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Billon Group and SDG Assessment Forge Strategic Partnership to Advance Sustainability and ESG Solutions

©SDG Assessment ("**SDGA**") a UK based company specializing in sustainability and Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) solutions has agreed a technology partnership with the Billon Group Ltd ("**BGL**") a leader in Unified Enterprise Distributed Ledger Technology (UEDLT). This collaboration aims to leverage cutting-edge blockchain technology to develop innovative solutions that empower organizations to meet their sustainability goals.

The agreement by both companies was facilitated by Innovate UK, a government agency in the United Kingdom that supports businesses in developing and adopting new technologies and innovations.

This collaboration will leverage Billon's secure and transparent blockchain platform to create innovative solutions for ESG and sustainability reporting, significantly enhancing data accuracy, traceability, and efficiency for businesses worldwide. The solution elevates data security and privacy while allowing openness and necessary process transparency through its on-chain data and document processing feature.

This partnership marks a significant step forward in addressing the growing demand for robust and reliable ESG data. Traditional ESG reporting methods often suffer from data silos, inconsistencies, and a lack of transparency. Billon's UEDLT provides a secure, immutable ledger that allows for the seamless integration and verification of ESG data from various sources, eliminating these challenges. SDG Assessment's expertise in sustainability metrics and reporting frameworks aligned to UN SDGs will be instrumental in designing solutions that meet the evolving needs of businesses and investors.

This innovative collaboration will provide organizations with:

Enhanced Data Accuracy and Transparency: Blockchain's immutable nature ensures data integrity and prevents manipulation, fostering trust among stakeholders.

Streamlined Reporting Processes: Automated data collection and verification significantly reduce the time and resources required for ESG reporting.

Improved Data Traceability: The ability to track the origin and journey of ESG data enhances accountability and allows for better decision-making.

Data Cybersecurity and privacy: through a distributed nature of on-chain data and documents processing, private records are cryptographically protected and stored or shared with highest privacy standards, readable only to data owners.

Increased Efficiency and Cost Savings: Automation and improved data management lead to significant cost savings and increased operational efficiency.

Compliance with Emerging Regulations: The solutions will be designed to meet the evolving regulatory landscape surrounding ESG reporting.

"We are thrilled to partner with ©SDG Assessment, a company that shares our commitment to driving sustainability through innovation," said Jacek Figula, Chief Commercial Officer of the Billon Group Ltd. "Together, we aim to transform how organizations approach ESG compliance and reporting, ultimately contributing to a more sustainable future."

"This partnership underscores the growing importance of blockchain technology in addressing critical sustainability challenges. By providing a secure, transparent, and efficient platform for ESG reporting, Billon and ©SDG Assessment are empowering businesses to take meaningful action towards a more sustainable future" said Dr Lowellyne James, CEO of ©SDG Assessment Ltd. "Our collaboration with Billon will empower organizations to not only meet regulatory requirements but also to lead in their sectors through responsible practices including achieving the requirements of the UN SDGs, Net Zero, or other compliance obligations such as EU CSRD, US SEC regulations."

About Billon Group Limited

Billon Group Ltd, a leading innovator for Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT) solutions, pioneering document and data exchange, asset tokenization, digital cash secured by user controlled sovereign identity which supports enhanced transaction efficiency and security for businesses worldwide.

In an era where digital transformation is paramount, Billon's innovative platform allows businesses to seamlessly integrate digital currencies into their operations. This breakthrough not only streamlines financial transactions but also ensures compliance with regulatory standards, making it an ideal solution for industries such as finance, retail, and supply chain management.

Billon has been selected as top three (3) blockchain protocol by the European Commission, a nearly three years process to build a pan- European Blockchain Infrastructure (EBSI).

Key features of Unified Enterprise Distributed Ledger Technology:

Enhanced Security: Utilizing state-of-the-art cryptographic techniques to protect user data and transactions.
Regulatory Compliance: Designed to meet the requirements of various jurisdictions such as European Blockchain Services Infrastructure (EBSI) and EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) , ensuring businesses can operate without legal hindrances.
User-Friendly Interface: Simplifying the adoption of DLT for businesses of all sizes, from startups to multinational corporations.
Scalability: Capable of supporting an increasing number of transactions as businesses grow.

About SDG Assessment

SDGA's online self-assessment tool and mobile app helps small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), fast-growth companies and corporations to report their sustainability & ESG performance in relation to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Its innovative reporting system helps businesses and organizations monitor and improve supply chain impacts and reduce Scope 3 emissions. SDGA has developed SPF+ the world's first digital scorecard aligned to UN Sustainable Development Performance Indicators (SDPIs).

SDGA's web-based and mobile app helps businesses report sustainability, ESG, and greenhouse gas emissions and corporate social responsibility performance to:

- Attract ESG Funding & Investment
- Measure and reduce business carbon footprint
- Demonstrate compliance & commitment to sustainability.
- Gain environmental market leadership
- Reduce Supply Chain sustainability & ESG risk
- Avoid expensive consultancy fees

The ©SDG Assessment app adopts a research based five-step approach outlined in the *Sustainable Strategic Growth Model (SSGM):* Learn, Develop, Implement, Optimize and Sustain, bolstered by mobile/AI technology that supports information security and enhances our customer's journey experience.

SDGA is headed by Dr. Lowellyne James, an academic, author and consultant with a vision to transform business culture towards building sustainably managed enterprises that create products and services without negative environmental impact, instilled with a social purpose and achieve profitability. He specializes in the application of sustainability and corporate social responsibility tools within small businesses and fast growth companies. He pioneered the development of the ©Certificate in Sustainability Strategy.

As well as a Director of the ©Center for Sustainable Action (CSA), he is Chair of the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) Fellows Steering Group, Chair of the Sustainability Committee of the American Society for Quality (ASQ); Fellow of the Chartered Quality Institute; and Fellow of the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment.

His research, publications and work are aimed at assisting businesses in the creation of products and services that are inherently sustainable, align objectives to achieve a social purpose and achieve profitability.

An avid practitioner, he has a wealth of experience from academia, consultancy and training supporting world-leading organizations such as Hyperledger Foundation, Climate Action Methodologies Data and Analysis (CAMDA) Climate Action Data 2.0 Working Group, UN Global Climate Action Summit, Ferrovial Agroman, Scottish Agricultural Organisation Society, University of Sheffield, Lloyd's Register Quality Assurance, Vinci Plc and Aviva.

Dr James is the author of **Sustainability Footprints in SMEs-Strategy and case studies for Entrepreneurs and Small Business** published by John Wiley & Sons, and **Management Systems and Performance Frameworks for Sustainability** published by Routledge.

For additional information, visit www.sdg-assessment.com or email lowellyne.james@sdg-assessment.com

Background Information

The SDGs are United Nations (UN) policy initiatives established in 2015. Designed to provide 17 goals and 169 associated targets aimed at ending poverty, protecting the planet and ensuring prosperity for all - see https://sdgs.un.org/goals.

United Nations Sustainable development performance indicator (SDPIs) were established in 2022. SDPIs are a set of metrics used to measure and evaluate progress towards sustainable development goals. These indicators can be used to assess the ESG impact of development initiatives. https://cdn.unrisd.org/assets/library/reports/2022/manual-sdpi-2022.pdf .

ESG is an acronym for Environmental, Social, and Governance. ESG takes the view that sustainability extends beyond just environmental issues, providing a framework that helps stakeholders understand how an organization is managing risks and opportunities related to environmental, social, and governance criteria. ESG funds under management are projected to hit $50 trillion by 2025, accounting for a third of all funds under management (see https://www.bloomberg.com/company/press/esg-may-surpass-41-trillion-assets-in-2022-but-not-without-challenges-finds-bloomberg-intelligence/), which makes determining what qualifies as ESG extremely important. ESG has faced criticism for being difficult to define, with it being argued that Net Zero and SDG are more objective and easier to report, facilitating improved accountability for businesses and non-profit organizations. Visit https://www.investopedia.com/terms/e/environmental-social-and-governance-esg-criteria.asp for information on ESG

Net Zero refers to the aim of reducing GHG emissions to as close to zero as possible. Various countries, organizations and businesses have brought in measures to achieve Net Zero, which can include purchasing carbon credits to offset their carbon emissions. See https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/net-zero-coalition for more details.

The Kyoto Protocol of 1997 laid out international CO2 emissions goals and created a scheme for issuing and trading carbon credits, which was extended by the Paris Agreement of 2015. See https://carboncredits.com/the-ultimate-guide-to-understanding-carbon-credits/ for information