DART

Digital Assets Risk and Trustworthiness Assessment

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PROJECT INFORMATION

Avail

Project Category: Web3 infrastructure layer

Official Website: https://www.availproject.org/

Blockchain/Platform: Polkadot Network.

Brief Description: With the goal of accelerating the unification of Web3, Avail DA offers a modular, scalable, and interoperable platform designed to connect different ecosystems. This Web3 infrastructure layer enables modular execution layers to scale and interoperate in a trust-minimized manner.

Prelude: This review presents the risk factors associated with the given project and provides an analysis and respective overall risk rating as per a prescribed methodology.

TEAM COMPOSITION

The Avail team is comprised of the following individuals:

Anurag Arjun, Co-Founder:
Anurag is a co-founder of Avail and previously co-founded Polygon, formerly known as Matic Network. He played a significant role in the transition from Matic to Polygon and subsequently initiated the Avail project within Polygon in 2020.

Prabal Banerjee, Co-Founder:
Prabal has a rich background in blockchain technology, having previously served as a research lead at Polygon. In this role, he concentrated on advancing blockchain research and development, particularly in the areas of data availability and modular blockchain architectures.

Dan Mills, Product Lead:
Dan is the Product Lead at Avail, responsible for overseeing product development and ensuring that Avail meets the needs of its users and developers. Before joining Avail, Dan held significant roles in product management and development within the tech and blockchain industries. His extensive experience includes leading cross-functional teams and launching successful products that enhance user experience and performance.

Jakub Cech, Engineering Lead:
Jakub serves as the Engineering Lead at Avail, directing the development and implementation of Avail's technical architecture. With a strong background in blockchain engineering, Jakub has previously worked on several high-profile blockchain projects, contributing to their technical success and scalability.

Jake Schaeffer, Product Marketing Management:
Jake, in charge of Product Marketing Management at Avail, strategizes and executes promotional initiatives. Previously, he led successful tech industry campaigns, boosting user engagement and product adoption.

Marko Petrlić, Senior Blockchain Engineer:
Marko is a Senior Blockchain Engineer at Avail, primarily responsible for developing and optimizing the blockchain infrastructure to ensure high performance and scalability. He brings extensive experience in blockchain technology, focusing on creating robust solutions that support Avail's mission of providing a modular, scalable, and interoperable platform for Web3 applications.

QEDK, Senior R&D Engineer:
QEDK serves as a Senior R&D Engineer at Avail, playing a pivotal role in advancing the Avail Trinity—comprising Avail DA (Data Availability layer), Nexus (proof aggregation and interoperability), and Fusion (shared security). QEDK has been instrumental in addressing the challenges of rollup fragmentation and scalability within the blockchain ecosystem. He actively engages in research and development to enhance Avail's infrastructure, focusing on improving the efficiency and security of rollups. His contributions include participating in industry events such as the SevenX Research Day at ETHDenver, where he discussed the importance of modularity and interoperability in scaling blockchain networks.

Other team members include:
Kailas K R, Ghali El Ouarzazi, Luka Borkovic, Aleksandar Terentic, Ljubisa Isakovic, Miguel Garcia, Vikram Bhattacharjee (Engineers); Momcilo Saša Pršić, Robin Roy Thomas (Developers); Sanchari Roy (Manager); Delroy Bosco (Network Operations Lead); Obrien Alaribe (Senior DevOps Engineer); Toufeeq Pasha, Rishabh Agrawal, Rachit Srivastava (Blockchain Engineers); Danny Salman (Senior Technical Writer); Neil Vidyarthi (Head of Marketing); Abheek Tripathy (Frontend Engineer); Sakshi Jain (Technical Solutions Engineer); Mohit Bansal (Strategy Lead); Qinwen Wang (Growth Lead, Asia); Kyle Rojas (Lead – Global Business); and others more.

TEAM

The Avail team structure

The team structure consists of 2 in Founders and Leadership, 8 in Executive and Management, 20 in Product and Engineering, 5 in DevOps and Network Operations, 6 in Product Marketing and Content, 2 in Technical Solutions and Support, 1 in Human Resources, and 1 in Validation and Engagement.

The Avail supporters

Avail DA is backed by Figment, Dragonfly, Nomad, SevenX Ventures, Founders Fund, and Figment. Some of its angel investors include Balaji Srinivasan, Ashwin R from Brevan Howard, Sunny Aggarwal from Osmosis, Mudit Gupta from Polygon, Amrit Kumar from AltLayer, and others.

The Avail connections

Avail boasts a wide range of connections, partnerships, and integrations within the blockchain ecosystem. Its chain integrations include Arbitrum, Optimism, Polygon Technology, Starkware (including Madara Rollup Framework), and zkSync. The project is partnered with Arcana, BeFi Labs, Chai, and 19 other chain partners.

Avail DA supports numerous SDKs and frameworks such as Airchains, BladeDAO, Crestal, Dymension, Fluentlabs, Kgen, Karnot, MovementLabs, RiscZero, Rollkit, Side, Sovereign, StackrLabs, Vitwit, and ZkCross. In the gaming sector, it collaborates with BladeDAO and Paima Studios, while in DeFi, it partners with Claystack, OpenblockLabs, and Pyth. For Rollup as a Service (RaaS), Avail DA integrates with AltLayer, Ankr, Conduit, Gateway, Gelato, Orbitron, Pinex, Snapchain, TrueZK, QuickNode, and BridgeSuccinct.

Wallet support includes AvailSpace, Bitget, DWallet, FearlessWallet, Klever, NovaWallet, Okto, PolkaSafe, SubWallet, SilenceLaboratories, Talisman, and TrianglePlatform.

Its infrastructure support extends to Allnodes, Ankr, ATA, BwareLabs, Equilibrium, Fairblock, FalconX, Filecoin, Fleek, Luganodes, NocturnalLabs, NodeKit, NodeOps, Spheron, Polkadot, SubQuery, Subsquid, Versatus, and Vistara. Additionally, Avail DA benefits from educational support provided by Blockworks and CoinAcademy.

The Avail concerns

The primary concerns identified are that while the team members' names and social media handles are provided, their detailed backgrounds and industry experience are not displayed on the website. This omission makes it challenging to fully assess the individual qualifications and past achievements of the team members.

However, Avail's Co-founders Anurag Arjun and Prabal Banerjee bring significant blockchain expertise, notably with Anurag's background at Polygon Labs. The team, which includes specialized roles and senior positions, is transparently listed with names, X handles, and GitHub accounts on the official website. Securing $27 million in seed funding from prestigious investors such as Peter Thiel's Founders Fund and Dragonfly underscores the project's potential and credibility. Utilizing advanced technologies like zero-knowledge proofs and Polkadot's Substrate, along with an operational testnet, highlights its technical sophistication. Strategic partnerships with reputable firms in infrastructure, DeFi, and SDKs further enhance its credibility. Although detailed backgrounds for each team member are not displayed, the transparency and verifiable credentials significantly mitigate this concern.

GITHUB & CODE QUALITY

The Avail project on GitHub exemplifies a typical open-source initiative, featuring publicly accessible repositories that encourage viewing, forking, and contributing. With a significant following of over 900 users, it demonstrates strong community interest. Over 35 contributors are actively involved, making an increasing number of commits to the main branch, indicating active development and growing community engagement. The project encompasses 64 repositories, highlighting a broad scope or modular components.

The development pace is steady, with regular but not frequent updates, reflected in a moderate number of pull requests and commits. Community discussions are active, showcasing user engagement and collaborative problem-solving. However, the documentation is described as average, sufficient for current users but in need of improvement for better clarity and comprehensiveness.

The project employs a modern tech stack, including Rust, Go, TypeScript, JavaScript, and Shell, covering various development needs from systems programming to web development and scripting. It follows best practices with regular use of GitHub for version control and pull requests for code review. Improving documentation and attracting more contributors could enhance development velocity, diversity of input, and overall project accessibility.

While the project's over 900 follower count indicates strong community interest. Despite having 64 repositories, the average activity level reflects steady development. Active discussions highlight community engagement, while average documentation suggests room for improvement. A modern tech stack and adherence to best practices are evident, but better documentation and increased contributor participation could further benefit the project.

SOCIAL MEDIA & COMMUNITY

Community size and activity

The Avail community's size and activity can be evaluated across different platforms. They have 2,000 followers on LinkedIn, over 300,000 followers with average engagement on X (formerly Twitter), over 170,000 members on Telegram, and over 200,000 members on Discord with low activity and average admin interaction. Interaction quality varies: LinkedIn lacks sufficient data, X shows average engagement, Telegram has high membership but poor responsiveness regarding mainnet launch questions, and Discord suffers from low activity despite its large membership.

Quality of interactions

Avail DA has a substantial presence on X (formerly Twitter) with 348,000 followers and 1,440 posts, indicating significant communication efforts. Their Telegram and Discord memberships are also large, with 176,000 and 228,300 members respectively, though Discord's low activity level dilutes overall engagement. LinkedIn has a smaller but notable follower count of 2,000. Interaction quality varies: X shows average engagement, Telegram suffers from poor responsiveness to critical questions about the mainnet launch, and Discord has low activity and average admin interaction. LinkedIn lacks detailed interaction metrics but suggests a moderate presence. The unanswered questions on Telegram and Discord highlight a need for improved engagement strategies, as timely communication is crucial for maintaining community trust. Additionally, the absence of a Reddit account represents a missed opportunity for deeper interaction and community building.

Red Flags and Risks

Potential red flags include the unanswered questions about the mainnet launch on Telegram and Discord, indicating a communication gap between the project team and the community. The low activity on Discord, despite a large member base, suggests issues in engagement strategy or community management. Additionally, the absence of a Reddit account represents missed opportunities for community engagement and feedback, as Reddit is known for detailed discussions and user insights on tech projects.

BUSINESS MODEL

The implementation of light clients by Avail to verify data availability through sampling over a peer-to-peer network is a significant innovation, enhancing the robustness and sustainability of its business model. This methodology enhances scalability and robustness by maintaining data availability without necessitating all nodes to download the entire blockchain. The integration of erasure coding, KZG polynomial commitments, and data availability sampling ensures a high level of security and reliability. By decoupling data hosting, execution, and verification, Avail optimizes the efficiency and effectiveness of each component. This modular approach not only simplifies blockchain integration for developers but also allows for more flexible and scalable solutions. Consequently, the system can adapt and grow with the evolving needs of the blockchain ecosystem. The choice of Nominated Proof-of-Stake (NPoS) using Substrate's BABE/GRANDPA consensus protocols is a strategic move for scalability and energy efficiency, ensuring fast block production and provable finality, thus making the network both efficient and secure.

The modular design provides a compelling value proposition to users by removing the burden of managing validator sets or tokenomics from developers, simplifying the development and deployment of blockchain applications. This ease of use can attract more developers to the platform, boosting its adoption and utility. The feature allowing users to verify block data availability without downloading entire blocks is a significant advantage. This capability supports various execution environments (EVM, WASM, custom runtimes), enabling developers to create zero-knowledge or fraud-proof-based applications with greater efficiency and ease. Supporting multiple execution environments makes Avail DA a versatile solution for diverse blockchain applications, potentially attracting a wide range of projects and developers and thereby enhancing the platform's ecosystem.

A focus on robust data availability for Layer 2 solutions positions Avail favorably for potential growth and profitability within a growing market. As more blockchain projects seek to scale using Layer 2 solutions, Avail DA can become a critical infrastructure provider. By offering a reliable off-chain data availability mechanism, Avail DA addresses a significant need in the blockchain space. This capability can attract projects requiring cost-effective and scalable data solutions, contributing to the platform's growth. The use of advanced technologies like erasure coding and polynomial commitments bolsters Avail DA's reputation for security and reliability, potentially attracting high-profile projects and partnerships, driving growth and profitability.

A clear strategic focus on providing data availability solutions for next-generation blockchain applications and sovereign rollups demonstrates clarity of strategy and financial planning. This targeted approach differentiates Avail from other blockchain projects and establishes a strong market position. The business model appears sustainable, leveraging validator incentives and a scalable consensus mechanism. However, detailed financial planning, including revenue models, cost structures, and funding strategies, would provide a clearer picture of long-term sustainability. Emphasizing the building of a robust community and developer ecosystem is essential for sustained growth. Engaging with developers, providing comprehensive documentation, and fostering a supportive community can drive adoption and innovation on the platform.

The value proposition and sound financial planning support the rationale behind Avail's approach, though there are areas for improvement. The project demonstrates strong innovation and scalability through its use of light clients, erasure coding, and modular design, simplifying blockchain integration for developers. It offers a versatile and secure solution that supports various execution environments, which can attract a wide range of developers and projects. However, enhancements are needed in developer support, community engagement, strategic partnerships, and scalability solutions. Additionally, more detailed financial planning and revenue models would further strengthen the business model and ensure long-term sustainability.

CONCLUSION AND SCORE

Conclusion

Based on our comprehensive review, Avail DA demonstrates strong potential, particularly in its business model and team reputation. The project benefits from innovative technology and a clear strategic focus, which positions it well within the growing blockchain space. Key strengths include its modular design, robust data availability solutions, and an experienced team with notable backgrounds, especially from Polygon Labs.

However, there are areas for improvement. The project would benefit from more detailed financial planning, enhanced documentation, and increased community engagement, particularly on platforms like Discord and Telegram. Additionally, expanding the number of active contributors on GitHub and providing more detailed backgrounds of team members would further bolster the project's credibility.

Score

As per the reasons previously mentioned, Avail DA falls into the **Moderate Risk** category. While the project has several promising aspects, potential investors should proceed with caution and conduct further due diligence. Enhancements in developer support, strategic partnerships, and communication can significantly impact its growth and sustainability. We recommend that potential investors and users closely monitor the project's developments, particularly in the highlighted areas for improvement. As always, continue to perform your own research and stay updated with the project's official communications to make informed decisions.

CONTACT US

https://polkadot.antiscam.team/
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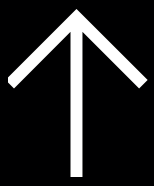
Discord Community



ANTI·SCAM TEAM