



## PRESS RELEASE

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### Launch of Gibraltar Association for New Technologies Boosts Country's Expanding Blockchain Ecosystem

*Blockchain Focused Trade Association will act as a forum for policy makers, regulators, professional firms, and educators*

**Gibraltar - October 30, 2018** - [HM Government of Gibraltar](#) has today announced the formal launch of the [Gibraltar Association for New Technologies](#) (GANT), a trade association that will aim to drive forward Gibraltar's innovative approach to Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT). The association will establish formal lines of communication between policy makers and the private sector in Gibraltar's fast developing blockchain industry as well as facilitating the exchange of knowledge and ideas, with a view to enhancing public trust in this sector.

The Minister for Commerce, the Hon. Albert Isola MP, commented, "The Gibraltar Association for New Technologies will represent the views of the ever evolving DLT landscape here in Gibraltar and will be a vital component in the continued growth of the sector. This forum will allow the blockchain community to become more closely aligned with the traditional financial services sector here and give confidence to the firms operating in Gibraltar that we are committed to working collaboratively on regulatory and other matters of interest."

GANT will strive to promote high standards of professional conduct within the blockchain sector in Gibraltar as well as further the reputation of the jurisdiction's finance industry on the international stage. They will work closely with HM Government of Gibraltar, the Gibraltar Financial Services Commission and the University of Gibraltar to ensure the development of a strong and sustainable industry, including the delivery of educational programmes that will help advance a core understanding of the underlying technologies supporting the sector.

Applications for membership of GANT will be welcomed from firms who have received or have applied for a DLT licence in Gibraltar, as well as ICO firms, auditors, lawyers, and consultancy firms

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servicing these industries, full details can be found in the constitution. The association intends to build on the strong working relationships that exist between the regulator, the Financial Services Commission, and the DLT Working Group that oversaw the development of the DLT Regulatory Framework, introduced in January of this year. Members will collaborate to keep each other apprised of future policy and regulatory matters.

The Association's Chairman designate, David Parody, said, "These are exciting times for Gibraltar. A whole new industry is taking off now that the first DLT licences have been granted by the Financial Services Commission. As an association we want to ensure that we create an effective and collaborative forum for the discussion of key issues. It's also incumbent on us that we provide efficient gateways to policy and decision makers so that practical and effective solutions are arrived at. Similarly, we want to build the knowledge base across the entire sector, from experts to blockchain beginners, which is why educational outreach will be a key objective for the association".

An initial meeting of GANT will be held at Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at 10:00 at the office of Gibraltar Finance, Suite 761 Europort, Gibraltar, during which the submission of membership application forms and committee nomination forms will be discussed. The Association's Constitution and membership application forms can be viewed or downloaded [here](#). Details of initial the meeting will be published in due course via social media and website channels.

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*Minister Albert Isola is available for interview*

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#### **About Gibraltar**

A British Overseas Territory, Gibraltar is a self-governing and self-financing democracy that has established itself globally as a reliable centre for the blockchain and digital assets industry. In January 2018, Gibraltar became the very first jurisdiction globally to introduce legislation around Distributed-Ledger-Technology (DLT), and has since asserted its position as a leading blockchain and cryptocurrency hub. With Gibraltar's core values of regulation, reputation and speed to market at the foundation of its efforts within the blockchain industry, Gibraltar is now globally renowned for its commitment to creating a sustainable and secure regulatory framework for blockchain, as well as being one of the leading proponents in the advancement of the technology.

For more information please visit <http://www.gibraltarfinance.gi/en/home>



### **About Albert Isola**

The Honourable Albert Isola MP is Gibraltar's Minister for Commerce with the primary responsibility of raising Gibraltar's profile as an established onshore, mainstream, well-regulated financial services centre. Working closely with the financial services regulator, the Financial Services Commission, he is responsible for financial services policy, product development, and responding to international initiatives such as international tax compliance. Minister Isola played a leading role in the establishment of the Gibraltar International Bank, a first for Gibraltar as a home-grown full-service credit institution.

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