

# Syndicated loans on blockchain

Tokenizing syndicated loans on an ethereum blockchain

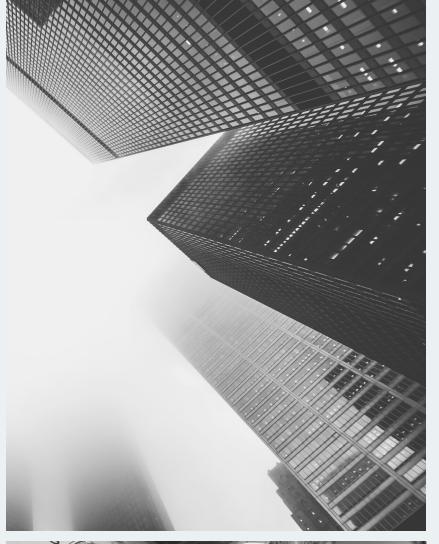
Philip Waddilove

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02 **Definition** Market size Market structure Market summary Syndicate roles Contract specification Smart contract design Advantages Challenges Work in progress Contact

Loan Syndication is the process of distributing a portion of a loan to a group of lenders when a borrower requires an amount too large or otherwise outside the risk appetite of a single lender

Philip Waddilove • March 2021





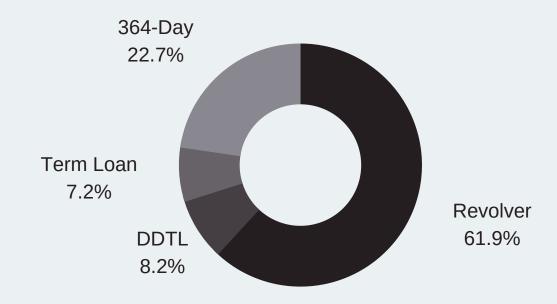
# \$3,250B

VOLUME OF LOANS
SYNDICATED
GLOBALLY IN 2020,
ACCORDING TO
REFINITIV LPC

# \$10-15B

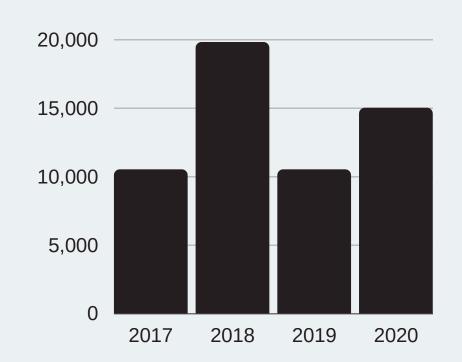
ESTIMATE OF FEES
PAID TO
ARRANGERS,
UNDERWRITERS,
PARTICIPANTS IN
THE SYNDICATION
PROCESS, PER
ANNUM

# MARKET STRUCTURE



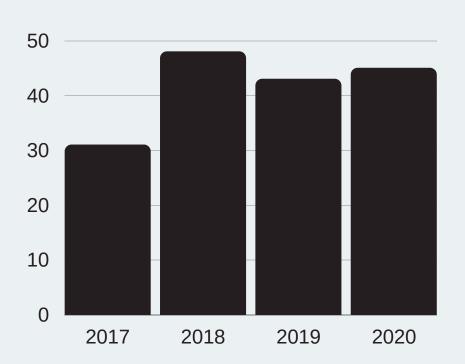
## **LOAN TYPE**

as % total volume (IG)
recorded by Refinitiv
(excludes bridge facilities)



DEAL SIZE (\$M)

Largest IG deal size recorded by year



BANK GROUP SIZE

Largest syndication recorded by year

## **364-DAY AND REVOLVERS**

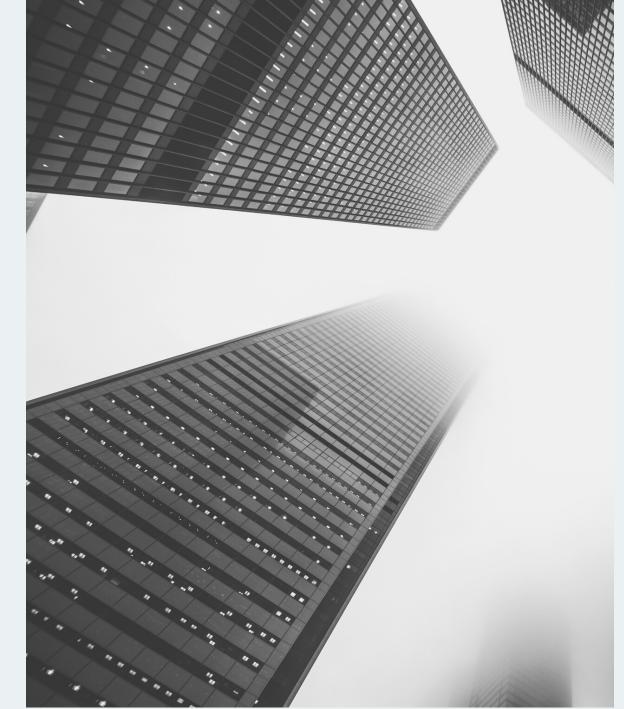
Account for 83% of the IG loan volume syndicated in North America over last 5yrs

# LARGE DEAL ~\$15BN

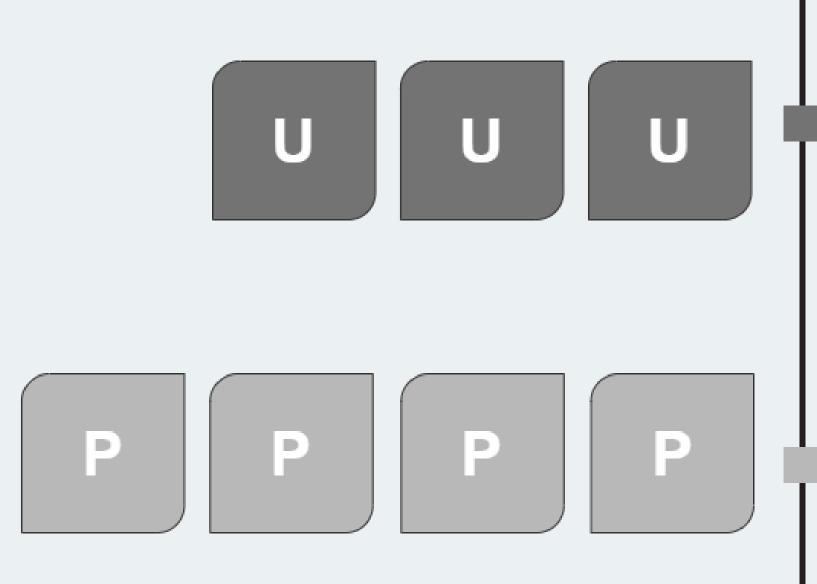
May be made up of multiple tranches

# LARGE SYNDICATE ~40 BANKS

Multi-billion dollar loans require large bank groups







#### BORROWER

Looking to borrow a large amount of money that a single bank may find difficult to fund owing to volume, concentration and counterparty risk considerations

## ARRANGER/UNDERWRITER

Performs borrower and market diligence; offers to underwrite a pricing structure believed to be market clearing; large balance sheet can absorb an undersubscribed loan ('failed syndication')

### SYNDICATE PARTICIPANTS

Purchase tranches of the loan which mitigates the risk but still gives them exposure

# ARRANGING AND UNDERWRITING

 Borrower contacts potential arrangers or underwriters

 Arrangers or underwriters outline market clearing terms, and percentage of loan they could underwrite

Best terms win

SMART CONTRACT: AUCTION

- DUTCH AUCTION (I.E. LOWEST RATE WINS)
- WINNER WINS THE RIGHT TO 'MINT' AND SELL TOKENS REPRESENTING THE LOAN
- LOAN DOCUMENT IS LINKED VIA
   HASH TO TOKENS

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### SYNDICATION

- Arrangers or underwriters identify participants
- Launch syndication process
- Co-ordinate credit approvals, legal drafting and signing accross bank group
- May result in scale-back or upsizing

# SMART CONTRACT: CROWDSALE

• CROWDSALE OF FUNGIBLE TOKEN

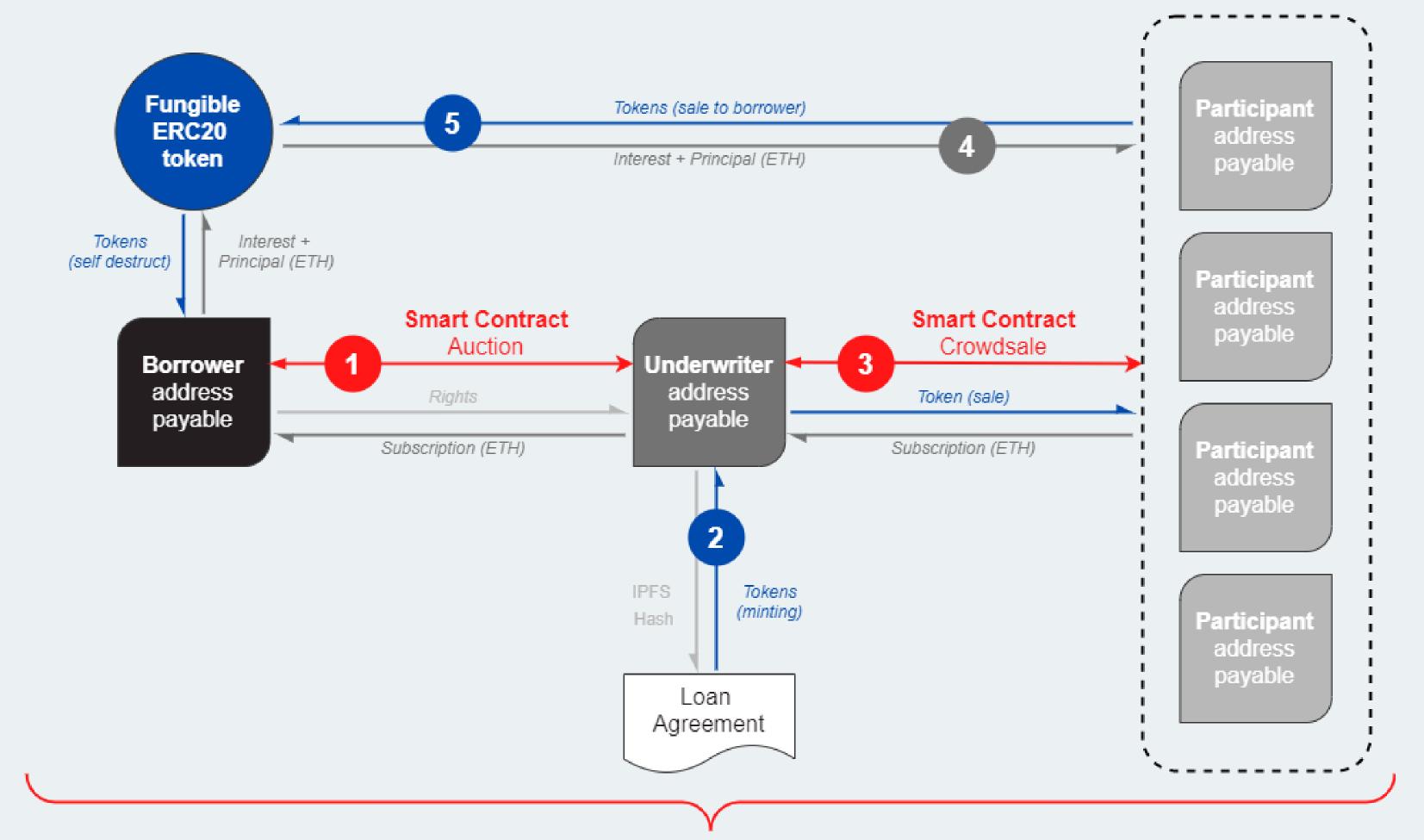
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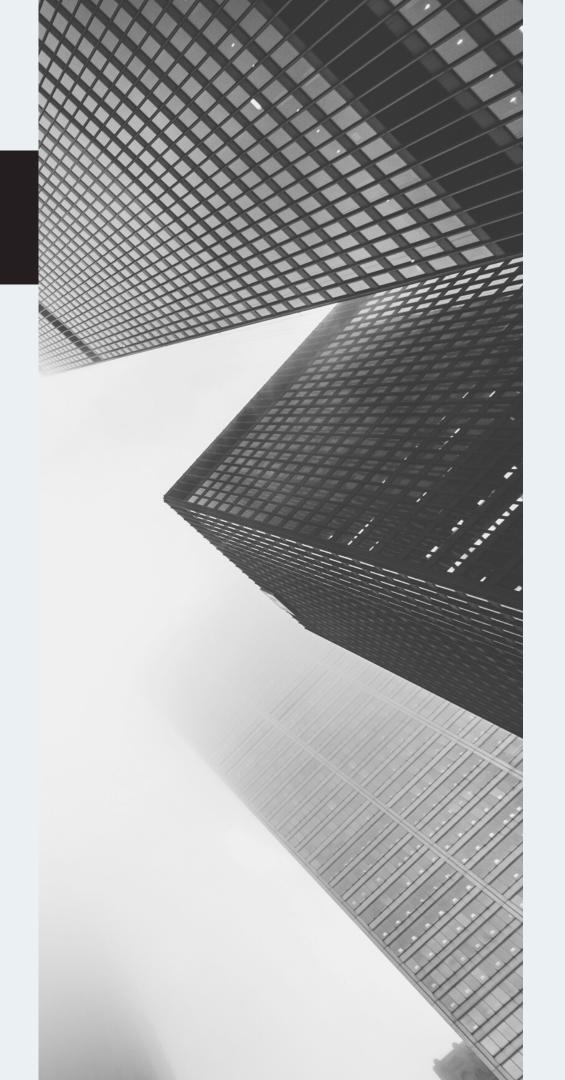
- TOKEN HOLDERS BOUND BY TERMS OF LOAN
- RECORD OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SALES IN DISTRIBUTED LEDGER
- PAYMENT OF INTEREST AND PRINCIPAL

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# ADVANTAGES

### **TRANSPARENT**

For potential borrowers, underwriters and participants

## AUTOMATED

Administering, coordinating and closing the underwriting, syndication and settlement process

# LIQUID

Tokenization of the loan via ERC20 or ERC721 standard should allow for secondary trading and settlement

# AUDITABLE

Auction, crowdsale and secondary market transactions in tokens are verified by blockchain participants, and recorded on a distributed ledger

# Challenges

## LOAN TYPES

Needs to support several syndication and product types (e.g. underwrite, best efforts, or club on term loan, revolving or bridge facilities)

## PERIODICITY

No native periodic payment automation or termination i.e. functions only be executed when something/someone calls them

## NON-INTEGERS

Solidity does not support float (i.e. non integer values) or fractions

## STABLECOIN

Exposure to USDETH or EURETH exchange rate risk

BUILD-BUT

LOAN TYPES

Needs to support several syndication and product types (e.g. underwrite, best efforts, or club on term loan, revolving or bridge facilities)

PERIODICITY SOLUTION?

No native periodic payment automation or termination i.e. functions only be executed when something/someone calls them

NON-INTEGERS

Solidity does not support float (i.e. non integer values) or fractions

STABLECTIN PEGGED DIGIT

BP5

Exposure to USDETH or EURETH exchange rate risk

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March 2021

# CONTACT



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