A couple of days ago I tweeted: "Lightning/Plasma alternative: Has anyone considered just creating a mergemined sidechain without a blocksize limit? Lock coins from main chain to sidechain, miners get tx fees and specialize in large scale nodes. POW/S=The real power, and mergemining is vastly underestimated/used".

I think mergemining or "mergestaking" has huge untapped potential for scaling Ethereum (and beyond). Paul Sztorc reacted to my tweet and said this:

"We will release both BTC and BCH versions of a largeblock sidechain softfork pretty soon. First testnet release almost ready."

He also made an interesting youtube video, explaining the concept:

Has anyone explored the concept yet?