



To the Community

The weeks that followed the initial announcement of ASI have been a roller-coaster ride for SingularityNET, Fetch, and Ocean communities. After a thorough reflection process, we decided that Ocean is going to bow out of ASI. Trent and I take responsibility for this pivot and we'd rather do this now before committing the entire Ocean community through a token swap, I'll explain.

The Idea – Consolidation for Scale

As an idea, the consolidation of projects is enticing with benefits of scale, deeper bench talent, thicker liquidity, more optionality for technical integration and business collaborations. These are clear advantages over working individually as standalone projects.

The trade-offs for these benefits are increased administrative and socialization burden with slower decision-making and the subverting of an optimal decision for an individual project for the benefit of the whole.

Honeymoon Phase

The joint collaboration has been highly enjoyable with the deepest respect for both SingularityNET and Fetch leadership and teams. Everyone has been more than gracious and accommodating of divergent ideas, with a good faith effort to find the best solution for the whole. It's been quite pleasant.

“The Nature of the Firm”

A larger collective cannot move as nimbly as a smaller project. A tri-party arrangement significantly increases the time spent socializing ideas and coming to agreements. More parties mean more interests and logically, an increased need for compromise, rather than what is necessarily best for an individual team and their legacy communities.

Of course, in the early days increased coordination is natural but as the ASI Alliance exists to add new members, time needs for coordination will likely increase. The cycles where time is spent understanding and respecting peoples' ideas is time not spent on product or customers.

To mitigate the trade-offs and get the benefits, we agreed that each Foundation would maintain full control of its own treasury and we would keep the ASI Foundation as light as possible. As principles we spoke about a principle of non-coercion and non-compulsion – so that each Foundation could maintain a free range of motion, while being able to contribute to the collective. This balance between independence of the member Foundation and the linking of projects via a token merger should allow the best-of-all-worlds. At least, that's the theory.

But the nature of an organization is to exist, self-perpetuate and grow with scope creep. Even though non-coercion and non-compulsion is a stated goal, the reality is that socialization, compromise, investment of time and energy is unavoidable and unrealistic to expect in ASI, or any organization - just look at the government or the European Union.



Obligations & Duty

Trent and I have survived three crypto-bear markets. We are hardened and scarred by the trials faced. We've worked hard to establish a range of options through fiscal discipline, building up a fortress treasury and staying free from encumbrance to do what we think is right for the interests of the Ocean community.

ASI is a new organization, with a new set of players, incentives and obligations. Ocean's participation is a privilege but it also carries the duty to help build ASI's ground rules, protocols and administrative structure for a lean and efficient organization that delivers.

Constraints make life worth living. But one also needs to pick the constraints which align with our best interests. Too many people accept commitments and constraints, or stay in them for too long when they don't serve their needs.

The question is whether we go against that little niggling internal voice, which is asking to maintain independence and a free range of motion, and move forward towards an enticing future with ASI - with the faith that the benefits of a larger consortium significantly offset the burdens and constraints.

Ocean is bowing out of ASI

ASI is a great initiative with lots of benefits as well as obligations but Ocean Protocol will bow out now and \$OCEAN will be unpegged from \$ASI.

I fully expect SingularityNET and Fetch to carry on the torch towards success. They are great teams and we admire what they have built until now.

ASI is designed to accept new members and if the ASI partnership is right, it will also be right in the future for Ocean to join.

We're going to take some time – re-group, reflect and take the learnings from this experience to chart an optimal path for the Ocean community.

As always, your \$OCEAN token is your voice. If you want to stay on for this ride, keep or acquire the Ocean token.