

Media release

Zug, 2 October 2023

Zuger Kantonalbank launches digital assets offering

From today, the leading financial institution in the Zug business region becomes the first cantonal bank to offer clients straightforward trading and secure storage of the most common cryptocurrencies. The offering complements its existing investment services and is delivered within a fully regulated banking environment.

As of today, Zuger Kantonalbank clients are able to invest in cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin, Ethereum, XRP, Litecoin, Polygon and Uniswap. The digital assets can be bought, traded and stored simply and conveniently via the bank's e-banking or mobile banking services, and are traded in US dollars. Trading takes place from Monday to Friday, between 1.30 a.m. and 10.00 p.m. Naturally, the offering is available to new clients as well.

"For some time now, we've seen that the growing demand for cryptocurrencies is no longer coming from professional market participants alone. So, we're delighted that with immediate effect we can provide our clients with straightforward, convenient as well as safe access to these markets without them having to leave their familiar banking environment. Working with our partners, we've created an advanced infrastructure that enables us to offer investors an additional opportunity to diversify," says Hanspeter Rhyner, CEO of Zuger Kantonalbank.

Transparent, easy access to digital assets

Zuger Kantonalbank set itself the target of making investing in digital assets as easy as possible. Thanks to direct integration into the bank's mobile and e-banking solutions, clients are able to manage their traditional assets and cryptocurrencies on a one-stop basis. An active custody account with Zuger Kantonalbank is essential for settlement purposes. The trading and storage of cryptocurrencies are based on the same procedures and processes that apply to traditional assets. The documents required for the completion of tax returns will also be available electronically, as usual. And, when selling their cryptocurrencies, clients will have immediate access to the proceeds. In addition, due to direct integration into the e-banking and mobile banking portal, there is no need for the separate storing of digital keys.

Partnerships with Sygnum and Swisscom

For the new offering, Zuger Kantonalbank is using the B2B banking platform provided by Sygnum: Via a single access point, this opens up a broad range of FINMA-regulated banking services for digital assets. The platform's modular structure enables the regulated trading and storing of cryptocurrencies to be seamlessly integrated into Zuger Kantonalbank's existing infrastructure.

"We're delighted that Zuger Kantonalbank chose us as its partner for enabling clients to enjoy secure access to investment opportunities in the digital assets space. At Sygnum, we believe that the future has heritage. The combination of the 131-year-old success story that is Zuger Kantonalbank with the integrated solution from Sygnum for the secure issuing, storing and trading of digital assets is demonstrable evidence of that," says Mathias Imbach, Sygnum co-founder and Group CEO.

In terms of the development of the technological platform and infrastructure, Zuger Kantonalbank was supported by Swisscom. “We’re delighted to have been able to help Zuger Kantonalbank create the state-of-the-art infrastructure required for such a forward-looking offering, says Christian Dicke, Head of Swisscom Banking.

High safety standards for storing of assets

The storing of digital assets is covered by the same strict legal standards that apply to traditional financial transactions. As a regulated bank subject to Swiss law, Sygnum Bank complies with all relevant legal and regulatory obligations on the basis of its robust ALM processes as well as institutional security standards.

Further development of offering under consideration

As a member of the Swiss Blockchain Federation, Zuger Kantonalbank has used state-of-the-art technology for a long time now and aims to build a bridge between traditional banking and the crypto world. Switzerland is among the world’s most crypto-friendly countries, with demand for cryptocurrencies having grown sharply in recent years. Based in “Crypto Valley”, Zuger Kantonalbank is the first Swiss cantonal bank to have responded to the evolving market demand by offering traditional as well as crypto investments on its existing platform. As the leading bank in the Zug business region, Zuger Kantonalbank intends to play an active role in the changing world of finance and – assuming the new offering develops positively – further expand the universe of tradeable assets.

Information

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Zuger Kantonalbank

Established in 1892, Zuger Kantonalbank is the leading financial institution in the Zug business region. It is a public limited company subject to a special legislative act. Its registered shares – 50% held by the Canton of Zug – are listed on SIX Swiss Exchange. The remaining 50% is split between around 11,000 private shareholders. With a total of 14 branches throughout the Canton of Zug and around 510 employees, Zuger Kantonalbank offers the full range of services expected of a universal bank. As of 30 June 2023, Zuger Kantonalbank had total assets of CHF 19.7 billion. www.zugerkb.ch