



## **AK Jensen Investment Management and Avantgarde Finance join forces to test putting hedge funds on the blockchain**

*Application with FCA sandbox seeks to disrupt key services within asset management industry*

A new partnership between UK hedge fund platform provider AK Jensen Investment Management (AK Jensen) and technology company Avantgarde Finance seeks to test the first compliant blockchain-powered hedge fund in history. Through an application with the Financial Conduct Authority (UK), the two companies, both leaders in the digital asset management industry, propose using the Melon Protocol to set up a demonstration crypto fund to show how smart contracts can be used to automate a range of back and middle office processes. Ultimately, the goal will be to ensure that such funds can be issued in a way that is compliant and transparent, while removing the need for various third-party providers and providing access to a wide range of both retail and institutional clients.

“With the right regulatory regime, blockchain technology will democratise and disintermediate the entire value chain of the fund industry changing how funds are set up, managed, operated and invested into”, says Mona El Isa, CEO, Avantgarde Finance. “This will provide significant benefits in terms of security, cost and transparency. AK Jensen’s expertise in issuing funds, asset management and digital assets have positioned them strongly to recognise what Melon technology means for the asset management industry and we’re excited that they’re taking this bold step forward.”

The Melon protocol is an open-source software protocol that provides the underlying infrastructure for asset management on the blockchain. By automating various processes through the use of smart contracts, Melon enables asset managers and fund sponsors to create their own tokenized investment vehicles in a new way. On-chain funds bring significant benefits in terms of cost, transparency and security to investors and investment managers alike. As the leading investment manager within the crypto fund space, AK Jensen has taken the lead as the applying entity, with Avantgarde Finance as their supporting technology partner.

Anders Kvamme Jensen, Executive Chairman, AK Jensen, says: “AK Jensen have over the last few years followed the development of the Melon protocol with great interest, while building out our crypto hedge fund platform. We believe the time is ripe, not just to have regulated funds invest into blockchain based assets, but also have the funds’ operations moved to the blockchain, to really reap the benefits of what the technology can offer. The Melon protocol doesn’t just tackle important practical and regulatory issues in our industry, it potentially removes them altogether in a revolutionary way.”

### **About Avantgarde Finance**

Founded by key players behind the Melon Protocol, Avantgarde Finance Ltd is dedicated to facilitating on-chain asset management through the Melon Protocol and has been elected by the Melon Council DAO to take on the role of lead developer of the protocol. Avantgarde is undertaking a series of protocol improvements and DeFi integrations, developing new features and growing the Melon community.



### **About AK Jensen**

AK Jensen Investment Management Limited is dedicated to cutting costs and lowering the barriers to entry for professional hedge funds by offering an all-inclusive platform solution for setting up and operating funds. Since 2018, this award-winning platform also tailors for crypto funds. The turnkey platform includes fund formation, legal and regulatory infrastructure, trading systems, back office support, and seed capital.

AK Jensen is wholly owned by AK Jensen Group Limited, which serves hedge funds and institutional clients in 35 countries around the world through its subsidiaries.

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### **Useful links**

[Melon Protocol](#)  
[Melon Protocol Medium](#)

[AKJ Hedge Fund Platform](#)  
[AKJ Token](#)