

Project Research Dossier: FLOP Network

Republic “Seeing the Long Game” | Research cut-off: 1 Oct 2026 | Primary-source review | Prepared by magin3793

Bottom line. FLOP is a plausible pre-public-sale/pre-TGE research candidate on explicit first-party statements. It is pre-production, with draft economics and material verification/governance uncertainties. This is a research note, not an investment recommendation.

Eligibility and timeline

The official homepage states “No pre-sale / No VCs / 100% fair launch.” The official teaser states “There is no token sale and no investor allocation.” It places testnet in Q4 2026 and mainnet in Q1 2027; Flop Labs’ official X gives “Testnet late October, genesis block in Q1 2027.” On the 1 Oct 2026 cut-off, reviewed first-party material describes a future network launch, not an active public sale or TGE. Timing can change. The planned airdrop is participation-based and is not a sale.

Ritual was excluded: its official MiCAR White Paper says RITUAL tokens “are being offered to the public” with an \$8M fundraising target.

What it builds

FLOP describes itself as “the proof-of-useful-inference blockchain and native currency for the agentic economy.” Agents are intended to pay miners in FLOP for inference, turning the token into payment for compute. The proposed account-based chain uses Proof of Useful Inference (PoUI): an agent specifies a model hash, compute/latency requirements and fee; a miner runs inference; validators check commitments; disputes can trigger audits, re-execution and slashing. FLOP is also intended for staking and agent-to-agent settlement. These are proposed design claims, not production results.

Team and entity signals

Arthur Hayes is the only operating leader identified in reviewed official project sources; his project announcement says he will “lead @flop_labs.” His official profile identifies him as BitMEX co-founder/former CEO and Maelstrom CIO. The teaser names Flop Labs LLC as developer and Flop Foundation as continuing-development entity, both organised in St Vincent and the Grenadines. A broader engineering roster was not found in reviewed first-party sources; this is a disclosure gap, not evidence that no other contributors exist.

Published token design (draft targets)

Year-10 allocation	FLOP	Share
Airdrop	4.4B	24.3%
Miners	8.8B	48.6%
Validators	1.2B	6.5%
Brokers/agents	1.2B	6.5%
Team + Foundation	2.0B	10.8%
Staking rewards	0.6B	3.2%

The 4.4B genesis pool is targeted at up to 1.2B each for miners, agents and validators, plus 0.8B reserve/incentives. Base block reward: 96 FLOP, halving every 730 days for five halvings (96→48→24→12→6→3), then 3 per block. Flop Labs and the Foundation each receive an additional 8 FLOP/block on the same halving schedule, ending after year 10. These are published design targets, not observed balances.

Unlocks and valuation

- Miner airdrop: 25% liquid at genesis; the remainder unlocks 1 FLOP per FLOP earned providing mainnet inference.
- Validator allocation: bonded until first halving, then released one validator per day over 1,000 days.
- Agent allocation: initially locked and spendable only on compute; liquid-release schedule “not yet set.”
- Bulk pool expected at TGE; remaining release later.

No official token price, FDV or current circulating-supply figure was found. FDV is not computable before a disclosed price; TGE is future. A hypothetical 0.46B TGE float in the revenue model is explicitly “not a forecast” and is not current supply. Do not treat it as circulating.

Risks, disclosure, and source register

FLOP Network | Cut-off 1 Oct 2026 | Claims below are attributed to first-party project materials

Principal risks

1. Execution and maturity

The official Yellow Paper is v0.5.0 draft and warns: “Sections marked planned are not yet implemented”; it describes protocol targets, “not a snapshot of the codebase.” Testnet and production execution are therefore unverified in live operation.

2. Verification and security

PoUI depends on attestation, data availability, sampled re-execution and bonded disputes. The verification page describes an approximately seven-day challenge window and 2.5% SOFT-tier spot-check exposure, while saying settings are under review. The Yellow Paper says the reservation/payoff model is unresolved. Collusion, audit economics, evidence retention and throughput remain open questions.

3. Governance and centralization

The validator page says most FIPs require two-thirds approval, but “Through the first halving, only the FLOP Foundation may submit a FIP.” The 1,000-validator cap and stake ranking are only partly wired. Early governance is materially Foundation-led.

4. Incentive and market design

The proposed 85/15 inference-fee split is not ratified. Current settlement routes 99% to miners and 1% to the audit pool until the validator fee leg is implemented. The 10% agent/broker and 5% community-staker legs are minted to protocol-held accounts and not yet distributed. Demand, utilization, emissions and fee attribution are execution-sensitive.

Disclosure

Prepared for the Legion Republic VP research quest. No transaction, purchase, token claim, node application or token exposure was created for this research. The researcher’s pre-existing holdings, if any, were not disclosed to me. Potential reward is 75 VP upon review/approval; no allocation or investment outcome is implied.

Conclusion: FLOP qualifies for this pre-sale/pre-TGE screen based on explicit official no-sale statements, but remains a draft, pre-production protocol. Research coverage is warranted; the reviewed evidence is insufficient for a verified investment case.

Primary sources

FLOP homepage — “No pre-sale / No VCs / 100% fair launch.”
<https://flop.finance/>

Official teaser — “There is no token sale and no investor allocation.”
<https://flop.finance/teaser/>

Project overview — <https://flop.finance/intro/>

Official Flop Labs X — https://x.com/flop_labs

Arthur Hayes announcement — <https://x.com/CryptoHayes/status/2089711566392578231>

Hayes profile / Book of Genesis — <https://cryptohayes.substack.com/> ; <https://cryptohayes.substack.com/p/the-book-of-genesis>

Yellow Paper v0.5.0 draft — <https://flop.finance/intro/yellowpaper/>

Verification design — <https://flop.finance/intro/verification/>

Validator / governance — <https://flop.finance/intro/validator/>

Revenue and fee model — <https://flop.finance/intro/revenue/>

Miner design — <https://flop.finance/intro/miner/>

Ritual MiCAR White Paper (screen-out) — <https://www.ritualfoundation.org/whitepapers/regulatory/ritual-micar-whitepaper-v1-viewer.xhtml>