PRESS RELEASE

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As DeFi Exploits Top $137M in Q1, Firelight Crosses 50M XRP Staked — Demand for On-Chain Protection Hits Inflection Point

As DeFi exploits top $137M in Q1 2026 alone, the Sentora-incubated protocol raises its deposit cap and attracts institutional-scale deposits on Flare Network

DUBAI— Firelight, the on-chain protection layer for DeFi assets, has surpassed 50 million XRP staked on its protocol, marking a significant milestone for the first XRP staking and DeFi cover platform built on Flare Network. The growth comes amid a wave of whale-scale deposits exceeding 1 million XRP each and a newly raised deposit cap of an additional 40 million FXRP, reflecting surging demand for risk infrastructure in decentralized finance.

The milestone arrives at a critical inflection point for DeFi security. In the past week alone, a major stablecoin protocol suffered a $23 million exploit after an attacker gained access to a privileged private key and minted tens of millions in unbacked tokens. The incident, one of 15 DeFi exploits recorded in Q1 2026 totaling over $137 million in losses, underscores the structural gap between DeFi's growth and the maturity of its risk infrastructure.

Firelight is designed to address exactly this gap. Incubated by Sentora, a leader in institutional DeFi formed through the merger of IntoTheBlock and Trident Digital, Firelight introduces a capital-efficient, on-chain cover layer that enables DeFi protocols to purchase protection against smart contract exploits, economic risk, oracle failures, and bridge vulnerabilities. The protocol uses staked XRP as collateral to back this coverage, creating a sustainable model where stakers earn rewards tied to real demand for risk protection.

“Firelight is a risk absorption middleware layer for DeFi — infrastructure that continuously underwrites protocol risk across technical, economic, and operational dimensions, backs it with exogenous capital, and uses AI agents monitoring the entire protocol graph in near-real-time. Not another audit firm. Not a monitoring dashboard. An economic layer that prices risk, absorbs losses, and gives the ecosystem a continuous, capital-backed signal on what's actually safe,” said Jesús Rodríguez, Co-Founder and CPO of Sentora.

Powered by Flare’s FAssets Infrastructure

Firelight leverages Flare Network’s FAssets system to bring XRP into the protocol. The FAssets bridge is fully overcollateralized, decentralized, and extensively audited, providing a trust-minimized on- and off-ramp for XRP into DeFi. Users deposit XRP, mint FXRP (the wrapped XRP token on Flare), and stake it into Firelight’s vault to receive stXRP, a liquid staking token that can be freely used across the Flare DeFi ecosystem while continuing to accrue rewards.

The protocol is structured in two phases. Phase 1, currently live, enables liquid staking with no slashing risk and audited vaults, rewarding early participants with Firelight Points. Phase 2, expected in Q2 2026, will activate the full DeFi cover mechanism, allowing protocols on any chain to purchase protection backed by the staked FXRP pool.

Institutional-Scale Demand

The velocity of adoption tells its own story. Cap 1 — the protocol's inaugural deposit ceiling of 25 million FXRP — was fully subscribed within six hours of opening. When Firelight raised the cap to 65 million FXRP to accommodate continued demand, it crossed the 50% fill mark within the first few hours — demand driven entirely by the XRP and Flare communities. The protocol has since recorded multiple large-scale individual deposits, a signal that institutional participants are beginning to move from observation to allocation on the supply side, and that the demand for credible claims-paying capacity at scale is no longer hypothetical. That institutional momentum has a context. In Firelight's recent X Space, Connor Sullivan of Firelight mentioned Kraken and Coinbase as pioneers that had "led the way" in integrating into DeFi — and framed them as proof that the model works, while noting that many institutions are still sitting on the sidelines waiting for a protection layer before following suit.

Built on Sentora's Risk Engineering Foundation

Sentora, which raised $25 million in Series A funding with backing from Ripple, Flare, and New Form Capital, curates over 1,000 risk models and has deployed billions in institutional DeFi strategies. The firm's Smart Yields platform powers the risk management layer behind Kraken's DeFi Earn product and serves institutional clients seeking compliant, yield-generating exposure to decentralized markets. Firelight represents the conversion of four years of risk engineering into a dedicated underwriting engine for on-chain protection.

Firelight has completed audits by OpenZeppelin and Coinspect, and maintains an active bug bounty program through Immunefi to support ongoing protocol security.

About Firelight

Firelight is an on-chain cover and staking protocol designed to protect DeFi assets from exploits and economic risk. Incubated by Sentora and built on Flare Network, Firelight enables XRP holders to stake their assets and earn rewards while providing protocols across any chain with scalable, model-driven protection. For more information, visit firelight.finance.

About Sentora

Sentora is an institutional DeFi platform formed through the merger of IntoTheBlock and Trident Digital. Backed by a $25 million Series A led by New Form Capital with participation from Ripple, Flare, and others, Sentora provides end-to-end DeFi infrastructure including yield strategies, risk management, and structured products for institutional clients. For more information, visit sentora.com.

About Flare Network

Flare is the blockchain for data, providing developers with decentralized access to high-integrity data from other chains and the internet. Its FAssets system enables non-smart-contract tokens like XRP and BTC to be used trustlessly in DeFi applications on Flare. For more information, visit flare.network