**Participant Information Sheet**

**Study Title**: The application of Blockchain in food supply chain management

**Researcher**: Chen Zhang

**ERGO number:** 54993

You are being invited to take part in the above research study. To help you decide whether you would like to take part or not, it is important that you understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please read the information below carefully and ask questions if anything is not clear or you would like more information before you decide to take part in this research. You may like to discuss it with others but it is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you are happy to participate you will be asked to sign a consent form.

**What is the research about?**

Blockchain has been a hot topic in recent years, and more companies tend to use blockchain to address their company issues. A few blockchain based applications have been successfully implemented, such as bitcoin. Apart from the financial area, blockchain is found to be beneficial in other areas such as recycling, property management, voting system and supply chain management. Blockchain applications in supply chain is relatively new, however which is emerging. This research aims to investigate why and how companies choose blockchain over other innovations to improve food supply chain, how to implement blockchain and what are the benefits and challenges.

**Why have I been asked to participate?**

Expert or practitioner of blockchain in food supply chain

**What will happen to me if I take part?**

This research is going to adopt semi-structured face to face/telephone one to one interview, which can last about 1 hour with key individuals involved in blockchain and food supply chain management. The conversation and interview process will be recording in audios

**Are there any benefits in my taking part?**

The interviews will greatly help me to improve my current understanding of the area, and I would like to produce and share with you a case report and my final thesis.

**Are there any risks involved?**

There will not be any risks as no private information will be involved, and all collected data will be kept confidential.

**What data will be collected?**

This research will collect data such as personal understanding and views about blockchain. Therefore, information include participants’ company name, job title, job roles will be included but will be kept confidential.

Any special category data (this includes information on ethnicity; sexual orientation; gender identity; religious beliefs; genetic data; biometric data from which you can be uniquely identified; and health data) will not be collected at all.

**Will my participation be confidential?**

Your participation and the information we collect about you during the course of the research will be kept strictly confidential. Electronic data will be encrypted and password protected.

Only members of the research team and responsible members of the University of Southampton may be given access to data about you for monitoring purposes and/or to carry out an audit of the study to ensure that the research is complying with applicable regulations. Individuals from regulatory authorities (people who check that we are carrying out the study correctly) may require access to your data. All of these people have a duty to keep your information, as a research participant, strictly confidential.

**Do I have to take part?**

No, it is entirely up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you decide you want to take part, you will need to sign a consent form to show you have agreed to take part.

**What happens if I change my mind?**

You have the right to change your mind and withdraw at any time without giving a reason and without your participant rights being affected.

If you withdraw from the study, we will keep the information about you that we have already obtained for the purposes of achieving the objectives of the study only.

If you wish to withdraw from the study, please contact Chen Zhang (cz3g16@soton.ac.uk).

**What will happen to the results of the research?**

This project will be written up, and may published. Your personal details will remain strictly confidential. Research findings made available in any reports or publications will not include private information that can directly identify you without your specific consent.

**Where can I get more information?**

Researcher : Chen Zhang (cz3g16@soton.ac.uk)

**What happens if there is a problem?**

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, you should speak to the researchers who will do their best to answer your questions.

If you remain unhappy or have a complaint about any aspect of this study, please contact the University of Southampton Research Integrity and Governance Manager (023 8059 5058, rgoinfo@soton.ac.uk).

Researcher: Chen Zhang (cz3g16@soton.ac.uk)

**Data Protection Privacy Notice**

The University of Southampton conducts research to the highest standards of research integrity. As a publicly-funded organisation, the University has to ensure that it is in the public interest when we use personally-identifiable information about people who have agreed to take part in research. This means that when you agree to take part in a research study, we will use information about you in the ways needed, and for the purposes specified, to conduct and complete the research project. Under data protection law, ‘Personal data’ means any information that relates to and is capable of identifying a living individual. The University’s data protection policy governing the use of personal data by the University can be found on its website (<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/legalservices/what-we-do/data-protection-and-foi.page>).

This Participant Information Sheet tells you what data will be collected for this project and whether this includes any personal data. Please ask the research team if you have any questions or are unclear what data is being collected about you.

Our privacy notice for research participants provides more information on how the University of Southampton collects and uses your personal data when you take part in one of our research projects and can be found at <http://www.southampton.ac.uk/assets/sharepoint/intranet/ls/Public/Research%20and%20Integrity%20Privacy%20Notice/Privacy%20Notice%20for%20Research%20Participants.pdf>

Any personal data we collect in this study will be used only for the purposes of carrying out our research and will be handled according to the University’s policies in line with data protection law. If any personal data is used from which you can be identified directly, it will not be disclosed to anyone else without your consent unless the University of Southampton is required by law to disclose it.

Data protection law requires us to have a valid legal reason (‘lawful basis’) to process and use your Personal data. The lawful basis for processing personal information in this research study is for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest. Personal data collected for research will not be used for any other purpose.

For the purposes of data protection law, the University of Southampton is the ‘Data Controller’ for this study, which means that we are responsible for looking after your information and using it properly. The University of Southampton will keep identifiable information about you for 10 years after the study has finished after which time any link between you and your information will be removed.

To safeguard your rights, we will use the minimum personal data necessary to achieve our research study objectives. Your data protection rights – such as to access, change, or transfer such information - may be limited, however, in order for the research output to be reliable and accurate. The University will not do anything with your personal data that you would not reasonably expect.

If you have any questions about how your personal data is used, or wish to exercise any of your rights, please consult the University’s data protection webpage (https://www.southampton.ac.uk/legalservices/what-we-do/data-protection-and-foi.page) where you can make a request using our online form. If you need further assistance, please contact the University’s Data Protection Officer (data.protection@soton.ac.uk).

**Thank you.**