

## Press Release

### GLEIF and Companies House Link Up to Boost Identifiability and Discoverability of UK Businesses Globally

**14 January 2025 – Basel** – [The Global Legal Entity Identifier Foundation](#) (GLEIF) today announces a new initiative with the UK business registry, Companies House, to simplify and accelerate the international identifiability and discoverability of UK businesses.

By embedding a direct URL link into the Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) records of UK companies, any LEI data user globally can now access that entity's Companies House registration data and documentation with a single click, streamlining counterparty due diligence processes and bringing increased transparency to global transactions.

The initiative facilitates Know Your Customer (KYC), Know Your Supplier (KYS) checks and other due diligence obligations for any organization seeking to do business with a LEI-holding limited company registered in the UK. It removes the requirement for global data users to confirm Companies House as the relevant registration authority, identify and navigate to the correct website, translate into local language, and then manually search for an organization using its business registration number. As a result, UK businesses stand to benefit from increased discoverability and identifiability globally. This is particularly beneficial for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) looking to expand into new markets.

Every LEI links to a verified company identity record held in the Global LEI Index, an open, globally recognized data bank that is free for all to access. Each LEI record contains key reference information registered by local authoritative sources to enable the clear and unique identification of legal entities globally. The 'linking' initiative enables easy and direct access to each entity's official registration data and associated documentation on the Companies House website.

Alexandre Kech, CEO, GLEIF, comments: "GLEIF and Companies House are on a mission to drive corporate transparency, bringing significant benefits to global marketplaces engaging with the UK. Enabling LEI data users to click through to the registration data and official documentation will make the 'business of doing business' with UK firms faster and easier to navigate. By connecting directly to the official data about these organizations we're simplifying due diligence for counterparties all around the world. This initiative reaffirms the benefits of leveraging the LEI as a central data connector to all business registries, everywhere."

Louise Smyth, Chief Executive, Companies House, comments: "Thanks to our collaboration with GLEIF, LEI data users can now directly access a wide range of business data held at Companies House simply and securely, enabling a new level of transparency

for UK firms. This creates new efficiencies in overseas partner due diligence processes and will help highlight new opportunities for UK companies to use their LEI when operating across borders and jurisdictions.”

The launch of the GLEIF and Companies House linking initiative follows a similar GLEIF collaboration with The Netherlands Chamber of Commerce (KVK), announced in December 2024, which provided LEI data users with direct access to official business registry data on the KVK website.

GLEIF is now seeking to engage additional business registries around the world with the aim of leveraging the LEI as a central data connector to further enhance global corporate transparency and advance the fight against economic crime. Business registries interested in exploring these opportunities can access further information on the GLEIF website [here](#).

– ENDS –

Full resolution images and logos can be downloaded via this link

<https://www.gleif.org/en/newsroom/gleif-graphics-images>

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#### Relevant link

[www.gleif.org](http://www.gleif.org)

#### Glossary of terms

##### Legal Entity Identifier (LEI)

The Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) is a 20-character, alpha-numeric code based on the ISO 17442 standard developed by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). The LEI connects to key reference information that enables clear and unique identification of legal entities participating in financial transactions. Each LEI contains information about an entity’s ownership structure, answering the questions of ‘who is who’ and ‘who owns whom’. It provides a universally recognized identifier paired with essential entity data, rigorous verification processes and high data quality.

##### Verifiable LEI (vLEI)

The vLEI concept is simple: It is the cryptographic secure digital counterpart of a conventional LEI. In other words, it is a digitally trustworthy version of the 20-digit LEI

code which is automatically verified, without the need for human intervention. It gives government organizations, companies, and other legal entities worldwide the capacity to use non-repudiable identification data pertaining to their legal status, ownership structure and authorized representatives in any kind of digital interaction, transaction, or e-signature scenario.

### **About the Global Legal Entity Identifier Foundation (GLEIF)**

Established by the Financial Stability Board in June 2014, the Global Legal Entity Identifier Foundation (GLEIF) is a not-for-profit organization created to support the implementation and use of the Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) and its digital counterpart the verifiable LEI (vLEI). GLEIF is headquartered in Basel, Switzerland.

GLEIF's mission is to manage a network of global partners to provide trusted services and open, reliable data for unique legal entity identification worldwide. GLEIF makes available the technical infrastructure to provide, via an open data license, online access to the full global LEI database free of charge to users. GLEIF is overseen by the Regulatory Oversight Committee, which is made up of representatives of public authorities from across the globe.

Diversity and inclusion underpin GLEIF's values. This is reflected in its workforce of approximately 60 staff from over 20 nations, its operational excellence, and its commitment to open, global participation in the Global LEI System.

For more information, visit the GLEIF website at <https://www.gleif.org/en>.

#### **Source:**

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