

The Blockchain Times

“All the Crypto News That’s Fit to Print”

Kusama News - November 2019

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In its second month of operation, the Kusama network is quickly establishing itself as a vibrant testbed for Polkadot's ambitious vision of a scalable, interoperable blockchain ecosystem. Launched in August 2019 by Polkadot founder Gavin Wood, Kusama serves as a "canary network" - an experimental environment where developers can test features and applications before deploying them on Polkadot's main network.

Experimental Blockchain Sees Rapid Development and Growing Community Interest

Technology Reporter

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Governance and Technical Milestones

Blockchain Policy Correspondent

November saw Kusama hit several important technical and governance milestones as the network matures. On November 4th, the first successful validator set rotation took place, marking a key step in Kusama's transition to a fully decentralized proof-of-stake network. This followed the activation of staking and nominating functionality in late October.

The Kusama Council, the network's on-chain governance body, also saw increased activity in November. Several governance proposals were submitted and voted on by KSM token holders, including adjustments to validator rewards and updates to runtime modules. This real-world testing of Polkadot's governance mechanisms is providing valuable data on how decentralized de-

cision-making can function at scale.

Technically, the Kusama team pushed out several upgrades to the network's runtime, improving performance and expanding functionality. Notable additions included updates to the democracy module and refinements to the nomination and validation processes.

Parachain Development Gains Steam

Blockchain Report

A major focus for Kusama in November was preparing for the launch of parachains - the specialized blockchains that will connect to Kusama's main relay chain. Several teams began testing early versions of their parachains on Kusama's "Rococo" testnet, laying the groundwork for future parachain slot auctions.

Acala Network, a DeFi protocol, announced plans to deploy a parachain on Kusama called "Karura" as a precursor to their Polkadot launch. Other projects like Moonbeam and Plasm Network also signaled intentions to leverage Kusama for parachain testing.

Web3 Foundation's David Hawig commented on the parachain developments: "The level of interest we're seeing from teams wanting to build on Kusama is extremely encouraging. It validates our belief that there's a real need for this kind of 'chaotic' testnet environment."

Community Growth and Ecosystem Expansion

Blockchain Report

November saw rapid growth in Kusama's validator set and overall community engagement. The number of active validators surpassed 130, with hundreds more in the waiting queue. This robust validator ecosystem is crucial for the network's security and decentralization.

On the community front, several Kusama-focused discussion groups and social channels sprung up,

fostering collaboration between developers, validators, and token holders. The official Kusama Discord server saw its membership double over the course of the month.

Kusama's native KSM token also gained increased attention from traders and investors. While still highly volatile, KSM saw growing liquidity across several exchanges, with 24-hour trading volumes regularly exceeding \$1 million by month's end.

Looking Forward

Editorial Team

As 2019 draws to a close, Kusama stands as a testament to the potential of "controlled chaos" in blockchain development. By embracing unpredictability and rapid iteration, this experimental network is paving the way for a more robust, interoperable blockchain future.

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

— Blockchain Observer