Template for white papers for crypto-assets other than asset-referenced tokens or e-money tokens

No	FIELD	CONTENT TO BE REPORTED
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1	Date of notification	2025-08-12
2	Statement in accordance with Article 6(3) of Regulation (EU) 2023/1114	This crypto-asset white paper has not been approved by any competent authority in any Member State of the European Union. The person seeking admission to trading of the crypto-asset is solely responsible for the content of this crypto-asset white paper.
3	Compliance statement in accordance with Article 6(6) of Regulation (EU) 2023/1114	This crypto-asset white paper complies with Title II of Regulation (EU) 2023/1114 of the European Parliament and of the Council and, to the best of the knowledge of the management body, the information presented in the crypto-asset white paper is fair, clear and not misleading and the crypto-asset white paper makes no omission likely to affect its import.
4	Statement in accordance with Article 6(5), points (a), (b), (c), of Regulation (EU) 2023/1114	The crypto-asset referred to in this crypto-asset white paper may lose its value in part or in full, may not always be transferable and may not be liquid.

5	Statement in accordance with Article 6(5), point (d), of Regulation (EU) 2023/1114	FALSE
6	Statement in accordance with Article 6(5), points (e) and (f), of Regulation (EU) 2023/1114	The crypto-asset referred to in this white paper is not covered by the investor compensation schemes under Directive 97/9/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council or the deposit guarantee schemes under Directive 2014/49/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council.

SUMMARY		
7	Warning in accordance with Article 6(7), second subparagraph, of Regulation (EU) 2023/1114	Warning This summary should be read as an introduction to the crypto-asset white paper. The prospective holder should base any decision to purchase this crypto –asset on the content of the crypto-asset white paper as a whole and not on the summary alone. The offer to the public of this crypto-asset does not constitute an offer or solicitation to purchase financial instruments and any such offer or solicitation can be made only by means of a prospectus or other offer documents pursuant to the applicable national law. This crypto-asset white paper does not constitute a prospectus as referred to in Regulation (EU) 2017/1129 of the European Parliament and of the Council or any other offer document pursuant to Union or national law.
8	Characteristics of the crypto-asset	ResearchCoin (RSC) is a token whose utility is designed for use within the ResearchHub platform, a web-based scientifical collaboration and funding ecosystem. ResearchCoin is an ERC-20 token deployed on both Ethereum mainnet and the Base Layer 2 network to facilitate fast and lower-cost transactions. Therefore, it is fully transferable, fungible and can be used by participants to engage with platform features and services. The total architecture features a total supply of 1,000,000,000 RSC tokens, with an initial circulating supply of 7,500,000 RSC tokens. The community circulating supply follows a controlled emission schedule, increasing at a maximum rate of 50,000,000 RSC tokens per year.
9	Information about the quality and quantity of goods or services to which the utility token gives access and restrictions on transferability	N/A
10	Key information about the offer to the public or admission to trading	The issuer, ResearchHub Foundation, is seeking to admit ResearchCoin to trading on multiple trading platforms, for which a non-exhaustive list is provided later on in Section E.33 of this whitepaper. The rationale for this is that such admission will help provide essential liquidity to support token holders in the transacting of the token, increasing both the practical utility of the token and user base within the ecosystem.

Part A - Information about the offeror or the person seeking admission to trading		
A.1	Name	ResearchHub Foundation
A.2	Legal form	N/A
A.3	Registered address	N/A
A.4	Head office	N/A
A.5	Registration date	2020-07-30
A.6	Legal entity identifier	254900WIZ8J36T59S107

A.7	Another identifier required pursuant to applicable national law	N/A
A.8	Contact telephone number	+1 (345) 914 6328
A.9	E-mail address	main@researchhub.foundation
A.10	Response time (Days)	3
A.11	Parent company	N/A
A.12	Members of the management body	The management body of the ResearchHub Foundation is comprised of Brian Armstrong, Patrick Joyce and Jeffrey Koury. This management body's business address is then situated at 4th Floor, Harbour Place, 103 South Church Street, P.O. Box, 10240, Grand Cayman KY1-1002, Cayman Islands.
A.13	Business activity	ResearchHub Foundation functions to support the ResearchHub ecosystem. ResearchHub is a Web3 powered platform that accelerates scientific research by making it open, collaborative, efficient, and incentive-aligned. ResearchHub offers a venue for the scientific community to fund, earn and share scientific research.
A.14	Parent company business activity	N/A
A.15	Newly established	FALSE
A.16	Financial condition for the past three years	The ResearchHub Foundation has never entered insolvency or bankruptcy, has consistently met its financial obligations, and has always complied with company filing requirements in all relevant jurisdictions, demonstrating strong corporate governance and administrative discipline. At the current valuation of ResearchCoin, revenues generated from platform activity, primarily from funding, bountry and tip fees were as follows: - 2023: $10,416 - 2024: $8,120 - 2025 (YTD): $34,776 This represents a 328% year-on-year increase in 2025, driven by the launch of the platform's funding feature. The Foundation intends to expand sales efforts to onboard additional funders, indicating strong potential for continued revenue growth. Each year, the ResearchHub Foundation receives 1% (10M ResearchCoin) from the community bucket, recorded as a "donation inflow" in the cash flow statement. In 2024, inflows exceeded $4 million, with minimal outflows aside from payroll and a Q4 marketing expenditure covering both promotional campaigns and listing fees. Detailed financial breakdowns, available from 2024 onwards, can be assessed here: https://docs.google.com/document/d/17MzNQWIDVh-dzm2Bd9t7komrXiHdB1kxwiQnHYHSGbM/edit?pli=1&tab=t.0. Notably, the 2025 donation inflow was received at the end of 2024 and included in the Q4 Statement of Financial Position (ref. link). As of 31-Mar-2025, the Foundation maintains a strong financial position with total assets exceeding $8.7 million and no recorded liabilities. This debt-free status provided significant operational flexibility and financial security, positioning the organisation to weather market volatility and be able to pursue strategic initiatives without the constraints of debt servicing obligations.

		The Foundation's asset composition reflects a diversified yet strategically focused approach to treasury management: - Cash & cash equivalents: $58,000 ensuring immediate liquidity for operational needs - Digital assets: $2 million providing both value appreciation potential and ecosystem alignment - Loans to market markers: $6.7 million supporting liquidity provision for ResearchCoin while generating potential returns for the Foundation.
A.17	Financial condition since registration	N/A

Part B - Information about the issuer, if different from the offeror or person seeking admission to trading		
B.1	Issuer different from offeror or person seeking admission to trading	FALSE
B.2	Name	N/A
B.3	Legal form	N/A
B.4	Registered address	N/A
B.4	Head office	N/A
B.6	Registration date	N/A
B.7	Legal entity identifier	N/A
B.8	Another identifier required pursuant to applicable national law	N/A
B.9	Parent company	N/A
B.10	Members of the management body	N/A
B.11	Business activity	N/A
B.12	Parent company business activity	N/A

Part C- Information about the operator of the trading platform in cases where it draws up the crypto-asset white paper and information about other persons drawing the crypto-asset white paper pursuant to Article 6(1), second subparagraph, of Regulation (EU) 2023/1114		
C.1	Name	N/A
C.2	Legal form	N/A
C.3	Registered address	N/A
C.4	Head office	N/A
C.5	Registration date	N/A
C.6	Legal entity identifier	N/A
C.7	Another identifier required pursuant to applicable national law	N/A
C.8	Parent company	N/A
C.9	Reason for crypto-Asset white paper Preparation	N/A
C.10	Members of the Management body	N/A
C.11	Operator business activity	N/A
C.12	Parent company business activity	N/A
C.13	Other persons drawing up the crypto-asset white paper according to Article 6(1), second subparagraph, of Regulation (EU) 2023/1114	N/A
C.14	Reason for drawing the white paper by persons referred to in Article 6(1), second subparagraph, of Regulation (EU) 2023/1114	N/A

Part D- Information about the crypto-asset project		
D.1	Crypto-asset project name	ResearchHub
D.2	Crypto-asset name	ResearchCoin
D.3	Abbreviation	RSC
D.4	Crypto-asset project description	ResearchHub is an open science platform designed to accelerate the pace of scientific research by incentivising collaboration, peer review, and knowledge sharing. The platform allows researchers, funders, and the wider public to publish, critique, and financially support scientific work in an open-access environment. At the core of the ecosystem is ResearchCoin, a token whose utility is used to reward users for meaningful contributions such as submitting research proposals, peer reviewing manuscripts, and engaging in scientific discussion. ResearchCoin also enables users to fund research through bounties or grants and to participate in platform governance through voting. The project is jointly maintained by the ResearchHub Foundation and ResearchHub Technologies, Inc., and seeks to realign scientific incentives by replacing outdated publishing and funding structures with a transparent, community-driven model built on blockchain technology.
D.5	Details of all natural or legal persons involved in the implementation of the crypto-asset project	Brian Armstrong - Cofounder at ResearchHub Inc Patrick Joyce - Cofounder at ResearchHub Inc Jeffrey Koury - Director at ResearchHub Foundation Kobe Attias - Head Engineering at ResearchHub Inc GSR - Market Maker ResearchHub Inc - United States of America ResearchHub Foundation - Cayman's Foundation
D.6	Utility Token Classification	FALSE
D.7	Key Features of Goods/Services for Utility Token Projects	N/A
D.8	Plans for the token	August, 2020 - Token launch June 2023 - ResearchHub Inc raises $5M seed round May 2024 - ResearchHub's Peer Reviews break 100 reviews/week December 2024 - ResearchCoin listed on Gate February 2025 - $2M extension of funding by BoostVC April 2025 - ResearchHub v2 launch July 2025 - 1,000,000 RSC run through ResearchHub's funding feature August 2025 - Launch referral feature for ResearchHub September 2025 - Build out a full fledged API for ResearchHub December 2025 - $12M in RSC run through ResearchHub's funding feature
D.9	Resource allocation	Out of a total number of 1,000,000,000 tokens, 60% is marked to be distributed to the community and users of ResearchHub, with a maximum emission of 5% per year, with 20% being retained by ResearchHub Technologies, Inc, 10% retained by ResearchHub's founders and the remaining 10% being reserved for future ResearchHub employees and subject to vesting on an individual basis.
D.10	Planned use of Collected funds or crypto-Assets	Any funds or crypto-assets collected are planned for the following use cases. These include, market maker loans, payments to contributors primarily relating to R&D, operations and marketing, as well as other relevant services.

Part E - Information about the offer to the public of crypto-assets or their admission to trading		
E.1	Public offering or admission to trading	ATTR

E.2	Reasons for public offer or admission to trading	The ResearchHub Foundation seeks admission of the ResearchCoin to trading in order to enhance the usability and accessibility of the token within the ResearchHub ecosystem. Enabling market access facilitates broader distribution and liquidity of the ResearchCoin, supporting the protocol's incentive mechanisms such as bounties, tipping, and crowdfunding. Admission to trading is thus intended to strengthen community participation and engagement by allowing contributors to exchange the ResearchCoin more easily and transparently.
E.3	Fundraising target	N/A
E.4	Minimum subscription goals	N/A
E.5	Maximum subscription goals	N/A
E.6	Oversubscription acceptance	N/A
E.7	Oversubscription allocation	N/A
E.8	Issue price	N/A
E.9	Official currency or any other crypto-assets determining the issue price	N/A
E.10	Subscription fee	N/A
E.11	Offer price determination method	N/A
E.12	Total number of offered/traded crypto-assets	1,000,000,000
E.13	Targeted holders	ALL
E.14	Holder restrictions	N/A
E.15	Reimbursement notice	N/A
E.16	Refund mechanism	N/A
E.17	Refund timeline	N/A
E.18	Offer phases	N/A
E.19	Early purchase discount	N/A
E.20	Time-limited offer	N/A
E.21	Subscription period beginning	N/A
E.22	Subscription period end	N/A
E.23	Safeguarding arrangements for offered funds/crypto-Assets	N/A
E.24	Payment methods for crypto-asset purchase	N/A
E.25	Value transfer methods for reimbursement	N/A
E.26	Right of withdrawal	N/A
E.27	Transfer of purchased crypto-assets	N/A
E.28	Transfer time schedule	N/A
E.29	Purchaser's technical requirements	To purchase the token, individuals will have the option of using either a centralised or decentralised trading platform. For purchases via a centralised trading platform, users are generally required to create and verify an account, often subject to KYC/AML checks. Other considerations include the topping up of the account to be able to buy and sell tokens. In the case of a decentralised trading platform, users must have a non-custodial wallet (such as MetaMusk) configured for Ethereum-based tokens, along with sufficient ETH or supported tokens to cover both the token swap and related gas fees. In both scenarios, users should maintain a secure internet connection and observe best practices in safeguards private keys and wallet credentials.
E.30	Crypto-asset service provider (CASP) name	N/A
E.31	CASP identifier	N/A
E.32	Placement form	NTAV

E.33	Trading platforms name	A non-exhaustive list of trading platform for which admission to trading is being sought include: - Gate - Kraken - Coinbase - OKX - ByBit - KuCoin - Binance - UpBit - Crypto.com
E.34	Trading platforms Market identifier code (MIC)	N/A
E.35	Trading platforms access	In order to access the trading platforms to purchase or sell ResearchCoin, individuals must first register an account on the trading platform's of choice official website and complete the onboarding process. Prospective users typically undergo KYC procedures, providing personal identification documents, proof of address and relevant financial information to satisfy AML requirements. Only once approved can these users then gain access to the platforms trading functionalities and trade the ResearchCoin.
E.36	Involved costs	The costs associated with the trading of ResearchCoin on trading platforms, typically encompass multiple fee structures and ongoing expenses that vary based on variables such as the platform type and trading volume. In certain instances, users may also face other charges such as account setup fees, minimum deposit requirements, custody fees and withdrawal fees, among others. Users should also be aware that such costs are subject to change and subsequently, should review and understand the fee structure in place of their chosen trading platform prior to carrying out any transactions relating to ResearchCoin.
E.37	Offer expenses	N/A
E.38	Conflicts of interest	Given that Brian Armstrong (co-founder and CEO of Coinbase for which admission to trading is being sought) sits on the issuers management body while also serving as one of its co-founders this may create a perceived conflict of interest. However, it should be emphasised that all assets that get listed on Coinbase go through their Digital Asset Support Group (DASG). This group reviews every asset that gets listed on Coinbase from a legal, compliance and cybersecurity perspective. Given that Brian Armstrong does not sit as a member of DASG, he possesses no voting authority on which asset gets approved for listing, with his affiliation to ResearchHub being disclosed to the Coinbase board as is standard practice.
E.39	Applicable law	Laws of England and Wales
E.40	Competent court	Arbitration as per the rules of the International Chamber of Commerce

Part F - Information about the crypto-assets		
F.1	Crypto-asset type	ResearchCoin is classified as a "crypto-asset other than an asset-referenced token or e-money token" under Title II of the Markets in Crypto-Assets regulation (EU) 2013/1114, in accordance with the legal opinion prepared in conjunction with this whitepaper.

F.2	Crypto-asset functionality	ResearchCoin functions as both the value capture mechanism and governance token for the entire ResearchHub protocol. As a utility token, it serves specific functions within the platform that enable scientific collaboration and community participation, giving holders the opportunity to participate in governance, access specific features, and use tokens to support the work of other scientists and users. ResearchCoin powers all key economic activities on ResearchHub. All scientific crowdfunding on the platform is conducted in ResearchCoin, all bounties for peer review services are submitted in ResearchCoin, and all tips occurring on the platform are done in ResearchCoin. Additionally, ResearchCoin serves as the governance token of the protocol, allowing token holders to participate in platform governance decisions. Users can earn ResearchCoin through various scientific and community activities including submitting proposals to receive funding for research projects, commenting on and discussing scientific research papers, peer reviewing scientific papers and providing quality feedback, receiving tips from other users for valuable contributions, and developing open-source features that enhance the platform. This token model creates a circular economy where scientific work is directly rewarded with tokens that can be used to fund further research, incentivise peer review, and govern the platform's development.
F.3	Planned application of functionalities	The functionalities described in F.2 above are already live.
A description of the characteristics of the crypto-asset, including the data necessary for classification of the crypto-asset white paper in the register referred to in Article 109 of Regulation (EU) 2023/1114, as specified in accordance with paragraph 8 of that Article		
F.4	Type of crypto-asset white paper	OTHR
F.5	The type of submission	NEWT
F.6	Crypto-asset characteristics	ResearchCoin is a token whose utility is designed for use within the ResearchHub platform, a web-based scientifical collaboration and funding ecosystem. ResearchCoin is an ERC-20 token deployed on both Ethereum mainnet and the Base Layer 2 network to facilitate fast and lower-cost transactions. Therefore, it is fully transferable, fungible and can be used by participants to engage with platform features and services. The total architecture features a total supply of 1,000,000,000 RSC tokens, with an initial circulating supply of 7,500,000 RSC tokens. The community circulating supply follows a controlled emission schedule, increasing at a maximum rate of 50,000,000 RSC tokens per year.
F.7	Commercial name or trading name	Research Hub
F.8	Website of the issuer	https://docs.researchhub.com/
F.9	Starting date of offer to the public or admission to trading	2025-09-12
F.10	Publication date	2025-09-11
F.11	Any other services provided by the issuer	N/A
F.12	Language or languages of the crypto-asset white paper	English
F.13	Digital token identifier code used to uniquely identify the crypto-asset or each of the several crypto assets to which the white paper relates, where available	N/A

F.14	Functionally fungible group digital token identifier, where available	N/A
F.15	Voluntary data flag	FALSE
F.16	Personal data flag	TRUE
F.17	LEI eligibility	TRUE
F.18	Home Member State	Malta
F.19	Host Member States	Austria Belgium Bulgaria Croatia Cyprus Czechia Denmark Estonia Finland France Germany Greece Hungary Iceland Ireland Italy Latvia Liechtenstein Lithuania Luxembourg Netherlands Norway Poland Portugal Romania Slovakia Slovenia Spain Sweden

Part G - Information on the rights and obligations attached to the crypto-assets		
G.1	Purchaser rights and obligations	Purchasers of ResearchCoin are given the right to participate within the ResearchHub platform. Holders can use ResearchCoin to tip other users, create bounties for services like peer review, participate in crowdfund research, and vote on community decisions through Research Improvement Proposals (RIPs). There are no specific obligations tied to holding the token, however, users are to comply with the platform's terms of service and applicable laws when using the token.
G.2	Exercise of rights and obligations	Users exercise their rights by holding ResearchCoin in a compatibility wallet and interacting with the ResearchHub platform. Actions such as tipping, crowdfunding, creating bounties, submitting funding proposals, and voting on governance proposals are performed through the platform's interfaces and require a sufficient ResearchCoin balance. Such actions will be recorded on-chain in accordance with the smart contracts protocols ensuring both transparency and immutability.
G.3	Conditions for modifications of rights and obligations	Changes to the rights and users of ResearchCoin can occur through ResearchHub's governance process, whereby token holders may vote on Research Improvement Proposals (RIPs). Subsequently, approved proposals may alter how ResearchCoin is earned, used, or governed following community approval.
G.4	Future public offers	N/A
G.5	Issuer retained crypto-assets	10,000,000 RSC tokens per year for 12 years

G.6	Utility token classification	FALSE
G.7	Key features of goods/services of utility tokens	N/A
G.8	Utility tokens redemption	N/A
G.9	Non-trading request	TRUE
G.10	Crypto-assets purchase or sale modalities	N/A
G.11	Crypto-assets transfer restrictions	No specific transfer restrictions are set by the issuer relating to ResearchCoin. That being said, the trading platforms on which ResearchCoin is intended to be listed may enforce their own set of restrictions as to who may buy or sell the token, in accordance to their own set of internal policies as well as legal and regulatory requirements applicable in their respective jurisdiction.
G.12	Supply adjustment protocols	FALSE
G.13	Supply adjustment mechanisms	N/A
G.14	Token value protection schemes	FALSE
G.15	Token value protection schemes description	N/A
G.16	Compensation schemes	FALSE
G.17	Compensation schemes description	N/A
G.18	Applicable law	Laws of England and Wales
G.19	Competent court	Arbitration as per the rules of the International Chamber of Commerce

Part H – information on the underlying technology		
H.1	Distributed ledger technology (DTL)	ResearchCoin is deployed on both the Ethereum mainnet and the Base network, an Ethereum Layer 2 solution. Ethereum is a public blockchain that uses a Proof-of-Stake (PoS) consensus mechanism to validate and secure transactions in a decentralised manner. The Base network inherits Ethereum's security while offering enhanced scalability and lower transaction costs. All RSC-related transactions are recorded immutably on-chain, ensuring transparency and verifiability across both layers.
H.2	Protocols and technical standards	The Ethereum and Base networks support a range of open-source technical standards and protocols to enable secure and interoperable decentralised applications. ResearchCoin follows the ERC-20 standard, the most widely adopted specification for fungible tokens on Ethereum. This standard ensures consistent functionality and compatibility across wallets, exchanges, and smart contracts operating within the Ethereum ecosystem, including on Layer 2 networks like Base.
H.3	Technology used	ResearchCoin is implemented using the ERC-20 token standard on both Ethereum and the Base Layer 2 blockchain. This allows for seamless integration with decentralised applications and services built on Ethereum-compatible infrastructure.

H.4	Consensus mechanism	ResearchCoin is present on the following networks: Base and Ethereum. The following applies to Base: Base is a Layer-2 (L2) solution on Ethereum that was introduced by Coinbase and developed using Optimism's OP Stack. L2 transactions do not have their own consensus mechanism and are only validated by the execution clients. The so-called sequencer regularly bundles stacks of L2 transactions and publishes them on the L1 network, i.e. Ethereum. Ethereum's consensus mechanism (Proof-of-stake) thus indirectly secures all L2 transactions as soon as they are written to L1. The following applies to Ethereum: The crypto-asset's Proof-of-Stake (PoS) consensus mechanism, introduced with The Merge in 2022, replaces mining with validator staking. Validators must stake at least 32 ETH every block a validator is randomly chosen to propose the next block. Once proposed the other validators verify the blocks integrity. The network operates on a slot and epoch system, where a new block is proposed every 12 seconds, and finalization occurs after two epochs (~12.8 minutes) using Casper-FFG. The Beacon Chain coordinates validators, while the fork-choice rule (LMD-GHOST) ensures the chain follows the heaviest accumulated validator votes. Validators earn rewards for proposing and verifying blocks, but face slashing for malicious behaviour or inactivity. PoS aims to improve energy efficiency, security, and scalability, with future upgrades like Proto-Danksharding enhancing transaction efficiency.

H.5	Incentive mechanisms and applicable fees	ResearchCoin is present on the following networks: Base and Ethereum. The following applies to Base: Base is a Layer-2 (L2) solution on Ethereum that uses optimistic rollups provided by the OP Stack on which it was developed. Transaction on base are bundled by a, so called, sequencer and the result is regularly submitted as an Layer-1 (L1) transactions. This way many L2 transactions get combined into a single L1 transaction. This lowers the average transaction cost per transaction, because many L2 transactions together fund the transaction cost for the single L1 transaction. This creates incentives to use base rather than the L1, i.e. Ethereum, itself. To get crypto-assets in and out of base, a special smart contract on Ethereum is used. Since there is no consensus mechanism on L2 an additional mechanism ensures that only existing funds can be withdrawn from L2. When a user wants to withdraw funds, that user needs to submit a withdrawal request on L1. If this request remains unchallenged for a period of time the funds can be withdrawn. During this time period any other user can submit a fault proof, which will start a dispute resolution process. This process is designed with economic incentives for correct behaviour. The following applies to Ethereum: The crypto-asset's PoS system secures transactions through validator incentives and economic penalties. Validators stake at least 32 ETH and earn rewards for proposing blocks, attesting to valid ones, and participating in sync committees. Rewards are paid in newly issued ETH and transaction fees. Under EIP-1559, transaction fees consist of a base fee, which is burned to reduce supply, and an optional priority fee (tip) paid to validators. Validators face slashing if they act maliciously and incur penalties for inactivity. This system aims to increase security by aligning incentives while making the crypto-asset's fee structure more predictable and deflationary during high network activity.
H.6	Use of distributed ledger technology	FALSE
H.7	DLT functionality description	N/A
H.8	Audit	TRUE
H.9	Audit outcome	The audit of ResearchHub’s smart contracts, conducted by CredShields in February 2024 with a retest in April 2024, identified 13 total vulnerabilities, whereby none rated as Critical or High. Four were Medium severity, including issues with missing allowance checks and access control, two of which remain unresolved. The rest were Low severity, informational, or related to gas optimization; most of these were deemed low-risk and won’t be fixed to avoid unnecessary redeployment. The audit found the code to be structurally sound with no major security flaws. Remediations were implemented where appropriate. Overall, ResearchHub’s contracts were assessed to have a solid security posture with only minor issues remaining *https://github.com/Credshields/audit-reports/blob/master/ResearchHub_SmartContract_Final_Audit_Report.pdf

Part I – Information on risks

I.1	Offer-related risks	The ResearchHub Foundation does not have control over the risks relating to a token's admission to trading. Therefore, this non-exhaustive list of risks are not specific to the ResearchCoin, but rather are inherent to the broader crypto-asset market: Market volatility & price manipulations risks: Cryptocurrency markets are inherently volatile and token prices can experience dramatic fluctuations within short timeframes due to speculative trading, market sentiment shifts, or external factors unrelated to the underlying project fundamentals. Trading platforms may be susceptible to market manipulation, wash trading and coordinate efforts by large holders to influence price movements. Liquidity & market depth concerns: Newly admitted tokens often face liquidity challenges resulting in wide bid-ask spreads that can significantly impact trading efficiency and price discovery mechanisms. Insufficient trading volume may lead to high price slippage when executing larger orders, making it more difficult for large holders to enter or exit positions without substantial market impact. Regulatory & compliance uncertainties: The evolving regulatory landscape for trading creates ongoing compliance risks, as jurisdictions may implement new restrictions or licensing obligations that could affect token accessibility or trading status. Trading platforms face increasing regulatory scrutiny and may be required to delist tokens that do not meet evolving compliance standards.
I.2	Issuer-related risks	N/A - the issuer is the same as the person seeking the admission to trading

I.3	Crypto-assets-related risks	A non-exhaustive list of risks associated with ResearchCoin include: Platform dependency and utility value risks: ResearchCoin's value is intrinsically linked to the success and adoption of the ResearchHub platform, creating dependency risk where limited platform growth, reduced user engagement, or competitive displacement could substantially diminish token utility and demand. The token's primary use cases, namely, tipping, bounties, crowdfunding, and governance require active participation from the scientific research community, making token value vulnerable to changes in academic behaviour, research funding patterns, or shifts toward alternative collaboration platforms. Token emission and inflationary pressures: The ResearchCoin's tokenomics allow for maximum annual emissions of 50M tokens (5% of total supply), which could create sustained inflationary pressure on token value if emission rates consistently exceed organic demand growth from platform adoption. The community allocation of 60% of total supply (600M tokens) distributed over 12 years means continued token supply increases that may dilute existing holders' proportional ownership and voting power within the governance system. Governance concentration and decision-making risks: Token-based governance through Research Improvement Proposals (RIPs) creates risks of governance capture by large holders who could accumulate sufficient RSC to influence platform decisions in ways that benefit their interests over those of smaller stakeholders or the broader scientific community. Moreover, voter apathy or low participation rates in governance decisions could result in important platform changes being determined by a small subset of engaged token holders, potentially leading to decisions that do not reflect the broader community's interests.

I.4	Project implementation-related risks	A non-exhaustive list of risks associated with the project include: Academic community adoption challenges: ResearchHub faces the challenge of convincing researchers to transition from well-established academic publishing and funding systems to a blockchain-based platform, requiring significant behavioural change in a community that values traditional peer review processes and institutional validation. The scientific community's conservative approach to new technologies, combined with career advancement systems that prioritise publications in established journals with high impact factors, creates strong institutional inertia against platform adoption. Researchers may be reluctant to risk their academic standing by engaging with non-traditional publishing platforms, particularly when tenure decisions and funding opportunities remain tied to conventional academic metrics and institutional recognition. Competition from entrenched academic institutions: The project must in a sense compete against well-funded, established academic publishers, funding organisations, and research institutions that have decades-old relationships with researchers and significant resources to maintain their market position. Traditional academic publishers may respond to disruption by improving their own platforms, reducing costs, or implementing blockchain-adjacent features that diminish ResearchHub's competitive advantages without requiring researchers to fully transition to a new ecosystem. Critical mass & network effect requirements: The platform's success depends heavily on achieving sufficient users to create valuable network effects, where the utility of participation increases with the number of active researchers, funders, and reviewers on the platform. Without reaching critical mass, the platform may struggle to provide adequate peer review coverage, research visibility, or funding opportunities, creating a chicken-and-egg problem where low participation discourages further adoption. The scientific research community's fragmentation across numerous specialised fields means the platform must achieve critical mass within multiple distinct academic disciplines.

I.5	Technology-related risks	A non-exhaustive list of risks associated with the technology include: Blockchain infrastructure and network dependencies: Given ResearchCoins' deployment on Ethereum mainnet, this exposes the token to network congestion risks that can result in prohibitively high gas fees and slow transaction processing times, which may cause some concern given the platform's intended use cases of microtransactions like tipping and small bounties. Network upgrades, hard forks, or consensus mechanism changes on Ethereum could potentially affect token functionality, require updates to smart contracts, or create temporary service disruptions that impact user experience. The dependency on Ethereum's continued operation and security means that any fundamental issues with the underlying blockchain infrastructure could directly affect the tokens' functionality and the ResearchHub platform's core operations. Cross-chain complexity: The deployment of ResearchCoin on Base Layer 2 network introduces additional technical complexity and dependency risks, including potential bridge vulnerabilities when transferring tokens between Ethereum mainnet and Base that could result in token loss or temporary inaccessibility. Base network's relative novelty compared to Ethereum mainnet creates unknown risk factors related to network stability, security assumptions, and long-term viability that could affect token accessibility and functionality. Cross-chain operations require users to understand multiple wallet configurations, network switching procedures, and gas fee structures, creating usability barriers and potential for user error that could result in lost transactions or tokens. Private key security and user responsibility risks: Token holders bear full responsibility for private key security, where loss, theft, or compromise of wallet private keys results in permanent and irreversible loss of tokens with no recovery mechanism available through the platform or blockchain network. The technical complexity of cryptocurrency wallet management, including secure key storage, transaction signing, and network interaction, creates barriers to adoption and ongoing risks for users unfamiliar with blockchain technology. Phishing attacks, malware, and social engineering targeting cryptocurrency users create ongoing security risks that could result in unauthorised access to user wallets and token theft.

I.6	Mitigation measures	ResearchHub has implemented thorough security measures through a professional audit conducted by CredShields in February 2024 with a subsequent retest in April 2024, demonstrating commitment to identifying and addressing potential vulnerabilities before they can be exploited. The audit process identified 13 total vulnerabilities with no Critical or High severity issues found, indicating that the smart contract code is structurally sound and follows security best practices for token implementation and governance mechanisms. The systematic approach to addressing Medium and Low severity issues, while making informed decisions about which issues warrant remediation versus acceptable risk tolerance, demonstrates mature risk management practices. The strategic deployment of ResearchHub on Base Layer 2 network effectively addresses Ethereum mainnet's scalability limitations by providing users with faster transaction processing and significantly lower gas fees while maintaining security through Base's connection to Ethereum's consensus layer. This dual-network approach allows users to choose the most appropriate network for their specific use case, with mainnet providing maximum security for large transactions and governance activities, while Base enables cost-effective microtransactions for tipping and small bounties. The integration with established bridging solutions like Superbridge provides users with secure and reliable methods for transferring tokens between Ethereum mainnet and Base network, utilising proven cross-chain communication protocols that have been tested across multiple projects and network conditions. These bridging mechanisms undergo their own security audits and testing procedures, providing additional layers of verification and risk mitigation for cross-chain operations.

Part J – Information on the sustainability indicators in relation to adverse impact on the climate and other environment-related adverse impacts		
Mandatory information on principal adverse impacts on the climate and other environment-related adverse impacts of the consensus mechanism		
S.1	Name	ResearchHub Foundation
S.2	Relevant legal entity identifier	254900WIZ8J36T59S107
S.3	Name of the crypto-asset	ResearchCoin

S.4	Consensus mechanism	ResearchCoin is present on the following networks: Base and Ethereum. The following applies to Base: Base is a Layer-2 (L2) solution on Ethereum that was introduced by Coinbase and developed using Optimism's OP Stack. L2 transactions do not have their own consensus mechanism and are only validated by the execution clients. The so-called sequencer regularly bundles stacks of L2 transactions and publishes them on the L1 network, i.e. Ethereum. Ethereum's consensus mechanism (Proof-of-stake) thus indirectly secures all L2 transactions as soon as they are written to L1. The following applies to Ethereum: The crypto-asset's Proof-of-Stake (PoS) consensus mechanism, introduced with The Merge in 2022, replaces mining with validator staking. Validators must stake at least 32 ETH every block a validator is randomly chosen to propose the next block. Once proposed the other validators verify the blocks integrity. The network operates on a slot and epoch system, where a new block is proposed every 12 seconds, and finalization occurs after two epochs (~12.8 minutes) using Casper-FFG. The Beacon Chain coordinates validators, while the fork-choice rule (LMD-GHOST) ensures the chain follows the heaviest accumulated validator votes. Validators earn rewards for proposing and verifying blocks, but face slashing for malicious behaviour or inactivity. PoS aims to improve energy efficiency, security, and scalability, with future upgrades like Proto-Danksharding enhancing transaction efficiency.

S.5	Incentive mechanism and applicable fees	ResearchCoin is present on the following networks: Base and Ethereum. The following applies to Base: Base is a Layer-2 (L2) solution on Ethereum that uses optimistic rollups provided by the OP Stack on which it was developed. Transaction on base are bundled by a, so called, sequencer and the result is regularly submitted as an Layer-1 (L1) transactions. This way many L2 transactions get combined into a single L1 transaction. This lowers the average transaction cost per transaction, because many L2 transactions together fund the transaction cost for the single L1 transaction. This creates incentives to use base rather than the L1, i.e. Ethereum, itself. To get crypto-assets in and out of base, a special smart contract on Ethereum is used. Since there is no consensus mechanism on L2 an additional mechanism ensures that only existing funds can be withdrawn from L2. When a user wants to withdraw funds, that user needs to submit a withdrawal request on L1. If this request remains unchallenged for a period of time the funds can be withdrawn. During this time period any other user can submit a fault proof, which will start a dispute resolution process. This process is designed with economic incentives for correct behaviour. The following applies to Ethereum: The crypto-asset's PoS system secures transactions through validator incentives and economic penalties. Validators stake at least 32 ETH and earn rewards for proposing blocks, attesting to valid ones, and participating in sync committees. Rewards are paid in newly issued ETH and transaction fees. Under EIP-1559, transaction fees consist of a base fee, which is burned to reduce supply, and an optional priority fee (tip) paid to validators. Validators face slashing if they act maliciously and incur penalties for inactivity. This system aims to increase security by aligning incentives while making the crypto-asset's fee structure more predictable and deflationary during high network activity.
S.6	Beginning of the period to which the disclosure relates	2024-08-01
S.7	End of the period to which the disclosure relates	2025-08-01
Mandatory key indicator on energy consumption		
S.8	Energy consumption	313.28313 kWh/a
Sources and methodologies		
S.9	Energy consumption sources and methodologies	The energy consumption of this asset is aggregated across multiple components: To determine the energy consumption of a token, the energy consumption of the networks Base and Ethereum is calculated first. For the energy consumption of the token, a fraction of the energy consumption of the network is attributed to the token, which is determined based on the activity of the crypto-asset within the network. The information regarding the hardware used and the number of participants in the network is based on assumptions that are verified with best effort using empirical data. In general, participants are assumed to be largely economically rational. As a precautionary principle, we make assumptions on the conservative side when in doubt, i.e. making higher estimates for the adverse impacts.
Supplementary information on principal adverse impacts on the climate and other environment-related adverse impacts of the consensus mechanism		
S.10	Renewable energy consumption	26.5386870830 %
S.11	Energy intensity	0.00001 kWh

S.12	Scope 1 DLT GHG emissions – Controlled	0.00000 tCO2e/a
S.13	Scope 2 DLT GHG emissions – Purchased	0.10380 tCO2e/a
S.14	GHG intensity	0.00002 kgCO2e
Sources and methodologies		
S.15	Key energy sources and methodologies	To determine the proportion of renewable energy usage, the locations of the nodes are to be determined using public information sites, open-source crawlers and crawlers developed in-house. If no information is available on the geographic distribution of the nodes, reference networks are used which are comparable in terms of their incentivization structure and consensus mechanism. This geo-information is merged with public information from Our World in Data, see citation. The intensity is calculated as the marginal energy cost wrt. one more transaction. Ember (2025); Energy Institute - Statistical Review of World Energy (2024) - with major processing by Our World in Data. “Share of electricity generated by renewables - Ember and Energy Institute” [dataset]. Ember, “Yearly Electricity Data Europe”; Ember, “Yearly Electricity Data”; Energy Institute, “Statistical Review of World Energy” [original data]. Retrieved from https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/share-electricity-renewables.
S.16	Key GHG sources and methodologies	To determine the GHG Emissions, the locations of the nodes are to be determined using public information sites, open-source crawlers and crawlers developed in-house. If no information is available on the geographic distribution of the nodes, reference networks are used which are comparable in terms of their incentivization structure and consensus mechanism. This geo-information is merged with public information from Our World in Data, see citation. The intensity is calculated as the marginal emission wrt. one more transaction. Ember (2025); Energy Institute - Statistical Review of World Energy (2024) - with major processing by Our World in Data. “Carbon intensity of electricity generation - Ember and Energy Institute” [dataset]. Ember, “Yearly Electricity Data Europe”; Ember, “Yearly Electricity Data”; Energy Institute, “Statistical Review of World Energy” [original data]. Retrieved from https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/carbon-intensity-electricity Licenced under CC BY 4.0.