DART

Digital Assets Risk and Trustworthiness Assessment





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PROJECT INFORMATION

Zenlink

Project Category: DEX protocol

Official Website: https://zenlink.pro/en/

Blockchain/Platform: Polkadot Network

Brief Description: Zenlink is a decentralized exchange (DEX) protocol on Polkadot that enables cross-chain token swaps and shared liquidity across parachains. It offers tools like a DEX aggregator and liquidity management solutions, creating a scalable, interoperable DeFi ecosystem focused on security and ease of use.

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 Zenlink team is comprised of the following individuals:

Zenlink doesn't provide a detailed list of team members on its official website, this unavailability of information makes it difficult to describe the Zenlink team structure, or to ascertain if any of the team members have been involved in any negative media. However, in the FAQ section of its wiki, Zenlink notes that the team is primarily based in China and Singapore and brings significant blockchain expertise to the project. Several key members come from imToken and were early supporters of the Polkadot ecosystem. One team member, identified as the cofounder "Leo," is mentioned with a link to their X profile, though only limited information is available, and the name appears to be a pseudonym without a detailed biography. There are no mentioned project advisors for Zenlink as observed in the project's website.

TEAM

The Zenlink team structure

It is difficult to determine the team structure given the lack of details.

The Zenlink supporters

Zenlink lists partnerships with several projects, including Moonbeam, Gear, Acala, Bifrost, Astar, web3 Foundation, Chainlink, Slowmist, Immunefi, Insurace, Phala Network, Manta Network, Patract, Darwinia, MathChain, Stafi, ChainX, OpenOcean, Multichain, Celer, Nomad, Illusionist Group, Bondly, and Gate.io. The project's investors include Alameda Research, Hashkey, IOSG Ventures, Continue Capital, Youbi Capital, DI Ventures, OKX Blockdream Ventures, Hypersphere, SNZ Holdings, Seven X Ventures, DFG, TRGC, and PAKA.

The Zenlink connections

According to the team's documentation, it purports that the core team members hail from a bitcoin and ethereum wallet project named imToken.

The Zenlink concerns

The lack of a detailed team structure, absence of public biographies, and minimal verification of team members: most notably, the co-founder "Leo," who appears under a pseudonym: make it challenging to confirm the team's reputation or any involvement in prior media. Without more accessible information or documented public profiles, Zenlink's team remains largely anonymous, preventing a clear assessment of their industry credibility. However, there is something to be said regarding the funding it has received from VCs and investors, coupled with the team's statements on it being composed from imToken, which was also observed to have had funding from other VCs and investors, and while their vetting process aren't disclosed on open source, having funding from multiple entities that are known in the space does provide a modicum of reassurance. Lastly, the team despite being anonymous, has remained active within the last few years, which also gives investors and users a given amount of track record for having been in the ecosystem, and provides another layer of assurance as well.

GITHUB & CODE QUALITY

Zenlink's GitHub presence reflects a healthy open-source status, with 40 repositories and active contributions. The use of TypeScript, Rust, Go, and JavaScript as the top languages indicates a versatile and modern tech stack, suitable for robust development. The repository has a good number of contributors, which suggests a collaborative and engaged development community. Commit frequency is consistent, pointing to regular updates and active project code maintenance. The documentation is of good quality, ensuring clarity and usability for developers looking to contribute or integrate with Zenlink. Furthermore, the adherence to standard software development practices is evident, showcasing a professional approach to code quality and repository management.

The project also included its audits from SlowMist and PeckShield in its zenlink-security-audit repository, which is a good sign for a project as it subjects itself to these firms, and subsequently discloses the pertinent results.

SOCIAL MEDIA & COMMUNITY

Community size and activity

Zenlink has a sizable online community spread across multiple platforms. The X handle boasts over 25K followers, while Medium has a following of just over 3K, indicating a respectable reach. Telegram also includes over 3K members with moderate activity, and the Discord server is significantly larger, with over 33K followers. Despite these numbers, the platforms show varied levels of activity, with X and Discord being relatively inactive compared to their audience sizes.

Quality of interactions

The quality of interactions within Zenlink's community is inconsistent. On Telegram, admins provide support and use bots effectively for tasks such as welcoming users and preventing spam. However, concerns arise from scam alerts in the chat, which may undermine user confidence. Medium engagement aligns better with its smaller follower base, showing some signs of active readership. In contrast, Discord is poorly managed, with outdated announcements, minimal admin interaction, and no channel dedicated to addressing scams, which diminishes the quality of the platform.

Red Flags and Risks

Zenlink faces several risks despite its community size. The absence of official handles on platforms like Reddit and LinkedIn restricts its community outreach and leaves room for scammers to impersonate the project. Low engagement on X and the lack of timely responses or updates on Discord further weaken the project's community trust. The lack of dedicated scam prevention measures on major platforms is a significant oversight that could expose users to potential risks, raising concerns about Zenlink's community management strategy.

BUSINESS MODEL

Zenlink's business model appears robust, with a clear focus on providing seamless trading experiences across the Polkadot ecosystem. Its value proposition is strong: because developers can easily deploy DEX functionality with minimal effort, while users benefit from full liquidity, low slippage, and cross-chain trading without complexity. The modular design and aggregator ensure scalability and adaptability, appealing to diverse parachains and DEX users. The potential for growth is significant, given Polkadot's expanding ecosystem and the increasing demand for cross-chain solutions. By addressing pain points like fragmented liquidity and optimizing the trading efficiency, Zenlink positions itself as a critical infrastructure player in the ecosystem. However, long-term sustainability depends on maintaining active developer and user adoption, which all are crucial. Again, the strategy to simplify deployment and unify liquidity sources is sound, but the project's financial planning and monetization (e.g., transaction fees, partnerships) need clearer articulation to ensure profitability. Zenlink has a compelling foundation but must strengthen execution and community engagement to realize its full potential.

CONCLUSION AND SCORE

Conclusion

Based on the above comprehensive review, Zenlink exhibits promising potential in its business model and technical foundation, particularly with its focus on creating a unified cross-chain DEX ecosystem for Polkadot. The project's GitHub activity is commendable, reflecting consistent updates and collaborative development, while its modular and scalable architecture adds value to both developers and users.

However, significant concerns remain regarding the team's transparency and community engagement. The lack of detailed team information and verifiable partnerships, coupled with low interaction levels on key social platforms, detract from the project's credibility. Additionally, the community's susceptibility to scams due to inadequate preventive measures on Discord and Telegram raises further red flags.

Score

As per the reasons mentioned above, Zenlink has achieved two out of five stars, indicating notable weaknesses in critical areas. While the project's innovative vision and strong technical foundation make it worth monitoring, potential users or investors should exercise caution. As always, continue to perform your own research and stay updated with the project's official communications.

Disclosure: The information in this report is as of Q3 of 2024, all information is subject to change. Please use at your own discretion.

CONTACTUS

https://polkadot.antiscam.team/ contact@antiscam.team <u>Discord Community</u>



