

Press Release

Michaela Fleischer Appointed Chief Operating and Financial Officer of Global Legal Entity Identifier Foundation

3 March 2026 – Basel – The Global Legal Entity Identifier Foundation (GLEIF) today announced the appointment of Michaela Fleischer as Chief Operating and Financial Officer, effective March 1, 2026. In this newly created role, Michaela will provide strategic and financial leadership, as well as drive continued operational excellence across the organization.

As demand for secure and automatically verifiable organizational identities increases across industries, GLEIF introduced the new role of Chief Operating and Financial Officer to safely advance its mission and further strengthen the growing ecosystem promoting uptake of the Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) and the verifiable LEI (vLEI).

Leading the 'RUN' dimension of GLEIF's mission, Michaela will focus on the continued delivery of safe, reliable, and resilient operations for the Global LEI System. She will be responsible for overseeing and evolving GLEIF's well-established operational, financial and administrative functions, including financial planning and sustainability, organizational effectiveness, and day-to-day operations. This strategically complements GLEIF's 'GROW' agenda, led by its CEO Alexandre Kech, by further strengthening the operational foundation to support increasing LEI and vLEI adoption, the development of new use cases, and the growth of the broader ecosystem. As Managing Director of GLEIF Germany, Michaela will be based at GLEIF's German Office in Frankfurt am Main and report directly to the CEO.

A seasoned global executive, Michaela brings decades of leadership experience from top financial and technology companies and a proven record of consistently delivering transformative growth through operational and technology innovation. Michaela joins GLEIF from the crypto infrastructure service provider Finoa, where she served as Chief Operating Officer. Her previous roles at Deutsche Bank, N26, Holvi, and Revolut spanned senior responsibilities across operations, finance, governance, and organizational leadership, supporting organizations through phases of rapid growth, transformation, and increasing regulatory scrutiny.

Alexandre Kech, GLEIF CEO, said: "As our ecosystem continues to grow to encompass new geographies, sectors and participants, we recognize the need to strengthen our own capabilities to help enable businesses everywhere to participate in the digital economy. This is why I am delighted to welcome Michaela as our new Chief Operating and Financial Officer. With an extensive background in banking and IT, Michaela brings the perfect combination of operational excellence, industry expertise, and people-first leadership mentality. This will be instrumental in advancing our work to accelerate the adoption and integration of the LEI and vLEI all around the world."

Commenting on her appointment, Michaela Fleischer said: “I’m honored to join GLEIF at such a pivotal time for the organization as it enters a new phase of growth and innovation. The expanding LEI and vLEI ecosystem is shaping the future of trusted organizational identity across industries worldwide, and I look forward to working closely with the GLEIF team and stakeholders from across the entire Global LEI System to drive this transformation together.”

For more information on the LEI and vLEI, please visit the [GLEIF website](https://www.gleif.org/en).

– ENDS –

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

<https://www.gleif.org/en>

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>.

Source:

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Chair of the Board: Teresa Glasser, CEO: Alexandre Kech

Commercial-Register-No.: CHE-200.595.965, VAT-No.: CHE-200.595.965MWST

LEI: [506700GE1G29325QX363](https://www.gleif.org/en/leis/506700GE1G29325QX363)

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