

Ripple Seeks U.S. Bank Charter to Bridge Crypto and Finance

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Cryptocurrency firm Ripple has announced its intention to apply for a national bank charter in the United States. Ripple Chief Executive Officer Brad Garlinghouse shared this significant step in a recent social media post, signaling the company's push to become more deeply integrated into the traditional financial system.

Ripple's move comes shortly after a similar decision by Circle, the stablecoin USD Coin (USDC) issuer. Both companies are responding to a broader need within the digital asset industry: clearer regulations and a stronger foothold in the established financial sector. For

years, cryptocurrency firms have operated in a space of regulatory uncertainty. As the industry matures, major players like Ripple are seeking more stable and legitimate paths forward.

By obtaining a national bank charter, Ripple would gain the ability to offer a broader range of banking services and settle transactions directly, without relying on intermediary banks. This could reduce transaction costs and processing times for Ripple and its clients. Additionally, a charter would provide a formal stamp of approval from U.S. regulators, helping to improve trust in Ripple's operations and potentially attract more institutional partners.

The move also represents a larger shift in how cryptocurrency firms view their role in the financial world. Instead of operating entirely outside the banking system, Ripple is embracing a hybrid approach, working within the existing framework to offer faster, more efficient financial services powered by blockchain technology.

Garlinghouse's announcement reflects the growing realization among crypto executives that regulatory acceptance is necessary and beneficial for long-term growth. "We believe that well-defined rules are essential for innovation," Garlinghouse noted in his post. "A national bank charter will allow us to serve our customers better while also aligning with U.S. regulations."

Ripple has long promoted itself as a company focused on transforming global payments through blockchain-based solutions. It offers cross-border payment services that are faster and cheaper than traditional banking methods. A national charter could strengthen that position by enabling Ripple to operate as a licensed financial institution in all 50 states.

While the application process is complex and subject to approval by U.S. regulatory bodies, Ripple's decision to pursue a bank charter shows the company's commitment to evolving alongside the financial industry. It also reflects a broader trend: digital assets and regulated finance merging paths.

As crypto firms continue to mature and seek legitimacy, Ripple's strategy could serve as a model for others aiming to navigate the fine line between innovation and regulation.