The Blockchain Times

Kusama News - October 2021

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Experimental Network Sees Rapid Growth and Innovation in October

Special Correspondent

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Parachain Auctions Drive Ecosystem Growth

Blockchain Report

The most notable events for Kusama in October centered around the ongoing parachain slot auctions. Following the successful completion of the first batch of five auctions earlier in the year, Kusama kicked off its second batch of auctions in September, continuing through October.

On October 13th, KILT Protocol's Spiritnet won the 10th parachain slot auction with a bid of 220,755 KSM tokens. This was followed by an unexpected 11th auction, added by the Kusama council in response to community discussions. Kintsugi, a Bitcoin-backed stablecoin project, secured this final slot of the second batch on October 20th with a bid of 199,999 KSM.

The auctions highlighted the flexibility of Kusama's on-chain governance, with the council able to quickly add the 11th auction in response to network stability assessments. It also demonstrated the continued enthusiasm from projects and the Kusama community, with millions of KSM tokens locked up to support bids.

Dan Reecer, Chief Growth Officer at Acala Network, commented on the auctions: "The Kusama parachain auctions have been a resounding success so far. We're seeing incredible innovation and diverse projects entering the ecosystem, which bodes well for Kusama's future as a hub of experimentation."

Technical Developments and Governance

Blockchain Policy Correspondent

Beyond the high-profile auctions, October saw continued refinement of Kusama's core technology. The network processed over 1 million blocks during the month, maintaining an average block time of 6 seconds. This demonstrated the stability and performance of Kusama even as it onboarded new parachains and increased in complexity.

On the governance front, several noteworthy proposals were discussed and implemented. One key proposal focused on adjusting the parameters for parachain lease periods, aiming to optimize the balance between network security and parachain flexibility.

Another significant governance action was the approval of runtime upgrade v9110, which included various technical improvements and bug fixes. This upgrade was successfully deployed on October 18th, showcasing Kusama's ability to rapidly iterate and improve its core protocol.

Project Launches and Ecosystem Expansion

Blockchain Report

October was a busy month for project activity on Kusama. Karura, the DeFi hub of Kusama, launched several new features including a cross-chain asset bridge with Ethereum. This allowed users to transfer assets between Kusama and Ethereum for the first time, marking a major step in cross-chain interoperability.

Moonriver, the Kusama deployment of the Moonbeam smart contract platform, saw rapid growth in its developer ecosystem. By the end of October, over 100 projects were building on Moonriver, ranging from DeFi protocols to NFT marketplaces.

Shiden Network, the sister network of Plasm on Kusama, made strides in layer-2 scaling technology. The project launched its first zkRollup testnet, paving the way for improved scalability and lower transaction costs on Kusama.

Looking Forward

Editorial Team

As the blockchain industry continues to evolve rapidly, Kusama's position as a cutting-edge testbed for new technologies and governance models ensures its relevance in shaping the future of decentralized networks. The developments of October 2021 have only reinforced Kusama's importance in the broader blockchain landscape.

> *"Kusama continues to serve as the innovation hub for the Polkadot ecosystem, embracing chaos to drive blockchain evolution forward."*
>
> — Blockchain Observer