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By Aaron Wood

FEB 15, 2019

Chinese Crypto Miner Predicts That Bitcoin Could Reach \$740K

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NEWS

Zhu Fa, co-founder of Poolin, a [Chinese](#)-based crypto mining pool, predicted that the Bitcoin (BTC) price could hit 5 million Chinese yuan (\$738,000 (USD), crypto news outlet 8BTC [reported](#) on Feb.11.

While Zhu noted that “it now feels more like a bear market,” he reportedly predicted that in the next bull run, prices will be 10-20 times higher than previous ones. Zhu also noted that massive prices spikes like the one that resulted in the [\\$20,000](#) per BTC high in 2017, will not always exist, adding that the next bull run could be the last.

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Predictions from experts in various aspects of the crypto space have ranged from bullish to extremely bearish.

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Earlier this week, Barry Silbert, CEO and founder of [Digital Currency Group](#) and Grayscale Investments, [said](#) that the value of most digital tokens “will go to zero.” He added that, “Almost every [initial coin offering] [ICO](#) was just an attempt to raise money but there was no use for the underlying token.”

Zhu’s mining pool, Poolin, has 10.45 percent of global network share, according to [BTC.com](#). The current bear market has hit cryptocurrency miners hard. Some mining companies in China have started [selling off](#) hardware by the kilogram.

Earlier today, [United Kingdom](#)-based cryptocurrency miner Argo Blockchain [announced](#) it was refocusing its business in order to cut costs. Argo is terminating its Mining-as-a-Service (MaaS) operations by April, which purportedly could cut costs by as much as 35 percent.

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By [Adrian Zmudzinski](#)

8 MINUTES AGO

Malta to Store Education Certificates On a Blockchain

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In [Malta](#), all [educational](#) certificates will be stored on a [blockchain](#), local English-language local media MaltaToday [reports](#) on Feb. 21.

The initiative is reportedly the scaling-up of a two-year-old pilot project to include all the nation's schools, including secondary school certificates issued by the state, church and independent schools. According to the report, the Maltese [government](#) signed a two-year contract with software company Learning Machine, to build on the aforementioned pilot project.

During the signing ceremony at Castille, Prime Minister Joseph Muscat reportedly claimed that Malta is the first country in the world to put all education certificates on a blockchain. He is also cited in the article saying:

"In 2017, we said Malta will become the blockchain island, and it has."

As Cointelegraph [reported](#) in January, the [University](#) of Bahrain also issues diplomas on the [blockchain](#). Trade Arabia reported that the university's blockchain initiative is part of an overall digitization strategy for mobile learners.

The [Massachusetts Institute of Technology \(MIT\)](#) has also [issued](#) blockchain-based digital certificates to more than 100 graduates as part of a pilot program as of mid-October 2017. The certificates were reportedly issued through a special app, which allowed graduates to share a "tamper-proof" and "verifiable" digital version of their certificates

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In December 2016, [news broke](#) that the [Kenyan](#) government is utilizing [IBM's](#) enterprise-grade blockchain solution to develop an immutable and transparent education management system.

In July of last year, the Maltese government [passed](#) a group of bills that provided legal certainty for crypto- and blockchain-related businesses. Silvio Schembri, Junior Minister for Financial Services, Digital Economy and Innovation within the Office of the Prime Minister of Malta said of the new laws:

"The three Bills that will regulate distributed ledger technology (DLT) have been approved by Parliament and enacted into law. Malta , the first world jurisdiction to provide legal certainty to this space."

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By Adrian Zmudzinski

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Bitcoin Will Hit \$1 Million, Says IBM's VP of Blockchain Jesse Lund

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The vice president of blockchain and digital currencies for [IBM](#), Jesse Lund, said that he expects Bitcoin's (BTC) price to eventually hit \$1 million. Lund made his prediction during an interview with comparison and news platform Finder.com, [published](#) on YouTube on Feb. 20.

Towards the end of the interview, Lund was asked what he expects the price of Bitcoin to be on this new year's eve. He answered that he thinks it is going to be higher than the current price, clarifying, "I'll go with \$5,000." He then continued his prediction, adding:

"I see Bitcoin at a million dollars someday."

Lund explained that he "likes that number," given that "if Bitcoin is at a million dollars, then satoshi is on value parity with the U.S. penny." He noted that at such a value, the whole network would have over \$20 trillion of liquidity. He then suggested that such liquidity could change corporate payments and high value payments in general, concluding:

"I see maybe \$5,000 at the end of the year, but I see a way higher upward trajectory."

During the interview, Lund also mentioned that [Cointelegraph.com](#) uses [Cookies](#) to ensure the best experience for you. The use of the network's native asset in IBM's cross-border payment system is also being explored. As previously reported, IBM uses

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Lund also revealed that the firm is considering working with various other digital assets, explaining that they believe “there should be an ecosystem of, a variety of digital assets that provide settlement instruments that enable these cross-border payments, and the participants in the network should be able to choose and negotiate their choices in real-time.” Lund went on to state:

“it could be Ripple, it could be [XRP](#) even, it could be Bitcoin, but it would also probably include other instruments, like stablecoins, and even eventually soon — hopefully — central bank-issued digital currencies.”

Lund made a point of differentiating IBM's payment network from Ripple's RippleNet, noting that the tech giant does not rely on their own bespoke token.

Oman's second largest bank by market value, BankDhofar, became RippleNet's most recent member, joining to enable cross-border payments to [India](#), as Cointelegraph recently [reported](#).

IBM [brought](#) its BWW payment network out of beta back in September 2018, after [closing](#) a partnership with Stellar in October 2017.

About a week ago, major [Canadian crypto exchange](#) Coinsquare [showed](#) interest in the blockchain by acquiring StellarX, a Stellar-based [decentralized](#) exchange.

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