# Tether’s Ardoino launches decentralised AI messaging app with integrated crypto payments



Paolo Ardoino, CEO of Tether, has unveiled a revolutionary step in private, AI-powered messaging with the launch of Keet + QVAC AI, a messaging app that combines fully local, on-device conversational artificial intelligence with integrated cryptocurrency payments. Announced in September 2025 via Ardoino’s Twitter, this new platform supports Bitcoin (BTC), the Lightning Network (LN), Tether’s USDT stablecoin, and the gold-backed XAUT token, under a privacy-focused, “Unclouded” framework that eschews cloud dependencies entirely. The app offers features including translation, transcription, summarisation of audio messages, and built-in chatbot assistants, providing users a privacy-first communication tool that also facilitates seamless crypto transactions.

This initiative marks a significant advancement in decentralised communication technologies, enhancing both user privacy and utility by embedding cryptocurrency payments directly within AI-enhanced messaging. Industry observers suggest that such integration could catalyse broader adoption of stablecoins and Bitcoin in everyday use cases, potentially influencing market dynamics. Bitcoin, trading near $65,000 with daily volumes surpassing $30 billion, stands to benefit from this innovation, especially with the Lightning Network’s growing adoption—a network noted to have increased channel capacity by 15% year-on-year. The use of LN facilitates rapid, low-cost Bitcoin payments, aligning with Ethereum and other blockchain projects aiming for scalable, user-friendly solutions.

Tether’s USDT, which has maintained a market cap exceeding $110 billion and daily volumes around $50 billion, may see enhanced liquidity and transactional utility through Keet + QVAC AI. The gold-backed XAUT token also offers investors a diversification avenue with stable backing, reflecting premiums consistently under 1% against spot gold prices. The app’s design to operate entirely on-device ensures heightened autonomy and mitigates risks from central server failures or data breaches, advancing decentralisation ideals within the crypto ecosystem.

Keet + QVAC AI builds upon the foundation of QVAC, a decentralized AI platform announced months earlier in May 2025, aiming to revolutionise how AI operates by running entirely on local devices, including low-end smartphones and embedded systems. This contrasts sharply with conventional cloud-dependent AI services, offering users greater control over their data and AI interactions. The open-source nature of QVAC, as stated by Ardoino, coupled with its ability to function offline and in various environments, aligns with a vision of "local-first, private, and independent" AI. The platform’s capacity to support trillions of autonomous AI agents that compute and transact in Bitcoin and USDT signifies a move towards peer-to-peer intelligence networks that empower user sovereignty.

Further emphasising decentralisation, QVAC integrates with Tether’s Wallet Development Kit (WDK), facilitating sovereign AI agents to conduct payments directly in Bitcoin and USDT without relying on centralised control points or API keys. Ardoino’s previous statements highlight that true ownership of AI comes from eliminating API constraints, reflecting a shift towards fully user-owned AI infrastructures. This P2P payment function extends to the Keet messaging app, consolidating secure, privacy-centric communication with autonomous financial interactions.

Market implications extend beyond BTC and USDT to tokens affiliated with decentralized AI ecosystems, such as Fetch.ai (FET) and SingularityNET (AGIX). Historical data reveals that AI-related announcements often trigger short-term price rallies of 5-10%, with increased trading volumes often surpassing $200 million during hype cycles. The convergence of privacy-oriented AI messaging and crypto payments could foster renewed interest in these tokens, especially those rooted in Ethereum, potentially tightening spreads between ETH/BTC pairs. Additionally, correlations to the broader tech sector are notable—AI advancements that bolster cryptocurrencies often mirror momentum in AI and semiconductor stocks like NVIDIA, creating arbitrage opportunities for astute traders.

For investors and market participants, the advent of Keet + QVAC AI offers new avenues for exposure to crypto assets with technological utility. Traders might consider long positions in BTC and USDT futures, with strategic stop-loss placements to manage broader market volatility. The innovation might also stimulate growth in decentralized finance (DeFi) ecosystems supporting Lightning Network and stablecoins, whose current total value locked exceeds $20 billion. Risk management could benefit from diversification into XAUT, given its gold-backed stability, complementing tactical exposure to AI and privacy-centric altcoins including Monero (XMR).

In summary, Paolo Ardoino’s Keet + QVAC AI initiative is a pioneering effort that blends privacy-preserving communication with on-device AI and integrated cryptocurrency payments. By fostering decentralisation and user control, it not only expands the functional utility of Bitcoin and Tether’s digital assets but also signals a maturing crypto environment where AI, privacy, and financial services converge. This development encourages investors to monitor volume surges, sentiment indices, and on-chain metrics closely, highlighting cross-sector opportunities arising from the fusion of blockchain and AI technologies.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://blockchain.news/flashnews/keet-qvac-ai-announce-100-on-device-private-ai-messaging-with-btc-ln-usdt-xaut-payments), [[4]](https://cointelegraph.com/news/tether-ai-support-bitcoin-usdt-payments-paolo-ardoino)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://blockchain.news/flashnews/keet-qvac-ai-announce-100-on-device-private-ai-messaging-with-btc-ln-usdt-xaut-payments), [[4]](https://cointelegraph.com/news/tether-ai-support-bitcoin-usdt-payments-paolo-ardoino), [[5]](https://coinomist.com/news/tether-announced-qvac-platform/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://blockchain.news/flashnews/keet-qvac-ai-announce-100-on-device-private-ai-messaging-with-btc-ln-usdt-xaut-payments), [[5]](https://coinomist.com/news/tether-announced-qvac-platform/), [[6]](https://www.blockhead.co/2025/05/16/tether-unveils-decentralized-ai-platform-qvac/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[2]](https://www.forbes.com/sites/beccabratcher/2025/05/28/tether-goes-all-in-on-ai-and-bitcoin-to-build-a-decentralized-future/), [[3]](https://www.ccn.com/news/business/paulo-ardoinio-tether-invests-qvac/), [[5]](https://coinomist.com/news/tether-announced-qvac-platform/), [[6]](https://www.blockhead.co/2025/05/16/tether-unveils-decentralized-ai-platform-qvac/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[3]](https://www.ccn.com/news/business/paulo-ardoinio-tether-invests-qvac/), [[4]](https://cointelegraph.com/news/tether-ai-support-bitcoin-usdt-payments-paolo-ardoino), [[7]](https://coinedition.com/tether-ai-to-support-bitcoin-usdt-payments-across-all-devices-and-apps/)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://blockchain.news/flashnews/keet-qvac-ai-announce-100-on-device-private-ai-messaging-with-btc-ln-usdt-xaut-payments), [[5]](https://coinomist.com/news/tether-announced-qvac-platform/), [[7]](https://coinedition.com/tether-ai-to-support-bitcoin-usdt-payments-across-all-devices-and-apps/)
* Paragraph 7 – [[1]](https://blockchain.news/flashnews/keet-qvac-ai-announce-100-on-device-private-ai-messaging-with-btc-ln-usdt-xaut-payments), [[2]](https://www.forbes.com/sites/beccabratcher/2025/05/28/tether-goes-all-in-on-ai-and-bitcoin-to-build-a-decentralized-future/), [[5]](https://coinomist.com/news/tether-announced-qvac-platform/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://blockchain.news/flashnews/keet-qvac-ai-announce-100-on-device-private-ai-messaging-with-btc-ln-usdt-xaut-payments> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/beccabratcher/2025/05/28/tether-goes-all-in-on-ai-and-bitcoin-to-build-a-decentralized-future/> - In May 2025, Tether CEO Paolo Ardoino announced QVAC, a privacy-preserving, decentralized AI platform designed to run entirely on local devices, including low-end smartphones. Unlike centralized AI services, QVAC operates without cloud infrastructure, enhancing user privacy and autonomy. Ardoino emphasized that QVAC aims to make AI 'local-first, private, and independent,' empowering users to control their data and computations. The platform is built to function in any environment, including offline settings, and is intended to be open-source, allowing users to own and control their AI experiences. Tether plans to launch QVAC later this year, focusing on universities and small businesses. The platform's architecture supports trillions of autonomous agents capable of performing computations and transacting in Bitcoin and USDT, facilitating peer-to-peer intelligence. Ardoino highlighted that QVAC is designed to be user-controlled rather than centralized, collaborating with a 'Big Four' accounting firm to provide full transparency. Tether's role is to provide resilience and quality engineering, with no plans to charge licensing fees or gate access, aiming to make QVAC open, portable, and impossible to kill.
3. <https://www.ccn.com/news/business/paulo-ardoinio-tether-invests-qvac/> - In August 2025, Tether CEO Paolo Ardoino discussed the company's investment in QVAC, a decentralized AI platform. Ardoino emphasized the importance of platforms like QVAC in protecting the free flow of information and user autonomy. QVAC is a peer-to-peer networking solution that enables communication and collaboration between self-sovereign AI agents. Ardoino described QVAC as a 'local-first AI inference and fine-tuning platform that can work everywhere, anywhere,' aligning with Tether's broader push into open-source development and peer-to-peer computing. The platform integrates payments through Tether’s Wallet Development Kit (WDK), allowing sovereign AI agents to transact in Bitcoin and USDT. This integration aims to empower users to reclaim intellectual autonomy as AI becomes increasingly integrated into everyday life.
4. <https://cointelegraph.com/news/tether-ai-support-bitcoin-usdt-payments-paolo-ardoino> - In May 2025, Tether CEO Paolo Ardoino announced that Tether AI, the company's forthcoming artificial intelligence platform, will feature payments in major cryptocurrencies, including USDT and Bitcoin. The platform is designed to offer 'personal infinite intelligence' and will be integrated with USDT and Bitcoin payments, allowing users to make transactions directly through a peer-to-peer network. Tether AI aims to operate without API keys and centralized control points, providing a 'fully open-source AI runtime' that runs on an 'unstoppable peer-to-peer network.' The platform is capable of adapting and evolving on 'any hardware and device,' emphasizing decentralization and user control. P2P crypto payments will be enabled via Tether’s Wallet Development Kit (WDK), launched in November 2024, which enables developers to build mobile, desktop, and web wallet applications for self-custodial holding of USDT and Bitcoin.
5. <https://coinomist.com/news/tether-announced-qvac-platform/> - In May 2025, Tether unveiled QVAC (QuantumVerse Automatic Computer), a decentralized platform designed to power the creation and evolution of AI agents that run directly on user devices, from smartphones to embedded systems. QVAC enables AI models to operate without relying on large data centers or cloud providers, enhancing security, privacy, and system resilience by removing single points of failure. Tether CEO Paolo Ardoino described QVAC as an 'infinite intelligence platform,' supporting trillions of autonomous agents capable of performing computations and transacting in Bitcoin and USDT. The platform's modular architecture allows developers to combine lightweight, functional components that interact through a peer-to-peer network, enabling AI agents to share data and knowledge without centralized servers. QVAC integrates autonomous payments through Tether’s WDK, enabling AI agents to transact in Bitcoin and USDT, facilitating the creation of self-sustaining, interoperable ecosystems that can operate even without internet access.
6. <https://www.blockhead.co/2025/05/16/tether-unveils-decentralized-ai-platform-qvac/> - In May 2025, Tether announced QVAC (QuantumVerse Automatic Computer), a decentralized AI platform designed to enable highly scalable AI applications and agents to run directly on user devices, prioritizing user privacy and autonomy. QVAC aims to shift the current AI paradigm, where applications heavily rely on centralized services and cloud infrastructure. Tether CEO Paolo Ardoino emphasized that if an AI requires an API key, it isn't truly owned by the user. The platform's modular design and peer-to-peer networking facilitate direct device-to-device communication, enabling an ecosystem capable of supporting trillions of AI agents and applications. Integrated payments via Tether's WDK will also allow AI agents to transact autonomously in Bitcoin and USDT, facilitating the creation of self-sustaining, interoperable ecosystems that can operate even without internet access.
7. <https://coinedition.com/tether-ai-to-support-bitcoin-usdt-payments-across-all-devices-and-apps/> - In May 2025, Tether CEO Paolo Ardoino announced Tether AI, a new open-source AI runtime designed to work across hardware and support integrated crypto payments. The platform aims to create a decentralized peer-to-peer network of AI agents that use Tether’s Wallet Development Kit (WDK) to process transactions in USDT and Bitcoin. Ardoino described the product as a fully modular AI system without centralized infrastructure, enabling an unstoppable peer-to-peer network of billions of AI agents. The technology is expected to operate without API keys, allowing for broader accessibility and functionality. Tether AI is a decentralized, hardware-agnostic system that operates across different hardware without limitations and supports composable functionality. The AI runtime will integrate Keet, a peer-to-peer encryption platform that Tether currently supports, potentially allowing AI agents to communicate and transact securely across decentralized networks.