

# The Blockchain Times

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

## Kusama News - December 2021

KUSAMA NEWS - JANUARY 2023

As 2021 drew to a close, the Kusama network capped off a transformative year with continued parachain auctions, ecosystem expansion, and technical developments. Known as Polkadot's "canary network", Kusama served as a proving ground for new features and projects throughout the year, living up to its reputation as an experimental blockchain environment.

### Experimental Network Sees Continued Development as Polkadot's Canary Chain

Technology Reporter

As 2021 drew to a close, the Kusama network capped off a transformative year with continued parachain auctions, ecosystem expansion, and technical developments. Known as Polkadot's "canary network", Kusama served as a proving ground for new features and projects throughout the year, living up to its reputation as an experimental blockchain environment.

### Parachain Auctions Drive Ecosystem Growth

Blockchain Report

The most significant development for Kusama in December was the ongoing series of parachain slot auctions. These auctions determine which projects can secure a coveted parachain slot, allowing them to launch their own custom blockchain connected to the Kusama relay chain.

In early December, the sixth parachain auction concluded with KILT Protocol emerging victorious. KILT, a blockchain identity protocol, secured the slot with over 220,000 KSM tokens contributed to its crowdloan campaign. This marked another major milestone in Kusama's rollout of parachains, which began earlier in 2021.

Following KILT's win, additional auctions continued throughout the month. Projects like Subsocial, a decentralized social network, and Picasso, from the Composable Finance team, competed for slots as the Kusama community closely watched

the results. These auctions highlighted the diverse range of projects seeking to build on Kusama's interoperable, multi-chain architecture.

Industry observers noted that the successful parachain auctions demonstrated growing developer interest in leveraging Kusama's experimental environment. "The parachain auctions prove that Kusama can leverage Polkadot's wide user base and global reach," said Anndy Lian, chairman of BigONE Exchange.

### Technical Developments and Network Upgrades

Technology Reporter

Beyond the high-profile auctions, Kusama continued to see technical improvements and upgrades in December. As Polkadot's canary network, Kusama often receives new features and optimizations before they are deployed on the main Polkadot chain.

One key focus was on enhancing Kusama's governance and staking systems. The network's on-chain governance allowed KSM token holders to vote on various proposals throughout the month, ranging from treasury spending to technical parameter adjustments. This real-world testing of decentralized governance mechanisms provided valuable insights for the broader Polkadot ecosystem.

Additionally, developers worked on optimizing Kusama's nominated proof-of-stake consensus mechanism. These efforts aimed to improve network security, decentralization, and efficiency as the number of validators and nominators continued to grow.

### Market Performance and Trading Analysis

Market Analysis

From a market perspective, December saw KSM, Kusama's native token, experience notable volatility amid broader crypto market turbulence.

After reaching all-time highs earlier in 2021, with prices surpassing \$600 in May, KSM traded in a range between \$200-\$400 for much of December.

Trading volumes remained robust, with increased activity around parachain auctions as participants acquired KSM to contribute to crowdloans. Some analysts pointed to these auctions as a bullish catalyst, with tokens being locked up for extended periods to support projects.

However, KSM was not immune to wider market pressures, seeing drawdowns during broader crypto selloffs. Despite this, many long-term holders remained optimistic about Kusama's fundamental value proposition as a key component of the Polkadot ecosystem.

### Looking Forward

Editorial Team

As 2022 unfolds, all eyes will be on Kusama to see what new developments and breakthroughs emerge from this dynamic and fast-moving blockchain experiment.

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

— Blockchain Observer