

Press Release

GLEIF and AEOTrade Collaborate to Strengthen Trust and Interoperability in Electronic Bills of Lading

Verifiable organizational identity underpins trusted eBLs, reducing risk and inefficiencies across global trade and supply chains

11 February 2026 – Basel – The Global Legal Entity Identifier Foundation (GLEIF) and AEOTrade (Beijing) Technology Co., Ltd. (AEOTrade) have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Together, they will explore how verifiable organizational identity can promote the development of an open, inclusive, and secure infrastructure for trusted global digital trade.

AEOTrade is a technology enterprise serving the trade industry. Under the MoU, GLEIF and AEOTrade will work to promote interoperability between different global digital identity standards – including the Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) and the verifiable LEI (vLEI) – and international digital trade protocols, such as the AEOTradeChain blockchain platform. By integrating the vLEI with its AEOTradeChain platform, AEOTrade's solution creates a trusted digital infrastructure that ensures the authenticity, uniqueness and compliance of every electronic bill of lading (eBL) and verifies the identities of all participants. This significantly enhances the security, accuracy, and efficiency of global trade processes and supply chains.

The collaboration follows AEOTrade's participation in the inaugural GLEIF vLEI Hackathon, where it was recognized as the runner-up in the Trade, Supply Chain, and SME Finance category.

Alexandre Kech, CEO at GLEIF, comments: “Global trade continues to face fundamental challenges related to trust, fragmentation, and inefficiency—particularly as critical documents such as electronic bills of lading move fully into digital form. This collaboration with AEOTrade demonstrates how verifiable organizational identity, anchored in the vLEI, can help address these issues at scale by ensuring that every participant and transaction can be trusted by default. Building on previous cooperation during the vLEI Hackathon, the MoU marks a clear step toward real-world deployment and a more secure, interoperable digital trade ecosystem.”

Zetao Yang, CEO, AEOTrade and Secretary General of TradeTech Alliance, said: “Having showcased the benefits of integrating the vLEI into key trade documentation and

processes, our ongoing engagement with GLEIF stands to promote interoperability and innovation to realize new use-cases and enable trusted and efficient cross-border commerce."

GLEIF and AEOTrade will also focus on accelerating the development of real-world use-cases, as well as exploring broader opportunities to increase collaboration and advance the global digital trade technology ecosystem.

For more information, please visit the GLEIF [website](#).

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Full resolution images and logos can be downloaded via this link
<https://www.gleif.org/en/newsroom/gleif-graphics-images>

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Relevant link

www.gleif.org

Glossary of terms

Legal Entity Identifier (LEI)

The Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) is a 20-character, alpha-numeric code based on the ISO 17442 standard developed by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). The LEI connects to key reference information that enables clear and unique identification of legal entities participating in financial transactions. Each LEI contains information about an entity's ownership structure, answering the questions of 'who is who' and 'who owns whom'. It provides a universally recognized identifier paired with essential entity data, rigorous verification processes and high data quality.

Verifiable LEI (vLEI)

The vLEI concept is simple: It is the cryptographic secure digital counterpart of a conventional LEI. In other words, it is a digitally trustworthy version of the 20-digit LEI code which is automatically verified, without the need for human intervention. It gives government organizations, companies, and other legal entities worldwide the capacity to use non-repudiable identification data pertaining to their legal status, ownership

structure and authorized representatives in any kind of digital interaction, transaction, or e-signature scenario.

About the Global Legal Entity Identifier Foundation (GLEIF)

Established by the Financial Stability Board in June 2014, the Global Legal Entity Identifier Foundation (GLEIF) is a not-for-profit organization created to support the implementation and use of the Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) and its digital counterpart the verifiable LEI (vLEI). GLEIF is headquartered in Basel, Switzerland.

GLEIF's mission is to manage a network of global partners to provide trusted services and open, reliable data for unique legal entity identification worldwide. GLEIF makes available the technical infrastructure to provide, via an open data license, online access to the full global LEI database free of charge to users. GLEIF is overseen by the Regulatory Oversight Committee, which is made up of representatives of public authorities from across the globe.

Diversity and inclusion underpin GLEIF's values. This is reflected in its workforce of approximately 60 staff from over 20 nations, its operational excellence, and its commitment to open, global participation in the Global LEI System.

For more information, visit the GLEIF website at <https://www.gleif.org/en>.

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