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The #1 crypto to buy and hold for the next decade



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The #1 crypto to buy and hold for the next decade

The main thing opponents of cryptocurrencies always tend to bring up is that they solve a problem that does not exist.

We already have a global payments network. We already have quick payments processing and the requirement for cash is quickly receding. The network of financial intermediaries we rely on to transfer title of important assets functions; although perhaps not as quickly as we might like.

So where is the burning need for crypto solutions? Why does it represent the future when the intricacy of placing transactions and converting between tokens is often much more complicated than simply using a credit card?

As much as the argument about disrupting the legacy financial system is attractive to people who are trying to make the case for cryptos, the future is what we need to talk about.

5G is being rolled out right now. You are going to see the first handsets for sale by the end of the year or very early next year. That is going to put massively quicker access to the internet and bandwidth orders of magnitude greater than we have today in your hands.

That's not even half the story.

5G is an enabling technology in just the same way that the iPhone enabled Facebook or the microchip enabled Microsoft. The jump in bandwidth is what is required to bring long-promised technologies into commercial reality.

It is going to lead to the realisation of the Internet of Things where everything is connected to the internet with a unique IP address. It is going to enable autonomous driving and a hive mind for traffic optimisation. It has the capacity to bring to fruition the dream of supercomputer like processing power to your handheld device through cloud and edge computing.

This is lofty stuff, but how do we handle the increased traffic from literally billions of new connected devices? How do we ensure there is a clear route to recording the provenance of information created and how we do create a financial mechanism capable of handling the flood of microtransactions that will arise as part of a massive new connected system?

Perhaps more important than these questions are how can we have faith in the security and verifiability of the system and protect it from hackers?

If we frame the question in those terms then the argument for IOTA is already well made. It ticks all the boxes we can currently imagine for what a network and financial system of the future will require.

So let me make that recommendation clear right now:

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IOTA is my #1 crypto to buy and hold for the next decade.

If you have to bet on one crypto that will still be around in a decade and stands a clear chance of being the top dog then my money is on IOTA because that is where I see the exponential trend of technological innovation heading.

If we are going to take back the ownership of the network and how our data rests within it then crypto is going to be a part of that. Today's IOTA is the closest there is to delivering on requirements for a truly global independent network.

My colleague, Harry Hamburg, has written a full analysis of IOTA, below for *Crypto Wire*.

Full access to *Crypto Wire* comes free with your *Frontier Tech Investor* subscription and is dedicated entirely to getting you up to speed with everything going on in the crypto space.

Harry is one of the top writers on the subject and his full briefing on IOTA is below. I think you are going to see what I see – a project that could deliver, big time.



Eoin Treacy
Investment Director, Frontier Tech Investor

IOTA: the one crypto to rule them all

Of all the crypto projects out there today, IOTA has the greatest potential – by a long way – if it can realise its vision.

Whereas most cryptos slow down with increased network use, IOTA speeds up.

Whereas most cryptos charge fees to send transactions, IOTA is free.

Whereas most crypto projects gain investors through marketing to the masses, IOTA targets multimillion pound companies like Bosch, Volkswagen, Fujitsu and Jaguar Land Rover.

And whereas most cryptos take a scattergun approach to their purpose, IOTA has a clearly defined plan. It's set out to be *the* protocol standard for machine-to-machine transactions.

The fact that IOTA is infinitely scalable and feeless puts it in a unique position to process all the data these devices produce.

As IOTA says:

The number of connected devices that will be in use is estimated to reach 75 billion by 2025. From tiny sensors on roads and bridges to wearable electronics, mobile phones, and more, every day the world is becoming more and more interconnected. The amount of data being produced and consumed by all these devices is already astronomical. By the end of 2016, the run rate of IP traffic was 1.2 zettabytes per year - or enough data to fill over 9 billion of the highest storage capacity iPhones available at the time. Over the next five years, global IP traffic is expected to increase five-fold whereby 2021, monthly IP traffic will reach a staggering 31 Gigabytes per capita.

Once that sinks in, you realise just how big IOTA could become.

Unlike most cryptos that are setting out to disrupt an already established system, IOTA is designed to enable the Internet of Things (IoT) to work in the first place.

Without something like IOTA the IoT will never have the capacity to function properly. Our current underlying technology cannot cope with the mass of information that the IoT is creating.

Again, from IOTA:

The global data pipelines are becoming congested. It will not be possible for all these devices to continuously connect to centralized cloud silos for all the data they will produce, nor will it be possible for analytic engines in these clouds to respond back to the actuators to act on the data in real time.

This is where 'Fog' and 'Mist' computing, storage, bandwidth, electricity enters the picture. One has to distribute these resources all across the landscape, which immediately brings up the question of how to do this in practice with all the red tape in place when there are 10s, 100s or even 1000s of stakeholders involved in this new Machine Economy.

This conundrum was the cause of the inception of IOTA. Through zero fee transactions, these devices can share these technological resources amongst one another in real time locally in a distributed network, thus avoiding the centralized points of failure, unclogging the resource infrastructure and abide by the laws of physics.

This is what makes IOTA stand out

So, why couldn't another crypto do the job just as well?

Two major reasons.

1. Unlike bitcoin, Ethereum, and most other cryptos, IOTA is feeless.

Most of the transactions these IoT devices send will be data or very small value payments.

At time of writing, the average fee on a bitcoin transaction is \$6, and the average fee on an Ethereum transaction is \$0.21.

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These fees can be cut by using things side chains, such as bitcoin's Lightning Network or Ethereum's plasma. But these solutions add complexity and they still require fees. They will never be free.

If your IoT device is making micro transactions for \$0.00001 per time, any fee, no matter how small, is going to massively effect its cost and its economic model.

With IOTA, it can transfer any amount of money and that exact amount will be received.

This is why carmakers such as Volkswagen and Jaguar Land Rover chose to work with IOTA.

At the end of April, Jaguar Land Rover announced it was going to start using IOTA in its cars.

Here is an excerpt from Jaguar's press release (emphasis mine):

Drivers will be able to earn cryptocurrency and make payments on the move using innovative connected car services being tested by Jaguar Land Rover.

Using 'Smart Wallet' technology, owners earn credits by enabling their cars to automatically report useful road condition data such as traffic congestion or potholes to navigation providers or local authorities. Drivers could then redeem these for rewards such as coffee, or conveniently use them to automatically pay tolls, parking fees and for smart charging electric vehicles. 'Smart Wallet' removes the need for drivers to hunt for loose change or sign up to multiple accounts to pay for a variety of everyday services.

*'Smart Wallet' uses the latest cryptocurrency technology and Jaguar Land Rover has partnered with the IOTA Foundation to harness 'distributed ledger' technologies to make and receive these payments. **Unlike other similar systems, due to its structure, it requires no transaction fee to operate and over time transactions will get faster across the entire network**, forecast to include some 75 billion connected devices by 2025*. Drivers could also top-up the 'Smart Wallet' using conventional payment methods.*

As you can see, Jaguar chose IOTA because unlike traditional cryptos, its transactions are free. Not only that, but these transactions can carry data – for free.

And long before Jaguar Land Rover made this announcement, Volkswagen worked on a proof-of-concept with IOTA to show how its self-driving electric cars could make money, pay for tolls, pay for servicing and even pay for automated charging, all through the IOTA tangle.

2. As the Jaguar Land Rover release says above, due to its structure, IOTA transactions get faster as its network usage increases.

The more use IOTA's network gets, the faster and more stable it becomes.

To go back to my bitcoin and Ethereum examples, bitcoin can currently process about seven transactions per second. Ethereum can manage about 15.

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Using sharing and sidechains these speeds can be improved. But again, as the network gets more and more congested, speeds will inevitably slow down.

The opposite thing happens with IOTA. And what's more, it achieves all this at the protocol level. Nothing needs to be tacked on.

The way it does this is actually fairly simple. Every time you want to make a transaction on the network, you need to verify two previous ones.

From IOTA's white paper:

In general, a tangle-based cryptocurrency works in the following way. Instead of the global blockchain, there is a DAG that we call the tangle. The transactions issued by nodes constitute the site set of the tangle graph, which is the ledger for storing transactions. The edge set of the tangle is obtained in the following way: when a new transaction arrives, it must approve two previous transactions. These approvals are represented by directed edges, as shown in Figure 12. If there is not a directed edge between transaction A and transaction B, but there is a directed path of length at least two from A to B, we say that A indirectly approves B.

IOTA's biggest strength is also its biggest weakness

So far, I'm guessing you think IOTA seems a bit too good to be true — and to be honest, that is one of its main hurdles.

It's so far ahead of the game that people have spent a lot of time and money trying to bring it down. And for good reason. If IOTA succeeds, it will render almost every other crypto out there obsolete.

In fact, once its Q program becomes operational, it would be able to run almost every other crypto project out there on top of the IOTA network.

Here's what I said about it at the time:

This means IOTA now has some serious advantages over other smart contract platforms, mainly because of oracles.

I have written about the importance of oracles for smart contracts in Exponential Investor before. If you missed it, [you can see that here](#).

But basically, an oracle is how a smart contract gets its information. Because IOTA will be integrated in sensors and machines all over the world, it will be able to provide its oracles with objective and verified data.

This means IOTA's oracles will be much more reliable than any others out there.

It also means IOTA can become a one-stop-shop. Most platform cryptos need to rely on another oracle-providing crypto for oracles. Not IOTA. It will all be integrated in one elegant solution.

Finally, although decentralised computing may sound a bit boring, it is a massive

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breakthrough with many possible applications.

This will enable people and companies all over the world to rent out their unused computing power and storage. It will also let anyone in the world buy virtually unlimited computing power, without having to own a supercomputer.

This will mean scientists and inventors anywhere in the world will have access to massive amounts of computing power to run new experiments. All without having to rent or own a supercomputer of their own.

It could even be possible that in the future bitcoin miners change from mining bitcoin to renting out their massive computer power through IOTA. The question would come down to which would make them more money.

Back when I first ranked IOTA in *Crypto Wire*, my main caveat was that its wallet was very difficult for non-techy people to use and that it could not be stored on a hardware wallet.

Since then, IOTA has released its Trinity wallet, which was designed to be as easy to use as possible and, even more importantly, works with Ledger hardware wallets.

This then just leaves one single issue holding IOTA back: the Coordinator.

The Coordinator is a part of the IOTA network controlled by the IOTA Foundation that keeps its network, well, coordinated.

The IOTA Foundation always said once the IOTA network had enough volume, it would deactivate the Coordinator. But many said this could never actually be done.

Over the last year, IOTA has been focused on getting to the point where it can deactivate the Coordinator, with a project it nicknamed “Coordicide”.

And a few weeks ago IOTA’s co-founder, Serguei Popov, released a tantalising video saying they had solved the Coordicide problem.

“The main goal of this event was exactly to figure out how to kill this coordinator. We call it Coordicide. And I think we we did it. There is a lot of work to do, but we did it”.

The video was released on 27 May, but it later emerged it was actually recorded in February.

Why did the IOTA Foundation wait three months to release it? We soon got our answer. A few days after releasing this video, IOTA created a dedicated Coordicide website.

Here’s what IOTA said about it:

With the launch of the Coordicide website we are proud to unveil our blueprint for the Coordinator’s removal—a momentous step towards realizing IOTA’s promise as the first decentralized and scalable DLT.

Removing the Coordinator from the IOTA network will realize a long sought after goal in the field of DLT: scalability without centralization. The solution itself is inherently modular, meaning that users will have ultimate freedom to tailor the system to their individual needs. Its implementation will be a major milestone in the IOTA Foundation's goal of creating a truly enterprise-ready DLT.

IOTA released a white paper and made the mathematical proofs public. In short, it would soon remove the Coordinator.

Of course, it still has to implement these plans, but things are looking extremely promising.

IOTA's potential

So as of now, IOTA is on track to be the world's first and only secure, fully scalable and decentralised crypto.

And the best part is, from an investment perspective at least, it's not even in the top ten cryptos by market cap. In fact, it's barely in the top 20.

As I type, IOTAs market cap stands at \$1.1 billion. To put that in perspective, Ethereum's market cap is \$30 billion. Bitcoin's is \$189 billion. Even Litecoin has a \$7 billion market cap.

Even if the total market cap of crypto stood still, IOTA could easily 10x in price, given all the advantages it has.

If it really takes off and fulfils its promise of becoming the IoT protocol, well I don't really want to make any projections about that because the potential returns are so big they just sound comical.

But needless to say, there is a huge potential return on the table here.

No matter how good IOTA may sound, do not break the #1 rule of crypto investing

However, before we get too carried away, I would like to stress, that no crypto investment is without risk. And one with such lofty goals and high potential rewards as IOTA comes with even more risks.

So it's important to adhere to the number one rule of crypto investing: ***never invest more than you are happy to lose.***

And I would stress the word "happy" there.

In the last bull run there were stories of people re-mortgaging their houses and maxing out credit cards to buy more crypto. How do you think they have been feeling over the last 18 months?

In the last run you had a fair chance of making ten times your money. But you also had a very good chance of losing 90% of your original investment.

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But chances are you wouldn't have gotten that 10x gain if you didn't stay in after that 50% drop.

If you were only putting in money you didn't care about, then the drop won't scare you. If you were actually relying on that money for something, you will have to pull it out.

In most markets, if an asset loses 50% of its value in a matter of days, that asset probably isn't going to recover anytime soon, if ever. In crypto, it happens all the time – even to the top coins.

Three times during 2017 I put money into Ethereum days before it dropped 50% in value. Three times! But by the end of the year, I was way up.

Another way to think about it is this: your maximum loss is capped by the amount you put in. You cannot lose more money than you have invested. But your maximum upside is unlimited.

Say you put £150 into Ethereum. You can only ever lose £150. But you could potentially make thousands. £26,250 in the case of 2017.

But for the chance to make that £26,250, you have to be happy to watch your £150 go to £0.

I would be happy to watch a £150 go to zero. I wouldn't be happy to watch a £15,000 go to zero. Other people may not even be happy to watch a £50 investment go to zero. Some more might be okay losing £10,000.

Only you know how much money you'd be happy to lose in crypto. And you have to be happy about it, otherwise what's the point of investing at all?

Now on with my IOTA ranking.

(It's worth noting that in the 15 months since I originally ranked IOTA a lot has changed. It has hit milestones and announced new developments. So below is my fully updated ranking, as of July 2019.)

Ranking IOTA

Scope

IOTA's main selling point is that it's not a blockchain at all, it's a directed acyclic graph (DAG).

Now, what that means is pretty complicated. (If you want to do a deep-dive into it yourself, you can have a read of IOTA's white paper [here](#).) But basically it gives IOTA some advantages over almost every crypto out there.

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Namely:

Scalability – the more people that use the network the faster it gets. This solves the “transactions per second problem”.

Mining – there is no mining. Well, not in the traditional sense, basically if you want to make a transaction, you have to approve the last two on the network. So the power consumption of IOTA is negligible.

Free transactions – that’s right sending information and transactions over the IOTA network is FREE. This is a monumental achievement. Free transactions mean a fairer world.

Because transactions on IOTA are free, it can be used for machine-to-machine transactions. This is its main aim. So think smart cities, driverless cars, etc. Each machine will have a wallet and will interact with other machines using IOTA.

This is not a pie in the sky idea. IOTA has a partnership with Volkswagen group – the world’s second biggest carmaker. The idea is that by using IOTA, driverless cars will be able to charge and pay for themselves autonomously. And the smart cities idea is being tested right now by Taipei.

IOTA has many real-world use cases that are already in development.

It will also implement smart contracts, just like other platform cryptos.

I could write an entire issue on the scope of IOTA. But for now, let’s just say it’s a solid 10.

Scope: 10/10.

Team and partnerships

As I just said, IOTA has partnerships with Volkswagen and the city of Taipei. It also has partnerships with Bosch – which has components in almost every car in the world, and a whole lot more besides.

It has its own foundation, which is adding impressive board members every couple of weeks. For instance, the chief digital officer of Volkswagen joined earlier this year.

And its developers are so good that they created a crypto unlike anything that has come before it. They are regularly at conferences around the world and keep the IOTA community up to date on all its developments.

Update: since I first ranked IOTA, it has announced its partnership with Jaguar Land Rover, which you’ve already read about.

And in September 2018, Fujitsu announced IOTA will be the “new protocol standard” in its supply chain and audit trails.

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Basically that means Fujitsu will be using IOTA to make its manufacturing processes more efficient and easier to audit.

If IOTA does become the “new protocol standard” of manufacture, as Fujitsu seems to be banking on, this will lead to a massive adoption of IOTA.

But even if it's just Fujitsu that ends up using it, it will still be a boon for IOTA. This is what IOTA was designed for, to make the IoT possible. To become the glue that holds it all together.

And, as Fujitsu stated: “Fujitsu is the leading Japanese information and communication technology (ICT) company and the world's fifth largest IT services provider.”

So now IOTA has Bosch, Volkswagen and Fujitsu using it in their processes. Each of these companies is a titan in its respective industry, and they are all backing – and more importantly using – IOTA.

So for team and partnerships, it's another 10.

Team and partnerships: 10/10.

Why the tokens have value

Now, unlike blockchains, IOTA encourages all dApps building on its platform to use the IOTA network itself. Not to create their own new tokens.

This means that more information is sent through the IOTA network, which:

A – Speeds it up.

B – Brings more value to it.

Sending transactions on the IOTA network is free. But IOTA tokens are not free to buy. They are sold on exchanges, just like any other crypto. So if companies want to use the network, then need to buy IOTA tokens. Thus, it has a very strong value proposition for its tokens.

Most blockchains can't function in this way, but IOTA can. And this is another key reason why it's such a great crypto.

So for this category, again, another 10.

Why the tokens have value: 10/10.

Passive income potential

You can't “stake” your IOTA to get an income. In fact, I can't find any way to get a passive income just through holding IOTA. That's not what it's designed for.

Perhaps there will be a way to get a passive income from IOTA in the future, but for now it has to get a 0.

Update: once Q launches you will be able to use IOTA to sell your unused computing power. However, you still won't be able to get a passive income just through holding IOTA, like you do with NEO, VeChain, Tezos or eventually Ethereum. So for passive income potential, it still gets a 0.

Passive income potential: 0/5.

Competition

Other crypto projects don't like IOTA. It is competition in the worst sense for them, in that it is better technology.

Just as Ethereum had to go through a lot of hate from bitcoin, IOTA has gotten a lot of hate from many established blockchains.

If IOTA succeeds in its vision, it will make many other cryptos superfluous.

But, by the same token, IOTA is superior to almost every other crypto out there, in many different ways. IOTA is the crypto other cryptos fear, not the other way around.

And so, for competition it gets a 5.

At the moment, it is truly unique.

Update: and in the 14 months since I first wrote this, there is still nothing out there to challenge IOTA at what it does. Feeless, fast-transacting cryptos have been created, but they are nowhere near as decentralised as IOTA.

Competition 5/5.

Ease of use

Right now, this is where IOTA falls down. It's not easy to store and transfer.

Its wallet is complicated and there is massive room for losing your funds if you're not careful.

However, a new super user-friendly wallet is currently in beta testing and will be launched in the next couple of months.

It is also getting Ledger wallet integration, which again will be ready in the next few months.

Update: the day has finally arrived that IOTA can be stored on your Ledger wallet.

Simply add the IOTA app to your Ledger in your Ledger manager software. Instructions here: support.ledgerwallet.com/hc/en-us/articles/360011633353-IOTA-MIOTA-

Then go to IOTA's official Trinity wallet site: trinity.iota.org and download the Trinity wallet.

Then open the IOTA app on your Ledger and follow the instructions in the Trinity wallet program.

No more keeping it on exchanges. No more relying on a mobile wallet or paper wallet. You can finally put it on your Ledger and keep it secure.

So that means IOTA now gets the same ease of use score as Neo, Ethereum and VeChain, a 4. Ease of use 4/5.

Caveats

The main caveat with IOTA is the fear, uncertainty and doubt (FUD) that other cryptos – and the people that support them – spread about IOTA.

In late 2017 there was a massive scandal about an MIT researcher apparently breaking IOTA's code. This absolutely tanked IOTA's price. It turned out they never broke IOTA's code and were on the board for a rival crypto. So it was a FUD campaign by a rival.

The price was affected by this incident for months, even though the IOTA Foundation fully refuted it and the entire email exchange was been posted online. It was a very long exchange, but I read the whole thing and IOTA came out very well. The researcher did not.

In terms of caveats, I see almost all of IOTA's as strengths. The FUD is keeping the price down, all the while it is being adopted by and making deals with industry leaders.

Update: the FUD about IOTA's code is no longer an issue. In fact, in December 2018, IOTA announced a 200,000 bounty for anyone that could break its hash function. No one could.

The biggest caveat with IOTA now is the possibility of another crypto market crash. But that would affect all crypto prices, not just IOTA.

For IOTA specifically, it still has to implement Coordicide and launch Q. Until these are implemented, it is still not fully decentralised and still doesn't have proper smart contract functionality.

So, because of that, I'm keeping IOTA's caveats at a -1. The wallet issue is now solved, but we're still waiting on the two developments that would make IOTA the one crypto to rule them all.

Caveats: -1/-10.

Total

This gives IOTA a total of 38/45

And a (rounded) score of 84%.

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Current market cap and what that means

IOTA is currently has a market cap of around \$4 billion. This puts it in 10th place on CoinMarketCap.

IOTA does everything that bitcoin does and more, in fact, everything that most other cryptos do – and a whole lot none can do. So the growth potential here is great.

If IOTA were to make it to 4th place – where Bitcoin Cash currently sits – it would more than 3x its price.

But the potential for IOTA is much bigger than that. As it becomes widely adopted by industry, its growth is almost impossible to estimate. Out of all the cryptos I've talked about today, IOTA probably has the highest growth potential.

But, it is unique technology, and it could always fail. All cryptos are inherently risky, and one that even more advanced is even more risky for that reason.

We also have to think about the FUD campaigns IOTA is, and will continue to be, subject to. Although, like I said, I see these as positives.

IOTA is currently way down from its all-time high set on 12 December 2017. It's 74% down in fact.

If it were to climb back to that price, it would be a 287% increase from today's price. For that, we'd probably have to see a full crypto market recovery though. And if that happens, there's no telling how high IOTA could fly.

Trigger points

There are two major trigger points coming up for IOTA: Coordicide and Q.

It's almost a given that that Coordicide will come first and only then will we see Q launch.

Both of these events have the potential to send IOTA's price on an absolute tear. But, to be honest, it depends when the announcements happen.

If the crypto markets are still doing well when Coordicide comes about, we could see significant price increases, and maybe the beginning of an IOTA run like we say in late 2017.

But if crypto is crashing when these developments are released, they may not end up moving the price all that much.

Conclusion

Out of every crypto I've ever researched, I believe IOTA holds the most investment potential. And hopefully by now you have a good idea as to why.

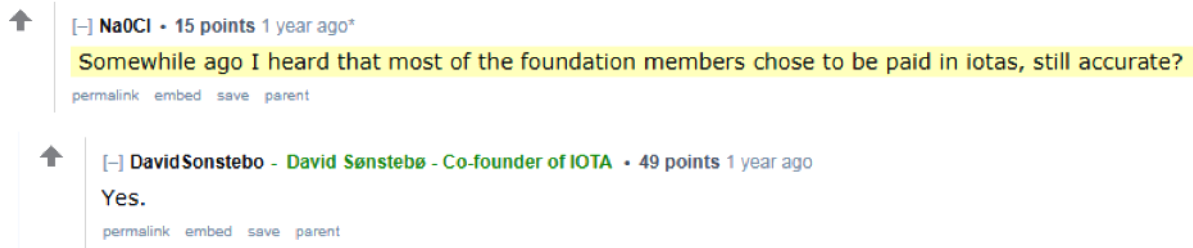
(I would say for a “changing the world” potential, Ethereum just pips it, but it's close.)

IOTA simply leagues ahead of anything else out there, in its tech, its partnerships and its ideas.

The number of systems that could one day run on the IOTA network is unprecedented. It could one day soon be powering the world.

And what's more, the people who work on it have even more belief in it than I do.

IOTA staff members get paid in IOTA tokens:



The screenshot shows a Reddit thread with two comments. The first comment is from user Na0Cl, asking if it's still accurate that foundation members are paid in IOTA. The second comment is from David Sonstebo, co-founder of IOTA, replying "Yes." The text in the first comment is highlighted in yellow.

↑ [-] Na0Cl • 15 points 1 year ago*
Somewhile ago I heard that most of the foundation members chose to be paid in iotas, still accurate?
permalink embed save parent

↑ [-] DavidSonstebo - David Sønstebo - Co-founder of IOTA • 49 points 1 year ago
Yes.
permalink embed save parent

That's how much the people working on this project believe in it. They are staking their futures on it.

How to buy IOTA

I recommend signing up to **Bitpanda, where you can buy IOTA directly.**

It is a simple enough process and it walks you through what to do to get verified on the site. Once you are registered you will find it is a user-friendly interface.

Please remember, cryptocurrencies can be volatile and it is a higher risk market.

Only ever invest your risk capital. That is money you can afford to lose.

For all the dos and dont's of investing in cryptocurrencies, I think it is well worth your time running through my guide: "A beginner's guide to crypto investing".

[Access that here, now.](#)

IOTA resources

[White paper](#)

[Website](#)

[Trinity wallet](#)

[Binance, where you can trade Ethereum and bitcoin for IOTA](#)

[Reddit](#)

[CoinMarketCap page.](#)

Until next time, Harry Hamburg
Editor, *Crypto Wire*

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