

Public Statement from leading ZK Projects

Matter Labs, the corporate entity developing zkSync, has filed trademark applications in nine countries to claim ZK as the exclusive intellectual property of Matter Labs.

We condemn this behavior in the strongest possible terms, as a transparent attempt by a corporation to claim ownership over something that does not belong to it. We speak as some of the original creators of ZK or Zero-Knowledge cryptography, as academic cryptographers, and as ZK researchers and developers from leading projects.

Matter Labs has already sought to use its trademark applications to convince exchanges to allow it to register a token under the ticker name ZK – to further cement their claim over an entire technology that they played no role in creating.

We believe that ZK is a public good that belongs to everyone. A company exploiting the legal system to annex a public good violates the crypto ethos, the Ethereum ethos, and the academic ethos. It even goes against Matter Labs' own ethos, which states: "We can make this world better by increasing people's freedom." If the company goes through with this, it will be separating itself from the very community it claims to be part of.

ZK should remain a public good. It shouldn't be a trademark of a corporation: it should rather be accessible to all. Those of us that work on ZK technology understand that we are standing on the shoulders of giants, of researchers and engineers that created and developed the technology that we use. In return, we are asked to contribute back to a body of knowledge that is owned by the collective, not by a single corporation.

Today, we call on the community to demand that Matter Lab's withdraw all trademark applications and the use of "ZK" ticker. Matter Labs' own "credo" encourages collective action in the face of oppressive behavior which seeks to undermine sovereignty. We ask that they hold themselves to their own standard.

Signatories

Shafi Goldwasser [Turing award winner, co-inventor of zero-knowledge proofs, StarkWare scientific advisor]

Eli Ben-Sasson [CEO of StarkWare, Founding Scientist of Zcash, co-inventor of ZK-STARKs]

Sandeep Nailwal [Co-Founder of Polygon]

Tiancheng Xie [Co-founder of Polyhedra Network, inventor of zkBridge]

Brendan Farmer [Co-Founder of Polygon]

Elias Tzartas [Co-Founder of Kakarot]