

**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549**

FORM 10-K

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2025

or

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the transition period from _____ to _____

Commission File Number 000-56788

Grayscale Bittensor Trust (TAO)

SPONSORED BY GRAYSCALE INVESTMENTS SPONSORS, LLC
(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

Delaware
(State or Other Jurisdiction of
Incorporation or Organization)

290 Harbor Drive, 4th Floor
Stamford, Connecticut
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

99-6506784
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

06902
(Zip Code)

(212) 668-1427

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act:

Title of each class	Trading Symbol(s)	Name of each exchange on which registered
Grayscale Bittensor Trust (TAO) Shares	GTAO	N/A

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes No

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act. Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit such files). Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, a smaller reporting company, or an emerging growth company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer," "smaller reporting company," and "emerging growth company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Accelerated filer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Non-accelerated filer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Smaller reporting company	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Emerging growth company	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has filed a report on and attestation to its management's assessment of the effectiveness of its internal control over financial reporting under Section 404(b) of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act (15 U.S.C. 7262(b)) by the registered public accounting firm that prepared or issued its audit report.

If securities are registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act, indicate by check mark whether the financial statements of the registrant included in the filing reflect the correction of an error to previously issued financial statements.

Indicate by check mark whether any of those error corrections are restatements that required a recovery analysis of incentive-based compensation received by any of the registrant's executive officers during the relevant recovery period pursuant to §240.10D-1(b).

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes No

Aggregate market value of registrant's Shares held by non-affiliates of the registrant, based upon the closing price of a Share on June 30, 2025 as reported by the OTC Markets Group Inc. on that date: Not applicable

Number of Shares of the registrant outstanding as of March 6, 2026: 1,907,800

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE: None

INDUSTRY AND MARKET DATA

Although we are responsible for all disclosure contained in this Annual Report on Form 10-K, in some cases we have relied on certain market and industry data obtained from third-party sources that we believe to be reliable. Market estimates are calculated by using independent industry publications in conjunction with our assumptions regarding the Bittensor industry and market. While we are not aware of any misstatements regarding any market, industry or similar data presented herein, such data involves risks and uncertainties and is subject to change based on various factors, including those discussed under the headings “Forward-Looking Statements” and “Item 1A. Risk Factors” in this Annual Report.

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This Annual Report on Form 10-K contains “forward-looking statements” with respect to the financial conditions, results of operations, plans, objectives, future performance and business of Grayscale Bittensor Trust (TAO) (the “Trust”). Statements preceded by, followed by or that include words such as “may,” “might,” “will,” “should,” “expect,” “plan,” “anticipate,” “believe,” “estimate,” “predict,” “potential” or “continue,” the negative of these terms and other similar expressions are intended to identify some of the forward-looking statements. All statements (other than statements of historical fact) included in this Annual Report that address activities, events or developments that will or may occur in the future, including such matters as changes in market prices and conditions, the Trust’s operations, the plans of Grayscale Investments Sponsors, LLC (the “Sponsor”), and references to the Trust’s future success and other similar matters are forward-looking statements. These statements are only predictions. Actual events or results may differ materially from such statements. These statements are based upon certain assumptions and analyses the Sponsor made based on its perception of historical trends, current conditions and expected future developments, as well as other factors appropriate in the circumstances. Whether or not actual results and developments will conform to the Sponsor’s expectations and predictions, however, is subject to a number of risks and uncertainties, including, but not limited to, those described in “Part I. Item 1A. Risk Factors.” Forward-looking statements are made based on the Sponsor’s beliefs, estimates and opinions on the date the statements are made and neither the Trust nor the Sponsor is under a duty or undertakes an obligation to update forward-looking statements if these beliefs, estimates and opinions or other circumstances should change, other than as required by applicable laws. Investors are therefore cautioned against relying on forward-looking statements. Factors which could have a material adverse effect on the Trust’s business, financial condition or results of operations and future prospects or which could cause actual results to differ materially from the Trust’s expectations include, but are not limited to, those described in “Item 1A. Risk Factors.”

Summary of Risk Factors

Below is a summary of the principal factors that make an investment in the Shares speculative or risky. This summary does not address all of the risks that we face. Additional discussion of the risks summarized in this risk factor summary, and other risks that we face, can be found below in “Item 1A. Risk Factors”. Some of the factors that could materially and adversely affect our business include, but are not limited to, the following:

Risk Factors Related to Digital Assets

- Extreme volatility of trading prices that many digital assets, including TAO, have experienced in recent periods and may continue to experience, could have a material adverse effect on the value of the Shares and the Shares could lose all or substantially all of their value.
- The medium-to-long term value of the Shares is subject to a number of factors relating to the capabilities and development of blockchain technologies and to the fundamental investment characteristics of digital assets.
- Digital assets represent a relatively new and rapidly evolving industry, and the value of the Shares depends on the acceptance of TAO.
- Digital assets may have concentrated ownership and large sales or distributions by holders of such digital assets could have an adverse effect on the market price of such digital assets.
- A temporary or permanent “fork” or a “clone” could adversely affect the value of the Shares.

Risk Factors Related to the Digital Asset Markets

- Recent developments in the digital asset economy have led to extreme volatility and disruption in digital asset markets, a loss of confidence in participants of the digital asset ecosystem, significant negative publicity surrounding digital assets broadly and market-wide declines in liquidity.
- The value of the Shares relates directly to the value of TAO held by the Trust, the value of which may be highly volatile and subject to fluctuations.

- The largely unregulated nature and lack of transparency surrounding the operations of Digital Asset Trading Platforms may adversely affect the value of digital assets and, consequently, the value of the Shares.
- Digital Asset Trading Platforms may be exposed to front-running and wash-trading.
- The Index has a limited history and a failure of the Index Price could adversely affect the value of the Shares.
- Competition from the emergence or growth of other digital assets could have a negative impact on the price of TAO and adversely affect the value of the Shares.

Risk Factors Related to the Trust and the Shares

- The Trust relies on third-party service providers to perform certain functions essential to the affairs of the Trust and the replacement of such service providers could pose challenges to the safekeeping of the Trust’s TAO and to the operations of the Trust.
- The liquidity of the Shares may be affected if Authorized Participants cease to perform their obligations under the Participant Agreements or the Liquidity Engager is unable to engage Liquidity Providers.
- Because of the holding period under Rule 144, the lack of an ongoing redemption program, and the Trust’s ability to halt creations from time to time, there is no arbitrage mechanism to keep the value of the Shares closely linked to the Index Price and the Shares have historically traded at a substantial premium over, or a substantial discount to, the NAV per Share.
- The possibility that the Shares may trade at a price that is at, above or below the Trust’s NAV per Share as a result of the non-concurrent trading hours between OTCQX and the Digital Asset Trading Platform Market.
- Shareholders may suffer a loss on their investment if the Shares trade above or below the Trust’s NAV per Share.
- Extraordinary expenses, tax liabilities arising from TAO sales without distributions, indemnification obligations, intellectual property claims, and disruptions from pandemics or other disasters could adversely affect the value of the Shares.

Risk Factors Related to the Regulation of Digital Assets, the Trust and the Shares

- A determination that TAO or any other digital asset is a “security” may adversely affect the value of TAO and the value of the Shares, and result in potentially extraordinary, nonrecurring expenses to, or termination of, the Trust.
- Regulatory changes or actions by the U.S. Congress or any U.S. federal or state agencies may affect the value of the Shares or restrict the use of one or more digital assets, validating activity or the operation of their networks or the Digital Asset Markets in a manner that adversely affects the value of the Shares.
- Regulatory changes or other events in foreign jurisdictions may affect the value of the Shares or restrict the use of one or more digital assets, validating activity or the operation of their networks or the Digital Asset Trading Platform Market in a manner that adversely affects the value of the Shares.
- The Authorized Participant, the Trust or the Sponsor could be subject to regulation as a money service business or money transmitter, which could result in extraordinary expenses to the Authorized Participant, the Trust or the Sponsor and also result in decreased liquidity for the Shares.
- Regulatory changes or interpretations could obligate the Trust or the Sponsor to register and comply with new regulations, resulting in potentially extraordinary, nonrecurring expenses to the Trust.
- The uncertain and evolving tax treatment of the Trust, digital assets, TAO and transactions involving TAO under U.S. federal, state, and local tax laws could adversely affect the value of the Shares.

Risk Factors Related to Potential Conflicts of Interest

- Conflicts of interest may arise among the Sponsor or its affiliates and the Trust.
- Shareholders cannot be assured of the Sponsor’s continued services, the discontinuance of which may be detrimental to the Trust.
- If the Custodian resigns or is removed by the Sponsor, or otherwise, without replacement, it would trigger early termination of the Trust.

Unless otherwise stated or the context otherwise requires, the terms “we,” “our” and “us” in this Annual Report refer to the Sponsor acting on behalf of the Trust.

A glossary of industry and other defined terms is included in this Annual Report, beginning on page 96.

This Annual Report supplements and where applicable amends the Memorandum, as defined in the Trust’s Second Amended and Restated Declaration of Trust and Trust Agreement, for general purposes.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Item No.	Item Caption	Page
PART I		
Item 1.	Business	1
Item 1A.	Risk Factors	46
Item 1B.	Unresolved Staff Comments	80
Item 1C.	Cybersecurity	80
Item 2.	Properties	81
Item 3.	Legal Proceedings	81
Item 4.	Mine Safety Disclosures	81
PART II		
Item 5.	Market for Registrant’s Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities	82
Item 6.	[Reserved]	82
Item 7.	Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations	83
Item 7A.	Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk	87
Item 8.	Financial Statements and Supplementary Data	87
Item 9.	Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure	87
Item 9A.	Controls and Procedures	88
Item 9B.	Other Information	88
Item 9C.	Disclosure Regarding Foreign Jurisdictions that Prevent Inspections	88
PART III		
Item 10.	Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance	89
Item 11.	Executive Compensation	90
Item 12.	Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters	90
Item 13.	Certain Relationships and Related Transactions and Director Independence	91
Item 14.	Principal Accountant Fees and Services	92
PART IV		
Item 15.	Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules	94
Item 16.	Form 10-K Summary	95
	Glossary of Defined Terms	96

PART I

Item 1. Business

Overview of the Trust and the Shares

Grayscale Bittensor Trust (TAO) (the “Trust”) is a Delaware Statutory Trust that was formed on April 30, 2024 by the filing of the Certificate of Trust with the Delaware Secretary of State in accordance with the provisions of the Delaware Statutory Trust Act.

The Trust’s purpose is to hold Bittensor tokens (“TAO”), which are digital assets that are created and transmitted through the operations of the peer-to-peer Bittensor Network, a decentralized network of computers that operates on cryptographic protocols.

As of December 31, 2025, the Trust holds approximately 0.3% of the TAO in circulation. The size of the Trust’s position does not itself enable the Sponsor or the Trust to participate in or otherwise influence the development of the Bittensor Network. However, DCG, the sole equity holder and indirect parent company of the Sponsor, is reported to be one of the largest holders of TAO, and has investments in companies closely involved in the Bittensor ecosystem. See “Conflicts of Interest.” As a decentralized digital asset network, the Bittensor Network consists of several stakeholders, including core developers of the Bittensor Network, Miners, Validators, Consumers, and other users, services, businesses, providers and other constituencies, of which the Trust is only one constituent. Furthermore, in contrast to other protocols in which token holders participate in the governance of the network, ownership of TAO confers no such rights.

The Trust issues common units of fractional undivided beneficial interest (“Shares”), which represent ownership in the Trust, on a periodic basis to certain “accredited investors” within the meaning of Rule 501(a) of Regulation D under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “Securities Act”) in exchange for deposits of TAO. The Shares are quoted on OTC Markets Group, Inc.’s OTCQX® Best Market (“OTCQX”) under the ticker symbol “GTAO.”

As a passive investment vehicle, the Trust’s investment objective is for the value of the Shares (based on TAO per Share) to reflect the value of TAO held by the Trust, determined by reference to the Index Price, less the Trust’s expenses and other liabilities. The Trust does not seek to generate returns beyond tracking the price of TAO. There can be no assurance that the Trust will be able to achieve its investment objective. The Trust will not utilize leverage, derivatives or any similar arrangements in seeking to meet its investment objective.

Until December 31, 2024, Grayscale Investments, LLC was the sponsor and administrator of the Trust. As a result of the Reorganization (as defined herein) on January 1, 2025, Grayscale Investments Sponsors, LLC (“GSIS”) and Grayscale Operating, LLC (“GSO”), consolidated subsidiaries of Digital Currency Group, Inc. (“DCG”), became Co-Sponsors of the Trust. On January 3, 2025, GSO voluntarily withdrew as a Sponsor of the Trust, and effective May 3, 2025 GSIS is the sole remaining Sponsor. Prior to May 3, 2025, all references herein to the “Sponsor” shall be deemed to include both GSIS and GSO as Sponsors unless the context otherwise requires, and on or after May 3, 2025, all references herein to the “Sponsor” shall refer only to GSIS. CSC Delaware Trust Company is the trustee of the Trust (the “Trustee”), Continental Stock Transfer & Trust Company is the transfer agent of the Trust (in such capacity, the “Transfer Agent”) and BitGo Trust Company, Inc. is the custodian of the Trust (the “Custodian”).

In December 2025, the Trust filed a registration statement on Form S-1 under the Securities Act of 1933, relating to a proposed public offering of the Trust’s Shares. The registration statement has not been declared effective by the SEC. As of the date of this filing, the Trust’s shares are offered only through private placements (i.e. not in any public offering), and are publicly traded on OTCQX but are not listed on any national securities exchange. The registration statement reflects the Trust’s intent to list its Shares on NYSE Arca, Inc. (“NYSE Arca”) under the ticker symbol “GTAO” and to register an indeterminate number of Shares for continuous issuance to the public. In connection with the effectiveness of the registration and the NYSE Arca listing, the Sponsor plans to rename the Trust as Grayscale Bittensor Trust ETF and to implement certain structural and operational changes, including the commencement of an ongoing redemption program that would allow Authorized Participants to create and redeem Shares in large blocks (baskets) on an ongoing basis. These structural changes are intended to align the Trust’s operations with an exchange-traded product model; however, there can be no assurance that the SEC will declare the registration statement effective or that NYSE Arca will approve the listing (or that, if listed, an active trading market for the Shares on NYSE Arca will develop and be sustained).

The Trust currently issues Shares only in one or more blocks of 100 Shares (a block of 100 Shares is called a “Basket”) to certain authorized participants (“Authorized Participants”) from time to time. At this time, the Sponsor is not operating a redemption program for the Shares and therefore Shares are not redeemable by the Trust. Due to the lack of an ongoing redemption program as well as price volatility, trading volume and closings of Digital Asset Trading Platforms due to fraud, failure, security breaches or otherwise, there can be no assurance that the value of the Shares will reflect the value of the Trust’s TAO, less the Trust’s expenses and other liabilities, and the Shares may trade at a substantial premium over, or a substantial discount to, the value of the Trust’s TAO, less the Trust’s expenses and other liabilities.

Prior to March 6, 2026, the Trust valued the TAO held by the Trust for operational purposes by reference to the Coin Metrics Real-Time Rate for Bittensor. As of March 6, 2026, the Trust values the TAO held by the Trust for operational purposes by reference

to the CoinDesk Bittensor Benchmark Rate (the “Index”). As of March 6, 2026, the NAV and NAV per Share of the Trust is calculated using the Index Price based on the CoinDesk Bittensor Benchmark Rate. Prior to March 6, 2026, references to the “Index” or “Reference Rate” in the Trust’s filings with the SEC, including this Annual Report on Form 10-K, refer to the Coin Metrics Real-Time Rate for Bittensor. From and after March 6, 2026, references to the “Index” in the Trust’s filings with the SEC are to the CoinDesk Bittensor Benchmark Rate.

The Shares are neither interests in nor obligations of the Sponsor or the Trustee. As provided under the Trust Agreement, the Trust’s assets will not be loaned or pledged, or serve as collateral for any loan, margin, rehypothecation, or other similar activity to which the Sponsor, the Trust or any of their respective affiliates are a party.

The Sponsor maintains an internet website at grayscale.com/funds/grayscale-bittensor-trust/, through which the registrant’s annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K, and amendments to those reports filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”), are made available free of charge after they have been filed or furnished to the SEC. Additional information regarding the Trust may also be found on the SEC’s EDGAR database at www.sec.gov.

The contents of the websites referred to above and any websites referred to herein are not incorporated into this filing or any other reports or documents we file with or furnish to the SEC. Further, our references to the URLs for these websites are intended to be inactive textual references only.

Investment Objective

The Trust’s investment objective is for the value of the Shares (based on TAO per Share) to reflect the value of the TAO held by the Trust, determined by reference to the Index Price, less the Trust’s expenses and other liabilities. To date, the Trust has not met its investment objective and the Shares quoted on OTCQX have not reflected the value of TAO held by the Trust, less the Trust’s expenses and other liabilities, but instead have traded at a premium to such value, which at times has been substantial.

In the event the Shares trade at a substantial premium, investors who purchase Shares on OTCQX will pay substantially more for their Shares than investors who purchase Shares in a private placement. The value of the Shares may not reflect the value of the Trust’s TAO, less the Trust’s expenses and other liabilities, for a variety of reasons, including the holding period under Rule 144 for Shares purchased in a private placement, the lack of an ongoing redemption program, any halting of creations by the Trust, TAO price volatility, trading volumes on, or closures of, trading platforms where digital assets trade due to fraud, failure, security breaches or otherwise, and the non-concurrent trading hours between OTCQX and the global trading platform market for trading TAO. As a result, the Shares may continue to trade at a substantial premium over, or a substantial discount to, the value of the Trust’s TAO, less the Trust’s expenses and other liabilities, and the Trust may be unable to meet its investment objective for the foreseeable future.

For example, from December 12, 2025 to December 31, 2025, the maximum premium of the closing price of the Shares quoted on OTCQX over the value of the Trust’s NAV per Share was 124% and the average premium was 65%. As of December 31, 2025, the Trust’s Shares were quoted on OTCQX at a premium of 124% to the Trust’s NAV per Share. See “Item 7. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations—Secondary Market Trading.”

While an investment in the Shares is not a direct investment in TAO, the Shares are designed to provide investors with a cost-effective and convenient way to gain investment exposure to TAO. A substantial direct investment in TAO may require expensive and sometimes complicated arrangements in connection with the acquisition, security and safekeeping of the TAO and may involve the payment of substantial fees to acquire such TAO from third-party facilitators through cash payments of U.S. dollars. Because the value of the Shares is meant to be correlated with the value of the TAO held by the Trust, it is important to understand the investment attributes of, and the market for, TAO.

Shares purchased in a private placement are restricted securities that may not be resold except in transactions exempt from registration under the Securities Act and state securities laws and any such transaction must be approved in advance by the Sponsor. In determining whether to grant approval, the Sponsor will specifically look at whether the conditions of Rule 144 under the Securities Act, including the requisite holding period thereunder, and any other applicable laws have been met. Any attempt to sell the Shares without the approval of the Sponsor in its sole discretion will be void ab initio. See “—Description of the Shares—Transfer Restrictions” for more information.

Pursuant to Rule 144, the minimum holding period for Shares purchased in a private placement is six months.

The Trust’s TAO are carried, for financial statement purposes, at fair value, as required by the U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (“U.S. GAAP”). The Trust determines the fair value of TAO based on the price provided by the Digital Asset Market that the Trust considers its principal market as of 4:00 p.m., New York time, on the valuation date. The net asset value of the Trust determined on a U.S. GAAP basis is referred to in this Annual Report as “Principal Market NAV.” See “Item 7. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations—Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates—Principal Market and Fair Value Determination” for more information on the Trust’s principal market selection.

The Trust uses the Index Price to calculate its “NAV,” a non-GAAP metric, which is the aggregate value, expressed in U.S. dollars, of the Trust’s assets (other than U.S. dollars, other fiat currency, Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency), less the U.S. dollar value of the Trust’s expenses and other liabilities calculated in the manner set forth under “—Valuation of TAO and Determination of NAV.” “NAV per Share” is calculated by dividing NAV by the number of Shares currently outstanding. NAV and NAV per Share are not measures calculated in accordance with U.S. GAAP. NAV is not intended to be a substitute for the Trust’s Principal Market NAV calculated in accordance with U.S. GAAP, and NAV per Share is not intended to be a substitute for the Trust’s Principal Market NAV per Share calculated in accordance with U.S. GAAP.

At this time, the Trust is not operating a redemption program for Shares and therefore Shares are not redeemable by the Trust. In addition, the Trust may halt creations for extended periods of time for a variety of reasons, including in connection with forks, airdrops and other similar occurrences. As a result, Authorized Participants are not able to take advantage of arbitrage opportunities created when the market value of the Shares deviates from the value of the Trust’s NAV per Share, which may cause the Shares to trade at a substantial premium over, or a substantial discount to, the value of the Trust’s NAV per Share.

Subject to receipt of regulatory approval from the SEC and approval by the Sponsor in its sole discretion, the Trust may in the future operate a redemption program. No assurance can be given as to the timing of such relief or that such relief will be granted. If such relief is granted and the Sponsor approves a redemption program, the Shares will be redeemable in accordance with the provisions of the Trust Agreement and the relevant Participant Agreement. Although the Sponsor cannot predict with certainty what effect, if any, the operation of a redemption program would have on the trading price of the Shares, a redemption program would allow Authorized Participants to take advantage of arbitrage opportunities created when the market value of the Shares deviates from the value of the Trust’s TAO, less the Trust’s expenses and other liabilities, which may have the effect of reducing any premium at which the Shares trade on OTCQX over such value, respectively, which at times has been substantial.

For a discussion of risks relating to the deviation in the trading price of the Shares from the NAV per Share, see “Item 1A. Risk Factors—Risk Factors Related to the Trust and the Shares—Because of the holding period under Rule 144, the lack of an ongoing redemption program and the Trust’s ability to halt creations from time to time, there is no arbitrage mechanism to keep the value of the Shares closely linked to the Index Price and the Shares have historically traded at a substantial premium over the NAV per Share,” “Item 1A. Risk Factors—Risk Factors Related to the Trust and the Shares—The Shares may trade at a price that is at, above or below the Trust’s NAV per Share as a result of the non-concurrent trading hours between OTCQX and the Digital Asset Trading Platform Market,” “Item 1A. Risk Factors—Risk Factors Related to the Trust and the Shares—Shareholders may suffer a loss on their investment if the Shares trade above or below the Trust’s NAV per Share” and “Item 1A. Risk Factors—Risk Factors Related to the Trust and the Shares—The restrictions on transfer and redemption may result in losses on the value of the Shares.”

Pursuant to the terms of the Trust Agreement, the Trust is required to dissolve under certain circumstances. In addition, the Sponsor may, in its sole discretion, dissolve the Trust for a number of reasons, including if the Sponsor determines, in its sole discretion, that it is desirable or advisable for any reason to discontinue the affairs of the Trust. For example, if the Sponsor determines that TAO is a security under the federal securities laws, whether that determination is initially made by the Sponsor itself, or because a federal court upholds an allegation that TAO is a security, the Sponsor does not intend to permit the Trust to continue holding TAO in a way that would violate the federal securities laws (and therefore would either dissolve the Trust or potentially seek to operate the Trust in a manner that complies with the federal securities laws, including the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the “Investment Company Act”). See “—Description of the Trust Agreement—Termination of the Trust” for additional discussion of the circumstances under which the Trust could be dissolved. See “Item 1A. Risk Factors—Risk Factors Related to the Trust and the Shares—A determination that TAO or any other digital asset is a “security” may adversely affect the value of TAO and the value of the Shares, and result in potentially extraordinary, nonrecurring expenses to, or termination of, the Trust.”

Characteristics of the Shares

The Shares are intended to offer investors an opportunity to gain exposure to digital assets through an investment in securities. As of December 31, 2025, each Share represented approximately 0.0192 TAO. The logistics of accepting, transferring and safekeeping of TAO are dealt with by the Sponsor and Custodian, and the related expenses are built into the value of the Shares. Therefore, shareholders do not have additional tasks or costs over and above those generally associated with investing in any other privately placed security.

The Shares have certain other key characteristics, including the following:

- *Easily Accessible and Relatively Cost Efficient.* Investors in the Shares can also directly access the Digital Asset Markets. The Sponsor believes that investors will be able to more effectively implement strategic and tactical asset allocation strategies that use TAO by using the Shares instead of directly purchasing and holding TAO, and for many investors, transaction costs related to the Shares will be lower than those associated with the direct purchase, storage and safekeeping of TAO.
- *Market-Traded and Transparent.* The Shares are quoted on OTCQX. Shareholders that purchased Shares directly from the Trust and have held them for the requisite holding period under Rule 144 may sell their Shares on OTCQX upon receiving approval from the Sponsor. Investors may also choose to purchase Shares on OTCQX. Shares purchased on OTCQX are not restricted. The Sponsor believes the quotation of the Shares on OTCQX provides investors with an efficient means to implement various investment strategies. The Trust will not hold or employ any derivative securities. Furthermore, the value of the Trust's assets will be reported each day on grayscale.com/funds/grayscale-bittensor-trust/.
- *Minimal Credit Risk.* The Shares represent an interest in actual TAO owned by the Trust. The Trust's TAO are not subject to borrowing arrangements with third parties and are subject to counterparty and minimal credit risk with respect to the Custodian. This contrasts with the other financial products such as CoinShares exchange-traded notes, TeraExchange swaps, futures, and options traded on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange ("CME") and the Intercontinental Exchange ("ICE") through which investors gain exposure to digital assets through the use of derivatives that are subject to counterparty and credit risks.
- *Safekeeping System.* The Custodian has been appointed to control and secure the TAO for the Trust using offline storage, or "cold storage", mechanisms to secure the Trust's private key "shards". The hardware, software, administration and continued technological development that are used by the Custodian may not be available or cost-effective for many investors.

The Trust differentiates itself from many competing digital asset financial vehicles in the following ways:

- *Custodian.* The Custodian that holds the private key shards associated with the Trust's TAO is BitGo Trust Company, Inc. Other digital asset financial vehicles that use cold storage may not use a custodian to hold their private keys.
- *Cold Storage of Private Keys.* The private key shards associated with the Trust's TAO are kept in cold storage, which means that the Trust's TAO are disconnected and/or deleted entirely from the internet. See "*—Custody of the Trust's TAO*" for more information relating to the storage and retrieval of the Trust's private keys to and from cold storage. Other digital asset financial vehicles may not utilize cold storage or may utilize less effective cold storage-related hardware and security protocols.
- *Location of Private Vaults.* Private key shards associated with the Trust's TAO are distributed geographically by the Custodian in secure vaults around the world, including in the United States. The locations of the secure vaults may change regularly and are kept confidential by the Custodian for security purposes.
- *Enhanced Security.* Transfers from the Trust's Digital Asset Account require certain security procedures, including but not limited to, multiple encrypted private key shards, usernames, passwords and 2-step verification. Multiple private key shards held by the Custodian must be combined to reconstitute the private key to sign any transaction in order to transfer the Trust's TAO. Private key shards are distributed geographically in secure vaults around the world, including in the United States. As a result, if any one secure vault is ever compromised, this event will have no impact on the ability of the Trust to access its assets, other than a possible delay in operations, while one or more of the other secure vaults is used instead. These security procedures are intended to remove single points of failure in the protection of the Trust's TAO.
- *Custodian Inspections.* The Custodian has agreed to allow the Trust and the Sponsor to take such steps as necessary to verify that satisfactory internal control systems and procedures are in place.
- *Directly Held TAO.* The Trust directly owns actual TAO held through the Custodian. This may differ from other digital asset financial vehicles that provide TAO exposure through other means, such as the use of financial or derivative instruments.

- *Sponsor's Fee.* The Sponsor's Fee is a competitive factor that may influence the value of the Shares.

Activities of the Trust

The activities of the Trust are limited to (i) issuing Baskets in exchange for TAO transferred to the Trust as consideration in connection with the creations, (ii) transferring or selling TAO, Incidental Rights and IR Virtual Currency as necessary to cover the Sponsor's Fee and/or any Additional Trust Expenses, (iii) transferring TAO in exchange for Baskets surrendered for redemption (subject to obtaining regulatory approval from the SEC and approval from the Sponsor), (iv) causing the Sponsor to sell TAO, Incidental Rights and IR Virtual Currency on the termination of the Trust, (v) making distributions of Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency or cash from the sale thereof, (vi) engaging in any form of Staking, but only if (and, then, only to the extent that) the Staking Condition has been satisfied with respect thereto, and (vii) engaging in all administrative and security procedures necessary to accomplish such activities in accordance with the provisions of the Trust Agreement, the Custodian Agreement, the Index License Agreement and the Participant Agreements.

The Trust may engage in any lawful activity necessary or desirable in order to facilitate shareholders' access to Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency, provided that such activities do not conflict with the terms of the Trust Agreement. See "—Incidental Rights and IR Virtual Currency" for more information. The Trust will not be actively managed. It will not engage in any activities designed to obtain a profit from, or to ameliorate losses caused by, changes in the market prices of TAO.

Incidental Rights and IR Virtual Currency

The Trust may from time to time come into possession of Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency by virtue of its ownership of TAO, generally through a fork in the Subtensor Blockchain, an airdrop offered to holders of TAO or other similar event. Pursuant to the terms of the Trust Agreement, the Trust may take any lawful action necessary or desirable in connection with the Trust's ownership of Incidental Rights, including the acquisition of IR Virtual Currency, unless such action would adversely affect the status of the Trust as a grantor trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes or otherwise be prohibited by the Trust Agreement. These actions include (i) selling Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency in the Digital Asset Market and distributing the cash proceeds to shareholders, (ii) distributing Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency in-kind to the shareholders or to an agent acting on behalf of the shareholders for sale by such agent if an in-kind distribution would otherwise be infeasible and (iii) irrevocably abandoning Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency. The Trust may also use Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency to pay the Sponsor's Fee and Additional Trust Expenses, if any, as discussed below under "—Expenses; Sales of TAO." However, the Trust does not expect to take any Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency it may hold into account for purposes of determining the Trust's NAV, the NAV per Share, the Principal Market NAV and the Principal Market NAV per Share.

With respect to any fork, airdrop or similar event, the Sponsor may, in its discretion, decide to cause the Trust to distribute the Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency in-kind to an agent of the shareholders for resale by such agent, or to irrevocably abandon the Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency. In the case of a distribution in-kind to an agent acting on behalf of the shareholders, the shareholders' agent will attempt to sell the Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency, and if the agent is able to do so, will remit the cash proceeds to shareholders, net of expenses and any applicable withholding taxes. There can be no assurance as to the price or prices for any Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency that the agent may realize, and the value of the Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency may increase or decrease after any sale by the agent. In the case of abandonment of Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency, the Trust would not receive any direct or indirect consideration for the Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency and thus the value of the Shares will not reflect the value of the Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency.

On March 12, 2025, the Sponsor delivered to the Custodian a notice (the "Pre-Creation Abandonment Notice") stating that the Trust is abandoning irrevocably for no direct or indirect consideration, effective immediately prior to each time at which the Trust creates Shares (any such time, a "Creation Time"), all Incidental Rights and IR Virtual Currency to which it would otherwise be entitled as of such time (any such abandonment, a "Pre-Creation Abandonment"); provided that a Pre-Creation Abandonment will not apply to any Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency if (i) the Trust has taken, or is taking at such time, an Affirmative Action to acquire or abandon such Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency at any time prior to such Creation Time or (ii) such Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency has been subject to a previous Pre-Creation Abandonment. An Affirmative Action refers to a written notification from the Sponsor to the Custodian of the Trust's intention (i) to acquire and/or retain any Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency or (ii) to abandon, with effect prior to the relevant Creation Time, any Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency.

In determining whether to take an Affirmative Action to acquire and/or retain an Incidental Right and/or IR Virtual Currency, the Trust takes into consideration a number of factors, including:

- the Custodian's agreement to provide access to the IR Virtual Currency;
- the availability of a safe and practical way to custody the IR Virtual Currency;

- the costs of taking possession and/or maintaining ownership of the IR Virtual Currency and whether such costs exceed the benefits of owning such IR Virtual Currency;
- whether there are any legal restrictions on, or tax implications with respect to, the ownership, sale or disposition of the Incidental Right or IR Virtual Currency, regardless of whether there is a safe and practical way to custody and secure such Incidental Right or IR Virtual Currency;
- the existence of a suitable market into which the Incidental Right or IR Virtual Currency may be sold; and
- whether the Incidental Right or IR Virtual Currency is, or may be, a security under federal securities laws.

In determining whether the IR Virtual Currency is, or may be, a security under federal securities laws, the Sponsor takes into account a number of factors, including the various definitions of “security” under the federal securities laws and federal court decisions interpreting elements of these definitions, such as the U.S. Supreme Court’s decisions in the *Howey* and *Reves* cases, as well as reports, orders, press releases, public statements and speeches by the SEC and its staff providing guidance on when a digital asset may be a security for purposes of the federal securities laws.

As a result of the Pre-Creation Abandonment Notice, since March 12, 2025, the Trust has irrevocably abandoned, prior to the Creation Time of any Shares, any Incidental Right or IR Virtual Currency that it may have any right to receive at such time. The Trust has no right to receive any Incidental Right or IR Virtual Currency abandoned pursuant to either the Pre-Creation Abandonment Notice or Affirmative Actions. Furthermore, the Custodian has no authority, pursuant to the Custodian Agreement or otherwise, to exercise, obtain or hold, as the case may be, any such abandoned Incidental Right or IR Virtual Currency on behalf of the Trust or to transfer any such abandoned Incidental Right or IR Virtual Currency to the Trust if the Trust terminates its custodial agreement with the Custodian.

The Sponsor intends to evaluate each fork, airdrop or similar occurrence on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the Trust’s legal advisers, tax consultants, and Custodian, and may decide to abandon any Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency resulting from a hard fork, airdrop or similar occurrence should the Sponsor conclude, in its discretion, that such abandonment is in the best interests of the Trust. In the event the Sponsor decides to sell any Incidental Right or IR Virtual Currency, it would expect to execute the sale to or through an eligible financial institution that is subject to federal and state licensing requirements and practices regarding anti-money laundering (“AML”) and know-your-customer (“KYC”) regulations, which may include an Authorized Participant, a Liquidity Provider (as defined below in “—Service Providers of the Trust—Authorized Participants”), or one or more of their affiliates. In either case, the Sponsor expects that an Authorized Participant or Liquidity Provider would only be willing to transact with the Sponsor on behalf of the Trust if an Authorized Participant or Liquidity Provider considered it possible to trade the Incidental Right or IR Virtual Currency on a Digital Asset Trading Platform or other venue to which the Authorized Participant or Liquidity Provider has access. Generally, any such Authorized Participant or Liquidity Provider would have access only to Digital Asset Trading Platforms or other venues that it reasonably believes are operating in compliance with applicable law, including federal and state licensing requirements, based upon information and assurances provided to it by each venue.

Staking

Staking on the Bittensor Network refers to using TAO, or permitting TAO to be used, directly or indirectly, through an agent or otherwise, in a staking protocol, in exchange for the receipt of consideration, including, but not limited to, staking rewards paid in fiat currency or paid in kind (collectively, “Staking”). At this time, none of the Trust, the Sponsor, the Custodian, nor any other person associated with the Trust may, directly or indirectly, engage in Staking of the Trust’s TAO on behalf of the Trust, meaning no action will be taken pursuant to which any portion of the Trust’s TAO becomes used in any staking protocol or is used to earn additional digital assets or generate income or other earnings, and there can be no assurance that the Trust, the Sponsor, the Custodian or any other person associated with the Trust will ever be permitted to engage in Staking of the Trust’s TAO or such income generating activity in the future. Under current law, there can be no assurance that Staking the Trust’s TAO would be consistent with the intended treatment of the Trust as a grantor trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

If the Trust were to satisfy the Staking Condition with respect to a particular form of Staking, in the future the Trust may seek to establish a program to use its TAO in a staking mechanism to receive rewards comprising additional TAO in respect of a portion of its TAO holdings. However, as long as such conditions and requirements have not been satisfied, the Trust will not use its TAO in a staking protocol to receive rewards comprising additional TAO or other digital assets in respect of its TAO holdings. The current inability of the Trust to use its TAO in Staking and receive rewards could place the Shares at a comparative disadvantage relative to an investment in TAO directly or through a vehicle that is not subject to such a prohibition, which could negatively affect the value of the

Shares. See “Risk Factors—Risk Factors Related to the Trust and the Shares—The Trust is not permitted to engage in Staking, which could negatively affect the value of the Shares.”

Secondary Market Trading

While the Trust’s investment objective is for the value of the Shares (based on TAO per Share) to reflect the value of the TAO held by the Trust, determined by reference to the Index Price, less the Trust’s expenses and other liabilities, the Shares may trade in the Secondary Market on OTCQX (or on another Secondary Market in the future) at prices that are lower or higher than the NAV per Share. The amount of the discount or premium in the trading price relative to the NAV per Share may be influenced by non-concurrent trading hours and liquidity between OTCQX and larger Digital Asset Trading Platforms. While the Shares trade on OTCQX from 6:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., New York time, liquidity in the Digital Asset Markets may fluctuate depending upon the volume and availability of larger Digital Asset Trading Platforms. As a result, during periods in which Digital Asset Market liquidity is limited or a major Digital Asset Trading Platform is off-line, trading spreads, and the resulting premium or discount, on the Shares may widen.

Overview of the TAO Industry and Market

Bittensor, or TAO, is a digital asset that is created and transmitted through the operations of the peer-to-peer Subtensor Blockchain, a decentralized network of computers that operates on cryptographic protocols which underpin the Bittensor Network. No single entity owns or operates the Subtensor Blockchain or the wider Bittensor Network, the infrastructure of which is collectively maintained by a decentralized user base. The Subtensor Blockchain allows people to transmit tokens of value, called TAO, which are recorded on a public transaction ledger known as a blockchain. TAO can be used to participate in certain capacities on the Bittensor Network, or it can be converted to fiat currencies, such as the U.S. dollar, at rates determined on Digital Asset Trading Platforms or in individual end-user-to-end-user transactions under a barter system. The Bittensor Network was designed to facilitate an open access, peer-to-peer marketplace for artificial intelligence (“AI”) models. Users can query the Bittensor Network’s registered AI model collections to help with performing or resolving certain tasks, which are assessed by the Bittensor Network’s unique ranking method. The results of this ranking system and transactions in TAO are recorded on the Subtensor Blockchain. The Bittensor Network is one of a number of projects intended to expand blockchain use beyond just a peer-to-peer money system.

The Bittensor Network’s protocol introduced the Yuma Consensus mechanism as a method to assess the performance of user-submitted AI generated output. Yuma Consensus is a mechanism whereby certain parties (known as “Miners”) host AI models and make them available to the network. Miners form coalitions (known as “Subnets”) based on the types of task they seek to perform. Subnets within the Bittensor Network are self-contained incentive frameworks for Miners to perform their duties according to specified predetermined rulesets. Other parties (known as “Validators”) rank Miners’ AI generated output within a Subnet based on how effectively they believe the Miners are accomplishing the task specified by the Subnet. The goal is to help application developers and other users of the Bittensor Network (“Consumers”) find the best AI generated solutions for their purposes. Under Yuma Consensus, a Validator’s weight in ranking Miners depends on how much TAO that Validator has “staked,” or locked up to signal support, for their validating efforts. Validators may stake TAO on their own behalf, or other TAO-holders (“Delegators”) may “delegate,” or stake TAO to support another party’s validation efforts.

The Subtensor Blockchain also operates on a consensus mechanism known as “Proof-of-Authority” or “PoA” to confirm transactions. Under PoA, certain computers (“Nodes”) automatically order on-chain transactions by creating a historical record showing that an event or transaction has occurred at a moment in time relative to others. Nodes can only be admitted to the network by the network’s administrator, which is the Opentensor Foundation. As of December 2024, a majority of the Subtensor Blockchain’s Nodes are owned or controlled by the Opentensor Foundation. The Opentensor Foundation continues to maintain significant influence over the Node set and is widely believed to control a significant majority of authority Nodes. PoA is intended to provide a transaction processing speed and capacity advantage over traditional PoW and PoS networks, which rely on sequential production of blocks and can lead to delays caused by validator confirmations.

In February 2025, the Dynamic TAO (dTAO) upgrade was implemented on the Bittensor Network. Under dTAO, each Subnet is paired with its own token (often generically called an “alpha token”), and liquidity pools are created, such that Validators who wish to support a particular Subnet now stake TAO into that Subnet’s pool and receive its alpha token in exchange. The amount of TAO staked into each Subnet’s pool (versus other Subnets) now directly governs how much of the new TAO emission is allocated to that Subnet. After the upgrade, stakers must choose which Subnet(s) they believe will thrive, exposing them to price risk of alpha tokens rather than simply earning yields in TAO. Validators also must hold alpha tokens to participate in ranking Miners’ models within the relevant Subnet. Under the original Yuma Consensus framework, Validators could stake TAO on their own behalf, or other TAO-holders (“Delegators”) could “delegate,” or stake TAO to support another party’s validation efforts. However, after the upgrade, the previous role of Delegators has effectively been subsumed into alpha token holders generally, as anyone staking TAO into a Subnet pool receives that Subnet’s alpha tokens and thereby gains the economic exposure once limited to Delegators.

Capitalize while token reward incentives reflect an intention to transition fully to the dTAO model over time, the Bittensor Network currently continues to support “root staking” on Subnet 0, the Yuma Consensus implementation that predates dTAO. Root

staking allows participants to stake TAO directly to Validators on Subnet 0, and Validator influence in Subnet 0 continues to be determined by TAO stake rather than alpha tokens. Root staking remains active but represents a diminishing share of total emissions and may be deprecated in future protocol upgrades.

The Bittensor Network protocol was first conceived by the pseudonymous Yuma Rao in a whitepaper. Development of the Bittensor Network is overseen by the Opentensor Foundation, an American non-profit organization which administered the original network launch and maintains a sizeable TAO position, though it did not facilitate any initial token distribution.

Although the Opentensor Foundation continues to exert significant influence over the direction of the development of the Bittensor Network, the Bittensor Network, like the Ethereum network, does not require governmental authorities or financial institution intermediaries to create, transmit or determine the value of TAO. Rather, as described below, the utility of the Bittensor Network and the supply and demand thereof determines the value of TAO.

Development of the Bittensor Network

The Bittensor Network was developed in response to the increased publicity and utility of machine learning and AI capabilities. The development of machine learning and AI is constrained by its significant demand for computing power and need for large and diverse data sets, resources that are difficult to access by all but the largest companies. The Bittensor Network was designed to respond to these development limitations by using blockchain technology to promote collaboration and data and hardware sharing among individuals interested in AI technology. The Bittensor Network consists of two main components: a group of Subnets and a blockchain called the “Subtensor Blockchain,” which work together to incentivize the creation of AI-generated outputs. The Bittensor Network is designed to reward those who best contribute to the production of high-quality AI-generated outputs utilizing the Bittensor Network. In total, as of December 31, 2025, there were 128 Subnets registered on the Bittensor Network.

Overview of the Bittensor Network’s Operations

Subnets are the foundation of the Bittensor Network. A Subnet is a market governed by a particular set of rules designed to incentivize, via the distribution of TAO, the Subnet’s Miners to produce AI-generated outputs in response to queries. The wallet address on the Subtensor Blockchain that registers a new Subnet to the Subtensor Blockchain (the Subnet’s “Owner”) defines the rules of that Subnet’s protocol (e.g., the type of AI-generated content to be produced) and retains ownership permissions and therefore control over that Subnet. For certain Subnets with end-users of the AI-generated output, that end-user may input their request to the Subnet via regular web-based interactions (i.e., an http request) according to the rules of the Subnet. Most of the Subnets with end-users do not require any payment to use; in some instances, an end-user may be required to pay for such services, in the form of fiat currency, other digital assets, or in limited cases, TAO. For some other Subnets, only the Subnet Owner consumes the AI-generated output, and there is no “end-user” at all.

For each Subnet on which they decide to participate, a Validator ranks each of that Subnet’s Miners’ AI generated output against that of the Subnet’s other Miners, with what each Validator deems to be the best AI generated output receiving the highest ranking and the worst AI-generated output receiving the lowest rank. Once each Validator on the Subnet generates its individual rankings of the Subnet’s Miners’ AI-generated output, each Validator on that Subnet sends its ranking to the Subtensor Blockchain. The Subtensor Blockchain then compiles all the Validators’ rankings, generating a “ranking weight matrix,” and then runs that ranking weight matrix through the “Yuma Consensus” module on-chain. The Yuma Consensus then uses the ranking weight matrix, along with the amount of stake associated with each Validator, to calculate how the reward of TAO tokens should be distributed among the Miners and Validators in the Subnet. The more TAO a Validator stakes, the more weight the Subtensor Blockchain gives to its ranking within each Subnet it validates.

Each time this process occurs, TAO is emitted and dispersed among the various Subnets. Since the February 2025 dTAO upgrade, the amount of TAO dispersed to a particular Subnet is a function of how much TAO has been placed in a Subnet’s alpha token liquidity pool, which is designed to reflect the market’s view of which Subnets produce the most useful and high-quality outputs. Of each Subnet’s portion of each TAO emission, 18% is disbursed to that Subnet’s Owner, 41% is disbursed to that Subnet’s Validators, and 41% is disbursed to that Subnet’s Miners. Of the 41% of each emission disbursed to the Validators of each Subnet, each Validator earns a proportional share of the Validator’s stake (including amounts delegated to it). Within this proportional share, the Validator keeps 100% of the TAO reward attributable to its own stake, and 18% of the TAO attributable to delegates’ stake. Although Validators do not directly compete with other Validators in a given Subnet, the amount of the 41% TAO incentive distributed to Miners within each Subnet is determined according to its ranking compared to other Miners in a given Subnet pursuant to Yuma Consensus. The intent of this emissions schedule is to incentivize Miners to produce high quality output (as defined by the parameters of the applicable Subnet’s rules) and to incentivize Validators to produce accurate rankings of the output.

In order to own, transfer or use TAO directly on the Bittensor Network, as opposed to through an intermediary, such as a custodian, a person generally must have internet access to connect to the Bittensor Network. TAO transactions may be made directly between end-users without the need for a third-party intermediary. To prevent the possibility of double-spending TAO, a user must notify the Bittensor Network of the transaction by broadcasting the transaction data to its network peers. The Subtensor Network

provides confirmation against double-spending by memorializing every transaction in the Blockchain, which is publicly accessible and transparent. This memorialization and verification against double-spending is accomplished through the Bittensor Network's validation process, which adds "blocks" of data, including recent transaction information, to the Subtensor Blockchain. Unlike other blockchains that rely solely on production of blocks through PoW or PoS mechanisms, however, the Bittensor Network uses PoA, which only allows new Nodes into the system upon other Nodes' approval. As of the date hereof, a majority of the Bittensor Nodes are owned or controlled by the Opentensor Foundation.

Summary of a TAO Transaction

Prior to engaging in TAO transactions directly on the Bittensor Network, a user generally must first install on its computer or mobile device a Bittensor Network software program that will allow the user to generate a private and public key pair associated with a TAO address. The Bittensor Network software program and the TAO address also enable the user to connect to the Bittensor Network and transfer TAO to, and receive TAO from, other users.

Each Bittensor Network address, or wallet, is associated with a unique “public key” and “private key” pair. To receive TAO, the TAO recipient must provide its public key to the party initiating the transfer. This activity is analogous to a recipient for a transaction in U.S. dollars providing a routing address in wire instructions to the payor so that cash may be wired to the recipient’s account. The payor approves the transfer to the address provided by the recipient by “signing” a transaction that consists of the recipient’s public key with the private key of the address from where the payor is transferring the TAO. The recipient, however, does not make public or provide to the sender its related private key.

Neither the recipient nor the sender reveal their private keys in a transaction, because the private key authorizes transfer of the funds in that address to other users. Therefore, if a user loses his private key, the user may permanently lose access to the TAO contained in the associated address. Likewise, TAO is irretrievably lost if the private key associated with them is deleted and no backup has been made. When sending TAO, a user’s Bittensor Network software program must validate the transaction with the associated private key. The resulting digitally validated transaction is sent by the user’s Bittensor Network software program to the Nodes to allow transaction confirmation a service performed by miners in PoW networks such as the Bitcoin network, or validators in PoS networks such as the Ethereum network.

Bittensor Nodes record and confirm transactions when they mine and add blocks of information to the Subtensor Blockchain. When a Node creates that block, it includes data relating to a reference to the prior block in the Subtensor Blockchain to which the new block is being added. The blockchain Node becomes aware of outstanding, unrecorded transactions through the data packet transmission and distribution discussed above.

Upon the addition of a block of TAO transactions, the Bittensor Network software program of both the spending party and the receiving party will show confirmation of the transaction on the Subtensor Blockchain and reflect an adjustment to the TAO balance in each party’s Bittensor Network public key, completing the TAO transaction. Once a transaction is confirmed on the Subtensor Blockchain, it is irreversible without changing the protocol underlying the Bittensor Network’s protocol.

Some TAO transactions are conducted “off-blockchain” and are therefore not recorded in the Subtensor Blockchain. Some “off-blockchain transactions” involve the transfer of control over, or ownership of, a specific digital wallet holding TAO or the reallocation of ownership of certain TAO in a pooled-ownership digital wallet, such as a digital wallet owned by a Digital Asset Trading Platform. In contrast to on-blockchain transactions, which are publicly recorded on the Subtensor Blockchain, information and data regarding off-blockchain transactions are generally not publicly available. Therefore, off-blockchain transactions are not truly TAO transactions in that they do not involve the transfer of transaction data on the Bittensor Network and do not reflect a movement of TAO between addresses recorded in the Subtensor Blockchain. For these reasons, off-blockchain transactions are subject to risks as any such transfer of TAO ownership is not protected by the protocol behind the Bittensor Network or recorded in, and validated through, the blockchain mechanism.

Creation of New TAO

Unlike other digital asset protocols such as Ethereum, which had a certain number of digital assets created in connection with their launches, TAO are created through a progressive minting process for performing certain functions in relation to the protocol. The first TAO were minted through a PoW consensus mechanism prior to the current iteration of the Bittensor Network. TAO minting for PoW ceased in November 2021 when the PoA consensus mechanism was introduced. Since then, all TAO has been emitted by the Bittensor Network’s protocol to those who perform various functions, on the Bittensor Network such as Subnet Owners, Miners or Validators (and, since the February 2025 dTAO upgrade, those who contribute TAO to liquidity pools).

Limits on TAO Supply

Following the example set by Bitcoin, only 21 million TAO are ever expected to exist, a limit which is currently hardcoded into the Bittensor Network. Also, like Bitcoin, the emissions schedule is designed to “halve” every four years; so, for example, prior to the first halving event, which occurred on December 13, 2025, 1 TAO was created with each new block, occurring at approximately 12 second intervals. Since the first halving event, only one-half of a TAO is minted with each 12-second block, which will be reduced to one quarter of a TAO every block after the halving event expected in 2029, etc. However, the length of the TAO halving schedule is shorter than Bitcoin’s, with the final halving event is expected to occur in September 2069, after which a final approximate 5,127 TAO will be minted before the supply cap will be achieved and minting will cease.

Modifications to the TAO Protocol

Historically, the Bittensor Network’s development has been overseen by the Opentensor Foundation and other core developers. The Opentensor Foundation and core developers are able to access and alter the Bittensor Network source code and, as a result, they are responsible for quasi-official releases of updates and other changes to the Bittensor Network’s source code. For example, the initial iteration of Bittensor was codenamed “Kusanagi,” though Kusanagi was halted in May 2021. In November 2021, the code underlying Kusanagi was adjusted and released under a new codename, “Nakamoto.” The current version of Bittensor, “Finney,” was derived from the code underlying Nakamoto and launched in March 2023 to incorporate Subnets, among other features. Opentensor also possesses the power to make what is known as a “sudo upgrade,” or unilateral upgrade, to the Opentensor Network using what is known as a “sudo key.” The sudo key enables the holder to unilaterally change the Subtensor ledger and its rules, including an ability to change the number of TAO in existence, the number of TAO belonging to a particular account, or rules in place to prevent a double-spend.

For example, the Bittensor Network was first launched in January 2021. The initial iteration of Bittensor was codenamed “Kusanagi,” though Kusanagi was halted in May 2021. In November 2021, the code underlying Kusanagi was adjusted and released under a new codename, “Nakamoto.” The current version of Bittensor, “Finney,” was derived from the code underlying Nakamoto and launched in March 2023 to incorporate Subnets, among other features.

The release of updates to the Bittensor Network’s source code does not guarantee that the updates will be automatically adopted by users of the Bittensor Network. Nodes must accept any changes made to the Bittensor Network’s source code by downloading the proposed modification of the Bittensor Network’s source code. A modification of the Bittensor Network’s source code is only effective with respect to the Bittensor Nodes that download it. If a modification is accepted by only a percentage of Nodes, a division in the Bittensor Network will occur such that one network will run the pre-modification source code and the other network will run the modified source code. Such a division is known as a “fork.” See “Risk Factors—Risk Factors Related to Digital Assets—A temporary or permanent “fork” could adversely affect an investment in the Shares.” However, as a practical matter, a modification to the source code becomes part of the Bittensor Network only if accepted by Nodes collectively having a majority of the processing power on the Bittensor Network and therefore will likely be adopted because the Opentensor Foundation controls the majority of all Nodes on the Subtensor Blockchain.

Core development of the Bittensor Network source code has increasingly focused on modifications of the Bittensor Network protocol to increase speed and scalability and also allow for non-financial, next generation uses. The Trust’s activities will not directly relate to such projects, though such projects may utilize TAO as tokens for the facilitation of their non-financial uses, thereby potentially increasing demand for TAO and the utility of the Bittensor Network as a whole. Conversely, projects that operate and are built within the Blockchain may increase the data flow on the Bittensor Network and could either “bloat” the size of the Subtensor Blockchain or slow confirmation times. At this time, such projects remain in early stages and have not been materially integrated into the Subtensor Blockchain or the Bittensor Network.

Forms of Attack Against the Bittensor Network

All networked systems are vulnerable to various kinds of attacks. As with any computer network, the Bittensor Network contains certain flaws. For example, the Subtensor Blockchain is currently vulnerable to a “51% attack” where, if a malicious actor were to gain control of more than 50% of the validation power for a digital asset, a malicious actor would be able to gain full control of the network and the ability to manipulate the Subtensor Blockchain. As of the date of this Annual Report, the top three largest staking pools controlled about 20% of the TAO staked on the Bittensor Network. Any future attacks on the Bittensor Network could negatively impact the perception of the Bittensor Network, the value of Bittensor, and the value of the Shares.

In addition, many digital asset networks have been subjected to a number of denial of service attacks, which has led to temporary delays in block creation and in the transfer of digital assets, including TAO. Any similar attacks on the Bittensor Network that impact the ability to transfer TAO could have a material adverse effect on the price of TAO and the value of the Shares. This is not intended as an exhaustive list of all forms of attack against the Bittensor Network. For additional information, see “Item 1A. Risk Factors.”

Market Participants

Miners, Validators and Delegators

Miners, or those who produce AI generated output and make the outputs available to the Bittensor Network, and Validators, or those who rank Miners’ AI generated output, range from Bittensor enthusiasts to professional operations that design and build dedicated machines and data centers, to provide or rank AI generated output. Delegators, or those who stake TAO to support another party’s validation efforts, range from Bittensor enthusiasts to professional service providers involved with the Bittensor Network. When one of these parties performs its duties, it receives a reward in the form of emissions. See “—Overview of the Bittensor Network’s Operations” and “—Summary of a TAO Transaction” above.

Investment and Speculative Sector

This sector includes the investment and trading activities of both private and professional investors and speculators. Historically, larger financial services institutions are publicly reported to have limited involvement in investment and trading in digital assets, although the participation landscape is beginning to change. Currently, there is relatively limited use of digital assets in the retail and commercial marketplace in comparison to relatively extensive use by speculators, and a significant portion of demand for digital assets is generated by speculators and investors seeking to profit from the short- or long-term holding of digital assets.

Retail Sector

The retail sector includes users transacting in direct peer-to-peer TAO transactions through the direct sending of TAO over the Bittensor Network. The retail sector also includes transactions in which consumers pay for goods or services with TAO through direct transactions or third-party service providers, such as BitPay, although the use of TAO as a means of payment is still developing and has not been accepted in the same manner as Bitcoin due to TAO's relative nascency and because TAO has a different purpose than Bitcoin.

Service Sector

This sector includes companies that provide a variety of services including the buying, selling, payment processing and storing of TAO. For example, Coinbase, Kraken, and Crypto.com are some of the largest Digital Asset Trading Platforms by volume traded. BitGo Trust Company, Inc., the Custodian for the Trust, is a digital asset custodian that provides custodial accounts that store TAO for users. As the Bittensor Network continues to grow in acceptance, it is anticipated that service providers will expand the currently available range of services and that additional parties will enter the service sector for the Bittensor Network.

Competition

Thousands of digital assets have been developed since the inception of Bitcoin, which is currently one of the most developed digital assets because of the length of time it has been in existence, the investment in the infrastructure that supports it, and the network of individuals and entities that are using Bitcoin in transactions. While TAO has enjoyed some success in its limited history, the aggregate value of outstanding TAO is smaller than that of Bitcoin and Ether and may be eclipsed by the more rapid development of other digital assets. Further, a number of other AI-oriented digital assets have also emerged, including Render, Fetch.ai, and Injective. The Bittensor Network may also experience competition from centralized AI providers, such as ChatGPT and Microsoft Copilot. Some industry groups have also created private, permissioned blockchains. For example, J.P. Morgan has developed a platform called Kinexys (formerly known as Onyx), which is described as a blockchain-based platform designed for use by the financial services industry.

TAO Value

Digital Asset Trading Platform Valuation

The value of TAO is determined by the value that various market participants place on TAO through their transactions. The most common means of determining the value of a TAO is by surveying one or more Digital Asset Trading Platforms where TAO is traded publicly and transparently. Additionally, there are over-the-counter dealers or market makers that transact in TAO.

Prior to March 6, 2026, the Trust valued the TAO held by the Trust for operational purposes by reference to the Coin Metrics Real-Time Rate for Bittensor. As of March 6, 2026, the Index is the CoinDesk Bittensor Benchmark Rate. Prior to March 6, 2026, references to the “Index” or “Reference Rate” in the Trust’s filings with the SEC, including this Annual Report on Form 10-K, refer to the Coin Metrics Real-Time Rate for Bittensor. From and after March 6, 2026, references to the “Index” in the Trust’s filings with the SEC are to the CoinDesk Bittensor Benchmark Rate.

Digital Asset Trading Platform Public Market Data

On each online Digital Asset Trading Platform, TAO is traded with publicly disclosed valuations for each executed trade, measured by one or more fiat currencies such as the U.S. dollar or euro, or stablecoins such as U.S. Dollar Coin (“USDC”). Over-the-counter dealers or market makers do not typically disclose their trade data.

As of December 31, 2025, the Digital Asset Trading Platforms included in the Index were Binance, Crypto.com and Kraken. The Sponsor and the Trust reasonably believe each of these Digital Asset Trading Platforms are in material compliance with applicable licensing requirements based on the inclusion criteria and jurisdiction, as detailed below, and maintain practices and policies designed to comply with anti-money laundering (“AML”) and know-your-customer (“KYC”) regulations.

Binance: A global trading platform, Binance does not name a formal headquarters. Binance does not hold any licenses or registrations in the U.S. and is not available to U.S. based customers.

Kraken: A U.S.-based trading platform that has entities registered as MSBs with FinCEN, and that is licensed as a money transmitter in various U.S. states, and chartered as a Special Purpose Depository Institution by the Wyoming Division of Banking. Kraken does not hold a BitLicense.

Crypto.com: A Singapore-based trading platform that has entities registered as MSBs with FinCEN, and that is licensed as a money transmitter in various U.S. states and chartered as a non-depository trust company by the New Hampshire Banking Department. Crypto.com does not hold a BitLicense.

Currently, there are several Digital Asset Trading Platforms operating worldwide and online Digital Asset Trading Platforms represent a substantial percentage of TAO buying and selling activity and provide the most data with respect to prevailing valuations of TAO. These trading platforms include established trading platforms such as trading platforms included in the Index which provide a number of options for buying and selling TAO. The below tables reflect the trading volume in TAO and market share of the TAO-U.S. dollar and TAO-USDC trading pairs of each of the Digital Asset Trading Platforms included in the Index as of December 31, 2025 (collectively, “Constituent Trading Platforms”), using data since the inception of the Trust:

Digital Asset Trading Platforms included in the Index as of December 31, 2025	Volume (TAO)	Market Share⁽¹⁾
Kraken	6,163,453	40.05%
Crypto.com	271,248	1.76%
Total TAO-U.S. dollar trading pair	6,434,701	41.81%

Digital Asset Trading Platforms included in the Index as of December 31, 2025	Volume (TAO)	Market Share⁽¹⁾
Binance	13,083,022	83.11%
Total TAO-USDC trading pair	13,083,022	83.11%

(1) Market share is calculated using trading volume (in TAO) for certain Digital Asset Trading Platforms including, Binance, Crypto.com and Kraken, as well as certain other large U.S.-dollar and USDC denominated Digital Asset Trading Platforms that were not included in the Index as of December 31, 2025, including Coinbase, KuCoin and MEXC.

The domicile, regulation and legal compliance of the Digital Asset Trading Platforms included in the Index varies. Information regarding each Digital Asset Trading Platform may be found, where available, on the websites for such Digital Asset Trading Platforms, among other places.

Although the Index is designed to accurately capture the market price of TAO, third parties may be able to purchase and sell TAO on public or private markets not included among the Constituent Trading Platforms of the Index, and such transactions may take place at prices materially higher or lower than the Index Price. Moreover, there may be variances in the prices of TAO on the various Digital Asset Trading Platforms, including as a result of differences in fee structures or administrative procedures on different Digital

Asset Trading Platforms. For example, based on data provided by the Index Provider, on any given day during the year ended December 31, 2025, the maximum differential between the 4:00 p.m., New York time, spot price of any single Digital Asset Trading Platform included in the Index and the Index Price was 1.03% and the average of the maximum differentials of the 4:00 p.m., New York time, spot price of each Digital Asset Trading Platform included in the Index and the Index Price was 0.72%. During this same period, the average differential between the 4:00 p.m., New York time, spot prices of all the Digital Asset Trading Platforms included in the Index and the Index Price was 0.01%. All Digital Asset Trading Platforms that were included in the Index throughout the period were considered in this analysis. To the extent such prices differ materially from the Index Price, investors may lose confidence in the Shares' ability to track the market price of TAO.

The Index and the Index Price

The Index is a U.S. dollar-denominated composite reference rate for the price of TAO. The Index is designed to (1) mitigate the effects of fraud, manipulation and other anomalous trading activity from impacting the TAO reference rate, (2) provide a real-time, volume-weighted fair value of TAO and (3) appropriately handle and adjust for non-market related events.

The Index Price is determined by the Index Provider through a process in which trade data is cleansed and compiled in such a manner as to algorithmically reduce the impact of anomalous or manipulative trading. This is accomplished by adjusting the weight of each data input based on price deviation relative to the observable set, as well as recent and long-term trading volume at each venue relative to the observable set. The Index Price is calculated using non-GAAP methodology and is not used in the Trust's financial statements.

All references to the NAV and NAV per Share of the Trust in this report prior to March 6, 2026 have been calculated using the Index Price based on TAO Coin Metrics Real-Time Rate unless otherwise indicated. Effective March 6, 2026, the NAV and NAV per Share of the Trust is calculated using the Index Price based on the CoinDesk Bittensor Benchmark Rate.

Constituent Trading Platform Selection

Digital Asset Trading Platforms are selected for inclusion in the Index based on a methodology developed by the Index Provider in alignment with the International Organization of Securities Commissions ("IOSCO") Principles for Financial Benchmarks. To qualify as a Constituent Trading Platform, a platform is evaluated across the following core criteria listed below (the "Inclusion Criteria"):

- Market Quality: Overall liquidity, trading activity, price reliability, and market stability.
- Security: Cybersecurity safeguards, custody practices, and operational risk controls.
- Legal and Regulatory: Licensing status, regulatory compliance, and legal transparency.
- KYC: Assessment of anti-money laundering ("AML") and know-your-customer ("KYC") frameworks, transaction monitoring capabilities, and market oversight.
- Data Provision: Quality, accessibility, and reliability of trading data and technical infrastructure.
- Transparency: Financial and operational disclosures, including reserve and governance transparency.
- Team: Assessment of executive leadership, relevant experience, organizational structure, and service offerings across institutional and retail markets.
- Negative Events: The Index Provider may apply a downward adjustment for material adverse events, including data breaches, regulatory penalties, withdrawal freezes, or other significant incidents.

Trading platforms that meet these Inclusion Criteria are also required to be licensed and able to serve customers in one or more of the following jurisdictions:

- United States (FinCEN, state regulatory authorities)
- United Kingdom (FCA)
- European Union (MiCA passport)
- Hong Kong (SFC)
- Singapore (MAS)
- United Arab Emirates, including the emirates of Dubai and Abu Dhabi (VARA, ADGM)
- Gibraltar (GFSC)

A Digital Asset Trading Platform is removed from the Constituent Trading Platforms when it no longer satisfies the Inclusion Criteria. The Index Provider may also exclude certain trading platforms that require additional support from such contributing trading platform at its discretion. The Index Provider does not currently include data from over-the-counter markets or derivatives platforms among the Constituent Trading Platforms. Over-the-counter data is not currently included because of the potential for trades to include a significant premium or discount paid for larger liquidity, which creates an uneven comparison relative to more active markets. There is also a higher potential for over-the-counter transactions to not be arms-length, and thus not be representative of a true market price. TAO derivative markets are also not currently included. While the Index Provider has no plans to include data from over-the-counter markets or derivative platforms at this time, the Index Provider will consider IOSCO principles for financial benchmarks, the management of trading venues of TAO derivatives and the aforementioned Inclusion Criteria when considering whether to include over-the-counter or derivative platform data in the future.

The Index Provider and the Sponsor have entered into the Index license agreement, dated as of February 1, 2022 (as amended, the “Index License Agreement”), governing the Sponsor’s use of the Index Price. Pursuant to the terms of the Index License Agreement, the Index Provider may adjust the calculation methodology for the Index Price without notice to, or consent of, the Trust or its shareholders. The Index Provider may decide to change the calculation methodology to maintain the integrity of the Index Price calculation should it identify or become aware of previously unknown variables or issues with the existing methodology that it believes could materially impact its performance and/or reliability. The Index Provider has sole discretion over the determination of the Index Price and may change the methodologies for determining the Index Price from time to time. Shareholders will be notified of any material changes to the calculation methodology or the Index Price in the Trust’s current reports and will be notified of all other changes that the Sponsor considers significant in the Trust’s periodic or current reports. The Sponsor will determine the materiality of any changes to the Index Price on a case-by-case basis, in consultation with external counsel.

The Index Provider may change the trading venues that are used to calculate the Index or otherwise change the way in which the Index is calculated at any time. For example, the Index Provider has scheduled monthly reviews in which it may add or remove Constituent Trading Platforms that satisfy or fail the Inclusion Criteria as well as other requirements detailed in the Index Methodology. The Index Provider does not have any obligation to consider the interests of the Sponsor, the Trust, the shareholders, or anyone else in connection with such changes. While the Index Provider is not required to publicize or explain the changes or to alert the Sponsor to such changes, it has historically notified the Trust of certain changes to the Constituent Trading Platforms, including any additions or removals of the Constituent Trading Platforms, in addition to issuing press releases in connection with the same. The Sponsor will provide updates of such changes in the Trust’s quarterly reports on Form 10-Q. Although the Index methodology is designed to operate without any manual intervention, rare events would justify manual intervention. Intervention of this kind would be in response to non-market-related events, such as the halting of deposits or withdrawals of funds on a Digital Asset Trading Platform, the unannounced closure of operations on a Digital Asset Trading Platform, insolvency or the compromise of user funds. In the event that such an intervention is necessary, the Index Provider would issue a public announcement through its website, API and other established communication channels with its clients.

Determination of the Index Price

The Index, as will be reflected by the CoinDesk Bittensor Benchmark Rate, for TAO is calculated through the application of an algorithm to the price of TAO on the Constituent Trading Platforms calculated every 5 seconds over a 24-hour period. The Index’s algorithm is expected to reflect a five-pronged methodology to calculate the Index Price from the Constituent Trading Platforms for TAO:

- **Volume Weighting:** Constituent Trading Platforms with greater liquidity receive a higher weighting in each Index, increasing the ability to execute against (i.e., replicate) the Index in the underlying spot markets. The Index methodology is a volume-weighted real-time price where the latest trade price for each Constituent Trading Platform is weighted based on its trailing 24-hour volume.
- **FX Conversion:** The Index algorithm utilizes a volume-weighted real-time FX conversion rate for any trading activity for the relevant Stablecoin-USD pair. This normalizes all trading activity to USD denomination.
- **Outlier Detection Factor:** The Index algorithm excludes trade data and price(s) deemed to be an outlier relative to the most recently calculated Index.
- **Inactivity Adjustment:** The Index algorithm penalizes stale activity from any given Constituent Trading Platform. When a Constituent Trading Platform does not have recent trading data, the outdated prices and their contribution to the Index calculation are gradually reduced until they are de-weighted to 0.1%. Similarly, once trading activity at a Constituent Trading Platform resumes, the corresponding weighting for that Constituent Trading Platform will no longer be penalized.
- **Manipulation Resistance:** In an effort to determine and prioritize the most significant Constituent Trading Platforms (i.e., those that are likely to have the most impact on price discovery) for a given asset, the Index Provider conducts a Constituent Trading Platform selection and review process, which seeks to identify the highest-ranking Constituent Trading Platforms based on both qualitative and quantitative factors. The qualitative review includes legal and regulation,

data provision, security, trade monitoring, market quality, and negative events policy, among others. The quantitative review includes review of trading activity for the asset on the given Constituent Trading Platform.

The Index Provider re-evaluates the weighting algorithm on a periodic basis, but maintains discretion to change the way in which an Index Price is calculated based on its periodic review or in extreme circumstances. The Index is designed to limit exposure to trading or price distortion of any individual Digital Asset Trading Platform that experiences periods of unusual activity or limited liquidity by discounting, in real-time, anomalous price movements at individual Digital Asset Trading Platforms.

The Sponsor believes the Index Provider's selection process for Constituent Trading Platforms as well as the methodology of the Index Price's algorithm provides a more accurate picture of TAO price movements than a simple average of Digital Asset Trading Platform spot prices, and that the weighting of TAO prices on the Constituent Trading Platforms limits the inclusion of data that is influenced by temporary price dislocations that may result from technical problems, limited liquidity or fraudulent activity elsewhere in the TAO spot market. By referencing multiple trading venues and weighting them based on trade activity, the Sponsor believes that the impact of any potential fraud, manipulation or anomalous trading activity occurring on any single venue is reduced.

If the Index Price becomes unavailable, or if the Sponsor determines in good faith that such Index Price does not reflect an accurate price for TAO, then the Sponsor will contact the Index Provider to obtain the Index Price directly from the Index Provider. If after such contact such Index Price remains unavailable or the Sponsor continues to believe in good faith that such Index Price does not reflect an accurate price for TAO, then the Sponsor will employ a cascading set of rules to determine the Index Price, as described below in "—Determination of the Index Price When Index Price is Unavailable."

The Trust values its TAO for operational purposes by reference to the Index Price. The Index Price is the value of a TAO as represented by the Index, calculated at 4:00 p.m., New York time, on each business day.

Illustrative Example

For the purposes of illustration, outlined below are examples of how the attributes that impact weighting and adjustments in the aforementioned methodology may be utilized to generate the Index Price for a digital asset.

For example, Constituent Trading Platforms used to calculate the Index Price of the digital asset may include trading platforms such as Crypto.com, Kraken, LMAX Digital and Bitstamp by Robinhood.

The Index Price algorithm, as described above, is designed to account for manipulation at the outset by only including data from executed trades on Constituent Trading Platforms that charge trading fees. Then, the below-listed elements may impact the weighting of the Constituent Trading Platforms on the Index Price as follows:

- **Volume Weighting:** Each Constituent Trading Platform will be weighted to appropriately reflect the trading volume share of the Constituent Trading Platform relative to all the Constituent Trading Platforms during this same period. For example, a weighting of 67.06%, 14.57%, 11.88%, and 6.49% for Crypto.com, Kraken, LMAX Digital and Bitstamp by Robinhood, respectively, would represent each Constituent Trading Platform's share of trading volume during the preceding 24 hours.
- **Inactivity Adjustment:** Assume that a Constituent Trading Platform represented a 14% weighting on the Index Price of the digital asset and then went offline for approximately two hours. The index algorithm would automatically recognize inactivity and start de-weighting the Constituent Trading Platform at the 5-minute mark and continue to do so with each additional 5-minute period of inactivity until its influence was effectively zero, 25 minutes after becoming inactive. As soon as trading activity resumed at the Constituent Trading Platform, the index algorithm would re-weight it to the appropriate weighting based on trading volume and price-variance relative to the cohort of Constituent Trading Platforms included in the Index.
- **Price Outlier Detection:** New traded prices from Constituent Trading Platforms are compared to the latest calculated Index Price. If a new traded price deviates by +/- 5% from the latest calculated Index Price, it will be considered an outlier and will not be used in the calculation of the Index Price until such time as a majority of the Constituent Trading Platforms are similarly considered outlier prices. In that case, the new prices will be used to calculate the Index Price. For example, if the Index Price is \$10 and there is a new trade price of \$11 from Constituent Trading Platform X, the price of \$11 will be considered an outlier and will not be used. However, if the most recent prices on a majority of the Constituent Trading Platforms are aligned with the price of \$11, then these prices will no longer be considered outliers and will be used to calculate the new Index Price.

Determination of the Index Price When Index Price is Unavailable

The Sponsor uses the following cascading set of rules to calculate the Index Price. For the avoidance of doubt, the Sponsor will employ the below rules sequentially and in the order as presented below, should one or more specific rule(s) fail:

1. Index Price = The price set by the Index as of 4:00 p.m., New York time, on the valuation date. If the Index becomes unavailable, or if the Sponsor determines in good faith that the Index does not reflect an accurate price, then the Sponsor will, on a best efforts basis, contact the Index Provider to obtain the Index Price directly from the Index Provider. If after such contact the Index remains unavailable or the Sponsor continues to believe in good faith that the Index does not reflect an accurate price, then the Sponsor will employ the next rule to determine the Index Price. There are no predefined criteria to make a good faith assessment and it will be made by the Sponsor in its sole discretion.
2. Index Price = The price set by Coin Metrics Real-Time Rate (the “Secondary Index”) as of 4:00 p.m., New York time, on the valuation date (the “Secondary Index Price”). The Secondary Index Price is a real-time reference rate price, calculated using trade data from constituent markets selected by Coin Metrics, Inc. (the “Secondary Index Provider”). The Secondary Index Price is calculated by applying weighted-median techniques to such trade data where half the weight is derived from the trading volume on each constituent market and half is derived from inverse price variance, where a constituent market with high price variance as a result of outliers or market anomalies compared to other constituent markets is assigned a smaller weight. The Secondary Index Provider and the Sponsor have entered into the master services agreement, dated as of August 4, 2020, and order forms thereunder, pursuant to which the Sponsor may obtain and use the Secondary Index and the Secondary Index Price from the Secondary Index Provider. If the Secondary Index becomes unavailable, or if the Sponsor determines in good faith that the Secondary Index does not reflect an accurate price, then the Sponsor will, on a best efforts basis, contact the Secondary Index Provider to obtain the Secondary Index Price directly from the Secondary Index Provider. If after such contact the Secondary Index remains unavailable or the Sponsor continues to believe in good faith that the Secondary Index does not reflect an accurate price, then the Sponsor will employ the next rule to determine the Index Price. There are no predefined criteria to make a good faith assessment and it will be made by the Sponsor in its sole discretion.
3. Index Price = The price set by the Trust’s principal market (the “Tertiary Pricing Option”) as of 4:00 p.m., New York time, on the valuation date. The Tertiary Pricing Option is a spot price derived from the principal market’s public data feed that is believed to be consistently publishing pricing information as of 4:00 p.m., New York time, and is provided to the Sponsor via an application programming interface. If the Tertiary Pricing Option becomes unavailable, or if the Sponsor determines in good faith that the Tertiary Pricing Option does not reflect an accurate price, then the Sponsor will, on a best efforts basis, contact the Tertiary Pricing Provider to obtain the Tertiary Pricing Option directly from the Tertiary Pricing Provider. If after such contact the Tertiary Pricing Option remains unavailable or the Sponsor continues to believe in good faith that the Tertiary Pricing Option does not reflect an accurate price, then the Sponsor will employ the next rule to determine the Index Price. There are no predefined criteria to make a good faith assessment and it will be made by the Sponsor in its sole discretion.
4. Index Price = The Sponsor will use its best judgment to determine a good faith estimate of the Index Price. There are no predefined criteria to make a good faith assessment and it will be made by the Sponsor in its sole discretion.

In the event of a fork, the Index Provider may calculate the Index Price based on a digital asset that the Sponsor does not believe to be the appropriate asset that is held by the Trust. In this event, the Sponsor has full discretion to use a different index provider or calculate the Index Price itself using its best judgment.

The Sponsor may, in its sole discretion, select a different index provider, select a different index price provided by the Index Provider, calculate the Index Price by using the cascading set of rules set forth above, or change the cascading set of rules set forth above at any time. The Sponsor will provide notice of any such changes in the Trust’s periodic or current reports and, if the Sponsor makes such a change other than on an ad hoc or temporary basis, will file a proposed rule change with the SEC.

Government Oversight

As digital assets have grown in both popularity and market size, the U.S. Congress and a number of U.S. federal and state agencies (including FinCEN, the Treasury Department Office of Foreign Assets Control (“OFAC”), SEC, CFTC, the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (“FINRA”), the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (“CFPB”), the Department of Justice, the Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, a bureau of the U.S. Department of the Treasury (the “IRS”), the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Federal Reserve and state financial institution and securities regulators) have been examining the operations of digital asset networks, digital asset users and the digital asset markets, with particular focus on the extent to which digital assets can be used to launder the proceeds of illegal activities, evade sanctions or fund criminal or terrorist enterprises and the safety and soundness of trading platforms and other service providers that hold or custody digital assets for users. Many of these state and federal agencies have issued consumer advisories regarding the risks posed by digital assets to investors. In addition, federal and state agencies, and other countries and international bodies have issued rules or guidance about the treatment of digital asset transactions or requirements for businesses engaged in digital asset activity. Moreover, the failure of FTX Trading Ltd. (“FTX”) in November 2022 and the resulting market

turmoil substantially increased regulatory scrutiny in the United States and globally and led to SEC enforcement actions, criminal investigations, and other regulatory activity across the digital asset ecosystem.

On January 23, 2025, President Trump issued an executive order titled “Strengthening American Leadership in Digital Financial Technology” aimed at supporting “the responsible growth and use of digital assets, blockchain technology, and related technologies across all sectors of the economy.” The executive order established an interagency working group tasked with “proposing a Federal regulatory framework governing the issuance and operation of digital assets” in the United States. Pursuant to this executive order, the working group released a report in July 2025 outlining the administration's recommendations to Congress and various agencies reflecting the administration's “pro-innovation mindset toward digital assets and blockchain technologies.”

In addition, the SEC, U.S. state securities regulators and several foreign governments have issued warnings and instituted legal proceedings in which they argue that certain digital assets may be classified as securities and that both those digital assets and any related initial coin offerings or other primary and secondary market transactions are subject to securities regulations. For example, in June 2023, the SEC brought charges against Binance Holdings Ltd. (the “Binance Complaint”) and Coinbase, Inc. (the “Coinbase Complaint”), and in November 2023, the SEC brought charges against Kraken (the “Kraken Complaint”), alleging that they operated unregistered securities exchanges, brokerages and clearing agencies. In its complaints, the SEC asserted that several digital assets are securities under the federal securities laws. Between February 2025 and May 2025, the SEC entered into court-approved joint stipulations to dismiss each of the Binance Complaint, Coinbase Complaint and the Kraken Complaint. The SEC has terminated its investigation or enforcement action into many other digital asset market participants as well. Additionally, U.S. state and federal, and foreign regulators and legislatures have taken action against virtual currency businesses or enacted restrictive regimes in response to adverse publicity arising from hacks, consumer harm, or criminal activity stemming from virtual currency activity.

There have been several bills introduced in Congress that propose to establish additional regulation and oversight of the digital asset markets. Certain of these bills passed out of relevant committees and were passed in the House of Representatives in the last Congress, though not the Senate. Some of these bills have since been reintroduced with changes, and continue to be contemplated in the relevant committees, as well as the full House of Representatives and Senate. For example, in July 2025, the GENIUS Act was signed into law and the House of Representatives passed the Digital Asset Market Clarity Act of 2025 (“CLARITY Act”) in an effort to pass laws relating to digital asset market structure. It is difficult to predict whether, or when, any of these developments will lead to Congress granting additional authorities to the SEC or other regulators, what the nature of such additional authorities might be, how additional legislation and/or regulatory oversight might impact the ability of digital asset markets to function or how any new regulations or changes to existing regulations might impact the value of digital assets. See “Item 1A. Risk Factors—Risk Factors Related to the Regulation of Digital Assets, the Trust and the Shares—Regulatory changes or actions by the U.S. Congress or any U.S. federal or state agencies may affect the value of the Shares or restrict the use of TAO, validating activity or the operation of the Bittensor Network or the Digital Asset Markets in a manner that adversely affects the value of the Shares,” and “Item 1A. Risk Factors—Risk Factors Related to the Regulation of Digital Assets, the Trust and the Shares—A determination that TAO or any other digital asset is a “security” may adversely affect the value of TAO and the value of the Shares, and result in potentially extraordinary, nonrecurring expenses to, or termination of, the Trust.”

Various foreign jurisdictions have, and may continue to, in the near future, adopt laws, regulations or directives that affect a digital asset network, the digital asset markets, and their users, particularly Digital Asset Trading Platforms and service providers that fall within such jurisdictions’ regulatory scope. For example:

- China has made transacting in cryptocurrencies illegal for Chinese citizens in mainland China, and additional restrictions may follow. China has banned initial coin offerings and there have been reports that Chinese regulators have taken action to shut down a number of China-based Digital Asset Trading Platforms.
- South Korea determined to amend its Financial Information Act in March 2020 to require virtual asset service providers to register and comply with its AML and counter-terrorism funding framework. These measures also provide the government with the authority to close Digital Asset Trading Platforms that do not comply with specified processes. South Korea has also banned initial coin offerings.
- The Reserve Bank of India in April 2018 banned the entities it regulates from providing services to any individuals or business entities dealing with or settling digital assets. In March 2020, this ban was overturned in the Indian Supreme Court, although the Reserve Bank of India is currently challenging this ruling.
- The United Kingdom’s Financial Conduct Authority published final rules in October 2020 banning the sale of derivatives and exchange-traded notes that reference certain types of digital assets, contending that they are “ill-suited” to retail investors citing extreme volatility, valuation challenges and association with financial crime. A new law, the Financial Services and Markets Act 2023 (“FSMA”), received royal assent in June 2023. The FSMA brings digital asset activities within the scope of existing laws governing financial institutions, markets and assets.
- The Parliament of the European Union approved the text of the Markets in Crypto-Assets Regulation (“MiCA”) in April 2023, establishing a regulatory framework for digital asset services across the European Union. MiCA is intended to serve

as a comprehensive regulation of digital asset markets and imposes various obligations on digital asset issuers and service providers. The main aims of MiCA are industry regulation, consumer protection, prevention of market abuse and upholding the integrity of digital asset markets. MiCA was formally approved by the European Union's member states in 2023. Certain parts of MiCA became effective as of June 2024 and the remainder applied as of December 2024.

There remains significant uncertainty regarding foreign governments' future actions with respect to the regulation of digital assets and Digital Asset Trading Platforms. Such laws, regulations or directives may conflict with those of the United States and may negatively impact the acceptance of TAO by users, merchants and service providers outside the United States and may therefore impede the growth or sustainability of the Bittensor ecosystem in the United States and globally, or otherwise negatively affect the value of the TAO held by the Trust. The effect of any future regulatory change on the Trust or the TAO held by the Trust is impossible to predict, but such change could be substantial and adverse to the Trust and the value of the Shares.

See "Item 1A. Risk Factors—Risk Factors Related to the Regulation of Digital Assets, the Trust and the Shares—Regulatory changes or actions by the U.S. Congress or any U.S. federal or state agencies may affect the value of the Shares or restrict the use of TAO, validating activity or the operation of the Bittensor Network or the Digital Asset Markets in a manner that adversely affects the value of the Shares."

Description of the Trust

The Trust is a Delaware Statutory Trust that was formed on April 30, 2024 by the filing of the Certificate of Trust with the Delaware Secretary of State in accordance with the provisions of the Delaware Statutory Trust Act ("DSTA"). The Trust operates pursuant to the Trust Agreement.

The Shares represent units of fractional undivided beneficial interest in and ownership of the Trust. The Trust is passive and is not managed like a corporation or an active investment vehicle. The Trust's TAO are held by the Custodian on behalf of the Trust. The Trust's TAO will be transferred out of the Digital Asset Account only in the following circumstances: (i) transferred to pay the Sponsor's Fee or any Additional Trust Expenses, (ii) sold on an as-needed basis to pay Additional Trust Expenses or (iii) sold on behalf of the Trust in the event the Trust terminates and liquidates its assets or as otherwise required by law or regulation. Assuming that the Trust is treated as a grantor trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes, each delivery or sale of TAO by the Trust to pay the Sponsor's Fee or any Additional Trust Expenses will be a taxable event for shareholders. See "—Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences—Tax Consequences to U.S. Holders."

The Trust is not a registered investment company under the Investment Company Act and the Sponsor believes that the Trust is not required to register under the Investment Company Act. The Trust will not trade, buy, sell or hold TAO derivatives, including TAO futures contracts, on any futures exchange. The Trust is authorized solely to take immediate delivery of actual TAO. The Sponsor does not believe the Trust's activities are required to be regulated by the CFTC under the CEA as a "commodity pool" under current law, regulation and interpretation. The Trust will not be operated by a CFTC-regulated commodity pool operator because it will not trade, buy, sell or hold TAO derivatives, including TAO futures contracts, on any futures exchange. Investors in the Trust will not receive the regulatory protections afforded to investors in regulated commodity pools, nor may the COMEX division of the New York Mercantile Exchange or any futures exchange enforce its rules with respect to the Trust's activities. In addition, investors in the Trust will not benefit from the protections afforded to investors in TAO futures contracts on regulated futures exchanges.

Although the redemption of Shares is provided for in the Trust Agreement, the redemption of Shares is not currently permitted and the Trust does not currently operate a redemption program. Subject to receipt of regulatory approval from the SEC and approval by the Sponsor in its sole discretion, the Trust may in the future operate a redemption program. No assurance can be given as to the timing of such relief or that such relief will be granted. If such relief is granted and the Sponsor approves a redemption program, the Shares will be redeemable in accordance with the provisions of the Trust Agreement and the relevant Participant Agreement. Although the Sponsor cannot predict with certainty what effect, if any, the operation of a redemption program would have on the trading price of the Shares, this will allow Authorized Participants to take advantage of arbitrage opportunities created when the market value of the Shares deviates from the value of the Trust's TAO, less the Trust's expenses and other liabilities, which may have the effect of reducing any premium at which the Shares trade on OTCQX over such value, which at times has been substantial.

The Trust creates Shares from time to time but only in Baskets. A Basket equals a block of 100 Shares. See "—Description of Creation and Redemption of Shares." The Sponsor will determine the Trust's NAV on each business day as of 4:00 p.m., New York time, or as soon thereafter as practicable. The Sponsor will also determine the NAV per Share, which equals the NAV divided by the number of outstanding Shares. Each business day, the Sponsor will publish the Trust's NAV and NAV per Share on the Trust's website grayscale.com/funds/grayscale-bittensor-trust/, as soon as practicable after the Trust's NAV and NAV per Share have been determined by the Sponsor. See "—Valuation of TAO and Determination of NAV."

The Trust's assets consist solely of TAO, Incidental Rights, IR Virtual Currency, proceeds from the sale of TAO, Incidental Rights and IR Virtual Currency pending use of such cash for payment of Additional Trust Expenses or distribution to the shareholders and any rights of the Trust pursuant to any agreements, other than the Trust Agreement, to which the Trust is a party.

Each Share represents a proportional interest, based on the total number of Shares outstanding, in each of the Trust's assets as determined in the case of TAO by reference to the Index Price, less the Trust's expenses and other liabilities (which include accrued but unpaid fees and expenses). The Sponsor expects that the market price of the Shares will fluctuate over time in response to the market prices of TAO. In addition, because the Shares reflect the estimated accrued but unpaid expenses of the Trust, the amount of TAO represented by a Share will gradually decrease over time as the Trust's TAO are used to pay the Trust's expenses. The Trust does not expect to take any Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency it may hold into account for purposes of determining the Trust's NAV or the NAV per Share.

TAO pricing information is available on a 24-hour basis from various financial information service providers or Bittensor Network information sites such as CoinMarketCap.com. The spot price and bid/ask spreads may also be available directly from Digital Asset Trading Platforms. As of December 31, 2025, the Constituent Trading Platforms of the Index were Binance, Crypto.com and Kraken. The Index Provider may remove or add Digital Asset Trading Platforms to the Index in the future at its discretion. Market prices for the Shares will be available from a variety of sources, including brokerage firms, information websites and other information service providers. In addition, on each business day the Trust's website will provide pricing information for the Shares.

The Trust has no fixed termination date.

Service Providers of the Trust

The Sponsor

As of the date of this Annual Report, the Trust's Sponsor is Grayscale Investments Sponsors, LLC. Until December 31, 2024, the Trust's Sponsor was Grayscale Investments, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company formed on May 29, 2013 and a consolidated subsidiary of Digital Currency Group, Inc. ("DCG"). See "[—Overview of the Trust and the Shares](#)" for more information regarding the Reorganization on January 1, 2025. The Sponsor's principal place of business is 290 Harbor Drive, 4th Floor, Stamford, Connecticut 06902, and its telephone number is (212) 668-1427. Under the Delaware Limited Liability Company Act and the governing documents of the Sponsor, DCG, the indirect parent company of the Sponsor, is not responsible for the debts, obligations and liabilities of the Sponsor solely by reason of being the indirect parent company of the Sponsor.

The Sponsor is neither an investment adviser registered with the SEC nor a commodity pool operator registered with the CFTC, and will not be acting in either such capacity with respect to the Trust, and the Sponsor's provision of services to the Trust will not be governed by the Investment Advisers Act or the CEA.

The Sponsor arranged for the creation of the Trust and quotation of the Shares on OTCQX. As partial consideration for its receipt of the Sponsor's Fee from the Trust, the Sponsor is obligated to pay the Sponsor-paid Expenses. The Sponsor also paid the costs of the Trust's organization and the costs of the initial sale of the Shares.

The Sponsor is generally responsible for the day-to-day administration of the Trust under the provisions of the Trust Agreement. This includes (i) preparing and providing periodic reports and financial statements on behalf of the Trust for investors, (ii) processing orders to create Baskets and coordinating the processing of such orders with the Custodian and the Transfer Agent, (iii) calculating and publishing the NAV and the NAV per Share of the Trust each business day as of 4:00 p.m., New York time, or as soon thereafter as practicable, (iv) selecting and monitoring the Trust's service providers and from time to time engaging additional, successor or replacement service providers, (v) instructing the Custodian to transfer the Trust's TAO, as needed to pay the Sponsor's Fee and any Additional Trust Expenses, (vi) upon dissolution of the Trust, distributing the Trust's remaining TAO, Incidental Rights and IR Virtual Currency or the cash proceeds of the sale thereof to the owners of record of the Shares and (vii) establishing the principal market for U.S. GAAP valuation. In addition, if there is a fork in the Bittensor Network after which there is a dispute as to which network resulting from the fork is the Bittensor Network, the Sponsor has the authority to select the network that it believes in good faith is the Bittensor Network, unless such selection or authority would otherwise conflict with the Trust Agreement.

The Sponsor does not store, hold, or maintain custody or control of the Trust's TAO but instead has entered into the Custodian Agreement with the Custodian to facilitate the security of the Trust's TAO.

The Sponsor may transfer all or substantially all of its assets to an entity that carries on the business of the Sponsor if at the time of the transfer the successor assumes all of the obligations of the Sponsor under the Trust Agreement. In such an event, the Sponsor will be relieved of all further liability under the Trust Agreement.

The Sponsor's Fee is paid by the Trust to the Sponsor as compensation for services performed under the Trust Agreement and as partial consideration for the Sponsor's agreement to pay the Sponsor-paid Expenses. See "[—Expenses; Sales of TAO](#)."

The Sponsor may, in its sole discretion, select a different index provider, select a different index price provided by the Index Provider, calculate the Index Price by using the cascading set of rules set forth under "[—Overview of the TAO Industry and Market—TAO Value—The Index and the Index Price—Determination of the Index Price When Index Price is Unavailable](#)" above, or change the cascading set of rules set forth above at any time.

Distribution and Marketing Agreement

Effective October 3, 2022, the Sponsor has entered into a distribution and marketing agreement (the “Distribution and Marketing Agreement”) with Grayscale Securities, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company (“Grayscale Securities”), an affiliate of the Sponsor and an affiliate and related party of the Trust to assist the Sponsor in distributing the Shares, developing an ongoing marketing plan for the Trust, preparing marketing materials regarding the Shares, including the content on the Trust’s website, and executing the marketing plan for the Trust.

Index License Agreement

The Sponsor has entered into the Index License Agreement with CoinDesk Indices, Inc., the Index Provider, governing the Sponsor’s use of the Index for calculation of the Index Price. The Index Provider may adjust the calculation methodology for the Index without notice to, or consent of, the Trust or its shareholders. Under the Index License Agreement, the Sponsor pays a monthly fee and a fee based on the NAV of the Trust to the Index Provider in consideration of its license to the Sponsor of Index-related intellectual property. The initial term of the Index License Agreement was February 1, 2022 through the later of February 29, 2024 and the latest date set forth on any order form executed under the Index License Agreement. On June 20, 2023, the Sponsor and the Index Provider, entered into an amendment to the Index License Agreement to extend the initial term of the Index License Agreement from February 29, 2024, to February 28, 2025. On February 5, 2025, the Sponsor and the Index Provider, entered into an amendment to the Index License Agreement to extend the term of the Index License Agreement from February 28, 2025, to February 29, 2028. Thereafter, the Index License Agreement will automatically renew on an annual basis, unless a notice of non-renewal is provided. The Index License Agreement is terminable by either party upon written notice in the event of a material breach that remains uncured for thirty days after initial written notice of such breach. Further, either party may terminate the Index License Agreement immediately upon notice under certain circumstances, including with respect to the other party’s (i) insolvency, bankruptcy or analogous event or (ii) violation of money transmission, taxation or trading regulations that materially adversely affect either party’s ability to perform under the Index License Agreement.

COINDESK® and COINDESK BITTENSOR BENCHMARK RATE (the “Index”) are trade or service marks of CoinDesk Indices, Inc. (with its affiliates, including CC Data Limited, “CDI”) and/or its licensors. CDI or CDI’s licensors own all proprietary rights in the Data.

CDI is not the issuer or producer of the Trust and has no responsibilities, obligations, or duties to investors in or holders of the Trust. The Index is licensed for use by the Sponsor as the sponsor of the Trust. The only relationship that CDI has with the Sponsor in respect of the Trust is the licensing of the Index, which is administered and published by CDI, or any successor thereto, without regard to the Sponsor or the owners or holders of Shares of the Trust.

Investors or holders acquire shares of the Trust offered by the Sponsor and investors and holders neither acquire any interest in the Index nor enter into any relationship of any kind whatsoever with CDI upon making an investment in or acquisition of the Trust. The Trust is not sponsored, endorsed, sold, or promoted by CDI. CDI makes no representation or warranty, express or implied, regarding the advisability of investing in or otherwise acquiring the Trust or the advisability of investing in securities or digital assets generally or the ability of the Index to track corresponding or relative market performance. CDI has not passed on the legality or suitability of the Trust with respect to any person or entity. CDI is not responsible for, nor has participated in, the determination of the timing of, prices at, or quantities of the Trust to be issued. CDI has no obligation to take the needs of the Sponsor or the owners or holders of the Trust or any other third party into consideration in administering, composing, calculating, or publishing the Index. CDI has no obligation or liability in connection with administration, marketing, or trading of the Trust.

The licensing agreement between the Sponsor and CDI is solely for the benefit of the Sponsor and CDI and not for the benefit of the owners or holders of Shares of the Trust or any other third parties.

CDI shall have no liability to the Sponsor, the Trust, investors, holders or other third parties for the quality, accuracy and/or completeness of the index or any data included therein or for interruptions in the delivery of the data. CDI hereby expressly disclaims all warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose or use with respect to the Index or any other data included therein. CDI reserves the right to change the methods of calculation or publication, or to cease the calculation or publication of the Index and shall not be liable for any miscalculation of or any incorrect, delayed, or interrupted publication with respect to the Index. CDI shall not be liable for any damages, including, without limitation, any special, indirect or consequential damages, or any lost profits, even if advised of the possibility of such, resulting from the use of the Index or any other data included therein or with respect to the Trust.

The Trustee

CSC Delaware Trust Company (formerly known as Delaware Trust Company) serves as Delaware trustee of the Trust under the Trust Agreement. The Trustee has its principal office at 251 Little Falls Drive, Wilmington, Delaware 19808. The Trustee is unaffiliated with the Sponsor. A copy of the Trust Agreement is available for inspection at the Sponsor’s principal office identified above.

The Trustee is appointed to serve as the trustee of the Trust in the State of Delaware for the sole purpose of satisfying the requirement of Section 3807(a) of the DSTA that the Trust have at least one trustee with a principal place of business in the State of Delaware. The duties of the Trustee will be limited to (i) accepting legal process served on the Trust in the State of Delaware and (ii) the execution of any certificates required to be filed with the Delaware Secretary of State which the Delaware Trustee is required to execute under the DSTA. To the extent that, at law or in equity, the Trustee has duties (including fiduciary duties) and liabilities relating thereto to the Trust or the shareholders, such duties and liabilities will be replaced by the duties and liabilities of the Trustee expressly set forth in the Trust Agreement. The Trustee will have no obligation to supervise, nor will it be liable for, the acts or omissions of the Sponsor, Transfer Agent, Custodian or any other person.

Neither the Trustee, either in its capacity as trustee or in its individual capacity, nor any director, officer or controlling person of the Trustee is, or has any liability as, the issuer, director, officer or controlling person of the issuer of Shares. The Trustee's liability in connection with the issuance and sale of Shares is limited solely to the express obligations of the Trustee as set forth in the Trust Agreement.

The Trustee has not prepared or verified, and will not be responsible or liable for, any information, disclosure or other statement in this Annual Report or in any other document issued or delivered in connection with the sale or transfer of the Shares. The Trust Agreement provides that the Trustee will not be responsible or liable for the genuineness, enforceability, collectability, value, sufficiency, location or existence of any of the TAO or other assets of the Trust. See “—Description of the Trust Agreement.”

The Trustee is permitted to resign upon at least 180 days' notice to the Trust. The Trustee will be compensated by the Sponsor and indemnified by the Sponsor and the Trust against any expenses it incurs relating to or arising out of the formation, operation or termination of the Trust, or the performance of its duties pursuant to the Trust Agreement except to the extent that such expenses result from gross negligence, willful misconduct or bad faith of the Trustee. The Sponsor has the discretion to replace the Trustee.

Fees paid to the Trustee are a Sponsor-paid Expense.

The Transfer Agent

Continental Stock Transfer & Trust Company, a Delaware corporation, serves as the Transfer Agent of the Trust pursuant to the terms and provisions of the Transfer Agency and Service Agreement. The Transfer Agent has its principal office at 1 State Street, 30th Floor, New York, New York 10004. A copy of the Transfer Agency and Service Agreement is available for inspection at the Sponsor's principal office identified herein.

The Transfer Agent holds the Shares primarily in book-entry form. The Sponsor directs the Transfer Agent to credit the number of Creation Baskets to the investor on behalf of which an Authorized Participant submitted a creation order. The Transfer Agent will issue Creation Baskets. The Transfer Agent will also assist with the preparation of shareholders' accounts and tax statements.

The Sponsor will indemnify and hold harmless the Transfer Agent, and the Transfer Agent will incur no liability for the refusal, in good faith, to make transfers which it, in its judgment, deems improper or unauthorized.

Fees paid to the Transfer Agent are a Sponsor-paid Expense.

Authorized Participants

An Authorized Participant must enter into a “Participant Agreement” with the Sponsor and the Trust to govern its placement of orders to create Baskets. The Participant Agreement sets forth the procedures for the creation of Baskets and for the delivery of TAO required for creations. A copy of the form of Participant Agreement is available for inspection at the Sponsor's principal office identified herein.

Each Authorized Participant must (i) be a registered broker-dealer, (ii) enter into a Participant Agreement with the Sponsor and (iii) own a TAO wallet address that is known to the Custodian as belonging to the Authorized Participant, or another entity that has been engaged to source digital assets (any such representative, a “Liquidity Provider”). A list of the current Authorized Participants can be obtained from the Sponsor.

Effective June 10, 2024, the Sponsor entered into a Participant Agreement with Grayscale Securities, pursuant to which Grayscale Securities has agreed to act as an Authorized Participant of the Trust.

As of the date of this Annual Report, Grayscale Securities is the only acting Authorized Participant. The Sponsor intends to engage additional Authorized Participants that are unaffiliated with the Trust in the future.

No Authorized Participant has any obligation or responsibility to the Sponsor or the Trust to effect any sale or resale of Shares.

The Custodian

BitGo Trust Company, Inc. is a fiduciary under § 100 of the New York Banking Law and a qualified custodian for purposes of Rule 206(4)-2(d)(6) under the Investment Advisers Act. The Custodian is authorized to serve as the Trust's custodian under the Trust

Agreement and pursuant to the terms and provisions of the Custodian Agreement. The Custodian has its principal office at 6216 Pinnacle Place, Suite 101, Sioux Falls, SD 57108. A copy of the Custodian Agreement is available for inspection at the Sponsor's principal office identified herein.

Under the Custodian Agreement, the Custodian controls and secures the Trust's "Digital Asset Account," a segregated custody account to store private keys, which allow for the transfer of ownership or control of the Trust's TAO, on the Trust's behalf. The Custodian's services (i) allow TAO to be deposited from a public blockchain address to the Trust's Digital Asset Account and (ii) allow the Trust or Sponsor to withdraw TAO from the Trust's Digital Asset Account to a public blockchain address the Trust or Sponsor controls (the "Custodial Services"). The Digital Asset Account uses offline storage, or "cold" storage, mechanisms to secure the Trust's private keys. The term cold storage refers to a safeguarding method by which the private keys corresponding to digital assets are disconnected and/or deleted entirely from the internet.

The Custodian will withdraw from the Trust's Digital Asset Account the amount of TAO necessary to pay the Trust's expenses.

Fees paid to the Custodian are a Sponsor-paid Expense.

Under the Custodian Agreement, each of the Custodian and the Trust has agreed to indemnify and hold harmless the other party from any third-party claim or third-party demand (including reasonable and documented attorneys' fees and any fines, fees or penalties imposed by any regulatory authority) arising out of or related to the Custodian's or the Trust's, as the case may be, breach of the Custodian Agreement, inaccuracy in any of the Custodian's or the Trust's, as the case may be, representations or warranties in the Custodian Agreement, or the Trust's violation, or the Custodian's knowing violation, of any law, rule or regulation, or the rights of any third party, except where such claim directly results from the gross negligence, fraud or willful misconduct of the other such party. In addition, the Trust has agreed to indemnify the Custodian with respect to any Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency abandoned by the Trust and any tax liability relating thereto or arising therefrom.

The Custodian and its affiliates may from time to time purchase or sell TAO for their own accounts and as agent for their customers or Shares for their own accounts. The foregoing notwithstanding, TAO in the Digital Asset Account are not treated as general assets of the Custodian and cannot be commingled with any other digital assets held by the Custodian. The Custodian serves as a fiduciary and custodian on the Trust's behalf, and the TAO in the Digital Asset Account are considered fiduciary assets that remain the Trust's property at all times.

Once each calendar year, the Sponsor or the Trust may request that the Custodian deliver a certificate signed by a duly authorized officer to certify that all representations and warranties made by the Custodian in the Custodian Agreement are true and correct on and as of the date of such certificate, and have been true and correct throughout the preceding year. In addition, the Custodian has agreed to allow the Trust and the Sponsor to take any necessary steps to verify that satisfactory internal control system and procedures are in place, and to visit and inspect the systems on which the Custodian's coins are held.

If the Custodian resigns in its capacity as custodian, the Sponsor may appoint an additional or replacement custodian and enter into a custodian agreement on behalf of the Trust with such custodian. Furthermore, the Sponsor and the Trust may use TAO custody services or similar services provided by entities other than BitGo Trust Company, Inc. at any time without prior notice to BitGo Trust Company, Inc.

Custody of the Trust's TAO

Digital assets and digital asset transactions are recorded and validated on blockchains, the public transaction ledgers of a digital asset network. Each digital asset blockchain serves as a record of ownership for all of the units of such digital asset, even in the case of certain privacy-preserving digital assets, where the transactions themselves are not publicly viewable. All digital assets recorded on a blockchain are associated with a public blockchain address, also referred to as a digital wallet. Digital assets held at a particular public blockchain address may be accessed and transferred using a corresponding private key.

Key Generation

Public addresses and their corresponding private keys are generated by the Custodian in secret key generation ceremonies at secure locations inside faraday cages, which are enclosures used to block electromagnetic fields and thus mitigate against attacks. The Custodian uses quantum random number generators to generate the public and private key pairs.

Once generated, private keys are encrypted, separated into "shards", and then further encrypted. After the key generation ceremony, all materials used to generate private keys, including computers, are destroyed. All key generation ceremonies are performed offline. No party other than the Custodian has access to the private key shards of the Trust, including the Trust itself.

Key Storage

Private key shards are distributed geographically in secure vaults around the world, including in the United States. The locations of the secure vaults may change regularly and are kept confidential by the Custodian for security purposes.

The Digital Asset Account uses offline storage, or “cold storage”, mechanisms to secure the Trust’s private keys. The term cold storage refers to a safeguarding method by which the private keys corresponding to digital assets are disconnected and/or deleted entirely from the internet. Cold storage of private keys may involve keeping such keys on a non-networked (or “air-gapped”) computer or electronic device or storing the private keys on a storage device (for example, a USB thumb drive) or printed medium (for example, papyrus, paper or a metallic object). A digital wallet may receive deposits of digital assets but may not send digital assets without use of the digital assets’ corresponding private keys. In order to send digital assets from a digital wallet in which the private keys are kept in cold storage, either the private keys must be retrieved from cold storage and entered into an online, or “hot”, digital asset software program to sign the transaction, or the unsigned transaction must be transferred to the cold server in which the private keys are held for signature by the private keys and then transferred back to the online digital asset software program. At that point, the user of the digital wallet can transfer its digital assets.

Security Procedures

The Custodian is the custodian of the Trust’s private keys in accordance with the terms and provisions of the Custodian Agreement. Transfers from the Digital Asset Account requires certain security procedures, including but not limited to, multiple encrypted private key shards, usernames, passwords and 2-step verification. Multiple private key shards held by the Custodian must be combined to reconstitute the private key to sign any transaction in order to transfer the Trust’s assets. Private key shards are distributed geographically in secure vaults around the world, including in the United States.

As a result, if any one secure vault is ever compromised, this event will have no impact on the ability of the Trust to access its assets, other than a possible delay in operations, while one or more of the other secure vaults is used instead. These security procedures are intended to remove single points of failure in the protection of the Trust’s assets.

Transfers of TAO to the Digital Asset Account will be available to the Trust once processed on the Blockchain.

Subject to obtaining regulatory approval to operate a redemption program and authorization of the Sponsor, the process of accessing and withdrawing TAO from the Trust to redeem a Basket by an Authorized Participant will follow the same general procedure as transferring TAO to the Trust to create a Basket by an Authorized Participant, only in reverse. See “—Description of Creation of Shares.”

The Distributor and Marketer

Since September 18, 2025, Grayscale Securities is the distributor and marketer of the Shares. Grayscale Securities is a registered broker-dealer with the SEC and is a member of FINRA.

In its capacity as distributor and marketer, Grayscale Securities assists the Sponsor in developing an ongoing marketing plan for the Trust; preparing marketing materials regarding the Shares, including the content on the Trust’s website, grayscale.com/funds/grayscale-bittensor-trust/; and executing the marketing plan for the Trust. Grayscale Securities is an affiliate of the Sponsor.

The Sponsor has entered into a Distribution and Marketing Agreement with Grayscale Securities. The Sponsor may engage additional or successor distributors and marketers in the future.

Description of the Shares

The Trust is authorized under the Trust Agreement to create and issue an unlimited number of Shares. Shares will be issued only in Baskets (a Basket equals a block of 100 Shares) in connection with creations. The Shares represent units of fractional undivided beneficial interest in and ownership of the Trust and have no par value. The Shares are quoted on OTCQX under the ticker symbol “GTAO.”

Description of Limited Rights

The Shares do not represent a traditional investment and should not be viewed as similar to “shares” of a corporation operating a business enterprise with management and a board of directors. A shareholder will not have the statutory rights normally associated with the ownership of shares of a corporation. Each Share is transferable, is fully paid and non-assessable and entitles the holder to vote on the limited matters upon which shareholders may vote under the Trust Agreement. For example, shareholders do not have the right to elect or remove directors and will not receive dividends. The Shares do not entitle their holders to any conversion or pre-emptive rights or, except as discussed below, any redemption rights or rights to distributions.

Voting and Approvals

The shareholders take no part in the management or control of the Trust. Under the Trust Agreement, shareholders have limited voting rights. For example, in the event that the Sponsor withdraws, a majority of the shareholders may elect and appoint a successor

sponsor to carry out the affairs of the Trust. The Sponsor is also permitted to make certain restatements, amendments or supplements to the Trust Agreement that would materially adversely affect the interests of the shareholders as determined by the Sponsor in its sole discretion with a 20-day notice to shareholders. Additionally, the Sponsor is permitted to make certain restatements, amendments or supplements to the Trust Agreement that could adversely affect the status of the Trust as a grantor trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes, but only if certain conditions set forth in the amendments relating to the qualification of the Trust as a grantor trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes are satisfied. Furthermore, subject to certain limitations, the Sponsor may make any other amendments to the Trust Agreement which do not materially adversely affect the interests of the shareholders in its sole discretion without shareholder consent.

Distributions

Pursuant to the terms of the Trust Agreement, the Trust may make distributions on the Shares in-cash or in-kind, including in such form as is necessary or permissible for the Trust to facilitate its shareholders' access to any Incidental Rights or to IR Virtual Currency.

In addition, if the Trust is terminated and liquidated, the Sponsor will distribute to the shareholders any amounts of the cash proceeds of the liquidation remaining after the satisfaction of all outstanding liabilities of the Trust and the establishment of reserves for applicable taxes, other governmental charges and contingent or future liabilities as the Sponsor will determine. See “—Description of the Trust Agreement—Termination of the Trust.” Shareholders of record on the record date fixed by the Transfer Agent for a distribution will be entitled to receive their pro rata portions of any distribution.

Appointment of Agent

Pursuant to the terms of the Trust Agreement, by holding the Shares, shareholders will be deemed to agree that the Sponsor may cause the Trust to appoint an agent (any person appointed in such capacity, an “Agent”) to act on their behalf in connection with any distribution of Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency if the Sponsor has determined in good faith that such appointment is reasonably necessary or in the best interests of the Trust and the shareholders in order to facilitate the distribution of any Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency. The Sponsor may cause the Trust to appoint Grayscale Investments Sponsors, LLC (acting other than in its capacity as Sponsor) or any of its affiliates to act in such capacity.

Any Agent appointed to facilitate a distribution of Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency will receive an in-kind distribution of Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency on behalf of the shareholders of record with respect to such distribution, and following receipt of such distribution, will determine, in its sole discretion and without any direction from the Trust, or the Sponsor, in its capacity as Sponsor of the Trust, whether and when to sell the distributed Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency on behalf of the record date shareholders. If the Agent is able to do so, it will remit the cash proceeds to the record date shareholders. There can be no assurance as to the price or prices for any Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency that the Agent may realize, and the value of the Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency may increase or decrease after any sale by the Agent.

Any Agent appointed pursuant to the Trust Agreement will not receive any compensation in connection with its role as agent. However, any Agent will be entitled to receive from the record-date shareholders, out of the distributed Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency, an amount of Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency with an aggregate fair market value equal to the amount of administrative and other reasonable expenses incurred by the Agent in connection with its activities as agent of the record-date shareholders, including expenses incurred by the Agent in connection with any post-distribution sale of such Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency.

The Sponsor currently expects to cause the Trust to appoint Grayscale Investments Sponsors, LLC, acting other than in its capacity as Sponsor, as Agent to facilitate any distribution of Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency to shareholders. The Trust has no right to receive any information about any distributed Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency or the disposition thereof from the record date shareholders, their Agent or any other person.

Creation of Shares

The Trust creates Shares at such times and for such periods as determined by the Sponsor, but only in one or more whole Baskets. A Basket equals 100 Shares. As of December 31, 2025, each Share represented approximately 0.0192 TAO. See “—Description of Creation of Shares.” The creation of a Basket requires the delivery to the Trust of the amount of TAO represented

by one Share immediately prior to such creation multiplied by 100. The Trust may from time to time halt creations, including for extended periods of time, for a variety of reasons, including in connection with forks, airdrops and other similar occurrences.

Redemption of Shares

Redemptions of Shares are currently not permitted and the Trust is unable to redeem Shares. Subject to receipt of regulatory approval from the SEC and approval by the Sponsor in its sole discretion, the Trust may in the future operate a redemption program.

No assurance can be given as to the timing of such relief or that such relief will be granted. If such relief is granted and the Sponsor approves a redemption program, the Shares will be redeemable only in accordance with the provisions of the Trust Agreement and the relevant Participant Agreement. See “Item 1A. Risk Factors—Risk Factors Related to the Trust and the Shares—Because of the holding period under Rule 144, the lack of an ongoing redemption program and the Trust’s ability to halt creations from time to time, there is no arbitrage mechanism to keep the value of the Shares closely linked to the Index Price and the Shares have historically traded at a substantial premium over the NAV per Share,” “Item 1A. Risk Factors—Risk Factors Related to the Trust and the Shares—The Shares may trade at a price that is at, above or below the Trust’s NAV per Share as a result of the non-concurrent trading hours between OTCQX and the Digital Asset Trading Platform Market” and “Item 1A. Risk Factors—Risk Factors Related to the Trust and the Shares—The restrictions on transfer and redemption may result in losses on the value of the Shares.”

Transfer Restrictions

Shares purchased in a private placement are restricted securities that may not be resold except in transactions exempt from registration under the Securities Act and state securities laws and any such transaction must be approved by the Sponsor. In determining whether to grant approval, the Sponsor will specifically look at whether the conditions of Rule 144 under the Securities Act and any other applicable laws have been met. Any attempt to sell Shares without the approval of the Sponsor in its sole discretion will be void *ab initio*.

Pursuant to Rule 144, a minimum six-month holding period applies to all Shares purchased from the Trust.

On a bi-weekly basis, the Trust aggregates the Shares that have been held for the requisite holding period under Rule 144 by non-affiliates of the Trust to assess whether the Rule 144 transfer restriction legends may be removed. Any Shares that qualify for the removal of the Rule 144 transfer restriction legends are presented to outside counsel, who may instruct the Transfer Agent to remove the transfer restriction legends from the Shares, allowing the Shares to then be resold without restriction, including on OTCQX U.S. Premier marketplace. The outside counsel requires that certain representations be made, providing that:

- the Shares subject to each sale have been held for the requisite holding period under Rule 144 by the selling shareholder;
- the shareholder is the sole beneficial owner of the Shares;
- the Sponsor is aware of no circumstances in which the shareholder would be considered an underwriter or engaged in the distribution of securities for the Trust;
- none of the Shares are subject to any agreement granting any pledge, lien, mortgage, hypothecation, security interest, charge, option or encumbrance;
- none of the identified selling shareholders is an affiliate of the Sponsor;
- the Sponsor consents to the transfer of the Shares; and
- outside counsel and the Transfer Agent can rely on the representations.

In addition, because the Trust Agreement prohibits the transfer or sale of Shares without the prior written consent of the Sponsor, the Sponsor must provide a written consent that explicitly states that it irrevocably consents to the transfer and resale of the Shares. Once the transfer restriction legends have been removed from a Share and the Sponsor has provided its written consent to the transfer of that Share, no consent of the Sponsor is required for future transfers of that particular Share.

Book-Entry Form

Shares are held primarily in book-entry form by the Transfer Agent. The Sponsor or its delegate will direct the Transfer Agent to credit or debit, as applicable, the number of Baskets to the applicable Authorized Participant. The Transfer Agent will issue or cancel Baskets, as applicable. Transfers will be made in accordance with standard securities industry practice. The Sponsor may cause the Trust to issue Shares in certificated form in limited circumstances in its sole discretion.

Share Splits

In its discretion, the Sponsor may direct the Transfer Agent to declare a split or reverse split in the number of Shares outstanding and to make a corresponding change in the number of Shares constituting a Basket. For example, if the Sponsor believes that the per

Share price in the secondary market for Shares has risen or fallen outside a desirable trading price range, it may declare such a split or reverse split.

Description of Creation of Shares

The following is a description of the material terms of the Trust Documents as they relate to the creation of the Trust's Shares on a periodic basis from time to time through sales in private placement transactions exempt from the registration requirements of the Securities Act.

The Trust Documents also provide procedures for the redemption of Shares. However, the Trust does not currently operate a redemption program and the Shares are not currently redeemable. Subject to receipt of regulatory approval from the SEC and approval by the Sponsor in its sole discretion, the Trust may in the future operate a redemption program.

The Trust issues Shares to Authorized Participants from time to time, but only in one or more Baskets (with a Basket being a block of 100 Shares). The Trust will not issue fractions of a Basket. The creation of Baskets will be made only in exchange for the delivery to the Trust, or the distribution by the Trust, of the amount of whole and fractional TAO represented by each Basket being created, which is determined by dividing (x) the amount of TAO owned by the Trust at 4:00 p.m., New York time, on the trade date of a creation order, after deducting the amount of TAO representing the U.S. dollar value of accrued but unpaid fees and expenses of the Trust (converted using the Index Price at such time, and carried to the eighth decimal place), by (y) the number of Shares outstanding at such time (with the quotient so obtained calculated to one one-hundred-millionth of one TAO (*i.e.*, carried to the eighth decimal place)), and multiplying such quotient by 100 (the "Basket Amount"). All questions as to the calculation of the Basket Amount will be conclusively determined by the Sponsor and will be final and binding on all persons interested in the Trust. The Basket Amount multiplied by the number of Baskets being created is the "Total Basket Amount." The amount of TAO represented by a Share will gradually decrease over time as the Trust's TAO are used to pay the Trust's expenses. As of December 31, 2025, each Share represented approximately 0.0192 TAO. Information regarding the amount of TAO represented by each Share is posted to the Trust's website daily at grayscale.com/funds/grayscale-bittensor-trust/.

Authorized Participants are the only persons that may place orders to create Baskets. Each Authorized Participant must (i) be a registered broker-dealer, (ii) enter into a Participant Agreement with the Sponsor and (iii) own a TAO wallet address that is known to the Custodian as belonging to the Authorized Participant, or a Liquidity Provider. An Authorized Participant may act for its own account or as agent for investors who have entered into a subscription agreement with the Authorized Participant (each such investor, an "Investor"). An Investor that enters into a subscription agreement with an Authorized Participant subscribes for Shares by submitting a purchase order and paying a subscription amount, either in U.S. dollars or in TAO, to the Authorized Participant.

An Investor may pay the subscription amount in cash or TAO. In the event that the Investor pays the subscription amount in cash, the Authorized Participant, or Liquidity Provider, purchases TAO in a Digital Asset Market or, to the extent the Authorized Participant, or Liquidity Provider, already holds TAO, the Authorized Participant, or Liquidity Provider, may contribute such TAO to the Trust. Depending on whether the Investor wires cash to the Authorized Participant before or after 4:00 p.m. New York time, the Investor's Shares will be created based on the same or next business day's NAV and the risk of any price volatility in TAO during this time will be borne by the Authorized Participant, or Liquidity Provider. The Authorized Participant will receive Shares of the Trust and the Shares will then be registered in the name of the Investor. In the event that the Investor pays the subscription amount in TAO, the Investor will transfer such TAO to the Authorized Participant or a Liquidity Provider, which will contribute such TAO in kind to the Trust, and receive Shares of the Trust and the Shares will then be registered in the name of the Investor. For the avoidance of doubt, in either case, the Authorized Participant will act as the agent of the Investor with respect to the contribution of TAO to the Trust in exchange for Shares.

The creation of Baskets requires the delivery to the Trust of the Total Basket Amount.

The Participant Agreement provides the procedures for the creation of Baskets and for the delivery of the whole and fractional TAO required for such creations. The Participant Agreement and the related procedures attached thereto may be amended by the Sponsor and the relevant Authorized Participant. Under the Participant Agreement, the Sponsor has agreed to indemnify each Authorized Participant against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act.

Authorized Participants do not pay a transaction fee to the Trust in connection with the creation of Baskets, but there may be transaction fees associated with the validation of the transfer of TAO on the Bittensor Network. Authorized Participants, or Liquidity Providers, who deposit TAO with the Trust in exchange for Baskets will receive no fees, commissions or other form of compensation or inducement of any kind from either the Sponsor or the Trust, and no such person has any obligation or responsibility to the Sponsor or the Trust to effect any sale or resale of Shares.

The following description of the procedures for the creation of Baskets is only a summary and shareholders should refer to the relevant provisions of the Trust Agreement and the form of Participant Agreement for more detail.

Creation Procedures

On any business day, an Authorized Participant may order one or more Creation Baskets from the Trust by placing a creation order with the Sponsor no later than 4:00 p.m., New York time, which the Sponsor will accept or reject. By placing a creation order, an Authorized Participant agrees to transfer the Total Basket Amount from the TAO wallet address that is known to the Custodian as belonging to the Authorized Participant, or a Liquidity Provider, to the Digital Asset Account.

All creation orders are accepted (or rejected) by the Sponsor on the business day on which the relevant creation order is placed. If a creation order is accepted, the Sponsor will calculate the Total Basket Amount on the same business day, which will be the trade date, and will communicate the Total Basket Amount to the Authorized Participant. The Authorized Participant, or Liquidity Provider, must transfer the Total Basket Amount to the Trust no later than 6:00 p.m., New York time, on the trade date. The expense and risk of delivery, ownership and safekeeping of TAO will be borne solely by the Authorized Participant, or Liquidity Provider, until such TAO have been received by the Trust.

Following receipt of the Total Basket Amount by the Custodian, the Transfer Agent will credit the number of Shares to the account of the Investor on behalf of which the Authorized Participant placed the creation order by no later than 6:00 p.m., New York time, on the trade date. The Authorized Participant may then transfer the Shares directly to the relevant Investor.

Suspension or Rejection of Orders and Total Basket Amount

The creation of Shares may be suspended generally, or refused with respect to particular requested creations, during any period when the transfer books of the Transfer Agent are closed or if circumstances outside the control of the Sponsor or its delegates make it for all practical purposes not feasible to process such creation orders. The Sponsor may reject an order or, after accepting an order, may cancel such order by rejecting the Total Basket Amount if (i) such order is not presented in proper form as described in the Participant Agreement, (ii) the transfer of the Total Basket Amount comes from an account other than a TAO wallet address that is known to the Custodian as belonging to the Authorized Participant, or a Liquidity Provider, or (iii) the fulfillment of the order, in the opinion of counsel, might be unlawful, among other reasons. None of the Sponsor or its delegates will be liable for the suspension, rejection or acceptance of any creation order or Total Basket Amount.

In particular, upon the Trust's receipt of any Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency in connection with a fork, airdrop or similar event, the Sponsor will suspend creations until it is able to cause the Trust to sell or distribute such Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency.

None of the Sponsor or its delegates will be liable for the suspension, rejection or acceptance of any creation order or Total Basket Amount.

Tax Responsibility

Authorized Participants are responsible for any transfer tax, sales or use tax, stamp tax, recording tax, value-added tax or similar tax or governmental charge applicable to the creation of Baskets, regardless of whether such tax or charge is imposed directly on the Authorized Participants, and agree to indemnify the Sponsor and the Trust if the Sponsor or the Trust is required by law to pay any such tax, together with any applicable penalties, additions to tax or interest thereon.

Valuation of TAO and Determination of NAV

The Sponsor will evaluate the TAO held by the Trust and determine the NAV of the Trust in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Trust Documents. The following is a description of the material terms of the Trust Documents as they relate to valuation of the Trust's TAO and the NAV calculations, which is calculated using non-GAAP methodology and is not used in the Trust's financial statements.

On each business day at 4:00 p.m., New York time, or as soon thereafter as practicable (the "Evaluation Time"), the Sponsor will evaluate the TAO held by the Trust and calculate and publish the NAV of the Trust. To calculate the NAV, the Sponsor will:

- Determine the Index Price as of such business day.
- Multiply the Index Price by the Trust's aggregate amount of TAO owned by the Trust as of 4:00 p.m., New York time, on the immediately preceding day, less the aggregate amount of TAO payable as the accrued and unpaid Sponsor's Fee as of 4:00 p.m., New York time, on the immediately preceding day.
- Add the U.S. dollar value of TAO, calculated using the Index Price, receivable under pending creation orders, if any, determined by multiplying the number of the Creation Baskets represented by such creation orders by the Basket Amount and then multiplying such product by the Index Price.
- Subtract the U.S. dollar amount of accrued and unpaid Additional Trust Expenses, if any.

- Subtract the U.S. dollar value of the TAO, calculated using the Index Price, (i) to be distributed under pending redemption orders, if any, determined by multiplying the number of Baskets to be redeemed represented by such redemption orders by the Basket Amount and then multiplying such product by the Index Price, or (ii) to be distributed to Shareholders pursuant to a binding obligation of the Trust following the declaration of an in-kind dividend (including through interests in any liquidating trust or other vehicle formed to hold such TAO) (the amount derived from steps 1 through 5 above, the “NAV Fee Basis Amount”).
- Subtract the U.S. dollar amount of the Sponsor’s Fee that accrues for such business day, as calculated based on the NAV Fee Basis Amount for such business day.

In the event that the Sponsor determines that the primary methodology used to determine the Index Price is not an appropriate basis for valuation of the Trust’s TAO, the Sponsor will utilize the cascading set of rules as described in “—Overview of the TAO Industry and Market—TAO Value—The Index and the Index Price.” In addition, in the event that the Trust holds any Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency, the Sponsor may, at its discretion, include the value of such Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency in the determination of the NAV, provided that the Sponsor has determined in good faith a method for assigning an objective value to such Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency. At this time, the Trust does not expect to take any Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency it may hold into account for the purposes of determining the NAV or the NAV per Share.

The Sponsor will publish the Index Price, the Trust’s NAV and the NAV per Share on the Trust’s website as soon as practicable after its determination. If the NAV and NAV per Share have been calculated using a price per TAO other than the Index Price for such Evaluation Time, the publication on the Trust’s website will note the valuation methodology used and the price per TAO resulting from such calculation.

In the event of a hard fork of the Bittensor Network, the Sponsor will, if permitted by the terms of the Trust Agreement, use its discretion to determine, in good faith, which peer-to-peer network, among a group of incompatible forks of the Bittensor Network, is generally accepted as the network for TAO and should therefore be considered the appropriate network for the Trust’s purposes. The Sponsor will base its determination on a variety of then relevant factors, including (but not limited to) the following: (i) the Sponsor’s beliefs regarding expectations of the core developers of the Bittensor Network, users, services, businesses, validators and other constituencies and (ii) the actual continued acceptance of, validating power on, and community engagement with the Bittensor Network.

The shareholders may rely on any evaluation furnished by the Sponsor. The determinations that the Sponsor makes will be made in good faith upon the basis of, and the Sponsor will not be liable for any errors contained in, information reasonably available to it. The Sponsor will not be liable to the Authorized Participants, the shareholders or any other person for errors in judgment. However, the preceding liability exclusion will not protect the Sponsor against any liability resulting from gross negligence, willful misconduct or bad faith in the performance of its duties.

Expenses; Sales of TAO

The Trust’s only ordinary recurring expense is expected to be the Sponsor’s Fee. The Sponsor’s Fee will accrue daily in U.S. dollars at an annual rate of 2.5% of the NAV Fee Basis Amount of the Trust as of 4:00 p.m., New York time, on each day; provided that for a day that is not a business day, the calculation will be based on the NAV Fee Basis Amount from the most recent business day, reduced by the accrued and unpaid Sponsor’s Fee for such most recent business day and for each day after such most recent business day and prior to the relevant calculation date. This dollar amount for each daily accrual will then be converted into TAO by reference to the same Index Price used to determine such accrual. The Sponsor’s Fee is payable in TAO to the Sponsor monthly in arrears.

Expenses to Be Paid by the Sponsor

The Trust pays the Sponsor’s Fee to the Sponsor. As partial consideration for its receipt of the Sponsor’s Fee from the Trust, the Sponsor is obligated under the Trust Agreement to assume and pay all fees and other expenses incurred by the Trust in the ordinary course of its affairs, excluding taxes, but including: (i) the Marketing Fee; (ii) the Administrator Fee, if any; (iii) the Custodian Fee and fees for any other security vendor engaged by the Trust; (iv) the Transfer Agent Fee; (v) the Trustee fee; (vi) fees and expenses related to the listing, quotation or trading of the Shares on any Secondary Market (including customary legal, marketing and audit fees and expenses) in an amount up to \$600,000 in any given fiscal year; (vii) ordinary course legal fees and expenses; (viii) audit fees; (ix) regulatory fees, including, if applicable, any fees relating to registration of the Shares under the Securities Act or the Exchange Act; (x) printing and mailing costs; (xi) the costs of maintaining the Trust’s website; and (xii) applicable license fees (each a “Sponsor-paid Expense”), provided that any expense that qualifies as an Additional Trust Expense will be deemed to be an Additional Trust Expense and not a Sponsor-paid Expense. The Sponsor, in its sole discretion, from time to time, may temporarily waive all or a portion of the Sponsor’s Fee of the Trust in its discretion for stated periods of time. Presently, the Sponsor does not intend to waive any of the Sponsor’s Fee for the Trust and there are no circumstances under which the Sponsor has determined it will definitely waive the fee.

The Sponsor is under no obligation to waive any portion of its fees and any such waiver shall create no obligation to waive any such fees during any period not covered by the waiver.

The Sponsor's Fee will generally be paid in TAO. However, if the Trust holds any Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency at any time, the Trust may also pay the Sponsor's Fee, in whole or in part, with such Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency by entering into an agreement with the Sponsor and transferring such Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency to the Sponsor at a value to be determined pursuant to such agreement. However, the Trust may use Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency to pay the Sponsor's Fee only if such agreement and transfer do not otherwise conflict with the terms of the Trust Agreement. The value of any such Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency will be determined on an arm's-length basis. The Trust currently expects that the value of any such Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency would be determined by reference to an index provided by the Index Provider or, in the absence of such an index, by reference to the cascading set of rules described in "Overview of the TAO Industry and Market—TAO Value—The Index and the Index Price." If the Trust pays the Sponsor's Fee in Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency, in whole or in part, the amount of TAO that would otherwise have been used to satisfy such payment will be correspondingly reduced.

After the Trust's payment of the Sponsor's Fee to the Sponsor, the Sponsor may elect to convert the TAO, Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency received as payment of the Sponsor's Fee into U.S. dollars. The rate at which the Sponsor converts such TAO, Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency to U.S. dollars may differ from the rate at which the relevant Sponsor's Fee was determined. The Trust will not be responsible for any fees and expenses incurred by the Sponsor to convert TAO, Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency received in payment of the Sponsor's Fee into U.S. dollars.

Extraordinary and Other Expenses

In certain extraordinary circumstances, the Trust may incur certain extraordinary, non-recurring expenses that are not Sponsor-paid Expenses, including, but not limited to: taxes and governmental charges; expenses and costs of any extraordinary services performed by the Sponsor (or any other service provider) on behalf of the Trust to protect the Trust or the interests of shareholders (including in connection with any Incidental Rights and any IR Virtual Currency); any indemnification of the Custodian or other agents, service providers or counterparties of the Trust; the fees and expenses related to the listing, quotation or trading of the Shares on any Secondary Market (including legal, marketing and audit fees and expenses) to the extent exceeding \$600,000 in any given fiscal year; and extraordinary legal fees and expenses, including any legal fees and expenses incurred in connection with litigation, regulatory enforcement or investigation matters (collectively, "Additional Trust Expenses"). If Additional Trust Expenses are incurred, the Trust will be required to pay these Additional Trust Expenses by selling or delivering TAO, Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency. Generally, the Sponsor will cover such expenses on behalf of the Trust and the Trust will reimburse the Sponsor by delivering to the Sponsor TAO, Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency in an amount equal to such expenses. When the Trust and the Sponsor, acting on behalf of the Trust, sell or deliver, as applicable, TAO, Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency, they generally do not transact directly with counterparties other than the Authorized Participants, a Liquidity Provider, or other similarly eligible financial institutions that are subject to federal and state licensing requirements and maintain practices and policies designed to comply with AML and KYC regulations. The Sponsor is under no obligation to waive any portion of its fees and any such waiver shall create no obligation to waive any such fees during any period not covered by the waiver.

The value of any such Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency will be determined on an arm's-length basis. The Trust currently expects that the value of any such Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency would be determined by reference to an index provided by the Index Provider or, in the absence of such an index, by reference to the cascading set of rules described in "—Overview of the TAO Industry and Market—TAO Value—The Index and the Index Price." If the Trust pays Additional Trust Expenses in Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency, in whole or in part, the amount of TAO that would otherwise have been used to satisfy such payment will be correspondingly reduced. See "—Disposition of TAO, Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency" for further information on sales or other dispositions of TAO, Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency. Although the Sponsor cannot definitively state the frequency or magnitude of Additional Trust Expenses, the Sponsor expects that they may occur infrequently.

The Sponsor or any of its affiliates may be reimbursed only for the actual cost to the Sponsor or such affiliate of any expenses that it advances on behalf of the Trust for payment of which the Trust is responsible. In addition, the Trust Agreement prohibits the Trust from paying to the Sponsor or such affiliate for indirect expenses incurred in performing services for the Trust in its capacity as the Sponsor (or an affiliate of the Sponsor) of the Trust, such as salaries and fringe benefits of officers and directors, rent or depreciation, utilities and other administrative items generally falling within the category of the Sponsor's "overhead."

Disposition of TAO, Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency

To cause the Trust to pay the Sponsor's Fee, the Sponsor will instruct the Custodian to (i) withdraw from the Digital Asset Account the amount of TAO, Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency, determined as described above in "—Expenses; Sales of TAO," equal to the accrued but unpaid Sponsor's Fee and (ii) transfer such TAO, Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency to an account maintained by the Custodian for the Sponsor at such times as the Sponsor determines in its absolute discretion. In addition, if

the Trust incurs any Additional Trust Expenses, the Sponsor or its delegates (i) will instruct the Custodian to withdraw from the Digital Asset Account TAO, Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency in such quantity as may be necessary to permit payment of such Additional Trust Expenses and (ii) may either (x) cause the Trust to convert such TAO, Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency into U.S. dollars or other fiat currencies at the Actual Exchange Rate or (y) when the Sponsor incurs such expenses on behalf of the Trust, cause the Trust (or its delegate) to deliver such TAO, Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency in kind to the Sponsor, in each case in such quantity as may be necessary to permit payment of such Additional Trust Expenses. The Sponsor's Fee and Additional Trust Expenses payable by the Trust will generally be paid in TAO. Shareholders do not have the option of choosing to pay their proportionate shares of Additional Trust Expenses in lieu of having their shares of Additional Trust Expenses paid by the Trust's delivery or disposition of TAO, Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency. Assuming that the Trust is a grantor trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes, the transfer or sale of TAO, Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency to pay the Trust's expenses will be a taxable event for shareholders. See "Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences—Tax Consequences to U.S. Holders."

Because the amount of TAO held by the Trust will decrease as a consequence of the payment of the Sponsor's Fee in TAO or the sale of TAO to pay Additional Trust Expenses (and the Trust will incur additional fees associated with converting TAO into U.S. dollars), the amount of TAO represented by a Share will decline at such time and the Trust's NAV may also decrease. Similarly, the amount (if any) of Incidental Rights and IR Virtual Currency represented by a Share will decrease as a consequence of the use of Incidental Rights and IR Virtual Currency to pay the Sponsor's Fee and Additional Trust Expenses. Accordingly, the shareholders will bear the cost of the Sponsor's Fee and any Additional Trust Expenses. New TAO deposited into the Digital Asset Account in exchange for additional new Baskets issued by the Trust will not reverse this trend.

The Sponsor will also cause the sale of the Trust's TAO, Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency if the Sponsor determines that sale is required by applicable law or regulation or in connection with the termination and liquidation of the Trust. The Sponsor will not be liable or responsible in any way for depreciation or loss incurred by reason of any sale of TAO, Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency.

The quantity of TAO, Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency to be delivered to the Sponsor or other relevant payee in payment of the Sponsor's Fee or any Additional Trust Expenses, or sold to permit payment of Additional Trust Expenses, will vary from time to time depending on the level of the Trust's expenses and the value of TAO, Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency held by the Trust. See "—Expenses; Sales of TAO." Assuming that the Trust is a grantor trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes, each delivery or sale of TAO, Incidental Rights and IR Virtual Currency by the Trust for the payment of expenses will be a taxable event to shareholders. See "—Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences—Tax Consequences to U.S. Holders."

Discretion of the Index Provider

The Index Provider has sole discretion over the determination of the Index Price and may change the methodologies for determining the Index Price from time to time.

Description of the Trust Agreement

The following is a description of the material terms of the Trust Agreement. The Trust Agreement establishes the roles, rights and duties of the Sponsor and the Trustee.

The Sponsor

Liability of the Sponsor and Indemnification

Neither the Sponsor nor the Trust insure the Trust's TAO. The Sponsor and its affiliates (each a "Covered Person") will not be liable to the Trust or any shareholder for any loss suffered by the Trust which arises out of any action or inaction of such Covered Person if such Covered Person determined in good faith that such course of conduct was in the best interests of the Trust. However, the preceding liability exclusion will not protect any Covered Person against any liability resulting from its own willful misconduct, bad faith or gross negligence in the performance of its duties.

Each Covered Person will be indemnified by the Trust against any loss, judgment, liability, expense incurred or amount paid in settlement of any claim sustained by it in connection with the Covered Person's activities for the Trust, provided that (i) the Covered Person was acting on behalf of, or performing services for, the Trust and had determined, in good faith, that such course of conduct was in the best interests of the Trust and such liability or loss was not the result of fraud, gross negligence, bad faith, willful misconduct or a material breach of the Trust Agreement on the part of such Covered Person and (ii) any such indemnification will be recoverable only from the property of the Trust. Any amounts payable to an indemnified party will be payable in advance under certain circumstances.

Fiduciary and Regulatory Duties of the Sponsor

The Sponsor is not effectively subject to the duties and restrictions imposed on “fiduciaries” under both statutory and common law. Rather, the general fiduciary duties that would apply to the Sponsor are defined and limited in scope by the Trust Agreement.

Under Delaware law, a shareholder may bring a derivative action if the shareholder is a shareholder at the time the action is brought and either (i) was a shareholder at the time of the transaction at issue or (ii) acquired the status of shareholder by operation of law or the Trust’s governing instrument from a person who was a shareholder at the time of the transaction at issue. Additionally, Section 3816(e) of the Delaware Statutory Trust Act specifically provides that “a beneficial owner’s right to bring a derivative action may be subject to such additional standards and restrictions, if any, as are set forth in the governing instrument of the statutory trust, including, without limitation, the requirement that beneficial owners owning a specified beneficial interest in the statutory trust join in the bringing of the derivative action.” In addition to the requirements of applicable law, Section 7.4 of the Trust Agreement provides that no shareholder will have the right, power or authority to bring or maintain a derivative action, suit or other proceeding on behalf of the Trust unless two or more shareholders who (i) are not “Affiliates” (as defined in the Trust Agreement and below) of one another and (ii) collectively hold at least 10.0% of the outstanding Shares join in the bringing or maintaining of such action, suit or other proceeding. The Trust selected the 10.0% ownership threshold because the Trust believed that this was a threshold that investors would be comfortable with based on market precedent.

This provision applies to any derivative action brought in the name of the Trust other than claims brought under the federal securities laws or the rules and regulations thereunder, to which Section 7.4 does not apply. Due to this additional requirement, a shareholder attempting to bring a derivative action in the name of the Trust will be required to locate other shareholders with which it is not affiliated and that have sufficient Shares to meet the 10.0% threshold based on the number of Shares outstanding on the date the claim is brought and thereafter throughout the duration of the action, suit or proceeding.

“Affiliate” is defined in the Trust Agreement to mean any natural person, partnership, limited liability company, statutory trust, corporation, association or other legal entity (each, a “Person”) directly or indirectly owning, controlling or holding with power to vote 10% or more of the outstanding voting securities of such Person, (ii) any Person 10% or more of whose outstanding voting securities are directly or indirectly owned, controlled or held with power to vote by such Person, (iii) any Person, directly or indirectly, controlling, controlled by or under common control of such Person, (iv) any employee, officer, director, member, manager or partner of such Person, or (v) if such Person is an employee, officer, director, member, manager or partner, any Person for which such Person acts in any such capacity.

Any shareholders seeking to bring a derivative action may determine whether the 10.0% ownership threshold required to bring a derivative action has been met by dividing the number of Shares owned by such shareholders by the total number of Shares outstanding.

The Trust offers Shares on a periodic basis at such times and for such periods as the Sponsor determines in its sole discretion. As a result, in order to maintain the 10.0% ownership threshold required to maintain a derivative action, shareholders may need to increase their holdings or locate additional shareholders during the pendency of a claim. The Trust posts the number of Shares outstanding as of the end of each month on its website and as of the end of each quarter in its annual and quarterly filings with the SEC. The Trust additionally reports sales of unregistered securities on Form 8-K pursuant to Item 3.02 thereof. Shareholders may monitor the number of Shares outstanding at any time for purposes of calculating their ownership threshold by reviewing the Trust’s website and SEC filings and by requesting the number of Shares outstanding on any date from the Sponsor at any time pursuant to Sections 7.2 and 8.1 of the Trust Agreement. Shareholders have the opportunity at any time to increase their holdings or locate other shareholders to maintain the 10.0% threshold throughout the duration of a derivative claim. Shareholders may do so by requesting from the Sponsor the list of the names and last known address of all shareholders pursuant to Sections 7.2 and 8.1 of the Trust Agreement and Section 3819(a) of the DSTA. Because the Trust is a grantor trust, it may only issue one class of securities, the Shares

The Sponsor is not aware of any reason to believe that Section 7.4 of the Trust Agreement is not enforceable under state or federal law. The Court of Chancery of Delaware has stated that “[t]he DSTA is enabling in nature and, as such, permits a trust through its declarations of trust to delineate additional standards and requirements with which a stockholder-plaintiff must comply to proceed derivatively in the name of the trust.” *Hartsel v. Vanguard Group, Inc.*, Del. Ch. June 15, 2011. However, there is limited case law addressing the enforceability of provisions like Section 7.4 under state and federal law and it is possible that this provision would not be enforced by a court in another jurisdiction or under other circumstances.

Beneficial owners may have the right, subject to certain legal requirements, to bring class actions in federal court to enforce their rights under the federal securities laws and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder by the SEC. Beneficial owners who have suffered losses in connection with the purchase or sale of their beneficial interests may be able to recover such losses from the Sponsor where the losses result from a violation by the Sponsor of the anti-fraud provisions of the federal securities laws.

Actions Taken to Protect the Trust

The Sponsor may prosecute, defend, settle or compromise actions or claims at law or in equity that it considers necessary or proper to protect the Trust or the interests of the shareholders. The expenses incurred by the Sponsor in connection therewith (including the fees and disbursements of legal counsel) will be expenses of the Trust and are deemed to be Additional Trust Expenses. The Sponsor will be entitled to be reimbursed for the Additional Trust Expenses it pays on behalf of the Trust.

Successor Sponsors

If the Sponsor is adjudged bankrupt or insolvent, the Trust may dissolve and a Liquidating Trustee may be appointed to terminate and liquidate the Trust and distribute its remaining assets. The Trustee will have no obligation to appoint a successor sponsor or to assume the duties of the Sponsor, and will have no liability to any person because the Trust is or is not terminated. However, if a certificate of dissolution or revocation of the Sponsor's charter is filed (and ninety (90) days have passed after the date of notice to the Sponsor of revocation without a reinstatement of the Sponsor's charter) or the withdrawal, removal, adjudication or admission of bankruptcy or insolvency of the Sponsor has occurred, shareholders holding at least a majority (over 50%) of the Shares may agree in writing to continue the affairs of the Trust and to select, effective as of the date of such event, one or more successor sponsors within ninety (90) days of any such event.

The Trustee

The Trustee is a fiduciary under the Trust Agreement and must satisfy the requirements of Section 3807 of the DSTA. However, the fiduciary duties, responsibilities and liabilities of the Trustee are limited by, and are only those specifically set forth in, the Trust Agreement.

Limitation on Trustee's Liability

Under the Trust Agreement, the Sponsor has exclusive control of the management of all aspects of the activities of the Trust and the Trustee has only nominal duties and liabilities to the Trust. The Trustee is appointed to serve as the trustee for the sole purpose of satisfying Section 3807(a) of the DSTA which requires that the Trust have at least one trustee with a principal place of business in the State of Delaware. The duties of the Trustee are limited to (i) accepting legal process served on the Trust in the State of Delaware and (ii) the execution of any certificates required to be filed with the Delaware Secretary of State which the Trustee is required to execute under the DSTA.

To the extent the Trustee has duties (including fiduciary duties) and liabilities to the Trust or the shareholders under the DSTA, such duties and liabilities will be replaced by the duties and liabilities of the Trustee expressly set forth in the Trust Agreement. The Trustee will have no obligation to supervise, nor will it be liable for, the acts or omissions of the Sponsor, Transfer Agent, Custodian or any other person. Neither the Trustee, either in its capacity as trustee or in its individual capacity, nor any director, officer or controlling person of the Trustee is, or has any liability as, the issuer, director, officer or controlling person of the issuer of Shares. The Trustee's liability is limited solely to the express obligations of the Trustee as set forth in the Trust Agreement.

Under the Trust Agreement, the Sponsor has the exclusive management, authority and control of all aspects of the activities of the Trust. The Trustee has no duty or liability to supervise or monitor the performance of the Sponsor, nor does the Trustee have any liability for the acts or omissions of the Sponsor. The existence of a trustee should not be taken as an indication of any additional level of management or supervision over the Trust. The Trust Agreement provides that the management authority with respect to the Trust is vested directly in the Sponsor and that the Trustee is not responsible or liable for the genuineness, enforceability, collectability, value, sufficiency, location or existence of any of the TAO or other assets of the Trust.

Possible Repayment of Distributions Received by Shareholders; Indemnification by Shareholders

The Shares are limited liability investments. Investors may not lose more than the amount that they invest plus any profits recognized on their investment. Although it is unlikely, the Sponsor may, from time to time, make distributions to the shareholders. However, shareholders could be required, as a matter of bankruptcy law, to return to the estate of the Trust any distribution they received at a time when the Trust was in fact insolvent or in violation of its Trust Agreement. In addition, the Trust Agreement provides that shareholders will indemnify the Trust for any harm suffered by it as a result of shareholders' actions unrelated to the activities of the Trust.

The foregoing repayment of distributions and indemnity provisions (other than the provision for shareholders indemnifying the Trust for taxes imposed upon it by a state, local or foreign taxing authority, which is included only as a formality due to the fact that many states do not have statutory trust statutes therefore the tax status of the Trust in such states might, theoretically, be challenged) are commonplace in statutory trusts and limited partnerships.

Indemnification of the Trustee

The Trustee and any of the officers, directors, employees and agents of the Trustee will be indemnified by the Trust as primary obligor and the Sponsor as secondary obligor and held harmless against any loss, damage, liability, claim, action, suit, cost, expense, disbursement (including the reasonable fees and expenses of counsel), tax or penalty of any kind and nature whatsoever, arising out of, imposed upon or asserted at any time against such indemnified person in connection with the performance of its obligations under the Trust Agreement, the creation, operation or termination of the Trust or the transactions contemplated therein; provided, however, that neither the Trust nor the Sponsor will be required to indemnify any such indemnified person for any such expenses which are a result of the willful misconduct, bad faith or gross negligence of such indemnified person. If the Trust has insufficient assets or improperly refuses to pay such an indemnified person within 60 days of a request for payment owed under the Trust Agreement, the Sponsor will, as secondary obligor, compensate or reimburse the Trustee or indemnify, defend and hold harmless such an indemnified person as if it were the primary obligor under the Trust Agreement. Any amount payable to such an indemnified person under the Trust Agreement may be payable in advance under certain circumstances and will be secured by a lien on the Trust property. The obligations of the Sponsor and the Trust to indemnify such indemnified persons under the Trust Agreement will survive the termination of the Trust Agreement.

Holding of Trust Property

The Trust will hold and record the ownership of the Trust's assets in a manner such that it will be owned for the benefit of the shareholders for the purposes of, and subject to and limited by the terms and conditions set forth in, the Trust Agreement. The Trust will not create, incur or assume any indebtedness or borrow money from or loan money to any person. The Trustee may not commingle its assets with those of any other person.

The Trustee may employ agents, attorneys, accountants, auditors and nominees and will not be answerable for the conduct or misconduct of any such custodians, agents, attorneys or nominees if such custodians, agents, attorneys and nominees have been selected with reasonable care.

Resignation, Discharge or Removal of Trustee; Successor Trustees

The Trustee may resign as Trustee by written notice of its election so to do, delivered to the Sponsor with at least 180 days' notice. The Sponsor may remove the Trustee in its discretion. If the Trustee resigns or is removed, the Sponsor, acting on behalf of the shareholders, will appoint a successor trustee. The successor Trustee will become fully vested with all of the rights, powers, duties and obligations of the outgoing Trustee.

If the Trustee resigns and no successor trustee is appointed within 180 days after the Trustee notifies the Sponsor of its resignation, the Trustee will terminate and liquidate the Trust and distribute its remaining assets.

Amendments to the Trust Agreement

In general, the Sponsor may amend the Trust Agreement without the consent of any shareholder. In particular, the Sponsor may, without the approval of the shareholders, amend the Trust Agreement if the Trust is advised at any time by the Trust's accountants or legal counsel that the amendments are necessary to permit the Trust to take the position that it is a grantor trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes. However, the Sponsor may not make an amendment, or otherwise supplement the Trust Agreement, if such amendment or supplement would permit the Sponsor, the Trustee or any other person to vary the investment of the shareholders (within the meaning of applicable Treasury Regulations) or would otherwise adversely affect the status of the Trust as a grantor trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes. The Sponsor is also permitted to make certain restatements, amendments or supplements to the Trust Agreement that would materially adversely affect the interests of shareholders as determined by the Sponsor in its sole discretion with a 20-day notice to shareholders. Additionally, the Sponsor is permitted to make certain restatements, amendments or supplements to the Trust Agreement that could adversely affect the status of the Trust as a grantor trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes, but only if certain conditions set forth in the amendments relating to the qualification of the Trust as a grantor trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes are satisfied. Furthermore, subject to certain limitations, the Sponsor may make any other. In addition, no amendments to the Trust Agreement which do not materially adversely affect the interests of the shareholders in its sole discretion without shareholder consent.

Termination of the Trust

Pursuant to the terms of the Trust Agreement, the Trust is required to dissolve under certain circumstances. In addition, the Sponsor may, in its sole discretion, dissolve the Trust for a number of reasons, including if the Sponsor determines, in its sole discretion, that it is desirable or advisable for any reason to discontinue the affairs of the Trust.

Upon dissolution of the Trust and surrender of Shares by the shareholders, shareholders will receive a distribution in U.S. dollars or in TAO, Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency, at the sole discretion of the Sponsor, after the Sponsor has sold the

Trust's TAO, Incidental Rights and IR Virtual Currency, if applicable, and has paid or made provision for the Trust's claims and obligations.

If the Trust is forced to liquidate, the Trust will be liquidated under the Sponsor's direction. The Sponsor, on behalf of the Trust, will engage directly with Digital Asset Markets to liquidate the Trust's TAO as promptly as possible while obtaining the best fair value possible. The proceeds therefrom will be applied and distributed in the following order of priority: (a) to the expenses of liquidation and termination and to creditors, including shareholders who are creditors, to the extent otherwise permitted by law, in satisfaction of liabilities of the Trust other than liabilities for distributions to shareholders and (b) to the holders of Shares pro rata in accordance with the respective percentages of Shares that they hold. It is expected that the Sponsor would be subject to the same regulatory requirements as the Trust, and therefore, the markets available to the Sponsor will be the same markets available to the Trust.

Governing Law

The Trust Agreement and the rights of the Sponsor, Trustee and shareholders under the Trust Agreement are governed by the laws of the State of Delaware.

Description of the Custodian Agreement

The Custodian Agreement establishes the rights and responsibilities of the Custodian, Sponsor, Trust and Authorized Participants with respect to the Trust's TAO in the Digital Asset Account, which is maintained and operated by the Custodian on behalf of the Trust. For a general description of the Custodian's obligations, see "—Service Providers of the Trust—The Custodian."

Account; Location of TAO

The Trust's Digital Asset Account is a segregated custody account controlled and secured by the Custodian to store private keys, which allow for the transfer of ownership or control of the Trust's TAO, on the Trust's behalf. Private key shards associated with the Trust's TAO are distributed geographically by the Custodian in secure vaults around the world, including in the United States. The locations of the secure vaults may change regularly and are kept confidential by the Custodian for security purposes. The Custodian requires written approval of the Trust prior to changing the location of the private key shards, and therefore the Trust's TAO, to a location outside the United States. The Digital Asset Account uses offline storage, or cold storage, mechanisms to secure the Trust's private keys. The term cold storage refers to a safeguarding method by which the private keys corresponding to digital assets are disconnected and/or deleted entirely from the internet.

The Custodian Agreement states that the Custodian serves as a fiduciary and custodian on the Trust's behalf, and the TAO in the Digital Asset Account are considered fiduciary assets that remain the Trust's property at all times and are not treated as general assets of the Custodian. Under the Custodian Agreement, the Custodian represents and warrants that it has no right, interest, or title in the TAO held in the Digital Asset Account, and agrees that it will not, directly or indirectly, lend, pledge, hypothecate or rehypothecate such digital assets. The Custodian does not reflect such digital assets as an asset on the balance sheet of the Custodian, but does reflect the obligation to safeguard such digital assets with a corresponding asset measured at fair value for such obligation. See "Item 1A. Risk Factors— Risk Factors Related to the Trust and the Shares— The Trust relies on third-party service providers to perform certain functions essential to the affairs of the Trust and the replacement of such service providers could pose challenges to the safekeeping of the Trust's TAO and to the operations of the Trust."

Safekeeping of TAO

The Custodian will use best efforts to keep in safe custody on behalf of the Trust all TAO received by the Custodian. All TAO credited to the Digital Asset Account will (i) be held in the Digital Asset Account at all times, and the Digital Asset Account will be controlled by the Custodian; (ii) be labeled or otherwise appropriately identified as being held for the Trust; (iii) be held in the Digital Asset Account on a non-fungible basis; (iv) not be commingled with other digital assets held by the Custodian, whether held for the Custodian's own account or the account of other clients other than the Trust; (v) not without the prior written consent of the Trust be deposited or held with any third-party depository, custodian, clearance system or wallet; and (vi) for any Digital Asset Account maintained by the Custodian on behalf of the Trust, the Custodian will use commercially reasonable efforts to keep the private key or keys secure, and will not disclose such keys to the Trust, the Sponsor or to any other individual or entity except to the extent that any keys are disclosed consistent with a standard of commercially reasonable efforts and as part of a multiple signature solution that would not result in the Trust or the Sponsor "storing, holding, or maintaining custody or control of" the TAO "on behalf of others" within the meaning of the New York BitLicense Rule (23 NYCRR Part 200) as in effect as of June 24, 2015 such that it would require the Trust or the Sponsor to become licensed under such law.

Insurance

Pursuant to the terms of the Custodian Agreement, the Custodian is required to maintain insurance in such types and amounts as are commercially reasonable for the custodial services it provides. The Custodian has advised the Sponsor that it has insurance coverage which procures fidelity (or crime) insurance coverage at commercially reasonable amounts for the custodial services provided. This insurance coverage is limited to losses of the digital assets the Custodian custodies on behalf of its clients, including the Trust's TAO, resulting from theft, including internal theft by employees of BitGo and its subsidiaries and theft or fraud by a director of BitGo if the director is acting in the capacity of an employee of BitGo or its subsidiaries.

Moreover, while the Custodian maintains certain capital reserve requirements depending on the assets under custody and to the extent required by applicable law, and such capital reserves may provide additional means to cover client asset losses, the Sponsor does not know the amount of such capital reserves, and neither the Trust nor the Sponsor have access to such information. The Trust cannot be assured that the Custodian will maintain capital reserves sufficient to cover losses with respect to the Trust's digital assets.

Deposits, Withdrawals and Storage; Access to the Digital Asset Account

The Custodial Services (i) allow TAO to be deposited from a public blockchain address to the Digital Asset Account and (ii) allow the Trust or Sponsor to withdraw TAO from the Digital Asset Account to a public blockchain address the Trust or the Sponsor controls (each such transaction is a "Custody Transaction").

The Custodian reserves the right to refuse to process or to cancel any pending Custody Transaction as required by law or in response to a subpoena, court order, or other binding government order or to enforce transaction, threshold, and condition limits, in each case as communicated to the Trust and the Sponsor as soon as reasonably practicable where the Custodian is permitted to do so, or if the Custodian reasonably believes that the Custody Transaction may violate or facilitate the violation of an applicable law, regulation or applicable rule of a governmental authority or self-regulatory organization. The Custodian may suspend or restrict the Trust's and Sponsor's access to the Custodial Services, and/or deactivate, terminate or cancel the Digital Asset Account if the Trust or Sponsor has taken certain actions, including any Prohibited Use or Prohibited Business as set forth in the Custodian Agreement, or if the Custodian is required to do so by a subpoena, court order, or other binding government order.

From the time the Custodian has verified the authorization of a complete set of instructions to withdraw TAO from the Digital Asset Account, the Custodian will have up to forty-eight (48) hours to process and complete such withdrawal. The Custodian will ensure that initiated deposits are processed in a timely manner but the Custodian makes no representations or warranties regarding the amount of time needed to complete processing which is dependent upon many factors outside of the Custodian's control.

Subject to certain exceptions in the Custodian Agreement, the Trust, the Sponsor and their authorized representatives will be able to access the Digital Asset Account via the Custodian's website in order to check information about the Digital Asset Account, deposit TAO to the Digital Asset Account or initiate a Custody Transaction (subject to the timing described above).

The Custodian makes no other representations or warranties with respect to the availability and/or accessibility of TAO or the availability and/or accessibility of the Digital Asset Account or Custodial Services.

Subject to any legal and regulatory requirements, in order to support the Trust's ordinary course of deposits and withdrawals, which involves, or will in the future involve, deposits from and withdrawals to Digital Asset Accounts owned by any Authorized Participant, or a Liquidity Provider, the Custodian will use commercially reasonable efforts to cooperate with the Trust and Sponsor to design and put in place via the Custodial Services a secure procedure to allow Authorized Participants to receive a TAO address for deposits by Authorized Participants, or Liquidity Providers, and to initiate withdrawals to TAO addresses controlled by Authorized Participants, or Liquidity Providers.

The Custodian Agreement further provides that the Trust's and the Sponsor's auditors or third-party accountants upon 30 days' advance written notice, have inspection rights to inspect, take extracts from and audit the records maintained with respect to the Digital Asset Account. Such auditors or third-party accountants are not obligated under the Custodian Agreement to exercise their inspection rights.

Security of the Accounts

The Custodian securely stores all digital asset private keys held by the Custodian on secure servers or offline, in cold storage. Under the Custodian Agreement, the Custodian must use commercially reasonable efforts to keep private and public keys secure, and may not disclose such private keys to the Sponsor, Trust or any other individual or entity.

The Custodian has implemented and will maintain a reasonable information security program that includes policies and procedures that are reasonably designed to safeguard the Custodian's electronic systems and the Trust's and the Sponsor's confidential information from, among other things, unauthorized access or misuse. In the event of a Data Security Event (as defined below), the Custodian will promptly (subject to any legal or regulatory requirements) notify the Trust and the Sponsor. "Data Security Event" is defined as any event whereby (a) an unauthorized person (whether within the Custodian or a third party) acquired or accessed the

Trust's or the Sponsor's information, (b) the Trust's or the Sponsor's information is otherwise lost, stolen or compromised or (c) the Custodian's Chief Information Security Officer, or other senior security officer of a similar title, is no longer employed by the Custodian.

Record Keeping; Inspection and Auditing

The Custodian will keep timely and accurate records of its services pursuant to the Custodian Agreement, and such records must be retained by the Custodian for no less than seven years. The Custodian Agreement also provides that the Custodian will permit, to the extent it may legally do so, the Trust's or the Sponsor's auditors or third-party accountants, upon reasonable notice, to inspect, take extracts from and audit the records that it maintains, take such steps as necessary to verify that satisfactory internal control systems and procedures are in place, as the Trust or the Sponsor may reasonably request. The Custodian is obligated to notify the Trust and the Sponsor of any audit report prepared by its internal or independent auditors if such report reveals any material deficiencies or makes any material objections.

The Trust and the Sponsor obtain and perform a comprehensive review of the Services Organization Controls ("SOC") 1 report and SOC 2 each year. For additional information, see "*—Description of Trust Documents—Description of the Custodian Agreement—Annual Certificate and Report.*" In addition to the review of SOC 1 and SOC 2 reports, the Trust, the Sponsor and/or their respective auditors may inspect or audit the Custodian's records in a variety of manners if considered necessary. Such processes may include validating the existing balances as reflected on the Custodian's user interface to nodes of the underlying blockchain and confirming that such digital assets are associated with its public keys to validate the existence and exclusive ownership of the digital assets. To validate software functionality of the private keys, the Trust may transfer a portion of its digital assets from one public key to another public key of the Trust.

The Trust, the Sponsor and their independent auditors may evaluate the Custodian's protection of private keys and other customer information, including review of supporting documentation related to the processes surrounding key lifecycle management, the key generation process (hardware, software, and algorithms associated with generation) the infrastructure used to generate and store private keys, how private keys are stored (for example, cold wallets), the segregation of duties in the authorization of digital asset transactions, and the number of users required to process a transaction and the monitoring of addresses for any unauthorized activity. For additional information, see "*—Custody of the Trust's TAO.*"

Annual Certificate and Report

Once each calendar year, the Sponsor or Trust may request that the Custodian deliver a certificate signed by a duly authorized officer to certify that all representations and warranties made by the Custodian in the Custodian Agreement are true and correct on and as of the date of such certificate, and have been true and correct throughout the preceding year.

Once each calendar year, the Trust and the Sponsor will be entitled to request that the Custodian provide a copy of its most recent SOC 1 and SOC 2 reports, which are required to be dated within one year prior to such request. The Custodian reserves the right to combine the SOC 1 and SOC 2 reports into a comprehensive report. In the event that the Custodian does not deliver a SOC 1 Report or SOC 2 Report, as applicable, the Sponsor and the Trust will be entitled to terminate the Agreement. In addition to the review of the SOC 1 and SOC 2 reports, the Trust may also request letters of representation on a quarterly basis between SOC reports regarding any known changes or conclusions to the SOC 1 and SOC 2 reports.

Standard of Care; Limitations of Liability

The Custodian will use commercially reasonable efforts to keep in safe custody on behalf of the Trust all TAO received by the Custodian. The Custodian is liable to the Sponsor and the Trust for the loss of any TAO to the extent that the Custodian directly caused such loss through a breach of the Custodian Agreement and the Custodian is required to return to the Trust a quantity equal to the quantity of any such lost TAO. In addition, if the Trust or the Sponsor is unable to timely withdraw TAO from the Digital Asset Account due to the Custodian's systems being offline or otherwise unavailable for a period of 48 hours or more, the Custodian will use its best efforts to provide the Sponsor and the Trust with an amount of TAO that is equivalent to any pending withdrawal amounts in order to permit the Sponsor and the Trust to carry on processing withdrawals.

The Custodian's or Trust's total liability under the Custodian Agreement will never exceed the value of the TAO on deposit in the Digital Asset Account at the time of, and directly relating to, the events giving rise to the liability occurred, the value of which will be determined in accordance with the Custodian Agreement. In addition, for as long as a cold storage address holds TAO with a value in excess of \$100 million (the "Cold Storage Threshold") for a period of five consecutive business days or more without being reduced to the Cold Storage Threshold or lower, the Custodian's maximum liability for such cold storage address shall be limited to the Cold Storage Threshold. The Sponsor monitors the value of TAO deposited in cold storage addresses for whether the Cold Storage Threshold has been met by determining the U.S. dollar value of TAO deposited in each cold storage address on business days. Although the Cold Storage Threshold has to date not been met for a given cold storage address, to the extent it is met and not reduced

within five business days, the Trust would not have a claim against the Custodian with respect to the digital assets held in such address to the extent the value exceeds the Cold Storage Threshold.

The Custodian and the Trust are not liable to each other for any lost profits or any special, incidental, indirect, intangible, or consequential damages, whether based in contract, tort, negligence, strict liability or otherwise, and whether or not the Custodian has been advised of such losses or the Custodian knew or should have known of the possibility of such damages.

Furthermore, the Custodian is not liable for delays, suspension of operations, whether temporary or permanent, failure in performance, or interruption of service which result directly or indirectly from any cause or condition beyond the reasonable control of the Custodian, including but not limited to, any delay or failure due to any act of God, natural disasters, act of civil or military authorities, act of terrorists, including but not limited to cyber-related terrorist acts, hacking, government restrictions, exchange or market rulings, civil disturbance, war, strike or other labor dispute, fire, interruption in telecommunications or internet services or network provider services, failure of equipment and/or software, other catastrophe or any other occurrence which is beyond the reasonable control of the Custodian and will not affect the validity and enforceability of any remaining provisions. For the avoidance of doubt, a cybersecurity attack, hack or other intrusion by a third party or by someone associated with the Custodian is not a circumstance that is beyond the Custodian's reasonable control, to the extent due to the Custodian's failure to comply with its obligations under the Custodian Agreement.

The Custodian does not bear any liability, whatsoever, for any damage or interruptions caused by any computer viruses, spyware, scareware, Trojan horses, worms or other malware that may affect the Sponsor's or the Trust's computer or other equipment, or any phishing, spoofing or other attack, unless such damage or interruption originated from the Custodian due to its gross negligence, fraud, willful misconduct or breach of the Custodian Agreement.

Indemnity

Each of the Custodian and the Trust has agreed to indemnify and hold harmless the other such parties from any third-party claim or third-party demand (including reasonable and documented attorneys' fees and any fines, fees or penalties imposed by any regulatory authority) arising out of the Custodian's or the Trust's, as the case may be, breach of the Custodian Agreement, inaccuracy in any of the Custodian's or the Trust's, as the case may be, representations or warranties in the Custodian Agreement, or the Custodian's or the Trust's, as the case may be, knowing, in the case of the Custodian, violation of any law, rule or regulation, or the rights of any third party, except where such claim directly results from the gross negligence, fraud or willful misconduct of the other such party. In addition, the Trust has agreed to indemnify the Custodian with respect to any Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency abandoned by the Trust and any tax liability relating thereto or arising therefrom.

Fees and Expenses

The Custodian Fee is an annualized fee charged monthly that is a percentage of the Trust's monthly assets under custody. Following the second anniversary of the Custodian Agreement, the fee may be adjusted by the Custodian with at least six months' advance notice. Any changes to the fee will be agreed to by the Trust and the Sponsor and the Custodian in writing. To the extent the parties cannot reach an agreement regarding any modifications in pricing, either party may elect to terminate the Custodian Agreement. It is the Trust's and the Sponsor's sole responsibility to determine whether, and to what extent, any taxes apply to any deposits or withdrawals conducted through the Custodial Services.

Term; Renewal

Subject to each party's termination rights, the Custodian Agreement is for a term of two years. Thereafter, the Custodian Agreement automatically renews for successive terms of one year, unless either party elects not to renew, by providing no less than thirty days' written notice to the other party prior to the expiration of the then-current term, or unless terminated earlier as provided herein.

Termination

During the initial term, either party may terminate the Custodian Agreement for Cause (as defined below) at any time by written notice to the other party, effective immediately, or on such later date as may be specified in the notice. "Cause" is defined as if: (i) such other party commits any material breach of any of its obligations under the Custodian Agreement; (ii) such other party is adjudged bankrupt or insolvent, or there is commenced against such party a case under any applicable bankruptcy, insolvency or other similar law now or hereafter in effect, or such party files an application for an arrangement with its creditors, seeks or consents to the appointment of a receiver, administrator or other similar official for all or any substantial part of its property, admits in writing its inability to pay its debts as they mature, or takes any corporate action in furtherance of any of the foregoing, or fails to meet applicable legal minimum capital requirements; or (iii) with respect to the Trust's and the Sponsor's right to terminate, any applicable law, rule or regulation or any change therein or in the interpretation or administration thereof has or may have a material adverse effect on the

rights of the Trust, the Sponsor or any of their respective beneficiaries with respect to any services covered by the Custodian Agreement.

After the initial term, either party may terminate the Custodian Agreement (i) upon ninety (90) days' prior written notice to the other party and (ii) for Cause at any time by written notice to the other party, effective immediately, or on such later date as may be specified in the notice.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Sponsor and the Trust may cancel the Digital Asset Account at any time by withdrawing all balances and contacting the Custodian. Upon termination of the Custodian Agreement, the Custodian will promptly upon the Sponsor's or the Trust's order deliver or cause to be delivered all digital assets held or controlled by the Custodian as of the effective date of termination, together with such copies of the records maintained pursuant to the Custodian Agreement and as the Sponsor and the Trust requests in writing.

Governing Law

The Custodian Agreement is governed by New York law, except that any matters relating to Article 8 of the South Dakota Uniform Commercial Code or the regulation and governance of public trust companies acting as custodians is governed by South Dakota law, except to the extent such state law is preempted by federal law.

MATERIAL U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES

The following discussion addresses the material U.S. federal income tax consequences of the ownership of Shares. This discussion does not describe all of the tax consequences that may be relevant to a beneficial owner of Shares in light of the beneficial owner's particular circumstances, including tax consequences applicable to beneficial owners subject to special rules, such as:

- financial institutions;
- dealers in securities or commodities;
- traders in securities or commodities that have elected to apply a mark-to-market method of tax accounting in respect thereof;
- persons holding Shares as part of a hedge, "straddle," integrated transaction or similar transaction;
- Authorized Participants (as defined below);
- U.S. Holders (as defined below) whose functional currency is not the U.S. dollar;
- entities or arrangements classified as partnerships for U.S. federal income tax purposes;
- real estate investment trusts;
- regulated investment companies; and
- tax-exempt entities, including individual retirement accounts.

This discussion applies only to Shares that are held as capital assets and does not address alternative minimum tax consequences or consequences of the Medicare contribution tax on net investment income.

If an entity or arrangement that is classified as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes holds Shares, the U.S. federal income tax treatment of a partner will generally depend on the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. Partnerships holding Shares and partners in those partnerships are urged to consult their tax advisers about the particular U.S. federal income tax consequences of owning Shares.

This discussion is based on the Code, administrative pronouncements, judicial decisions and final, temporary and proposed Treasury regulations ("Treasury Regulations") as of the date hereof, changes to any of which subsequent to the date hereof may affect the tax consequences described herein. For the avoidance of doubt, this summary does not discuss any tax consequences arising under the laws of any state, local or foreign taxing jurisdiction. Furthermore, this summary does not discuss any tax consequences related to Staking. At this time, none of the Trust, the Sponsor, the Custodian, nor any other person associated with the Trust may, directly or indirectly, engage in Staking of the Trust's TAO on behalf of the Trust, but if the Trust were to engage in Staking activity in the future, that activity could give rise to adverse tax consequences. See "Risk Factors Related to the Trust and the Shares—If the Trust were permitted to engage in Staking in the future, beneficial owners of Shares could incur tax liabilities without receiving corresponding distributions from the Trust", "Risk Factors Related to the Regulation of Digital Assets, the Trust and the Shares—The treatment of the Trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes is uncertain", "Risk Factors Related to the Regulation of Digital Assets, the Trust and the Shares—The treatment of digital assets for U.S. federal income tax purposes is uncertain", "Risk Factors Related to the Regulation of Digital Assets, the Trust and the Shares—A U.S. tax-exempt shareholder may recognize 'unrelated business taxable income' as a consequence of an investment in Shares", "Risk Factors Related to the Regulation of Digital Assets, the Trust and the Shares—Future developments regarding the treatment of digital assets for U.S. federal income tax purposes could adversely affect the value of the Shares" and "Risk Factors Related to the Regulation of Digital Assets, the Trust and the Shares—Non-U.S. Holders may be subject to U.S. federal withholding tax on income derived from forks, airdrops and similar occurrences and, if the Trust were permitted to engage in Staking, Staking Consideration received as staking rewards." Shareholders are urged to consult their tax advisers about the application of the U.S. federal income tax laws to their particular situations, as well as any tax consequences arising under the laws of any state, local or foreign taxing jurisdiction.

Tax Treatment of the Trust

The Sponsor intends to take the position that the Trust is properly treated as a grantor trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Assuming that the Trust is a grantor trust, the Trust will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax. Rather, if the Trust is a grantor trust, each beneficial owner of Shares will be treated as directly owning its *pro rata* share of the Trust's assets and a *pro rata* portion of the Trust's income, gains, losses and deductions will "flow through" to each beneficial owner of Shares.

At this time, none of the Trust, the Sponsor, the Custodian, nor any other person associated with the Trust may, directly or indirectly, engage in Staking of the Trust's TAO on behalf of the Trust, and there can be no assurance that the Staking Condition will be met with respect to any form of Staking. If the Trust were permitted to engage with respect to any form of Staking, the Sponsor intends to continue to take the position that the Trust is properly treated as a grantor trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes. The

IRS recently issued a revenue procedure providing a staking safe harbor for certain grantor trust vehicles whose beneficial interests are listed and traded on a national securities exchange (the “2025 Revenue Procedure”). However, certain aspects of the 2025 Revenue Procedure are unclear, and the Trust may not satisfy all of the requirements for its safe harbor. In addition, the 2025 Revenue Procedure contemplates a form of staking that is different than TAO staking on the Bittensor Network and, as a result, it is unclear whether the 2025 Revenue Procedure’s staking safe harbor could apply to TAO staking. For example, TAO staking on the Bittensor Network differs from traditional proof-of-stake validation considered in the 2025 Revenue Procedure because it does not primarily involve the validation of blockchain transactions in exchange for protocol-level block rewards. Instead, TAO may be staked to support Validators within specific Subnets that rank AI-generated outputs pursuant to Yuma Consensus. Because TAO staking is tied to the economic support and ranking of AI model outputs, rather than solely to transaction validation within a proof-of-stake consensus mechanism, it is uncertain whether the staking safe harbor contemplated by the 2025 Revenue Procedure—designed for traditional validation-based staking—would apply to TAO staking on the Bittensor Network. Accordingly, due to the uncertainty regarding the ability of a grantor trust to engage in Staking activities, there can be no assurance that the IRS or any court would agree with the Sponsor’s position (or with any opinion of counsel delivered to the Sponsor in support thereof). Therefore, if the Trust were permitted to engage in Staking activity, the Trust might cease to qualify as a grantor trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

If the IRS were to disagree with, and successfully challenge, certain positions the Trust may take, including with respect to Incidental Rights and IR Virtual Currency, the Trust might not qualify as a grantor trust. In addition, the Sponsor has delivered the Pre-Creation Abandonment Notice to the Custodian, stating that the Trust is irrevocably abandoning, effective immediately prior to each Creation Time, all Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency to which it would otherwise be entitled as of such time and with respect to which it has not taken any Affirmative Action at or prior to such time. There can be no complete assurance that these abandonments will be treated as effective for U.S. federal income tax purposes. If the Trust were treated as owning any asset other than TAO as of any date on which it creates Shares, it might cease to qualify as a grantor trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

Because of the evolving nature of digital assets, it is not possible to predict potential future developments that may arise with respect to digital assets, including forks, airdrops and other similar occurrences. Assuming that the Trust is currently a grantor trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes, certain future developments could render it impossible, or impracticable, for the Trust to continue to be treated as a grantor trust for such purposes.

If the Trust is not properly classified as a grantor trust, the Trust might be classified as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes. However, due to the uncertain treatment of digital assets for U.S. federal income tax purposes, there can be no assurance in this regard. If the Trust were classified as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes, the tax consequences of owning Shares generally would not be materially different from the tax consequences described herein, although there might be certain differences, including with respect to timing of the recognition of taxable income or loss. In addition, tax information reports provided to beneficial owners of Shares would be made in a different form. If the Trust were not classified as either a grantor trust or a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes, it would be classified as a corporation for such purposes. In that event, the Trust would be subject to entity-level U.S. federal income tax (currently at the rate of 21%) on its net taxable income and certain distributions made by the Trust to shareholders would be treated as taxable dividends to the extent of the Trust’s current and accumulated earnings and profits. Any such dividend distributed to a beneficial owner of Shares that is a non-U.S. person for U.S. federal income tax purposes would be subject to U.S. federal withholding tax at a rate of 30% (or such lower rate as provided in an applicable tax treaty).

The remainder of this discussion is based on the assumption that the Trust will be treated as a grantor trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

Uncertainty Regarding the U.S. Federal Income Tax Treatment of Digital Assets

Each beneficial owner of Shares will be treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes as the owner of an undivided interest in the TAO (and any Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency) held in the Trust. Due to the new and evolving nature of digital assets and the absence of comprehensive guidance with respect to digital assets, many significant aspects of the U.S. federal income tax treatment of digital assets are uncertain.

In 2014, the Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”) released a notice (the “Notice”) discussing certain aspects of the treatment of “convertible virtual currency” (that is, digital assets that have an equivalent value in fiat currency or that act as substitutes for fiat currency) for U.S. federal income tax purposes. In the Notice, the IRS stated that, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, such digital assets (i) are “property,” (ii) are not “currency” for purposes of the provisions of the Code relating to foreign currency gain or loss and (iii) may be held as a capital asset. In 2019, the IRS released a revenue ruling and a set of “Frequently Asked Questions” that has been updated from time to time since (the “Ruling & FAQs”). The Ruling & FAQs provide some additional guidance, including guidance to the effect that, under certain circumstances, hard forks of digital assets are taxable events giving rise to ordinary income and guidance with respect to the determination of the tax basis of digital assets. Moreover, in 2023, the IRS released a revenue ruling that provided guidance on digital asset staking, including guidance to the effect that staking rewards will, under certain circumstances, be treated as giving rise to taxable income (the “2023 Staking Guidance”). Further, the IRS recently issued the 2025 Revenue Procedure, which provides a safe harbor for certain grantor trust vehicles. However, the Notice, the Ruling & FAQs, the 2023 Staking Guidance and the 2025 Revenue Procedure do not address other significant aspects of the U.S. federal income tax treatment of digital assets. For

example, both the 2023 Staking Guidance and 2025 Revenue Procedure contemplate a form of staking that is different than TAO staking on the Bittensor Network. As a result, although it is likely that the IRS would similarly find that the receipt of staking rewards from TAO staking on the Bittensor Network would give rise to taxable income, that result is uncertain. Moreover, although the Ruling & FAQs address the treatment of hard forks, there continues to be uncertainty with respect to the timing and amount of the income inclusions. While the Ruling & FAQs do not address most situations in which airdrops occur, it is clear from the reasoning of the Ruling & FAQs that the IRS generally would treat an airdrop as a taxable event giving rise to ordinary income.

There can be no assurance that the IRS will not alter its position with respect to digital assets in the future or that a court would uphold the treatment set forth in the Notice, the Ruling & FAQs, the 2023 Staking Guidance and the 2025 Revenue Procedure. It is also unclear what additional guidance on the treatment of digital assets for U.S. federal income tax purposes may be issued in the future. Any such alteration of the current IRS positions or additional guidance could result in adverse tax consequences for shareholders and could have an adverse effect on the prices of digital assets, including the price of TAO in the Digital Asset Market, and therefore could have an adverse effect on the value of Shares. Future developments that may arise with respect to digital assets may increase the uncertainty with respect to the treatment of digital assets for U.S. federal income tax purposes. For example, the Notice addresses only digital assets that are “convertible virtual currency,” and it is conceivable that, as a result of a fork, airdrop or similar occurrence, the Trust could hold certain types of digital assets that are not within the scope of the Notice.

The remainder of this discussion assumes that TAO, and any Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency that the Trust may hold, is properly treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes as property that may be held as a capital asset and that is not currency for purposes of the provisions of the Code relating to foreign currency gain and loss.

Shareholders are urged to consult their tax advisers regarding the tax consequences of an investment in the Trust and in digital assets in general, including, in the case of shareholders that are generally exempt from U.S. federal income taxation, whether such shareholders may recognize “unrelated business taxable income” (“UBTI”) as a consequence of a fork, airdrop or similar occurrence.

Incidental Rights and IR Virtual Currency

It is possible that, in the future, the Trust will hold Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency that it receives in connection with its investment in TAO. The uncertainties with respect to the treatment of digital assets for U.S. federal income tax purposes, described above, apply to Incidental Rights and IR Virtual Currency, as well as to TAO. As described above, the Notice addressed only digital assets that are “convertible virtual currency,” defined as digital assets that have an equivalent value in fiat currency or that act as substitutes for fiat currency. It is conceivable that certain IR Virtual Currency the Trust may receive in the future would not be within the scope of the Notice.

In general, it is expected that the Trust would receive Incidental Rights and IR Virtual Currency as a consequence of a fork, an airdrop or a similar occurrence related to its ownership of TAO. As described above, the Ruling & FAQs include guidance to the effect that, under certain circumstances, forks (and, presumably, airdrops) of digital assets are taxable events giving rise to ordinary income, but there continues to be uncertainty with respect to the timing and amount of the income inclusions. The Trust’s receipt of Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency may give rise to other tax issues. The possibility that the Trust will receive Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency thus increases the uncertainties and risks with respect to the U.S. federal income tax consequences of an investment in Shares.

The Trust may distribute Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency, or cash from the sale of Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency, to the shareholders. Alternatively, the Trust may form a liquidating trust to which it contributes Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency and distribute interests in the liquidating trust to the shareholders. Any such distribution will not be a taxable event for a U.S. Holder (as defined below). A U.S. Holder’s tax basis in the Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency distributed, whether directly or through the medium of a liquidating trust, will be the same as the U.S. Holder’s tax basis in the distributed assets immediately prior to the distribution, and the U.S. Holder’s tax basis in its *pro rata* share of the Trust’s remaining assets will not include the amount of such basis. Immediately after any such distribution, the U.S. Holder’s holding period with respect to the distributed Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency will be the same as the U.S. Holder’s holding period with respect to the distributed assets immediately prior to the distribution. A subsequent sale of the distributed Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency will generally be a taxable event for a U.S. Holder.

For simplicity of presentation, the remainder of this discussion assumes that the Trust will hold only TAO. However, the principles set forth in the discussion below apply to all of the assets that the Trust may hold at any time, including Incidental Rights and IR Virtual Currency, as well as TAO. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, each beneficial owner of Shares generally will be treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes as owning an undivided interest in any Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency held in the Trust, and any transfers or sales of Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency by the Trust (other than distributions by the Trust, as described in the preceding paragraph) will be taxable events to shareholders with respect to which shareholders will generally recognize gain or loss in a manner similar to the recognition of gain or loss on a taxable disposition of TAO, as described below.

Tax Consequences to U.S. Holders

As used herein, the term “U.S. Holder” means a beneficial owner of a Share for U.S. federal income tax purposes that is:

- an individual who is a citizen or resident of the United States for U.S. federal income tax purposes;
- a corporation, or other entity treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes, created or organized in or under the laws of the United States or of any political subdivision thereof; or
- an estate or trust the income of which is subject to U.S. federal income taxation regardless of its source.

Except as specifically noted, the discussion below assumes that each U.S. Holder will acquire all of its Shares on the same date for the same price per Share and either solely for cash or solely for TAO that were originally acquired by the U.S. Holder for cash on the same date.

As discussed in the section entitled “Description of Creation of Shares,” a U.S. Holder may be able to acquire Shares of the Trust by contributing TAO in-kind to the Trust (either directly or through an Authorized Participant acting as agent of the U.S. Holder). Assuming that the Trust is properly treated as a grantor trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes, such a contribution should not be a taxable event to the U.S. Holder.

For U.S. federal income tax purposes, each U.S. Holder will be treated as owning an undivided interest in the TAO held in the Trust and will be treated as directly realizing its pro rata share of the Trust’s income, gains, losses and deductions. When a U.S. Holder purchases Shares solely for cash, (i) the U.S. Holder’s initial tax basis in its pro rata share of the TAO held in the Trust will be equal to the amount paid for the Shares and (ii) the U.S. Holder’s holding period for its pro rata share of such TAO will begin on the date of such purchase. When a U.S. Holder acquires Shares in exchange for TAO, (i) the U.S. Holder’s initial tax basis in its pro rata share of the TAO held in the Trust will be equal to the U.S. Holder’s tax basis in the TAO that the U.S. Holder transferred to the Trust and (ii) the U.S. Holder’s holding period for its pro rata share of such TAO generally will include the period during which the U.S. Holder held the TAO that the U.S. Holder transferred to the Trust. The Ruling & FAQs confirm that if a taxpayer acquires tokens of a digital asset at different times and for different prices, the taxpayer has a separate tax basis in each lot of such tokens. Under the Ruling & FAQs, if a U.S. Holder that owns more than one lot of TAO contributes a portion of its TAO to the Trust in exchange for Shares, the U.S. Holder may designate the lot(s) from which such contribution will be made, provided that the U.S. Holder is able to identify specifically which TAO it is contributing and to substantiate its tax basis in those TAO. In general, if a U.S. Holder acquires Shares (i) solely for cash at different prices, (ii) partly for cash and partly in exchange for a contribution of TAO or (iii) in exchange for a contribution of TAO with different tax bases, the U.S. Holder’s share of the Trust’s TAO will consist of separate lots with separate tax bases. In addition, in this situation, the U.S. Holder’s holding period for the separate lots may be different. In addition, the IR Virtual Currency that the Trust acquires in a hard fork or airdrop that is treated as a taxable event will constitute a separate lot with a separate tax basis and holding period.

When the Trust transfers TAO to the Sponsor as payment of the Sponsor’s Fee, or sells TAO to fund payment of any Additional Trust Expenses, each U.S. Holder will be treated as having sold its *pro rata* share of those TAO for their fair market value at that time (which, in the case of TAO sold by the Trust, generally will be equal to the cash proceeds received by the Trust in respect thereof). As a result, each U.S. Holder will recognize gain or loss in an amount equal to the difference between (i) the fair market value of the U.S. Holder’s *pro rata* share of the TAO transferred and (ii) the U.S. Holder’s tax basis for its *pro rata* share of the TAO transferred. Any such gain or loss will be short-term capital gain or loss if the U.S. Holder’s holding period for its pro rata share of the TAO is one year or less and long-term capital gain or loss if the U.S. Holder’s holding period for its *pro rata* share of the TAO is more than one year. A U.S. Holder’s tax basis in its pro rata share of any TAO transferred by the Trust generally will be determined by multiplying the tax basis of the U.S. Holder’s pro rata share of all of the TAO held in the Trust immediately prior to the transfer by a fraction the numerator of which is the amount of TAO transferred and the denominator of which is the total amount of TAO held in the Trust immediately prior to the transfer. Immediately after the transfer, the U.S. Holder’s tax basis in its pro rata share of the TAO remaining in the Trust will be equal to the tax basis of its pro rata share of the TAO held in the Trust immediately prior to the transfer, less the portion of that tax basis allocable to its pro rata share of the TAO transferred.

As noted above, the IRS has taken the position in the Ruling & FAQs that, under certain circumstances, a hard fork of a digital asset constitutes a taxable event giving rise to ordinary income, and it is clear from the reasoning of the Ruling & FAQs that the IRS generally would treat an airdrop as a taxable event giving rise to ordinary income. Under the Ruling & FAQs, a U.S. Holder will have a basis in any IR Virtual Currency received in a fork or airdrop equal to the amount of income the U.S. Holder recognizes as a result of such fork or airdrop and the U.S. Holder’s holding period for such IR Virtual Currency will begin as of the time it recognizes such income.

U.S. Holders’ *pro rata* shares of the expenses incurred by the Trust will be treated as “miscellaneous itemized deductions” for U.S. federal income tax purposes. As a result, a non-corporate U.S. Holder’s share of these expenses will not be deductible for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

On a sale or other disposition of Shares, a U.S. Holder will be treated as having sold the TAO underlying such Shares. Accordingly, the U.S. Holder generally will recognize gain or loss in an amount equal to the difference between (i) the amount realized on the sale of the Shares and (ii) the portion of the U.S. Holder's tax basis in its pro rata share of the TAO held in the Trust that is attributable to the Shares that were sold or otherwise subject to a disposition. Such tax basis generally will be determined by multiplying the tax basis of the U.S. Holder's pro rata share of all of the TAO held in the Trust immediately prior to such sale or other disposition by a fraction the numerator of which is the number of Shares disposed of and the denominator of which is the total number of Shares held by such U.S. Holder immediately prior to such sale or other disposition (such fraction, expressed as a percentage, the "Share Percentage"). If the U.S. Holder's share of the Trust's TAO consists of separate lots with separate tax bases and/or holding periods, the U.S. Holder will be treated as having sold the Share Percentage of each such lot. Gain or loss recognized by a U.S. Holder on a sale or other disposition of Shares will generally be short-term capital gain or loss if the U.S. Holder's holding period for the TAO underlying such Shares is one year or less and long-term capital gain or loss if the U.S. Holder's holding period for the TAO underlying such Shares is more than one year. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to significant limitations.

After any sale or other disposition of fewer than all of a U.S. Holder's Shares, the U.S. Holder's tax basis in its pro rata share of the TAO held in the Trust immediately after the disposition will equal the tax basis in its pro rata share of the total amount of the TAO held in the Trust immediately prior to the disposition, less the portion of that tax basis that is taken into account in determining the amount of gain or loss recognized by the U.S. Holder on the disposition.

Any brokerage or other transaction fee incurred by a U.S. Holder in purchasing Shares generally will be added to the U.S. Holder's tax basis in the underlying assets of the Trust. Similarly, any brokerage fee or other transaction fee incurred by a U.S. Holder in selling Shares generally will reduce the amount realized by the U.S. Holder with respect to the sale.

In the absence of guidance to the contrary, it is possible that any income recognized by a U.S. tax-exempt shareholder as a consequence of a hard fork, airdrop or similar event would constitute UBTI. A tax-exempt shareholder should consult its tax adviser regarding whether such shareholder may recognize some UBTI as a consequence of an investment in Shares.

Tax Consequences to Non-U.S. Holders

As used herein, the term "non-U.S. Holder" means a beneficial owner of a Share for U.S. federal income tax purposes that is not a U.S. Holder. The term "non-U.S. Holder" does not include (i) a nonresident alien individual who is present in the United States for 183 days or more in a taxable year, (ii) a former U.S. citizen or U.S. resident or an entity that has expatriated from the United States; (iii) a person whose income in respect of Shares is effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business in the United States; or (iv) an entity that is treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Shareholders described in the preceding sentence should consult their tax advisers regarding the U.S. federal income tax consequences of owning Shares.

A non-U.S. Holder generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income or withholding tax with respect to its share of any gain recognized on the Trust's transfer of TAO in payment of the Sponsor's Fee or any Additional Trust Expense or on the Trust's sale or other disposition of TAO. In addition, assuming that the Trust holds no asset other than TAO, a non-U.S. Holder generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income or withholding tax with respect to any gain it recognizes on a sale or other disposition of Shares. A non-U.S. Holder also will generally not be subject to U.S. federal income or withholding tax with respect to any distribution received from the Trust, whether in cash or in-kind.

Provided that it does not constitute income that is treated as "effectively connected" with the conduct of a trade or business in the United States, U.S.-source FDAP income received, or treated as received, by a non-U.S. Holder will generally be subject to U.S. withholding tax at the rate of 30% (subject to possible reduction or elimination pursuant to an applicable tax treaty and to statutory exemptions such as the portfolio interest exemption). Although there is no guidance on point, it is likely that any ordinary income recognized by a non-U.S. Holder as a result of a fork, airdrop or similar occurrence would constitute FDAP income. It is unclear, however, whether any such FDAP income would be properly treated as U.S.-source or foreign-source FDAP income. Non-U.S. Holders should be aware that, in the absence of guidance, a withholding agent (including a broker through which Shares are held) may withhold 30% from a non-U.S. Holder's *pro rata* share of any such income, including by deducting such withheld amounts from proceeds that such non-U.S. Holder would otherwise be entitled to receive in connection with a distribution of Incidental Rights, IR Virtual Currency or proceeds from the disposition of Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency.

A non-U.S. Holder that is a resident of a country that maintains an income tax treaty with the United States may be eligible to claim the benefits of that treaty to reduce or eliminate, or to obtain a partial or full refund of, the 30% U.S. withholding tax on its share of any U.S.-source FDAP income, but only if the non-U.S. Holder's home country treats the Trust as "fiscally transparent," as defined in applicable Treasury Regulations.

Although the nature of the Incidental Rights and IR Virtual Currency that the Trust may hold in the future is uncertain, it is unlikely that any such asset would give rise to income that is treated as "effectively connected" with the conduct of a trade or business in the United States or that any income derived by a non-U.S. Holder from any such asset would otherwise be subject to U.S. income or withholding tax, except as discussed above in connection with the fork, airdrop or similar occurrence giving rise to Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency. There can, however, be no complete assurance in this regard.

In order to prevent the possible imposition of U.S. “backup” withholding and (if applicable) to qualify for a reduced rate of withholding tax at source under a treaty, a non-U.S. Holder must comply with certain certification requirements (generally, by delivering a properly executed IRS Form W-8BEN or W-8BEN-E to the relevant withholding agent).

U.S. Information Reporting and Backup Withholding

The Trust or the appropriate broker will file certain information returns with the IRS and provide shareholders with information regarding their annual income (if any) and expenses with respect to the Trust in accordance with applicable Treasury Regulations.

A U.S. Holder will generally be subject to information reporting requirements and backup withholding unless (i) the U.S. Holder is a corporation or other exempt recipient or (ii) in the case of backup withholding, the U.S. Holder provides a correct taxpayer identification number and certifies that it is not subject to backup withholding. In order to avoid the information reporting and backup withholding requirements, a non-U.S. Holder may have to comply with certification procedures to establish that it is not a U.S. person. The amount of any backup withholding will be allowed as a credit against the shareholder’s U.S. federal income tax liability and may entitle the holder to a refund, provided that the required information is furnished to the IRS.

FATCA

As discussed above, it is unclear whether any ordinary income recognized by a non-U.S. Holder as a result of a fork, airdrop or similar occurrence would constitute U.S.-source FDAP income. Provisions of the Code commonly referred to as “FATCA” require withholding of 30% on payments of U.S.-source FDAP income and, subject to the discussion of proposed Treasury Regulations below, of gross proceeds of dispositions of certain types of property that produce U.S.-source FDAP income to, “foreign financial institutions” (which is broadly defined for this purpose and in general includes investment vehicles) and certain other non-U.S. entities unless various U.S. information reporting and due diligence requirements (generally relating to ownership by U.S. persons of interests in or accounts with those entities) have been satisfied, or an exemption applies. An intergovernmental agreement between the United States and an applicable foreign country may modify these requirements. In addition, regulations proposed by the U.S. Department of the Treasury (the preamble to which indicates that taxpayers may rely on the regulations pending their finalization) would eliminate the requirement under FATCA of withholding on gross proceeds. If FATCA withholding is imposed, a beneficial owner that is not a foreign financial institution generally may obtain a refund of any amounts withheld by filing a U.S. federal income tax return (which may entail significant administrative burden). Shareholders should consult their tax advisers regarding the effects of FATCA on an investment in the Trust.

Item 1A. Risk Factors

The following risks, some of which have occurred and any of which may occur in the future, can have a material adverse effect on our business or financial performance, which in turn can affect the price of the Shares. These are not the only risks we face. There may be other risks we are not currently aware of or that we currently deem not to be material but may become material in the future.

The risk factors below should be read in conjunction with the other information included in this Annual Report on Form 10-K, including the Trust's financial statements and related notes thereto, and our other filings with the SEC.

Risk Factors Related to Digital Assets

The trading prices of many digital assets, including TAO, have experienced extreme volatility and may continue to do so. Extreme volatility in the future, including declines in the trading prices of TAO, could have a material adverse effect on the value of the Shares and the Shares could lose all or substantially all of their value.

The trading prices of many digital assets, including TAO, have experienced extreme volatility throughout their existence, and may continue to do so. For instance, following significant increases throughout the majority of 2020, digital asset prices, including TAO, experienced significant volatility throughout 2021 and 2022. This volatility became extreme in November 2022 when FTX Trading Ltd. ("FTX"), halted customer withdrawals. Additionally, on October 10, 2025, it was reported that a sharp decline in digital asset market prices triggered the liquidation of approximately \$20 billion in leveraged positions across the digital asset industry. Any similar halting of withdrawals or liquidations across leveraged positions in the digital asset industry in the future could further impact trading prices. See "—Recent developments in the digital asset economy have led to extreme volatility and disruption in digital asset markets, a loss of confidence in participants of the digital asset Subtensor, significant negative publicity surrounding digital assets broadly and market-wide declines in liquidity." Digital asset prices, including TAO, have continued to fluctuate widely through the date of this Annual Report.

Extreme volatility in the future, including declines in the trading prices of TAO, could have a material adverse effect on the value of the Shares and the Shares could lose all or substantially all of their value. Furthermore, negative perception, a lack of stability and standardized regulation in the digital asset economy may reduce confidence in the digital asset economy and may result in greater volatility in the price of TAO and other digital assets, including a depreciation in value. The Trust is not actively managed and will not take any actions to take advantage, or mitigate the impacts, of volatility in the price of TAO. For additional information that quantifies the volatility of TAO prices and the value of the Shares, see "Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations—Historical NAV and TAO Prices."

Furthermore, changes in U.S. political leadership and economic policies may create uncertainty that materially affects the price of TAO and the Trust's Shares. For example, on March 6, 2025, President Trump signed an Executive Order to establish a Strategic Bitcoin Reserve and a United States Digital Asset Stockpile. Pursuant to this Executive Order, the Strategic Bitcoin Reserve will be capitalized with Bitcoin owned by the U.S. Department of the Treasury that was forfeited as part of criminal or civil asset forfeiture proceedings, and the Secretaries of Treasury and Commerce are authorized to develop budget-neutral strategies for acquiring additional Bitcoin, provided that those strategies impose no incremental costs on American taxpayers. Conversely, the Digital Asset Stockpile will consist of all digital assets other than Bitcoin owned by the U.S. Department of the Treasury that were forfeited in criminal or civil asset forfeiture proceedings, but the U.S. government will not acquire additional assets for the U.S. Digital Asset Stockpile beyond those obtained through such proceedings. The anticipation of a U.S. government-funded strategic cryptocurrency reserve had motivated large-scale purchases of certain digital assets in the expectation of the U.S. government acquiring such assets to fund such reserve, and the market price of such digital assets decreased significantly as a result of the ultimate content of the Executive Order. Any similar action or omission by the U.S. federal administration or other government authorities with respect to TAO or other digital assets may negatively and significantly impact the price of TAO and the Trust's Shares.

Digital assets such as TAO were only introduced within the past two decades, and the medium-to-long term value of the Shares is subject to a number of factors relating to the capabilities and development of blockchain technologies and to the fundamental investment characteristics of digital assets.

Digital assets such as TAO were only introduced within the past two decades, and the medium-to-long term value of the Shares is subject to a number of factors relating to the capabilities and development of blockchain technologies, such as the recency of their development, their dependence on the internet and other technologies, their dependence on the role played by users, developers, validators and miners and the potential for malicious activity. For example, the realization of one or more of the following risks could materially adversely affect the value of the Shares:

- Digital asset networks and related protocols are in the early stages of development. Given the recency of the development of digital asset networks and related protocols, digital assets and the underlying digital asset networks and related

protocols may not function as intended and parties may be unwilling to use digital assets, which would dampen the growth, if any, of digital asset networks and related protocols.

- The loss of access to a private key required to access a digital asset may be irreversible. If a private key is lost and no backup of the private key is accessible, or if the private key is otherwise compromised, the owner would be unable to access the digital asset corresponding to that private key.
- Digital asset networks and related protocols are dependent upon the internet. A disruption of the internet or a digital asset network or related protocol, such as the Bittensor Network, would affect the ability to transfer digital assets, including TAO, and, consequently, their value.
- The acceptance of software patches or upgrades to a digital asset network by a significant, but not overwhelming, percentage of the users, validators and miners in a digital asset network, such as the Bittensor Network, could result in a “fork” in such network’s blockchain, resulting in the operation of multiple separate blockchain networks.
- Many digital asset networks face significant scaling challenges and are being upgraded with various features to increase the speed and throughput of digital asset transactions. These attempts to increase the volume of transactions may not be effective.
- The open-source structure of many digital asset network protocols, such as the protocol for the Bittensor Network, means that developers and other contributors are often not directly compensated for their contributions in maintaining and developing such protocols. As a result, the developers and other contributors of a particular digital asset may lack a financial incentive to maintain or develop the network or may lack the resources to adequately address emerging issues. Alternatively, some developers may be funded by companies whose interests are at odds with other participants in a particular digital asset network. A failure to properly monitor and upgrade the protocol of the Bittensor Network could damage that network.
- Moreover, in the past, flaws in the source code for digital asset networks and related protocols have been exposed and exploited, including flaws that disabled some functionality for users, exposed users’ personal information and/or resulted in the theft of users’ digital assets. The cryptography underlying the Bittensor Network could prove to be flawed or ineffective, or developments in mathematics and/or technology, including advances in digital computing, algebraic geometry and quantum computing, could result in such cryptography becoming ineffective. Quantum computing technology is an emerging phenomenon which, because it is still developing, makes it difficult to predict its ultimate effect on the future value of TAO and other digital assets. However, if quantum computing technology is able to advance and significantly increase its capacity relative to the capacity of today’s leading quantum computers, it could potentially undermine the viability of many of the cryptographic algorithms used across the world’s information technology infrastructure, including the cryptographic algorithms used for digital assets like TAO. If quantum computing is able to advance in that way, there is a risk that quantum computing could materially reduce the security assumptions underlying Bittensor’s protocol and result in the cryptography underlying the Bittensor Network becoming ineffective. If such is realized, it could compromise the security of the Bittensor Network or allow a malicious actor to compromise the wallets holding TAO owned by the Trust or others on the Bittensor Network, which would result in losses to Shareholders. For example, if sufficiently powerful quantum computers are developed, they could use known quantum algorithms to derive private keys from publicly available public keys, potentially allowing malicious actors to forge transaction signatures and misappropriate TAO. There is no guarantee that new quantum-proof architectures will be built and appropriate transitions will be implemented across the network at scale in a timely manner; any such changes could require the achievement of broad consensus within the Bittensor Network community and may result in a fork (or multiple forks), and there can be no assurance that such consensus would be achieved or the changes implemented successfully. In such a scenario, the Bittensor Network may not be able to transition to quantum-resistant cryptography in a timely or effective manner. In any of these circumstances, a malicious actor may be able to take the Trust’s TAO, which would adversely affect the value of the Shares. Moreover, functionality of the Bittensor Network may be negatively affected by such an exploit such that it is no longer attractive to users, thereby dampening demand for TAO. Even if another digital asset other than TAO were affected by similar circumstances, any reduction in confidence in the source code or cryptography underlying digital asset networks and related protocols generally could negatively affect the demand for digital assets and therefore adversely affect the value of the Shares.

Moreover, because digital assets, including TAO, have existed for a short period of time and are continuing to be developed, there may be additional risks to digital asset networks and related protocols that are impossible to predict as of the date of this Annual Report.

Digital assets represent a relatively new and rapidly evolving industry, and the value of the Shares depends on the acceptance of TAO.

The first digital asset, Bitcoin, was launched in 2009. TAO launched in 2021 and its development is ongoing. In general, digital asset networks, including the Bittensor Network and related protocols represent a relatively new and rapidly evolving industry that is subject to a variety of factors that are difficult to evaluate. For example, the realization of one or more of the following risks could materially adversely affect the value of the Shares:

- TAO is only selectively accepted as a means of payment by retail and commercial outlets, and use of TAO by consumers remains limited. Banks and other established financial institutions, whether voluntarily or in response to regulatory feedback, may refuse to process funds for TAO transactions; process wire transfers to or from Digital Asset Trading Platforms, TAO-related companies or service providers; or maintain accounts for persons or entities transacting in TAO. As a result, the prices of TAO are largely determined by speculators and miners, thus contributing to price volatility that makes retailers less likely to accept TAO in the future. While the use of other digital assets, such as Bitcoin, to purchase goods and services from commercial or service businesses is developing, TAO has not yet been accepted in the same manner because it has a slightly different purpose than Bitcoin.
- Banks may not provide banking services, or may cut off banking services, to businesses that provide digital asset-related services or that accept digital assets as payment, which could dampen liquidity in the market and damage the public perception of digital assets generally or any one digital asset in particular, such as TAO, and their or its utility as a payment system, which could decrease the price of digital assets generally or individually.
- The prices of digital assets may be determined on a relatively small number of Digital Asset Trading Platforms by a relatively small number of market participants, many of whom are speculators or those intimately involved with the issuance of such digital assets, such as miners or developers, which could contribute to price volatility that makes retailers less likely to accept digital assets in the future.
- Certain privacy-preserving features have been or are expected to be introduced to a number of digital asset networks. If any such features are introduced to the Bittensor Network, any trading platforms or businesses that facilitate transactions in TAO may be at an increased risk of criminal or civil lawsuits, or of having banking services cut off if there is a concern that these features interfere with the performance of anti-money laundering duties and economic sanctions checks. As of the date of this Annual Report, the Sponsor is not aware of any ongoing efforts to introduce further privacy-preserving features to the Bittensor Network.
- Users, developers, validators, and miners may switch to or adopt certain digital asset networks or protocols at the expense of their engagement with other digital asset networks and protocols, which may negatively impact those networks and protocols, including the Bittensor Network.

Changes in the governance of a digital asset network or protocol may not receive sufficient support from users, validators and miners, which may negatively affect that digital asset network's or protocol's ability to grow and respond to challenges.

The governance of some digital asset networks and protocols, such as the Bittensor Network, is generally by voluntary consensus and open competition. For such networks and protocols, there may be a lack of consensus or clarity on that network's or protocol's governance, which may stymie such network's or protocol's utility, adaptability and ability to grow and face challenges.

The foregoing notwithstanding, the underlying software for some digital asset networks and protocols, such as the Bittensor Network, is informally or formally managed or developed by a group of core developers that propose amendments to the relevant network's or protocol's source code. Core developers' roles may evolve over time, generally based on self-determined participation. If a significant majority of users, validators and miners were to adopt amendments to a decentralized network based on the proposals of such core developers, such network would be subject to new source code that may adversely affect the value of the relevant digital asset.

As a result of the foregoing, it may be difficult to find solutions or marshal sufficient effort to overcome any future problems, especially long-term problems, on digital asset networks.

Digital asset networks face significant scaling challenges and efforts to increase the volume and speed of transactions may not be successful.

Many digital asset networks face significant scaling challenges due to the fact that public, permissionless blockchains generally face a tradeoff between security and scalability. One means through which digital asset networks that utilize public, permissionless blockchains achieve security is decentralization, meaning that no intermediary is responsible for securing and maintaining these systems. For example, a greater degree of decentralization of a public permissionless blockchain generally means a given digital asset network is less susceptible to manipulation or capture. In practice, this typically means that every single node on a given digital asset network is responsible for securing the system by processing every transaction and maintaining a copy of the entire state of the

network. As a result, a digital asset network that utilizes a public permissionless blockchain may be limited in the number of transactions it can process by the computing capabilities of each single fully participating node. Many developers are actively researching and testing scalability solutions for public blockchains that do not necessarily result in lower levels of security or decentralization, such as off-chain payment channels and Layer 2 networks. Off-chain payment channels would allow parties to transact without requiring the full processing power of a blockchain. Layer 2 networks can increase the scalability of a blockchain by allowing users to transact on a second blockchain deployed on top of a “Layer 1” network.

In an effort to increase the volume of transactions that can be processed on a given digital asset network, many digital asset networks are being upgraded with various features to increase the speed and throughput of digital asset transactions.

As corresponding increases in throughput lag behind growth in the use of digital asset networks, average transaction fees and settlement times may increase considerably. For example, the Ethereum Network has been, at times, at capacity, which has led to increased transaction fees. Since January 1, 2023, Ether average daily transaction fees have ranged from \$0.13 per transaction, on December 27, 2025, to as high as \$29.46 per transaction, on March 5, 2024. As of December 31, 2025, Ether average daily transaction fees stood at \$0.15 per transaction. Increased transaction fees and decreased settlement speeds could preclude certain uses for TAO (e.g., micropayments), and could reduce demand for, and the price of, TAO, which could adversely impact the value of the Shares.

There is no guarantee that any of the mechanisms in place or being explored for increasing the scale of settlement or throughput of Bittensor Network transactions will be effective, or how long these mechanisms will take to become effective, which could adversely impact the value of the Shares.

Digital asset networks are developed by a diverse set of contributors and the perception that certain high-profile contributors will no longer contribute to the network could have an adverse effect on the market price of the related digital asset.

Digital asset networks and related protocols are often developed by a diverse set of contributors, but are also often developed by identifiable and high-profile contributors. The perception that certain high-profile contributors may no longer contribute to the applicable digital asset network or protocol may have an adverse effect on the market price of any related digital assets. For example, in June 2017, an unfounded rumor circulated that Ethereum protocol developer Vitalik Buterin had died. Following the rumor, the price of Ether decreased approximately 20% before recovering after Buterin himself dispelled the rumor. Some have speculated that the rumor led to the decrease in the price of Ether. In the event a high-profile contributor to the Bittensor Network is perceived as no longer contributing to the Bittensor Network due to death, retirement, withdrawal, incapacity, or otherwise, whether or not such perception is valid, it could negatively affect the price of TAO, which could adversely impact the value of the Shares.

Digital assets may have concentrated ownership, including ownership by the Trust, and large sales or distributions by holders of such digital assets, or any ability to participate in or otherwise influence a digital asset’s underlying network, could have an adverse effect on the market price of such digital asset.

As of December 31, 2025, the largest 100 TAO wallets held approximately 54% of the TAO in circulation, and as of December 31, 2025, the Trust holds approximately 0.3% of the TAO in circulation. Moreover, it is possible that other persons or entities control multiple wallets that collectively hold a significant amount of TAO, even if they individually only hold a small amount, and it is possible that some of these wallets are controlled by the same person or entity. As a result of this concentration of ownership, large sales or distributions by such holders could have an adverse effect on the market price of TAO. Furthermore, an actual or perceived breach of the Trust’s Digital Asset Account may substantially affect the market price of TAO, and therefore the value of the Shares, due to the Trust’s concentrated ownership. See also “Risk Factors—Security threats to the Digital Asset Account could result in the halting of the Trust operations and a loss of Trust assets or damage to the reputation of the Trust, each of which could result in a reduction in the value of the Shares.”

The size of the Trust’s position does not itself enable the Sponsor or the Trust to participate in or otherwise influence the development of the Bittensor Network. As a decentralized digital asset network, the Bittensor Network consists of several stakeholders, including core developers of TAO, users, services, businesses, miners and other constituencies, of which the Trust is only one constituent. Furthermore, in contrast to other protocols in which token holders participate in the governance of the network, ownership of TAO confers no such rights. While the Sponsor does not believe that the Trust’s percentage ownership affords it the ability to participate in or otherwise influence the Bittensor Network, any future influence or centralized control over the Bittensor Network, or the development thereof, may adversely affect the value of the Shares.

If the transaction fees for recording transactions on the Subtensor Network or ranking and providing AI generated output to the Bittensor Network are not sufficiently high to incentivize nodes, Owners, Validators and Miners, nodes may cease providing such AI generated output, or Owners may cease operating Subnets in the intended way, which could negatively impact the value of TAO and the value of the Shares.

If the digital asset rewards for providing or ranking AI generated output on the Bittensor Network are not sufficiently high to incentivize validators and miners, as applicable, validators may cease reviewing and ranking AI generated output and miners may cease providing AI generated output on the Subtensor Network which would limit the utility of the Bittensor Network and decrease

the demand for and therefore value of TAO and the Shares. For example, the realization of one or more of the following risks could materially adversely affect the value of the Shares:

- A reduction in digital assets staked by Validators could increase the likelihood of a malicious actor or botnet manipulating the market for AI generated outputs on the Bittensor Network. See “—If a malicious actor or botnet obtains control of more than 50% of the validating power on the Bittensor Network, or otherwise obtains control over the Bittensor Network through its influence over core developers or otherwise, such actor or botnet could manipulate the Subtensor Blockchain or the rewards paid to Miners for generating AI output in a way that could adversely affect the value of the Shares or the ability of the Trust to operate.”
- Validation nodes have historically accepted relatively low transaction confirmation fees on most digital asset networks and accept zero transaction confirmation fees on the Bittensor Network. If nodes on the Subtensor Blockchain demand transaction fees for recording transactions on the Subtensor Blockchain or a software upgrade automatically charges fees for all transactions on the Subtensor Blockchain, the cost of using the Bittensor Network may increase and the marketplace for AI generated output may be reluctant to accept TAO as a means of payment.
- Alternatively, Validators and Miners could collude in an anti-competitive manner to reject low rewards on the Bittensor Network and force the Bittensor Network’s protocol designers to adjust the protocol so that it provides Validators and Miners with higher rewards, thus reducing the attractiveness of the Bittensor Network. Higher transaction confirmation fees resulting through collusion or otherwise may adversely affect the attractiveness of the Bittensor Network, the value of TAO and the value of the Shares.
- Subnet Owners exercise significant control over the rules, registration parameters, and incentive structures of their Subnets. A Subnet Owner may implement flawed, insecure, or self-interested rulesets, or may cease maintaining the Subnet altogether. Because Subnet emissions are governed in part by these rules, any such failure or misconduct could materially impair Subnet performance or distort reward allocation. Further, AI models integrated into Subnets may be vulnerable to adversarial examples, model poisoning, or other attacks unique to machine-learning systems. Malicious participants may exploit these vulnerabilities to degrade model performance, manipulate Validator rankings, or cause Subnets to produce faulty or harmful outputs, each of which may diminish the perceived utility of the Network.
- To the extent that any nodes on the Subtensor Blockchain cease to record transactions that do not include the payment of a transaction fee in validated blocks, such transactions will not be recorded on the Subtensor Blockchain until a block is validated by a node who does not require the payment of transaction fees. Any widespread delays in the recording of transactions could result in a loss of confidence in the Bittensor Network.

If a malicious actor or botnet obtains control of more than 50% of the validating power on the Bittensor Network, or otherwise obtains control over the Bittensor Network through its influence over core developers or otherwise, such actor or botnet could manipulate the Subtensor Blockchain or the rewards paid to Miners for generating AI output in a way that could adversely affect the value of the Shares or the ability of the Trust to operate.

If a malicious actor or botnet (a volunteer or hacked collection of computers controlled by networked software coordinating the actions of the computers) obtains control over the Opentensor Foundation or otherwise obtained control over a majority of the Nodes processing transactions on the Subtensor Blockchain, it may be able to alter the Subtensor Blockchain on which transactions in TAO rely by constructing fraudulent blocks or preventing certain transactions from completing in a timely manner, or at all. The malicious actor or botnet could also control, exclude or modify the ordering of transactions. Further, the malicious actor or botnet could be able to generate new tokens or transactions using such control by deploying new malicious code on the compromised Nodes, or it could “double-spend” its own tokens (i.e., spend the same tokens in more than one transaction) and prevent the confirmation of other users’ transactions for so long as it maintained control. To the extent that such malicious actor or botnet did not yield its control of the processing power on the Subtensor Blockchain or the Bittensor community did not reject the fraudulent blocks as malicious, reversing any changes made to the Subtensor Blockchain may not be possible. Further, a malicious actor or botnet could create a flood of transactions in order to slow down the Bittensor Network.

In an example from another network, in August 2020, the Ethereum Classic network, a proof-of-work network, was the target of two double-spend attacks by an unknown actor or actors that gained more than 50% of the processing power of the Ethereum Classic network. The attacks resulted in reorganizations of the Ethereum Classic blockchain that allowed the attacker or attackers to reverse previously recorded transactions in excess of over \$5.0 million and \$1.0 million.

In addition, in May 2019, the Bitcoin Cash Network, a proof-of-work network, experienced a 50% attack when two large mining pools reversed a series of transactions in order to stop an unknown validator from taking advantage of a flaw in a recent Bitcoin Cash protocol upgrade. Although this particular attack was arguably benevolent, the fact that such coordinated activity was able to occur may negatively impact perceptions of the Bitcoin Cash network. Although the two attacks described above took place on PoW-based networks, it is possible that a similar attack may occur on the Bittensor Network, which could negatively impact the value of TAO and the value of the Shares.

Although there are no known reports of malicious control of, the Bittensor Network, if groups of coordinating or connected persons were to obtain a majority of the nodes on the Subtensor Blockchain, they could exert authority over the validation of TAO transactions. If network participants, including the core developers and the 21 administrators of validating pools, do not act to ensure greater decentralization of TAO, the feasibility of a malicious actor obtaining control of the validating power on the Bittensor Network will increase, which may adversely affect the value of TAO and the value of the Shares.

In addition, a malicious actor may obtain control over a sufficient amount of TAO to enable it to manipulate the rewards that accrue to a particular Subnet, Validator or Miner. The malicious actor could, for example, manipulate which Subnet is most heavily weighted in order for participants in that Subnet to receive higher rewards than its actual AI generated output would otherwise deserve. Within a subnet, if the malicious actor obtained a sufficient threshold of the validator weight for that subnet, the malicious actor could also vote to approve of AI generated output provided by a particular Miner that does not reflect the quality of that AI generated output in order to ensure that the particular Miner earns a higher reward for its output. Any of these voting patterns could cause the AI generated output provided through the Bittensor Network to be of a lower quality than it otherwise would be or that users believe is useful to them such that demand for using the Bittensor Network falls, which could negatively impact the value of TAO and the value of the Shares.

A malicious actor may also obtain control over the Bittensor Network through its influence over core developers by gaining direct control over a core developer or an otherwise influential programmer. To the extent that the Bittensor ecosystem does not grow, the possibility that a malicious actor may be able to maliciously influence the Bittensor Network in this manner will remain heightened.

Nodes exit the Bittensor Network, it could increase the likelihood of a malicious actor obtaining control.

Nodes exiting the network could make the Bittensor Network more vulnerable to a malicious actor obtaining control of a large percentage of staked TAO, which might enable them to manipulate the Blockchain by censoring or manipulating specific transactions, as discussed previously. If the Blockchain suffers such an attack, the price of TAO could be negatively affected, and a loss of confidence in the Bittensor Network could result. Any reduction in confidence in the transaction confirmation process or staking power of the Bittensor Network may adversely affect an investment in the Trust.

A temporary or permanent “fork” or a “clone” could adversely affect the value of the Shares.

When a modification is introduced to the Bittensor Network and a substantial portion of core network participants consent to the modification, the change is implemented and the network remains uninterrupted. When the modification is not compatible with the software prior to its modification, the consequence would be what is known as a “hard fork” of the Bittensor Network, whereby any node, Miner or Validator running the pre-modified software would be unable to interact with the updated software until or unless they updated their software to be compatible with the update. The effect of such a fork would be the existence of two versions of the Bittensor Network running in parallel, yet lacking interchangeability. Although at present all of the upgrades to the Bittensor Network’s code and the nodes of the Subtensor Blockchain are authorized to participate in the Subtensor Blockchain by the Opentensor Foundation, it is possible that another entity proposes changes to the Bittensor Network’s code and that nodes not controlled by the Opentensor Foundation, if any, elect to utilize the code produced by the other entity. In such an event, there may be two different versions of the Bittensor Network and Validators and Miners, as well as users, would have to choose which of the two Bittensor Networks to utilize. Although the Opentensor Foundation has previously forked the Bittensor Network in the past, there has not yet been a split among users of the Bittensor Network. Other digital asset networks have experienced significant forks that have at times led to two competing digital asset networks. For example, in September 2022, the Ethereum Network transitioned to a PoS model, in an upgrade referred to as the “Merge.” Following the Merge, a hard fork of the Ethereum Network occurred, as certain Ethereum miners and network participants planned to maintain the PoW consensus mechanism that was removed as part of the Merge. This version of the network was rebranded as “Ethereum Proof-of-Work.”

Forks may also occur as a digital asset network community's response to a significant security breach. For example, in July 2016, Ethereum "forked" as a result of the Ethereum Network community's response to a significant security breach. In June 2016, an anonymous hacker exploited a smart contract running on the Ethereum network to syphon approximately \$60 million of Ether held by The DAO, a distributed autonomous organization, into a segregated account. In response to the exploit, most participants in the Ethereum community elected to adopt a "fork" that effectively reversed the exploit. However, a minority of users continued to develop the original blockchain, referred to as "Ethereum Classic" with the digital asset on that blockchain now referred to as ETC. ETC now trades on several Digital Asset Trading Platforms. A fork may also occur as a result of an unintentional or unanticipated software flaw in the various versions of otherwise compatible software that users run. Such a fork could lead to users, validators and miners abandoning the digital asset with the flawed software. It is possible, however, that a substantial number of users, validators and miners could adopt an incompatible version of the digital asset while resisting community-led efforts to merge the two chains. This could result in a permanent fork, as in the case of Ethereum and Ethereum Classic.

Furthermore, a hard fork can lead to new security concerns. For example, when the Ethereum and Ethereum Classic networks, two other digital asset networks, split in July 2016, replay attacks, in which transactions from one network were rebroadcast to nefarious effect on the other network, plagued Ethereum trading platforms through at least October 2016. An Ethereum trading platform announced in July 2016 that it had lost 40,000 Ethereum Classic, worth about \$100,000 at that time, as a result of replay attacks. Similar replay attack concerns occurred in connection with the Bitcoin Cash and Bitcoin Satoshi's Vision networks split in November 2018. Another possible result of a hard fork is an inherent decrease in the level of security due to significant amounts of validating or mining power remaining on one network or migrating instead to the new forked network. After a hard fork, it may become easier for an individual miner or mining pool's hashing power to exceed 50% of the validating power of a digital asset network that retained or attracted less validating power, thereby making digital asset networks that rely on proof-of-stake more susceptible to attack.

Digital asset networks and related protocols may also be cloned. Unlike a fork of a digital asset network, which modifies an existing blockchain, and results in two competing digital asset networks, each with the same genesis block, a "clone" is a copy of a protocol's codebase, but results in an entirely new blockchain and new genesis block. Tokens are created solely from the new "clone" network and, in contrast to forks, holders of tokens of the existing network that was cloned do not receive any tokens of the new network. A "clone" results in a competing network that has characteristics substantially similar to the network it was based on, subject to any changes as determined by the developer(s) that initiated the clone.

A hard fork may adversely affect the price of TAO at the time of announcement or adoption. For example, if the market anticipates that a hard fork on the Bittensor Network would result in two competing networks, as has occurred with other digital asset networks in the past, the announcement of a hard fork could lead to increased demand for the pre-fork digital asset, in anticipation that ownership of the pre-fork digital asset would entitle holders to a new digital asset following the fork. The increased demand for the pre-fork digital asset may cause the price of the digital asset to rise. After the hard fork, it is possible the aggregate price of the two versions of the digital asset running in parallel would be less than the price of the digital asset immediately prior to the fork. Furthermore, while the Trust would be entitled to both versions of the digital asset running in parallel, the Sponsor will, as permitted by the terms of the Trust Agreement, determine which version of the digital asset is generally accepted as the Bittensor Network and should therefore be considered the appropriate network for the Trust's purposes, and there is no guarantee that the Sponsor will choose the digital asset that is ultimately the most valuable fork. Either of these events could therefore adversely impact the value of the Shares. As an illustrative example of a digital asset hard fork, following the DAO hack in July 2016, holders of Ether voted on-chain to reverse the hack, effectively causing a hard fork. For the days following the vote, the price of Ether rose from \$11.65 on July 15, 2016 to \$14.66 on July 21, 2016, the day after the first Ethereum Classic block was mined. A clone may also adversely affect the price of TAO at the time of announcement or adoption. For example, on November 6, 2016, Rhett Creighton, a Zcash developer, cloned the Zcash network to launch Zclassic, a substantially identical version of the Zcash network that eliminated the Founders' Reward. For the days following the date the first Zclassic block was mined, the price of ZEC fell from \$504.57 on November 5, 2016 to \$236.01 on November 7, 2016 in the midst of a broader sell off of ZEC beginning immediately after the Zcash network launch on October 28, 2016. A clone may also adversely affect the price of TAO at the time of announcement or adoption.

A future fork in or clone of the Bittensor Network could adversely affect the value of the Shares or the ability of the Trust to operate.

In the event of a hard fork of the Bittensor Network, the Sponsor will, if permitted by the terms of the Trust Agreement, use its discretion to determine which network should be considered the appropriate network for the Trust's purposes, and in doing so may adversely affect the value of the Shares.

In the event of a hard fork of the Bittensor Network, the Sponsor will, as permitted by the terms of the Trust Agreement, use its discretion to determine, in good faith, which digital asset network, among a group of incompatible forks of the Bittensor Network, is generally accepted as the Bittensor Network and should therefore be considered the appropriate digital asset network for the Trust's purposes. The Sponsor will base its determination on a variety of then relevant factors, including, but not limited to, the Sponsor's beliefs regarding expectations of the core developers of the Bittensor Network, users, services, businesses, validators and other

constituencies, as well as the actual continued acceptance of, validating power on, and community engagement with, the Bittensor Network. There is no guarantee that the Sponsor will choose the digital asset network or digital asset that is ultimately the most valuable fork, and the Sponsor's decision may adversely affect the value of the Shares as a result. The Sponsor may also disagree with shareholders, security vendors and the Index Provider on what is generally accepted as TAO and should therefore be considered "TAO" for the Trust's purposes, which may also adversely affect the value of the Shares as a result.

Any name change and any associated rebranding initiative by the core developers of TAO may not be favorably received by the digital asset community, which could negatively impact the value of TAO and the value of the Shares.

From time to time, digital assets may undergo name changes and associated rebranding initiatives. For example, Bitcoin Cash may sometimes be referred to as Bitcoin ABC in an effort to differentiate itself from any Bitcoin Cash hard forks, such as Bitcoin Satoshi's Vision, and in the third quarter of 2018, the team behind ZEN rebranded and changed the name of ZenCash to "Horizen." We cannot predict the impact of any name change and any associated rebranding initiative on the Bittensor Network or TAO. After a name change and an associated rebranding initiative, a digital asset may not be able to achieve or maintain brand name recognition or status that is comparable to the recognition and status previously enjoyed by such digital asset. The failure of any name change and any associated rebranding initiative by a digital asset may result in such digital asset not realizing some or all of the anticipated benefits contemplated by the name change and associated rebranding initiative, and could negatively impact the value of TAO and the value of the Shares.

If the Bittensor Network is used to facilitate illicit activities, businesses that facilitate transactions in TAO could be at increased risk of criminal or civil lawsuits, or of having services cut off, which could negatively affect the price of TAO and the value of the Shares.

Digital asset networks have in the past been, and may continue to be, used to facilitate illicit activities. If the Bittensor Network is used to facilitate illicit activities, businesses that facilitate transactions in TAO could be at increased risk of potential criminal or civil lawsuits, or of having banking or other services cut off, and TAO could be removed from Digital Asset Trading Platforms as a result of these concerns. Other service providers of such businesses may also cut off services if there is a concern that the Bittensor Network is being used to facilitate crime. Any of the aforementioned occurrences could increase regulatory scrutiny of the Bittensor Network and/or adversely affect the price of TAO, the attractiveness of the Bittensor Network and an investment in the Shares of the Trust.

When the Trust and the Sponsor, acting on behalf of the Trust, sell or deliver, as applicable, TAO, Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency, they generally do not transact directly with counterparties other than the Authorized Participant, a Liquidity Provider, or other similarly eligible financial institutions that are subject to federal and state licensing requirements and maintain practices and policies designed to comply with AML and KYC regulations. When an Authorized Participant or a Liquidity Provider sources TAO in connection with the creation of the Shares or facilitates transactions in TAO at the direction of the Trust or the Sponsor, it directly faces its counterparty and, in all instances, the Authorized Participant or the Liquidity Provider, as applicable, follow policies and procedures designed to ensure that it knows the identity of its counterparty. The Authorized Participant is a registered broker-dealer and therefore subject to AML and countering the financing of terrorism obligations under the Bank Secrecy Act as administered by FinCEN and further overseen by the SEC and FINRA. In addition, one or more Liquidity Providers may be a virtual currency entity licensed by the NYDFS, which additionally may subject it to AML obligations.

In accordance with its regulatory obligations, the Authorized Participant, or the Liquidity Provider, conducts customer due diligence and enhanced due diligence on its counterparties, which enables it to determine each counterparty's AML and other risks and assign an appropriate risk rating.

As part of its counterparty onboarding process, each of the Authorized Participant and the Liquidity Provider uses third-party services to screen prospective counterparties against various watch lists, including the Specially Designated Nationals List of the Treasury Department Office of Foreign Assets Control ("OFAC") and countries and territories identified as non-cooperative by the Financial Action Task Force. If the Sponsor, the Trust, the Authorized Participant or the Liquidity Provider were nevertheless to transact with such a sanctioned entity, the Sponsor, the Trust, the Authorized Participant and the Liquidity Provider would be at increased risk of potential criminal or civil lawsuits.

Risk Factors Related to the Digital Asset Markets

Recent developments in the digital asset economy have led to extreme volatility and disruption in digital asset markets, a loss of confidence in participants of the digital asset ecosystem, significant negative publicity surrounding digital assets broadly and market-wide declines in liquidity.

In the past and through the date of this Annual Report, digital asset prices have experienced significant fluctuations, leading to volatility and disruption in the digital asset markets and financial difficulties for several prominent industry participants, including Digital Asset Trading Platforms, hedge funds and lending platforms. For example, in the first half of 2022, digital asset lenders

Celsius Network LLC and Voyager Digital Ltd. and digital asset hedge fund Three Arrows Capital each entered into insolvency proceedings. This resulted in a loss of confidence in participants in the digital asset ecosystem, negative publicity surrounding digital assets more broadly and market-wide declines in digital asset trading prices and liquidity.

Thereafter, in November 2022, FTX, the third largest Digital Asset Trading Platform by volume at the time, halted customer withdrawals amid rumors of the company's liquidity issues and likely insolvency. Shortly thereafter, FTX's CEO resigned and FTX and several affiliates of FTX filed for bankruptcy. The U.S. Department of Justice subsequently brought criminal charges, including charges of fraud, violations of federal securities laws, money laundering, and campaign finance offenses, against FTX's former CEO and others. In November 2023, FTX's former CEO was convicted of fraud and money laundering. Similar charges related to violations of anti-money laundering laws were brought in November 2023 against Binance and its former CEO.

In addition, several other entities in the digital asset industry filed for bankruptcy following FTX's bankruptcy filing, such as BlockFi Inc. and Genesis Global Capital, LLC ("Genesis Capital"), a subsidiary of Genesis Global Holdco, LLC ("Genesis Holdco"). The SEC also brought charges against Genesis Capital and Gemini Trust Company, LLC ("Gemini") in January 2023 for their alleged unregistered offer and sale of securities to retail investors. In October 2023, the New York Attorney General ("NYAG") brought charges against Gemini, Genesis Capital, Genesis Asia Pacific PTE. LTD. ("Genesis Asia Pacific"), Genesis Holdco (together with Genesis Capital and Genesis Asia Pacific, the "Genesis Entities"), Genesis Capital's former CEO, DCG, and DCG's CEO alleging violations of the New York Penal Law, the New York General Business Law and the New York Executive Law. In February 2024, the NYAG amended its complaint to expand the charges against Gemini, the Genesis Entities, Genesis Capital's former CEO, DCG, and DCG's CEO to include harm to additional investors. Also in February 2024, the Genesis Entities entered into a settlement agreement with the NYAG to resolve the NYAG's allegations against the Genesis Entities, which settlement was subsequently approved by the Bankruptcy Court of the Southern District of New York.

On January 17, 2025, DCG agreed to entry of a cease-and-desist order and payment of a \$38 million civil money penalty arising out of the SEC's allegations that (i) DCG negligently engaged in conduct that misled investors about the impact of the default on Genesis Capital's financial condition and (ii) DCG's failure to exercise reasonable care in connection with certain statements concerning Genesis Capital's financial condition created a materially false impression to the public regarding Genesis Capital's financial health.

Furthermore, Genesis Holdco, together with certain of its subsidiaries, filed a voluntary petition for reorganization under Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code in January 2023. While Genesis Holdco is not a service provider to the Trust, it is a wholly owned subsidiary of DCG, and is an affiliate of the Trust and the Sponsor.

These events have led to significant negative publicity around digital asset market participants including DCG, Genesis and DCG's other affiliated entities. This publicity could negatively impact the reputation of the Sponsor and have an adverse effect on the trading price and/or the value of the Shares. Moreover, sales of a significant number of Shares of the Trust as a result of these events could have a negative impact on the trading price of the Shares.

These events have also led to a substantial increase in regulatory and enforcement scrutiny of the industry as a whole and of Digital Asset Trading Platforms in particular, including from the Department of Justice, the SEC, the CFTC, the White House and Congress. For example, in June 2023, the SEC brought charges against Binance (the "Binance Complaint") and Coinbase (the "Coinbase Complaint"), alleging that they solicited U.S. investors to buy, sell, and trade "crypto asset securities" through their unregistered trading platforms and operated unregistered securities exchanges, brokerages and clearing agencies. Binance subsequently announced that it would be suspending USD deposits and withdrawals on Binance.US and that it plans to delist its USD trading pairs. In addition, in November 2023, the SEC brought similar charges against Kraken (the "Kraken Complaint"), alleging that it operated as an unregistered securities exchange, brokerage and clearing agency. The Binance Complaint, the Coinbase Complaint and the Kraken Complaint have led, and may in the future lead, to further volatility in digital asset prices. Between February 2025 and May 2025, the SEC entered into court-approved joint stipulations to dismiss each of the Binance Complaint, Coinbase Complaint and the Kraken Complaint. The SEC has terminated its investigation or enforcement action into many other digital asset market participants, as well.

In January 2025, the SEC launched a crypto task force dedicated to developing a comprehensive and clear regulatory framework for digital assets led by Commissioner Hester Peirce. Subsequently, Commissioner Peirce announced a list of specific priorities to further that initiative, which included pursuing final rules related to a digital asset's security status, a revised path to registered offerings and listings for digital asset-based investment vehicles, and clarity regarding digital asset custody, lending and staking.

Digital asset markets have also been negatively impacted by the failure of entities perceived to be integral to the digital asset ecosystem. For example, in March 2023, state banking regulators placed Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank into Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC") receiverships. Also, in March 2023, Silvergate Bank announced plans to wind down and liquidate its operations. Because these banks were perceived to be the banks most open to providing services for the digital asset ecosystem in the United States, their failures may impact the willingness of banks (based on regulatory pressure or otherwise) to provide banking services to digital asset market participants. In addition, because these banks were perceived to be the banks most open to providing services for the digital asset ecosystem, their failure has caused a number of companies that provide digital asset-related services to be

unable to find banks that are willing to provide them with such banking services. The inability to access banking services could negatively impact digital asset market participants and therefore the value of digital assets, including TAO, and thus the Shares. In addition, although these events did not have an impact directly on the Trust or the Sponsor when these bank failures occurred, it is possible that a future closing of a bank with which the Trust or the Sponsor has a financial relationship could subject the Trust or the Sponsor to adverse conditions and pose challenges in finding an alternative suitable bank to provide the Trust or the Sponsor with bank accounts and banking services.

Events such as these that impact the wider digital asset ecosystem are continuing to develop and change at a rapid pace and it is not possible to predict at this time all of the risks that they may pose to the Sponsor, the Trust, their affiliates and/or the Trust's third-party service providers, or on the digital asset industry as a whole.

Continued disruption and instability in the digital asset markets as these events develop, including declines in the trading prices and liquidity of TAO, or the failure of service providers to the Trust, could have a material adverse effect on the value of the Shares and the Shares could lose all or substantially all of their value.

The value of the Shares relates directly to the value of TAO, the value of which may be highly volatile and subject to fluctuations due to a number of factors.

The value of the Shares relates directly to the value of the TAO held by the Trust and fluctuations in the price of TAO could adversely affect the value of the Shares. The market price of TAO may be highly volatile, and subject to a number of factors, including:

- an increase in the global TAO supply that is publicly available for trading;
- manipulative trading activity on Digital Asset Trading Platforms, which, in many cases, are largely unregulated;
- the adoption of TAO as a medium of exchange, store-of-value or other consumptive asset and the maintenance and development of the open-source software protocol of the Bittensor Network;
- forks in the Bittensor Network;
- investors' expectations with respect to interest rates, the rates of inflation of fiat currencies or TAO, and Digital Asset Trading Platform rates;
- consumer preferences and perceptions of TAO specifically and digital assets generally;
- fiat currency withdrawal and deposit policies on Digital Asset Trading Platforms;
- the liquidity of Digital Asset Markets and any increase or decrease in trading volume on Digital Asset Markets;
- investment and trading activities of large investors that invest directly or indirectly in TAO;
- a "short squeeze" resulting from speculation on the price of TAO, if aggregate short exposure exceeds the number of Shares available for purchase;
- an active derivatives market for TAO or for digital assets generally;
- a determination that TAO is a security or changes in TAO's status under the federal securities laws;
- monetary policies of governments, trade restrictions, currency devaluations and revaluations and regulatory measures or enforcement actions, if any, that restrict the use of TAO as a form of payment or the purchase of TAO on the Digital Asset Markets;
- global or regional political, economic or financial conditions, events and situations, such as the novel coronavirus outbreak;
- fees associated with processing a TAO transaction and the speed at which TAO transactions are settled on the Bittensor Network;
- interruptions in service from or closures or failures of major Digital Asset Trading Platforms;
- decreased confidence in Digital Asset Trading Platforms due to the largely unregulated nature and lack of transparency surrounding the operations of Digital Asset Trading Platforms;
- increased competition from other forms of digital assets or payment services; and
- the Trust's own acquisitions or dispositions of TAO, since there is no limit on the amount of TAO that the Trust may acquire.

In addition, there is no assurance that TAO will maintain its value in the long or intermediate term. In the event that the price of TAO declines, the Sponsor expects the value of the Shares to decline proportionately.

The value of TAO as represented by the Index Price or by the Trust's principal market may also be subject to momentum pricing due to speculation regarding future appreciation in value, leading to greater volatility that could adversely affect the value of the Shares. Momentum pricing typically is associated with growth stocks and other assets whose valuation, as determined by the investing public, accounts for future appreciation in value, if any. The Sponsor believes that momentum pricing of TAO has resulted, and may continue to result, in speculation regarding future appreciation in the value of TAO, inflating and making the Index Price more volatile. As a result, TAO may be more likely to fluctuate in value due to changing investor confidence, which could impact future appreciation or depreciation in the Index Price and could adversely affect the value of the Shares.

Due to the largely unregulated nature and lack of transparency surrounding the operations of Digital Asset Trading Platforms, they may experience fraud, market manipulation, business failures, security failures or operational problems, which may adversely affect the value of TAO and, consequently, the value of the Shares.

Digital Asset Trading Platforms are relatively new and, in many ways, are not subject to, or may not comply with regulation in relevant jurisdictions in a manner similar to other regulated trading platforms, such as national securities exchanges or designated contract markets. While many prominent Digital Asset Trading Platforms provide the public with significant information regarding their on-chain activities, ownership structure, management teams, corporate practices, cybersecurity practices and regulatory compliance, many other Digital Asset Trading Platforms do not provide this information. Furthermore, while Digital Asset Trading Platforms are and may continue to be subject to federal and state licensing requirements in the United States, Digital Asset Trading Platforms do not currently appear to be subject to regulation in a similar manner as other regulated trading platforms, such as national securities exchanges or designated contract markets. As a result, the marketplace may lose confidence in Digital Asset Trading Platforms, including prominent trading platforms that handle a significant volume of TAO trading.

Many Digital Asset Trading Platforms, both in the United States and abroad are unlicensed, not subject to, or not in compliance with regulation in relevant jurisdictions, or operate without extensive supervision by governmental authorities. In particular, those located outside the United States may be subject to significantly less stringent regulatory and compliance requirements in their local jurisdictions and may take the position that they are not subject to laws and regulations that would apply to a national securities exchange or designated contract market in the United States, or may, as a practical matter, be beyond the ambit of U.S. regulators. As a result, trading activity on or reported by these Digital Asset Trading Platforms is generally significantly less regulated than trading activity on or reported by regulated U.S. securities and commodities markets, and may reflect behavior that would be prohibited in regulated U.S. trading venues. For example, in 2022 one report claimed that trading volumes on Digital Asset Trading Platforms were inflated by over 70% due to false or non-economic trades, with specific focus on unlicensed trading platforms located outside of the United States. Such reports may indicate that the Digital Asset Trading Platform Market is significantly smaller than expected and that the U.S. makes up a significantly larger percentage of the Digital Asset Trading Platform Market than is commonly understood, or that a much larger portion of digital asset market activity takes place on decentralized finance platforms than is commonly understood. Nonetheless, any actual or perceived false trading in the Digital Asset Trading Platform Market, and any other fraudulent or manipulative acts and practices, could adversely affect the value of TAO and/or negatively affect the market perception of TAO, which could in turn adversely impact the value of the Shares.

The SEC has also identified possible sources of fraud and manipulation in the Digital Asset Markets generally, including, among others (1) "wash-trading"; (2) persons with a dominant position in a digital asset manipulating pricing in such digital asset; (3) hacking of the underlying digital asset network and trading platforms; (4) malicious control of the underlying digital asset network; (5) trading based on material, non-public information (for example, plans of market participants to significantly increase or decrease their holdings in a digital asset, new sources of demand for a digital asset) or based on the dissemination of false and misleading information; (6) manipulative activity involving purported "stablecoins," including Tether; and (7) fraud and manipulation at Digital Asset Markets. The use or presence of such acts and practices in the Digital Asset Markets could, for example, falsely inflate the volume of TAO present in the Digital Asset Markets or cause distortions in the price of TAO, among other things that could adversely affect the Trust or cause losses to shareholders. Moreover, tools to detect and deter fraudulent or manipulative trading activities, such as market manipulation, front-running of trades, and wash-trading, may not be available to or employed by Digital Asset Markets, or may not exist at all. Many Digital Asset Markets also lack certain safeguards put in place by exchanges for more traditional assets to enhance the stability of trading on the exchanges and prevent "flash crashes," such as limit-down circuit breakers. As a result, the prices of TAO on Digital Asset Markets may be subject to larger and/or more frequent sudden declines than assets traded on more traditional exchanges.

In addition, over the past several years, some Digital Asset Trading Platforms have been closed, been subject to criminal and civil litigation and have entered into bankruptcy proceedings due to fraud and manipulative activity, business failure and/or security breaches. In many of these instances, the customers of such Digital Asset Trading Platforms were not compensated or made whole for the partial or complete losses of their account balances in such Digital Asset Trading Platforms. In some instances, customers are

made whole only in dollar terms as of the Digital Asset Trading Platform’s date of failure, rather than on a digital asset basis, meaning customers may still lose out on any price increase in digital assets.

While smaller Digital Asset Trading Platforms are less likely to have the infrastructure and capitalization that make larger Digital Asset Trading Platforms more stable, larger Digital Asset Trading Platforms are more likely to be appealing targets for hackers and malware. For example, in February 2025, hackers reportedly compromised a transaction from Bybit’s multisignature cold wallets, enabling the hackers to steal over \$1.5 billion of Ether from Bybit. Shortcomings or ultimate failures of larger Digital Asset Trading Platforms are more likely to have contagion effects on the digital asset ecosystem, including on the price of TAO, and therefore may also be more likely to be targets of regulatory enforcement action. For example, in November 2022, FTX, another of the world’s largest Digital Asset Trading Platforms, filed for bankruptcy protection and subsequently halted customer withdrawals as well as trading on its FTX.US platform. Fraud, security failures and operational problems all played a role in FTX’s issues and downfall. Moreover, Digital Asset Trading Platforms have been a subject of enhanced regulatory and enforcement scrutiny, and Digital Asset Markets have experienced continued instability, following the failure of FTX. In particular, in June 2023, the SEC brought the Binance Complaint and Coinbase Complaint, alleging that Binance and Coinbase operated unregistered securities exchanges, brokerages and clearing agencies. In addition, in November 2023, the SEC brought the Kraken Complaint, alleging that Kraken operated as an unregistered securities exchange, brokerage and clearing agency. Between February 2025 and May 2025, the SEC entered into court-approved joint stipulations to dismiss each of the Binance Complaint, Coinbase Complaint and the Kraken Complaint. The SEC has terminated its investigation or enforcement action into many other digital asset market participants as well.

Negative perception, a lack of stability and standardized regulation in the Digital Asset Markets and/or the closure or temporary shutdown of Digital Asset Trading Platforms due to fraud, business failure, security breaches or government mandated regulation, and associated losses by customers, may reduce confidence in the Bittensor Network and result in greater volatility in the prices of TAO. Furthermore, the closure or temporary shutdown of a Digital Asset Trading Platform used in calculating the Index Price may result in a loss of confidence in the Trust’s ability to determine its NAV on a daily basis. These potential consequences of such a Digital Asset Trading Platform’s failure could adversely affect the value of the Shares.

Digital Asset Trading Platforms may be exposed to front-running.

Digital Asset Trading Platforms may be susceptible to “front-running,” which refers to the process when someone uses technology or market advantage to get prior knowledge of upcoming transactions. Front-running is a frequent activity on centralized as well as decentralized trading platforms. By using bots functioning on a millisecond-scale timeframe, bad actors are able to take advantage of the forthcoming price movement and make economic gains at the cost of those who had introduced these transactions. The objective of a front runner is to buy tokens at a low price and later sell them at a higher price while simultaneously exiting the position. To the extent that front-running occurs, it may result in investor frustrations and concerns as to the price integrity of Digital Asset Trading Platforms and digital assets more generally.

Digital Asset Trading Platforms may be exposed to wash-trading.

Digital Asset Trading Platforms may be susceptible to wash-trading. Wash-trading occurs when offsetting trades are entered into for other than bona fide reasons, such as the desire to inflate reported trading volumes. Wash-trading may be motivated by non-economic reasons, such as a desire for increased visibility on popular websites that monitor markets for digital assets so as to improve a trading platform’s attractiveness to investors who look for maximum liquidity, or it may be motivated by the ability to attract listing fees from token issuers who seek the most liquid and high-volume trading platforms on which to list their tokens. Results of wash-trading may include unexpected obstacles to trade and erroneous investment decisions based on false information.

Even in the United States, there have been allegations of wash-trading even on regulated venues. Any actual or perceived false trading on Digital Asset Trading Platforms, and any other fraudulent or manipulative acts and practices, could adversely affect the value of TAO and/or negatively affect the market perception of TAO.

To the extent that wash-trading either occurs or appears to occur in Digital Asset Trading Platforms, investors may develop negative perceptions about TAO and the digital assets industry more broadly, which could adversely impact the price of TAO and, therefore, the price of the Shares. Wash-trading also may place more legitimate Digital Asset Trading Platforms at a relative competitive disadvantage.

The Index has a limited history and a failure of the Index Price could adversely affect the value of the Shares.

The Index has a limited history and the Index Price is a composite reference rate calculated using trading price data from various Digital Asset Trading Platforms chosen by the Index Provider. The Digital Asset Trading Platforms chosen by the Index Provider have also changed over time. The Index Provider may remove or add Digital Asset Trading Platforms to the Index in the future at its discretion. For more information on the inclusion criteria for Digital Asset Trading Platforms in the Index, see “Item 1. Business—Overview of the TAO Industry and Market—TAO Value—The Index and the Index Price.”

Although the Index is designed to accurately capture the market price of TAO, third parties may be able to purchase and sell TAO on public or private markets not included among the Constituent Trading Platforms of the Index, and such transactions may take place at prices materially higher or lower than the Index Price. Moreover, there may be variances in the prices of TAO on the various Digital Asset Trading Platforms, including as a result of differences in fee structures or administrative procedures on different Digital Asset Trading Platforms. For example, based on data provided by the Index Provider, on any given day during the year ended December 31, 2025, the maximum differential between the 4:00 p.m., New York time, spot price of any single Digital Asset Trading Platform included in the Index and the Index Price was 1.03% and the average of the maximum differentials of the 4:00 p.m., New York time, spot price of each Digital Asset Trading Platform included in the Index and the Index Price was 0.72%. During this same period, the average differential between the 4:00 p.m., New York time, spot prices of all the Digital Asset Trading Platforms included in the Index and the Index Price was 0.01%. All Digital Asset Trading Platforms that were included in the Index throughout the period were considered in this analysis. To the extent such prices differ materially from the Index Price, investors may lose confidence in the Shares' ability to track the market price of TAO, which could adversely affect the value of the Shares.

The Index Price used to calculate the value of the Trust's TAO may be volatile, and purchasing activity in the Digital Asset Markets associated with Basket creations may affect the Index Price and Share trading prices, adversely affecting the value of the Shares.

The price of TAO on public Digital Asset Trading Platforms has a very limited history, and during this history, TAO prices on the Digital Asset Markets more generally, and on Digital Asset Trading Platforms individually, have been volatile and subject to influence by many factors, including operational interruptions. While the Index is designed to limit exposure to the interruption of individual Digital Asset Trading Platforms, the Index Price, and the price of TAO generally, remains subject to volatility experienced by Digital Asset Trading Platforms, and such volatility could adversely affect the value of the Shares. For example, from June 10, 2024 through December 31, 2025, the Index Price ranged from \$188.82 to \$709.06, with the straight average being \$374.06. In addition, during the year ended December 31, 2025, the Index Price ranged from \$188.82 to \$566.90. The Sponsor has not observed a material difference between the Index Price and average prices from the Constituent Trading Platforms individually or as a group. The price of TAO more generally has experienced volatility similar to the Index Price during these periods. For additional information on movement of the Index Price and the price of TAO, see "Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations—Historical NAV and TAO Prices."

Furthermore, because the number of Digital Asset Trading Platforms is limited, the Index will necessarily be comprised of a limited number of Digital Asset Trading Platforms. If a Digital Asset Trading Platform were subjected to regulatory, volatility or other pricing issues, the Index Provider would have limited ability to remove such Digital Asset Trading Platform from the Index, which could skew the price of TAO as represented by the Index. Trading on a limited number of Digital Asset Trading Platforms may result in less favorable prices and decreased liquidity of TAO and, therefore, could have an adverse effect on the value of the Shares.

Purchasing activity associated with acquiring TAO required for the creation of Baskets may increase the market price of TAO on the Digital Asset Markets, which will result in higher prices for the Shares. Increases in the market price of TAO may also occur as a result of the purchasing activity of other market participants. Other market participants may attempt to benefit from an increase in the market price of TAO that may result from increased purchasing activity of TAO connected with the issuance of Baskets. Consequently, the market price of TAO may decline immediately after Baskets are created. Decreases in the market price of TAO may also occur as a result of sales in Secondary Markets by other market participants. If the Index Price declines, the value of the Shares will generally also decline.

Competition from the emergence or growth of other digital assets could have a negative impact on the price of TAO and adversely affect the value of the Shares.

As of December 31, 2025, TAO was the 35th largest digital asset by market capitalization as tracked by CoinMarketCap.com. As of December 31, 2025, the alternative digital assets tracked by CoinMarketCap.com, had a total market capitalization of approximately \$2,678.0 billion (including the approximately \$2.3 billion market cap of TAO), as calculated using market prices and total available supply of each digital asset, excluding stablecoins and tokens pegged to other assets. In addition, many consortiums and financial institutions are also researching and investing resources into private or permissioned blockchain platforms rather than open platforms like the Bittensor Network. Competition from the emergence or growth of alternative digital assets and smart contracts platforms, such as Ethereum, Solana, Avalanche or Cardano, could have a negative impact on the demand for, and price of, TAO and thereby adversely affect the value of the Shares.

In addition, some digital asset networks may be the target of ill will from users of other digital asset networks. For example, the hard fork that resulted in the creation of the Bittensor Network was contentious, and as a result some users of the Bitcoin Network may harbor ill will toward the Bittensor Network and vice versa. The users of these other networks may attempt to negatively impact the use or adoption of the Bittensor Network.

Investors may also invest in TAO through means other than the Shares, including through direct investments in TAO and other potential financial vehicles, possibly including securities backed by or linked to TAO and digital asset financial vehicles similar to the

Trust. Market and financial conditions, and other conditions beyond the Sponsor's control, may make it more attractive to invest in other financial vehicles or to invest in TAO directly, which could limit the market for, and reduce the liquidity of, the Shares. In addition, to the extent digital asset financial vehicles other than the Trust tracking the price of TAO are formed and represent a significant proportion of the demand for TAO, large purchases or redemptions of the securities of these digital asset financial vehicles, or private funds holding TAO, could negatively affect the Index Price, the NAV, the NAV per Share, the value of the Shares, the Principal Market NAV and the Principal Market NAV per Share. Moreover, any reduced demand for Shares of the Trust may cause the Shares of the Trust to trade at a discount to the NAV per Share.

Congestion or delay on the Bittensor Network may delay purchases or sales of TAO by the Trust.

Increased transaction or staking activity on the Bittensor Network could result in delays in recording transactions or processing staking and unstaking operations due to network congestion. Moreover, unforeseen system failures, disruptions in validator operations, or connectivity issues may also result in delays in the recording of transactions on the Blockchain.

For example, in July 2024, wallets on the Bittensor Network suffered malicious attacks by hackers, which prompted the Opentensor Foundation to temporarily halt normal operations and place the Bittensor Network under "safe mode" as a protective measure.

Any such delays could affect an Authorized Participant's ability to buy or sell TAO at an advantageous price and may result in decreased confidence in the Bittensor Network. Over the longer term, persistent delays in transaction confirmation or network responsiveness could reduce the attractiveness of the Bittensor Network to participants and adversely affect the value of TAO and the Trust.

The SEC has approved generic listing standards for commodity-based trust shares and may approve other applications under Rule 19b-4 of the Exchange Act to list competing digital assets as exchange-traded products, which could reduce demand for, and the price of, TAO and adversely impact the value of the Shares.

To date, the SEC has approved applications under Rule 19b-4 of the Exchange Act to list spot digital asset exchange-traded products which hold Bitcoin and Ether as well as generic listing standards for commodity-based trust shares holding other digital assets. To the extent competing digital asset exchange-traded products come to represent a significant proportion of the demand for digital assets generally, demand for, and the price of, TAO could be reduced. Such reduced demand could in turn negatively affect the Index Price, the NAV, the NAV per Share, the value of the Shares, the Principal Market NAV and the Principal Market NAV per Share. Accordingly, there can be no assurance that the Trust will be able to maintain its scale and achieve its intended competitive positioning relative to competitors, which could adversely affect the performance of the Trust and the value of the Shares.

Competition from central bank digital currencies ("CBDCs") and emerging payments initiatives involving financial institutions could adversely affect the price of TAO and other digital assets.

Central banks in various countries have introduced digital forms of legal tender ("CBDCs"). China's CBDC project, known as Digital Currency Electronic Payment, has reportedly been tested in a live pilot program conducted in multiple cities in China. Central banks representing at least 130 countries have published retail or wholesale CBDC work ranging from research to pilot projects. Whether or not they incorporate blockchain or similar technology, CBDCs, as legal tender in the issuing jurisdiction, could have an advantage in competing with, or replace, TAO and other cryptocurrencies as a medium of exchange or store of value. Central banks and other governmental entities have also announced cooperative initiatives and consortia with private sector entities, with the goal of leveraging blockchain and other technology to reduce friction in cross-border and interbank payments and settlement, and commercial banks and other financial institutions have also recently announced a number of initiatives of their own to incorporate new technologies, including blockchain and similar technologies, into their payments and settlement activities, which could compete with, or reduce the demand for, TAO. As a result of any of the foregoing factors, the price of TAO could decrease, which could adversely affect an investment in the Trust.

Prices of TAO may be affected due to stablecoins (including Tether and USDC), the activities of stablecoin issuers and their regulatory treatment.

While the Trust does not invest in stablecoins, it may nonetheless be exposed to these and other risks that stablecoins pose for the market for TAO and other digital assets. Stablecoins are digital assets designed to have a stable value over time as compared to typically volatile digital assets, and are typically marketed as being pegged to the value of a referenced asset, normally a fiat currency, such as the U.S. dollar. Although the prices of stablecoins are intended to be stable compared to their referenced asset, in many cases their prices fluctuate, sometimes significantly. This volatility has in the past impacted the prices of certain digital assets, and has at times caused certain stablecoins to lose their "peg" to the underlying fiat currency. Stablecoins are a relatively new phenomenon, and it is impossible to know all of the risks that they could pose to participants in the digital asset markets. In addition, some have argued that some stablecoins, particularly Tether, are improperly issued without sufficient backing in a way that could cause artificial rather than genuine demand for digital assets, raising their prices. Regulators have also charged stablecoin issuers with violations of law or otherwise required certain stablecoin issuers to cease certain operations. For example, on February 17, 2021, the New York Attorney General entered into an agreement with Tether's operators, requiring them to cease any further trading activity with New York persons and pay \$18.5 million in penalties for false and misleading statements made regarding the assets backing Tether. On October 15, 2021, the CFTC announced a settlement with Tether's operators in which they agreed to pay \$42.5 million in fines to settle charges that, among others, Tether's claims that it maintained sufficient U.S. dollar reserves to back every Tether stablecoin in circulation with the "equivalent amount of corresponding fiat currency" held by Tether were untrue.

USDC is a reserve-backed stablecoin issued by Circle Internet Financial that is commonly used as a method of payment in digital asset markets, including the TAO market. The issuer of USDC uses the Circle Reserve Fund to hold cash, U.S. Treasury bills, notes and other obligations issued or guaranteed as to principal and interest by the U.S. Department of the Treasury, and repurchase agreements secured by such obligations or cash, which serve as reserves backing USDC stablecoins. While USDC is designed to maintain a stable value at 1 U.S. dollar at all times, on March 10, 2023, the value of USDC fell below \$1.00 (and remained below for multiple days) after Circle Internet Financial disclosed that \$3.3 billion of the USDC reserves were held at Silicon Valley Bank, which had entered FDIC receivership earlier that day. Popular stablecoins are reliant on the U.S. banking system and U.S. treasuries, and the failure of either to function normally could impede the function of stablecoins or lead to outsized redemption requests, and therefore could adversely affect the value of the Shares.

Given the role that stablecoins play in global digital asset markets, their fundamental liquidity can have a dramatic impact on the broader digital asset market, including the market for TAO. Because a large portion of the digital asset market still depends on stablecoins such as Tether and USDC, there is a risk that a disorderly de-pegging or a run on Tether or USDC could lead to dramatic market volatility in, and/or materially and adversely affect the prices of, digital assets more broadly.

Volatility in stablecoins, operational issues with stablecoins (for example, technical issues that prevent settlement), concerns about the sufficiency of any reserves that support stablecoins, or regulatory concerns about stablecoin issuers or intermediaries that support stablecoins, could impact individuals' willingness to trade on trading venues that rely on stablecoins and could impact the price of TAO, and in turn, an investment in the Shares.

Risk Factors Related to the Trust and the Shares

The Trust relies on third-party service providers to perform certain functions essential to the affairs of the Trust and the replacement of such service providers could pose challenges to the safekeeping of the Trust's TAO and to the operations of the Trust.

The Trust relies on the Custodian, the Authorized Participant and other third-party service providers to perform certain functions essential to managing the affairs of the Trust. In addition, the Authorized Participant may rely on one or more Liquidity Providers to source TAO in connection with the creation of Shares. Any disruptions to such service provider's business operations, resulting from business failures, financial instability, security failures, government mandated regulation or operational problems could have an adverse impact on the Trust's ability to access critical services and be disruptive to the operations of the Trust and require the Sponsor to replace such service provider. Moreover, the Sponsor could decide to replace a service provider to the Trust, or a Liquidity Provider could be replaced for other reasons.

If the Sponsor decides, or is required, to replace BitGo Trust Company, Inc. as the custodian of the Trust's TAO, transferring maintenance responsibilities of the Digital Asset Account to another party will likely be complex and could subject the Trust's TAO to the risk of loss during the transfer, which could have a negative impact on the performance of the Shares or result in loss of the Trust's assets.

Moreover, the legal rights of customers with respect to digital assets held on their behalf by a third-party custodian, such as the Custodian, in insolvency proceedings are currently uncertain. Due to the novelty of digital asset custodial arrangements courts have not yet considered this type of treatment for custodied digital assets and it is not possible to predict with certainty how they would rule in such a scenario. If the Custodian became subject to insolvency proceedings and a court were to rule that the custodied digital assets were part of the Custodian's general estate and not the property of the Trust, then the Trust would be treated as a general unsecured creditor in the Custodian's insolvency proceedings and the Trust would be subject to the loss of all or a significant portion of its assets.

To the extent that the Sponsor is not able to find a suitable party willing to serve as custodian, the Sponsor may be required to terminate the Trust and liquidate the Trust's TAO. In addition, to the extent that the Sponsor finds a suitable party and must enter into a modified Custodian Agreement that is less favorable for the Trust or Sponsor and/or transfer the Trust's assets in a relatively short time period, the safekeeping of the Trust's TAO may be adversely affected, which may in turn adversely affect the value of the Shares. Likewise, if the Sponsor and/or the Authorized Participant is required to replace any other service provider, they may not be able to find a party willing to serve in such capacity in a timely manner or at all. If the Sponsor decides, or is required, to replace the Authorized Participant and/or if a Liquidity Provider is replaced or required to be replaced, this could negatively impact the Trust's ability to create new Shares, which would impact the Shares' liquidity and could have a negative impact on the value of the Shares.

The Trust is an "emerging growth company" and the reduced disclosure requirements applicable to emerging growth companies may make the Shares less attractive to investors.

The Trust is an "emerging growth company," as defined in the JOBS Act, and intends to take advantage of certain exemptions from various reporting requirements that are applicable to other public companies, including, but not limited to, not being required to comply with the auditor attestation requirements of Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, reduced disclosure obligations regarding executive compensation in its periodic reports and exemptions from the requirement of shareholder approval of any golden parachute

payments not previously approved. The Trust intends to take advantage of these reporting exemptions until it is no longer an emerging growth company. The Sponsor and the Trust cannot predict if investors will find the Shares less attractive because the Trust will rely on these exemptions. The Trust will remain an emerging growth company for up to five years after its initial public offering, although it will lose that status sooner if the Trust has more than \$1.235 billion of revenues in a fiscal year, has more than \$700 million in market value of Shares held by non-affiliates as of any June 30 or issues more than \$1.0 billion of non-convertible debt over a rolling three-year period. If some investors find the Shares less attractive as a result, there may be a less active trading market for the Shares and the price of the Shares may be more volatile.

Because of the holding period under Rule 144, the lack of an ongoing redemption program and the Trust's ability to halt creations from time to time, there is no arbitrage mechanism to keep the value of the Shares closely linked to the Index Price and the Shares have historically traded at a substantial premium over the NAV per Share.

Shares purchased in a private placement are subject to a holding period under Rule 144. Pursuant to Rule 144, the minimum holding period for Shares purchased in a private placement is six months. In addition, the Trust does not currently operate an ongoing redemption program and may halt creations from time to time. As a result, the Trust cannot rely on arbitrage opportunities resulting from differences between the value of the Shares and the price of TAO to keep the value of the Shares closely linked to the Index Price. As a result, the value of the Shares of the Trust may not approximate the value of the Trust's NAV per Share or meet the Trust's investment objective, and may trade at a substantial premium over, or substantial discount to, the value of the Trust's NAV per Share. For example, in the past, the price of the Shares as quoted on OTCQX varied significantly from the NAV per Share due to these factors, among others, and has historically traded at a substantial premium over the NAV per Share.

The Shares may trade at a price that is at, above or below the Trust's NAV per Share as a result of the non-concurrent trading hours between OTCQX and the Digital Asset Trading Platform Market.

The Trust's NAV per Share will fluctuate with changes in the market value of TAO, and the Sponsor expects the trading price of the Shares to fluctuate in accordance with changes in the Trust's NAV per Share, as well as market supply and demand. However, the Shares may trade on OTCQX at a price that is at, above or below the Trust's NAV per Share for a variety of reasons. For example, OTCQX is open for trading in the Shares for a limited period each day, but the Digital Asset Trading Platform Market is a 24-hour marketplace. During periods when OTCQX is closed but Digital Asset Trading Platforms are open, significant changes in the price of TAO on the Digital Asset Trading Platform Market could result in a difference in performance between the value of TAO as measured by the Index and the most recent NAV per Share or closing trading price. For example, if the price of TAO on the Digital Asset Trading Platform Market, and the value of TAO as measured by the Index, move significantly in a negative direction after the close of OTCQX, the trading price of the Shares may "gap" down to the full extent of such negative price shift when OTCQX reopens. If the price of TAO on the Digital Asset Trading Platform Market drops significantly during hours OTCQX is closed, shareholders may not be able to sell their Shares until after the "gap" down has been fully realized, resulting in an inability to mitigate losses in a rapidly negative market. Even during periods when OTCQX is open, large Digital Asset Trading Platforms (or a substantial number of smaller Digital Asset Trading Platforms) may be lightly traded or closed for any number of reasons, which could increase trading spreads and widen any premium or discount on the Shares.

Shareholders may suffer a loss on their investment if the Shares trade above or below the Trust's NAV per Share.

Historically, the Shares have traded at a premium to the NAV per Share, which at times has been substantial. If the Shares trade at a premium, investors who purchase Shares on OTCQX will pay more for their Shares than investors who purchase Shares directly from Authorized Participants. In contrast, if the Shares trade on OTCQX at a discount, investors who purchase Shares directly from Authorized Participants will pay more for their Shares than investors who purchase Shares on OTCQX. The premium at which the Shares have traded has fluctuated over time. From December 12, 2025 to December 31, 2025, the maximum premium of the closing price of the Shares quoted on OTCQX over the value of the Trust's NAV per Share was 124% and the average premium was 65%. As of December 31, 2025, the last business day of the period, the Trust's Shares were quoted on OTCQX at a premium of 124% to the Trust's NAV per Share. As a result, shareholders who purchase Shares on OTCQX may suffer a loss on their investment if they sell their Shares at a time when the premium has decreased from the premium at which they purchased the Shares even if the NAV per Share remains the same. Likewise, shareholders that purchase Shares directly from the Trust may suffer a loss on their investment if they sell their Shares at a time when the Shares are trading at a discount on OTCQX. Furthermore, shareholders may suffer a loss on their investment even if the NAV per Share increases because the decrease in any premium or increase in any discount may offset any increase in the NAV per Share.

The amount of the Trust's assets represented by each Share will decline over time as the Trust pays the Sponsor's Fee and Additional Trust Expenses, and as a result, the value of the Shares may decrease over time.

The Sponsor's Fee accrues daily in U.S. dollars at an annual rate based on the NAV Fee Basis Amount, which is based on the NAV of the Trust, and is paid to the Sponsor in TAO. See "Item 1. Business—Valuation of TAO and Determination of NAV—Disposition of TAO, Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency". As a result, the amount of Trust's assets represented by

each Share declines as the Trust pays the Sponsor's Fee (or sells TAO in order to raise cash to pay any Additional Trust Expenses), which may cause the Shares to decrease in value over time or dampen any increase in value.

The value of the Shares may be influenced by a variety of factors unrelated to the value of TAO.

The value of the Shares may be influenced by a variety of factors unrelated to the price of TAO and the Digital Asset Trading Platforms included in the Index that may have an adverse effect on the value of the Shares. These factors include the following factors:

- Unanticipated problems or issues with respect to the mechanics of the Trust's operations and the trading of the Shares may arise, in particular due to the fact that the mechanisms and procedures governing the creation and offering of the Shares and storage of TAO have been developed specifically for this product;
- The Trust could experience difficulties in operating and maintaining its technical infrastructure, including in connection with expansions or updates to such infrastructure, which are likely to be complex and could lead to unanticipated delays, unforeseen expenses and security vulnerabilities; or
- The Trust could experience unforeseen issues relating to the performance and effectiveness of the security procedures used to protect the Digital Asset Account, or the security procedures may not protect against all errors, software flaws or other vulnerabilities in the Trust's technical infrastructure, which could result in theft, loss or damage of its assets.

Any of these factors could affect the value of the Shares, either directly or indirectly through their effect on the Trust's assets.

Shareholders do not have the protections associated with ownership of shares in an investment company registered under the Investment Company Act or the protections afforded by the CEA.

The Investment Company Act is designed to protect investors by preventing insiders from managing investment companies to their benefit and to the detriment of public investors, such as: the issuance of securities having inequitable or discriminatory provisions; the management of investment companies by irresponsible persons; the use of unsound or misleading methods of computing earnings and asset value; changes in the character of investment companies without the consent of investors; and investment companies from engaging in excessive leveraging. To accomplish these ends, the Investment Company Act requires the safekeeping and proper valuation of fund assets, restricts greatly transactions with affiliates, limits leveraging, and imposes governance requirements as a check on fund management.

The Trust is not a registered investment company under the Investment Company Act, and the Sponsor believes that the Trust is not required to register under such act. Consequently, shareholders do not have the regulatory protections provided to investors in investment companies.

The Trust will not hold or trade in commodity interests regulated by the CEA, as administered by the CFTC. Furthermore, the Sponsor believes that the Trust is not a commodity pool for purposes of the CEA, and that neither the Sponsor nor the Trustee is subject to regulation by the CFTC as a commodity pool operator or a commodity trading adviser in connection with the operation of the Trust. Consequently, shareholders will not have the regulatory protections provided to investors in CEA-regulated instruments or commodity pools.

The restrictions on transfer and redemption may result in losses on the value of the Shares.

Shares purchased in a private placement may not be resold except in transactions exempt from registration under the Securities Act and state securities laws, and any such transaction must be approved in advance by the Sponsor. In determining whether to grant approval, the Sponsor will specifically look at whether the conditions of Rule 144 under the Securities Act and any other applicable laws have been met. Any attempt to sell Shares without the approval of the Sponsor in its sole discretion will be void ab initio. See "Item 1. Business—Description of the Shares—Transfer Restrictions" for more information.

At this time the Sponsor is not accepting redemption requests from shareholders. Absent the institution of such redemption program, the Shares may trade at a discount in the future, and may do so indefinitely. Therefore, unless the Trust is permitted to, and does, establish a Share redemption program, shareholders will be unable to (or could be significantly impeded in attempting to) sell or otherwise liquidate investments in the Shares, which could have a material adverse impact on demand for the Shares and their value.

Affiliates of the Trust previously entered into a settlement agreement with the SEC concerning the operation of one such affiliate's former redemption programs.

On April 1, 2014, Grayscale Bitcoin Trust ETF, an affiliate of the Trust, launched a program pursuant to which its shareholders could request redemptions from Genesis, an affiliate of the Trust and the sole Authorized Participant of Grayscale Bitcoin Trust ETF at that time. On September 23, 2014, Genesis received a letter from the staff of the SEC's Office of Compliance Inspections and Examinations summarizing the staff's findings from an onsite review of Genesis's broker-dealer activities conducted in June 2014. In

its exit report, the staff stated that it had concluded that Grayscale Bitcoin Trust ETF's redemption program, in which its shareholders were permitted to request the redemption of their shares through Genesis, appeared to violate Regulation M under the Exchange Act because such redemptions of shares took place at the same time Grayscale Bitcoin Trust ETF was in the process of creating shares. On July 11, 2016, Genesis and Grayscale Bitcoin Trust ETF entered into a settlement agreement with the SEC whereby they agreed to a cease-and-desist order against future violations of Rules 101 and 102 of Regulation M under the Exchange Act. Genesis also agreed to pay disgorgement of \$51,650.11 in redemption fees it collected, plus prejudgment interest of \$2,105.68, for a total of \$53,755.79.

There is no guarantee that an active trading market for the Shares will continue to develop.

The Shares are qualified for public trading on OTCQX and an active trading market for the Shares has developed. However, there can be no assurance that such trading market will be maintained or continue to develop. In addition, OTCQX can halt the trading of the Shares for a variety of reasons. To the extent that OTCQX halts trading in the Shares, whether on a temporary or permanent basis, investors may not be able to buy or sell Shares, which could adversely affect the value of the Shares. If an active trading market for the Shares does not continue to exist, the market prices and liquidity of the Shares may be adversely affected.

On December 30, 2025, the Sponsor caused the Trust to file a registration statement on Form S-1 under the Securities Act of 1933 in connection with a proposed listing of the Shares on NYSE Arca. The registration statement has not been declared effective by the SEC, and NYSE Arca has not yet approved the Shares for listing. There can be no assurance that the SEC will declare the registration statement effective or that the Shares will be listed or commence trading on NYSE Arca. Even if the Shares are listed, there can be no assurance that an active trading market on NYSE Arca will develop or be sustained.

As the Sponsor and its management have limited history of operating investment vehicles like the Trust, their experience may be inadequate or unsuitable to manage the Trust.

The past performances of the Sponsor's management in other investment vehicles, including their experiences in the digital asset and venture capital industries, are no indication of their ability to manage an investment vehicle such as the Trust. If the experience of the Sponsor and its management is inadequate or unsuitable to manage an investment vehicle such as the Trust, the operations of the Trust may be adversely affected.

Furthermore, the Sponsor is currently engaged in the management of other investment vehicles which could divert their attention and resources. If the Sponsor were to experience difficulties in the management of such other investment vehicles that damaged the Sponsor or its reputation, it could have an adverse impact on the Sponsor's ability to continue to serve as Sponsor for the Trust.

Security threats to the Digital Asset Account could result in the halting of Trust operations and a loss of Trust assets or damage to the reputation of the Trust, each of which could result in a reduction in the value of the Shares.

Security breaches, computer malware and computer hacking attacks have been a prevalent concern in relation to digital assets. The Sponsor believes that the Trust's TAO held in the Digital Asset Account will be an appealing target to hackers or malware distributors seeking to destroy, damage or steal the Trust's TAO and will only become more appealing as the Trust's assets grow. To the extent that the Trust, the Sponsor or the Custodian is unable to identify and mitigate or stop new security threats or otherwise adapt to technological changes in the digital asset industry, the Trust's TAO may be subject to theft, loss, destruction or other attack.

The Sponsor believes that the security procedures in place for the Trust, including, but not limited to, offline storage, or "cold storage", multiple encrypted private key "shards", usernames, passwords and 2-step verification, are reasonably designed to safeguard the Trust's TAO. Nevertheless, the security procedures cannot guarantee the prevention of any loss due to a security breach, software defect or act of God that may be borne by the Trust.

The security procedures and operational infrastructure may be breached due to the actions of outside parties, error or malfeasance of an employee of the Sponsor, the Custodian, or otherwise, and, as a result, an unauthorized party may obtain access to a Digital Asset Account, the relevant private keys (and therefore TAO) or other data of the Trust. Additionally, outside parties may attempt to fraudulently induce employees of the Sponsor or the Custodian to disclose sensitive information in order to gain access to the Trust's infrastructure. As the techniques used to obtain unauthorized access, disable or degrade service, or sabotage systems change frequently, or may be designed to remain dormant until a predetermined event and often are not recognized until launched against a target, the Sponsor and the Custodian may be unable to anticipate these techniques or implement adequate preventative measures.

An actual or perceived breach of a Digital Asset Account could harm the Trust's operations, result in loss of the Trust's assets, damage the Trust's reputation and negatively affect the market perception of the effectiveness of the Trust, all of which could in turn reduce demand for the Shares, resulting in a reduction in the value of the Shares. The Trust may also cease operations, the occurrence of which could similarly result in a reduction in the value of the Shares.

TAO transactions are irrevocable and stolen or incorrectly transferred TAO may be irretrievable. As a result, any incorrectly executed TAO transactions could adversely affect the value of the Shares.

TAO transactions are typically not reversible without the consent and active participation of the recipient of the transaction. Once a transaction has been verified and recorded in a block that is added to the Blockchain, an incorrect transfer or theft of TAO generally will not be reversible and the Trust may not be capable of seeking compensation for any such transfer or theft. Although the Trust's transfers of TAO will regularly be made to or from the Digital Asset Account, it is possible that, through computer or human error, or through theft or criminal action, the Trust's TAO could be transferred from the Trust's Digital Asset Account in incorrect amounts or to unauthorized third parties, or to uncontrolled accounts.

Such events have occurred in connection with digital assets in the past. To the extent that the Trust is unable to seek a corrective transaction with such third party or is incapable of identifying the third party which has received the Trust's TAO through error or theft, the Trust will be unable to revert or otherwise recover incorrectly transferred TAO. The Trust will also be unable to convert or recover its TAO transferred to uncontrolled accounts. To the extent that the Trust is unable to seek redress for such error or theft, such loss could adversely affect the value of the Shares.

The lack of full insurance and shareholders' limited rights of legal recourse against the Trust, Trustee, Sponsor, Transfer Agent and Custodian expose the Trust and its shareholders to the risk of loss of the Trust's TAO for which no person or entity is liable.

The Trust is not a banking institution or otherwise a member of the FDIC or Securities Investor Protection Corporation ("SIPC") and, therefore, deposits held with or assets held by the Trust are not subject to the protections enjoyed by depositors with FDIC or SIPC member institutions. In addition, neither the Trust nor the Sponsor insure the Trust's TAO.

While the Custodian is required under the Custodian Agreement to maintain insurance coverage that is commercially reasonable for the custodial services it provides, and the Custodian has advised the Sponsor that it maintains insurance coverage at commercially reasonable amounts for the digital assets custodied on behalf of clients, including the Trust's TAO, resulting from theft, shareholders cannot be assured that the Custodian will maintain adequate insurance or that such coverage will cover losses with respect to the Trust's TAO. Moreover, while the Custodian maintains certain capital reserve requirements depending on the assets under custody and to the extent required by applicable law, and such capital reserves may provide additional means to cover client asset losses, the Sponsor does not know the amount of such capital reserves, and neither the Trust nor the Sponsor have access to such information. The Trust cannot be assured that the Custodian will maintain capital reserves sufficient to cover losses with respect to the Trust's digital assets.

Furthermore, under the Custodian Agreement, the Custodian's liability with respect to the Trust will never exceed the value of the TAO on deposit in the Digital Asset Account at the time of, and directly relating to, the events giving rise to the liability occurred, as determined in accordance with the Custodian Agreement. In addition, for as long as a cold storage address holds TAO with a value in excess of the Cold Storage Threshold for a period of five consecutive business days or more without being reduced to the Cold Storage Threshold or lower, the Custodian's maximum liability for such cold storage address shall be limited to the Cold Storage Threshold. The Sponsor monitors the value of TAO deposited in cold storage addresses for whether the Cold Storage Threshold has been met by determining the U.S. dollar value of TAO deposited in each cold storage address on business days. The Custodian is not liable for any lost profits or any special, incidental, indirect, intangible, or consequential damages, whether based in contract, tort, negligence, strict liability or otherwise, and whether or not the Custodian has been advised of such losses or the Custodian knew or should have known of the possibility of such damages. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Custodian is liable to the Sponsor and the Trust for the loss of any TAO to the extent that the Custodian directly caused such loss through a breach of the Custodian Agreement, even if the Custodian meets its duty of exercising best efforts, and the Custodian is required to return to the Trust a quantity equal to the quantity of any such lost TAO. Although the Cold Storage Threshold has never been met for a given cold storage address, to the extent it is met and not reduced within five business days, the Trust would not have a claim against the Custodian with respect to the digital assets held in such address to the extent the value exceeds the Cold Storage Threshold.

The shareholders' recourse against the Sponsor and the Trust's other service providers for the services they provide to the Trust, including those relating to the provision of instructions relating to the movement of TAO, is limited. Consequently, a loss may be suffered with respect to the Trust's TAO that is not covered by insurance and for which no person is liable in damages. As a result, the recourse of the Trust or the shareholders, under New York law, is limited.

The Trust is not permitted to engage in Staking, which could negatively affect the value of the Shares.

At this time, none of the Trust, the Sponsor, the Custodian, nor any other person associated with the Trust may, directly or indirectly, engage in Staking of the Trust's TAO on behalf of the Trust, meaning no action will be taken pursuant to which any portion of the Trust's TAO becomes used in any staking protocol or is used to earn additional digital assets or generate income or other earnings, and there can be no assurance that the Trust, the Sponsor, the Custodian or any other person associated with the Trust will ever be permitted to engage in Staking of the Trust's TAO or such income generating activity in the future. Under current law, there

can be no assurance that Staking the Trust's TAO would be consistent with the intended treatment of the Trust as a grantor trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

If the Trust were to satisfy the Staking Condition with respect to particular form of Staking, in the future the Trust may seek to establish a program to use its TAO in a staking protocol to receive rewards comprising additional TAO in respect of a portion of its TAO holdings. However, as long as such conditions and requirements have not been satisfied, the Trust will not use its TAO in a staking protocol to receive rewards comprising additional TAO or other digital assets in respect of its TAO holdings. The current inability of the Trust to use its TAO in Staking and receive rewards could place the Shares at a comparative disadvantage relative to an investment in TAO directly or through a vehicle that is not subject to such a prohibition, which could negatively affect the value of the Shares.

The Trust may be required, or the Sponsor may deem it appropriate, to terminate and liquidate at a time that is disadvantageous to shareholders.

Pursuant to the terms of the Trust Agreement, the Trust is required to dissolve under certain circumstances. In addition, the Sponsor may, in its sole discretion, dissolve the Trust for a number of reasons, including if the Sponsor determines, in its sole discretion, that it is desirable or advisable for any reason to discontinue the affairs of the Trust. For example, the Sponsor expects that it may be advisable to discontinue the affairs of the Trust if a federal court upholds an allegation that TAO is a security under the federal securities laws, among other reasons. See "Item 1. Business—Description of the Trust Agreement—Termination of the Trust."

If the Trust is required to terminate and liquidate, or the Sponsor determines in accordance with the terms of the Trust Agreement that it is appropriate to terminate and liquidate the Trust, such termination and liquidation could occur at a time that is disadvantageous to shareholders, such as when the Actual Exchange Rate of TAO is lower than the Index Price was at the time when shareholders purchased their Shares. In such a case, when the Trust's TAO are sold as part of its liquidation, the resulting proceeds distributed to shareholders will be less than if the Actual Exchange Rate were higher at the time of sale. See "Item 1. Business—Description of the Trust Agreement—Termination of the Trust" for more information about the termination of the Trust, including when the termination of the Trust may be triggered by events outside the direct control of the Sponsor, the Trustee or the shareholders.

If the Trust were permitted to engage in Staking in the future, beneficial owners of Shares could incur tax liabilities without receiving corresponding distributions from the Trust.

There can be no assurance that the Staking Condition will be satisfied or that the Trust will stake any of its TAO tokens. If the Staking Condition is satisfied and the Trust engages in staking, shareholders may suffer adverse tax consequences. In particular, the IRS provided in the 2023 Staking Guidance that the receipt of staking rewards will, under certain circumstances, give rise to current, ordinary income for U.S. federal income tax purposes, and, although the 2023 Staking Guidance contemplates a different form of staking, it is likely that the receipt of staking rewards from TAO staking on the Bittensor Network would similarly give rise to taxable income. Assuming that the Trust is properly treated as a grantor trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes, beneficial owners of Shares will likely be required to take their ratable share of any such income into account in determining their own tax liability, regardless of whether the Trust makes any corresponding distributions. Shareholders should therefore expect that, if the Staking Condition is satisfied, other sources of funds may be needed to satisfy any associated tax liability. Moreover, if the Staking Condition were satisfied and the Trust were to sell TAO to fund cash distributions in respect of that tax liability, a shareholder generally would be treated as having sold its pro rata share of those TAO for their fair market value at that time (which, in the case of TAO sold by the Trust, generally will be equal to the cash proceeds received by the Trust in respect thereof), and the shareholder generally would recognize gain or loss on such sale as described in the section entitled "Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences."

The Trust Agreement includes provisions that limit shareholders' voting rights and restrict shareholders' right to bring a derivative action.

Under the Trust Agreement, shareholders have limited voting rights and the Trust will not have regular shareholder meetings. Shareholders take no part in the management or control of the Trust. Accordingly, shareholders do not have the right to authorize actions, appoint service providers or take other actions as may be taken by shareholders of other trusts or companies where shares carry such rights. The shareholders' limited voting rights give almost all control under the Trust Agreement to the Sponsor and the Trustee. The Sponsor may take actions in the operation of the Trust that may be adverse to the interests of shareholders and may adversely affect the value of the Shares.

Moreover, pursuant to the terms of the Trust Agreement, shareholders' statutory right under Delaware law to bring a derivative action (i.e., to initiate a lawsuit in the name of the Trust in order to assert a claim belonging to the Trust against a fiduciary of the Trust or against a third-party when the Trust's management has refused to do so) is restricted. Under Delaware law, a shareholder may bring a derivative action if the shareholder is a shareholder at the time the action is brought and either (i) was a shareholder at the time of the transaction at issue or (ii) acquired the status of shareholder by operation of law or the Trust's governing instrument from a person

who was a shareholder at the time of the transaction at issue. Additionally, Section 3816(e) of the Delaware Statutory Trust Act specifically provides that a “beneficial owner’s right to bring a derivative action may be subject to such additional standards and restrictions, if any, as are set forth in the governing instrument of the statutory trust, including, without limitation, the requirement that beneficial owners owning a specified beneficial interest in the statutory trust join in the bringing of the derivative action.” In addition to the requirements of applicable law and in accordance with Section 3816(e), the Trust Agreement provides that no shareholder will have the right, power or authority to bring or maintain a derivative action, suit or other proceeding on behalf of the Trust unless two or more shareholders who (i) are not “Affiliates” (as defined in the Trust Agreement and below) of one another and (ii) collectively hold at least 10.0% of the outstanding Shares join in the bringing or maintaining of such action, suit or other proceeding. This provision applies to any derivative actions brought in the name of the Trust other than claims under the federal securities laws and the rules and regulations thereunder.

Due to this additional requirement, a shareholder attempting to bring or maintain a derivative action in the name of the Trust will be required to locate other shareholders with which it is not affiliated and that have sufficient Shares to meet the 10.0% threshold based on the number of Shares outstanding on the date the claim is brought and thereafter throughout the duration of the action, suit or proceeding. This may be difficult and may result in increased costs to a shareholder attempting to seek redress in the name of the Trust in court. Moreover, if shareholders bringing a derivative action, suit or proceeding pursuant to this provision of the Trust Agreement do not hold 10.0% of the outstanding Shares on the date such an action, suit or proceeding is brought, or such shareholders are unable to maintain Share ownership meeting the 10.0% threshold throughout the duration of the action, suit or proceeding, such shareholders’ derivative action may be subject to dismissal. As a result, the Trust Agreement limits the likelihood that a shareholder will be able to successfully assert a derivative action in the name of the Trust, even if such shareholder believes that he or she has a valid derivative action, suit or other proceeding to bring on behalf of the Trust. See “Item 1. Business—Description of the Trust Agreement—The Sponsor—Fiduciary and Regulatory Duties of the Sponsor” for more detail.

The Sponsor is solely responsible for determining the value of the NAV and NAV per Share and any errors, discontinuance or changes in such valuation calculations may have an adverse effect on the value of the Shares.

The Sponsor will determine the Trust’s NAV and NAV per Share on a daily basis as soon as practicable after 4:00 p.m., New York time, on each business day. The Sponsor’s determination is made utilizing data from the operations of the Trust and the Index Price, calculated at 4:00 p.m., New York time, on such day. If the Sponsor determines in good faith that the Index does not reflect an accurate TAO price, then the Sponsor will employ an alternative method to determine the Index Price under the cascading set of rules set forth in “Item 1. Business—Overview of the TAO Industry and Market—TAO Value—The Index and the Index Price—Determination of the Index Price When Index Price is Unavailable.” In the context of applying such rules, the Sponsor may determine in good faith that the alternative method applied does not reflect an accurate TAO price and apply the next alternative method under the cascading set of rules. If the Sponsor determines after employing all of the alternative methods that the Index Price does not reflect an accurate TAO price, the Sponsor will use its best judgment to determine a good faith estimate of the Index Price. There are no predefined criteria to make a good faith assessment in these scenarios and such decisions will be made by the Sponsor in its sole discretion. The Sponsor may calculate the Index Price in a manner that ultimately inaccurately reflects the price of TAO. To the extent that the NAV, NAV per Share or the Index Price are incorrectly calculated, the Sponsor may not be liable for any error and such misreporting of valuation data could adversely affect the value of the Shares and investors could suffer a substantial loss on their investment in the Trust. Moreover, the terms of the Trust Agreement do not prohibit the Sponsor from changing the Index Price used to calculate the NAV and NAV per Share of the Trust. Any such change in the Index Price could affect the value of the Shares and investors could suffer a substantial loss on their investment in the Trust.

Extraordinary expenses resulting from unanticipated events may become payable by the Trust, adversely affecting the value of the Shares.

In consideration for the Sponsor’s Fee, the Sponsor has contractually assumed all ordinary-course operational and periodic expenses of the Trust. See “Item 1. Business—Expenses; Sales of TAO.” Extraordinary expenses incurred by the Trust, such as taxes and governmental charges; expenses and costs of any extraordinary services performed by the Sponsor (or any other service provider) on behalf of the Trust to protect the Trust or the interests of shareholders (including in connection with any Incidental Rights and any IR Virtual Currency); or extraordinary legal fees and expenses are not assumed by the Sponsor and are borne by the Trust. The Sponsor will cause the Trust to either (i) sell TAO, Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency held by the Trust or (ii) deliver TAO, Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency in-kind to the Sponsor to pay Trust expenses not assumed by the Sponsor on an as-needed basis. Accordingly, the Trust may be required to sell or otherwise dispose of TAO, Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency at a time when the trading prices for those assets are depressed.

The sale or other disposition of assets of the Trust in order to pay extraordinary expenses could have a negative impact on the value of the Shares for several reasons. These include the following factors:

- The Trust is not actively managed and no attempt will be made to protect against or to take advantage of fluctuations in the prices of TAO, Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency. Consequently, if the Trust incurs expenses in U.S. dollars,

the Trust's TAO, Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency may be sold at a time when the values of the disposed assets are low, resulting in a negative impact on the value of the Shares.

- Because the Trust does not generate any income, every time that the Trust pays expenses, it will deliver TAO, Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency to the Sponsor or sell TAO, Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency. Any sales of the Trust's assets in connection with the payment of expenses will decrease the amount of the Trust's assets represented by each Share each time its assets are sold or transferred to the Sponsor.
- Assuming that the Trust is a grantor trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes, each delivery or sale of TAO, Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency by the Trust to pay the Sponsor's Fee and/or Additional Trust Expenses will be a taxable event to beneficial owners of Shares. Thus, the Trust's payment of expenses could result in beneficial owners of Shares incurring tax liability without an associated distribution from the Trust. Any such tax liability could adversely affect an investment in the Shares. See "Item 1. Business—Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences."

The Trust's delivery or sale of TAO to pay expenses or other operations of the Trust could result in shareholders' incurring tax liability without an associated distribution from the Trust.

Assuming that the Trust is treated as a grantor trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes, each delivery of TAO by the Trust to pay the Sponsor's Fee or other expenses and each sale of TAO by the Trust to pay Additional Trust Expenses will be a taxable event to beneficial owners of Shares. Thus, the Trust's payment of expenses could result in beneficial owners of Shares incurring tax liability without an associated distribution from the Trust. Any such tax liability could adversely affect an investment in the Shares. See "Item 1. Business—Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences."

The value of the Shares will be adversely affected if the Trust is required to indemnify the Sponsor, the Trustee, the Transfer Agent or the Custodian under the Trust Documents.

Under the Trust Documents, each of the Sponsor, the Trustee, the Transfer Agent and the Custodian has a right to be indemnified by the Trust for certain liabilities or expenses that it incurs without gross negligence, bad faith or willful misconduct on its part. Therefore, the Sponsor, Trustee, Transfer Agent or the Custodian may require that the assets of the Trust be sold in order to cover losses or liability suffered by it. Any sale of that kind would reduce the NAV of the Trust and the value of the Shares.

Intellectual property rights claims may adversely affect the Trust and the value of the Shares.

The Sponsor is not aware of any intellectual property rights claims that may prevent the Trust from operating and holding TAO, Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency. However, third parties may assert intellectual property rights claims relating to the operation of the Trust and the mechanics instituted for the investment in, holding of and transfer of TAO, Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency. Regardless of the merit of an intellectual property or other legal action, any legal expenses to defend or payments to settle such claims would be extraordinary expenses that would be borne by the Trust through the sale or transfer of its TAO, Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency. Additionally, a meritorious intellectual property rights claim could prevent the Trust from operating and force the Sponsor to terminate the Trust and liquidate its TAO, Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency. As a result, an intellectual property rights claim against the Trust could adversely affect the value of the Shares.

Pandemics, epidemics and other natural and man-made disasters could negatively impact the value of the Trust's holdings and/or significantly disrupt its affairs.

Pandemics, epidemics and other natural and man-made disasters could negatively impact demand for digital assets, including TAO, and disrupt the operations of many businesses, including the businesses of the Trust's service providers. For example, the COVID-19 pandemic had serious adverse effects on the economies and financial markets of many countries, resulting in increased volatility and uncertainty in economies and financial markets of many countries and in the Digital Asset Markets. Moreover, governmental authorities and regulators throughout the world have in the past responded to major economic disruptions, including as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, with a variety of fiscal and monetary policy changes, such as quantitative easing, new monetary programs and lower interest rates. An unexpected or quick reversal of any such policies, or the ineffectiveness of such policies, could increase volatility in economies and financial market generally, and could specifically increase volatility in the Digital Asset Markets, which could adversely affect the value of TAO and the value of the Shares.

In addition, pandemics, epidemics and other natural and man-made disasters could disrupt the operations of many businesses. For example, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, many governments imposed travel restrictions and prolonged, closed international borders and enhanced health screenings at ports of entry and elsewhere, which disrupted businesses around the world. While the Sponsor and the Trust were not materially impacted by these events, any disruptions to the Sponsor's, the Trust's or the Trust's service providers' business operations resulting from business restrictions, quarantines or restrictions on the ability of personnel to perform their jobs as a result of any future pandemic, epidemic or other disaster could have an adverse impact on the Trust's ability to access critical services and could be disruptive to the affairs of the Trust.

Shareholders may not receive the benefits of any forks or airdrops.

The Bittensor Network operates using open-source protocols, meaning that any user can download the software, modify it and then propose that the users and validators of Bittensor adopt the modification. When a modification is introduced and a substantial majority of users and validators consent to the modification, the change is implemented and the network remains uninterrupted. However, if less than a substantial majority of users and validators consent to the proposed modification, and the modification is not compatible with the software prior to its modification, the consequence would be what is known as a “hard fork” of the Ethereum Network, with one group running the pre-modified software and the other running the modified software. The effect of such a fork would be the existence of two versions of Ethereum running in parallel, yet lacking interchangeability. In addition to forks, a digital asset may become subject to a similar occurrence known as an “airdrop.” In an airdrop, the promoters of a new digital asset announce to some group of users, such as the group that are holders of another digital asset, that such group will be entitled to claim a certain amount of the new digital asset for free, based on the fact that they are part of that group.

Shareholders may not receive the benefits of any forks, the Trust may not choose, or be able, to participate in an airdrop, and the timing of receiving any benefits from a fork, airdrop or similar event is uncertain. We refer to the right to receive any such benefit as an “Incidental Right” and any such virtual currency acquired through an Incidental Right as “IR Virtual Currency.” There are likely to be operational, tax, securities law, regulatory, legal and practical issues that significantly limit, or prevent entirely, shareholders’ ability to realize a benefit, through their Shares in the Trust, from any such Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency. For instance, the Custodian may not agree to provide access to the IR Virtual Currency. In addition, the Sponsor may determine that there is no safe or practical way to custody the IR Virtual Currency, or that trying to do so may pose an unacceptable risk to the Trust’s holdings in TAO, or that the costs of taking possession and/or maintaining ownership of the IR Virtual Currency exceed the benefits of owning the IR Virtual Currency. Additionally, laws, regulation or other factors may prevent shareholders from benefiting from the Incidental Right or IR Virtual Currency even if there is a safe and practical way to custody and secure the IR Virtual Currency. For example, it may be illegal to sell or otherwise dispose of the Incidental Right or IR Virtual Currency, or there may not be a suitable market into which the Incidental Right or IR Virtual Currency can be sold (immediately after the fork or airdrop, or ever). The Sponsor may also determine, in consultation with its legal advisers, that the Incidental Right or IR Virtual Currency is, or is likely to be deemed, a security under federal or state securities laws. In such a case, the Sponsor would irrevocably abandon, as of any date on which the Trust creates Shares, such Incidental Right or IR Virtual Currency if holding it would have an adverse effect on the Trust and it would not be practicable to avoid such effect by disposing of the Incidental Right or IR Virtual Currency in a manner that would result in shareholders receiving more than insignificant value thereof. In making such a determination, the Sponsor expects to take into account a number of factors, including the various definitions of a “security” under the federal securities laws and federal court decisions interpreting elements of these definitions, such as the U.S. Supreme Court’s decisions in the *Howey* and *Reves* cases, as well as reports, orders, press releases, public statements and speeches by the SEC and its staff providing guidance on when a digital asset may be a security for purposes of the federal securities laws.

The Trust has informed the Custodian that it is irrevocably abandoning, as of any date on which the Trust creates Shares, any Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency to which it would otherwise be entitled as of such date and with respect to which it has not taken any Affirmative Action at or prior to such date. In order to avert abandonment of an Incidental Right or IR Virtual Currency, the Trust will send a notice to the Custodian of its intention to retain such Incidental Right or IR Virtual Currency. The Sponsor intends to evaluate each future fork or airdrop on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the Trust’s legal advisers, tax consultants and Custodian. Any inability to recognize the economic benefit of a hard fork or airdrop could adversely affect the value of the Shares. See “Item 1. Business—Incidental Rights and IR Virtual Currency.”

The Sponsor may implement restatements, amendments or supplements to the Trust Agreement that may not necessarily align with shareholder interests.

There can be no assurance that the Sponsor will implement restatements, amendments or supplements that align with the interests of shareholders. To the extent shareholders do not agree with future amendments to the Trust Agreement, shareholders will not have any ability to consent or object to such amendments, and the shareholders’ sole recourse will be to divest or, through an Authorized Participant, redeem their Shares prior to the effective date of such amendments.

The Sponsor may implement restatements, amendments or supplements to the Trust Agreement that may increase risk to the Trust’s intended tax treatment.

It is possible that, in the future, the Sponsor will implement restatements, amendments, or supplements to the Trust Agreement that could adversely affect the intended tax treatment of the Trust as a grantor trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes, including on the receipt of an opinion of counsel to the effect that doing so should not cause the Trust to fail to qualify as a grantor trust for those purposes. There can be no assurance that the IRS or any court will agree with any such position, or that the Trust will not cease to qualify as grantor trust as result of any such restatement, amendment or supplement.

Risk Factors Related to the Regulation of Digital Assets, the Trust and the Shares

A determination that TAO or any other digital asset is a “security” may adversely affect the value of TAO and the value of the Shares, and result in potentially extraordinary, nonrecurring expenses to, or termination of, the Trust.

The SEC, at least under the prior administration, has stated that certain digital assets may be considered “securities” under the federal securities laws. The test for determining whether a particular digital asset is a “security” is complex and difficult to apply, and the outcome is difficult to predict. A number of SEC and SEC staff actions with respect to a variety of digital assets demonstrate this difficulty. For example, public, though non-binding, statements by senior officials at the SEC have indicated that the SEC did not consider Bitcoin or Ether to be securities, and does not currently consider Bitcoin to be a security. In addition, the SEC, by action through delegated authority approving the exchange rule filings to list shares of trusts holding Ether as commodity-based ETPs, appears to have implicitly taken the view that Ether is not a security. The SEC staff has also provided informal assurances via no-action letter to a handful of promoters that their digital assets are not securities. Moreover, the SEC’s Division of Corporation Finance has published statements that it does not consider, under certain circumstances, “meme coins” or some stablecoins to be securities. However, such statements may be withdrawn at any time without notice and comment by the Division of Corporation Finance at the SEC or the SEC itself. In addition, the SEC under former SEC Chair Gensler’s leadership brought enforcement actions against the issuers and promoters of several other digital assets on the basis that the digital assets in question are securities. The SEC under former SEC Chair Gensler’s leadership brought enforcement actions against Digital Asset Trading Platforms for allegedly operating unregistered securities exchanges on the basis that certain of the digital assets traded on their platforms are securities.

Whether a digital asset is a security, or offers and sales of a digital asset are securities transactions, under the federal securities laws depends on whether it is included in the lists of instruments making up the definition of “security” in such laws. Digital assets as such do not appear in any of these lists, although each list includes the terms “investment contract” and “note,” and the SEC has typically analyzed whether a particular digital asset is a security or the offer and sale of a digital asset is a securities transaction by reference to whether it meets the tests developed by the federal courts interpreting these terms, known as the Howey and Reves tests, respectively. For many digital assets, whether or not the Howey or Reves tests are met is difficult to resolve definitively, and substantial legal arguments can often be made both in favor of and against a particular digital asset qualifying as a security or a particular offer and sale of a digital asset qualifying as a securities transaction under one or both of the Howey and Reves tests. Adding to the complexity, the SEC staff has indicated that the security status of a particular digital asset can change over time as the relevant facts evolve, though arguments advanced in some cases may suggest that the SEC no longer believes the status of a digital asset can change over time.

These developments demonstrate the difficulty in applying the federal securities laws to digital assets generally. In January 2025, the SEC launched a crypto task force dedicated to developing a comprehensive and clear regulatory framework for digital assets led by Commissioner Hester Peirce. Subsequently, Commissioner Peirce announced a list of specific priorities to further that initiative, which included pursuing final rules related to a digital asset’s security status, a revised path to registered offerings and listings for digital assets-based investment vehicles, and clarity regarding digital asset custody, lending, and staking. On July 31, 2025, Chairman Atkins announced “Project Crypto,” a Commission-wide initiative to modernize securities rules for digital assets, reshore innovation in the United States, and implement the recommendations of the working group report. Chairman Atkins had directed the SEC’s policy divisions to work with the Crypto Task Force to draft “clear and simple rules of the road for crypto asset distributions, custody, and trading,” and the Commission and SEC staff will also consider using interpretive, exemptive, and other authorities with respect to digital asset markets. However, the efforts of the crypto task force and Project Crypto have only just begun, and how or whether the SEC regulates digital asset activity in the future remains to be seen.

As part of determining whether TAO is a security or a transaction in TAO by the Sponsor is a securities transaction, for purposes of the federal securities laws, the Sponsor takes into account a number of factors, including the various definitions of “security” under the federal securities laws and federal court decisions interpreting elements of these definitions, such as the U.S. Supreme Court’s decisions in the Howey and Reves cases and their progeny, as well as reports, orders, press releases, public statements and speeches by the SEC, its commissioners and its staff providing guidance on when a digital asset may be a security or when an offer and sale of a digital asset may be a securities transaction for purposes of the federal securities laws. Finally, the Sponsor discusses the security status of TAO and the Sponsor’s transactions in TAO with external counsel, and has received a memorandum regarding the status of TAO and the Sponsor’s transactions in TAO under the federal securities laws from external counsel. Through this process the Sponsor believes that it is applying the proper legal standards in determining that TAO is not a security in light of the uncertainties inherent in the Howey and Reves tests. However, such policies and procedures are risk-based judgments made by the Sponsor and not a legal standard or determination binding on any regulatory body or court.

In light of these uncertainties and the fact-based nature of the analysis, the Sponsor acknowledges that the SEC may take a contrary position; and the Sponsor’s conclusion, even if reasonable under the circumstances, would not preclude legal or regulatory action based on the presence of a security.

As is the case with TAO, analyses from counsel typically review the often-complex facts surrounding a particular digital asset’s underlying technology, creation, use case and usage development, distribution and secondary-market trading characteristics as well as

contributions of and marketing or promotional efforts by the individuals or organizations who appear to be involved in these activities, among other relevant facts, usually drawing on publicly available information. This information, usually found on the internet, often includes both information that originated with or is attributed to such individuals or organizations, as well as information from third-party sources and databases that may or may not have a connection to such individuals or organizations, and the availability and nature of such information can change over time. The Sponsor and counsel often have no independent means of verifying the accuracy or completeness of such information, and therefore of necessity usually must assume that such information is materially accurate and complete for purposes of the Howey and Reves analyses. After having gathered this information, counsel typically analyzes it in light of the Howey and Reves tests, in order to inform a judgment as to whether or not a federal court would conclude that the digital asset, or transactions in the digital asset, in question is or is not a security, or are or are not securities transactions, respectively, for purposes of the federal securities laws. Often, certain factors appear to support a conclusion that the digital asset in question, or transactions in the digital asset, is a security, or are or are not securities transactions, respectively, while other factors appear to support the opposite conclusion, and in such a case counsel endeavors to weigh the importance and relevance of the competing factors. This analytical process is further complicated by the fact that, at present, federal judicial case law applying the relevant tests to digital assets is limited and in some situations inconsistent, with no federal appellate court having considered the question on the merits, as well as the fact that because each digital asset presents its own unique set of relevant facts, it is not always possible to directly analogize the analysis of one digital asset to another. Because of this factual complexity and the current lack of a well-developed body of federal case law applying the relevant tests to a variety of different fact patterns, the Sponsor has not in the past received, and currently does not expect that it would be able to receive, “opinions” of counsel stating that a particular digital asset, or transactions in the digital asset, is or is not a security, or are or are not securities transactions, respectively, for federal securities law purposes. The Sponsor understands that as a matter of practice, counsel is generally able to render a legal “opinion” only when the relevant facts are substantially ascertainable and the applicable law is both well-developed and settled. As a result, given the relative novelty of digital assets, the challenges inherent in fact-gathering for particular digital assets, and the fact that federal courts have only recently been tasked with adjudicating the applicability of federal securities law to digital assets, the Sponsor understands that at present counsel is generally not in a position to render a legal “opinion” on the securities-law status of TAO or any other particular digital asset.

As such, notwithstanding the Sponsor’s receipt of a memorandum regarding the status of TAO under the federal securities laws from external counsel and the Sponsor’s view that TAO is not a security and the Sponsor’s transactions in TAO are not securities transactions, the SEC or a federal court may in the future take a different view as to the security status of TAO.

If the Sponsor determines that TAO, or transactions in TAO, are a security or securities transactions, respectively, under the federal securities laws, whether that determination is initially made by the Sponsor itself, or because a federal court upholds an allegation that TAO is a security, the Sponsor does not intend to permit the Trust to continue holding TAO in a way that would violate the federal securities laws (and therefore would either dissolve the Trust or potentially seek to operate the Trust in a manner that complies with the federal securities laws, including the Investment Company Act). Because the legal tests for determining whether a digital asset or transactions in the digital asset, are or are not a security or securities transactions, respectively, often leave room for interpretation, for so long as the Sponsor believes there to be good faith grounds to conclude that the Trust’s TAO is not a security, the Sponsor does not intend to dissolve the Trust on the basis that TAO could at some future point be finally determined to be a security.

Any enforcement action by the SEC or a state securities regulator asserting that TAO, or transactions in TAO, are a security, or securities transactions, respectively, or a court decision to that effect, would be expected to have an immediate material adverse impact on the trading value of TAO, as well as the Shares. This is because the market structure behind most digital assets are incompatible with regulations applying to transactions in securities. If a digital asset or transactions in that digital asset are determined to be a security or securities transactions, respectively, it is likely to become difficult or impossible for the digital asset to be traded, cleared or custodied in the United States through the same channels used by non-security digital assets, which in addition to materially and adversely affecting the trading value of the digital asset is likely to significantly impact its liquidity and market participants’ ability to convert the digital asset into U.S. dollars. Any assertion that a digital asset or transactions in that digital asset are a security or securities transactions, respectively, by the SEC or another regulatory authority may have similar effects.

For example, in 2020 the SEC filed a complaint against the issuer of XRP, Ripple Labs, Inc., and two of its executives, alleging that they raised more than \$1.3 billion through XRP sales that should have been registered under the federal securities laws, but were not. In the years prior to the SEC’s action, XRP’s market capitalization at times reached over \$140 billion. However, in the weeks following the SEC’s complaint, XRP’s market capitalization fell to less than \$10 billion, which was less than half of its market capitalization in the days prior to the complaint.

Subsequently, in July 2023, the District Court for the Southern District of New York held that while XRP is not a security, certain sales of XRP to certain buyers (but not other types of sales to other buyers) amounted to “investment contracts” under the Howey test. The District Court entered a final judgment in the case on August 7, 2024 and the parties each dismissed their appeals to the Second Circuit on August 7, 2025.

Likewise, in the days following the announcement of SEC enforcement actions against certain digital asset issuers and trading platforms, the prices of various digital assets have declined significantly and may continue to decline as such cases advance through the federal court system. Furthermore, the decisions in cases involving digital assets have resulted in seemingly inconsistent views of

different district court judges, including one that explicitly disagreed with the analysis underlying the decision regarding XRP, which underscore the continuing uncertainty around which digital assets, or transactions in digital assets, are securities and what the correct analysis is to determine each digital asset's status. For example, the conflicting district court opinions and analyses demonstrate that factors such as how long a digital asset has been in existence, how widely held it is, how large its market capitalization is, the manner in which it is offered, sold or promoted, and whether it has actual use in commercial transactions, ultimately may have limited or no bearing on whether the SEC, a state securities regulator or any particular court will find it to be a security.

In addition, if TAO, or transactions in TAO, are in fact a security, or securities transactions, respectively, the Trust could be considered an unregistered "investment company" under the Investment Company Act, which could necessitate the Trust's liquidation. In this case, the Trust and the Sponsor may be deemed to have participated in an illegal offering of investment company securities and there is no guarantee that the Sponsor will be able to register the Trust under the Investment Company Act at such time or take such other actions as may be necessary to ensure the Trust's activities comply with applicable law, which could force the Sponsor to liquidate the Trust.

Moreover, whether or not the Sponsor or the Trust were subject to additional regulatory requirements as a result of any determination that the Trust's assets include securities or the Trust's transactions in digital assets constitute securities transactions, the Sponsor may nevertheless decide to terminate the Trust, in order, if possible, to liquidate the Trust's assets while a liquid market still exists. For example, in response to the SEC's action against the issuer of the digital asset XRP, certain significant market participants announced they would no longer support XRP and announced measures, including the delisting of XRP from major Digital Asset Trading Platforms, resulting in the Sponsor's conclusion that it was likely to be increasingly difficult for U.S. investors, including Grayscale XRP Trust (XRP), an affiliate of the Trust, to convert XRP into U.S. dollars. The Sponsor subsequently dissolved Grayscale XRP Trust (XRP) and liquidated its assets. The Sponsor has since established a new investment vehicle that holds XRP, Grayscale XRP Trust ETF. If the SEC or a federal court were to determine that TAO is a security or transactions in TAO are securities transactions, it is likely that the value of the Shares of the Trust would decline significantly. Furthermore, if a federal court upholds an allegation that TAO is a security or transactions in TAO are securities transactions, the Trust itself may be terminated and, if practical, its assets liquidated.

Regulatory changes or actions by the U.S. Congress or any U.S. federal or state agencies may affect the value of the Shares or restrict the use of TAO, validating activity or the operation of the Bittensor Network or the Digital Asset Markets in a manner that adversely affects the value of the Shares.

As digital assets have grown in both popularity and market size, the U.S. Congress and a number of U.S. federal and state agencies (including FinCEN, OFAC, SEC, CFTC, FINRA, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau ("CFPB"), the Department of Justice, the Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the IRS, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Federal Reserve and state financial institution and securities regulators) have been examining the operations of digital asset networks, digital asset users and the Digital Asset Markets, with particular focus on the extent to which digital assets can be used to launder the proceeds of illegal activities, evade sanctions, or fund criminal or terrorist enterprises and the safety and soundness of trading platforms and other service providers that hold or custody digital assets for users. Many of these state and federal agencies have issued consumer advisories regarding the risks posed by digital assets to investors. Ongoing and future regulatory actions with respect to digital assets generally or TAO in particular may alter, perhaps to a materially adverse extent, the nature of an investment in the Shares or the ability of the Trust to continue to operate.

On January 23, 2025, President Trump issued an executive order titled "Strengthening American Leadership in Digital Financial Technology" aimed at supporting "the responsible growth and use of digital assets, blockchain technology, and related technologies across all sectors of the economy." The Executive Order also established an interagency working group that is tasked with "proposing a Federal regulatory framework governing the issuance and operation of digital assets" in the United States. Pursuant to this Executive Order, the working group released a report in July 2025 outlining the administration's recommendations to Congress and various agencies reflecting the administration's "pro-innovation mindset toward digital assets and blockchain technologies." In particular, the report recommends that Congress enact legislation regarding self custody of digital assets, clarifying the applicability of Bank Secrecy Act obligations with respect to digital asset service providers, granting the CFTC authority to regulate spot markets in non-security digital assets, prohibiting the adoption of a CBDC, and clarifying tax laws as relevant to digital assets. In addition, the report recommends that agencies reevaluate existing guidance on digital asset activities, use existing authorities to enable the trading of digital assets at the federal level, embrace DeFi, launch or relaunch crypto innovation efforts, and promote U.S. private sector leadership in the responsible development of cross-border payments and financial markets technologies, among others.

There have also been several bills introduced in Congress that propose to establish additional regulation and oversight of the digital asset markets. For example, the CLARITY Act was passed by the House of Representatives in July 2025, which would, if enacted, regulate digital asset markets and digital asset trading platforms in the United States. In addition, also in July 2025, the Guiding and Establishing National Innovation for U.S. Stablecoins Act of 2025 (the "GENIUS Act") became the first federal law specifically regulating the issuance, custody and other stablecoin-related matters in the United States. It is difficult to predict whether, or when, the CLARITY Act or another bill that would regulate digital asset markets and digital asset trading platforms may become

law or what any such bill may entail. It is also difficult to predict whether, or when, any of these developments will lead to Congress granting additional authorities to the SEC or other regulators, what the nature of such additional authorities might be, how additional legislation and/or regulatory oversight might impact the ability of Digital Asset Markets to function or how any new regulations or changes to existing regulations might impact the value of digital assets generally and Ether held by the Trust specifically. The consequences of increased federal regulation of digital assets and digital asset activities could have a material adverse effect on the Trust and the Shares.

It is difficult to predict whether, or when, any of these developments will lead to Congress granting additional authorities to the SEC or other regulators, what the nature of such additional authorities might be, how additional legislation and/or regulatory oversight might impact the ability of Digital Asset Markets to function or how any new regulations or changes to existing regulations might impact the value of digital assets generally and TAO held by the Trust specifically. The consequences of increased federal regulation of digital assets and digital asset activities could have a material adverse effect on the Trust and the Shares.

Law enforcement agencies have often relied on the transparency of blockchains to facilitate investigations. However, certain privacy-enhancing features have been, or are expected to be, introduced to a number of digital asset networks, including the Bittensor Network. These features, including those adopted by the Bittensor Network or which may be introduced on the Bittensor Network in the future, may provide law enforcement agencies with less visibility into transaction-level data. Europol, the European Union’s law enforcement agency, released a report in October 2017 noting the increased use of privacy-enhancing digital assets like Zcash and Monero in criminal activity on the internet. In August 2022, OFAC banned all U.S. citizens from using Tornado Cash, a digital asset protocol designed to obfuscate blockchain transactions, by adding Tornado Cash and certain Ethereum wallet addresses associated with the protocol to its Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons List. A large portion of Bittensor validators globally, as well as notable industry participants such as Centre, the issuer of the USDC stablecoin, have reportedly complied with the sanctions and blacklisted the sanctioned addresses from interacting with their networks. In October 2023, FinCEN issued a notice of proposed rulemaking that identified convertible virtual currency (CVC) mixing as a class of transactions of primary money laundering concern and proposed requiring covered financial institutions to implement certain recordkeeping and reporting requirements on transactions that covered financial institutions know, suspect, or have reason to suspect involve CVC mixing within or involving jurisdictions outside the United States. In April 2024, the DOJ arrested and charged the developers of the Samurai Wallet mixing service with conspiracy to commit money laundering and conspiracy to operate an unlicensed money transmitting business. In May 2024, a co-founder of Tornado Cash was sentenced to more than five years imprisonment in the Netherlands for developing Tornado Cash on the basis that he had helped launder more than \$2 billion worth of digital assets through Tornado Cash. In August 2025, a co-founder of Tornado Cash was convicted of conspiracy to operate an unlicensed money transmitting business, but a mistrial was declared with respect to charges of conspiracy to commit money laundering and conspiracy to violate U.S. sanctions.

TAO’s initial manner of sale may resemble that of certain digital assets found to be securities, and a determination that TAO is a “security” may adversely affect the value of TAO and an investment in the Shares, and result in potentially extraordinary, nonrecurring expenses to, or termination of, such Trust.

Through enforcement actions and other statements, the SEC and its staff have taken the position that a digital asset’s initial manner of sale may be a key factor in determining whether that digital asset was a security, at least at the time of the digital asset’s delivery as part of that sale. This has meant that many blockchain startups that have offered digital assets to the public in the form of initial coin offerings, also known as ICOs, have been found to have engaged in illegal unregistered distributions of securities.

The Opentensor Foundation, the developer of the Bittensor Network and the creator of TAO, did not use an ICO to distribute TAO. However, from the creation of the Bittensor Network until approximately October 2023, the Opentensor Foundation or its affiliates will have earned a significant amount of all TAO that the Bittensor Network had then created as a result of (i) the Opentensor Foundation being one of the only miners of TAO until May 2021 when the Bittensor Network adopted its current PoA consensus mechanism; (ii) the Opentensor Foundation being one of only a small number of Validators earning TAO rewards until approximately October 2023; and (iii) the Opentensor Foundation being the “owner” of the only Subnet that existed from April to October 2023 and therefore receiving 18% of all TAO emissions during that period. See “—Overview of the TAO Industry and Market—Creation of TAO.” Certain individuals and entities associated with the Opentensor Foundation continue to distribute TAO. Because the Opentensor Foundation and its affiliates are believed to have held a significant amount of TAO during the infancy of the Bittensor Network that it or they then distributed to users, some may argue that TAO’s distribution shares several characteristics with other offerings of digital assets, including those conducted by Telegram Group, Kik Interactive, and Ripple Labs that the SEC has argued were used to effect the illegal unregistered public distribution of a security. While there are reasonable grounds on which TAO may be distinguished from Grams, Kin, and XRP, TAO therefore has certain characteristics that mean that the risk of the SEC or a court finding TAO to be a security is greater than the risk that digital assets like Bitcoin would be found to be securities. The degree of control retained by the Opentensor Foundation and its affiliates is such that it or they would likely be viewed by a regulator as continuing to play a material role in the development of the Bittensor Network, which could adversely affect any argument that TAO is not a security. In addition, as noted under “Overview of the TAO Industry and Market,” a significant portion of demand for digital assets is generated by speculators and investors, not necessarily by those looking to use digital assets for consumptive purposes.

Competing industries may have more influence with policymakers than the digital asset industry, which could lead to the adoption of laws and regulations that are harmful to the digital asset industry.

The digital asset industry is relatively new, although its influence over public policy is increasing, and it may not have the same access to policymakers and lobbying organizations in many jurisdictions compared to industries with which digital assets may be seen to compete, such as banking, payments and consumer finance. Competitors from other, more established industries may have greater access to and influence with governmental officials and regulators and may be successful in persuading these policymakers that digital assets require heightened levels of regulation compared to the regulation of traditional financial services. As a result, new laws and regulations may be proposed and adopted in the United States and elsewhere, or existing laws and regulations may be interpreted in new ways, that disfavor or impose compliance burdens on the digital asset industry or digital asset platforms, which could adversely impact the value of TAO and therefore the value of the Shares.

Regulatory changes or other events in foreign jurisdictions may affect the value of the Shares or restrict the use of one or more digital assets, validating activity or the operation of their networks or the Digital Asset Trading Platform Market in a manner that adversely affects the value of the Shares.

Various foreign jurisdictions have, and may continue to adopt laws, regulations or directives that affect the digital asset network, the Digital Asset Markets, and their users, particularly Digital Asset Trading Platforms and service providers that fall within such jurisdictions' regulatory scope. For example, if foreign jurisdictions in addition to China were to ban or otherwise restrict validating activity, including by regulating or limiting manufacturers' ability to produce or sell semiconductors or hard drives in connection with validating, it would have a material adverse effect on digital asset networks (including the Bittensor Network), the Digital Asset Market, and as a result, impact the value of the Shares.

A number of foreign jurisdictions have recently taken regulatory action aimed at digital asset activities. China has made transacting in cryptocurrencies illegal for Chinese citizens in mainland China, and additional restrictions may follow. Both China and South Korea have banned initial coin offerings entirely and regulators in other jurisdictions, including Canada, Singapore and Hong Kong, have opined that initial coin offerings may constitute securities offerings subject to local securities regulations. The United Kingdom's Financial Conduct Authority published final rules in October 2020 banning the sale of derivatives and exchange-traded notes that reference certain types of digital assets, contending that they are "ill-suited" to retail investors citing extreme volatility, valuation challenges and association with financial crime. A new law, the Financial Services and Markets Act 2023 ("FSMA"), received royal assent in June 2023. The FSMA brings digital asset activities within the scope of existing laws governing financial institutions, markets and assets. In addition, the Parliament of the European Union approved the text of the Markets in Crypto-Assets Regulation ("MiCA") in April 2023, establishing a regulatory framework for digital asset services across the European Union. Certain parts of MiCA became effective as of June 2024 and the remainder became effective as of December 2024. MiCA is intended to serve as a comprehensive regulation of digital asset markets and imposes various obligations on digital asset issuers and service providers. The main aims of MiCA are industry regulation, consumer protection, prevention of market abuse and upholding the integrity of digital asset markets. See "Item 1. Business—Overview of the TAO Industry and Market—Government Oversight."

Foreign laws, regulations or directives may conflict with those of the United States and may negatively impact the acceptance of one or more digital assets by users, merchants and service providers outside the United States and may therefore impede the growth or sustainability of the digital asset economy in the European Union, China, Japan, Russia and the United States and globally, or otherwise negatively affect the value of TAO. Moreover, other events, such as the interruption in telecommunications or internet services, cyber-related terrorist acts, civil disturbances, war or other catastrophes, could also negatively affect the digital asset economy in one or more jurisdictions. For example, Russia's invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022 led to volatility in digital asset prices, with an initial steep decline followed by a sharp rebound in prices. The effect of any future regulatory change or other events on the Trust or TAO is impossible to predict, and such change could be substantial and adverse to the Trust and the value of the Shares.

If regulators subject an Authorized Participant, the Trust or the Sponsor to regulation as a money service business or money transmitter, this could result in extraordinary expenses to the Authorized Participant, the Trust or the Sponsor and also result in decreased liquidity for the Shares.

To the extent that the activities of any Authorized Participant, the Trust or the Sponsor cause it to be deemed a "money services business" under the regulations promulgated by FinCEN, such Authorized Participant, the Trust or the Sponsor may be required to comply with FinCEN regulations, including those that would mandate the Authorized Participant, the Trust or the Sponsor to implement anti-money laundering programs, make certain reports to FinCEN and maintain certain records. Similarly, the activities of an Authorized Participant, the Trust or the Sponsor may require it to be licensed as a money transmitter or as a digital asset business, such as under the NYDFS' BitLicense regulations or California's Digital Financial Assets Law, once effective.

Such additional regulatory obligations may cause the Authorized Participant, the Trust or the Sponsor to incur extraordinary expenses. If the Authorized Participant, the Trust or the Sponsor decided to seek the required licenses, there is no guarantee that they will timely receive them. An Authorized Participant may instead decide to terminate its role as Authorized Participant of the Trust, or

the Sponsor may decide to discontinue and wind up the Trust. An Authorized Participant's decision to cease acting as such may decrease the liquidity of the Shares, which could adversely affect the value of the Shares, and termination of the Trust in response to the changed regulatory circumstances may be at a time that is disadvantageous to the shareholders.

Additionally, to the extent an Authorized Participant, the Trust or the Sponsor is found to have operated without appropriate state or federal licenses or registration, it may be subject to investigation, administrative or court proceedings, and civil or criminal monetary fines and penalties, all of which would harm the reputation of the Trust or the Sponsor, decrease the liquidity, and have a material adverse effect on the price of, the Shares.

Statutory or regulatory changes or interpretations could obligate the Trust or the Sponsor to register and comply with new regulations, resulting in potentially extraordinary, nonrecurring expenses to the Trust.

Current and future legislation, CFTC and SEC rulemaking and other regulatory developments may impact the manner in which TAO is treated. In particular, TAO may be classified by the CFTC as a "commodity interest" under the CEA or may be classified by the SEC as a "security" under U.S. federal securities laws. It is also possible that a new Administration and Congress in the United States creates a new classification for digital assets. For example, the current draft of the CLARITY Act would add "digital commodities" to the list of assets that are commodity interests under the CEA. The Sponsor and the Trust cannot be certain as to how future regulatory developments will impact the treatment of TAO under the law. In the face of such developments, the required registrations and compliance steps may result in extraordinary, nonrecurring expenses to the Trust. If the Sponsor decides to terminate the Trust in response to the changed regulatory circumstances, the Trust may be dissolved or liquidated at a time that is disadvantageous to shareholders.

To the extent that TAO is deemed to fall within the definition of a "commodity interest" under the CEA, due to the passage of the CLARITY Act or otherwise, the Trust and the Sponsor may be subject to additional regulation under the CEA and CFTC regulations. The Sponsor may be required to register as a commodity pool operator or commodity trading adviser with the CFTC and become a member of the National Futures Association and may be subject to additional regulatory requirements with respect to the Trust, including disclosure and reporting requirements. These additional requirements may result in extraordinary, recurring and/or nonrecurring expenses of the Trust, thereby materially and adversely impacting the Shares. If the Sponsor determines not to comply with such additional regulatory and registration requirements, the Sponsor will terminate the Trust. Any such termination could result in the liquidation of the Trust's TAO at a time that is disadvantageous to shareholders.

To the extent that TAO is determined to be a security under U.S. federal securities laws, the Trust and the Sponsor may be subject to additional requirements under the Investment Company Act and the Sponsor may be required to register as an investment adviser under the Investment Advisers Act. Such additional registration may result in extraordinary, recurring and/or non-recurring expenses of the Trust, thereby materially and adversely impacting the Shares. If the Sponsor determines not to comply with such additional regulatory and registration requirements, the Sponsor will terminate the Trust. Any such termination could result in the liquidation of the Trust's TAO at a time that is disadvantageous to shareholders.

The treatment of the Trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes is uncertain.

The Sponsor intends to take the position that the Trust is properly treated as a grantor trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Assuming that the Trust is a grantor trust, the Trust will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax. Rather, if the Trust is a grantor trust, each beneficial owner of Shares will be treated as directly owning its pro rata share of the Trust's assets and a pro rata portion of the Trust's income, gains, losses and deductions will "flow through" to each beneficial owner of Shares.

At this time, none of the Trust, the Sponsor, the Custodian, nor any other person associated with the Trust may, directly or indirectly, engage in Staking of the Trust's TAO on behalf of the Trust, and there can be no assurance that the Staking Condition will be met with respect to any form of Staking. If the Trust were permitted to engage with respect to any form of Staking, the Sponsor intends to continue to take the position that the Trust is properly treated as a grantor trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes. The IRS recently issued a revenue procedure providing a staking safe harbor for certain grantor trust vehicles whose beneficial interests are listed and traded on a national securities exchange (the "2025 Revenue Procedure"). However, certain aspects of the 2025 Revenue Procedure are unclear, and the Trust may not satisfy all of the requirements for its safe harbor. In addition, the 2025 Revenue Procedure contemplates a form of staking that is different than TAO staking on the Bittensor Network and, as a result, it is unclear whether the 2025 Revenue Procedure's staking safe harbor could apply to TAO staking. For example, TAO staking on the Bittensor Network differs from traditional proof-of-stake validation considered in the 2025 Revenue Procedure because it does not primarily involve the validation of blockchain transactions in exchange for protocol-level block rewards. Instead, TAO may be staked to support Validators within specific Subnets that rank AI-generated outputs pursuant to Yuma Consensus. Because TAO staking is tied to the economic support and ranking of AI model outputs, rather than solely to transaction validation within a proof-of-stake consensus mechanism, it is uncertain whether the staking safe harbor contemplated by the 2025 Revenue Procedure—designed for traditional validation-based staking—would apply to TAO staking on the Bittensor Network. Accordingly, due to the uncertainty regarding the ability of a grantor trust to engage in Staking activities, there can be no assurance that the IRS or any court would agree with this

position (or with any opinion of counsel delivered to the Sponsor in support thereof). Therefore, if the Trust were permitted to engage in Staking, the Trust might cease to qualify as a grantor trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

If the IRS were to disagree with, and successfully challenge certain positions the Trust may take, including with respect to Incidental Rights and IR Virtual Currency, the Trust might not qualify as a grantor trust. In addition, the Sponsor has delivered the Pre-Creation Abandonment Notice to the Custodian stating that the Trust is irrevocably abandoning, effective immediately prior to each Creation Time, all Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency to which it would otherwise be entitled as of such time and with respect to which it has not taken any Affirmative Action at or prior to such time. There can be no complete assurance that these abandonments will be treated as effective for U.S. federal income tax purposes. If the Trust were treated as owning any asset other than TAO as of any date on which it creates Shares, it might cease to qualify as a grantor trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

Because of the evolving nature of digital assets, it is not possible to predict potential future developments that may arise with respect to digital assets, including forks, airdrops and other similar occurrences. Assuming that the Trust is currently a grantor trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes, certain future developments could render it impossible, or impracticable, for the Trust to continue to be treated as a grantor trust for such purposes.

If the Trust is not properly classified as a grantor trust, the Trust might be classified as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes. However, due to the uncertain treatment of digital assets for U.S. federal income tax purposes (as discussed above in “Item 1. Business—Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences—Uncertainty Regarding the U.S. Federal Income Tax Treatment of Digital Assets”), there can be no assurance in this regard. If the Trust were classified as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes, the tax consequences of owning Shares generally would not be materially different from the tax consequences described herein, although there might be certain differences, including with respect to timing of the recognition of taxable income or loss. In addition, tax information reports provided to beneficial owners of Shares would be made in a different form. Moreover, it is possible, in that case, that a portion of the Trust’s income would be considered to be “effectively connected” with the conduct of a trade or business in the United States and, accordingly, a non-U.S. person owning Shares could be subject to U.S. federal income tax on a net income basis with respect to that “effectively connected” income and be required to file a U.S. tax return. If the Trust were permitted to engage in Staking and none of the Trust’s Staking income were considered to be “effectively connected” income, a non-U.S. person owning Shares might be subject to withholding on its pro rata portion of U.S.-source income from the Trust’s Staking activities as described below in “—Non-U.S. Holders may be subject to U.S. federal withholding tax on income derived from forks, airdrops and similar occurrences and, if the Trust were permitted to engage in Staking, Staking Consideration received as staking rewards.” Tax-exempt shareholders may also recognize “unrelated business taxable income” (“UBTI”) from any future Staking activities of the Trust, if the Trust is not treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

If the Trust were not classified as either a grantor trust or a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes, it would be classified as a corporation for such purposes. In that event, the Trust would be subject to entity-level U.S. federal income tax (currently at the rate of 21%) on its net taxable income and certain distributions made by the Trust to shareholders would be treated as taxable dividends to the extent of the Trust’s current and accumulated earnings and profits. Any such dividend distributed to a beneficial owner of Shares that is a non-U.S. person for U.S. federal income tax purposes would be subject to U.S. federal withholding tax at a rate of 30% (or such lower rate as provided in an applicable tax treaty).

The treatment of digital assets for U.S. federal income tax purposes is uncertain.

As discussed in the section entitled “Item 1. Business—Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences—Uncertainty Regarding the U.S. Federal Income Tax Treatment of Digital Assets” above, assuming that the Trust is properly treated as a grantor trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes, each beneficial owner of Shares will be treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes as the owner of an undivided interest in the TAO (and, if applicable, any Incidental Rights, IR Virtual Currency and/or, if the Trust were permitted to engage in Staking, any Staking Consideration) held in the Trust. Due to the new and evolving nature of digital assets and the absence of comprehensive guidance with respect to digital assets, many significant aspects of the U.S. federal income tax treatment of digital assets are uncertain.

In 2014, the Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”) released a notice (the “Notice”) discussing certain aspects of “convertible virtual currency” (that is, digital assets that have an equivalent value in fiat currency or that act as substitutes for fiat currency) for U.S. federal income tax purposes and, in particular, stating that such digital assets (i) are “property” (ii) are not “currency” for purposes of the rules relating to foreign currency gain or loss and (iii) may be held as a capital asset. In 2019, the IRS released a revenue ruling and a set of “Frequently Asked Questions” that has been updated from time to time since (the “Ruling & FAQs”). The Ruling & FAQs provide some additional guidance, including guidance to the effect that, under certain circumstances, hard forks of digital assets are taxable events giving rise to ordinary income and guidance with respect to the determination of the tax basis of digital assets. Moreover, in 2023, the IRS released a revenue ruling that provided guidance on digital asset staking, including guidance to the effect that staking rewards will, under certain circumstances, be treated as giving rise to taxable income (the “2023 Staking Guidance”). Further, the IRS recently issued the 2025 Revenue Procedure, which provides a safe harbor for certain grantor trust vehicles. However, the Notice, the Ruling & FAQs, the 2023 Staking Guidance and the 2025 Revenue Procedure do not address other significant aspects of the U.S. federal income tax treatment of digital assets. For example, both the 2023 Staking Guidance and 2025

Revenue Procedure contemplate a form of staking that is different than TAO staking on the Bittensor Network. As a result, although it is likely that the IRS would similarly find that the receipt of staking rewards from TAO staking on the Bittensor Network would give rise to taxable income, that result is uncertain. Moreover, for a non-U.S. Holder (as defined above), there currently is no guidance directly addressing whether or in what circumstances engaging in certain activities to generate yield on digital assets, including Staking, could give rise to income that is effectively connected with a trade or business in the United States. Similarly, for a U.S. tax-exempt shareholder, there currently is no guidance directly addressing whether or in what circumstances such activities could give rise to UBTI. Further, although the Ruling & FAQs address the treatment of hard forks, there continues to be uncertainty with respect to the timing and amount of the income inclusions. While the Ruling & FAQs do not address most situations in which airdrops occur, it is clear from the reasoning of the Ruling & FAQs that the IRS generally would treat an airdrop as a taxable event giving rise to ordinary income.

There can be no assurance that the IRS will not alter its position with respect to digital assets in the future or that a court would uphold the treatment set forth in the Notice, the Ruling & FAQs, the 2023 Staking Guidance and the 2025 Revenue Procedure. It is also unclear what additional guidance on the treatment of digital assets for U.S. federal income tax purposes may be issued in the future. Any such alteration of the current IRS positions or additional guidance could result in adverse tax consequences for shareholders and could have an adverse effect on the value of TAO. Future developments that may arise with respect to digital assets may increase the uncertainty with respect to the treatment of digital assets for U.S. federal income tax purposes. For example, the Notice addresses only digital assets that are “convertible virtual currency,” and it is conceivable that, as a result of a fork, airdrop or similar occurrence, the Trust could hold certain types of digital assets that are not within the scope of the Notice.

Shareholders are urged to consult their tax advisers regarding the tax consequences of owning and disposing of Shares and digital assets in general.

Future developments regarding the treatment of digital assets for U.S. federal income tax purposes could adversely affect the value of the Shares.

As discussed above, many significant aspects of the U.S. federal income tax treatment of digital assets, such as TAO, are uncertain, and it is unclear what guidance on the treatment of digital assets for U.S. federal income tax purposes may be issued in the future. It is possible that any such guidance would have an adverse effect on the prices of digital assets, including on the price of TAO in the Digital Asset Markets, and therefore may have an adverse effect on the value of the Shares.

Because of the evolving nature of digital assets, it is not possible to predict potential future developments that may arise with respect to digital assets, including forks, airdrops and similar occurrences or staking. Such developments may increase the uncertainty with respect to the treatment of digital assets for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Moreover, certain future developments could render it impossible, or impracticable, for the Trust to continue to be treated as a grantor trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

Future developments in the treatment of digital assets for tax purposes other than U.S. federal income tax purposes could adversely affect the value of the Shares.

The taxing authorities of certain states, including New York, (i) have announced that they will follow the Notice with respect to the treatment of digital assets for state income tax purposes and/or (ii) have issued guidance exempting the purchase and/or sale of digital assets for fiat currency from state sales tax. However, it is unclear what further guidance on the treatment of digital assets for state tax purposes may be issued in the future.

The treatment of digital assets for tax purposes by non-U.S. jurisdictions may differ from the treatment of digital assets for U.S. federal, state or local tax purposes. It is possible, for example, that a non-U.S. jurisdiction would impose sales tax or value-added tax on purchases and sales of digital assets for fiat currency. If a foreign jurisdiction with a significant share of the market of TAO users imposes onerous tax burdens on digital asset users, or imposes sales or value-added tax on purchases and sales of digital assets for fiat currency, such actions could result in decreased demand for TAO in such jurisdiction.

Any future guidance on the treatment of digital assets for state, local or non-U.S. tax purposes could increase the expenses of the Trust and could have an adverse effect on the prices of digital assets, including on the price of TAO in the Digital Asset Markets. As a result, any such future guidance could have an adverse effect on the value of the Shares.

The tax treatment of TAO and transactions involving TAO for state and local tax purposes is not settled.

Because TAO is a new technological innovation, the tax treatment of TAO for state and local tax purposes, including, without limitation state and local income and sales and use taxes, is not settled. It is uncertain what guidance, if any, on the treatment of TAO for state and local tax purposes may be issued in the future. A state or local government authority’s treatment of TAO may have negative consequences, including the imposition of a greater tax burden on investors in TAO or the imposition of a greater cost on the acquisition and disposition of TAO generally. Any such treatment may have a negative effect on prices of TAO and may adversely affect the value of the Shares.

A U.S. tax-exempt shareholder may recognize “unrelated business taxable income” as a consequence of an investment in Shares.

Under the guidance provided in the Ruling & FAQs, hard forks, airdrops and similar occurrences with respect to digital assets will under certain circumstances be treated as taxable events giving rise to ordinary income. In the absence of guidance to the contrary, it is possible that any such income recognized by a U.S. tax-exempt shareholder would constitute UBTI. A tax-exempt shareholder should consult its tax adviser regarding whether such shareholder may recognize UBTI as a consequence of an investment in Shares. See “Item 1. Business—Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences.”

Non-U.S. Holders may be subject to U.S. federal withholding tax on income derived from forks, airdrops and similar occurrences and, if the Trust were permitted to engage in Staking, Staking Consideration received as staking rewards.

The Ruling & FAQs do not address whether income recognized by a non-U.S. person as a result of a fork, airdrop or similar occurrence or staking could be subject to the 30% withholding tax imposed on U.S.-source “fixed or determinable annual or periodical” income. Non-U.S. Holders (as defined under “Item 1. Business—Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences—Tax Consequences to Non-U.S. Holders” above) should be aware that, in the absence of guidance, a withholding agent (including a broker through which a Non-U.S. Holder holds Shares) may withhold 30% of any such income recognized by a non-U.S. Holder in respect of its Shares, including by deducting such withheld amounts from proceeds that such non-U.S. Holder would otherwise be entitled to receive in connection with a distribution of Incidental Rights, IR Virtual Currency or, if the Trust were permitted to engage in Staking, Staking Consideration received as staking rewards. See “Item 1. Business—Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences.”

Risk Factors Related to Potential Conflicts of Interest

Potential conflicts of interest may arise among the Sponsor or its affiliates and the Trust. The Sponsor and its affiliates have no fiduciary duties to the Trust and its shareholders other than as provided in the Trust Agreement, which may permit them to favor their own interests to the detriment of the Trust and its shareholders.

The Sponsor will manage the affairs of the Trust. Conflicts of interest may arise among the Sponsor and its affiliates, including the Authorized Participants, on the one hand, and the Trust and its shareholders, on the other hand. As a result of these conflicts, the Sponsor may favor its own interests and the interests of its affiliates over the Trust and its shareholders. These potential conflicts include, among others, the following:

- The Sponsor has no fiduciary duties to, and is allowed to take into account the interests of parties other than, the Trust and its shareholders in resolving conflicts of interest, provided the Sponsor does not act in bad faith;
- The Trust has agreed to indemnify the Sponsor and its affiliates pursuant to the Trust Agreement;
- The Sponsor is responsible for allocating its own limited resources among different clients and potential future business ventures, to each of which it owes fiduciary duties;
- The Sponsor and its staff also service affiliates of the Sponsor, including several other digital asset investment vehicles, and their respective clients and cannot devote all of its, or their, respective time or resources to the management of the affairs of the Trust;
- The Sponsor, its affiliates and their respective officers and employees are not prohibited from engaging in other businesses or activities, including those that might be in direct competition with the Trust;
- Affiliates of the Sponsor have substantial direct investments in TAO that they are permitted to manage taking into account their own interests without regard to the interests of the Trust or its shareholders, and any increases, decreases or other changes in such investments could affect the Index Price and, in turn, the value of the Shares;
- There is an absence of arm’s-length negotiation with respect to certain terms of the Trust, and, where applicable, there has been no independent due diligence conducted with respect to the Trust;
- Several employees of the Sponsor and the Sponsor’s indirect parent company, DCG, are FINRA-registered representatives who maintain their licenses through Grayscale Securities;
- The Sponsor’s indirect parent company, DCG, and certain of its subsidiaries, including Grayscale Securities, LLC, hold 4.79% of the Shares representing ownership in the Trust, as of March 6, 2026.
- Several employees of the Sponsor and the Sponsor’s indirect parent company, DCG, are FINRA-registered representatives who historically maintained their licenses through Genesis and currently maintain their licenses through Grayscale Securities;

- DCG is (i) the indirect parent company of the Sponsor; (ii) the indirect parent company of Grayscale Securities, the only acting Authorized Participant, as of the date of this Annual Report; and (iii) a minority interest holder in Kraken, one of the Digital Asset Trading Platforms included in the Index, representing less than 1.0% of its equity;
- DCG has investments in a large number of digital assets and companies involved in the digital asset ecosystem, including trading platforms and custodians. DCG's positions on changes that should be adopted in the Bittensor Network could be adverse to positions that would benefit the Trust or its shareholders. Additionally, before or after a hard fork on the Bittensor Network, DCG's position regarding which fork among a group of incompatible forks of the Bittensor Network should be considered the "true" Bittensor Network could be adverse to positions that would most benefit the Trust;
- DCG has been vocal in the past about its support for digital assets other than TAO. Any investments in, or public positions taken on, digital assets other than TAO by DCG could have an adverse impact on the price of TAO;
- Yuma and Foundry, two subsidiaries of DCG and affiliates of the Sponsor and the Trust, have in the past owned and operated nodes on the Subtensor Blockchain. Yuma, a decentralized AI-focused company, invests in, builds and scales the Bittensor Network. Barry Silbert, the founder and Chief Executive Officer of DCG and the chairman of the Board of Grayscale Investments, founded Yuma and serves as CEO;
- BitGo Trust Company, Inc., the Custodian of the Trust, provides institutional TAO staking through a partnership with Yuma, a subsidiary of DCG and an affiliate of the Sponsor and the Trust;
- While the Index Provider does not currently utilize data from over-the-counter markets or derivatives platforms, it may decide to include pricing from such markets or platforms in the future;
- The Sponsor decides whether to retain separate counsel, accountants or others to perform services for the Trust;
- The Sponsor and Grayscale Securities, which acts as Authorized Participant and distributor and marketer for the Shares, are affiliated parties that share a common indirect parent company, DCG;
- The Sponsor may appoint an agent to act on behalf of the shareholders, including in connection with the distribution of any Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency, and such agent may be the Sponsor or an affiliate of the Sponsor; and
- The Sponsor has historically, and may again select an Index Provider that is an affiliate of the Sponsor and the Trust.

By purchasing the Shares, shareholders agree and consent to the provisions set forth in the Trust Agreement. See "Item 1. Business—Description of the Trust Agreement."

For a further discussion of the conflicts of interest among the Sponsor, the distributor, the marketer, Authorized Participant, Liquidity Providers, the Trust and others, see "Item 13. Certain Relationships and Related Transactions and Director Independence."

Because the Sponsor and the Trust's sole Authorized Participant are affiliated with each other, the Trust's Baskets will not be exchanged for TAO in arm's-length transactions.

The Sponsor is an affiliate of Grayscale Securities, LLC, a registered broker dealer currently acting as the sole Authorized Participant, distributor and marketer for the Shares. The Trust issues Creation Baskets in exchange for deposits of TAO. See "Item 1. Business—Description of Creation of Shares." As the sole Authorized Participant, Grayscale Securities is currently the only entity that may place orders to create Creation Baskets. As a result, the issuance of Creation Baskets does not occur on an arm's-length basis.

While additional Authorized Participants may be added at any time, subject to the discretion of the Sponsor, the Sponsor may be disincentivized from replacing affiliated service providers due to its affiliated status. In connection with this conflict of interest, shareholders should understand that affiliated service providers will receive fees for providing services to the Trust. Clients of the affiliated service providers may pay commissions at negotiated rates that are greater or less than the rate paid by the Trust. The Sponsor may have an incentive to resolve questions between Grayscale Securities, on the one hand, and the Trust and shareholders, on the other hand, in favor of Grayscale Securities (including, but not limited to, questions as to the calculation of the Basket Amount).

A single shareholder currently owns a significant portion of the Shares representing ownership in the Trust, which could limit the ability of other shareholders to exercise voting influence or otherwise adversely impact the value of the Shares.

As of December 31, 2025, a single shareholder held a significant portion of the Shares representing ownership in the Trust. As a result, such shareholder has significant influence over the limited voting rights granted to the shareholders and, if such shareholder were to obtain a majority of the Shares, has the ability to control the outcome of virtually all matters presented to our shareholders for their approval. Such shareholder's interests may conflict with the interests of the Trust's other shareholders. As long as a single shareholder continues to own a significant or majority percentage of our Shares, this concentrated ownership, and influence could impede the development of an active trading market in our Shares or adversely affect an investment in the Shares. Additionally, sales of substantial amounts of Shares by such shareholder, or the perception that these sales may occur, could cause the price of the Shares

to experience significant volatility and/or decline, including at a resulting discount to the Trust's NAV per Share, which would adversely impact the value of the Shares.

DCG is a minority interest holder in Kraken, which operates one of the Digital Asset Trading Platforms included in the Index Price.

DCG, the indirect parent company of the Sponsor, holds a minority interest of less than 1.0% in Kraken. The Sponsor values its digital assets by reference to the Index Price. The Index Price is the price in U.S. dollars of a TAO derived from the Digital Asset Trading Platforms that are reflected in the Index developed by CoinDesk Indices, Inc. as of 4:00 p.m., New York time, on each business day. Kraken is one of the Digital Asset Trading Platforms included in the Index.

Although DCG does not exercise control over Kraken, it is possible that investors could have concerns that DCG could influence market data provided by this Digital Asset Trading Platform in a way that benefits DCG, for example by artificially inflating the values of TAO in order to increase the Sponsor's fees. This could make the Trust's Shares less attractive to investors than the shares of similar vehicles that do not present these concerns, adversely affect investor sentiment about the Trust and negatively affect Share trading prices.

Shareholders cannot be assured of the Sponsor's continued services, the discontinuance of which may be detrimental to the Trust.

Shareholders cannot be assured that the Sponsor will be willing or able to continue to serve as sponsor to the Trust for any length of time. If the Sponsor discontinues its activities on behalf of the Trust and a substitute sponsor is not appointed, the Trust will terminate and liquidate its TAO.

Appointment of a substitute sponsor will not guarantee the Trust's continued operation, successful or otherwise. Because a substitute sponsor may have no experience managing a digital asset financial vehicle, a substitute sponsor may not have the experience, knowledge or expertise required to ensure that the Trust will operate successfully or continue to operate at all. Therefore, the appointment of a substitute sponsor may not necessarily be beneficial to the Trust and the Trust may terminate. See "Item 13. Certain Relationships and Related Transactions and Director Independence—The Sponsor."

Although the Custodian is a fiduciary with respect to the Trust's assets, if the Custodian resigns or is removed by the Sponsor, or otherwise, without replacement, it would trigger early termination of the Trust.

The Custodian is a fiduciary under § 100 of the New York Banking Law and a qualified custodian for purposes of Rule 206(4)-2(d)(6) under the Investment Advisers Act and is licensed to custody the Trust's TAO in trust on the Trust's behalf. However, the SEC has released proposed amendments to Rule 206(4)-2 that, if enacted as proposed, would amend the definition of a "qualified custodian" under Rule 206(4)-2(d)(6). Executive officers of the Custodian's parent company have made public statements indicating that the Custodian will remain a qualified custodian under the proposed SEC rule, if enacted as currently proposed. However, there can be no assurance that the Custodian would continue to qualify as a "qualified custodian" under a final rule.

Furthermore, during the initial term, the Custodian may terminate the Custodian Agreement for Cause (as defined in "Description of the Custodian Agreement—Termination") at any time, and after the initial term, the Custodian can terminate the Agreement for any reason upon the notice period provided under the Custodian Agreement. If the Custodian resigns or is removed by the Sponsor or otherwise, without replacement, the Trust will dissolve in accordance with the terms of the Trust Agreement.

Shareholders may be adversely affected by the lack of independent advisers representing investors in the Trust.

The Sponsor has consulted with counsel, accountants and other advisers regarding the formation and operation of the Trust. No counsel was appointed to represent investors in connection with the formation of the Trust or the establishment of the terms of the Trust Agreement and the Shares. Moreover, no counsel has been appointed to represent an investor in connection with the offering of the Shares. Accordingly, an investor should consult his, her or its own legal, tax and financial advisers regarding the desirability of the value of the Shares. Lack of such consultation may lead to an undesirable investment decision with respect to investment in the Shares.

Item 1B. Unresolved Staff Comments

Not applicable.

Item 1C. Cybersecurity

To prevent, detect and respond to information security threats, the Sponsor maintains a cyber risk management program. The program is supervised by an in-house dedicated Chief Information Security Officer ("CISO") with over 15 years of experience in financial services risk management, whose team is responsible for leading enterprise-wide cybersecurity strategy, policy, standards, architecture, and processes. The Enterprise Risk Committee ("ERC"), which includes members of management of the Sponsor,

receives regular reports from the CISO on, among other things, the Sponsor's cyber risks and threats, the status of projects to strengthen the Sponsor's information security systems, assessments of the Sponsor's security program and the emerging threat landscape.

The ERC provides updates to the Board quarterly, including on changes to security risks and outcomes. The CISO also promptly informs and updates the ERC and the Board of the Sponsor about any information security incidents that may pose a material risk to the Sponsor. The Sponsor contracts an independent third party to conduct a full cyber risk assessment annually, and the results of those assessments are included in reporting to the ERC and the Board. Material outcomes from any penetration testing, vulnerability scanning, and business continuity or disaster recovery testing are additionally included in reporting to the ERC and Board.

The Sponsor's Security Awareness Program includes training that reinforces the Sponsor's Information Security policies, standards, and practices, and the expectation that employees will comply with these policies. The Security Awareness Program engages personnel through training on how to identify potential cybersecurity risks and protect the Sponsor's resources and information. This training is mandatory for all employees upon onboarding at the firm and again annually, and it is supplemented by firmwide training and testing initiatives, including periodic phishing tests.

The Sponsor administers a Third-Party Risk Management Program at the firm to identify, assess and oversee the risk associated with service providers and third parties involved in the supply chain. Third parties are assessed for risk and may additionally be required to adhere to additional security diligence requirements administered with oversight from the CISO according to risk, including cybersecurity diligence questionnaires, evidence validation, SOC report reviews, and/or on-site assessments. Material changes to the program, new, or worsening security risks associated with third parties are reported to the ERC at least quarterly.

Cybersecurity Breaches:

During the year ended December 31, 2025, we did not identify any cybersecurity threats at the Sponsor or the Trust that have materially affected or are reasonably likely to materially affect our business strategy, results of operations, or financial condition. However, even though we take steps to employ reasonable cybersecurity efforts, not every cybersecurity incident can be prevented or detected. Therefore, while we believe there are currently no risks from any potential cybersecurity threat or cybersecurity incident that are reasonably likely to have a material effect on our results of operations or financial condition, the likelihood or severity of such risks are difficult to predict.

Item 2. Properties

None.

Item 3. Legal Proceedings

Grayscale Operating, LLC, the former Co-Sponsor of the Trust until May 3, 2025, was a party to certain legal proceedings during the period covered by this report. Although the Trust is not a party to these proceedings, the Trust may in the future be subject to legal proceedings or disputes.

On May 19, 2025, Genesis Global Capital, LLC ("Genesis Capital") and Genesis Asia Pacific Pte. Ltd. ("Genesis Asia") filed a complaint in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York ("SDNY Bankruptcy Court") against Digital Currency Group, Inc. ("DCG") and certain of its affiliates including GSO alleging that Genesis Capital made certain preferential transfers to GSI, the predecessor in interest to GSO prior to the Merger, during the preference period prior to Genesis Capital's filing of a bankruptcy petition in SDNY Bankruptcy Court while GSI was allegedly an insider to Genesis Capital pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 101(31). Genesis Capital seeks to avoid the alleged preferential transfers pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 547(b), as well as recovery of property and disallowance of claims. Genesis Capital is seeking to avoid transfers to GSI, the predecessor in interest to GSO prior to the Merger, of 105 Bitcoin and 37,647.06 Ethereum Classic tokens. GSO believes this lawsuit is without merit and intends to vigorously defend against it.

As of the date of this Annual Report, the Sponsor does not expect the foregoing proceedings to have a material adverse effect on the Trust's business, financial condition or results of operations.

The Sponsor and/or the Trust may be subject to additional legal proceedings and disputes in the future.

Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures

Not applicable.

PART II

Item 5. Market for Registrant’s Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities

Market Information

Grayscale Securities is the only acting Authorized Participant of the Trust, and Liquidity Provider(s) have been engaged to source TAO in connection with the creation of Shares. The Shares are quoted on OTCQX under the ticker symbol “TAO.” Over-the-counter market quotations reflect inter-dealer prices, without retail mark-up, mark-down or commission and may not necessarily represent actual transactions.

Holders of Record

As of December 31, 2025, there were approximately 47 holders of record. This includes Cede & Co. as nominee for DTC for the Shares traded on OTCQX, but not its direct participants. Therefore, this number does not include the individual holders who have bought Shares on OTCQX or transferred their eligible Shares to their brokerage accounts. Because most of the Trust’s Shares are held by brokers and other institutions on behalf of shareholders, we are unable to estimate the total number of shareholders represented by these record holders.

Dividends

The Trust made no distributions to shareholders during the year ended December 31, 2025 and the period from June 10, 2024 (the commencement of the Trust’s operations) to December 31, 2024. The Trust has no obligation to make periodic distributions to shareholders.

Recent Sales of Unregistered Shares

As of December 31, 2025, the Registrant has distributed 1,881,500 Shares at varying prices determined by reference to the NAV per Share to selected “accredited investors,” within the meaning of Rule 501 of Regulation D under the Securities Act. The Shares were sold in connection with an ongoing offering pursuant to Rule 506(c) of Regulation D under the Securities Act. Grayscale Securities acted as the Authorized Participant with respect to these distributions. In exchange for these sales, the Trust received an aggregate of 36,970.13531397 TAO. During the year ended December 31, 2025, the Registrant distributed 1,379,800 Shares. Because Shares have been, and continue to be, created and issued on a periodic basis, a “distribution,” as such term is used in the Securities Act, may be occurring from time to time. As a result, the Authorized Participant facilitating the creation of Shares and acting as a distributor and marketer during any such period may be deemed an “underwriter” under Section 2(a)(11) of the Securities Act. No underwriting discounts or commissions were paid to the Authorized Participant with respect to such sales.

Purchases of Equity Securities

None.

Item 6. [Reserved]

Item 7. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

The following discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operations should be read together with, and is qualified in its entirety by reference to, our audited financial statements and related notes included elsewhere in this Annual Report, which have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States (“U.S. GAAP”). The following discussion may contain forward-looking statements based on assumptions we believe to be reasonable. Our actual results could differ materially from those discussed in these forward-looking statements. Factors that could cause or contribute to these differences include, but are not limited to, those discussed below and elsewhere in this Annual Report, particularly in “Item 1A. Risk Factors” and “Forward-Looking Statements.”

Trust Overview

The Trust is a passive entity that is managed and administered by the Sponsor and does not have any officers, directors or employees. The Trust holds TAO and, from time to time on a periodic basis, issues Creation Baskets in exchange for deposits of TAO. As a passive investment vehicle, the Trust’s investment objective is for the value of the Shares (based on TAO per Share) to reflect the value of the TAO held by the Trust, determined by reference to the Index Price, less the Trust’s expenses and other liabilities. While an investment in the Shares is not a direct investment in TAO, the Shares are designed to provide investors with a cost-effective and convenient way to gain investment exposure to TAO. To date, the Trust has not met its investment objective and the Shares quoted on OTCQX have not reflected the value of the TAO held by the Trust, less the Trust’s expenses and other liabilities, but instead have traded at a premium to such value, which at times has been substantial. The Trust is not managed like a business corporation or an active investment vehicle. The Trust will not utilize leverage, derivatives or any similar arrangements in seeking to meet its investment objective.

Prior to March 6, 2026, the Trust valued the TAO held by the Trust for operational purposes by reference to the Coin Metrics Real-Time Rate for Bittensor. As of March 6, 2026, the Trust values the TAO held by the Trust for operational purposes by reference to the CoinDesk Bittensor Benchmark Rate (the “Index”). As of March 6, 2026, the NAV and NAV per Share of the Trust is calculated using the Index Price based on the CoinDesk Bittensor Benchmark Rate. Prior to March 6, 2026, references to the “Index” or “Reference Rate” in the Trust’s filings with the SEC, including this Annual Report on Form 10-K, refer to the Coin Metrics Real-Time Rate for Bittensor. From and after March 6, 2026, references to the “Index” in the Trust’s filings with the SEC are to the CoinDesk Bittensor Benchmark Rate.

Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates

Investment Transactions and Revenue Recognition

The Trust considers investment transactions to be the receipt of TAO by the Trust in connection with Share creations and the delivery of TAO by the Trust in connection with Share redemptions or for payment of expenses in TAO. At this time, the Trust is not accepting redemption requests from shareholders. The Trust records its investment transactions on a trade date basis and changes in fair value are reflected as net change in unrealized appreciation or depreciation on investments. Realized gains and losses are calculated using the specific identification method. Realized gains and losses are recognized in connection with transactions including settling obligations for the Sponsor’s Fee in TAO.

Principal Market and Fair Value Determination

To determine which market is the Trust’s principal market (or in the absence of a principal market, the most advantageous market) for purposes of calculating the Trust’s net asset value in accordance with U.S. GAAP (“Principal Market NAV”), the Trust follows Financial Accounting Standards Board (“FASB”) Accounting Standards Codification (“ASC”) Topic 820-10, *Fair Value Measurement*, which outlines the application of fair value accounting. ASC 820-10 determines fair value to be the price that would be received for TAO in a current sale, which assumes an orderly transaction between market participants on the measurement date. ASC 820-10 requires the Trust to assume that TAO is sold in its principal market to market participants or, in the absence of a principal market, the most advantageous market. Market participants are defined as buyers and sellers in the principal or most advantageous market that are independent, knowledgeable, and willing and able to transact.

The Trust only receives TAO in connection with a creation order from the Authorized Participant (or a Liquidity Provider) and does not itself transact on any Digital Asset Markets. Therefore, the Trust looks to market-based volume and level of activity for Digital Asset Markets. The Authorized Participant(s), or a Liquidity Provider, may transact in a Brokered Market, a Dealer Market, Principal-to-Principal Markets and Exchange Markets (referred to as “Trading Platform Markets” in this Annual Report), each as defined in the FASB ASC Master Glossary (collectively, “Digital Asset Markets”).

In determining which of the eligible Digital Asset Markets is the Trust’s principal market, the Trust reviews these criteria in the following order:

- First, the Trust reviews a list of Digital Asset Markets that maintain practices and policies designed to comply with anti-money laundering (“AML”) and know-your-customer (“KYC”) regulations, and non-Digital Asset Trading Platform Markets that the Trust reasonably believes are operating in compliance with applicable law, including federal and state licensing requirements, based upon information and assurances provided to it by each market.
- Second, the Trust sorts these Digital Asset Markets from high to low by market-based volume and level of activity of TAO traded on each Digital Asset Market in the trailing twelve months.
- Third, the Trust then reviews pricing fluctuations and the degree of variances in price on Digital Asset Markets to identify any material notable variances that may impact the volume or price information of a particular Digital Asset Market.
- Fourth, the Trust then selects a Digital Asset Market as its principal market based on the highest market-based volume, level of activity and price stability in comparison to the other Digital Asset Markets on the list. Based on information reasonably available to the Trust, Trading Platform Markets have the greatest volume and level of activity for the asset. The Trust therefore looks to accessible Trading Platform Markets as opposed to the Brokered Market, Dealer Market and Principal-to-Principal Markets to determine its principal market. As a result of the aforementioned analysis, a Trading Platform Market has been selected as the Trust’s principal market.

The Trust determines its principal market (or in the absence of a principal market the most advantageous market) annually and conducts a quarterly analysis to determine (i) if there have been recent changes to each Digital Asset Market’s trading volume and level of activity in the trailing twelve months, (ii) if any Digital Asset Markets have developed that the Trust has access to, or (iii) if recent changes to each Digital Asset Market’s price stability have occurred that would materially impact the selection of the principal market and necessitate a change in the Trust’s determination of its principal market.

The cost basis of the TAO received by the Trust in connection with a creation order is recorded by the Trust at the fair value of TAO at 4:00 p.m., New York time, on the creation date for financial reporting purposes. The cost basis recorded by the Trust may differ from proceeds collected by the Authorized Participant from the sale of the corresponding Shares to investors.

Investment Company Considerations

The Trust is an investment company for U.S. GAAP purposes and follows accounting and reporting guidance in accordance with the FASB ASC Topic 946, *Financial Services—Investment Companies*. The Trust uses fair value as its method of accounting for TAO in accordance with its classification as an investment company for accounting purposes. The Trust is not a registered investment company under the Investment Company Act. U.S. GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results could differ from those estimates and these differences could be material.

Review of Financial Results

Financial Highlights for the Year Ended December 31, 2025 and for the Period from June 10, 2024 (the Commencement of the Trust’s Operations) to December 31, 2024.

(All amounts in the following table and the subsequent paragraphs, except Share, TAO and price of TAO amounts, are in thousands)

	Year Ended December 31, 2025	June 10, 2024 (the Commencement of the Trust’s Operations) to December 31, 2024
Net realized and unrealized (loss) gain on investment in TAO	\$ (5,800)	\$ 534
Net (decrease) increase in net assets resulting from operations	\$ (6,037)	\$ 493
Net assets ⁽¹⁾	\$ 7,974	\$ 4,396

(1) Net assets in the above table and subsequent paragraphs are calculated in accordance with U.S. GAAP based on the Digital Asset Market price of TAO on the Digital Asset Trading Platform that the Trust considered its principal market, as of 4:00 p.m., New York time, on the valuation date.

Net realized and unrealized loss on investment in TAO for the year ended December 31, 2025 was (\$5,800), which includes a realized loss of (\$13) on the transfer of TAO to pay the Sponsor’s Fee, net change in unrealized appreciation/depreciation on the Sponsor’s Fee payable of (\$2), and net change in unrealized appreciation/depreciation on investment in TAO of (\$5,785). Net realized and unrealized loss on investment in TAO for the year was driven by TAO price depreciation from \$444.19 per TAO as of December 31, 2024, to \$220.32 per TAO as of December 31, 2025. Net decrease in net assets resulting from operations was (\$6,037) for the year ended December 31, 2025, which consisted of the net realized and unrealized loss on investment in TAO, plus the

Sponsor's Fee of \$237. Net assets increased to \$7,974 at December 31, 2025, an 81% increase for the year. The increase in net assets resulted from the contribution of approximately 26,984 TAO with a value of \$9,615 to the Trust in connection with Share creations during the year, partially offset by the aforementioned TAO price depreciation and the withdrawal of approximately 707 TAO to pay the foregoing Sponsor's Fee.

Net realized and unrealized gain on investment in TAO for the period from June 10, 2024 (the commencement of the Trust's operations) to December 31, 2024 was \$534, which includes a realized gain of \$7 on the transfer of TAO to pay the Sponsor's Fee, net change in unrealized appreciation/depreciation on the Sponsor's Fee payable of \$2, and net change in unrealized appreciation/depreciation on investment in TAO of \$525. Net realized and unrealized gain on investment in TAO for the year was driven by TAO price appreciation from \$346.42 per TAO as of June 10, 2024 (the commencement of the Trust's operations), to \$444.19 per TAO as of December 31, 2024. Net increase in net assets resulting from operations was \$493 for the year ended December 31, 2024, which consisted of the net realized and unrealized gain on investment in TAO, less the Sponsor's Fee of \$41. Net assets increased to \$4,396 at December 31, 2024. The increase in net assets resulted from the aforementioned TAO price appreciation and the contribution of approximately 9,986 TAO with a value of \$3,903 to the Trust in connection with Share creations during period, partially offset by the withdrawal of approximately 70 TAO to pay the foregoing Sponsor's Fee.

Cash Resources and Liquidity

The Trust has not had a cash balance at any time since inception. When selling TAO, Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency in the Digital Asset Market to pay Additional Trust Expenses on behalf of the Trust, the Sponsor endeavors to sell the exact amount of TAO, Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency needed to pay expenses in order to minimize the Trust's holdings of assets other than TAO. As a consequence, the Sponsor expects that the Trust will not record any cash flow from its operations and that its cash balance will be zero at the end of each reporting period. Furthermore, the Trust is not a party to any off-balance sheet arrangements.

In exchange for the Sponsor's Fee, the Sponsor has agreed to assume most of the expenses incurred by the Trust. As a result, the only ordinary expense of the Trust during the periods covered by this Annual Report was the Sponsor's Fee. The Trust is not aware of any trends, demands, conditions or events that are reasonably likely to result in material changes to its liquidity needs.

Selected Operating Data

	As of December 31,	
	2025	2024
Price of TAO on principal market	\$ 220.32	\$ 444.19
Principal Market NAV per Share ⁽¹⁾	\$ 4.24	\$ 8.76
Principal Market NAV ⁽¹⁾	\$ 7,974,043	\$ 4,395,326
Index Price	\$ 220.32	\$ 444.13
NAV per Share ⁽²⁾	\$ 4.41	\$ 8.88
NAV (Non-GAAP) ⁽²⁾	\$ 7,974,043	\$ 4,394,732

(1) The Principal Market NAV and Principal Market NAV per Share are calculated using the fair value of Ether based on the price provided by the Digital Asset Trading Platform that the Trust considered its principal market, as of 4:00 p.m., New York time, on the valuation date, in accordance with U.S. GAAP.

(2) The Trust's NAV and NAV per Share are derived from the Index Price as represented by the Index as of 4:00 p.m., New York time, on the valuation date. The Trust's NAV per Share is calculated using a non-GAAP methodology where the price is derived from multiple Digital Asset Trading Platforms. See "Item 1. Business—Overview of the Bittensor Industry and Market—TAO Value—The Index and the Index Price" for a description of the Index and the Index Price.

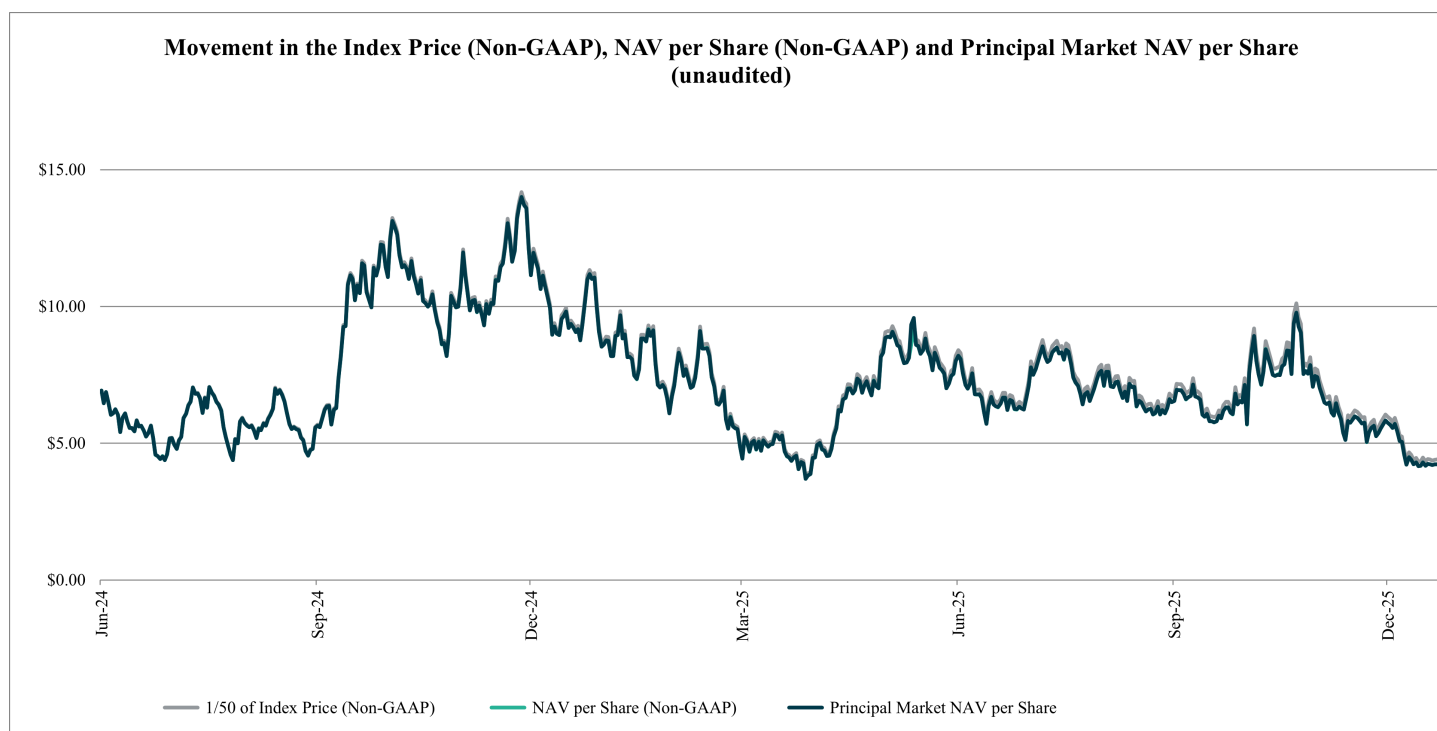
For accounting purposes, the Trust reflects creations and the TAO receivable with respect to such creations on the date of receipt of a notification of a creation but does not issue Shares until the requisite amount of TAO is received. At this time, the Trust is not accepting redemption requests from shareholders. Subject to receipt of regulatory approval from the SEC and approval by the Sponsor in its sole discretion, the Trust may in the future operate a redemption program.

Historical NAV and TAO Prices

As movements in the price of TAO will directly affect the price of the Shares, investors should understand recent movements in the price of TAO. Investors, however, should also be aware that past movements in the TAO price are not indicators of future

movements. Movements may be influenced by various factors, including, but not limited to, government regulation, security breaches experienced by service providers, as well as political and economic uncertainties around the world.

The following chart illustrates the movement in the Trust's NAV per Share versus the Index Price and the Trust's Principal Market NAV per Share from June 10, 2024 (the commencement of the Trust's operations) to December 31, 2025. For more information on the determination of the Trust's NAV, see "Item 1. Business—Overview of the TAO Industry and Market—TAO Value—The Index and the Index Price."



The following table illustrates the movements in the Index Price from June 10, 2024 to December 31, 2025. The Sponsor has not observed a material difference between the Index Price and average prices from the Constituent Trading Platforms, as of December 31, 2025, individually or as a group.

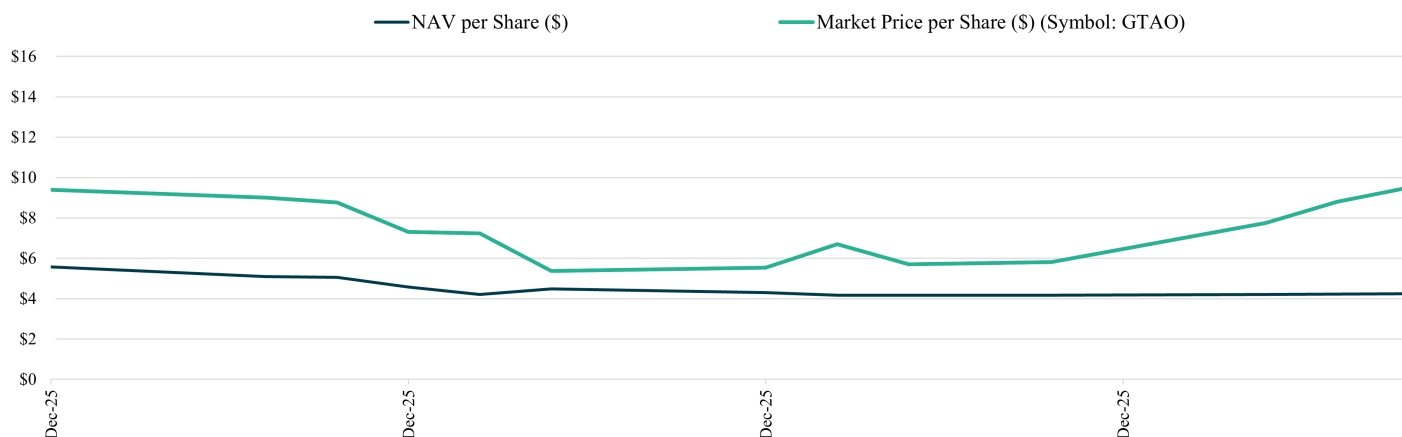
Period	Average	High		Low		End of period	Last business day
		Index Price	Date	Index Price	Date		
June 10, 2024 (the commencement of the Trust's Operations) to December 31, 2024	\$ 415.67	\$ 709.06	12/6/2024	\$ 219.59	7/7/2024	\$ 444.13	\$ 444.13
Twelve months ended December 31, 2025	\$ 350.70	\$ 566.90	1/4/2025	\$ 188.82	4/6/2025	\$ 220.32	\$ 220.32
June 10, 2024 (the commencement of the Trust's Operations) to December 31, 2025	\$ 374.06	\$ 709.06	12/6/2024	\$ 188.82	4/6/2025	\$ 220.32	\$ 220.32

The following table illustrates the movements in the Digital Asset Market price of TAO, as reported on the Trust's principal market, from June 10, 2024 to December 31, 2025.

Period	Average	High		Low		End of period	Last business day
		Digital Asset Market Price	Date	Digital Asset Market Price	Date		
June 10, 2024 (the commencement of the Trust's Operations) to December 31, 2024	\$ 415.65	\$ 708.85	12/6/2024	\$ 219.48	7/7/2024	\$ 444.19	\$ 444.19
Twelve months ended December 31, 2025	\$ 350.89	\$ 566.89	1/4/2025	\$ 188.87	4/6/2025	\$ 220.32	\$ 220.32
June 10, 2024 (the commencement of the Trust's Operations) to December 31, 2025	\$ 374.18	\$ 708.85	12/6/2024	\$ 188.87	4/6/2025	\$ 220.32	\$ 220.32

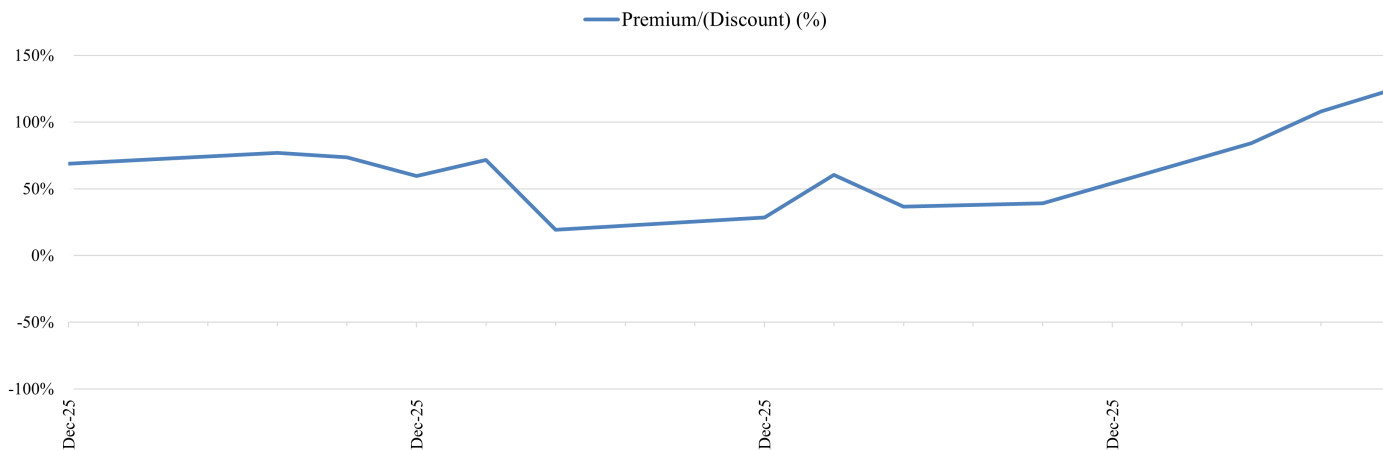
The following chart sets out the historical closing prices for the Shares as reported by OTCQX and the Trust's NAV per Share from December 12, 2025 to December 31, 2025.

GTAO Premium: GTAO Share Price vs. NAV per Share (Non-GAAP) (\$)



The following chart sets out the historical premium for the Shares calculated as a percentage of the historical closing prices for the Shares as reported by OTCQX and the Trust's NAV per Share from December 12, 2025 to December 31, 2025.

GTAO Premium: GTAO Share Price vs. NAV per Share (Non-GAAP) (%)



Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk

The Trust Agreement does not authorize the Trust to borrow for payment of the Trust's ordinary expenses. The Trust does not engage in transactions in foreign currencies which could expose the Trust or holders of Shares to any foreign currency related market risk. The Trust does not invest in derivative financial instruments and has no foreign operations or long-term debt instruments.

Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data

See Index to Financial Statements on page F-1 for a list of the financial statements being filed therein.

Item 9. Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure

There have been no disagreements with accountants on any matter of accounting principles or practices or financial statement disclosures during the year ended December 31, 2025.

Item 9A. Controls and Procedures

Conclusion Regarding the Effectiveness of Disclosure Controls and Procedures

The Trust maintains disclosure controls and procedures that are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed in its Exchange Act reports is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the SEC's rules and forms, and that such information is accumulated and communicated to the Principal Executive Officer and Principal Financial and Accounting Officer of the Sponsor, and to the audit committee of the Sponsor, as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

Under the supervision and with the participation of the Principal Executive Officer and the Principal Financial and Accounting Officer of the Sponsor, the Sponsor conducted an evaluation of the Trust's disclosure controls and procedures, as defined under Exchange Act Rule 13a-15(e). Based on this evaluation, the Principal Executive Officer and the Principal Financial and Accounting Officer of the Sponsor concluded that, as of December 31, 2025, the Trust's disclosure controls and procedures were effective.

Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

This annual report does not include a report of management's assessment regarding internal control over financial reporting or an attestation report of the Trust's registered public accounting firm due to a transition period established by rules of the SEC for newly public companies. In addition, because we are an "emerging growth company" under the JOBS Act, our independent registered public accounting firm will not be required to attest to the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting for so long as we are an emerging growth company.

Changes in Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

There was no change in the Trust's internal controls over financial reporting that occurred during the Trust's most recently completed fiscal quarter ended December 31, 2025 that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, these internal controls.

Item 9B. Other Information

Not applicable.

Item 9C. Disclosure Regarding Foreign Jurisdictions that Prevent Inspections

Not applicable.

PART III

Item 10. Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance

Management of the Sponsor

The Trust does not have any directors, officers or employees. Under the Trust Agreement, all management functions of the Trust have been delegated to and are conducted by the Sponsor, its agents and its affiliates, including without limitation, the Custodian and its agents. As officers of the Sponsor, Peter Mintzberg, the principal executive officer of the Sponsor, and Edward McGee, the principal financial and accounting officer of the Sponsor, may take certain actions and execute certain agreements and certifications for the Trust, in their capacity as the principal officers of the Sponsor.

As of and prior to December 31, 2024, GSI had a board of directors that was responsible for managing and directing the affairs of the Sponsor. From January 1, 2025, to October 22, 2025, GSO Intermediate Holdings Corporation (“GSOIH”), a Delaware corporation formed in connection with the Reorganization, which was the sole managing member of GSO and an indirect subsidiary of DCG, had a board of directors which was responsible for managing and directing the affairs of the Sponsor.

On October 22, 2025, GSOIH consummated an internal corporate reorganization (the “Management Reorganization”), pursuant to which GSOIH transferred a portion of its common membership units of GSO for Class A shares of Grayscale Investments, Inc. (“Grayscale Investments”), a Delaware corporation incorporated in connection with the Management Reorganization, and ceded its managing member rights in GSO to Grayscale Investments. As a result of the Management Reorganization, Grayscale Investments is now the sole managing member of GSO, the sole member of the Sponsor.

From and after October 22, 2025, as a result of the Management Reorganization, DCG Grayscale Holdco, LLC (“DCG Holdco”), the sole stockholder of Grayscale Investments, elected a board of directors (the “Board”) at Grayscale Investments. As a result of the Management Reorganization, the Board of Grayscale Investments is responsible for managing and directing the affairs of the Sponsor, and consists of Barry Silbert, Mark Shifke, Simon Koster, Peter Mintzberg, and Edward McGee, the same members as the board of directors of GSOIH prior to the Management Reorganization. Mr. Mintzberg and Mr. McGee also retain the authority granted to them as officers of the Sponsor under the limited liability company agreement of the Sponsor.

The Sponsor has an Audit Committee. The Audit Committee has the responsibility for overseeing the financial reporting process of the Trust, including the risks and controls of that process and such other oversight functions as are typically performed by an audit committee of a public company.

The Sponsor has a code of ethics (the “Code of Ethics”) that applies to its executive officers and agents. The Code of Ethics is available by writing the Sponsor at 290 Harbor Drive, 4th Floor, Stamford, Connecticut 06902 or calling the Sponsor at (212) 668-1427. The Sponsor’s Code of Ethics is intended to be a codification of the business and ethical principles that guide the Sponsor, and to deter wrongdoing, to promote honest and ethical conduct, to avoid conflicts of interest, and to foster compliance with applicable governmental laws, rules and regulations, the prompt internal reporting of violations and accountability for adherence to this code. Prior to January 1, 2025, references to the “Sponsor” in this section refer to GSI, and thereafter refer to GSO or GSI, as applicable. In connection with the Reorganization, the former Board of GSI was reconstituted at GSOIH, and in connection with the Management Reorganization, the former board of GSOIH was reconstituted at Grayscale Investments. Prior to January 1, 2025, any references to the “Board” refer to the board of directors of Grayscale Investments, LLC, the former sponsor of the Trust. From January 1, 2025 to October 22, 2025, any references to the “Board” refer to the board of directors of GSOIH. From and after October 22, 2025, any references to the “Board” refer to the board of directors of Grayscale Investments

Barry Silbert, Chairman of the Board

Barry Silbert, 49, is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of DCG and has served as chairman of the Board since August 2025 (previously served as a director and chairman of the Board from February 2020 through December 2023). Until January 2021, Mr. Silbert was the Chief Executive Officer of the Sponsor. A pioneer in blockchain investing, Mr. Silbert established himself in 2012 as one of the earliest and most active investors in the industry. Mr. Silbert founded DCG in 2015 and today, it is one of the world’s most prolific investors in decentralized technologies, backing over 250 early-stage companies in more than 40 countries. Mr. Silbert founded Yuma, a decentralized AI-focused subsidiary of DCG, where he also serves as CEO. Yuma invests in, builds, and scales the Bittensor network. The Sponsor is a consolidated subsidiary of DCG. DCG also owns Foundry, Fortitude, Luno and Yuma. DCG also invests directly in digital currencies and other digital assets. Prior to leading DCG, Mr. Silbert was the founder and CEO of SecondMarket, a venture-backed technology company that was acquired by Nasdaq. Mr. Silbert has received numerous awards and accolades, including being named “Entrepreneur of the Year” by both Ernst & Young and Crain’s, and being selected to Fortune’s

prestigious “40 under 40” list. Before becoming an entrepreneur, Mr. Silbert worked as an investment banker. He graduated with honors from the Goizueta Business School of Emory University.

Mark Shifke, Board Member

Mark Shifke, 66, is the Chief Financial Officer of DCG and has served as a director of the Board since January 2024. Since March 2021, Mr. Shifke has served on the board of directors of Dock Ltd., a full-stack payments and digital banking platform. Since September 2023, Mr. Shifke has served on the board of directors of Luno, a cryptocurrency platform. Mr. Shifke has nearly four decades of financial and fintech experience, and more than eight years of CFO experience leading two publicly-traded companies. Prior to joining DCG, Mr. Shifke served as CFO of Billtrust, a company focused on providing AR and cloud-based solutions around payments, and as CFO of Green Dot (NYSE: GDOT), a mobile banking company and payments platform. Previously, Mr. Shifke led teams at JPMorgan Chase and Goldman Sachs, specializing in M&A Structuring and Advisory, as well as Tax Asset Investments. Mr. Shifke also served as the Head of International Structured Finance Group at KPMG. Mr. Shifke began his career at Davis Polk, where he was a partner. He is a graduate of Tulane University (B.A./J.D.) and the New York University School of Law (LL.M. in Taxation).

Simon Koster, Board Member

Simon Koster, 44, is the Chief Strategy Officer of DCG and has served as a director of the Board since October 2025. As CSO, Mr. Koster leads the investment team, managing the portfolio comprised of digital assets, wholly owned subsidiaries, and more than 250 early-stage companies in over 35 nations across the world as of the date of this filing. Prior to his current role, Mr. Koster was the CEO of Real Estate at DCG, spearheading both internal and external real estate ventures. Previously, he served as CEO of The Collective and brings a decade of real estate experience from JDS Development Group, where he was instrumental in the acquisition and development of top-tier residential, hospitality, and mixed-use projects in New York City and Miami. He is a graduate of Rutgers University (B.S.) and holds a Master’s degree in Engineering from the University of Michigan. Mr. Koster has served on the board of directors of Foundry and Luno since 2023. He has served as a director of Fortitude since 2024 and as a director of Yuma since 2025. Each of Foundry, Luno, Fortitude and Yuma are affiliated with the registrant.

Peter Mintzberg, Board Member and Chief Executive Officer

Peter Mintzberg, 57, has been the Chief Executive Officer of the Sponsor and has served as a director of the Board since August 2024. Mr. Mintzberg joins the Sponsor from Goldman Sachs, where he served as Global Head of Strategy for Asset and Wealth Management. Prior, he held several global leadership roles in Strategy, M&A, and Investor Relations at BlackRock, Apollo, OppenheimerFunds, and Invesco. With deep knowledge across a broad base of client types and asset classes, Mr. Mintzberg has over two decades of experience developing and executing strategy and innovating to drive growth. Mr. Mintzberg started his career working at McKinsey & Co. in New York, San Francisco, and São Paulo, focused on the financial services and technology sectors. Mr. Mintzberg was recognized as a Latino leader in Finance by The Alumni Society in 2018, and was selected as a David Rockefeller Fellow in the 2016-2017 Class by the Partnership for New York City. He earned a bachelor’s degree in engineering from the Universidade Federal Rio de Janeiro, and an MBA from Harvard University.

Edward McGee, Board Member and Chief Financial Officer

Edward McGee, 42, has been the Chief Financial Officer of the Sponsor since January 2022 and has served as a director of the Sponsor since January 2024. Before serving as CFO, Mr. McGee was Vice President, Finance and Controller of the Sponsor since June 2019. Prior to taking on his role at the Sponsor, Mr. McGee served as a Vice President, Accounting Policy at Goldman, Sachs & Co. providing coverage to their SEC Financial Reporting team facilitating the preparation and review of their financial statements and provided U.S. GAAP interpretation, application and policy development while servicing their Special Situations Group, Merchant Banking Division and Urban Investments Group from 2014 to 2019. From 2011 to 2014, Mr. McGee was an auditor at Ernst & Young providing assurance services to publicly listed companies. Mr. McGee earned his Bachelor of Science degree in accounting from the John H. Sykes College of Business at the University of Tampa and graduated with honors while earning his Master of Accountancy in Financial Accounting from the Rutgers Business School at the State University of New Jersey. Mr. McGee is a Certified Public Accountant licensed in the state of New York.

Item 11. Executive Compensation

Not applicable.

Item 12. Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters

Securities Authorized for Issuance under Equity Compensation Plans and Related Stockholder Matters

Not applicable.

Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management

The Trust does not have any directors, officers or employees. The following table sets forth certain information with respect to the beneficial ownership of the Shares for (i) each person that, to the Sponsor's knowledge based on the records of the Transfer Agent and other ownership information provided to the Sponsor, owns beneficially a significant portion of the Shares; (ii) each director and executive officer of the Sponsor individually; and (iii) all directors and executive officers of the Sponsor as a group.

The number of Shares beneficially owned and percentages of beneficial ownership set forth below are based on the number of Shares outstanding as of March 6, 2026.

In accordance with the rules of the SEC, beneficial ownership includes voting or investment power with respect to securities.

Name and Address of Beneficial Owner	Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership	Percentage of Beneficial Ownership
Significant Shareholders:		
Miura Holdings, Ltd.	784,531	41.12%
Digital Currency Group, Inc. ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾⁽³⁾	90,059	4.72%
Directors & Executive Officers of the Sponsor:⁽⁴⁾		
Barry Silbert ⁽⁵⁾	185,300	9.71%
Mark Shifke	*	* %
Simon Koster	*	* %
Peter Mintzberg	*	* %
Edward McGee	*	* %
Directors & Executive Officers of the Sponsor as a group	185,300	9.71%

- (1) Includes 86,953 Shares held by DCG International Investments Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of Digital Currency Group, Inc.; and 3,106 Shares held by Grayscale Securities, LLC, the Authorized Participant of the Trust and a wholly owned subsidiary of Digital Currency Group, Inc.
- (2) Barry Silbert is the Chief Executive Officer of DCG and in such capacity may be deemed to have voting and dispositive power over the securities held, directly or indirectly, by such entity.
- (3) The Trust does not have any directors, officers or employees. Under the Trust Agreement, all management functions of the Trust have been delegated to and are conducted by the Sponsor, its agents and its affiliates.
- (4) Does not include Shares beneficially owned through DCG.

* Represents beneficial ownership of less than 1%.

Unless otherwise indicated, the address for each shareholder listed in the table above is c/o Grayscale Investments Sponsors, LLC, 290 Harbor Drive, 4th Floor, Stamford, Connecticut 06902.

Item 13. Certain Relationships and Related Transactions and Director Independence

General

The Sponsor has not established formal procedures to resolve all potential conflicts of interest. Consequently, shareholders may be dependent on the good faith of the respective parties subject to such conflicts to resolve them equitably. Although the Sponsor attempts to monitor these conflicts, it is extremely difficult, if not impossible, for the Sponsor to ensure that these conflicts do not, in fact, result in adverse consequences to the Trust.

The Sponsor presently intends to assert that shareholders have, by subscribing for Shares of the Trust, consented to the following conflicts of interest in the event of any proceeding alleging that such conflicts violated any duty owed by the Sponsor to investors.

Digital Currency Group, Inc.

DCG is (i) the indirect parent company of the Sponsor, (ii) the indirect parent company of Grayscale Securities, the only acting Authorized Participant as of the date of this Annual Report, and (iii) a minority interest holder in Kraken, one of the Digital Asset Trading Platforms included in the Index, representing less than 1.0% of its equity.

DCG has investments in a large number of digital assets and companies involved in the digital asset ecosystem, including trading platforms and custodians. DCG's positions on changes that should be adopted in the Bittensor Network could be adverse to positions that would benefit the Trust or its shareholders. Additionally, before or after a hard fork, DCG's position regarding which

fork among a group of incompatible forks of the Bittensor Network should be considered the “true” Bittensor Network could be adverse to positions that would most benefit the Trust.

The Sponsor

The Sponsor has a conflict of interest in allocating its own limited resources among, when applicable, different clients and potential future business ventures, to each of which it owes fiduciary duties. Additionally, the professional staff of the Sponsor also services other affiliates of the Trust, including several other digital asset investment vehicles, and their respective clients. Although the Sponsor and its professional staff cannot and will not devote all of its or their respective time or resources to the management of the affairs of the Trust, the Sponsor intends to devote, and to cause its professional staff to devote, sufficient time and resources to manage properly the affairs of the Trust consistent with its or their respective fiduciary duties to the Trust and others.

The Sponsor and Grayscale Securities are affiliates of each other, and the Sponsor may engage other affiliated service providers in the future. Because of the Sponsor’s affiliated status, it may be disincentivized from replacing affiliated service providers. In connection with this conflict of interest, shareholders should understand that affiliated service providers will receive fees for providing services to the Trust. Clients of the affiliated service providers may pay commissions at negotiated rates which are greater or less than the rate paid by the Trust.

The Sponsor and any affiliated service provider may, from time to time, have conflicting demands in respect of their obligations to the Trust and, in the future, to other clients. It is possible that future business ventures of the Sponsor and affiliated service providers may generate larger fees, resulting in increased payments to employees, and therefore, incentivizing the Sponsor and/or the affiliated service providers to allocate its/their limited resources accordingly to the potential detriment of the Trust.

There is an absence of arm’s length negotiation with respect to some of the terms of the Trust, and, where applicable, there has been no independent due diligence conducted with respect to the Trust. The Sponsor will, however, not retain any affiliated service providers for the Trust which the Sponsor has reason to believe would knowingly or deliberately favor any other client over the Trust.

The Authorized Participant

The only Authorized Participant is Grayscale Securities, an affiliate of the Trust and the Sponsor. As a result of this affiliation, the Sponsor has an incentive to resolve questions between Grayscale Securities, on the one hand, and the Trust and shareholders, on the other hand, in favor of Grayscale Securities (including, but not limited to, questions as to the calculation of the Basket Amount). Lastly, several employees of the Sponsor and Digital Currency Group, Inc. are FINRA-registered representatives who maintain their licenses through Grayscale Securities.

Proprietary Trading/Other Clients

Because the officers of the Sponsor may trade TAO for their own personal trading accounts (subject to certain internal trading policies and procedures) at the same time as they are managing the account of the Trust, the activities of the officers of the Sponsor, subject to their fiduciary duties, may, from time-to-time, result in their taking positions in their personal trading accounts which are opposite of the positions taken for the Trust. Records of the Sponsor’s officers’ personal trading accounts will not be available for inspection by shareholders.

Item 14. Principal Accountant Fees and Services

Fees for services performed by KPMG LLP (“KPMG”), for the year ended December 31, 2025 and the period from June 10, 2024 (the commencement of the Trust’s operations) to December 31, 2024 were:

	Year Ended December 31, 2025	June 10, 2024 (the Commencement of the Trust’s Operations) to December 31, 2024
Audit fees	\$ 130,000	\$ 95,000
Total	<u>\$ 130,000</u>	<u>\$ 95,000</u>

In the table above, in accordance with the SEC’s definitions and rules, Audit Fees are fees paid to KPMG, for professional services for the audit of the Trust’s financial statements included in the annual report on Form 10-K and review of financial statements included in the quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, and for services that are normally provided by the accountants in connection with regulatory filings or engagements.

Pre-Approved Policies and Procedures

The Trust has no board of directors, and as a result, has no audit committee or pre-approval policy with respect to fees paid to its principal accounting firm. Such determinations, including for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2025, are made by the Sponsor's Board and Audit Committee. Prior to January 1, 2025, "Board" refers to the board of directors of Grayscale Investments, LLC, the former Sponsor of the Trust. From January 1, 2025, to October 22, 2025, "Board" refers to the board of directors of GSOIH. From and after October 22, 2025, "Board" refers to the board of directors of Grayscale Investments.

PART IV

Item 15. Exhibits and Financial Statements Schedules

1. Financial Statements

See Index to Financial Statements on Page F-1 for a list of the financial statements being filed herein.

2. Financial Statement Schedules

Schedules have been omitted since they are either not required, not applicable, or the information has otherwise been included.

3. Exhibits

<u>Exhibit Number</u>	<u>Exhibit Description</u>
3.1*	Certificate of Trust.
4.1	Second Amended and Restated Declaration of Trust and Trust Agreement (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 of the Form 8-K filed by the Registrant on January 16, 2026).
4.2†	Participant Agreement, dated October 3, 2022, between the Sponsor and Grayscale Securities, LLC (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.3 of the Registration Statement on Form 10 filed by the Registrant on October 10, 2025).
4.3*	Description of Registrant's Securities.
10.1†	Custodian Agreement, dated March 12, 2025, between the Sponsor and the Custodian (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of the Registration Statement on Form 10 filed by the Registrant on October 10, 2025).
10.2†	Distribution and Marketing Agreement, dated September 18, 2025, between the Sponsor and Grayscale Securities, LLC (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 of the Registration Statement on Form 10 filed by the Registrant on October 10, 2025).
10.3†*	Index License Agreement, dated February 1, 2022, between the Sponsor, and the Index Provider.
10.4†*	Amendment No. 1 to the Index License Agreement, dated June 20, 2023, between the Sponsor and Index Provider.
10.5†*	Amendment No. 6 to the Index License Agreement, dated March 1, 2025, between the Sponsor and Index Provider.
10.6†	Transfer Agency and Service Agreement (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 of the Registration Statement on Form 10 filed by the Registrant on October 10, 2025).
10.7†*	Master Services Agreement, dated August 6, 2020, between the Trust and the Secondary Index Provider.
31.1*	Certification by Principal Executive Officer Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
31.2*	Certification by Principal Financial and Accounting Officer Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
32.1*	Certification by Principal Executive Officer Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
32.2*	Certification by Principal Financial and Accounting Officer Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
101.INS*	Inline XBRL Instance Document – the instance document does not appear in the Interactive Data File because its XBRL tags are embedded within the Inline XBRL document.
101.SCH*	Inline XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema With Embedded Linkbase Documents.
104	Cover Page Interactive Data File—The cover page interactive data file does not appear in the interactive data file because its XBRL tags are embedded within the inline XBRL document.

* Filed herewith.

† Portions of this exhibit (indicated by asterisks) have been omitted as the Registrant has determined that (i) the omitted information is not material and (ii) the omitted information is of the type that the Registrant treats as private or confidential.

Item 16. Form 10-K Summary

Not applicable.

GLOSSARY OF DEFINED TERMS

In this Annual Report, each of the following quoted terms has the meanings set forth after such term:

“Actual Exchange Rate”—With respect to any particular asset, at any time, the price per single unit of such asset (determined net of any associated fees) at which the Trust is able to sell such asset for U.S. dollars (or other applicable fiat currency) at such time to enable the Trust to timely pay any Additional Trust Expenses, through use of the Sponsor’s commercially reasonable efforts to obtain the highest such price.

“Additional Trust Expenses”—Together, any expenses incurred by the Trust in addition to the Sponsor’s Fee that are not Sponsor-paid Expenses, including, but not limited to, (i) taxes and governmental charges, (ii) expenses and costs of any extraordinary services performed by the Sponsor (or any other service provider) on behalf of the Trust to protect the Trust or the interests of shareholders (including in connection with any Incidental Rights and any IR Virtual Currency), (iii) any indemnification of the Custodian or other agents, service providers or counterparties of the Trust, (iv) the fees and expenses related to the listing, quotation or trading of the Shares on any Secondary Market (including legal, marketing and audit fees and expenses) to the extent exceeding \$600,000 in any given fiscal year and (v) extraordinary legal fees and expenses, including any legal fees and expenses incurred in connection with litigation, regulatory enforcement or investigation matters.

“Administrator Fee”—The fee payable to any administrator of the Trust for services it provides to the Trust, which the Sponsor will pay such administrator as a Sponsor-paid Expense.

“Affirmative Action”—A decision by the Trust to acquire or abandon specific Incidental Rights and IR Virtual Currency at any time prior to the time of a creation of Shares.

“Agent”—A Person appointed by the Trust to act on behalf of the shareholders in connection with any distribution of Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency.

“AML”—Anti-money laundering.

“Authorized Participant”—Certain eligible financial institutions that have entered into an agreement with the Trust and the Sponsor concerning the creation of Shares. Each Authorized Participant (i) is a registered broker-dealer, (ii) has entered into a Participant Agreement with the Sponsor and (iii) owns a digital wallet address that is known to the Custodian as belonging to the Authorized Participant or a Liquidity Provider.

“Basket”—A block of 100 Shares.

“Basket Amount”—On any trade date, the amount of TAO required as of such trade date for each Creation Basket, as determined by dividing (x) the amount of TAO owned by the Trust at 4:00 p.m., New York time, on such trade date, after deducting the amount of TAO representing the U.S. dollar value of accrued but unpaid fees and expenses of the Trust (converted using the Index Price at such time, and carried to the eighth decimal place), by (y) the number of Shares outstanding at such time (with the quotient so obtained calculated to one one-hundred-millionth of one TAO (*i.e.*, carried to the eighth decimal place)), and multiplying such quotient by 100.

“Binance”—Binance Holdings Ltd.

“Bitcoin”—A type of digital asset based on an open-source cryptographic protocol existing on the Bitcoin Network.

“Bitcoin Network”—The online, end-user-to-end-user network hosting a public transaction ledger, known as the Bitcoin blockchain, and the source code comprising the basis for the cryptographic and algorithmic protocols governing the Bitcoin Network.

“Bittensor” or **“TAO”**—Bittensor tokens, which are a type of digital asset based on an open source cryptographic protocol existing on the Bittensor Network, comprising units that constitute the assets underlying the Trust’s Shares.

“Bittensor Network”—A set of smart contracts deployed on a decentralized public transaction ledger known as the blockchain. The Bittensor Network leverages the cryptographic and algorithmic protocols of the underlying blockchain to govern its application. See [“—Overview of the TAO Industry and Market.”](#)

“Blockchain”—The public transaction ledger of the Bittensor Network on which transactions in TAO are recorded.

“Board”—Board of Directors of Grayscale Investments, Inc., which as of October 22, 2025, and pursuant to the Management Reorganization, manages and directs the affairs of the Sponsor. Prior to January 1, 2025, any references to the "Board" refer to the board of directors of Grayscale Investments, LLC, the former Sponsor of the Trust. From January 1, 2025, to October 22, 2025, any references to the "Board" refer to the board of directors of GSIOH. From and after October 22, 2025, any references to the "Board" refer to the board of directors of Grayscale Investments.

“CDI”—CoinDesk Indices, Inc., with its affiliates, including CC Data Limited.

“CEA”—Commodity Exchange Act of 1936, as amended.

“CFPB”—The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

“CFTC”—The U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission, an independent agency with the mandate to regulate commodity futures and option markets in the United States.

“Code”—The U.S. Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

“Coinbase”—Coinbase, Inc.

“Covered Person”—The Sponsor and its affiliates. See “Item 1. Business—Description of the Trust Agreement—The Sponsor—Liability of the Sponsor and Indemnification.”

“Creation Basket”—Basket of Shares issued by the Trust upon deposit of the Basket Amount required for each such Creation Basket.

“Creation Time”—With respect to the creation of any Shares by the Trust, the time at which the Trust creates such Shares.

“Custodial Services”—The Custodian’s services that (i) allow TAO to be deposited from a public blockchain address to the Trust’s Digital Asset Account and (ii) allow the Trust and the Sponsor to withdraw TAO from the Trust’s Digital Asset Account to a public blockchain address the Trust or the Sponsor controls pursuant to instructions the Trust or the Sponsor provides to the Custodian.

“Custodian”—BitGo Trust Company, Inc.

“Custodian Agreement”—The BitGo Custodial Services Agreement, dated as of March 12, 2025, by and between the Trust and the Sponsor and Custodian that governs the Trust’s and the Sponsor’s use of the Custodial Services provided by the Custodian as a fiduciary with respect to the Trust’s assets.

“Custodian Fee”—Fee payable to the Custodian for services it provides to the Trust, which the Sponsor shall pay to the Custodian as a Sponsor-paid Expense.

“DCG”—Digital Currency Group, Inc.

“DCG Holdco”—DCG Grayscale Holdco, LLC.

“Digital Asset Account”—A segregated custody account controlled and secured by the Custodian to store private keys, which allow for the transfer of ownership or control of the Trust’s TAO on the Trust’s behalf.

“Digital Asset Market”—A “Brokered Market,” “Dealer Market,” “Principal-to-Principal Market” or “Exchange Market” (referred to as “Trading Platform Market” in this Annual Report), as each such term is defined in the Financial Accounting Standards Board Accounting Standards Codification Master Glossary.

“Digital Asset Trading Platform”—An electronic marketplace where trading platform participants may trade, buy and sell TAO based on bid-ask trading. The largest Digital Asset Trading Platforms are online and typically trade on a 24-hour basis, publishing transaction price and volume data.

“Digital Asset Trading Platform Market”—The global trading platform market for the trading of TAO, which consists of transactions on electronic Digital Asset Trading Platforms.

“**DSTA**”—The Delaware Statutory Trust Act, as amended.

“**DTC**”—The Depository Trust Company. DTC is a limited purpose trust company organized under New York law, a member of the U.S. Federal Reserve System and a clearing agency registered with the SEC. DTC will act as the securities depository for the Shares.

“**Exchange Act**”—The Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

“**FDIC**”—The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

“**FinCEN**”—The Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, a bureau of the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

“**FINRA**”—The Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc., which is the primary regulator in the United States for broker-dealers, including Authorized Participants.

“**FSMA**”—The Financial Services and Markets Act 2023.

“**FTX**”—FTX Trading Ltd.

“**Grayscale Investments**”—Grayscale Investments, Inc., a Delaware corporation and a consolidated subsidiary of DCG.

“**Grayscale Securities**”—Grayscale Securities, LLC, a consolidated subsidiary of Grayscale Operating, LLC, which as of the date of this Annual Report, is the only acting Authorized Participant.

“**GSI**”—Grayscale Investments, LLC, the Sponsor of the Trust, until December 31, 2024.

“**GSIS**”—Grayscale Investments Sponsors, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, and a consolidated subsidiary of Grayscale Operating, LLC.

“**GSO**”—Grayscale Operating, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company and a consolidated subsidiary of DCG.

“**GSOIH**”—GSO Intermediate Holdings Corporation, a Delaware corporation and a consolidated subsidiary of DCG.

“**ICE**”—Intercontinental Exchange.

“**Incidental Rights**”—Rights to acquire, or otherwise establish dominion and control over, any virtual currency or other asset or right, which rights are incident to the Trust’s ownership of TAO and arise without any action of the Trust, or of the Sponsor or Trustee on behalf of the Trust.

“**Index**”—The CoinDesk Bittensor Benchmark Rate. Prior to March 6, 2026, the Index was the Coin Metrics Real-Time Rate for Bittensor.

“**Index License Agreement**”—The license agreement, dated as of February 1, 2022, between the Index Provider and the Sponsor governing the Sponsor’s use of the Index for calculation of the Index Price, as amended from time to time.

“**Index Price**”—The U.S. dollar value of a TAO derived from the Digital Asset Trading Platforms that are reflected in the Index, calculated at 4:00 p.m., New York time, on each business day. See “Item 1. Business—Overview of the TAO Industry and Market—TAO Value—The Index and the Index Price” for a description of how the Index Price is calculated. For purposes of the Trust Agreement, the term TAO Index Price shall mean the Index Price as defined herein.

“**Index Provider**”—CoinDesk Indices, Inc, a Delaware corporation that publishes the Index.

“**Investment Advisers Act**”—Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended.

“**Investment Company Act**”—Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended.

“**Investor**”—Any investor that has entered into a subscription agreement with an Authorized Participant, pursuant to which such Authorized Participant will act as agent for the investor.

“IR Virtual Currency”—Any virtual currency tokens, or other asset or right, acquired by the Trust through the exercise (subject to the applicable provisions of the Trust Agreement) of any Incidental Right.

“IRS”—The U.S. Internal Revenue Service, a bureau of the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

“KYC”—Know-your-customer.

“Layer 1”—The underlying smart contract platform blockchain on which a digital asset functions.

“Layer 2”—Protocols built on top of an underlying smart contract platform blockchain intended to provide scalability to the underlying blockchain by increasing transaction efficiency.

“Liquidity Provider”—A service provider that facilitates the purchase of TAO in connection with the creation of Baskets.

“Management Reorganization”—An internal corporate reorganization consummated on October 22, 2025. As a result of the Management Reorganization, Grayscale Investments is now the sole managing member of GSO, the sole member of the Sponsor, and the Board of Grayscale Investments is responsible for managing and directing the affairs of the Sponsor.

“Marketing Fee”—Fee payable to the marketer for services it provides to the Trust, which the Sponsor will pay to the marketer as a Sponsor-paid Expense.

“Merger”—The merger of Grayscale Investments, LLC with and into Grayscale Operating, LLC, with Grayscale Operating, LLC continuing as the surviving company.

“MiCA”—The Markets in Crypto-Assets Regulation, which was approved by the Parliament of the European Union in 2023.

“MSB”—A money services business.

“Native Staking Consideration”—Any Staking Consideration in the form of TAO.

“NAV”—The aggregate value, expressed in U.S. dollars, of the Trust’s assets (other than U.S. dollars or other fiat currency), less its liabilities (which include estimated accrued but unpaid fees and expenses), a non-GAAP metric, calculated in the manner set forth under “Item 1. Business—Valuation of TAO and Determination of NAV.” See also “Item 1. Business—Investment Objective” for a description of the Trust’s Principal Market NAV, as calculated in accordance with U.S. GAAP.

“NAV Fee Basis Amount”—The amount on which the Sponsor’s Fee for the Trust is based, as calculated in the manner set forth under “Item 1. Business—Valuation of TAO and Determination of NAV”.

“NYSE Arca”—NYSE Arca, Inc.

“OTCQX”—The OTCQX Best Market® of OTC Markets Group Inc.

“Participant Agreement”—An agreement entered into by an Authorized Participant with the Sponsor that provides the procedures for the creation of Baskets and for the delivery of TAO required for Creation Baskets.

“Pre-Creation Abandonment”—The abandonment by the Trust, irrevocably for no direct or indirect consideration, all Incidental Rights and IR Virtual Currency to which the Trust would otherwise be entitled, effective immediately prior to a Creation Time for the Trust.

“Pre-Creation Abandonment Notice”—A notice delivered by the Sponsor to the Custodian, on behalf of the Trust, stating that the Trust is abandoning irrevocably for no direct or indirect consideration, effective immediately prior to each Creation Time, all Incidental Rights and IR Virtual Currency to which it would otherwise be entitled as of such time and with respect to which the Trust has not taken any Affirmative Action at or prior to such time.

“Principal Market NAV”—The net asset value of the Trust determined on a U.S. GAAP basis.

“Reorganization”—The internal corporate reorganization of Grayscale Investments, LLC consummated on January 1, 2025.

“**SEC**”—The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

“**Secondary Index**”—The Coin Metrics Real-Time Rate.

“**Secondary Index Price**”—The price set by Coin Metrics Real-Time Rate as of 4:00 p.m., New York time, on the valuation date. See “Item 1. Business—Overview of the TAO Industry and Market—TAO Value—The Index and the Index Price—Determination of the Index Price When Index Price is Unavailable” for a description of how the Secondary Index Price is utilized when the Index Price is unavailable.

“**Secondary Index Provider**”—Coin Metrics Inc., a Delaware corporation that publishes the Secondary Index

“**Secondary Market**”—Any marketplace or other alternative trading system, as determined by the Sponsor, on which the Shares may then be listed, quoted or traded, including but not limited to, the OTCQX Best Market[®] of OTC Markets Group Inc.

“**Securities Act**”—The Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

“**Shares**”—Common units of fractional undivided beneficial interest in, and ownership of, the Trust.

“**Share Percentage**”—A fraction the numerator of which is the number of Shares disposed of and the denominator of which is the total number of Shares held by such U.S. Holder immediately prior to such sale or other disposition.

“**SIPC**”—The Securities Investor Protection Corporation.

“**Sponsor**” or “**Co-Sponsor**”—The sponsor of the Trust. Grayscale Investments, LLC was the sponsor of the Trust before January 1, 2025, Grayscale Operating, LLC was a co-sponsor of the Trust from January 1, 2025 to May 3, 2025, and Grayscale Investments Sponsors, LLC was a co-sponsor of the Trust from January 1, 2025 to May 3, 2025 and became the sole remaining sponsor thereafter.

“**Sponsor Contracts**”—Certain contracts assigned by GSO pertaining to its role as Sponsor (as such term is defined in the Trust Agreement) of the Trust to GSIS in connection with the Reorganization.

“**Sponsor-paid Expenses**”—The fees and expenses incurred by the Trust in the ordinary course of its affairs that the Sponsor is obligated to assume and pay, excluding taxes, but including: (i) the Marketing Fee, (ii) the Administrator Fee, (iii) the Custodian Fee and fees for any other security vendor engaged by the Trust, (iv) the Transfer Agent Fee, (v) the Trustee fee, (vi) the fees and expenses related to the listing, quotation or trading of the Shares on any Secondary Market (including customary legal, marketing and audit fees and expenses) in an amount up to \$600,000 in any given fiscal year, (vii) ordinary course, legal fees and expenses, (viii) audit fees, (ix) regulatory fees, including, if applicable, any fees relating to the registration of the Shares under the Securities Act or the Exchange Act, (x) printing and mailing costs, (xi) costs of maintaining the Trust’s website and (xii) applicable license fees.

“**Sponsor’s Fee**”—A fee, payable in TAO, which accrues daily in U.S. dollars at an annual rate of 2.5% of the NAV Fee Basis Amount of the Trust as of 4:00 p.m., New York time, on each day; *provided* that for a day that is not a business day, the calculation of the Sponsor’s Fee will be based on the NAV Fee Basis Amount from the most recent business day, reduced by the accrued and unpaid Sponsor’s Fee for such most recent business day and for each day after such most recent business day and prior to the relevant calculation date.

“**Staking**”—Using, or permitting to be used, indirectly through the Custodian (including, for the avoidance of doubt, through the Custodian’s delegation of rights, on the Trust’s behalf, to a vetted third party unrelated to the Trust or the Sponsor with respect to any portion of the Trust’s TAO, by making any portion of the Trust’s TAO available to such third party or by entering into any similar arrangement with such third party), any portion of the Trust’s TAO in a staking protocol, (ii) accepting only Native Staking Consideration and treating all such Native Staking Consideration consistently, and (iii) any financing arrangement or other mechanism utilized by the Sponsor, on behalf of the Trust, in connection with Redemption Orders to manage TAO liquidity constraints arising from activities described in the preceding clauses. For the avoidance of doubt, (i) the mere act of transferring units of virtual currency on a peer-to-peer virtual currency network that utilizes a staking protocol shall not be considered to be “Staking” and (ii) “Staking” shall include any related activity contemplated by a Tax Ruling, an opinion or Tax Guidance, in each case, described in the definition of Staking Condition (and, in the case of a Tax Ruling, that is described in the private letter ruling request (as supplemented from time to time) submitted to the U.S. Internal Revenue Service in connection therewith).

“Staking Condition”—With respect to a particular form of Staking, the condition that (i) (x) engaging in such form of Staking should not cause the Trust to be treated as other than a grantor trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes and (y) the Trust shall have received (1) a written opinion from a Tax Advisor or (2) a Tax Ruling, in each case, to that effect or (ii) such form of Staking is confirmed in Tax Guidance to be a permissible undertaking by a grantor trust.

“Staking Consideration”—Any consideration of any kind whatsoever, including, but not limited to, any staking reward paid in fiat currency or paid in kind, in exchange for using, or permitting to be used, any portion of the Trust Estate as described in clause (i) of the definition of “Staking.”

“Tax Advisor”—An independent law firm that is recognized as being an expert in tax matters.

“Tax Guidance”—Any tax guidance that is issued by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service of the U.S. Department of Treasury.

“Tax Ruling”—A binding ruling issued by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service.

“Tertiary Pricing Option”—The price set by the Trust’s principal market.

“Total Basket Amount”—With respect to any creation order, the applicable Basket Amount multiplied by the number of Baskets being created.

“Transfer Agency and Service Agreement”—The agreement between the Sponsor and the Transfer Agent which sets forth the obligations and responsibilities of the Transfer Agent with respect to transfer agency services and related matters.

“Transfer Agent”—Continental Stock Transfer & Trust Company, a Delaware corporation.

“Transfer Agent Fee”—Fee payable to the Transfer Agent for services it provides to the Trust, which the Sponsor will pay to the Transfer Agent as a Sponsor-paid Expense.

“Treasury Regulations”—The regulations, including proposed or temporary regulations, promulgated under the Code.

“Trust”—Grayscale Bittensor Trust (TAO), a Delaware statutory trust, formed on April 30, 2024 under the DSTA and pursuant to the Trust Agreement.

“Trust Agreement”—The Second Amended and Restated Declaration of Trust and Trust Agreement between the Trustee and the Sponsor establishing and governing the operations of the Trust, as amended from time to time.

“Trustee”—CSC Delaware Trust Company (formerly known as Delaware Trust Company), a Delaware trust company, is the Delaware trustee of the Trust.

“UBTI”—Unrelated business taxable income.

“U.S.”—United States.

“U.S. dollar” or **“\$”**—United States dollar or dollars.

“U.S. GAAP”—United States generally accepted accounting principles.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned in the capacities* indicated, thereunto duly authorized.

Grayscale Investments Sponsors, LLC as Sponsor of Grayscale Bittensor Trust (TAO)

By: /s/ Peter Mintzberg

Name: Peter Mintzberg
Member of the Board of Directors and Chief
Title: Executive Officer (Principal Executive Officer)*

By: /s/ Edward McGee

Name: Edward McGee
Member of the Board of Directors and Chief
Financial Officer (Principal Financial and
Title: Accounting Officer)*

By: /s/ Barry Silbert

Name: Barry Silbert
Chairman of the Board of Directors
Title: Director*

By: /s/ Mark Shifke

Name: Mark Shifke
Member of the Board of Directors
Title: Director*

By: /s/ Simon Koster

Name: Simon Koster
Member of the Board of Directors
Title: Director*

Date: March 12, 2026

* The Registrant is a trust and the persons are signing in their capacities as officers of Grayscale Investments Sponsors, LLC, the Sponsor of the Registrant, or directors of Grayscale Investments, Inc., the sole managing member of Grayscale Operating, LLC, the sole member of Grayscale Investments Sponsors, LLC, as applicable.

INDEX TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Grayscale Bittensor Trust (TAO) Annual Financial Statements	
Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm (KPMG LLP, PCAOB ID 185)	F-2
Statements of Assets and Liabilities at December 31, 2025 and 2024	F-3
Schedules of Investment at December 31, 2025 and 2024	F-4
Statements of Operations for the Year Ended December 31, 2025 and the Period from June 10, 2024 (the Commencement of the Trust’s Operations) to December 31, 2024	F-5
Statements of Changes in Net Assets for the Year Ended December 31, 2025 and the Period from June 10, 2024 (the Commencement of the Trust’s Operations) to December 31, 2024	F-6
Notes to Financial Statements	F-7

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the Shareholders and Sponsor of
Grayscale Bittensor Trust (TAO):

Opinion on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying statements of assets and liabilities, including the schedules of investment of Grayscale Bittensor Trust (TAO) (the Trust) as of December 31, 2025 and December 31, 2024, the related statements of operations and changes in net assets for the year ended December 31, 2025 and for the period from June 10, 2024 (the commencement of the Trust's operations) to December 31, 2024 and the related notes (collectively, the financial statements). In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Trust as of December 31, 2025 and December 31, 2024, and the results of its operations and the changes in its net assets for the year ended December 31, 2025 and for the period from June 10, 2024 (the commencement of the Trust's operations) to December 31, 2024 in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

Basis for Opinion

These financial statements are the responsibility of the Trust's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We are a public accounting firm registered with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) (PCAOB) and are required to be independent with respect to the Trust in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud. Our audit included performing procedures to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and performing procedures that respond to those risks. Such procedures included examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Our audit also included evaluating the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

/s/ KPMG LLP

We have served as the Trust's auditor since 2025.

New York, New York
March 12, 2026

GRAYSCALE BITTENSOR TRUST (TAO)
STATEMENTS OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
(Amounts in thousands, except Share and per Share amounts)

	December 31,	
	2025	2024
Assets:		
Investment in TAO, at fair value (cost \$13,234 and \$3,880 as of December 31, 2025 and 2024, respectively)	\$ 7,974	\$ 4,405
Total assets	\$ 7,974	\$ 4,405
Liabilities:		
Sponsor's Fee payable, related party	\$ -	\$ 9
Total liabilities	-	9
Net assets	\$ 7,974	\$ 4,396
Shares issued and outstanding, no par value (unlimited Shares authorized)	1,881,500	501,700
Principal Market NAV per Share	\$ 4.24	\$ 8.76

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

GRAYSCALE BITTENSOR TRUST (TAO)
SCHEDULES OF INVESTMENT
(Amounts in thousands, except quantity of TAO and percentages)

December 31, 2025

	Quantity of TAO	Cost	Fair Value	% of Net Assets
Investment in TAO	36,193.00420808	\$ 13,234	\$ 7,974	100%
Total Investment		\$ 13,234	\$ 7,974	100%
Net assets			\$ 7,974	100%

December 31, 2024

	Quantity of TAO	Cost	Fair Value	% of Net Assets
Investment in TAO	9,915.88027129	\$ 3,880	\$ 4,405	100%
Total Investment		\$ 3,880	\$ 4,405	100%
Liabilities			\$ (9)	0%
Net assets			\$ 4,396	100%

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

GRAYSCALE BITTENSOR TRUST (TAO)
STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS
(Amounts in thousands)

	Year Ended December 31, 2025	June 10, 2024 (the Commencement of the Trust's Operations) to December 31, 2024
Investment income:		
Investment income	\$ -	\$ -
Expenses:		
Sponsor's Fee, related party	237	41
Net investment loss	(237)	(41)
Net realized and unrealized (loss) gain from:		
Net realized (loss) gain on investment in TAO	(13)	7
Net change in unrealized appreciation/depreciation on Sponsor's Fee payable	(2)	2
Net change in unrealized appreciation/depreciation on investment in TAO	(5,785)	525
Net realized and unrealized (loss) gain on investment	(5,800)	534
Net (decrease) increase in net assets resulting from operations	\$ (6,037)	\$ 493

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

GRAYSCALE BITTENSOR TRUST (TAO)
STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS
(Amounts in thousands, except change in Shares outstanding)

	Year Ended December 31, 2025	June 10, 2024 (the Commencement of the Trust's Operations) to December 31, 2024
(Decrease) increase in net assets from operations:		
Net investment loss	\$ (237)	\$ (41)
Net realized (loss) gain on investment in TAO	(13)	7
Net change in unrealized appreciation/depreciation on Sponsor's Fee payable	(2)	2
Net change in unrealized appreciation/depreciation on investment in TAO	(5,785)	525
Net (decrease) increase in net assets resulting from operations	(6,037)	493
Increase in net assets from capital share transactions:		
Shares issued	9,615	3,903
Net increase in net assets resulting from capital share transactions	9,615	3,903
Total increase in net assets from operations and capital share transactions	3,578	4,396
Net assets:		
Beginning of year	4,396	-
End of year	\$ 7,974	\$ 4,396
Change in Shares outstanding:		
Shares outstanding at beginning of year	501,700	-
Shares issued	1,379,800	501,700
Net increase in Shares	1,379,800	501,700
Shares outstanding at end of year	1,881,500	501,700

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

GRAYSCALE BITTENSOR TRUST (TAO) NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Organization

Grayscale Bittensor Trust (TAO) (the “Trust”) is a Delaware Statutory Trust that was formed on April 30, 2024 and commenced operations on June 10, 2024. In general, the Trust holds Bittensor (“TAO”) and, from time to time, issues common units of fractional undivided beneficial interest (“Shares”) (in minimum baskets of 100 Shares, referred to as “Baskets”) in exchange for TAO. As of December 31, 2025, the Trust did not operate a redemption program. Subject to receipt of regulatory approval and approval by the Sponsor in its sole discretion, the Trust may in the future operate a redemption program. The Trust’s investment objective is for the value of the Shares (based on TAO per Share) to reflect the value of the TAO held by the Trust, less the Trust’s expenses and other liabilities.

Grayscale Investments, LLC (“GSI”) was the sponsor of the Trust before January 1, 2025, Grayscale Operating, LLC (“GSO”) was the co-sponsor of the Trust from January 1, 2025 to May 3, 2025, and Grayscale Investments Sponsors, LLC (“GSIS” or the “Sponsor”) was the co-sponsor of the Trust from January 1, 2025 to May 3, 2025 and is the sole remaining sponsor thereafter. GSI was, and each of GSO and GSIS are, a consolidated subsidiary of Digital Currency Group, Inc. (“DCG”). The Sponsor is responsible for the day-to-day administration of the Trust pursuant to the provisions of the Trust Agreement. The Sponsor is responsible for preparing and providing annual and quarterly reports on behalf of the Trust to investors and is also responsible for selecting and monitoring the Trust’s service providers. As partial consideration for the Sponsor’s services, the Trust pays the Sponsor a Sponsor’s Fee as discussed in Note 6. The Sponsor also acts as the sponsor and manager of other single-asset and diversified investment products, each of which is an affiliate of the Trust. Information related to the affiliated investment products can be found on the Sponsor’s website at grayscale.com/resources/regulatory-filings. Any information contained on or linked from such website is not part of nor incorporated by reference into these audited financial statements. Several of the affiliated investment products are also SEC reporting companies with their shares registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”). In addition, the following affiliated investment products are SEC reporting companies with their shares registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Exchange Act: Grayscale Bitcoin Trust ETF, Grayscale Ethereum Staking ETF, Grayscale Ethereum Staking Mini ETF, Grayscale Bitcoin Mini Trust ETF, Grayscale CoinDesk Crypto 5 ETF, Grayscale Solana Staking ETF, Grayscale XRP Trust ETF, Grayscale Dogecoin Trust ETF, Grayscale Chainlink Trust ETF and, as of February 18, 2026, Grayscale Sui Staking ETF.

Authorized Participants of the Trust are the only entities who may place orders to create or, if permitted, redeem Baskets. Grayscale Securities, LLC (“Grayscale Securities” or, in such capacity, an “Authorized Participant”), a registered broker-dealer and affiliate of the Sponsor, is the only Authorized Participant, and is party to a participant agreement with the Sponsor and the Trust. Additional Authorized Participants may be added at any time, subject to the discretion of the Sponsor. Liquidity Providers who are unaffiliated with the Trust may be engaged from time to time and at any time.

During the period from June 10, 2024 (the commencement of the Trust’s operations) to March 2025, the Sponsor acted as the Key Maintainer of the Trust (the “Key Maintainer”). In March 2025, the Sponsor engaged BitGo Trust Company, Inc., a third-party service provider (the “Custodian”), to serve as the custodian of the Trust’s TAO. As of March 12, 2025 all TAO held by the Trust was transferred to a segregated custody account controlled and secured by the Custodian. As a result, the Sponsor no longer serves as Key Maintainer of the Trust. The Custodian is responsible for safeguarding the TAO, Incidental Rights, and IR Virtual Currency held by the Trust, and holding the private key(s) that provide access to the Trust’s digital wallets and vaults.

The transfer agent for the Trust (the “Transfer Agent”) is Continental Stock Transfer & Trust Company. The responsibilities of the Transfer Agent are to maintain creations, redemptions, transfers, and distributions of the Trust’s Shares which are primarily held in book-entry form.

On December 10, 2025, the Trust received notice that its Shares were qualified for public trading on the OTCQX Best Market[®] (“OTCQX”) of OTC Markets Group Inc. The Trust’s trading symbol on OTCQX is “GTAO” and the CUSIP number for its Shares is 38963B100.

The Trust may also receive Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency as a result of the Trust’s investment in TAO, in accordance with the terms of the Trust Agreement. Incidental Rights are rights to claim, or otherwise establish dominion and control over, any virtual currency or other asset or right, which rights are incident to the Trust’s ownership of TAO and arise without any action of the Trust, or of the Sponsor or Trustee on behalf of the Trust; IR Virtual Currency is any virtual currency tokens, or other asset or right, received by the Trust through the exercise (subject to the applicable provisions of the Trust Agreement) of any Incidental Right.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The following is a summary of significant accounting policies followed by the Trust:

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States (“U.S. GAAP”). The Trust qualifies as an investment company for accounting purposes pursuant to the accounting and reporting guidance under Financial Accounting Standards Board (“FASB”) Accounting Standards Codification (“ASC”) Topic 946, *Financial Services—Investment Companies*. The Trust uses fair value as its method of accounting for TAO in accordance with its classification as an investment company for accounting purposes. The Trust is not a registered investment company under the Investment Company Act of 1940. U.S. GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results could differ from those estimates and these differences could be material.

The Trust conducts its transactions in TAO, including receiving TAO for the creation of Shares and delivering TAO for the redemption of Shares and for the payment of the Sponsor’s Fee. At this time, the Trust is not accepting redemption requests from shareholders. Since its inception, the Trust has not held cash or cash equivalents. The Sponsor will determine the Trust’s net asset value (“NAV”) on each business day as of 4:00 p.m., New York time, or as soon thereafter as practicable.

Principal Market and Fair Value Determination

To determine which market is the Trust’s principal market (or in the absence of a principal market, the most advantageous market) for purposes of calculating the Trust’s net asset value in accordance with U.S. GAAP (“Principal Market NAV”), the Trust follows ASC Topic 820-10, *Fair Value Measurement*, which outlines the application of fair value accounting. ASC 820-10 determines fair value to be the price that would be received for TAO in a current sale, which assumes an orderly transaction between market participants on the measurement date. ASC 820-10 requires the Trust to assume that TAO is sold in its principal market to market participants or, in the absence of a principal market, the most advantageous market. Market participants are defined as buyers and sellers in the principal or most advantageous market that are independent, knowledgeable, and willing and able to transact.

The Trust only receives TAO in connection with a creation order from the Authorized Participant (or a Liquidity Provider) and does not itself transact on any Digital Asset Markets. Therefore, the Trust looks to market-based volume and level of activity for Digital Asset Markets. The Authorized Participant(s), or a Liquidity Provider, may transact in a Brokered Market, a Dealer Market, Principal-to-Principal Markets and Exchange Markets (referred to as “Trading Platform Markets” in this Annual Report), each as defined in the FASB ASC Master Glossary (collectively, “Digital Asset Markets”).

In determining which of the eligible Digital Asset Markets is the Trust’s principal market, the Trust reviews these criteria in the following order:

First, the Trust reviews a list of Digital Asset Markets that maintain practices and policies designed to comply with anti-money laundering (“AML”) and know-your-customer (“KYC”) regulations, and non-Digital Asset Trading Platform Markets that the Trust reasonably believes are operating in compliance with applicable law, including federal and state licensing requirements, based upon information and assurances provided to it by each market.

Second, the Trust sorts these Digital Asset Markets from high to low by market-based volume and level of activity of TAO traded on each Digital Asset Market in the trailing twelve months.

Third, the Trust then reviews pricing fluctuations and the degree of variances in price on Digital Asset Markets to identify any material, notable variances that may impact the volume or price information of a particular Digital Asset Market.

Fourth, the Trust then selects a Digital Asset Market as its principal market based on the highest market-based volume, level of activity and price stability in comparison to the other Digital Asset Markets on the list. Based on information reasonably available to the Trust, Trading Platform Markets have the greatest volume and level of activity for the asset. The Trust therefore looks to accessible Trading Platform Markets as opposed to the Brokered Market, Dealer Market and Principal-to-Principal Markets to determine its principal market. As a result of the aforementioned analysis, a Trading Platform Market has been selected as the Trust’s principal market.

The Trust determines its principal market (or in the absence of a principal market the most advantageous market) annually and conducts a quarterly analysis to determine (i) if there have been recent changes to each Digital Asset Market’s trading volume and level of activity in the trailing twelve months, (ii) if any Digital Asset Markets have developed that the Trust has access to, or (iii) if recent changes to each Digital Asset Market’s price stability have occurred that would materially impact the selection of the principal market and necessitate a change in the Trust’s determination of its principal market.

The cost basis of the TAO received by the Trust in connection with a creation order is recorded by the Trust at the fair value of TAO at 4:00 p.m., New York time, on the creation date for financial reporting purposes. The cost basis recorded by the Trust may differ from proceeds collected by the Authorized Participant from the sale of the corresponding Shares to investors.

Investment Transactions and Revenue Recognition

The Trust considers investment transactions to be the receipt of TAO for Share creations and the delivery of TAO for Share redemptions or for payment of expenses in TAO. At this time, the Trust is not accepting redemption requests from shareholders. The Trust records its investment transactions on a trade date basis and changes in fair value are reflected as net change in unrealized appreciation or depreciation on investments. Realized gains and losses are calculated using the specific identification method. Realized gains and losses are recognized in connection with transactions including settling obligations for the Sponsor's Fee in TAO.

Fair Value Measurement

Fair value is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability (i.e., the 'exit price') in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.

U.S. GAAP utilizes a fair value hierarchy for inputs used in measuring fair value that maximizes the use of observable inputs and minimizes the use of unobservable inputs by requiring that the most observable inputs be used when available. Observable inputs are those that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability based on market data obtained from sources independent of the Trust. Unobservable inputs reflect the Trust's assumptions about the inputs market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability developed based on the best information available in the circumstances.

The fair value hierarchy is categorized into three levels based on the inputs as follows:

- Level 1 – Valuations based on unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the Trust has the ability to access. Since valuations are based on quoted prices that are readily and regularly available in an active market, these valuations do not entail a significant degree of judgment.
- Level 2 – Valuations based on quoted prices in markets that are not active or for which significant inputs are observable, either directly or indirectly.
- Level 3 – Valuations based on inputs that are unobservable and significant to the overall fair value measurement.

The availability of valuation techniques and observable inputs can vary by investment. To the extent that valuations are based on sources that are less observable or unobservable in the market, the determination of fair value requires more judgment. Fair value estimates do not necessarily represent the amounts that may be ultimately realized by the Trust.

	Amount at Fair Value	Fair Value Measurement Using		
		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
December 31, 2025				
Assets				
Investment in TAO	\$ 7,974	\$ 7,974	\$ -	\$ -
December 31, 2024				
Assets				
Investment in TAO	\$ 4,405	\$ 4,405	\$ -	\$ -

Segment Reporting

The Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer of the Sponsor act as the Trust's chief operating decision maker ("CODM"). The Trust represents a single operating segment, as the CODM monitors the operating results of the Trust as a whole and the Trust's passive investment objective is pre-determined in accordance with the terms of the Trust Agreement. The financial information in the form of the Trust's total returns, expense ratios and changes in net assets (i.e., changes in net assets resulting from operations and capital share transactions), which are used by the CODM to assess the segment's performance, are consistent with that presented within the Trust's financial statements. Segment assets are reflected on the accompanying Statements of Assets and Liabilities as Total assets and the only significant segment expense, the Sponsor's fee, related party, is included in the accompanying Statements of Operations.

3. Fair Value of TAO

As of December 31, 2025, TAO is held by the Custodian on behalf of the Trust and is carried at fair value. As of December 31, 2025 and 2024, the Trust held 36,193.00420808 and 9,915.88027129 TAO, respectively.

The Trust determined the fair value per TAO to be \$220.32 on December 31, 2025, using the price provided at 4:00 p.m., New York time, by the Digital Asset Trading Platform Market considered to be the Trust's principal market (Coinbase). The Trust determined the fair value per TAO to be \$444.19 on December 31, 2024, using the price provided at 4:00 p.m., New York time, by the Digital Asset Trading Platform Market considered to be the Trust's principal market (Kraken).

The following represents the changes in quantity of TAO and the respective fair value:

(Amounts in thousands, except TAO amounts)	Quantity	Fair Value
Balance at June 10, 2024 (the Commencement of the Trust's Operations)	-	\$ -
TAO contributed	9,985.96611255	3,903
TAO distributed for Sponsor's Fee, related party	(70.08584126)	(41)
Net change in unrealized appreciation/depreciation on investment in TAO	-	525
Net change in unrealized appreciation/depreciation on Sponsor Fee payable	-	2
Net realized gain on investment in TAO	-	7
Balance at December 31, 2024	<u>9,915.88027129</u>	<u>\$ 4,396</u>
TAO contributed	26,984.16920142	9,615
TAO distributed for Sponsor's Fee, related party	(707.04526463)	(237)
Net change in unrealized appreciation/depreciation on investment in TAO	-	(5,785)
Net change in unrealized appreciation/depreciation on Sponsor Fee payable	-	(2)
Net realized loss on investment in TAO	-	(13)
Balance at December 31, 2025	<u>36,193.00420808</u>	<u>\$ 7,974</u>

4. Creations and Redemptions of Shares

At December 31, 2025 and 2024, there were an unlimited number of Shares authorized by the Trust. The Trust creates (and, should the Trust commence a redemption program, redeems) Shares from time to time, but only in one or more Baskets. The creation and redemption of Baskets on behalf of investors are made by the Authorized Participant in exchange for the delivery of TAO to the Trust or the distribution of TAO by the Trust. The amount of TAO required for each Creation Basket or redemption Basket is determined by dividing (x) the amount of TAO owned by the Trust at 4:00 p.m., New York time, on such trade date of a creation or redemption order, after deducting the amount of TAO representing the U.S. dollar value of accrued but unpaid fees and expenses of the Trust, by (y) the number of Shares outstanding at such time and multiplying the quotient obtained by 100. Each Share represented approximately 0.0192 and 0.0197 of one TAO at December 31, 2025 and 2024, respectively. The decrease in the amount of TAO represented by each Share is primarily a result of the periodic withdrawal of TAO to pay the Sponsor's Fee.

The cost basis of investments in TAO recorded by the Trust is the fair value of TAO, as determined by the Trust, at 4:00 p.m., New York time, on the date of transfer to the Trust by the Authorized Participant, or Liquidity Provider, based on the Creation Baskets. The cost basis recorded by the Trust may differ from proceeds collected by the Authorized Participant from the sale of each Share to investors. The Authorized Participant, or Liquidity Provider may realize significant profits buying, selling, creating, and, if permitted, redeeming Shares as a result of changes in the value of Shares or TAO.

At this time, the Trust is not operating a redemption program and is not accepting redemption requests. Subject to receipt of regulatory approval and approval by the Sponsor in its sole discretion, the Trust may in the future operate a redemption program.

5. Income Taxes

The Sponsor takes the position that the Trust is properly treated as a grantor trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Assuming that the Trust is a grantor trust, the Trust will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax. Rather, if the Trust is a grantor trust, each beneficial owner of Shares will be treated as directly owning its pro rata Share of the Trust's assets and a pro rata portion of the Trust's income, gains, losses and deductions will "flow through" to each beneficial owner of Shares.

If the Trust were not properly classified as a grantor trust, the Trust might be classified as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes. However, due to the uncertain treatment of digital assets, including forks, airdrops and similar occurrences for U.S. federal income tax purposes, there can be no assurance in this regard. If the Trust were classified as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes, the tax consequences of owning Shares generally would not be materially different from the tax consequences described herein, although there might be certain differences, including with respect to timing. In addition, tax information reports provided to beneficial owners of Shares would be made in a different form. If the Trust were not classified as either a grantor trust or a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes, it would be classified as a corporation for such purposes. In that event, the Trust would be subject to entity-level U.S. federal income tax (currently at the rate of 21%) on its net taxable income and certain distributions made by the Trust to shareholders would be treated as taxable dividends to the extent of the Trust's current and accumulated earnings and profits.

In accordance with U.S. GAAP, the Trust has defined the threshold for recognizing the benefits of tax positions in the financial statements as “more-likely-than-not” to be sustained by the applicable taxing authority and requires measurement of a tax position meeting the “more-likely-than-not” threshold, based on the largest benefit that is more than 50% likely to be realized. Tax positions deemed to meet the “more-likely-than-not” threshold are recorded as a tax benefit in the current period. As of, and during the year ended December 31, 2025 and the period from June 10, 2024 (the commencement of the Trust’s operations) to December 31, 2024, the Trust did not have a liability for any unrecognized tax amounts. However, the Sponsor’s conclusions concerning its determination of “more-likely-than-not” tax positions may be subject to review and adjustment at a later date based on factors including, but not limited to, further implementation guidance, and ongoing analyses of and changes to tax laws, regulations and interpretations thereof.

The Sponsor of the Trust has evaluated whether or not there are uncertain tax positions that require financial statement recognition and has determined that no reserves for uncertain tax positions related to federal, state and local income taxes existed as of December 31, 2025 or 2024.

6. Related Parties

The Trust considered the following entities, their directors, and certain employees to be related parties of the Trust as of December 31, 2025: DCG, GSO, GSIS, and Grayscale Securities. As of December 31, 2025 and 2024, 337,674 and 194,019 Shares of the Trust were held by related parties of the Trust, respectively.

On January 1, 2025, GSI consummated an internal corporate reorganization (the “Reorganization”), pursuant to which GSI, the Sponsor of the Trust prior to the Reorganization, merged with and into GSO, a Delaware limited liability company and a consolidated subsidiary of DCG, with GSO continuing as the surviving company (the “Merger”). As a result of the Merger, GSO succeeded by operation of law to all the rights, powers, privileges and franchises and became subject to all of the obligations, liabilities, restrictions and disabilities of GSI, including with respect to the Sponsor Contracts (as defined below), all as provided under the Delaware Limited Liability Company Act. The Reorganization is not expected to have any material impact on the operations of the Trust.

In connection with the Reorganization, on January 1, 2025, and promptly following the effectiveness of the Merger, GSO assigned certain contracts pertaining to its role as Sponsor (as such term is defined in the Trust Agreement) of the Trust (such contracts, the “Sponsor Contracts”) to GSIS, a Delaware limited liability company and a consolidated subsidiary of GSO, whereby GSIS assumed all of the rights and obligations of GSO under the Sponsor Contracts. Other than the assumption of the Sponsor Contracts by GSIS, the Reorganization does not alter the rights or obligations under any of the Sponsor Contracts.

In connection with the Reorganization, on January 1, 2025, and promptly following the effectiveness of the Merger, GSO and GSIS executed a Certificate of Admission, pursuant to which GSIS was admitted as an additional Sponsor of the Trust under the Trust Agreement, by and among GSO (as successor in interest to GSI), the Trustee, and the shareholders from time to time thereunder, as amended from time to time. GSIS shall be subject to the rights and obligations of a Sponsor under the Trust Agreement. On January 3, 2025, GSO voluntarily withdrew as a Sponsor of the Trust pursuant to the terms of the Trust Agreement, and, effective May 3, 2025, became the sole remaining Sponsor of the Trust.

On October 22, 2025, GSO Intermediate Holdings Corporation (“GSOIH”), a Delaware corporation which was the sole managing member of GSO, consummated an internal corporate reorganization (the “Management Reorganization”). Pursuant to the Management Reorganization, GSOIH transferred a portion of its common membership units of GSO for Class A shares of Grayscale Investments, Inc. (“Grayscale Investments”), a Delaware corporation incorporated in connection with the Management Reorganization, and ceded its managing member rights in GSO to Grayscale Investments. As a result of the Reorganization, Grayscale Investments is now the sole managing member of GSO, the sole member of the Sponsor. Also in connection with the Reorganization, on October 22, 2025, DCG Grayscale Holdco, LLC (“DCG Holdco”), the sole stockholder of Grayscale Investments, elected a board of directors (the “Board”) at Grayscale Investments.

In accordance with the Trust Agreement governing the Trust, the Trust pays a fee to the Sponsor, calculated as 2.5% of the aggregate value of the Trust’s assets, less its liabilities (which include any accrued but unpaid expenses up to, but excluding, the date of calculation), as calculated and published by the Sponsor or its delegates in the manner set forth in the Trust Agreement (the “Sponsor’s Fee”). The Sponsor’s Fee accrues daily in U.S. dollars and is payable in TAO, monthly in arrears. The amount of TAO payable in respect of each daily U.S. dollar accrual will be determined by reference to the same U.S. dollar value of TAO used to determine such accrual. For purposes of these financial statements, the U.S. dollar value of TAO is determined by reference to the Digital Asset Trading Platform Market that the Trust considers its principal market as of 4:00 p.m., New York time, on each valuation date. The Trust held no Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currency as of December 31, 2025 and 2024. No Incidental Rights or IR Virtual Currencies have been distributed in payment of the Sponsor’s Fee during the year ended December 31, 2025 and the period from June 10, 2024 (the commencement of the Trust’s operations) to December 31, 2024.

As partial consideration for receipt of the Sponsor's Fee, the Sponsor is obligated under the Trust Agreement to assume and pay all fees and other expenses incurred by the Trust in the ordinary course of its affairs, excluding taxes, but including marketing fees; administrator fees, if any; custodian fees; transfer agent fees; trustee fees; the fees and expenses related to the listing, quotation or trading of the Shares on any secondary market (including customary legal, marketing and audit fees and expenses) in an amount up to \$600,000 in any given fiscal year; ordinary course legal fees and expenses; audit fees; regulatory fees, including, if applicable, any fees relating to the registration of the Shares under the Securities Act or the Exchange Act; printing and mailing costs; the costs of maintaining the Trust's website and applicable license fees (together, the "Sponsor-paid Expenses"), provided that any expense that qualifies as an Additional Trust Expense will be deemed to be an Additional Trust Expense and not a Sponsor-paid Expense.

The Trust may incur certain extraordinary, non-recurring expenses that are not Sponsor-paid Expenses, including, but not limited to, taxes and governmental charges, expenses and costs of any extraordinary services performed by the Sponsor (or any other service provider) on behalf of the Trust to protect the Trust or the interests of shareholders (including in connection with any Incidental Rights and any IR Virtual Currency), any indemnification of the Custodian or other agents, service providers or counterparties of the Trust, the fees and expenses related to the listing, quotation or trading of the Shares on any secondary market (including legal, marketing and audit fees and expenses) to the extent exceeding \$600,000 in any given fiscal year and extraordinary legal fees and expenses, including any legal fees and expenses incurred in connection with litigation, regulatory enforcement or investigation matters (collectively "Additional Trust Expenses"). In such circumstances, the Sponsor or its delegate (i) will instruct the Custodian to withdraw from the Digital Asset Account TAO, Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency in such quantity as may be necessary to permit payment of such Additional Trust Expenses and (ii) may either (x) cause the Trust (or its delegate) to convert such TAO, Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency into U.S. dollars or other fiat currencies at the Actual Exchange Rate or (y) when the Sponsor incurs such expenses on behalf of the Trust, cause the Trust (or its delegate) to deliver such TAO, Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency in kind to the Sponsor, in each case in such quantity as may be necessary to permit payment of such Additional Trust Expenses.

For the year ended December 31, 2025 and for the period from June 10, 2024 (the commencement of the Trust's operations) to December 31, 2024, the Trust incurred Sponsor's Fees of \$236,406 and \$41,744, respectively. As of December 31, 2025 there were no accrued and unpaid Sponsor's Fees. As of December 31, 2024, accrued and unpaid Sponsor's Fees totaled \$9,209. In addition, the Sponsor may pay Additional Trust Expenses on behalf of the Trust, which are reimbursable by the Trust to the Sponsor. For the year ended December 31, 2025 and for the period from June 10, 2024 (the commencement of the Trust's operations), the Sponsor did not pay any Additional Trust Expenses on behalf of the Trust.

7. Risks and Uncertainties

The Trust is subject to various risks including market risk, liquidity risk, and other risks related to its concentration in a single asset, TAO. Investing in TAO is currently highly speculative and volatile.

The Principal Market NAV of the Trust, calculated by reference to the principal market price in accordance with U.S. GAAP, relates primarily to the value of the TAO held by the Trust, and fluctuations in the price of TAO could materially and adversely affect an investment in the Shares of the Trust. The price of TAO has a limited history. During such history, TAO prices have been volatile and subject to influence by many factors, including the levels of liquidity. If Digital Asset Markets continue to experience significant price fluctuations, the Trust may experience losses. Several factors may affect the price of TAO, including, but not limited to, global TAO supply and demand, theft of TAO from global trading platforms or vaults, competition from other forms of digital currency or payment services, global or regional political, economic or financial conditions, and other unforeseen events and situations.

The TAO held by the Trust are commingled and the Trust's shareholders have no specific rights to any specific TAO. In the event of the insolvency of the Trust, its assets may be inadequate to satisfy a claim by its shareholders.

There is currently no clearing house for TAO, nor is there a central or major depository for the custody of TAO. There is a risk that some or all of the Trust's TAO could be lost or stolen. There can be no assurance that the Custodian will maintain adequate insurance or that such coverage will cover losses with respect to the Trust's TAO. Further, transactions in TAO are irrevocable. Stolen or incorrectly transferred TAO may be irretrievable. As a result, any incorrectly executed TAO transactions could adversely affect an investment in the Shares.

The Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”), at least under the prior administration, has stated that certain digital assets may be considered “securities” under the federal securities laws. The test for determining whether a particular digital asset is a “security” is complex and difficult to apply, and the outcome is difficult to predict. A number of SEC and SEC staff actions with respect to a variety of digital assets demonstrate this difficulty. For example, public though non-binding, statements by senior officials at the SEC have indicated that the SEC did not consider Bitcoin or Ether to be securities, and does not currently consider Bitcoin to be a security. Moreover, in a recent settlement with another market participant relating to allegations that it acted as an unregistered broker-dealer for facilitating trading in certain digital assets, the SEC highlighted that the firm would cease trading in all digital assets other than Bitcoin, Bitcoin Cash and Ether—activity that, if the SEC believed Ether was presently a security—would continue to constitute unregistered brokerage activity. The SEC staff has also provided informal assurances via no-action letter to a handful of promoters that their digital assets are not securities. Moreover, the SEC’s Division of Corporation Finance has published statements that it does not consider, under certain circumstances, “meme coins” or some stablecoins to be securities. However, such statements may be withdrawn at any time without notice and comment by the Division of Corporation Finance at the SEC or the SEC itself. In addition, the SEC has brought enforcement actions against the issuers and promoters of several other digital assets on the basis that the digital assets in question are securities and has not formally or explicitly confirmed that it does not deem Ether to be a security. These developments demonstrate the difficulty in applying the federal securities laws to digital assets generally. In January 2025, the SEC launched a crypto task force dedicated to developing a comprehensive and clear regulatory framework for digital assets led by Commissioner Hester Peirce. Subsequently, Commissioner Peirce announced a list of specific priorities to further that initiative, which included pursuing final rules related to a digital asset’s security status, a revised path to registered offerings and listings for digital assets-based investment vehicles, and clarity regarding digital asset custody, lending, and staking. On July 31, 2025, Chairman Atkins announced “Project Crypto,” a Commission-wide initiative to modernize securities rules for digital assets, reshore innovation in the United States, and implement the recommendations of the working group report. Chairman Atkins had directed the SEC’s policy divisions to work with the Crypto Task Force to draft “clear and simple rules of the road for crypto asset distributions, custody, and trading,” and the Commission and SEC staff will also consider using interpretive, exemptive, and other authorities with respect to digital asset markets. However, the efforts of the crypto task force have only just begun, and how or whether the SEC regulates digital asset activity in the future remains to be seen.

If TAO is determined to be a “security” under federal or state securities laws by the SEC or any other agency, or in a proceeding in a court of law or otherwise, it may have material adverse consequences for TAO. For example, it may become more difficult for TAO to be traded, cleared and custodied as compared to other digital assets that are not considered to be securities, which could, in turn, negatively affect the liquidity and general acceptance of TAO and cause users to migrate to other digital assets. As such, any determination that TAO is a security under federal or state securities laws may adversely affect the value of TAO and, as a result, an investment in the Shares.

In addition, if TAO is in fact a security, the Trust could be considered an unregistered “investment company” under the Investment Company Act of 1940, which could necessitate the Trust’s liquidation. In this case, the Trust and the Sponsor may be deemed to have participated in an illegal offering of securities and there is no guarantee that the Sponsor will be able to register the Trust under the Investment Company Act of 1940 at such time or take such other actions as may be necessary to ensure the Trust’s activities comply with applicable law, which could force the Sponsor to liquidate the Trust.

To the extent a private key, held by the Custodian, required to access an address on the Bittensor Network holding TAO is lost, destroyed or otherwise compromised and no backup of the private keys are accessible, the Trust may be unable to access the TAO controlled by the private key and the private key will not be capable of being restored by the Bittensor Network. The processes by which TAO transactions are settled are dependent on the TAO peer-to-peer network, and as such, the Trust is subject to operational risk. A risk also exists with respect to previously unknown technical vulnerabilities, which may adversely affect the value of TAO.

The Trust relies on third-party service providers to perform certain functions essential to its operations. Any disruptions to the Trust’s service providers’ business operations resulting from business failures, financial instability, security failures, government mandated regulation or operational problems could have an adverse impact on the Trust’s ability to access critical services and be disruptive to the operations of the Trust.

The Sponsor and the Trust may be subject to various litigation, regulatory investigations, and other legal proceedings that arise in the ordinary course of its business.

8. Quarterly Statements of Operations

Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2025

(Amounts in thousands)	Three Months Ended				Year Ended December 31, 2025
	Mar-31, 2025	Jun-30, 2025	Sept-30, 2025	Dec-31, 2025	
Expenses					
Sponsor's Fee, related party	\$ 34	\$ 61	\$ 71	\$ 71	\$ 237
Net investment loss	\$ (34)	\$ (61)	\$ (71)	\$ (71)	\$ (237)
Net realized and unrealized (loss) gain from:					
Net realized (loss) gain on investment in TAO	(2)	-	(2)	(9)	(13)
Net change in unrealized appreciation/depreciation on Sponsor Fee payable	(2)	-	-	-	(2)
Net change in unrealized appreciation/depreciation on investment in TAO	(4,307)	3,302	(1,456)	(3,324)	(5,785)
Net realized and unrealized (loss) gain on investment	(4,311)	3,302	(1,458)	(3,333)	(5,800)
Net (decrease) increase in net assets resulting from operations	\$ (4,345)	\$ 3,241	\$ (1,529)	\$ (3,404)	\$ (6,037)

Fiscal Period from June 10, 2024 (the Commencement of the Trust's Operations) to December 31, 2024

(Amounts in thousands)	June 10, 2024 (the Commencement of the Trust's Operations) to June 30, 2024	Three Months Ended September 30, 2024	Three Months Ended December 31, 2024	June 10, 2024 (the Commencement of the Trust's Operations) to December 31, 2024
	Expenses			
Sponsor's Fee, related party	\$ 1	\$ 10	\$ 30	\$ 41
Net investment loss	\$ (1)	\$ (10)	\$ (30)	\$ (41)
Net realized and unrealized (loss) gain from:				
Net realized gain on investment in TAO	-	-	7	7
Net change in unrealized appreciation/depreciation on Sponsor Fee payable	-	(9)	11	2
Net change in unrealized appreciation/depreciation on investment in TAO	(117)	1,871	(1,229)	525
Net realized and unrealized (loss) gain on investment	(117)	1,862	(1,211)	534
Net (decrease) increase in net assets resulting from operations	\$ (118)	\$ 1,852	\$ (1,241)	\$ 493

9. Financial Highlights Per Share Performance

	Year Ended December 31, 2025	June 10, 2024 (the Commencement of the Trust's Operations) to December 31, 2024
Per Share Data:		
Principal Market NAV, beginning of year	\$ 8.76	\$ 6.93
Net (decrease) increase in net assets from investment operations:		
Net investment loss	(0.17)	(0.13)
Net realized and unrealized (loss) gain	(4.35)	1.96
Net (decrease) increase in net assets resulting from operations	(4.52)	1.83
Principal Market NAV, end of year	\$ 4.24	\$ 8.76
Total return	-51.60%	26.41%
<i>Ratios to average net assets:</i>		
Net investment loss	-2.50%	-2.50%
Expenses	-2.50%	-2.50%

An individual shareholder's return, ratios, and per Share performance may vary from those presented above based on the timing of Share transactions. The amount shown for a Share outstanding throughout the period may not correlate with the Statement of Operations for the period due to the number of Shares issued in Creations occurring at an operational value derived from an operating metric as defined in the Trust Agreement.

Total return is calculated assuming an initial investment made at the Principal Market NAV at the beginning of the year and assuming redemption on the last day of the year.

10. Indemnifications

In the normal course of business, the Trust enters into certain contracts that provide a variety of indemnities, including contracts with the Sponsor and affiliates of the Sponsor, DCG and its officers, directors, employees, subsidiaries and affiliates, and the Custodian as well as others relating to services provided to the Trust. The Trust's maximum exposure under these and its other indemnities is unknown. However, no liabilities have arisen under these indemnities in the past and, while there can be no assurances in this regard, there is no expectation that any will occur in the future. Therefore, the Sponsor does not consider it necessary to record a liability in this regard.

11. Subsequent Events

As of the close of business on March 6, 2026, the fair value of TAO determined in accordance with the Trust's accounting policy was \$176.64 per TAO.

There are no known events that have occurred that require disclosure other than that which has already been disclosed in these notes to the financial statements.

**CERTIFICATE OF TRUST
OF
GRAYSCALE BITTENSOR TRUST (TAO)**

This Certificate of Trust of Grayscale Bittensor Trust (TAO) (the “Trust”) is being duly executed and filed to form a statutory trust under the Delaware Statutory Trust Act (12 Del. C. § 3801 et seq.) (the “Act”).

1. Name. The name of the statutory trust formed hereby is Grayscale Bittensor Trust (TAO).

2. Delaware Trustee. The name and business address of the trustee of the Trust in the State of Delaware are CSC Delaware Trust Company, 251 Little Falls Drive, Wilmington, DE 19808.

3. Effective Date. This Certificate of Trust shall be effective upon filing.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has duly executed this Certificate of Trust in accordance with Section 3811(a)(1) of the Act.

CSC DELAWARE TRUST COMPANY, not in
its individual capacity but solely as Trustee of
the Trust

By: /s/ Gregory Daniels
Name: Gregory Daniels
Title: Vice President

DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES REGISTERED UNDER SECTION 12 OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

The following is a summary of the rights of the common units of fractional undivided beneficial interest (the “Shares”) of Grayscale Bittensor Trust (TAO) (the “Trust”), which is the only class of securities of the Trust that is registered under Section 12 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Exchange Act”). The description is intended as a summary, and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the Second Amended and Restated Declaration of Trust and Trust Agreement, a copy of which has been filed as an exhibit to the Trust's annual report on Form 10-K. Terms used but not defined herein have the meaning set forth in the Glossary of Terms in the Trust's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2025, of which this exhibit is a part.

General

The Trust operates pursuant to the Second Amended and Restated Declaration of Trust and Trust Agreement between CSC Delaware Trust Company (formerly known as Delaware Trust Company), a Delaware trust company and Delaware trustee of the Trust (the “Trustee”) and Grayscale Investments Sponsors, LLC (the “Sponsor”), as the same may be amended from time to time (as so amended, the “Trust Agreement”). Under the Trust Agreement, the Trust is authorized to create and issue an unlimited number of Shares. Shares will be issued only in Baskets (a Basket equals a block of 100 Shares) in connection with creations. The Shares represent units of fractional undivided beneficial interest in and ownership of the Trust and have no par value. The Shares are listed on NYSE Arca under the ticker symbol “GTAO.”

Description of Limited Rights

The Shares do not represent a traditional investment and should not be viewed as similar to “shares” of a corporation operating a business enterprise with management and a board of directors. A shareholder will not have the statutory rights normally associated with the ownership of shares of a corporation. Each Share is transferable, is fully paid and non-assessable and entitles the holder to vote on the limited matters upon which shareholders may vote under the Trust Agreement. For example, shareholders do not have the right to elect or remove directors and will not receive dividends. The Shares do not entitle their holders to any conversion or preemptive rights or, except as discussed below, any redemption rights or rights to distributions.

Voting and Approvals

The shareholders take no part in the management or control of the Trust. Under the Trust Agreement, shareholders have limited voting rights. For example, in the event that the Sponsor withdraws, a majority of the shareholders may elect and appoint a successor sponsor to carry out the affairs of the Trust. The Sponsor is also permitted to make certain restatements, amendments or supplements to the Trust Agreement that would materially adversely affect the interests of the shareholders as determined by the Sponsor in its sole discretion with a 20-day notice to shareholders. Additionally, the Sponsor is permitted to make certain restatements, amendments or supplements to the Trust Agreement that could adversely affect the status of the Trust as a grantor trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes, but only if certain conditions set forth in the amendments relating to the qualification of the Trust as a grantor trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes are satisfied. Furthermore, subject to certain limitations, the Sponsor may make any other amendments to the Trust Agreement which do not materially adversely affect the interests of the shareholders in its sole discretion without shareholder consent.

Derivative Actions

Under Delaware law, a shareholder may bring a derivative action if the shareholder is a shareholder at the time the action is brought and either (i) was a shareholder at the time of the transaction at issue or (ii) acquired the status of shareholder by operation of law or the Trust's governing instrument from a person who was a shareholder at the time of the transaction at issue. Additionally, Section 3816(e) of the Delaware Statutory Trust Act specifically provides that “a beneficial owner's right to bring a derivative action may be subject to such additional standards and restrictions, if any, as are set forth in the governing instrument of the statutory trust, including, without limitation, the requirement that beneficial owners owning a specified beneficial interest in the statutory trust join in the bringing of the derivative action.” In addition to the requirements of applicable law, Section 7.4 of the Trust Agreement provides that no shareholder will have the right, power or authority to bring or maintain a derivative action, suit or other proceeding on behalf of the Trust unless two or more shareholders who (i) are not “Affiliates” (as defined in the Trust Agreement) of one another and (ii) collectively hold at least 10.0% of the outstanding Shares join in the bringing or maintaining of such action, suit or other proceeding. The Trust selected the 10.0% ownership threshold because the Trust believed that this was a threshold that investors would be comfortable with based on market precedent.

This provision applies to any derivative action brought in the name of the Trust other than claims brought under the federal securities laws or the rules and regulations thereunder, to which Section 7.4 does not apply. Due to this additional requirement, a shareholder attempting to bring a derivative action in the name of the Trust will be required to locate other shareholders with which it is not affiliated and that have sufficient Shares to meet the 10.0% threshold based on the number of Shares outstanding on the date the claim is brought and thereafter throughout the duration of the action, suit or proceeding.

Distributions

Pursuant to the terms of the Trust Agreement, the Trust may make distributions on the Shares in-cash or in-kind.

In addition, if the Trust is terminated and liquidated, the Sponsor will distribute to the shareholders any amounts of the cash proceeds of the liquidation remaining after the satisfaction of all outstanding liabilities of the Trust and the establishment of reserves for applicable taxes, other governmental charges and contingent or future liabilities as the Sponsor will determine. See “Item 1. Business—Description of the Trust Agreement—Termination of the Trust” in the Trust’s Annual Report on Form 10-K, of which this exhibit is a part. Shareholders of record on the record date fixed by the Transfer Agent for a distribution will be entitled to receive their pro rata portions of any distribution.

Appointment of Agent

Pursuant to the terms of the Trust Agreement, by holding the Shares, shareholders will be deemed to agree that the Sponsor may cause the Trust to appoint an agent (any person appointed in such capacity, an “Agent”) to act on their behalf in connection with any distribution of Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency if the Sponsor has determined in good faith that such appointment is reasonably necessary or in the best interests of the Trust and the shareholders in order to facilitate the distribution of any Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency. The Sponsor may cause the Trust to appoint Grayscale Investments Sponsors, LLC (acting other than in its capacity as Sponsor) or any of its affiliates to act in such capacity.

Any Agent appointed to facilitate a distribution of Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency will receive an in-kind distribution of Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency on behalf of the shareholders of record with respect to such distribution, and following receipt of such distribution, will determine, in its sole discretion and without any direction from the Trust, or the Sponsor, in its capacity as Sponsor of the Trust, whether and when to sell the distributed Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency on behalf of the record date shareholders. If the Agent is able to do so, it will remit the cash proceeds to the record date shareholders. There can be no assurance as to the price or prices for any Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency that the Agent may realize, and the value of the Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency may increase or decrease after any sale by the Agent.

Any Agent appointed pursuant to the Trust Agreement will not receive any compensation in connection with its role as agent. However, any Agent will be entitled to receive from the record-date shareholders, out of the distributed Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency, an amount of Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency with an aggregate fair market value equal to the amount of administrative and other reasonable expenses incurred by the Agent in connection with its activities as agent of the record-date shareholders, including expenses incurred by the Agent in connection with any post-distribution sale of such Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency.

The Sponsor currently expects to cause the Trust to appoint Grayscale Investments Sponsors, LLC, acting other than in its capacity as Sponsor, as Agent to facilitate any distribution of Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency to shareholders. The Trust has no right to receive any information about any distributed Incidental Rights and/or IR Virtual Currency or the disposition thereof from the record date shareholders, their Agent or any other person.

Creation of Shares

The Trust creates Shares at such times and for such periods as determined by the Sponsor, but only in one or more whole Baskets. A Basket equals 100 Shares. See “Item 1. Business—Description of Creation and Redemption of Shares” in the Trust’s Annual Report on Form 10-K, of which this exhibit is a part. The creation of a Basket requires the delivery to the Trust of the amount of TAO (or cash to acquire the amount of TAO) represented by one Share immediately prior to such creation multiplied by 100. The Trust may from time to time halt creations, including for extended periods of time, for a variety of reasons, including in connection with forks, airdrops and other similar occurrences.

Redemption of Shares

Redemptions of Shares are currently not permitted and the Trust is unable to redeem Shares. Subject to receipt of regulatory approval from the SEC and approval by the Sponsor in its sole discretion, the Trust may in the future operate a redemption program.

No assurance can be given as to the timing of such relief or that such relief will be granted. If such relief is granted and the Sponsor approves a redemption program, the Shares will be redeemable only in accordance with the provisions of the Trust Agreement and the relevant Participant Agreement. See “Item 1A. Risk Factors—Risk Factors Related to the Trust and the

Shares—Because of the holding period under Rule 144, the lack of an ongoing redemption program and the Trust’s ability to halt creations from time to time, there is no arbitrage mechanism to keep the value of the Shares closely linked to the Index Price and the Shares have historically traded at a substantial premium over the NAV per Share,” “Item 1A. Risk Factors—Risk Factors Related to the Trust and the Shares—The Shares may trade at a price that is at, above or below the Trust’s NAV per Share as a result of the non-concurrent trading hours between OTCQX and the Digital Asset Trading Platform Market” and “Item 1A. Risk Factors—Risk Factors Related to the Trust and the Shares—The restrictions on transfer and redemption may result in losses on the value of the Shares” in the Trust’s Annual Report on Form 10-K, of which this exhibit is a part.

Transfer Restrictions

Shares purchased in a private placement are restricted securities that may not be resold except in transactions exempt from registration under the Securities Act and state securities laws and any such transaction must be approved by the Sponsor. In determining whether to grant approval, the Sponsor will specifically look at whether the conditions of Rule 144 under the Securities Act and any other applicable laws have been met. Any attempt to sell Shares without the approval of the Sponsor in its sole discretion will be void *ab initio*.

Pursuant to Rule 144, a minimum six-month holding period applies to all Shares purchased from the Trust.

On a bi-weekly basis, the Trust aggregates the Shares that have been held for the requisite holding period under Rule 144 by non-affiliates of the Trust to assess whether the Rule 144 transfer restriction legends may be removed. Any Shares that qualify for the removal of the Rule 144 transfer restriction legends are presented to outside counsel, who may instruct the Transfer Agent to remove the transfer restriction legends from the Shares, allowing the Shares to then be resold without restriction, including on OTCQX U.S. Premier marketplace. The outside counsel requires that certain representations be made, providing that:

- the Shares subject to each sale have been held for the requisite holding period under Rule 144 by the selling shareholder;
- the shareholder is the sole beneficial owner of the Shares;
- the Sponsor is aware of no circumstances in which the shareholder would be considered an underwriter or engaged in the distribution of securities for the Trust;
- none of the Shares are subject to any agreement granting any pledge, lien, mortgage, hypothecation, security interest, charge, option or encumbrance;
- none of the identified selling shareholders is an affiliate of the Sponsor;
- the Sponsor consents to the transfer of the Shares; and
- outside counsel and the Transfer Agent can rely on the representations.

In addition, because the Trust Agreement prohibits the transfer or sale of Shares without the prior written consent of the Sponsor, the Sponsor must provide a written consent that explicitly states that it irrevocably consents to the transfer and resale of the Shares. Once the transfer restriction legends have been removed from a Share and the Sponsor has provided its written consent to the transfer of that Share, no consent of the Sponsor is required for future transfers of that particular Share.

Book-Entry Form

Shares are held primarily in book-entry form by the Transfer Agent. The Sponsor or its delegate will direct the Transfer Agent to credit or debit, as applicable, the number of Baskets to the applicable Authorized Participant. The Transfer Agent will issue or cancel Baskets, as applicable. Transfers will be made in accordance with standard securities industry practice. The Sponsor may cause the Trust to issue Shares in certificated form in limited circumstances in its sole discretion.

Share Splits

In its discretion, the Sponsor may direct the Transfer Agent to declare a split or reverse split in the number of Shares outstanding and to make a corresponding change in the number of Shares constituting a Basket. For example, if the Sponsor believes that the per Share price in the secondary market for Shares has risen or fallen outside a desirable trading price range, it may declare such a split or reverse split.

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250 Park Avenue South, 2nd Floor
New York, NY 10003

Exhibit 10.3

Master Index License Agreement

This Master Index License Agreement (the “Agreement”) is made as of January 31, 2022 (the “Effective Date”), by and between CoinDesk Indices, Inc. (formerly known as TradeBlock Inc.), a Delaware corporation, having its principal place of business at 250 Park Avenue South, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10003 (“TradeBlock”); and Grayscale Investments, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, having its principal place of business at 290 Harbor Drive, Stamford, CT 06902 (“Licensee”), acting as the sponsor or manager of the investment funds listed on **Exhibit A** attached hereto (each, an “Entity”, and collectively the “Entities”). TradeBlock and Licensee are each referred to herein as a “Party” and collectively as the “Parties.”

1. Services. From time to time during the Term hereof, the Parties may execute one or more orders under this Agreement substantially in the form of **Exhibit B** attached hereto (each, an “Order”), including the first Order being executed by the Parties concurrently herewith (“Order No. 1”). Subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement, TradeBlock will provide to Licensee access to TradeBlock’s indexes specified on the Order (each a “Licensed Index”, and collectively the “Licensed Indexes”), along with the related services specified on such Order (together with provision of the Licensed Indexes, the “Services”).

2. Fees and Payments. Licensee shall pay the fees as set forth in each Order and as otherwise set forth herein. Unless otherwise set forth in the Order, invoices for Services shall be payable net thirty (30) days from the date of the invoice. The service charge is in addition to the overdue balance. All fees are exclusive of, and Licensee is responsible for paying, reimbursable expenses, and applicable federal, state, and local sales, use, excise, or other applicable taxes other than taxes on the net income of TradeBlock. TradeBlock may add any such taxes to invoices submitted to Licensee.

3. Term. This Agreement shall commence upon the Effective Date and shall continue through the later of (i) the end date set forth on **Exhibit B** attached hereto (for Order No. 1 being executed concurrently herewith) or (ii) the latest end date set forth on any other Order executed hereunder (if any) prior to the end date for Order No. 1, in any case unless terminated earlier in accordance with Section 4 (the “Initial Term”). This Agreement will renew automatically for additional one-year periods (each, a “Renewal Term”), unless either Party provides written notice of non-renewal to the other Party at least thirty (30) days prior to the end of the then-current Initial Term or Renewal Term, (as applicable), or unless terminated earlier in accordance with Section 4. The Initial Term, together with all Renewal Terms, are collectively referred to herein as the “Term.”

4. Termination

4.1. Termination for Breach or Insolvency. Either Party may terminate this Agreement (and all Orders then in effect) immediately upon written notice to the other Party (a) if such other Party has committed a material breach of this Agreement that remains uncured thirty (30) days after written notice of such breach from the non-breaching Party, or (b) if the other Party (i) holds any meeting with or proposes to enter into or has proposed to it any arrangement or composition with its creditors; (ii) has a receiver, administrator, or other encumbrancer take possession of, or appointed over or has any distress, execution or other process levied or enforced (and not discharged within sixty (60) days) upon the whole or substantially all of, its assets; (iii) ceases or threatens to cease to carry on business or becomes unable to pay its debts; or (iv) experiences any analogous event

4.2 Termination for Violation of Applicable Law. In addition to the foregoing, either Party may terminate this Agreement (and all Orders then in effect) immediately upon written notice to the other Party in the event of any actual or alleged violation by such other Party of any Applicable Law, including without limitation any law, rule, or regulation regarding money transmission, taxation, or trading, or that otherwise materially impairs either Party’s ability to perform its obligations under this Agreement in TradeBlock’s judgment. For purposes of this Agreement, “Applicable Law” means any law, statute, ordinance, regulation, rule, or order of any kind whatsoever of any governmental authority in effect and applicable to the activities contemplated by this Agreement or as the context otherwise dictates.

4.3 Termination for Other Regulatory Reasons. In addition to the foregoing, either Party may terminate this Agreement (and all Orders then in effect) immediately upon

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written notice to the other Party in the event of any change of any Applicable Law (including through case law) relating to the Services hereunder, and TradeBlock accordingly ceases to engage in the business of providing the Services.

4.4 Effects of Termination. Effective immediately upon expiration or termination of this Agreement, (a) all rights granted under this Agreement will become void, (b) Licensee shall immediately cease all use of the Licensed Indexes and other Services hereunder, and (c) Licensee shall remove any TradeBlock-provided materials, tags and code from any website and other materials. If this Agreement is terminated by Licensee (except pursuant to Section 4.3), any pre-paid fees for the unused portion of the Term hereof will be refunded to Licensee and all fees paid or payable for the terminated Term are cancellable.

4.5 Survival. Any provision of the Agreement that contemplates or governs performance or observance subsequent to its expiration or termination will survive the expiration or termination of this Agreement (or the applicable Order) for any reason.

5. Licensed Indexes and Related Services.

5.1 License Grant. Subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement (including Licensee's timely payment of the applicable fees hereunder), TradeBlock hereby grants to Licensee for the Term hereof:

(i) an exclusive, non-transferable, non-sublicensable, limited and revocable license to access and use the VWAP Algorithm (defined in Order No. 1) solely in connection with Licensee's access and use of the other Services provided by TradeBlock hereunder for purposes of, as applicable, (a) calculating the share prices of the Entities, and (b) providing such share prices and any related information to Licensee's clients and custodians or administrators of the Entities; and

(ii) a non-exclusive, non-transferable, non-sublicensable, limited and revocable license for Licensee to access and use all other Services provided by TradeBlock hereunder (including the Licensed Indexes), solely for purposes of, as applicable, (a) calculating the share prices of the Entities, and (b) providing such share prices and any related information to Licensee's clients and custodians or administrators of the Entities; [**]

(iii) [**].

5.2 Reservation of Rights. All rights not expressly licensed to Licensee hereunder are reserved to TradeBlock, including without limitation all ownership and proprietary rights in the Services and other technology of TradeBlock, and all Intellectual

Property Rights (defined below) thereto. Licensee expressly acknowledges that its rights to access and use the Services are limited to the license rights set forth in Section 5.1 above (as supplemented by any applicable Order). Licensee will not claim ownership or proprietary rights in any of the Services or any other technology of TradeBlock, or any Intellectual Property Rights thereto.

5.3 Restrictions. Licensee shall not at any time, including after expiration or termination of this Agreement: (a) decompile, disassemble, decode or reverse engineer or otherwise attempt to reconstruct the source code, structure, algorithms or internal ideas underlying any of the Services or any other technology of TradeBlock; (b) make any copies of any of the Services or any other technology of TradeBlock without TradeBlock's prior written consent in each instance; (c) obscure, alter or remove any notice of any copyright, trademark, trade name, service mark, logo, or other intellectual property or proprietary right designation appearing on or contained within any of the Services or any other technology of TradeBlock; (d) bypass, delete or disable any copy protection mechanism or security mechanism of any of the Services or any other technology of TradeBlock; (e) knowingly use the Services to store or transmit malicious code; (f) interfere with or disrupt the integrity or performance of the Services or third-party data contained therein; (g) except as expressly permitted under this Agreement, transfer, distribute, assign, sublicense, rent, lease, time share, service bureau, sell or otherwise provide any of the Services to any third party; or (h) otherwise violate the license grants or restrictions set forth in this Agreement.

5.4 Responsibility for All Use. Licensee shall be fully responsible for all use (authorized or not) of the Services conducted by or on behalf of Licensee, including by its employees, representatives, contractors, and agents.

5.5 Security Obligations. Licensee shall take all reasonable precautions to prevent unauthorized or improper access to or use of the Services provided to Licensee hereunder.

5.6 Acknowledgment. Licensee acknowledges that the Licensed Indexes are based on various inputs, which may include spot currency exchange rates, over-the-counter trade data, derivative instrument pricing, and/or data from other related financial products, and that TradeBlock does not guarantee the accuracy, completeness, timeliness, or validity of any such inputs. Licensee further acknowledges that to the extent any such inputs are not accurate, complete, timely, or

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otherwise valid, the Licensed Indexes may be inaccurate and/or contribute to undesirable trading decisions, among other scenarios.

6. Licensed Marks. Subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement (including Licensee's timely payment of the fees hereunder), TradeBlock hereby grants to Licensee for the Term hereof a limited, revocable, non-exclusive, non-transferable, non-sublicensable license for Licensee to refer to TradeBlock's name and logo (solely as furnished by TradeBlock to Licensee) and the Licensed Index names identified in the Order (collectively, with TradeBlock's name and logo, the "Licensed Marks"), solely in connection with using the Licensed Indexes as authorized under this Agreement. Licensee shall only use the Licensed Marks in the form and manner prescribed by TradeBlock from time to time, and if TradeBlock notifies Licensee of any incorrect usage of any of the Licensed Marks in connection with the foregoing, Licensee will promptly correct such usage. All use by or on behalf of Licensee of any of the Licensed Marks, including any goodwill associated therewith, shall inure solely to the benefit of, and be under the control of, TradeBlock. Licensee shall provide reasonable assistance to TradeBlock in facilitating TradeBlock's control of the nature and quality of all uses of the Licensed Marks upon request. As between the Parties, TradeBlock will have the sole right and discretion to determine whether the use of any of the Licensed Marks by Licensee complies with this Section.

7. Compliance with Law. Licensee shall use the Services in compliance with all Applicable Law, and shall otherwise comply with Applicable Law at all times in connection with this Agreement. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, Licensee shall ensure that its implementation and use of the Services complies with all laws and regulations applicable to Licensee's business and geographic locations, and shall inform TradeBlock if such compliance requires any modification to the Services.

8. Intellectual Property. Licensee expressly acknowledges that (a) all right, title and interest in and to the Services and other technology of TradeBlock, as well as the methods used by TradeBlock to perform any Services, including all Intellectual Property Rights embodied in or associated with any of the foregoing, are and shall remain with TradeBlock or its third-party licensors; (b) no right or interest in the Services or any other technology of TradeBlock is conveyed to Licensee, other than the limited licenses granted under or pursuant to this Agreement; (c) the Services or any other technology of TradeBlock, and any methods used to perform the Services are protected by Intellectual Property Rights; and (d) the Services or any other technology of TradeBlock, and any methods used to perform the Services

embody valuable confidential and proprietary information of TradeBlock or its licensors, and that such information is the Confidential Information (as defined below) of TradeBlock. As used in this Agreement, "Intellectual Property Rights" means all trade secrets, patents, copyrights, service marks, trademarks, trade names, moral rights, and other proprietary rights of any type, including any applications, continuations or other registrations with respect to any of the foregoing, under the laws or regulations of any foreign or domestic governmental, regulatory or judicial authority. No implied licenses are granted herein.

9. Confidentiality.

9.1 Confidential Information. TradeBlock and Licensee understand and agree that in connection with the negotiation and performance of this Agreement, each Party may have had or have access to or may have been or be exposed to, directly or indirectly, private or confidential information of the other Party, including, but not limited to, trade secrets, computer programs and code, scripts, algorithms, features and modes of operation, inventions (whether or not patentable), techniques, processes, methodologies, schematics, testing procedures, software design and architecture, design and function specifications, analysis and performance information, documentation, details of its products and services, as well as

names and expertise of, and information relating to, vendors, employees, consultants, customers and prospects, know-how, ideas, and technical, business, pricing information, financial and marketing information and strategies and any other information that the receiving party reasonably should know is confidential ("Confidential Information"). Each Party (on its behalf and on behalf of its subcontractors, employees or representatives, or agents of any kind) shall hold and treat all Confidential Information of the other Party in confidence and will protect such Confidential Information with the same degree of care as such Party uses to protect its own Confidential Information of like nature.

9.2 Obligations. Each Party (the "Receiving Party") receiving Confidential Information of the other Party (the "Disclosing Party") will not, without the prior written consent of the Disclosing Party, disclose any Confidential Information of the Disclosing Party to any third party, except that the Receiving Party may disclose such Confidential Information or portions thereof (a) to its directors, officers, employees, agents and representatives on a need-to-know basis in connection with performance of this Agreement, or (b) as may be required by Applicable Law, judicial process, or a governmental or regulatory agency request or inspection; *provided, however*, that if the Receiving Party is required to

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disclose such Confidential Information under clause (b) of this Section, the Receiving Party shall promptly notify the Disclosing Party of such pending disclosure and if permitted by law, consult with the Disclosing Party prior to such disclosure as to the availability and advisability of seeking a protective order or other means of preserving the confidentiality of the Confidential Information.

9.3 Exceptions. Notwithstanding anything contained herein to the contrary, Confidential Information does not include any information that (a) at the time of the disclosure or thereafter is lawfully obtained from publicly available sources generally known by the public (other than as a result of a disclosure in violation of this Agreement by the Receiving Party or its representative); (b) is available to the Receiving Party on a non-confidential basis from a source that is not and was not bound by any confidentiality obligation with respect to the Confidential Information; (c) has been independently acquired or developed by the Receiving Party without violating its obligations under this Agreement or under any Applicable Law; or (d) was lawfully in the Receiving Party's possession on a non-confidential basis prior to disclosure by the Disclosing Party.

10. Representations and Warranties. Each Party represents and warrants to the other Party that: (a) the signatory signing this Agreement has the right and authority to sign this Agreement on its behalf; (b) to the best of its knowledge this Agreement does not and shall not conflict with any other agreement entered into by it; (c) it has all requisite corporate power and authority to execute, deliver and perform its obligations under this Agreement; and (d) it owns (or has been duly licensed to use) all rights in its intellectual property required in order to grant the licenses granted herein. TradeBlock represents and warrants that it has all necessary rights to publish and disseminate the Licensed Indexes. Licensee represents and warrants that the Entities and the marketing and promotion thereof by Licensee will not violate any agreement applicable to Licensee or violate any Applicable Laws, including without limitation, securities, commodities, and banking laws

11. Warranty Disclaimers. EXCEPT FOR THE FOREGOING WARRANTIES, AND TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMISSIBLE UNDER APPLICABLE LAW, BOTH PARTIES DISCLAIM ALL REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, CONCERNING OR RELATED TO THIS AGREEMENT, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, AND NON-INFRINGEMENT. IN ADDITION, EXCEPT AS EXPRESSLY

PROVIDED IN THIS AGREEMENT, AND TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMISSIBLE UNDER APPLICABLE LAW, THE SERVICES ARE PROVIDED "AS IS" AND "AS AVAILABLE", AND TRADEBLOCK DOES NOT WARRANT, GUARANTEE, OR MAKE ANY REPRESENTATIONS REGARDING THE USE, THE RESULTS OF THE USE, OR THE BENEFITS OF THE SERVICES, OR ANY INFORMATION CONTAINED THEREIN OR OTHERWISE PROVIDED PURSUANT TO THIS AGREEMENT, OR THAT THE SERVICES WILL BE ERROR-FREE OR FREE FROM INTERRUPTIONS OR OTHER FAILURES.

12. Limitations of Liability.

12.1 Exclusion of Certain Damages. EXCEPT FOR A PARTY'S GROSS NEGLIGENCE, WILLFUL MISCONDUCT, INDEMNIFICATION OBLIGATIONS, OR BREACH OF ITS CONFIDENTIALITY OBLIGATIONS, IN NO EVENT SHALL EITHER PARTY BE LIABLE TO THE OTHER PARTY FOR ANY LOSS; OF USE, REVENUE OR PROFIT; ANY LOSS OF DATA ANY DIMINUTION IN VALUE; OR ANY CONSEQUENTIAL, INCIDENTAL, INDIRECT, EXEMPLARY, SPECIAL OR PUNITIVE DAMAGES, ARISING UNDER THIS AGREEMENT, REGARDLESS WHETHER SUCH DAMAGES ARISE OUT OF BREACH OF CONTRACT, TORT (INCLUDING NEGLIGENCE) OR OTHERWISE, AND REGARDLESS WHETHER SUCH DAMAGES WERE FORESEEABLE AND WHETHER OR NOT A PARTY HAS BEEN ADVISED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGES, AND NOTWITHSTANDING THE FAILURE OF ANY AGREED OR OTHER REMEDY OF ITS ESSENTIAL PURPOSE.

12.2 Limitation of Liability. [Reserved.]

12.3 Other Terms. IN THE EVENT THAT APPLICABLE LAW DOES NOT ALLOW ANY OF

THE FOREGOING THE EXCLUSIONS OR LIMITATIONS OF LIABILITY, SUCH EXCLUSION OR LIMITATION WILL BE DEEMED MODIFIED SOLELY TO THE EXTENT NECESSARY TO COMPLY WITH APPLICABLE LAW. LICENSEE ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THIS SECTION 12 IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THIS AGREEMENT, ABSENT WHICH THE ECONOMIC TERMS AND OTHER PROVISIONS OF THIS AGREEMENT WOULD BE SUBSTANTIALLY DIFFERENT.

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13. Indemnity.

13.1 Indemnification by Licensee. Subject to the provisions of Section 13.3 below, Licensee shall defend, indemnify, and hold harmless TradeBlock and its affiliates, and their respective directors, officers, employees, agents and representatives, from and against any and all damages, liabilities, costs and losses of any kind (including reasonable attorneys' fees) (collectively, "Losses") to the extent arising out any third-party claim (each, a "Claim") that arises out of or relates to any of the following: (a) any use by or on behalf of Licensee of any Licensed Index furnished hereunder in breach of this Agreement (including any actual violation of any Applicable Law, or any third-party allegation of a violation of any Applicable Law, is alleged to or actually arising out of or resulting from such use), except in all cases to the extent of any Claim subject to Section 13.2(a) below; (b) any materials or other content furnished to TradeBlock by Licensee hereunder, or any use thereof by or on behalf of TradeBlock solely as authorized under this Agreement, to the extent such use is alleged (by a third party) or actually infringes upon, violates, or misappropriates any Intellectual Property Rights of a third party; or (c) any breach by Licensee of any of its representations, warranties or covenants under this Agreement except in all cases to the extent arising out of TradeBlock's gross negligence or willful misconduct.

13.2 Indemnification by TradeBlock. Subject to the provisions of Section 13.3 below, TradeBlock shall defend, indemnify, and hold harmless Licensee and its affiliates, and their respective directors, officers, employees, agents and representatives, from and against any and all Losses to the extent arising out any Claim that arises out of or relates to any of the following: (a) any of the Licensed Indexes or other Services, or any other material or content, furnished to Licensee by TradeBlock hereunder, or any use thereof by or on behalf of Licensee solely as authorized under this Agreement, to the extent such use is alleged (by a third party) or actually infringes upon, violates, or misappropriates any Intellectual Property Rights of a third party; or (b) any breach or alleged (by a third party) breach by TradeBlock of any of its representations, warranties or covenants under this Agreement.

13.3 Indemnification Procedures. If any Party (or any of its affiliates, or their respective directors, officers, employees, agents and representatives) may be entitled to indemnification under this Section 13, such Party (the "Indemnified Party") shall promptly notify in writing the other Party (the "Indemnifying Party") thereof; *provided, however*, that the failure of the Indemnified Party to provide prompt notice shall not relieve the Indemnifying Party of its indemnity obligations hereunder, except to the extent

the failure to so notify prejudices the Indemnifying Party's ability to defend against the Claim. The Indemnifying Party shall direct the defense and settlement of any such Claim, and shall have the right to employ counsel of its choice to defend any such claim, or to compromise, settle or otherwise dispose of the same, if the Indemnifying Party deems it advisable to do so, all at the expense of the Indemnifying Party, *provided* that the Indemnifying Party shall not be permitted to settle, compromise or admit any fault or wrongdoing in respect of any Claim, or any issue or matter therein, on behalf of any indemnitee, without the prior written consent of the Indemnified Party, unless (i) the Indemnifying Party assumes full and sole responsibility for such settlement, compromise or admission of fault and such settlement, compromise or admission of fault grants the Indemnitee a complete and unqualified release in respect of any potential or resulting liability, obligation or burden and (ii) the indemnitee is fully indemnified against all such liability.

14. Force Majeure. Except with respect to payment obligations under this Agreement, if either Party is unable to perform any of its obligations hereunder due to any act of God, fire, casualty, flood, war, strike, shortage or any other cause beyond its reasonable control, and if such Party uses commercially reasonable efforts to avoid such occurrence and minimize its duration and gives prompt notice to the other Party, then such Party's performance shall be excused and the time for its performance shall be extended for the period of delay or inability to perform.

15. Standard Upgrades. All patches, bug fixes, and other standard upgrades of the Services made available by TradeBlock to its customers generally during the Term will be made available to Licensee at no additional charge. Any enhancements specific to Licensee and other non-standard upgrades, such as separate products, integration work, customization, and non-standard features, may be made available for an additional fee as set forth on the applicable Order.

16. Compliance with Laws. Licensee shall ensure that its implementation and use of the Services complies with all laws and regulations applicable to Licensee's business and geographic locations, and shall inform TradeBlock if such compliance requires any modification to TradeBlock's standard Services offerings. Upon Licensee's request, TradeBlock cannot guarantee but will endeavor to support Licensee's specific requirements for compliance with Applicable Laws and regulations, and any modification to

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New York, NY 10003

TradeBlock's standard Services offerings requested or required by Licensee may require professional services work by TradeBlock and/or additional fees.

17. Third Party Applications. From time to time, TradeBlock may make available plug-in or add-on applications from third parties that integrate or interoperate with the Services (each, an "Application"). If Licensee, in its sole discretion, chooses to install, access, or enable an Application, Licensee acknowledges and agrees that the third-party provider of such Application may acquire access to Licensee's account data and information as required for the interoperation or integration of such Application, and that the Application shall be governed by its own terms and conditions and are not part of the Services under this Agreement. Licensee assumes full responsibility for any damages, losses, costs, or harms arising from the use of or inability to use any such Application. To the fullest extent permitted by Applicable Law, TradeBlock disclaims all liabilities with respect to Licensee's use of or inability to use any such Application and the performance or non-performance of such Application (including direct, indirect, incidental, punitive or consequential damages). TradeBlock has no obligation to monitor such Applications and does not control or endorse the content, messages or information found in such Applications and specifically disclaims any liability with regard to such content, messages or information. TradeBlock does not monitor or control the limitation, suspension or termination of their services and specifically disclaims any liability with regard to such Applications service limitation, suspension or termination. ANY AND ALL SUCH APPLICATIONS ARE PROVIDED "AS IS", AND TRADEBLOCK DOES NOT WARRANT, GUARANTEE, OR MAKE ANY REPRESENTATIONS REGARDING THE USE, THE RESULTS OF THE USE, OR THE BENEFITS OF THE APPLICATIONS, OR ANY INFORMATION CONTAINED THEREIN OR OTHERWISE PROVIDED, OR THAT THE APPLICATIONS WILL BE ERROR-FREE OR FREE FROM INTERRUPTIONS OR OTHER FAILURES. TRADEBLOCK HEREBY DISCLAIMS ALL REPRESENTATIONS, WARRANTIES AND OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS WITH REGARD TO SUCH APPLICATIONS, WHETHER EXPRESS, IMPLIED OR STATUTORY, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, TITLE, AND NON-INFRINGEMENT.

18. Notices. All notices required or permitted to be given under this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been given when (a) delivered personally, (b) sent via a recognized overnight courier or via registered mail return receipt requested, or (c) sent via email (with a copy sent via a recognized overnight

courier or via registered mail return receipt requested): If to Licensee:

Grayscale Investments, LLC
290 Harbor Drive, Stamford, CT 06902
Attention: Edward McGee, Vice President, Finance
Telephone: +1 (212) 668-3911
Email: legal@grayscale.co

If to TradeBlock:

CoinDesk Indices, Inc.
250 Park Avenue South, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10003
Attention: Accounts and Operations
Telephone: +1 (646) 666-7304
E-mail: contact@tradeblock.com

19. Independent Contractors. The Parties are independent contractors and neither this Agreement nor the performance of Services shall create an association, partnership, joint venture, or relationship of principal and agent, master and servant, or employer and employee, between the parties; and neither Party will have the right, power or authority (whether expressed or implied) to enter into or assume any duty or obligation on behalf of the other Party.

20. Marketing. Licensee hereby authorizes TradeBlock to (a) list Licensee in TradeBlock's customer lists, and (b) use Licensee's name and logo on TradeBlock's website and other marketing materials solely for purposes of identifying Licensee as a customer of the Services, subject, in all cases and in each instance, to Licensee's prior written consent. TradeBlock hereby authorizes Licensee to (a) list TradeBlock in Licensee's preferred vendor lists, and (b) use TradeBlock's name and logo on Licensee's website and other marketing materials solely for purposes of identifying TradeBlock as a provider of the Services. In addition, TradeBlock may describe the Services used by Licensee and Licensee's experience with such Services, and TradeBlock may develop and make available a case study, magazine article, video, press release (including a win release announcement) and/or podcast related to Licensee's use of the Services (the "Content"); *provided, however*, that such Content may not be publicly used or distributed without prior written consent of

Licensee. If Licensee notifies TradeBlock of any incorrect usage of its name or logo in connection with the foregoing, TradeBlock will promptly correct such usage.

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21. Miscellaneous.

21.1 Entire Agreement. This Agreement, together with all exhibits attached hereto and all Orders that reference this Agreement, contains the entire agreement of the Parties, and supersedes any and all previous agreements addressed herein or with respect to the subject matter hereof, whether oral or written. In the event of any conflict between the terms of this Agreement (including any Order) and any Licensee-issued order form or purchase order, the terms of this Agreement (including the Order) shall control.

21.2 Amendments. No amendment to the terms set forth in this Agreement will be effective unless executed in writing by the Parties hereto.

21.3 Waiver. No failure of either Party to exercise or enforce any rights under this Agreement shall act as a waiver of such rights.

21.4 Assignment. Neither Party may assign or otherwise transfer this Agreement, in whole or in part, whether by operation of law or otherwise, without the prior express written consent of the other Party, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed. Notwithstanding the foregoing, upon notice to the other Party, each Party may assign this Agreement together with all rights and obligations hereunder, without consent of the other Party, in connection with a merger, acquisition, corporate reorganization, or transfer or sale of all or substantially all of its stock or assets that relate to this Agreement to or with any entity that is not a competitor to the other Party, *provided* that such assignee acknowledges and assumes in writing all responsibilities of such Party under this Agreement. Any purported assignment or transfer made in violation of this Section shall be null and void *ab initio*. The provisions of this Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the Parties and their successors and permitted assigns.

21.5 Severability. If any provision of this Agreement is held to be invalid or unenforceable, the remaining provisions of this Agreement will remain in full force and the unenforceable provision shall be interpreted so as to render it enforceable while approximating the Parties' intent as closely as possible.

21.6 Governing Law. This Agreement and the relationship of the Parties shall be governed in all respects, including validity, interpretation, enforcement and effect, by the laws of the State of New York.

21.7 Disputes. If a dispute arises out of or relates to this Agreement or the breach thereof ("Dispute"), and if said Dispute cannot be settled through negotiation within thirty (30) days following notice of such Dispute sent by one Party to the other Party, it shall be finally resolved by arbitration in accordance with the United States Arbitration Act (9 U.S.C. 1 et seq.), administered in the County of New York, State of New York by the American Arbitration Association under its Commercial Arbitration Rules, and judgment upon the award rendered by the arbitrators may be entered in any court having jurisdiction. Each Party expressly waives its right to a trial by jury. The application of the UN Convention on Contracts for International Sale of Goods is expressly excluded.

21.8 Other. This Agreement should not be construed in favor of or against any Party by reason of the extent to which any party or its professional advisors participated in the preparation or drafting of this Agreement. This Agreement may be executed in two or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which together shall constitute one and the same Agreement. The counterparts of this Agreement and all ancillary documents may be executed and delivered by facsimile or other emailed electronic signature and the receiving Party may rely on the receipt of such document by such means as if the original had been received. The headings in this Agreement are for purposes of reference only and shall not limit or otherwise affect the meaning hereof.

21.9 Prior Agreement. The Master License Agreement between the Parties dated February 28, 2019 (the "Prior Agreement"), is hereby terminated by mutual agreement of the Parties, effective January 31, 2022, subject to any provision of the Prior Agreement that contemplates or governs performance or observance subsequent to its expiration or termination with respect to the subject matter thereof.

[signature page follows]

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, each Party has caused this Agreement to be executed by its duly authorized representative effective as of the Effective Date.

CoinDesk Indices, Inc.

Grayscale Investments, LLC

Signature: /s/ Kevin Worth _____

Signature: /s/ Michael Sonnenshein _____

Name: Kevin Worth
Title: Authorized Signatory
Date: 2/1/2022

Name: Michael Sonnenshein
Title: CEO
Date: 2/1/2022

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EXHIBIT A

Entity	Governing Document
1. Grayscale Bitcoin Trust (BTC), a Delaware statutory trust formed as of September 13, 2013	Fifth Amended and Restated Declaration of Trust and Trust Agreement of Grayscale Bitcoin Trust (BTC), dated September 12, 2018, by and among Grayscale Investments, LLC, Delaware Trust Company and the Shareholders from time to time thereunder, as amended by Amendment No. 1 and Amendment No. 2 thereto and as the same may be further amended from time to time.
2. Grayscale Bitcoin Cash Trust (BCH), a Delaware statutory trust formed as of January 26, 2018	Amended and Restated Declaration of Trust and Trust Agreement of Grayscale Bitcoin Cash Trust (BCH), dated March 1, 2018, by and among Grayscale Investments, LLC, Delaware Trust Company and the Shareholders from time to time thereunder, as amended by Amendment No. 1 thereto and as the same may be further amended from time to time.
3. Grayscale Basic Attention Token Trust (BAT), a Delaware statutory trust formed as of December 18, 2020	Amended and Restated Declaration of Trust and Trust Agreement of Grayscale Basic Attention Token Trust (BAT), dated December 18, 2020, by and among Grayscale Investments, LLC, Delaware Trust Company and the Shareholders from time to time thereunder, as the same may be further amended from time to time.
4. Grayscale Chainlink Trust (LINK), a Delaware statutory trust formed as of December 18, 2020	Amended and Restated Declaration of Trust and Trust Agreement of Grayscale Chainlink Trust (LINK), dated December 18, 2020, by and among Grayscale Investments, LLC, Delaware Trust Company and the Shareholders from time to time thereunder, as the same may be further amended from time to time.
5. Grayscale Ethereum Trust (ETH), a Delaware statutory trust formed as of December 13, 2017	Amended and Restated Declaration of Trust and Trust Agreement of Grayscale Ethereum Trust (ETH), dated July 3, 2018, by and among Grayscale Investments, LLC, Delaware Trust Company and the Shareholders from time to time thereunder, as amended by Amendment No. 1 and Amendment No. 2 thereto and as the same may be further amended from time to time.
6. Grayscale Ethereum Classic Trust (ETC), a Delaware statutory trust formed as of April 18, 2017	Second Amended and Restated Declaration of Trust and Trust Agreement of Grayscale Ethereum Classic Trust (ETC), dated February 28, 2018, by and among Grayscale Investments, LLC, Delaware Trust Company and the Shareholders from time to time thereunder, as amended by Amendment No. 1 thereto and as the same may be further amended from time to time.
7. Grayscale Filecoin Trust (FIL), a Delaware statutory trust formed as of October 15, 2020	Amended and Restated Declaration of Trust and Trust Agreement of Grayscale Filecoin Trust (FIL), dated October 15, 2020, by and among Grayscale Investments, LLC, Delaware Trust Company and the Shareholders from time to time thereunder, as the same may be further amended from time to time.
8. Grayscale Horizen Trust (ZEN), a Delaware statutory trust formed as July 3, 2018	Amended and Restated Declaration of Trust and Trust Agreement of Grayscale Horizen Trust (ZEN), dated August 6, 2018, by and among Grayscale Investments, LLC, Delaware Trust Company and the Shareholders from time to time thereunder, as amended by Amendment No. 1 thereto and as the same may be further amended from time to time.
9. Grayscale Litecoin Trust (LTC), a Delaware statutory trust formed as of January 26, 2018	Amended and Restated Declaration of Trust and Trust Agreement of Grayscale Litecoin Trust (LTC), dated March 1, 2018, by and among Grayscale Investments, LLC, Delaware Trust Company and the Shareholders from time to time thereunder, as amended by Amendment No. 1 thereto and as the same may be further amended from time to time.
10. Grayscale Livepeer Trust (LPT), a Delaware statutory trust formed as of December 18, 2020	Amended and Restated Declaration of Trust and Trust Agreement of Grayscale Livepeer Trust (LPT), dated December 18, 2020, by and among Grayscale Investments, LLC, Delaware Trust Company and the Shareholders from time to time thereunder, as the same may be further amended from time to time.
11. Grayscale Decentraland Trust (MANA), a Delaware statutory trust formed as of December 18, 2020	Amended and Restated Declaration of Trust and Trust Agreement of Grayscale Decentraland Trust (MANA), dated December 18, 2020, by and among Grayscale Investments, LLC, Delaware Trust Company and the Shareholders from time to time thereunder, as the same may be further amended from time to time.

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	Entity	Governing Document
12.	Grayscale Solana Trust, a Delaware statutory trust formed as of November 8, 2021	Amended and Restated Declaration of Trust and Trust Agreement of Grayscale Decentraland Trust (MANA), dated November 9, 2021, by and among Grayscale Investments, LLC, Delaware Trust Company and the Shareholders from time to time thereunder, as the same may be further amended from time to time.
13.	Grayscale Stellar Lumens Trust (XLM), a Delaware statutory trust formed as of October 26, 2018	Amended and Restated Declaration of Trust and Trust Agreement of Grayscale Stellar Lumens Trust (XLM), dated December 4, 2018, by and among Grayscale Investments, LLC, Delaware Trust Company and the Shareholders from time to time thereunder, as amended by Amendment No. 1 thereto and as the same may be further amended from time to time.

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|-----|--|--|
| 14. | Grayscale Zcash Trust (ZEC),
a Delaware statutory trust formed as of October 23, 2017 | Amended and Restated Declaration of Trust and Trust Agreement of Grayscale Zcash Trust (ZEC), dated July 3, 2018, by and among Grayscale Investments, LLC, Delaware Trust Company and the Shareholders from time to time thereunder, as amended by Amendment No. 1 thereto and as the same may be further amended from time to time. |
| 15. | Grayscale Decentralized Finance (DeFi) Fund LLC
a Cayman Islands limited liability company formed as of June 10, 2021 | Amended and Restated Limited Liability Company Agreement of Grayscale Decentralized Finance (DeFi) Fund LLC, dated June 30, 2021, by and among Grayscale Investments, LLC, as the same may be amended from time to time. |
| 16. | Grayscale Digital Large Cap Fund LLC, a Cayman Islands limited liability company formed as of January 25, 2018 | Second Amended and Restated Limited Liability Company Agreement of Grayscale Digital Large Cap Fund LLC, dated March 7, 2018, by and among Grayscale Investments, LLC, as the same may be amended from time to time. |

Any other entity that Licensee may sponsor or manage from time to time that holds a digital asset for which TradeBlock provides a reference rate or index, *provided* Licensee notifies TradeBlock in writing of the name and associated governing document of such entity.

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EXHIBIT B

ORDER NO. 1

This Order No. 1 (the “Order”) is entered into in connection with that certain Master Index License Agreement, by and between CoinDesk Indices, Inc. (formerly known as TradeBlock, Inc.) and Grayscale Investments, LLC, dated January 31, 2022 (the “Agreement”). This Order is incorporated by reference into the Agreement, and shall be governed by the terms set forth in the Agreement. To the extent of any conflict between this Order and the Agreement, such term in the Agreement shall prevail. Capitalized terms used but not defined herein have the meanings given to them in the Agreement.

1. Term of Order

Start Date: February 1, 2022

End Date: February 29, 2024

[**]

2. Licensed Indexes

<u>Licensed Index</u>	<u>Digital Asset</u>
ADX	Cardano (ADA)
BCX	Bitcoin Cash (BCH)
BTX	Basic Attention Token (BAT)
DFX	Digital assets included in the CoinDesk DeFi Index (DFX)
ECX	Ethereum Classic (ETC)
ETX	Ethereum (ETH)
LNK	Chainlink (LINK)
LTX	Litecoin (LTC)
SLX	Solana (SOL)
UNX	Uniswap (UNI)
XBX	Bitcoin (BTC)
XLMX	Stellar Lumens (XLM)
ZCX	Zcash (ZEC)

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Any other investment fund that Licensee sponsors or manages, which holds a digital asset for which TradeBlock provides an index, <i>provided</i> Licensee notifies TradeBlock regarding such entity and TradeBlock consents in writing to adding such entity to this exhibit (commencing as of the date of TradeBlock's consent notice to Licensee).
--

The Licensed Indexes are each a US Dollar-denominated composite reference rate for the price of the Digital Asset listed opposite such Licensed Index's name in the table above, accessible via <https://tradeblock.com> and an application programming interface ("API"). Data inputs for the Licensed Indexes may include trades from exchanges, over-the-counter markets, or derivative platforms. Inclusion of data from each trading venue is guided by criteria such as depth of liquidity, regulatory compliance, data availability, acceptance of US Dollar deposits, and the discretion of TradeBlock analysts. To calculate the reference rate, trade data is cleansed and compiled in such a manner as to algorithmically reduce the impact of anomalous or manipulative trading. This is accomplished by adjusting the weight of each data input based on price deviation relative to the observable set, as well as recent and long-term trading volume at each venue relative to the observable set.

3. Related Services to be Provided by TradeBlock

TradeBlock will make the following available to Licensee for each Licensed Index:

- Automated calculation of the Digital Asset reference price based on the applicable Licensed Index at 4:00 PM EST each weekday on which banks are open in New York, provided via email, API, or both
- An API with the latest Licensed Index rate
- Raw, historical Licensed Index rate data upon request via API for all days which the Licensed Index is used as the reference rate for the applicable Digital Asset

TradeBlock will make the following publicly available on tradeblock.com for each Licensed Index:

- Interactive charting to view the Licensed Index rate over time relative to its constituent inputs (for all publicly-available inputs)
- Conceptual information about the calculations underlying the Licensed Index rate
- The latest Licensed Index rate, observable via web browser

4. VWAP Algorithm

In addition to the Licensed Indexes licensed to Licensee pursuant to Section 5.1(ii) (and Section 5.1(iii), if applicable), Licensor has created a unique volume-weighted average price algorithm applied to the price and volume of all inputs for the immediately preceding 24-hour period at 4:00:00 PM on the trade date (the "VWAP Algorithm"). The VWAP Algorithm is licensed to Licensee pursuant to Section 5.1(i) of the main body of the Agreement.

5. Operational Milestones

TradeBlock will use commercially reasonable efforts to achieve the following operational milestones by the specified deadlines; *provided, however*, that failure to achieve any of these milestones by the specified

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deadline shall not be a breach of this Order (or the Agreement), but will be pertinent to both (i) the associated fee discounts specified on the table below (and in Section 6 below) and (ii) Licensee's right to terminate this Order (and the Agreement) early as set forth below.

<u>Operational Milestone</u>	<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Discount</u>
Begin compliance process for SOC 2 Type 2 report	June 30, 2021	[**]
Establish index governance committee	July 31, 2021	[**]
Obtain SOC 1 Type 2 and SOC 2 Type 2 reports	For the period ended 12/31/21 (Delivery Q1 2023)	[**]

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Order (or the Agreement), if all of the operational milestones specified on the table above are not achieved by TradeBlock by the second anniversary of the Start Date of this Order, then Licensee may terminate this Order (and the Agreement) immediately upon written notice to TradeBlock.

6. Fees

Monthly Fee Calculation

Licensee shall pay TradeBlock:

- (i) [**] per Licensed Index per month;¹ plus
- (ii) The volume-based fee accrued and calculated daily at an annualized rate (based on the applicable Rate per the Volume-Based Fee Schedule(s) below divided by 365) of the aggregated Holdings of all Entities listed in Exhibit A to the Agreement. Holdings will be calculated based on the definition in the applicable Entity's Governing Document listed opposite such Entity's name in Exhibit A to the Agreement.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, if any of the operational milestones specified in Section 5 of this Order are not achieved by TradeBlock by the associated deadline also specified in Section 5, then the aggregate monthly fee under this Order for each month thereafter shall be reduced by the applicable discount also specified in Section 5 until such operational milestone is achieved.

Volume-Based Fee Schedule for Entities Using Licensed Indexes (and any other Services) Licensed under Section 5.1 of the Agreement

[**]

Annual volume-based fee calculation:

[**]

¹ For the avoidance of doubt, any Licensed Index added to Licensed Indexes on Table 2 hereto on a date other than the first day of a month shall be charged on a pro-rated basis.

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Daily volume-based fee calculation (each example continued):

[**]

[order signature page follows]

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250 Park Avenue South, 2nd Floor
New York, NY 10003

Agreed and Acknowledged:

Grayscale Investments, LLC

Signature: /s/ Michael Sonnenshein

Name: Michael Sonnenshein

Title: CEO

Date: 2/1/2022

CoinDesk Indices, Inc.

Signature: /s/ Kevin Worth

Name: Kevin Worth

Title: Authorized Signatory

Date: 2/1/2022

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Exhibit 10.4

AMENDMENT No. 1
TO
MASTER LICENSE AGREEMENT

This Amendment No. 1 (this “Amendment”) is made as of June 20, 2023 (the “Effective Date”) by and between CoinDesk Indices, Inc., a Delaware corporation, having its principal place of business at 250 Park Avenue South, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10003 (“CDI”), and Grayscale Investments, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, with an office located at 290 Harbor Drive, Stamford, CT 06902 (“Licensee”). Unless otherwise defined herein, capitalized terms used herein have the meanings specified in or pursuant to the Agreement (defined below).

WHEREAS, CDI and the Licensee are parties to that certain Master Index License Agreement dated as of January 31, 2022 (the “Agreement”); and

WHEREAS, CDI and Licensee desire to amend certain terms of the Agreement as set forth herein.

NOW THEREFORE, the parties hereby agree as follows:

I. Amendments

1.
Order No. 1, Section 1 (Term of Order) of the Agreement is hereby amended as follows:

End Date: **February 28, 2025**

2.
Order No. 1, Section 5 (Operational Milestones) of the Agreement shall be amended and restated in its entirety as follows:

CDI shall achieve the following operational milestones by the specified deadlines, *or* the Fees described in Section 6 of this Order shall be subject to (i) fee discounts specified on the table below, effective as of the date indicated and (ii) Licensee shall have the right to terminate this Order (and the Agreement).

[***]	[***]	[***]
[***]	[***]	[***]
[***]	[***]	[***]
[***]	[***]	[***]

3.
The Preamble of the Agreement shall be amended to replace the defined term “TradeBlock” with “CDI.” and subsequent references to TradeBlock in the Agreement shall be deemed references to CDI.

II. Ratification of Agreement. Except as expressly amended and provided herein, all of the terms, conditions and provisions of the Agreement are hereby ratified and confirmed to be of full force and effect and shall continue in full force and effect.

III. Counterparts. This Amendment may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which shall be an original against a Party whose signature appears thereon, but all of which together shall constitute but one and the same instrument.

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[Signature Page Follows]

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have executed this Amendment by their duly authorized representatives as of the Effective Date set forth above.

CoinDesk Indices, Inc.

By: /s/ Alan Campbell
Name: Alan Campbell
Title: President

Grayscale Investments, LLC

By: /s/ Michael Sonnenshein
Name: Michael Sonnenshein
Title: CEO

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Exhibit 10.5

**AMENDMENT No. 6 TO
MASTER LICENSE AGREEMENT**

This Amendment No. 6 (this “Amendment No. 6”) is effective as of March 1, 2025 (the “Amendment No. 6 Effective Date”) by and between CoinDesk Indices, Inc., a Delaware corporation, having its principal place of business at 169 Madison Ave, Suite 2635, New York, NY 10016 (“CDI”), and Grayscale Investments Sponsors, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, with an office located at 290 Harbor Drive, Stamford, CT 06902 (“Licensee”). Unless otherwise defined herein, capitalized terms used herein have the meanings specified in or pursuant to the Agreement (defined below).

WHEREAS, CDI and the Licensee are parties to that certain Master Index License Agreement (“Master License Agreement”) dated as of January 31, 2022;

WHEREAS the Master License Agreement was previously amended by Amendment No. 1 to the Master License Agreement dated June 20, 2023 (“Amendment No. 1”), Amendment No. 2 to the Master License Agreement dated May 10, 2024 (“Amendment No. 2”), Amendment No. 3 to the Master License Agreement dated June 28, 2024 (“Amendment No. 3”), Amendment No. 4 to the Master License Agreement dated August 20, 2024 (“Amendment No. 4”) and Amendment No. 5 to the Master License Agreement dated January 29, 2025 (“Amendment No. 5”, and, collectively with Amendment No. 1, Amendment No.2, Amendment No. 3 and Amendment No. 4, the “Prior Amendments”);

WHEREAS, Order No. 1 as set out in Exhibit B of the Master License Agreement (as amended by the Prior Amendments), with an original start date of February 1, 2022, was not renewed pursuant to a notice of non-renewal sent by CDI to Licensee and expires on February 28, 2025; and

WHEREAS, CDI and Licensee desire to amend certain terms of the Master License Agreement (as amended by this Amendment No. 6, the “Agreement”) as set forth herein as of the Amendment No. 6 Effective Date.

NOW THEREFORE, the Parties hereby agree as follows:

1. Prior Amendments. Each of the Prior Amendments is hereby superseded by this Amendment No. 6 and shall no longer be of any force or effect following the Amendment No. 6 Effective Date.
2. References to CDI. All references to “Tradeblock” under the Master License Agreement shall be deemed references to “CDI”.
3. Address for Notice. The address for notice in Section 18 of the Master License Agreement with respect to CDI shall be updated as follows:

CoinDesk Indices, Inc.
169 Madison Ave, Suite 2635
New York, NY 10016
Attention: Legal
E-mail: legal@coindesk-indices.com with a copy to info@coindesk-indices.com
4. Exhibit A. Exhibit A of the Agreement is deleted in its entirety. The definition of “Entities” set forth in the preamble of the Master License Agreement shall be deemed to be amended and restated with the definition of Entities set forth in the amended and restated Section 5.1 of the Master License Agreement, as set forth below in Section 6 of this Amendment No. 6.

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5. Exhibit B. Exhibit B, Order No. 1 of the Agreement is hereby deleted in its entirety and replaced with **Order No. 2** (“Order No. 2”) attached hereto as **Annex A**.
6. [**]
7. [**]
8. Ratification of Agreement. Except as expressly amended and provided herein, all of the terms, conditions and provisions of the Agreement are hereby ratified and confirmed to be of full force and effect and shall continue in full force and effect.
9. Counterparts. This Amendment No. 6 may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which shall be an original against a Party whose signature appears thereon, but all of which together shall constitute but one and the same instrument.

[Signature Page Follows]

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have executed this Amendment No. 6 by their duly authorized representatives as of the Amendment No. 6 Effective Date set forth above.

CoinDesk Indices, Inc.

By: /s/ Alan Campbell
Name: Alan Campbell
Title: President
Date: February 5, 2025

Grayscale Investments Sponsors, LLC

By: /s/ Edward McGee
Name: Edward McGee
Title: Chief Financial Officer
Date: February 5, 2025

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Annex A
Order No. 2

This Order No. 2 (the “Order No. 2”) is entered into in connection with that certain Master Index License Agreement, by and between CoinDesk Indices, Inc. (“CDI”) and Grayscale Investments Sponsors, LLC (“Licensee”), dated January 31, 2022 (the “Master License Agreement”).

This Order No. 2 is incorporated by reference into the Master License Agreement as amended by Amendment No. 6 (the “Agreement”) and shall be governed by the terms set forth in the Agreement. To the extent of any conflict between this Order No. 2 and the Agreement, such term in this Order No. 2 shall prevail. Capitalized terms used but not defined herein have the meanings given to them in the Agreement.

1. Term of Order No. 2

Start Date: March 1, 2025

End Date: February 29, 2028

2. Licensed Indexes

As part of the Services, CDI will provide Licensee with the licensed CDI indexes (“Licensed Indexes”) listed below via an application programming interface (“API”):

	<u>Licensed Indexes</u>	<u>Digital Asset</u>
1.	CoinDesk Basic Attention Token Price Index (BTX)	Basic Attention Token (BAT)
2.	CoinDesk Bitcoin Cash Price Index (BCX)	Bitcoin Cash (BCH)
3.	CoinDesk Bitcoin Price Index (XBX)	Bitcoin (BTC)
4.	CoinDesk Cardano Price Index (ADX)	Cardano (ADA)
5.	CoinDesk Chainlink Price Index (LNX)	Chainlink (LINK)
6.	CoinDesk Ether Classic Price Index (ECX)	Ethereum Classic (ETC)
7.	CoinDesk Ether Price Index (ETX)	Ethereum (ETH)
8.	CoinDesk Litecoin Price Index (LTX)	Litecoin (LTC)
9.	CoinDesk Lumens Price Index (XLMX)	Stellar Lumens (XLM)
10.	CoinDesk Ripple Price Index (XRX)	Ripple (XRP)
11.	CoinDesk Solana Price Index (SLX)	Solana (SOL)
12.	CoinDesk Uniswap Price Index (UNX)	Uniswap (UNI)
13.	CoinDesk ZCash Price Index (ZCX)	Zcash (ZEC)
14.	CoinDesk Aave Reference Rate	Aave (AAVE)
15.	CoinDesk Avalanche Reference Rate	Avalanche (AVAX)
16.	CoinDesk Bittensor Reference Rate	Bittensor (TAO)
17.	CoinDesk Decentraland Reference Rate	Decentraland (MANA)
18.	CoinDesk Defi Select Index (DFX)	The constituents of the DFX index.
19.	CoinDesk Dogecoin Reference Rate	Dogecoin (DOGE)

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20.	CoinDesk Filecoin Reference Rate	Filecoin (FIL)
21.	CoinDesk Horizen Reference Rate	Horizen (ZEN)
22.	CoinDesk Large Cap Select Index (DLCS)	The constituents of the DLCS index.
23.	CoinDesk Lido Reference Rate	Lido (LDO)
24.	CoinDesk Livepeer Reference Rate	Livepeer (LPT)
25.	CoinDesk MakerDao Reference Rate	Maker (MKR)
26.	CoinDesk Near Reference Rate	NEAR (NEAR)
27.	CoinDesk Optimism Reference Rate	Optimism (OP)
28.	CoinDesk Polkadot Reference Rate	Polkadot (DOT)
29.	CoinDesk Render Reference Rate	Render - SOL (RENDER)
30.	CoinDesk Smart Contract Platform Select Ex ETH Index (SCPXX)	The constituents of the SCPXX index.
31.	CoinDesk Stacks Reference Rate	Stacks (STX)
32.	CoinDesk Sui Reference Rate	Sui (SUI)
33.	CoinDesk Synthetix Network Reference Rate	Synthetix Network (SNX)
34.	CoinDesk The Graph Reference Rate	The Graph (GRT)
35.	CoinDesk PYTH Reference Rate	Pyth Network (PYTH)
36.	[**]	[**]
37.	[**]	[**]

The Service will include CDI providing Licensee with the following:

- a) Daily End of Day Data for each of the Licensed Indexes. For purposes of this Order No. 2, “End of Day” is defined as Data as of immediately prior to 4:00 PM Eastern Time (ET) (“End of Day”).
- b) Live updates to the Licensed Indexes. For purposes of this Order No. 2, “Live” is defined as data that is calculated in real-time in accordance with the applicable methodology (“Live”).
- c) All available historical End of Day data for each of the Licensed Indexes.
- d) Ancillary Information for each of the Licensed Indexes. For purposes of this Order No. 2, “Ancillary Information” means information such as reconstitutions, rebalances, consultations, announcements, etc., as applicable.
- e) Proper attribution will be provided to CDI with respect to the Entities and all related marketing and informational materials, which will include using the short form disclaimer in marketing materials and the long form disclaimer in offering materials, respectively, each as set forth on Exhibit A to this Order No. 2 (as CDI may update upon written notice to Licensee from time to time). Licensee will obtain CDI’s authorization on the initial use of such disclaimers; subsequent use shall not be required absent material changes being made to the relevant materials.
- f) Without limiting the limitations of liability set forth in the Agreement or the attribution and disclaimer requirements of this Order No. 2, Licensee will ensure via its end user contracts, its Entities’ disclosure materials and related disclaimers

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and limitations of liability that (among other things) CDI owes no fiduciary obligation to Licensee or any of its users or investors and all related beneficiaries, and all data and services are provided by CDI 'as is' with no warranty of any kind, including for being error or interruption free.

3. Delivery of Services

- a) For End of Day Data with respect to the Licensed Indexes, CDI agrees to provide the Services to Licensee via an API.
- b) For Live updates with respect to the Licensed Indexes, CDI agrees to provide the Services to Licensee via an API.
- c) For historical End of Day Data, CDI agrees to provide such portion of the Service to Licensee via a one-time delivery of a flat file.
- d) For Ancillary Information, CDI agrees to provide the Services to Licensee via email and/or API, as applicable.
- e) Should CDI update its file delivery mechanism(s) from time to time (e.g., SFTP), Licensee agrees to receive delivery of the Service via such updated mechanism.

4. [**]

5. [**]

6. [**]

7. [**]

8. [**]

[Signature Page Follows]

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto by their duly authorized representatives have executed this Order No. 2 as of the Amendment No. 6 Effective Date set forth above.

**Grayscale Investments Sponsors,
LLC**

Signature /s/ Edward McGee
:
Name: Edward McGee
Title: Chief Financial Officer

CoinDesk Indices, Inc.

Signature /s/ Alan Campbell
:
Name: Alan Campbell
Title: President

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Exhibit A

Long Form Disclaimer (e.g., financial product offering prospectus)

COINDESK® and [name of index/index family/trend indicator, e.g., “COINDESK BITCOIN PRICE INDEX”] (the “Index”) are trade or service marks of CoinDesk Indices, Inc. (with its affiliates, including CC Data Limited, “CDI”) and/or its licensors. CDI or CDI's licensors own all proprietary rights in the Data.

CDI is not the issuer or producer of [insert name of approved products] and has no responsibilities, obligations, or duties to investors in or holders of [insert name of approved product]. The Index is licensed for use by [insert name of the issuer or producer] as the issuer of [insert name of approved product]. The only relationship that CDI has with [insert name of the issuer or producer] in respect of [insert name of approved product] is the licensing of the Index, which is administered and published by CDI, or any successor thereto, without regard to the issuer of the [insert name of approved product] or the owners or holders of the [insert name of approved product].

Investors or holders acquire [insert name of approved product] from [insert name of the issuer or producer] and investors and holders neither acquire any interest in the Index nor enter into any relationship of any kind whatsoever with CDI upon making an investment in or acquisition of [insert name of approved product]. The [insert name of approved product] is not sponsored, endorsed, sold, or promoted by CDI. CDI makes no representation or warranty, express or implied, regarding the advisability of investing in or otherwise acquiring the [insert name of approved product] or the advisability of investing in securities or digital assets generally or the ability of the Index to track corresponding or relative market performance. CDI has not passed on the legality or suitability of the [insert name of approved product] with respect to any person or entity. CDI is not responsible for, nor has participated in, the determination of the timing of, prices at, or quantities of the [insert name of approved product] to be issued. CDI has no obligation to take the needs of the issuer or the owners or holders of the [insert name of approved product] or any other third party into consideration in administering, composing, calculating, or publishing the Index. CDI has no obligation or liability in connection with administration, marketing, or trading of the [insert name of approved product].

The licensing agreement between [insert name of the issuer or producer] and CDI is solely for the benefit of [insert name of the issuer or producer] and CDI and not for the benefit of the owners or holders of the [insert name of approved product] or any other third parties.

CDI SHALL HAVE NO LIABILITY TO THE ISSUER, INVESTORS, HOLDERS OR OTHER THIRD PARTIES FOR THE QUALITY, ACCURACY AND/OR COMPLETENESS OF THE INDEX OR ANY DATA INCLUDED THEREIN OR FOR INTERRUPTIONS IN THE DELIVERY OF THE DATA. CDI HEREBY EXPRESSLY DISCLAIMS ALL WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE OR USE WITH RESPECT TO THE INDEX OR ANY OTHER DATA INCLUDED THEREIN. CDI RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CHANGE THE METHODS OF CALCULATION OR PUBLICATION, OR TO CEASE THE CALCULATION OR PUBLICATION OF THE INDEX AND SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR ANY MISCALCULATION OF OR ANY INCORRECT, DELAYED, OR INTERRUPTED PUBLICATION WITH RESPECT TO THE INDEX. CDI SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR ANY DAMAGES, INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, ANY SPECIAL, INDIRECT OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES, OR ANY LOST PROFITS, EVEN IF ADVISED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH, RESULTING FROM THE USE OF THE INDEX OR ANY OTHER DATA INCLUDED THEREIN OR WITH RESPECT TO THE [INSERT NAME OF APPROVED PRODUCT].

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Short Form Disclaimer (e.g., financial product fact sheets)

COINDESK® and [name of index/index family/trend indicator, e.g., “COINDESK BITCOIN PRICE INDEX”] (the “Index”) are trade or service marks of CoinDesk Indices, Inc. (with its affiliates, including CC Data Limited, “CDI”), and/or its licensors. CDI or CDI's licensors own all proprietary rights in the Index.

CDI is not affiliated with [insert name of issuer or producer] and does not approve, endorse, review, or recommend [insert name of approved product]. CDI does not guarantee the timeliness, accurateness, or completeness of any data or information relating to the Index and shall not be liable in any way to the [insert name of the issuer or producer], investors in or holders of [insert name of approved product] or other third parties in respect of the use or accuracy of the Index or any data included therein.

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Exhibit 10.7

MASTER SERVICES AGREEMENT

THIS MASTER SERVICES AGREEMENT ("Agreement") is made as of the latest date set forth on the signature page hereto (the "Effective Date") by and between Coin Metrics Inc., a Delaware corporation ("CM") and Grayscale Investments, LLC. Customer and CM are individually hereinafter referred to as a "Party" and collectively as the "Parties". This Agreement incorporates by reference the Order Forms issued hereunder.

1. SCOPE OF AGREEMENT

1.1 **Scope of Services.** In accordance with the terms of the applicable Order Form, CM will provide to Customer the services described on such Order Form (collectively, the "Services"). This Agreement sets forth the terms and conditions that will govern CM's provision of the Services, as specified on the applicable Order Form. "Order Form" means a written document signed by both Parties, that is substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A, referencing this Agreement and detailing the specific Services to be provided, the compensation as well as any other information needed to perform the Services. All Services are subject to this Agreement.

1.2 **Rights to Use.** Subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement, CM hereby grants to Customer a non-exclusive, non-sublicensable, non-transferable, limited, revocable license (solely through Customer's Designated Users) to access and use the Services identified in the applicable Order Form solely for the duration of the applicable Order Term (as defined in such Order Form).

1.3 **Ownership and Reservation of Rights.** Nothing in this Agreement shall constitute a transfer of any proprietary right by CM to Customer. The Services may be protected by patent, copyright, trade secret and/or other intellectual property laws. As between the Parties, CM owns and retains all right, title and interest in and to the intellectual property rights in and to the Services (including any data and/or analytics made available through the Services) and any enhancements, modifications or derivative works thereof. As between the Parties, (i) each Party retains ownership in and to its Confidential Information (as hereinafter defined) and (ii) CM exclusively owns all right, title and interest in and to the Services and any derivative works and work product conceived, originated, or prepared in connection with the Services. All rights not specifically granted to Customer in this Agreement are retained by CM. Customer acknowledges the proprietary rights of CM and its licensors in the Services and that CM retains all right, title and interest in and to the Services.

1.4 **Third-Party Sites.** The Services may link, interface and integrate with third party software applications and websites that are not operated or controlled by CM ("Third-Party Sites"). All such Third-Party Sites shall remain the property of their third-party providers. Customer hereby acknowledges and agrees that CM is not responsible for the content or practices of the Third-Party Sites. Any links to or content from Third-Party Sites in the Services are provided for Customer's convenience only. CM reserves the right to update or remove any functionality available through the Services at any time for any reason, provided such altered functionality is not the fault of CM. If the Customer is materially impacted by such a change, Customer may terminate the Service upon thirty (30) days' prior written notice. All unpaid fees and other amounts will be payable only up until the revised termination date.

1.5 **Feedback.** Notwithstanding any provision in this Agreement to the contrary, CM may use, develop and implement any information, suggestions, comments or other feedback provided by Customer or any of its Representatives (collectively, "Feedback") in connection with the development, operation, marketing and sale of the Services, in its discretion and with no compensation to any person providing Feedback, irrespective of any intellectual property or proprietary rights claimed by Customer in such Feedback. Customer represents that it has not, and will not, knowingly provide Feedback that is subject to any third-party intellectual property rights.

1.6 **Changes to Services.** CM reserves the right at any time to alter any features, functionality and other characteristics of the Services; provided, however, that in the event that any such alterations materially limit the features or functionality of the Services, CM shall use commercially reasonable efforts to provide Customer with advanced notice thereof. Any subsequent upgrade, enhancement or other change to the Services shall be owned by CM and subject to the terms of this Agreement.

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1.7 Affiliate Usage. Subject to the terms of this Agreement and the applicable Order Form, Customer Affiliates may also use the Services solely in connection with the business of Customer and its Customer Affiliates.

"Customer Affiliate" means any person or entity which directly or indirectly controls, is controlled by or is under common control with Customer, whether by ownership or otherwise; and **"control"** means possessing, directly or indirectly, the power to direct or cause the direction of the management, policies or operations of an entity, whether through ownership of fifty percent (50%) or more of the voting securities, by contract or otherwise. Where this Agreement uses phrases like "Customer agrees", "Customer acknowledges", "Customer represents, warrants, and covenants", or the like, including where Customer is bound by restrictions or limitations (including but not limited to limitations of liability and indemnifications), Customer agrees that it has the authority to cause, and will before their access and use of the Services cause, each of its Customer Affiliates to be bound to such restrictions or limitations to the same extent as Customer. Customer shall be liable to CM for the acts and omissions of its Customer Affiliates. Customer Affiliates are not third party beneficiaries of the Agreement and Customer alone shall have the right to bring any claim that might otherwise have been brought against CM by Customer or any of its Customer Affiliates.

2. CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

2.1 Definition of Confidential Information. "Confidential Information" means all information, in whatever form, that is disclosed by a Party to the other Party, which, given the totality of the circumstances, a reasonable recipient should have reason to believe is proprietary, confidential, or competitively sensitive, regardless of whether such information is labeled as confidential or not, including without limitation personally identifiable information, creative works, business activities, trade secrets, analysis, software, data, algorithms, know-how, techniques, research, developments, inventions, discoveries, processes, designs, technical data and information, financial information, pricing, vendors, customers, prospects, marketing plans and any other information of a similar nature. For the avoidance of doubt, CM's Confidential Information includes the Services (including the design, features, functions and architecture thereof) as well as any API keys associated with the Services.

2.2 Access and Use. Each Party receiving Confidential Information from the other Party shall: (i) use and reproduce the Confidential Information only for the purposes specified in this Agreement, (ii) restrict disclosure of Confidential Information to its Representatives with a need to know the Confidential Information to enable the receiving Party to perform its obligations and exercise its rights under this Agreement, provided that such Representatives are bound by confidentiality obligations broad enough to encompass Confidential Information that are at least as protective as those contained in this Agreement, and (iii) use reasonable care to protect the other Party's Confidential Information and to prevent unauthorized disclosure of such Confidential Information. Additionally, to the extent that any Confidential Information disclosed or otherwise made available by one Party includes personally identifiable information, the other Party agrees to use such personally identifiable information solely in accordance with applicable Law and in compliance with such other Party's policies governing the dissemination and use of such personally identifiable information.

Exclusions. Except as expressly provided herein, and except with respect to any information relating to any identified or identifiable natural person, household or device, nothing in this Agreement will be construed to restrict or impair in any way the right of a receiving Party to disclose any information which: (i) is at the time of its disclosure hereunder generally available to the public; (ii) becomes generally available to the public through no fault of the receiving Party; (iii) can be reasonably demonstrated to be in the possession of a receiving Party prior to its initial disclosure hereunder; (iv) was independently developed by the receiving Party without reference or access to the disclosing Party's Confidential Information; or (v) is acquired from a third party having a right to disclose the same to a receiving Party without breach of any confidentiality obligation. A receiving Party may disclose Confidential Information in accordance with a legally binding judicial or other governmental order, provided that, to the extent permitted by applicable Law, such Party provides the disclosing Party with prompt notice of the same and cooperates with the disclosing Party with any actions taken by the disclosing Party to protect such Confidential Information, including without limitation the seeking of an appropriate protective order or other remedy. Notwithstanding any other provision in this Agreement to the contrary, CM may collect, analyze and anonymize data, statistics or other information obtained through the provision, use and performance of various aspects of the Services (collectively, "Analytics") and aggregate such Analytics with data, statistics or other information obtained from other sources, and may use such Analytics for lawful business purposes,

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including improvement of the Services, as long as in doing so CM does not re-identify, or attempt to re-identify, any of the Analytics or otherwise link or associate Analytics with any information relating to (i) Customer, or (ii) an identified or identifiable natural person. CM owns all right, title and interest in and to all Analytics and no compensation will be paid by CM to any person with respect to its use of Analytics.

2.4 Customer Data. During the Term, certain data may be made available to CM (either through the Services or otherwise) by or on behalf of Customer ("Customer Data"). Customer shall be responsible for all changes to and/or deletions of Customer Data and the security of all passwords and other access protocols required in order to access the Services. Customer will be solely responsible for the accuracy and completeness of the Customer Data. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, Customer acknowledges and agrees that CM's obligation to maintain any Customer Data obtained in the course of performance of the Services shall not extend beyond the Term of this Agreement. Customer represents, warrants, and covenants that: (i) it has (and will have) Processed, collected and disclosed all Customer Data in compliance with applicable Law and provided any notice and obtained all consents and rights required by applicable Law to enable CM to lawfully Process Customer Data as permitted by this Agreement; (ii) it has full right and authority to make the Customer Data available to CM under this Agreement; and (iii) CM's Processing of the Customer Data in accordance with this Agreement will not infringe upon or violate any applicable Law or any rights of any third party. "Process" (including any grammatically inflected forms thereof) means any operation or set of operations which is performed on data or on sets of data, whether or not by automated means, including without limitation collection, recording, organization, structuring, storage, adaptation or alteration, access, retrieval, consultation, use, disclosure by transmission, dissemination or otherwise making available, alignment or combination, restriction, erasure or destruction.

2.5 Remedies. The Parties expressly acknowledge and agree that any breach or threatened breach of this Section 2 by the receiving Party may cause immediate and irreparable harm to the disclosing Party that may not be adequately compensated by damages. Each Party therefore agrees that in the event of such breach or threatened breach by the receiving Party, and in addition to any remedies available at law, the disclosing Party shall have the right to seek equitable and injunctive relief, without the need to post bond, in any court of competent jurisdiction, with respect to such a breach or threatened breach.

3. TERM AND TERMINATION

3.4 Term. The term of the Agreement will commence on the Effective Date and will continue until terminated in accordance with this Agreement (the "Term").

3.5 Termination in the Absence of Order Form. From and after the first anniversary of the Effective Date only, and solely in the event that there are no Order Forms then in effect, either Party may terminate this Agreement for any reason upon 30 days' prior written notice to the other Party.

3.6 Termination for Cause. Either Party may immediately terminate this Agreement or any Order Form under this Agreement for cause, in the event of any of the following by the other Party: (i) a material breach of this Agreement by the other Party which is not cured within thirty (30) days after receipt of written notice in reasonable detail of the breach; (ii) the filing of a petition in bankruptcy or for reorganization or for an arrangement pursuant to any federal or state bankruptcy laws by or on behalf of the other Party or an adjudication of bankruptcy of such Party; or (iii) the filing of a petition proposing the adjudication of the other Party pursuant to any federal or state bankruptcy law and such Party consents to such filing or such petition is not dismissed within ninety (90) days after the filing thereof.

3.7 Discontinuance of Business; Regulatory Changes. If either party determines to cease to conduct any of its Services in the normal course of business, either party shall have the right to terminate this Agreement or the applicable Order Form upon thirty (30) days' prior written notice. Either party may terminate this Agreement or any Order Form upon thirty (30) days' prior written notice to the other party if: (i) either party becomes aware of the final adoption of any legislation or regulation or the issuance of any interpretation that in either party's reasonable judgment materially impairs either party's ability to perform this Agreement or such Order Form in accordance with applicable law; or (ii) any litigation or regulatory proceeding is commenced and either party reasonably believes that such litigation or proceeding would have a material adverse effect upon the ability of either party to perform under this Agreement or such Order Form.

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3.8 Effect of Termination. Immediately upon termination or expiration of this Agreement or the applicable Order Form, CM's obligation to provide the applicable Services will immediately cease, any and all license grants with respect to such Services will immediately terminate, and all unpaid fees and other amounts due from Customer for Services previously provided by CM will immediately become due and payable. Each Party shall, within thirty (30) days of termination or expiration of this Agreement, return or destroy, at the option of the other Party, all copies of such other Party's Confidential Information that are in its possession or control, except that Customer shall be entitled to retain copies of the Confidential Information in routine backup of data storage systems, and to retain the Confidential Information in order to determine the scope of, and compliance with, its obligations hereunder, or as required by applicable law or regulation or its internal compliance policies.

3.6 Suspension of Services. Notwithstanding any provision herein to the contrary, CM may suspend the Services in the event (i) of any activity by Customer or any of Customer's Designated Users, if such activity has an adverse effect on the Services, or (ii) Customer fails to pay an undisputed amount within thirty (30) days after CM gives Customer written notice of such failure.

4. FEES

4.6 Payments. Customer shall timely pay the fees set forth on the applicable Order Form in United States dollars. In addition to the fees specified in the applicable Order Form, CM reserves the right to pass through to Customer, and Customer shall pay to CM, any and all crypto/digital asset exchange (e.g. trading platform) fees, third party platform's fees, third-party supplier's fees, and/or any related taxes, arising from a change in such costs imposed upon CM that may materially impact provision of its Services, provided that CM gives Customer sixty (60) days prior written notice of such change in fees. If Customer disagrees with the change, Customer may terminate the Service immediately with written notice. All unpaid fees and other amounts will be payable only up until the revised termination date. Unless otherwise specified on the applicable Order Form, all fees shall be due and payable in advance within thirty (30) days of the date of Customer's receipt of CM's invoice. If Customer provides recurring payment information for automatic debit of the fees under this Agreement, Customer hereby authorizes CM to debit Customer's credit card, checking or savings account designated by Customer at the time of payment of such fees (or as updated from time to time by Customer thereafter) on a recurring basis for the fees.

4.7 Taxes. The fees under this Agreement do not include, and Customer shall be responsible for paying all, local, state, federal or foreign sales, use, excise, VAT or other taxes, levies, duties or tariffs of any nature that may be due relating to this Agreement and the Services provided hereunder, except for taxes based on the income of CM.

4.8 Expenses. If the Parties agree to the performance of any Services on-site, Customer will pay all of CM's reasonable and documented travel expenses. CM will obtain prior written approval of such expenses and will provide standard supporting documentation with any reimbursement request.

5. CUSTOMER'S DUTIES AND RESTRICTIONS

5.6 Login and Password. To the extent specified in the applicable Order Form, Customer may be required to provide CM with the email addresses and names for Customer's designated end users and administrators (collectively, the "Designated Users"), and CM may assign unique initial login credentials for such Designated Users in order to access the Services. The logins for the Designated Users may not be shared and shall only be used by the Designated User to whom the login is initially assigned. Customer is solely responsible for maintaining the confidentiality of the accounts and related passwords of Customer's Designated Users and all use of such accounts. Each Designated User must be Customer's employee or consultant and, in each case, under Customer's control. Customer shall be solely responsible for all use of the Services under Customer's account, including by Customer's Designated Users. Customer hereby agrees that the act or omission of a current or former Representative shall be deemed the same as if performed by Customer.

5.7 Affirmative Covenants. Customer shall: (i) ensure Customer's Designated Users, officers, directors employees, contractors, representatives, agents and affiliates (collectively, "Representatives") comply with this Agreement; (ii) take all necessary steps to prevent unauthorized access to or use of the Services, (iii) notify CM immediately of any such unauthorized access or use; (iv) comply with applicable federal, state, local, municipal, domestic and foreign laws, rules and regulations ("Law"); (v) use the Services in compliance with all applicable industry

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standards; (vi) use the Services only for Customer's own internal business purposes and solely in accordance with the terms of this Agreement; (vii) use the Services only in accordance with any additional covenants or use restrictions specified in the applicable Order Form; and (viii) use the Services solely in accordance with CM's instructions.

5.8 **Restrictive Covenants.** Customer shall not, and Customer will cause Customer's Representatives to not: (i) alter, change, modify, adapt, translate, or make derivative works of the Services; (ii) use the Services in a manner that violates any applicable Law; (iii) transmit any virus or programming routine intended to damage, surreptitiously intercept, or expropriate any system, data, or personal information; (iv) transfer, resell, license, sublicense or otherwise make the Services available to any third party, except as expressly described in this Agreement; (v) use the Services for timesharing, rental, outsourcing, or a service bureau operation; (vi) attempt to gain, or assist others with attempting to gain unauthorized access to CM's network, systems or the Services; (vii) decipher, decompile, disassemble, or reverse engineer the Services or assist or encourage any third party to do so; (viii) engage in any activity that violates the rights of others or that interferes with or disrupts the Services; or (ix) upload any file containing any back door, time bomb, Trojan horse, worm, virus or similar malicious code ("Malware").

6. **WARRANTIES, DISCLAIMERS AND LIMITATIONS**

6.1 **Warranties.** Each Party represents and warrants to the other that: (i) it is duly organized and existing under the laws of the state of its formation; (ii) it has all requisite power and authority to enter into this Agreement; (iii) there is no outstanding contract, commitment or agreement to which it is a party that conflicts with this Agreement, and (iv) its activities relating to this Agreement will not violate any applicable Law. CM will use reasonable efforts not to transmit Malware to Customer, provided that it shall not be a breach of CM's covenant to Customer if Customer or a Designated User uploads a file containing Malware in contravention of Customer's obligations under Section 5.3(ix).

6.2 **Services Warranty.** If Customer reasonably believes CM has failed in a material respect to perform the Services in accordance with the terms of this Agreement, Customer shall notify CM within thirty (30) days after the defective Services were performed, and in the event of such defective Services, Customer's sole and exclusive remedy, and CM's sole and exclusive obligation, shall be for CM to correct the defects or re-perform the Services.

6.3 **Warranty Disclaimer.** EXCEPT AS EXPRESSLY STATED IN THIS AGREEMENT, CM MAKES NO WARRANTY, (EXPRESS, IMPLIED OR STATUTORY) AND HEREBY DISCLAIMS ANY AND ALL WARRANTIES, REPRESENTATIONS, OR CONDITIONS, INCLUDING THE WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, AND ANY WARRANTY ARISING FROM A COURSE OF DEALING, USAGE, OR TRADE PRACTICE. ALL SERVICES PROVIDED BY CM ARE PERFORMED AND PROVIDED ON AN "AS-IS", "AS AVAILABLE" AND "WITH ALL FAULTS" BASIS. CM DOES NOT WARRANT THAT THE SERVICES OR ITS WORK PRODUCT WILL MEET CUSTOMER'S REQUIREMENTS OR THAT THE SERVICES WILL BE UNINTERRUPTED, ERROR-FREE, OR WITHOUT DELAY. CUSTOMER ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THE FUNCTIONALITY AND INTERFACES OF THE SERVICES MAY CHANGE OVER TIME.

TO THE EXTENT ANY OF THE SERVICES ENABLE CUSTOMER TO ACCESS ANY CRYPTOCURRENCY DATA SETS OF EITHER CRYPTOCURRENCY NETWORK OR MARKET DATA ("SERVICE DATA") AND/OR ANY CORRELATIONS AND OTHER DERIVED ANALYTICS OF THE VARIOUS DATA THAT CM OR ITS LICENSORS HAVE GENERATED ("SERVICE ANALYSIS"), THEN CUSTOMER: (I) ACKNOWLEDGES AND AGREES THAT CM IS NOT RESPONSIBLE OR LIABLE FOR THE ACCURACY OR COMPLETENESS OF ANY SERVICE DATA OR SERVICE ANALYSIS, AND (II) SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE AND LIABLE FOR ITS USE OF THE SERVICE DATA AND/OR SERVICE ANALYSIS.

CM PROVIDES ACCESS TO CERTAIN DATA THROUGH ITS SERVICES TO THE EXTENT IT IS PROVIDED BY ITS SOURCES ("THIRD PARTY DATA"). CM DOES NOT MAINTAIN OR CONTROL SUCH THIRD-PARTY DATA PROVIDERS AND ACCORDINGLY IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE AVAILABILITY, COMPLETENESS, TIMELINESS, FACTUAL ACCURACY, OR NON-INFRINGEMENT OF SUCH THIRD PARTY DATA, WHICH IS PROVIDED "AS IS" AND "AS AVAILABLE." CUSTOMER UNDERSTANDS THAT CM AND/OR THIRD-PARTY DATA PROVIDERS TO THE SERVICES MAY CHOOSE AT ANY TIME TO INHIBIT OR PROHIBIT THEIR DATA FROM BEING ACCESSED UNDER THIS AGREEMENT.

6.4 **Limitation of Liability.** EXCEPT FOR, EITHER PARTY'S INDEMNIFICATION OBLIGATIONS, OR ANY BREACH OF EITHER PARTY'S OBLIGATIONS UNDER SECTION 2, IN NO EVENT SHALL EITHER PARTY BE LIABLE TO THE OTHER FOR ANY INDIRECT, SPECIAL, CONSEQUENTIAL, PUNITIVE OR INCIDENTAL DAMAGES OF ANY KIND OR NATURE WHATSOEVER

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(INCLUDING LOST PROFITS, DAMAGES FOR LOSS OF GOODWILL, LOST SALES OR BUSINESS, WORK STOPPAGE, COMPUTER FAILURE OR MALFUNCTION, LOST DATA, EVEN IF SUCH PARTY HAS BEEN ADVISED, KNEW OR SHOULD HAVE KNOWN OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGES) ARISING OUT OF OR IN CONNECTION WITH THIS AGREEMENT AND EVEN IF THE APPLICABLE PARTY HAD BEEN ADVISED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGES OR EVEN IF SUCH DAMAGES WERE REASONABLY FORESEEABLE. EXCEPT FOR

CUSTOMER'S PAYMENT OBLIGATIONS UNDER THIS AGREEMENT, EACH PARTY'S INDEMNIFICATION OBLIGATIONS, ANY BREACH BY EITHER PARTY OF ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER SECTION 2, NEITHER PARTY'S TOTAL AGGREGATE AND CUMULATIVE LIABILITY TO THE OTHER SHALL EXCEED THE AMOUNT PAID OR PAYABLE TO CM IN THE TWELVE (12) MONTH PERIOD IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE DATE OF THE CLAIM THAT GAVE RISE TO SUCH LIABILITY.

6.5 Application. SECTIONS 6.3 AND 6.4 SHALL APPLY TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMISSIBLE UNDER LAW AND SHALL SURVIVE THE TERMINATION OR EXPIRATION OF THIS AGREEMENT AND THE PERFORMANCE OF ANY SERVICES TO BE RENDERED HEREUNDER.

7. INDEMNIFICATION

7.5 By CM. CM will defend, indemnify and hold harmless Customer, and its officers, directors, employees, contractors, representatives, agents and affiliates, from and against any Claim made or brought against Customer, arising from CM's breach, or alleged breach, of this Agreement.

7.6 By Customer. Customer will defend, indemnify and hold harmless CM, and its officers, directors, employees, contractors, representatives, agents and affiliates, from and against any Claim made or brought against CM, arising from Customer's breach, or alleged breach, of this Agreement.

7.7 Conditions. As a condition of the obligations set forth in this Section 7, a Party entitled to indemnification (the "Indemnified Party") will: (a) provide prompt written notice of the applicable Claim to the other Party (the "Indemnifying Party"); (b) provide the Indemnifying Party with sole control of the applicable defense and settlement; and (c) cooperate as requested by the Indemnifying Party, at the Indemnifying Party's expense. The Indemnifying Party will not agree to any settlement that admits fault or obligates the Indemnified Party to pay damages without the consent of the Indemnified Party, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld.

8. GENERAL TERMS

8.5 Publicity. CM shall have the right to identify Customer as a CM customer for purposes of promotion and marketing of CM's services, subject to Customer's explicit prior written approval.

8.6 Law; Dispute Resolution. This Agreement will be governed by and construed under the laws of the State of New York, without reference to principles of conflict of laws. Any dispute arising between the Parties will be settled in an action commenced and maintained in any court sitting in New York, New York. The Parties irrevocably consent and submit to the exclusive personal jurisdiction of such courts if there is any dispute between them and agree not to challenge or assert any defense to the jurisdiction of such courts.

8.7 Relationship. This Agreement does not create any agency, partnership, franchise, joint venture, or any other such relationship between the Parties. Neither Party is granted any express or implied right or authority to assume or create any obligation on behalf of or in the name of the other Party or to bind the other Party in any matter whatsoever.

8.8 Severability. If any provision of this Agreement is determined by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, illegal, or unenforceable, such provision will be automatically reformed and construed so as to be valid, legal, operative, and enforceable to the maximum extent permitted by applicable Law while preserving its original intent. The invalidity, illegality, or unenforceability of any part of this Agreement will not render invalid the remainder of this Agreement.

8.9 Survivability. Sections 1.3, 1.5, 2, 3, 4, 5.2, 5.3, 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, 7 and 8 shall survive and continue to bind the Parties after execution and delivery of this Agreement and its expiration or early termination to the extent and for as long as may be necessary to give effect to the rights, duties and obligations of the Parties pursuant to this Agreement, subject to any applicable statutes of limitation.

Certain confidential information contained in this document, marked by [***], has been omitted because the Registrant has determined that the information (i) is not material and (ii) would likely cause competitive harm to the Registrant if publicly disclosed.

8.10 **Waiver.** Failure by a Party to insist upon strict performance of any provision herein by the other Party will not be deemed a waiver by the first Party of its rights or remedies or a waiver by it of any subsequent default by the other Party, and no waiver will be effective unless it is in writing and duly executed by the Party entitled to enforce the provision being waived.

8.11 **Amendment.** This Agreement may only be amended in a writing executed by both Parties.

8.12

	For Notice to CM:	For Notice to Customer:
Contact:	Tim Rice	Michael Sonnenshein
Mailing Address:	125 High Street, Suite 220, c/o Coin Metrics, Boston, MA, 02110	250 Park Avenue South, 5th Floor, NY, NY 10003
Phone:		
Email:		

8.9 **Force Majeure.** Except with regard to payments due to CM, neither Party will be liable for any delays or failures in performance due to circumstances beyond its reasonable control. In the event any such delay continues for a period of thirty (30) or more days, then either Party may terminate this Agreement upon five (5) business days' prior written notice, provided Customer shall remain responsible for payments due to CM prior to termination.

8.10 **Assignment.** Neither Party may assign this Agreement without the prior written consent of the other Party, which consent may not be unreasonably withheld; provided, however, that either Party may assign this Agreement to an affiliate of such Party or in connection with a merger, sale of substantially all of its assets, acquisition or other change of control with respect to such Party or any division of its business without the need for such prior written consent. The Agreement is binding upon and inures to the benefit of each Party and its respective successors and permitted assigns, subject to the restrictions against assignment provided in this Section 8.10.

8.11 **Construction.** In this Agreement, unless a clear contrary intention appears: (i) where not inconsistent with the context, words used in the present tense include the future tense and vice versa and words in the plural number include the singular number and vice versa; (ii) reference to any person includes such person's successors and assigns but, if applicable, only if such successors and assigns are not prohibited by this Agreement; (iii) reference to any gender includes each other gender; (iv) reference to any agreement, document or instrument means such agreement, document or instrument as amended or modified and in effect from time to time in accordance with the terms thereof and includes all addenda, exhibits and schedules thereto; (v) the titles and subtitles used in this Agreement are used for convenience only and are not to be considered in construing or interpreting this Agreement; (vi) "hereunder," "hereof," "hereto," and words of similar import shall be deemed references to this Agreement as a whole and not to any particular Section or Subsection of this Agreement; (vii) "including" (and with correlative meaning, "include") means including without limiting the generality of any description preceding such term and (viii) any reference to "dollars" means United States Dollars.

8.12 **Entire Agreement.** Except as amended after the date hereof pursuant to Section 8.7, this Agreement, the applicable Order Form, Schedules and Exhibits hereto constitute the entire Agreement between the Parties and supersede all prior and contemporaneous undertakings and agreements between the Parties, whether written or oral, with respect to the Services. In the event of any conflict between this Agreement and any Order Form, the terms of this Agreement shall govern, except to the extent the applicable Order Form expressly references the provision of this Agreement to be overridden.

Signature Page Follows

Certain confidential information contained in this document, marked by [***], has been omitted because the Registrant has determined that the information (i) is not material and (ii) would likely cause competitive harm to the Registrant if publicly disclosed.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed this Agreement as of the Agreement Effective Date: August 4, 2020

COIN METRICS INC.

Signature: /s/Tim Rice

Name: Tim Rice

Title: CEO

Date: 8/6/2020

CUSTOMER

Signature: /s/ Michael Sonnenshein

Name: Michael Sonnenshein

Email: _____

Title: Managing Director

Date: 8/6/2020

Entity Name: Grayscale Investments, LLC

Entity Jurisdiction: Delaware

Certain confidential information contained in this document, marked by [*], has been omitted because the Registrant has determined that the information (i) is not material and (ii) would likely cause competitive harm to the Registrant if publicly disclosed.**

Exhibit A Form of Order Form

THIS ORDER FORM (this "Order Form") is made as of the latest date set forth below (the "Order Effective Date") by and between Coin Metrics Inc., a Delaware corporation ("CM") and Grayscale Investments, LLC ("Customer"), and is made pursuant to that certain Master Services Agreement, dated as of August 4, 2020 (the "Agreement"), between Customer and CM. The terms of the Agreement are incorporated into this Order Form by reference and capitalized terms used but not defined in this Order Form have the meanings ascribed to them in the Agreement.

GENERAL TERMS

[***]

SERVICES ORDER FORM

[***]

Additional Provisions:

1. This Order Form shall be effective as of the Launch Date provided above and continue until the Expiration Date provided above (the "Initial Order Term"). The Order Form will not renew automatically upon the expiration of the Initial Order Term. Customer will provide written notice of its intent to renew at least thirty (30) days prior to the applicable Order Expiration Date. If requested by Customer and approved by both Parties, renewal of the Order Form will proceed at CM's then-current fee applicable to the Services under this Order Form from the Expiration Date (in the case of the Initial Order Term) or the effective date of expiration of such Renewal Order Term (as applicable) (each, an "Order Expiration Date") for an additional one-year period from such Order Expiration Date (each, a "Renewal Order Term" and, collectively with the Initial Order Term, the "Order Term").
2. All payments shall be made in accordance with this Order Form and the Agreement by Customer to CM, as follows:

[***]

3. Schedule 1 attached to this Order Form is incorporated into, and made part of, this Order Form in its entirety.

Signature Page Follows

Certain confidential information contained in this document, marked by [*], has been omitted because the Registrant has determined that the information (i) is not material and (ii) would likely cause competitive harm to the Registrant if publicly disclosed.**

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed this Order Form as of the Order Effective Date: August 4, 2020

COIN METRICS INC.

Signature: /s/Tim Rice

Name: Tim Rice

Title: CEO

Date: 8/6/2020

CUSTOMER

Signature: /s/Michael Sonnenshein

Name: Michael Sonnenshein Email:

Title: Managing Director

Date: 8/6/2020

Entity Name: Grayscale Investments, LLC

Entity Jurisdiction: Delaware

Entity Billing Address: 250 Park Avenue South, 5th Floor, New York, NY, 10003

Billing Contact Name: _____

Billing Contact Email:

Certain confidential information contained in this document, marked by [*], has been omitted because the Registrant has determined that the information (i) is not material and (ii) would likely cause competitive harm to the Registrant if publicly disclosed.**

Service Schedule 1 CM Network Data Pro

[*]**

**CERTIFICATION OF PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICER PURSUANT TO RULE 13a-14(a)
AND 15d-14(a) UNDER THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934, AS AMENDED, AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO
SECTION 302 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002**

I, Peter Mintzberg, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this annual report of Grayscale Bittensor Trust (TAO) (the “Trust”);
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant’s other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
 - a. Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
 - b. Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
 - c. Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant’s disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
 - d. Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant’s internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant’s most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant’s fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant’s internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant’s other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant’s auditors and the audit committee of the Sponsor (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
 - a. All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant’s ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
 - b. Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant’s internal control over financial reporting.

Date: March 12, 2026

/s/ Peter Mintzberg

Peter Mintzberg *
Chief Executive Officer (Principal Executive Officer)

* The Registrant is a trust and Mr. Mintzberg is signing in his capacity as Principal Executive Officer of Grayscale Investments Sponsors, LLC, the Sponsor of the Registrant.

CERTIFICATION OF PRINCIPAL FINANCIAL AND ACCOUNTING OFFICER PURSUANT TO RULE 13a-14(a) AND 15d-14(a) UNDER THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934, AS AMENDED, AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 302 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002

I, Edward McGee, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this annual report of Grayscale Bittensor Trust (TAO) (the “Trust”);
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant’s other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
 - a. Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
 - b. Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
 - c. Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant’s disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
 - d. Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant’s internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant’s most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant’s fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant’s internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant’s other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant’s auditors and the audit committee of the Sponsor (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
 - a. All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant’s ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
 - b. Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant’s internal control over financial reporting.

Date: March 12, 2026

/s/ Edward McGee

Edward McGee *
Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial and
Accounting Officer)

* The Registrant is a trust and Mr. McGee is signing in his capacity as Principal Financial and Accounting Officer of Grayscale Investments Sponsors, LLC, the Sponsor of the Registrant.

**CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO
18 U.S.C. SECTION 1350
AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO
SECTION 906 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002**

In connection with the Annual Report of Grayscale Bittensor Trust (TAO) (the “Trust”) on Form 10-K for the period ending December 31, 2025, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on the date hereof (the “Report”), I, Peter Mintzberg, Principal Executive Officer of Grayscale Investments Sponsors, LLC, the Sponsor of the Trust, certify, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1350, as adopted pursuant to § 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, that, to the best of my knowledge:

(1) The Report fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and

(2) The information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Trust.

/s/ Peter Mintzberg

Peter Mintzberg *

Chief Executive Officer (Principal Executive Officer)

March 12, 2026

* The Registrant is a trust and Mr. Mintzberg is signing in his capacity as Principal Executive Officer of Grayscale Investments Sponsors, LLC, the Sponsor of the Registrant.

**CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO
18 U.S.C. SECTION 1350
AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO
SECTION 906 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002**

In connection with the Annual Report of Grayscale Bittensor Trust (TAO) (the “Trust”) on Form 10-K for the period ending December 31, 2025, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on the date hereof (the “Report”), I, Edward McGee, Principal Financial and Accounting Officer of Grayscale Investments Sponsors, LLC, the Sponsor of the Trust, certify, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1350, as adopted pursuant to § 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, that, to the best of my knowledge:

(1) The Report fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and

(2) The information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Trust.

/s/ Edward McGee

Edward McGee *

Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial and
Accounting Officer)

March 12, 2026

* The Registrant is a trust and Mr. McGee is signing in his capacity as Principal Financial and Accounting Officer of Grayscale Investments Sponsors, LLC, the Sponsor of the Registrant.