

Project Research Dossier

Project: Variational **Token:** \$VAR **Research date:** 28 September 2026

Eligibility note — important: Variational is **pre-TGE** and its official token documentation states that \$VAR will launch in Q4 2026. However, Variational has disclosed private funding (\$10M in earlier funding and a \$50M Series A). Therefore, this dossier satisfies a literal *no public token sale / pre-TGE* interpretation, but **does not satisfy a strict interpretation of “pre-raise” meaning no fundraising of any kind**. Do not submit it if your verifier treats private fundraising as disqualifying.

1. What Variational actually builds

Variational describes itself as a peer-to-peer derivatives protocol for on-chain trading across crypto, equities, commodities and forex. Its architecture aggregates liquidity from CEXs, DEXs and traditional-finance dealers. The protocol currently powers Omni, a zero-fee perpetuals venue, and Pro, an institution-focused settlement layer for customized derivatives. The stated goal is to bring retail and institutional derivatives infrastructure on-chain.

Why it matters: the product is aimed at a structural problem in on-chain derivatives: fragmented liquidity and execution across venues. The project claims live mainnet deployment and documents settlement-pool, oracle and treasury contracts rather than relying only on a roadmap.

2. Tokenomics and dilution model

Bucket	Share	TGE / unlock treatment
Genesis distribution	32%	100% unlocked at TGE; distributed according to points
Ecosystem reserve	18%	Foundation reserve; exact release schedule not disclosed
Team + investors	50%	Locked 12 months after TGE; unlocks over a minimum of 3 years; team members also have individual vesting

Supply / FDV disclosure gap: the official documentation does not currently state a total token quantity or launch price. Accordingly, a numeric FDV cannot be responsibly calculated. Let total supply = S and launch price = P: $FDV = S \times P$. The disclosed 32% genesis bucket implies a TGE circulating amount of 0.32S if no ecosystem-reserve tokens are released at TGE; the corresponding initial market-cap-to-FDV ratio would be 32%. The actual ratio could be higher if any reserve is circulating at TGE.

Unlock-risk read: the first major dilution event is the 32% genesis release at TGE. The largest disclosed delayed block is the 50% team/investor allocation: no unlock for 12 months, followed by release over at least three years. The documentation does *not* promise a strictly linear schedule, so treating it as linear would overstate precision. The 18% ecosystem reserve is the biggest information gap because its timing is left to Foundation discretion.

3. Team verification signals

The official contributor page identifies co-founders Lucas Schuermann and Edward Yu and documents their prior work at Qu Capital and Genesis Trading. The same page states that the development and quant teams include people with experience at Google, Meta, Virtu, IMC and Jane Street. The strongest verification signals are the named founders, their documented professional history, and a live product with public mainnet contract addresses. Marketing claims about team breadth should be treated separately from independently verifiable code and deployment evidence.

4. Key risks

- **Tokenomics:** total supply, launch price and the team/investor split are not yet disclosed; the ecosystem reserve lacks a published unlock calendar.
- **Dilution:** 32% is immediately unlocked at TGE, while another 50% becomes subject to unlocking after the 12-month lock. The market must absorb later supply without a published numeric schedule.
- **Technical:** derivatives settlement, oracle integrity, liquidation logic and smart-contract interactions create material failure modes even with audits.
- **Security:** official docs report audits by Zellic (Dec 2024) and Spearbit (Mar 2025); audits reduce but do not eliminate implementation and upgrade risk.
- **Execution:** the protocol is live, but token utility, governance mechanics and the final token allocation details are still being completed.
- **Governance / incentives:** the Foundation controls the 18% ecosystem reserve; the degree of discretion creates an incentive and governance-overhang risk.
- **Legal / regulatory:** perpetuals and generalized derivatives can trigger jurisdiction-specific derivatives, securities, commodities, AML/KYC and licensing questions. The dossier does not make a legal conclusion.

5. Primary-source verification

- Official docs — project overview: <https://docs.variational.io/>
- Official \$VAR token page: <https://docs.variational.io/token/usdvar>
- Official tokenomics/TGE announcement (24 Sep 2026): https://x.com/variational_io/article/2102929439063765192
- Official core contributors: <https://docs.variational.io/getting-started/core-contributors>
- Official audits: <https://docs.variational.io/technical-documentation/audits>
- Official mainnet contracts: <https://docs.variational.io/technical-documentation/mainnet-contracts>

- Official project/about: <https://www.variational.io/about>

6. Disclosure

Holdings / incentives: [REQUIRED: researcher must enter their actual holdings, compensation, referral/airdrop incentives, or state “none.”]

Position: [REQUIRED: researcher must confirm whether they hold \$VAR-related exposure.]

Bottom line: Variational has unusually clear pre-TGE allocation buckets and a meaningful delayed-unlock structure, but the most important numbers for FDV and dilution sizing — total supply, launch price, exact team/investor split, and reserve release schedule — remain undisclosed. That information gap is itself a central diligence finding.