10.26%.

The difficulty was approximately 34.09 trillion last week, and it reached an all-time high (ATH) of 37.73 trillion on Sunday, making it exceptionally difficult to find a BTC block. Prior to the Jan. 15. 2023, difficulty increase, the highest difficulty rating on the Bitcoin blockchain was 36.76 trillion on Nov. 6, 2022. reportedly decided not to renew its agreement, citing strategy misalignment.

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### Solana looks to move back into top 10 as SOL gains 36% over past week

olana market cap temporarily flipped Polygon following its significant price recovery — SOL sights set on re-entering top 10.

Solana (SOL) seeks to move back into the top 10 cryptocurrencies after temporarily flipping Polygon market cap on Jan. 14.

Sentiment surrounding

SOL has swiftly shifted from bearish — in light of developers leaving Solana — to bullish as SOL price rose by more than 36% over the last seven days. The significant price recovery temporarily pumped Solana back into the top 10 — flipping Polygon.

Vitalik Buterin aided in bolstering SOL recovery momentum on Dec.



29, 2022, by posting a supportive statement on Twitter.

"Some smart people tell me there is an earnest smart developer community in Solana, and now that the awful opportunistic money people have been washed out, the chain has a bright future."

At the time of the statement, SOL price was roughly \$9.70 on Dec. 29, 2022. Following the pump over the next two weeks leading up to Jan. 14, SOL price more than doubled to \$22.35 — as of press time.

