



2024 Clear  
**SUMMIT**

## **Presentazione del 21° report trimestrale del Digital Gold Institute**

**L'adozione istituzionale degli asset digitali,  
tra mercato e tecnologia**



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# The Institutional Adoption of Digital Assets

## Market and tech crossroads



*The XXI quarterly report on Bitcoin, crypto-assets, and blockchain*  
**Q1 2024 edition**

# Digital Gold Institute



## **Consulting**

Empowering professional expertise in Bitcoin, crypto, and blockchain.



## **Training**

Advanced education programs on Bitcoin and blockchain technology.



## **Research**

Reports and academic research, with a focus on the Crypto Asset Lab (CAL).

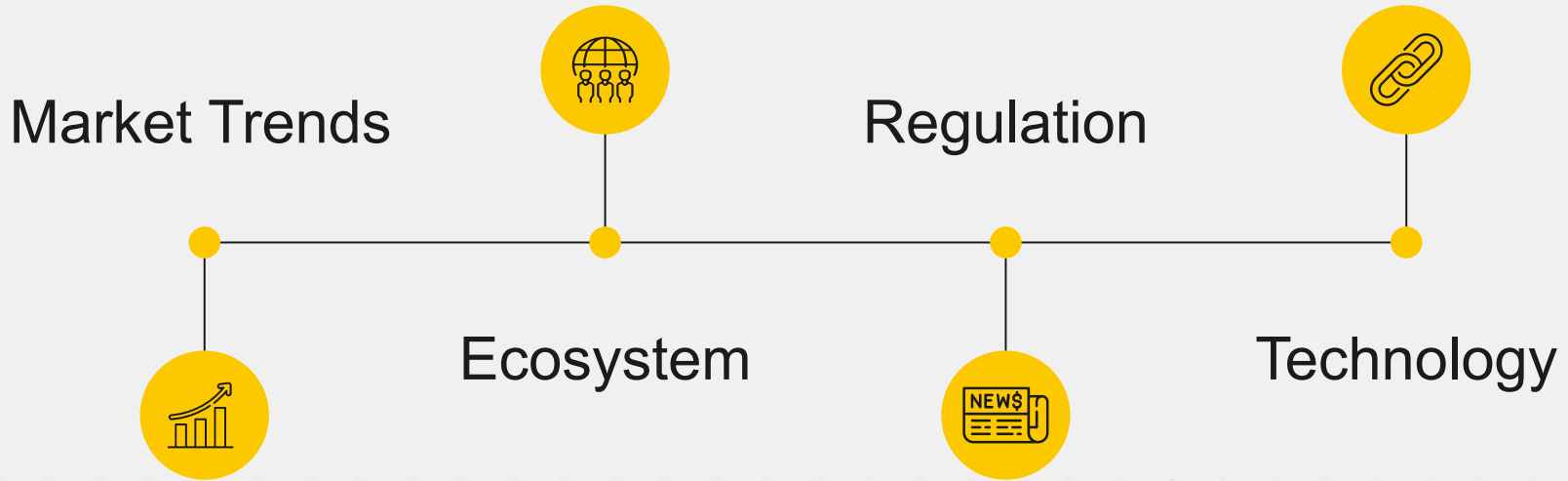


## **Development**

We write code. Check out our OpenTimestamps calendar and btclib.



# Roadmap



# 01

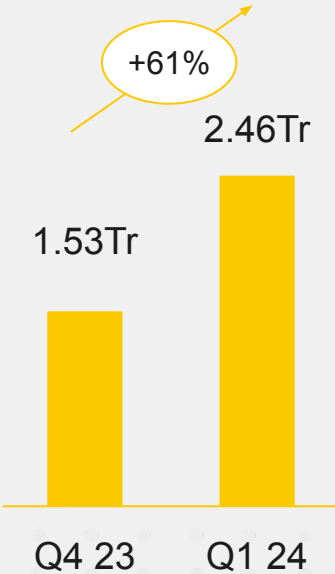
## Market Trends

Performance, volatility  
and correlation



# Q1 2024 at a glance: strong growth across all crypto assets

Total Market Capitalization

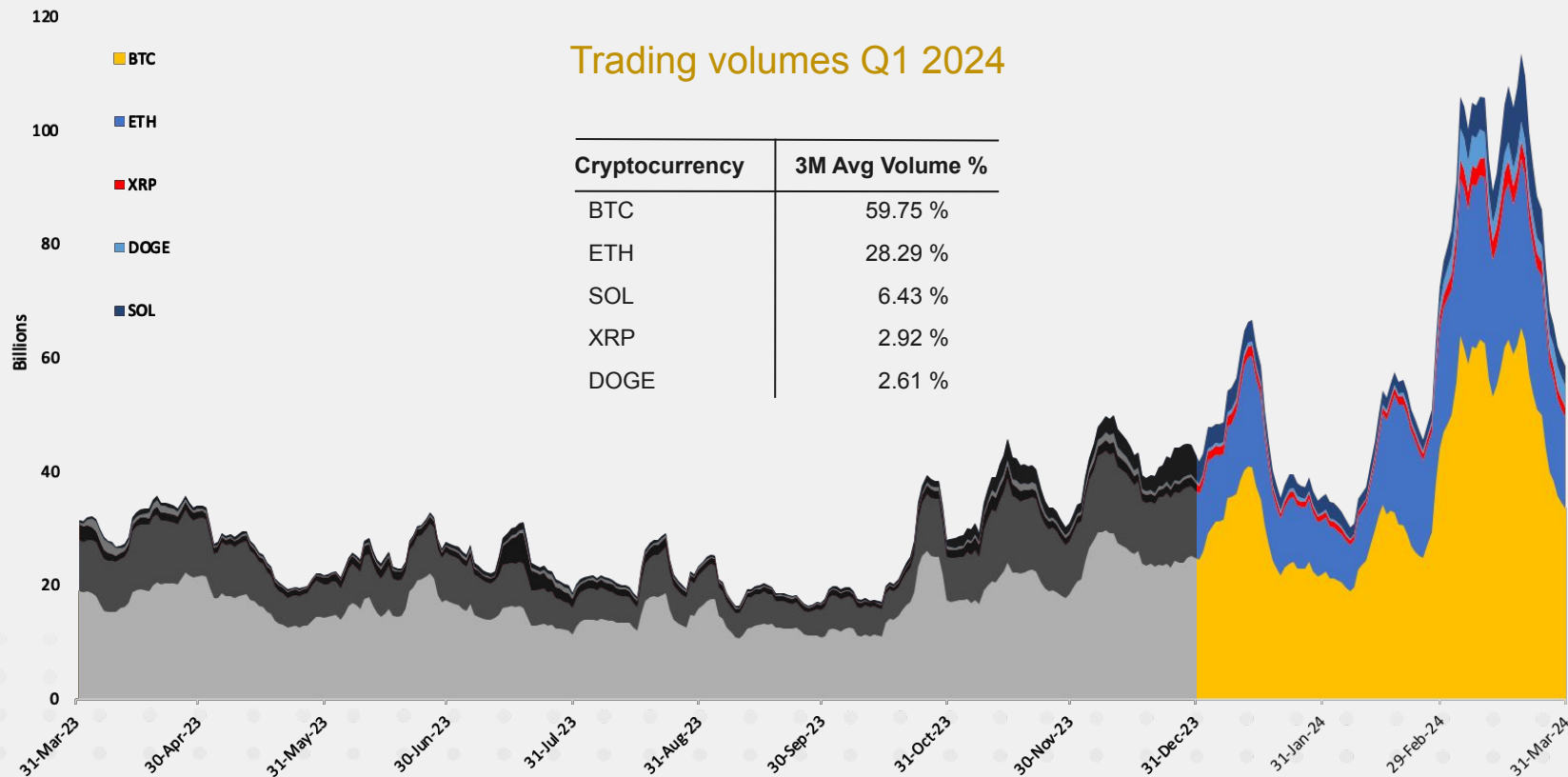


Top 5 Crypto by Traded Volumes Quarterly Performance

Cryptocurrency	Q1 Closing Price \$	Performance %
Bitcoin	71,333.65 \$	+69%
Ether	3,647.87 \$	+60%
Solana	202.87 \$	+100%
Ripple	0.63 \$	+2%
Doge	0.22 \$	+146%

# Trading confirms Bitcoin as the most relevant crypto-asset

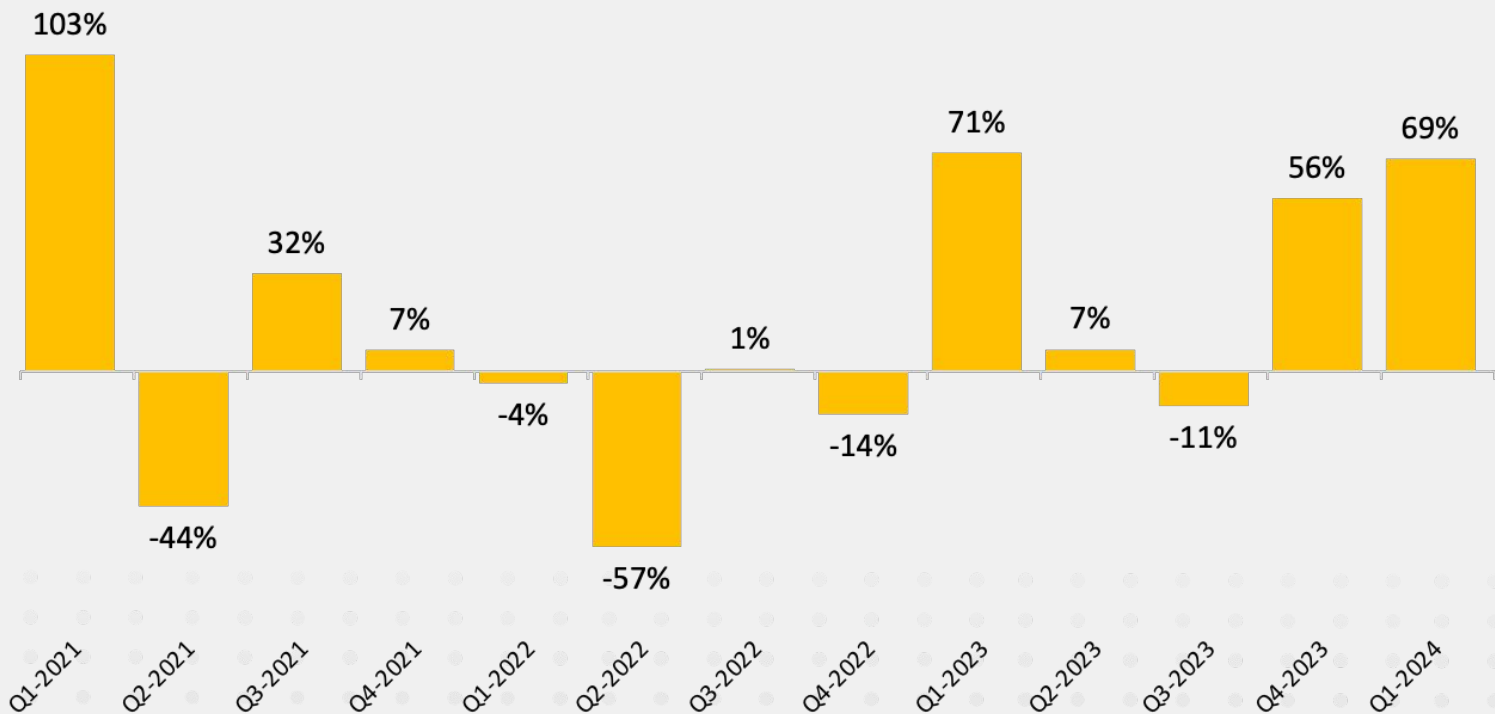
## Trading volumes Q1 2024



Source: Digital Gold Institute 2024

# One of the best Bitcoin quarterly performances

Bitcoin Quarterly Performance



Source: Digital Gold Institute 2024

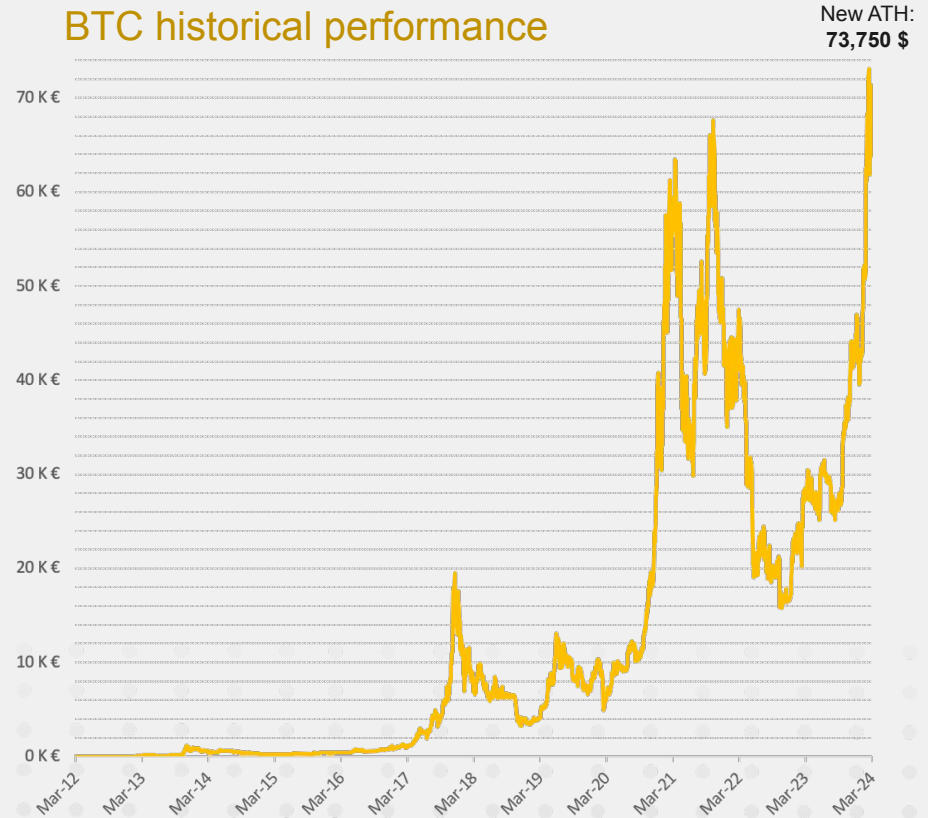


# Among the best performing assets of the decade

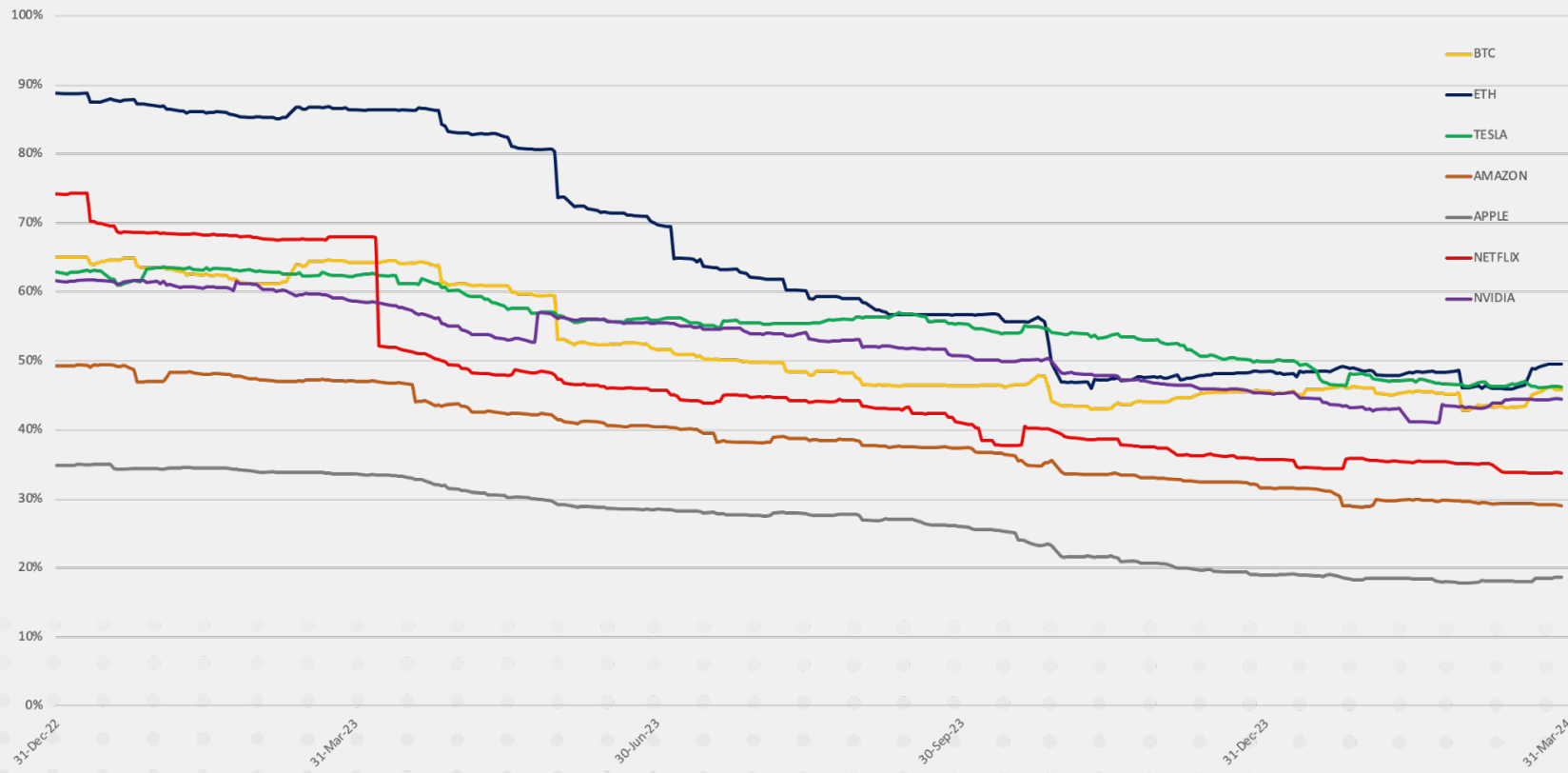
## Multi-asset yearly performance ranking

	Top Performer	Second Rank	Third Rank
2012	Bitcoin (217.9%)	MSCI EM (18.6%)	Russell 2000 (16.4%)
2013	Bitcoin (5428.4%)	Russell 2000 (38.8%)	S&P 500 (32.4%)
2014	S&P 500 (13.7%)	US Corporate (7.5%)	US Treasuries (5.1%)
2015	Bitcoin (36.2%)	S&P 500 (1.4%)	US Treasuries (0.8%)
2016	Bitcoin (120.3%)	Russell 2000 (21.3%)	S&P 500 (12.0%)
2017	Bitcoin (1375.1%)	MSCI EM (37.8%)	S&P 500 (21.6%)
2018	US Treasuries (0.9%)	Gold (-0.9%)	US Corporate (-2.5%)
2019	Bitcoin (94.8%)	S&P 500 (31.5%)	Russell 2000 (25.5%)
2020	Bitcoin (305.1%)	Gold (24.6%)	Russell 2000 (20.0%)
2021	Bitcoin (59.8%)	Commodities (40.4%)	S&P 500 (28.7%)
2022	Commodities (26.0%)	Gold (0.4%)	US Treasuries (-12.5%)
2023	Bitcoin (157.0%)	S&P 500 (26.3%)	Russell 2000 (16.8%)

## BTC historical performance

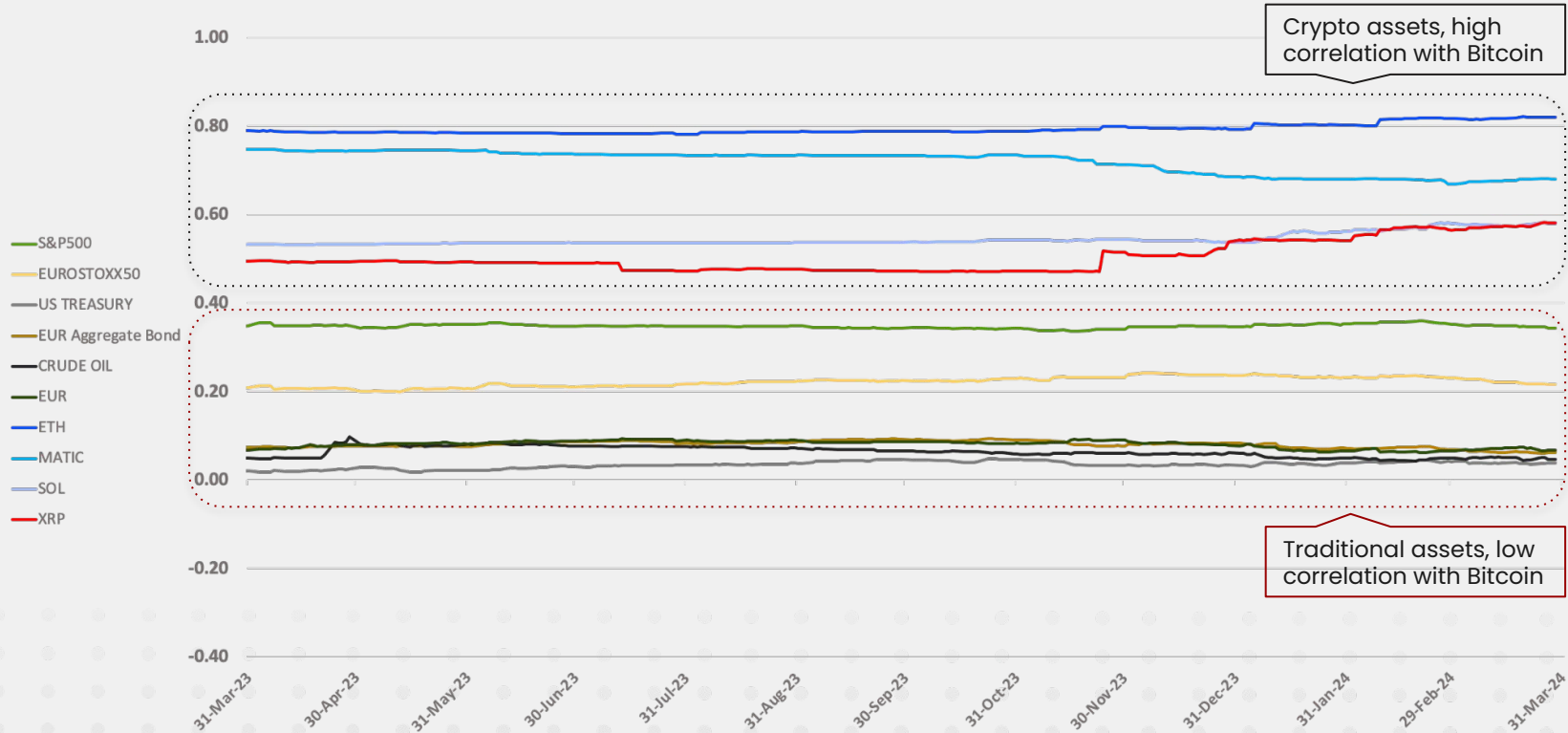


# Volatility is comparable with high-performance equities



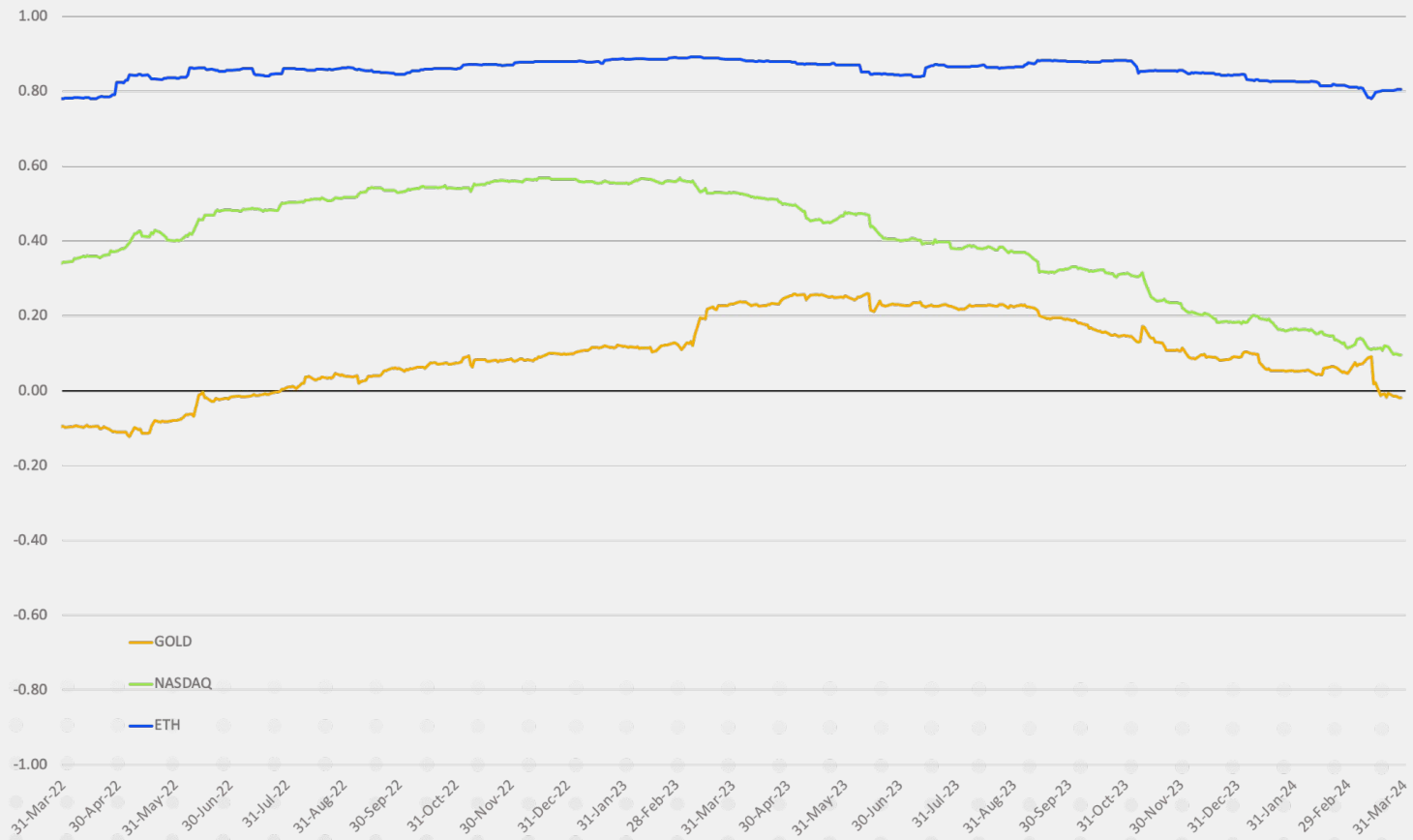
Source: Digital Gold Institute 2024

# Traditional assets are uncorrelated with crypto, while all cryptos are highly correlated with BTC



Crypto helps diversify a traditional portfolio, but it makes limited sense to diversify among different crypto assets

# BTC is uncorrelated with gold and Nasdaq



Source: Digital Gold Institute 2024

# The Bitcoin halving — although quantitatively irrelevant — has always been a bullish event

A self-fulfilling prophecy?

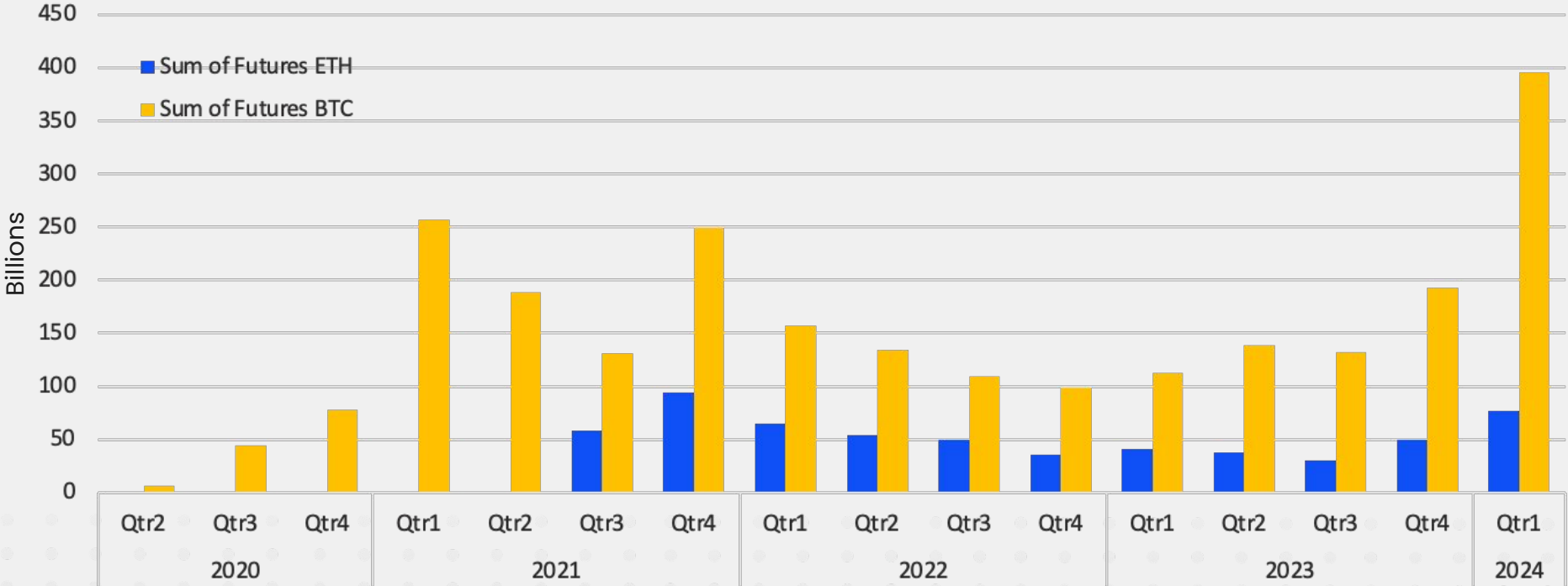


# 01

## Market Trends Going Institutional

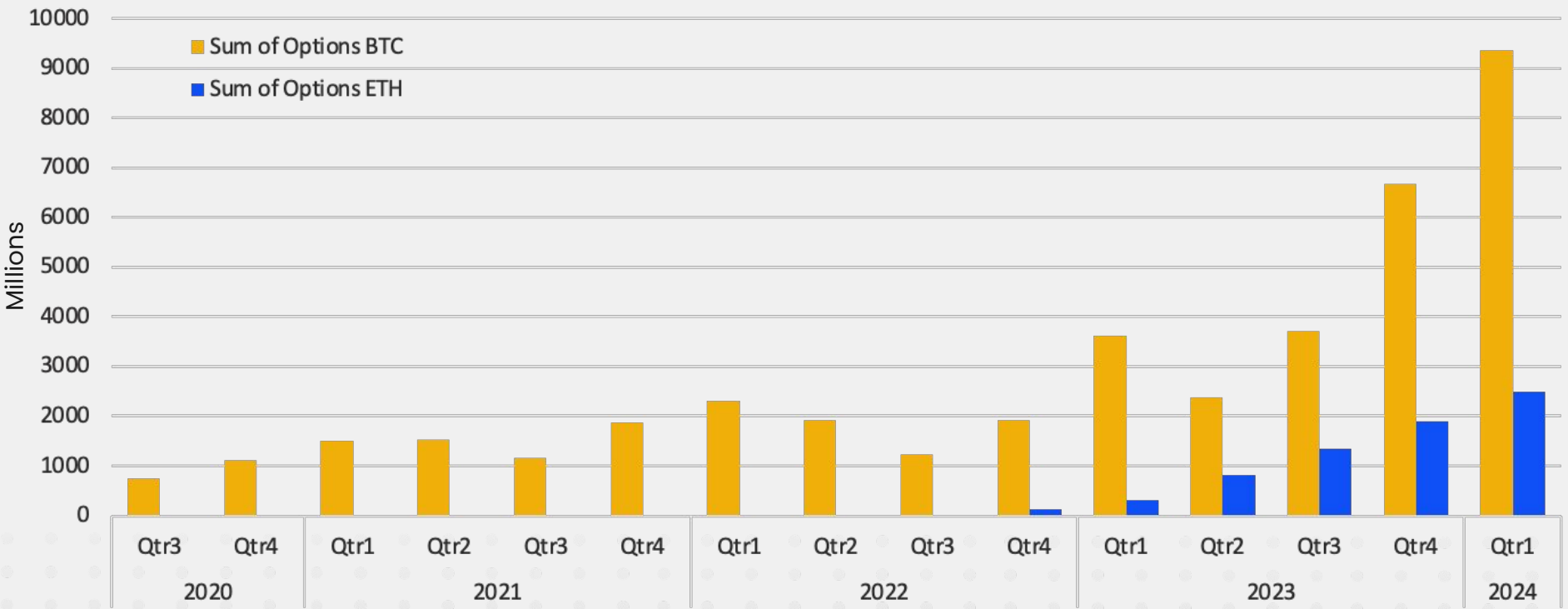


# CME futures: highest volume ever



Source: Digital Gold Institute 2024








# CME options: highest volume ever



Source: Digital Gold Institute 2024

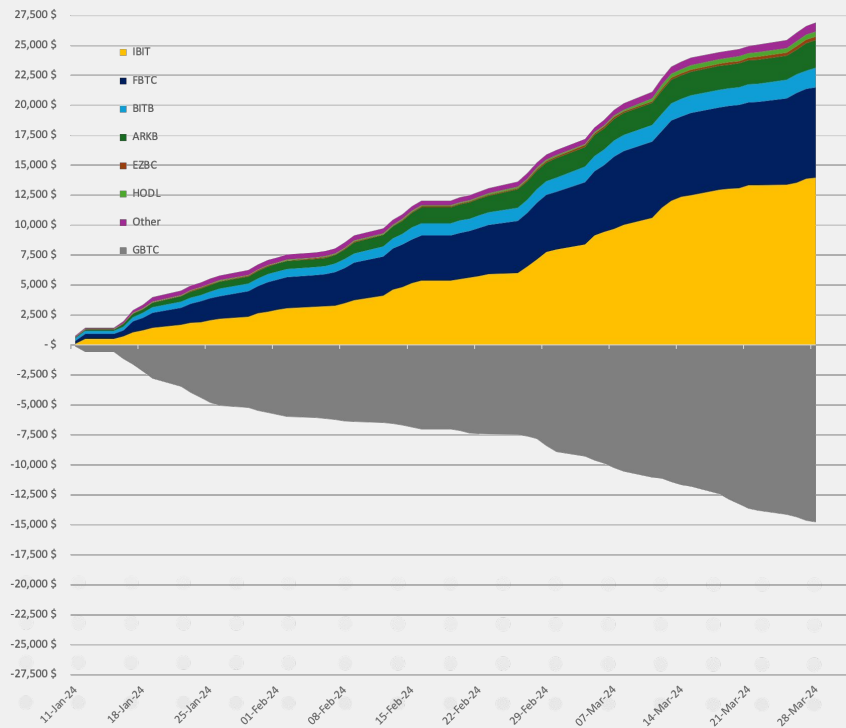


# Long-awaited BTC ETFs launched in January - 2024Q1 Flows

 <i>iShares Bitcoin Trust (IBIT)</i>  + 13,957.9 m\$	 <i>Fidelity Wise Origin Bitcoin Fund (FBTC)</i>  +7,562.5 m\$	 <i>ARK 21shares Bitcoin ETF (ARKB)</i>  +2,309.3 m\$	 <i>BitWise Bitcoin ETF (BITB)</i>  +1,616.5 m\$
 <i>VanEck Bitcoin Trust (HODL)</i>  +438.6 m\$	 <i>Franklin Bitcoin ETF (EZBC)</i>  +276.3 m\$	<i>Others</i>  +738.8 m\$	 <i>Grayscale Bitcoin Trust (GBTC)</i>  -14,767.5 m\$

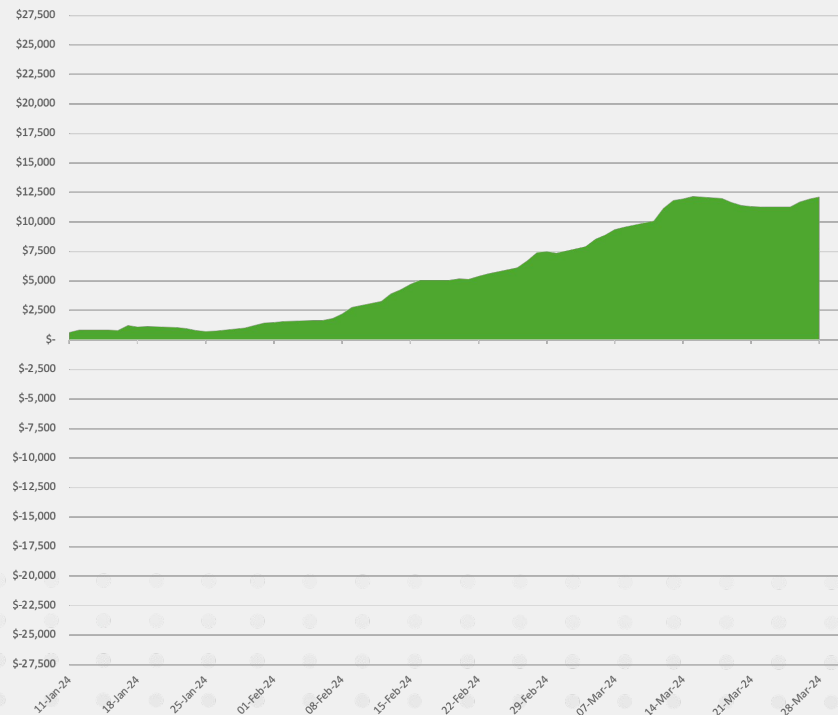
# Record inflows, better than any ETF before

## Bitcoin ETF breakdown



Source: Farside

## Bitcoin ETF net flow



# EU traditional intermediaries are focusing on spot crypto



**BNP PARIBAS**

*Authorized, Piloting*

**Custody**

**COMMERZBANK**



*Authorized, Piloting*

**Custody**

**caceis**  
INVESTOR SERVICES

*Authorized, Piloting*

**Custody**



**Deutsche Bank**

*Authorized, Piloting*

**Custody**



**DZ BANK**

*Authorized, Piloting*

**Custody**



*Active*

**Trading, Custody**

**INTESA**  **SANPAOLO**

*Active*

**Prop Trading**

**Revolut**

*Active*

**Trading, Custody**



*Active*

**Trading**

*...and more*

# 02

## Ecosystem



# Sam Bankman Fried sentenced to 25 years in prison

On 28th of March Sam Bankman-Fried was sentenced to **25 years in prison for stealing \$8 billion** from customers of the now-bankrupt FTX cryptocurrency exchange he founded.

He must also forfeit \$11 billion that the government can use to compensate victims.

U.S. District Judge Lewis Kaplan found that:

- FTX customers lost \$8 billion
- FTX's equity investors lost \$1.7 billion
- lenders to the Alameda Research hedge fund Bankman-Fried founded lost \$1.3 billion



# COPA vs Wright: Craig Wright is not Satoshi

On 15th of March Judge James Mellor said that:

1. Dr Wright **is not the author** of the Bitcoin White Paper.
2. Dr Wright is not the person who adopted or operated under the pseudonym Satoshi Nakamoto from 2008 - 2011.
3. Dr Wright **is not the person who created the Bitcoin System**.
4. Dr Wright is not the author of the initial versions of the Bitcoin software.



A COPA spokesperson said, “This decision is a win for developers, for the entire open source community, and for the truth.”

**CheckSig** and **Digital Gold Institute** are members of COPA members.

# 03

## Regulation



# SEC resists spot Ether ETFs



The SEC has already **delayed decisions on the approvals** for Ether ETFs by Fidelity, BlackRock and Grayscale. The decision will be likely delayed again next May 23rd.

The point is not Ether possibly being a security (while Bitcoin is a commodity), neither the fact that Ether can be staked.

As Gensler said, the SEC approval was “*cabined to ETPs holding one non-security commodity, bitcoin. **It should in no way signal the Commission’s willingness to approve listing standards for crypto asset securities***”

There is pressure not to approve Ether ETFs as this might be just another major crypto public success.



# The application of MiCAR and TFR in Italy

- February 20 - March 22: public consultation on the legislative decree drafts for adapting national legislation to the Markets in Crypto-assets Regulation and the Transfer of Funds Regulation on crypto-assets
- June 30: MiCAR is applicable for asset-referenced tokens and e-money tokens
- December 30: the whole MiCA is applicable
- December 30: TFR is applicable



# 04

# Technology



# Ethereum DENCUN upgrade is live

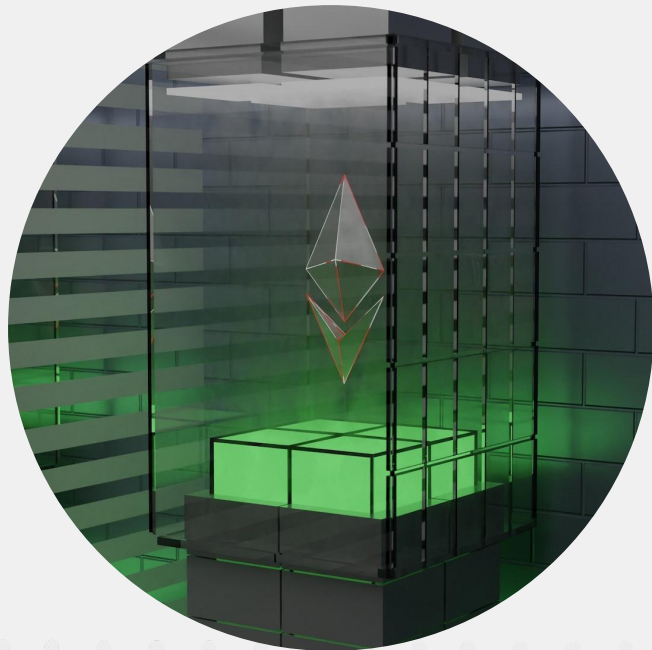
The Ethereum Dencun (Cancun-Deneb) hard fork upgrade has been deployed on the 13th March on the Ethereum mainnet.

This upgrade **is the most significant** since “The Merge”, when Ethereum transitioned into a *proof-of-stake* consensus protocol.

This upgrade **prioritizes scalability, efficiency and security** through various Ethereum Improvement Proposals (EIPs), notably EIP-4844 for proto-danksharding.

Dencun aims to **optimize gas fees and enhance network scalability** on layer-two.

The Dencun upgrade marks the beginning of "The Surge" era in Ethereum's roadmap, paving the way for achieving mass scalability through layer-two rollups.



# Bitcoin Network Achieves New All-Time High Hash Rate Ahead of Halving Event



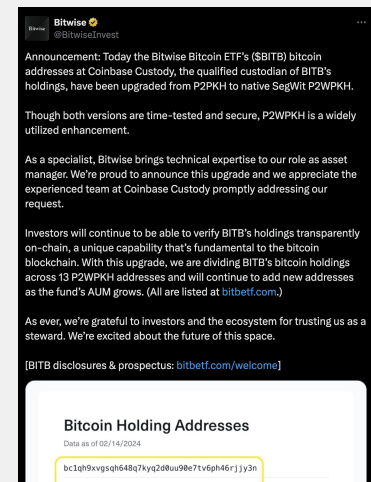
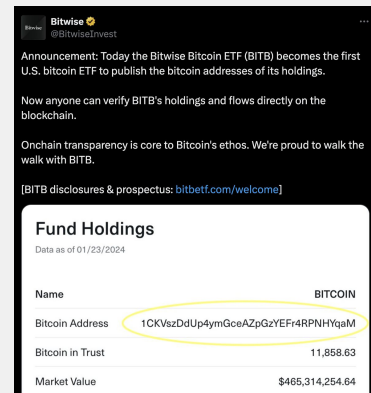
Source: Digital Gold Institute

# Bitwise Bitcoin ETF Proof-of-Address drama

On January 24th, **Bitwise Asset Management** provided proof of the holdings of the Bitwise Bitcoin ETF (BITB) by **publishing the bitcoin addresses of its holdings**.

The issue arose when it became apparent that Bitwise was safeguarding a staggering **half a billion dollars in Bitcoin with just a single private key**, utilizing a single-signature P2PKH address (starting with '1'). This revelation of **inadequate and insecure custody** practices raised significant concerns, the gravity of this situation is magnified by the fact that Coinbase, a major player in the cryptocurrency industry, is providing such a suboptimal custody solution

Under mounting pressure, Bitwise attempted to address the issue by migrating to a P2WPKH solution. Unfortunately, P2WPKH **still relies on single-key security, or suboptimal MPC**.



# Key takeaways

- Clear regulation has been instrumental in driving **Bitcoin's remarkable growth** in 2023
- Substantial **regulatory advancements and ETFs** are providing clarity, boosting investor confidence
- Bitcoin has demonstrated robust **technological resilience** and continues to function securely and efficiently

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