Project Aiur by Iris.ai

Democratize Science through blockchain-enabled disintermediation.

There are a number of problems in the world of science today hampering global progress. In an almost monopolized industry with terrible incentive misalignments, a radical change is needed. The only way to change this is with a grassroots movement – of researchers and scientists, librarians, scientific societies, R&D departments, universities, students, and innovators – coming together. We need to remove the powerful intermediaries, create new incentive structures, build commonly owned tools to validate all research and build a common Validated Repository of human knowledge. A combination of blockchain and artificial intelligence provides the technology framework, but as with all research, the scientist herself needs to be in the center. She will have the right incentives to publish openly, do thorough peer reviews, publish failed results and be more rigorous about the reproducibility of her work - and so will all of her connected peers across the globe. This is what we propose with Project Aiur, and we hope you join us.

Iris.ai and project Aiur

Iris.ai is an international startup aiming to democratize science, disrupt research system incentives, and improve scientific content, making it more transparent, accountable and widespread in society. Current problems faced by the scientific community and the users of scientific content today include: (1) information overload; (2) access barriers; (3) reproducibility issues; (4) built-in biases; and, (5) incentive misalignment.

Iris.ai's mission is to act as a catalyst of profound system changes and address those issues. With Project Aiur we aim at democratizing Science through blockchain-enabled disintermediation, and we have the following goals: (1) to bring together researchers, coders, and anyone interested in science into an open-governed community that will work to address the 5 problems outlined above; (2) to build, together with the community, an AI engine for Knowledge Validation; and, (3) to provide to the outside world a Validated Repository of Open Access scientific content.

Blockchain beyond currency

Beyond building a new economic models, using the blockchain holds three powerful promises.(1) Censorship resistance, removing the modern day censorship of a publishing process plagued with systematic biases, allowing prejudice to hinder researchers being found by search engines. (2) Intertwining blockchain mechanics and AI, resulting in better quality algorithms with greater traceability, removing of conscious and unconscious biases in how we build the datasets used to teach machines how to understand fact based reasoning. (3) Ironically, the flip side of full anonymity: full scrutiny. Entity-independent trust fuels a new brand of scrutiny that should power how scientific knowledge is organized and advanced forward in the current digital era.

Tokenization details

The AIUR token will be introduced as the main operating unit in the Project Aiur ecosystem. Besides granting membership, AIUR will be used to give access to the KVE and any 3rd party applications developed on top of the community's software. A mechanism will also be provided to earn tokens based on the member's contribution to the community. Staking tokens will also give users voting rights for different aspects of the system.

In this ecosystem, forged around a shared vision - to democratize access to and extend the reach of scientific knowledge world-wide, we envision at least four profiles contributing value to the design and development of the proposed Knowledge Validation Engine: (1) AI trainers; (2) coders; (3) quality assurance; (4) researchers and reviewers. At the same time, we contemplate four basic user profiles leveraging Aiur: (1) software developers, both commercial and open source; (2) R&D departments and research institutes; (3) academic research departments and consortia; and, (4) individual researchers.

With clear 'proof-of-human-work' characteristics in its design, the AIUR token is functional by nature. We have modeled it to be the sole instrument available for the community to tap into Aiur directly and, at the same time, a voucher, i.e. a significantly discounted digital right to purchase products built on top of Aiur, including Iris.ai-developed services. Thus, far from an instrument suited to short term financial speculation, AIUR tokens are designed for natural holders, who believe in the value-added that Aiur will bring directly or to third party use-cases.

Our token sale will target raising the ETH equivalent of EUR 10,000,000, with a minimum for completion of 60% and a hard cap of 500%. If the minimum is not reached, all ETH will be returned to the original holders. 75% of the amount raised will belong to the community, and will be released subject to development milestones - to anyone who achieves them, subject to community scrutiny. The remaining 25% will be allocated to Iris.ai for the planning and initial execution of the project. Iris.ai's founders will not receive any direct compensation, in either fiat, cryptocurrency or AIUR tokens.

Community governance

There are two phases in Project Aiur. In 'Phase 1' Iris.ai will be holding 50% of the tokens in circulation, and after the transition to 'Phase 2' it will transfer all tokens outside of the 2% cap, thus becoming an equal community member.

Smart contracts will establish an Institution regulating how tokens will be generated and used. This 'Institution' will rely on an Oracle that makes external market readings with the goal of providing stability to the system, setting a rate between AIUR and ETH and compute minimum viable transaction limits, and possibly introducing taxation mechanisms for preventing unwanted behaviour in the community (i.e. 'hodling'), etc. The Institution will also support the community by covering the ETH gas prices in cases where underlying transactions are beneficial for the ecosystem. On the governance side, we define smart contracts to enact a Constitution, regulating how the ecosystem functions initially ('Phase 1'), community member rights and obligations, and consensus building and decision making mechanisms post transfer of control ('Phase 2').

We believe the kind of centralized trust model put in place during Phase 1, where Iris.ai will act, in essence, as project lead and core developer (i.e. in a role akin to that of a service contractor), will be not only useful but absolutely required in the project's early stages, whilst acknowledging, at the same time, that it clearly would not be sustainable in the long term.

Join us!