

Washington Technology Industry Association Now Officially Accepts Cryptocurrencies

Digital asset to serve as a new payment option for members, sponsors and partners

SEATTLE - May 26, 2020 - Washington Technology Industry Association (WTIA), a non-profit organization whose mission is to build a strong, sustainable technology sector and support a thriving Washington state community, today announced it now accepts cryptocurrencies as a payment option for membership, sponsorship and select partnerships.

Starting today, WTIA will accept many types of cryptocurrencies as a form of payment from its members. Cryptocurrencies enable safe and flexible transaction capabilities for businesses. The WTIA will join many global companies headquartered in the region that are already transacting with cryptocurrencies, like Microsoft, Expedia, Amazon's Twitch, and even law firm Perkins Coie.

"The world has undergone a remarkable digital transformation in less than two months in response to COVID-19," said Michael Schutzler, CEO, WTIA. "We need to be nimble and meet the needs of our members. Cryptocurrency reliably empowers businesses to transact instantly and securely at any time, from any place. This new policy will expand our reach globally and help build a stronger collective effort. This just made sense to do for the community, especially now."

WTIA continues to drive transformation around cryptocurrencies and aims to position Washington state as a national leader when it comes to the evolution of blockchain. In 2019, WTIA launched the Cascadia Blockchain Council, a collective of blockchain subject matter experts advocating for needed public policy and stakeholder education. The Cascadia Blockchain Council is now leading the charge after unanimous votes by both the Washington State House and Senate on establishing a Blockchain Working Group.

"The Cascadia Blockchain Council is dedicated to making our region a global hub for blockchain development. Encouraging innovation across the Pacific Northwest starts here at home," said Arry Yu, Chair, WTIA Cascadia Blockchain Council. "Accepting cryptocurrencies not only offers more flexibility when it comes to payments, but makes the many benefits of WTIA membership much more widely available."

About WTIA

The Washington Technology Industry Association (WTIA) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to build a strong, sustainable technology sector and support a thriving Washington state community. WTIA's transformative programs leverage the collective power of the technology industry for member companies and their employees as defined by four core priorities: cultivating new talent by operating the premier, nationally registered tech apprenticeship program; using group buying power to deliver high value, affordable financial services to member companies; creating forums for industry, education and government

collaboration; and advocating for public policies that support a strong tech sector and statewide economy. WTIA includes the 501c6 WTIA Member Trade Association, the 501c3 WTIA Workforce Institute, the 501c3 WTIA Collaboration Institute, the 501c9 WTIA Voluntary Employees' Beneficiaries Association, and the for-profit company WTIA HR Benefits, Inc. Apprenti™ is a program operated by the WTIA Workforce Institute. Ion™ is a program operated by the WTIA Collaboration Institute.