GLEIF vLEI Technical Advisory Board Charter

Public

I   Introduction

The Global Legal Entity Identifier Foundation (GLEIF) was established by the Financial Stability Board (FSB) as a not-for-profit organization to develop and maintain the Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) as a broad public good for the benefit of the users of the public and the private sector. Find more about governance structure on www.gleif.org.

GLEIF is subject to the oversight of the LEI Regulatory Oversight Committee (ROC), with about 60 public authorities from over 40 jurisdictions. The LEI ROC references the provisions in the GLEIF Statutes for its oversight duties.

GLEIF delivers, under open data terms of use, high quality and free-of-charge business card information about legal entities.

GLEIF sets out to establish vLEI Technical Advisory Board (TAB) with the overarching goal to help continuously improve the technical development governance. TAB will help GLEIF strengthen and streamline its relationship with the Open-Source community, support seamless adoption of vLEI's services and build out technical ecosystem, ensuring growing support of the enterprise and government technical stakeholders and developers.

GLEIF vLEI Technical Advisory Board Charter
Public. Author: GLEIF
2024-01-19_GLEIF-vLEI-Technical-Advisory-Board-Charter_v1.0_FINAL.docx

Page **2** of **8**
Version 1.0 FINAL
19 January 2024

II GLEIF vLEI Technical Advisory Board Objectives

To have an open platform that facilitates communication and research initiatives between GLEIF and a variety of individuals, including technology experts and consultants.

To make it possible for the GLEIF vLEI Technical Advisory Board members to express their views on GLEIF's existing vLEI services and infrastructure, or the developments of vLEI services and infrastructure and to stipulate the development of additional vLEI services.

To jointly promote the vLEI and related use cases, especially through participating in pilot projects.

To make it possible for GLEIF to understand the requirements of technical users of vLEI services.

To exchange information and to share views on existing or upcoming initiatives in the public or private sector.

To have an efficient means of communicating updates to the vLEI credential formats and other Global Legal Entity Identifier System (GLEIS) standards.

The vLEI Technical Advisory Board will agree a focused book of work in each meeting, which will determine the current work scope of the vLEI TAB. The items in the book of work will generally be taken from below general scope definition.

Acceptance & Adoption:

- Promote Interoperability: Advocate for the development and use of systems that are interoperable with vLEI services, to encourage widespread adoption.
  - **Support and facilitate technical interoperability** events (e.g. PlugFests) and development of test harnesses.
- Engage Stakeholders: Engage with key technical stakeholders, representing governments, businesses, and non-profit organizations, to understand their needs and promote the acceptance and adoption of vLEI services.
- Lower barriers to adoption: Support and facilitate clear technical explainers that ensure ease of onboarding and understanding of the underlying technical foundations (e.g., KERI, ACDCs, etc.).
- **Security Guidelines**: Support development of best practices for the use and adoption of the vLEI's infrastructure and application components that fully leverage security features of the vLEI's technology stack.
- **Collaboration & Partnerships:**
  - **Industry Collaboration**: Foster collaboration with other industry players to share best practices, learn from each other, and potentially develop joint initiatives.
  - **Partnerships**: Develop strategic partnerships that can help to enhance the reach, capabilities, or effectiveness of vLEI services.

Architecture:

- **Ensure Scalability**: Ensure that the architecture of vLEI services is scalable, to support the growth and expansion of the services' ecosystem.

GLEIF vLEI Technical Advisory Board Charter
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2024-01-19_GLEIF-vLEI-Technical-Advisory-Board-Charter_v1.0_FINAL.docx

Page **3** of **8**
Version 1.0 FINAL
19 January 2024

- **Foster Security:** Ensure that the architecture of vLEI services and underlying software components follow security best practices, and support independent security reviews and penetration tests.
- **Documented Architectural Decisions**: Promote and encourage open and structured dialog around Architectural decisions and the Roadmap for vLEI's services and their underlying technology stack. Ensure that these decisions are sufficiently documented and communicated to promote early feedback, contributions and learning.
- **Industry Standards**: Promote usage of the existing industry standards, where it makes sense, to simplify adoption for the enterprises and government organisations.

Standardisation:

- **Develop Standards**: Support development and promotion of technical standards for vLEI services, as well as it's underlying technologies, to ensure consistency and reliability.
- **Encourage Compliance**: Encourage compliance with these standards among users of vLEI services.
- **Alternative Implementations**: Promote development of alternative, interoperable implementations of vLEI's technical components (e.g. witnesses, agents, wallets, etc) to ensure acceptance and adoption, improve learning, enable further innovation.

Learning, Materials, Documentation:

- **Maintain Documentation**: Encourage and promote comprehensive and up-to-date, sufficiently detailed, technical documentation of vLEI services, to support users and developers.

SW Development Governance, Compatibility, Versioning, etc., Developer Relationships & Community (KERI vs GLEIF):

- **Establish Governance Structures**: Establish clear governance structures for the development of vLEI services, to ensure accountability and transparency.
- **Foster Developer Relationships**: Foster strong relationships with developers, to encourage their involvement in the development and improvement of vLEI services.
- **Improve Communication**: Improve communication about vLEI services, to ensure that users and developers are kept informed about updates and changes.
- **Enforce Secure SW Development:** Mandate secure software development principles to be followed for implementation of underlying software components for vLEI services.
- **vLEI priorities and KERI/ACDC**: Help to drive clear communications around common goals and differences between vLEI's implementation and its underlying technology stack. Ensure that design decisions and priorities for the vLEI's technical components vs generic KERI/ACDC design ideas and goals (e.g the KERI Whitepaper, ToIP ACDC work, etc) are well understood.

GLEIF vLEI Technical Advisory Board Charter
Public. Author: GLEIF
2024-01-19_GLEIF-vLEI-Technical-Advisory-Board-Charter_v1.0_FINAL.docx

Page **4** of **8**
Version 1.0 FINAL
19 January 2024

Research & Development:

- **Innovation**: Encourage and facilitate the development of innovative applications and use cases for vLEI services.
- **Research Partnerships**: Promote partnerships with academic and research institutions to study the impact and potential of vLEI services.

Transparency & Accountability:

- **Transparency**: Ensure transparency in the board's decision-making processes and the development and operation of vLEI services.
- **Accountability**: Establish clear lines of accountability within the board and among those involved in the development and operation of vLEI services.

III GLEIF vLEI Technical Advisory Board

The GLEIF vLEI Technical Advisory Board is composed of representatives of different organizations with a technical background, such as consulting firms, solution providers in the information security space, or sole proprietors with respective backgrounds who use, or plan to use, the vLEI services or participate in the provision of the vLEI infrastructure.

The initial GLEIF vLEI Technical Advisory Board will have representatives of various organizations. GLEIF is represented the Head of IT Development and Operations and the vLEI Architect.

A member can leave the GLEIF vLEI Technical Advisory Board by simple notice to the chair.

GLEIF, the members and their representatives have no intention to start a business cooperation of any kind by participating in the GLEIF vLEI Technical Advisory Board.

Participating in the GLEIF vLEI Technical Advisory Board doesn't prevent any member to start a business relationship with another current or future member or GLEIF.

IV Anti-Trust Statement

Participation in the GLEIF vLEI Technical Advisory Board brings companies together that compete with each other. The competition is both horizontal and vertical. It is the GLEIF's Policy that all of its actions are carried out in full compliance with applicable anti-trust legislation.

Accordingly, it is necessary to avoid discussions of sensitive competitive topics and especially important to avoid recommendations with respect to such subjects. Agreements e.g. to fix prices or fees or to allocate markets are automatically illegal under the anti-trust laws. It does not matter what the reason for the agreement might be.

An anti-trust violation does not require proof of a formal agreement. A discussion of a sensitive topic such as fees, followed by parallel action by those involved in or present at the discussion is enough to show a price fixing conspiracy.

GLEIF vLEI Technical Advisory Board Charter
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2024-01-19_GLEIF-vLEI-Technical-Advisory-Board-Charter_v1.0_FINAL.docx

Page **5** of **8**
Version 1.0 FINAL
19 January 2024

Violations of the anti-trust laws can result in injunctions, treble damage judgments, heavy fines, and even imprisonment.

Therefore, GLEIF and participants of the GLEIF vLEI Technical Advisory Board must always remember the purpose of the Relationship Group is to support the implementation and use of the LEI. However, because GLEIF's activity almost always involves the cooperation of competitors, great care must be taken to assure compliance with the anti-trust laws. This means:

Participation must be voluntary, and failure to participate shall not be used to penalize any company.

There shall be no discussion of prices, allocation of customers, boycotts, refusals to deal, or market share.

If any participant believes the group is drifting toward impermissible discussion, the topic shall be tabled until the opinion of the chair can be obtained.

Meetings shall be governed by an agenda prepared in advance, and recorded by minutes prepared promptly after the meeting. Agendas, where appropriate, and minutes are to be reviewed by the chair before they are circulated.

Tests or data collection shall be governed by protocols developed in consultation with and monitored by the chair.

The recommendations coming out of the GLEIF vLEI Technical Advisory Board are just that. Individual companies remain free to make independent, competitive decisions.

Any standards developed must (i) be set on a non-discriminatory basis and (ii) have to be objectively necessary to foster the adoption of the LEI.

GLEIF vLEI Technical Advisory Board Charter
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Page **6** of **8**
Version 1.0 FINAL
19 January 2024

V Meetings

The meetings of the GLEIF vLEI Technical Advisory Board may take place by conference call or by an in-person meeting. An in-person meeting will take place at least once a year at a place and a day where already other meetings are planned so as to avoid travel costs for the members of the GLEIF vLEI Technical Advisory Board. Members of the GLEIF vLEI Technical Advisory Board may choose to participate in project initiatives and workshops made available by GLEIF.

The GLEIF vLEI Technical Advisory Board is chaired by the GLEIF Head of IT Development and Operations. The chair will serve the GLEIF vLEI Technical Advisory Board for the first period of two years.

GLEIF will support the chair with secretarial services.

Every member can make suggestions for agenda items in writing to the chair. The chair decides on the agenda of the meetings.

Each meeting will be minuted. The minutes are shared with the members of the GLEIF vLEI Technical Advisory Board, the LEI ROC and the GLEIF's Board of Directors. They will not be published on GLEIF's website.

VI Communication

GLEIF has the duty to be transparent (Article 6 of the GLEIF Statutes).

Any press or social media work of the GLEIF vLEI Technical Advisory Board or of members or GLEIF in relation to the GLEIF vLEI Technical Advisory Board must be explicitly agreed by the members of the GLEIF vLEI Technical Advisory Board.

The members of the GLEIF vLEI Technical Advisory Board agree to share their email addresses with each other. GLEIF may setup and manage a mailing list accordingly.

VII Costs

Every member of the GLEIF vLEI Technical Advisory Board will bear its own costs.

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Page **7** of **8**
Version 1.0 FINAL
19 January 2024

VIII Appendix

A1 - Introduction to vLEI Technology Stack

GLEIF has made the decision to use innovative KERI/ACDC technology stack to implement its vLEI services, which enabled it to offer a very flexible, secure and scalable infrastructure globally. Official Organizational Roles and ability to delegate authority within the onboarded organizations, leveraging strong, scalable vLEI issuers ecosystem drive strong interest from a variety of industries and promote globally meaningful innovation. Strong interest and initial adoption are seen not only in Financial Services Industry, but also in Logistics and Global Trade, Telecommunications, as well as in the other industries.

Following the initial launch of the vLEI ecosystem at the end of 2022, GLEIF has experienced and increasing interest in understanding, using and contributing to the technical implementation. Many experts and organization reached out to understand how to adopt the vLEI's capabilities and integrate with the existing application and services.

The roots of the underlying technology stack, KERI (Key Event Receipt Infrastructure) and ACDCs (Authentic Chained Data Containers), lie with the open-source community: initially Decentralized Identity Foundation (DIF) and are maintained and driven through Trust over IP (ToIP) Foundation.

Based on the interactions and feedback, it became clear that further professionalization of the technology development is needed, which will help to foster and accelerate stronger, faster adoption of vLEI's services.

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Page **8** of **8**
Version 1.0 FINAL
19 January 2024