

Request for Information

Design and development of a multi-sector registry for environmental attribute certificates

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1. Overview

RMI, the Center for Green Market Activation (GMA) and the Mærsk McKinney-Møller Center for Zero Carbon Shipping (MMMC) (the Partners) are releasing a Request for Information (RFI) to inform the design and development of a next-generation multi-sector registry (the “umbrella registry”) for environmental attribute certificates (EAC), which we refer to as the “umbrella registry” throughout this document. **Responses are due on Friday, November 6.** This RFI is intended to provide information to the Partners and should not be interpreted as a commitment to solicit proposals for the development and operation of the umbrella registry at this time.

2. Context

Book and claim systems, and specifically registries that issue EACs, are emerging as critical market infrastructure for accelerating decarbonization in sectors where physical traceability remains difficult, supply is constrained, and production is geographically disconnected from demand. By enabling companies to financially support lower-emissions production while maintaining rigorous accounting and chain of custody principles, these mechanisms can unlock near-term lower-carbon production and climate benefits while physical supply chains mature.

Many sectors in critical need of decarbonization currently lack registry systems at all, however. Without robust registry infrastructure, market participants face additional administrative burden and increased risks related to transparency, double counting, interoperability, and market trust.

Where they do exist, the market remains fragmented. Sector-specific EAC registries create challenges for companies seeking a streamlined and consistent approach to EAC procurement across multiple sectors. The [SAFc](#) and [Katalist](#) registries, two collaborative projects involving the Partners to this RFI, are leading high-integrity, non-profit book-and-claim registries for sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) and sustainable maritime fuel (SMF) transactions, respectively. Together, these platforms have

demonstrated how transparent not-for-profit registries can facilitate credible EAC transactions while supporting market growth and stakeholder confidence.

In September 2026, the Partners announced their intention to integrate SAFc and Katalist as a first step toward launching a next-generation, multi-sector digital registry, which will expand over time to incorporate EACs for other low-carbon fuels and materials. The Partners see value in this integration to:

- **Build trust.** The Partners intend to design overarching governance and operating principles that reinforce the credibility of the integrated registry and enable buyers to access EACs in more sectors without having to navigate a fragmented and varied landscape of registry interfaces and methodologies.
- **Reduce friction.** A single platform for low-carbon commodity EACs will reduce the administrative friction that buyers currently experience when navigating between several currently disparate registry systems. It will also enable the Partners to design and deploy new features over time that address common needs across all sectors.
- **Support sector expansion.** With strong foundational governance and a flexible technology model designed for scalability, the integrated registry will be ready to move at the speed of the market without sacrificing quality, data integrity and transparency, and user experience. New sectors can be added more efficiently and buyers will be able to engage with confidence across more sectors within one user experience while ensuring each sectoral platform is tailored to that sector's unique structure and needs.

3. Scope of RFI

This RFI asks respondents to share their vision for how an umbrella registry system could achieve the objectives described above, considering the required components and functions outlined in the following sections. The Partners envision a phased evolution from two existing sector-specific registries toward a scalable multi-sector system and seek recommendations on the architecture, integration model, implementation approach, and operating model needed to support that evolution.

At this stage, the Partners are intentionally not prescribing a single technical architecture or operating model. Respondents may recommend different approaches, including, for example:

- an interoperability layer with a common user experience that connects multiple sector-specific registries while allowing them to remain distinct underlying systems;
- a more deeply integrated multi-sector platform that brings existing registries onto a shared architecture while retaining sector-specific functionality; or

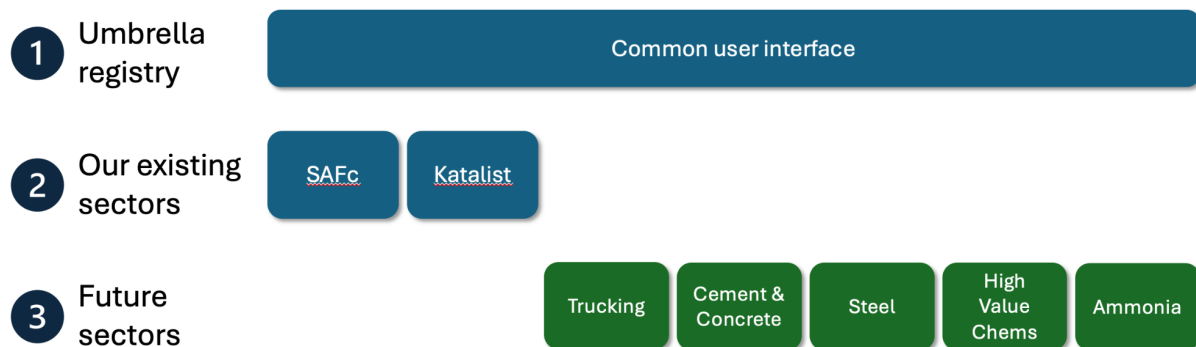
- a single cross-sector registry that progressively consolidates or replaces existing registry systems over time.

Regardless of the approach proposed, the umbrella system should be designed to:

- provide users with a consistent and streamlined experience across sectors;
- maintain the integrity, transparency, traceability, and auditability of EAC issuance, transfer, and retirement;
- support the addition of new sectors without requiring major redesign of the underlying system;
- reduce the administrative burden associated with managing EACs across multiple sectors; and
- enable secure interoperability between participating registries and any linked third-party systems

4. Umbrella system capabilities

The figure below illustrates the anticipated structure of the umbrella system, including a common user experience connecting existing and future sectors. It is intended to provide a conceptual view of the system and does not prescribe a specific technical architecture, integration model, or sequence of development priorities:



Umbrella System

The umbrella system should, at minimum, support the following capabilities. Respondents may recommend alternative approaches where they believe these capabilities can be achieved more effectively through a different architecture or operating model.

- Common user experience and access:** The umbrella system should provide a common entry point through which authorized users can:

- establish accounts and access participating registries through a single log-in and set of terms and conditions;
 - view the registries, EAC holdings, and functionality available to them based on account type and permissions;
 - initiate and manage relevant EAC transactions, including issuance, transfer, and retirement, where supported by the underlying registry;
 - access relevant sector-specific information and functionality without unnecessary duplication of user accounts or processes; and
 - access contextual user support and relevant documentation, including rulebooks, manuals, verification requirements, templates, and legal terms.
- b. **Identity and access management:** The system should support:
- user- and organization-level access controls and permissions;
 - appropriate separation of data and functionality based on role and authorization;
 - controlled access to detailed EAC and transaction information
- c. **Interoperability with underlying registries:** Depending on approach chosen, the system should enable interoperability with participating sectoral registries and support:
- exchange of account, EAC, transaction, and other relevant information;
 - initiation or execution of transactions through the common interface;
 - preservation of the authoritative record in the relevant underlying registry, if applicable;
 - consistent identity and access management across connected systems; and
 - integration of future sectoral registries without requiring major redesign of the umbrella system.
- d. **Public transparency and reporting:** The system should support public access to relevant information, including, as applicable:
- registry documentation (e.g., rulebooks, verification requirements, terms of use, etc.);
 - public retirement tables;
 - aggregate statistics; and
 - other information necessary to demonstrate registry transparency and integrity.
- e. **Scalability, security and operability:** The system should be designed to support:
- addition of new sectors and registries;
 - increasing transaction volumes and users;
 - secure management of user and transaction data;
 - controlled and secure deployment of new functionalities, including versioning controls for consistency;

- system resilience and business continuity; and
 - appropriate auditability and monitoring.
- f. **External integrations:** Although the Partners do not anticipate this as a short-term requirement or a prerequisite for implementing the sectoral deployment as described in section 5, the system would, in the medium term, need to support secure integration with relevant external systems, potentially including:
- users' internal inventory, reporting, or sustainability management systems;
 - marketplaces and other EAC-related platforms;
 - third-party verification systems;
 - external registries; and
 - mechanisms for mitigating double issuance/double counting.

Sectoral registries

The umbrella registry will initially operate atop our two existing registries (SAFc and Katalist) and additional sector-specific registries are to be integrated as they become operational. The sectors covered by these new registries will be chosen and prioritized based on market maturity and infrastructure readiness. Furthermore, its development and deployment will be agreed upon with the software developer and should be implemented in ways that reduce operational disruption of existing registries and umbrella's functionalities.

To date, multiple additional sectors have published book and claim frameworks and advanced or complete pilot transactions. At the release of this RFI, our priority sectors for registry build-out are:

- Cement and Concrete
- Iron and Steel
- Trucking

Sectors with emerging frameworks and pilot transactions in planning or in progress will be the next priority, including:

- High value chemicals (HVCs)
- Ammonia

Multiple early stage metal and material markets are under exploration and may be added to the umbrella registry structure over time, subject to approval in the umbrella system's governance structure.

Sector-specific registry functionality needs will vary. RMI and GMA will define the relevant functional and methodological requirements with input from broader stakeholder processes. For each new sector, the following aspects will be defined:

- account types and permissions;
- EAC units and attributes (i.e., functional units, attribute data types, and unit statuses);
- issuance, transfer, and retirement process flows;
- required data and supporting documentation for EAC issuance;
- transparency and record-keeping requirements (e.g., data points in retirement statements, restrictions for specific account types, etc.); and
- applicable verification and control requirements (e.g., data input validation protocols during issuance).

For context on the level of detail in defining these aspects, respondents can review the current SAFc Rulebook [here](#) and Katalist's documentation [here](#). The current effort to harmonize the process and definitions between SAFc and Katalist will serve as a foundation to build the other sectors and determine the requirements and functionalities that may reduce users' administrative burden.

5. Organizational roles and responsibilities

RMI, GMA, and MMMC will oversee the review of information provided by respondents and collectively make a determination of next steps for the design, development, and operation of the umbrella registry. If the Partners decide to move forward with a future solicitation of proposals for the development and operation of the umbrella registry and/or selection of a potential selection of a provider, it is anticipated that:

- RMI will contract with the selected umbrella registry provider, manage any commercial terms with the provider, and lead day-to-day registry operation as an advisor and resource to the system administrator.
- RMI and GMA will develop functional specifications for each of the sectoral registries under the umbrella system as well as the umbrella system itself, in close collaboration with MMMCZCS on the maritime sector and umbrella system, and informed by broader multi-stakeholder processes.
- RMI and GMA will also support and oversee the design of the registry systems to those defined specifications.
- The Partners will put in place a multistakeholder governance system for this effort to support strategic direction and alignment of the umbrella registry. This governance system will include a governing board, and may include identification of additional strategic partners.

6. Responding to this RFI

Who should respond to this RFI?

This RFI is intended to seek feedback from software developers and registry operators, and inform next steps.

This RFI is intended to provide information to the Partners and should **not** be interpreted as a commitment to solicit proposals for the development and operation of the umbrella registry at this time.

Requirements and Guidance for Response

This RFI is intended to solicit recommendations rather than responses to a fixed technical specification. The Partners have identified the outcomes and minimum capabilities they consider important, but are intentionally seeking respondents' perspectives on the appropriate architecture, technology, integration model, implementation approach, and operating model. Respondents should identify where they would recommend an alternative to the approach described in this document and explain the rationale.

Respondents are asked to structure their submissions around the questions below and to identify any assumptions, dependencies, or alternative approaches that materially affect their recommendations.

- a. What do you see as the key features and capabilities of the umbrella registry, and what opportunities and challenges do you anticipate? How would you prioritize these features and capabilities, and why?
- b. How would you prioritize the development of the umbrella structure alongside the new sectoral registries? Please describe your recommended approach to phasing, timeline, resourcing, and key dependencies, including the rationale behind your proposed sequencing.
- c. How would you approach - technically and strategically - interoperability with other external registries and related third-party systems (e.g. company inventory/strategy management tools, marketplaces), and why?
- d. What technical architecture and technology stack would you recommend for the umbrella registry and underlying sectoral registries or modules? Please explain the rationale for your proposed approach, including key design considerations related to scalability, interoperability, security, maintainability, and future expansion (moving from existing registries to tier 1 and then tier 2 sectors)?.

- e. What commercial structure(s) would best enable this umbrella system? Please distinguish initial development, ongoing operation/support, and incremental sector expansion where possible.
- f. What key questions, uncertainties, or design decisions would need to be resolved before developing and operating the proposed solution? How would you recommend addressing them, and what information or decisions would you require from the Partners?
- g. Why is your organization well-suited to support this umbrella registry effort?

Submissions responding to this RFI should specifically include the following:

- A position statement outlining the respondent's suggestion for how an umbrella EAC registry could serve the objectives described above, along with the technology and methodological approach that maximize user experience and reduce administrative friction.
- Proposed technology stack, including the technology infrastructure required and a brief description of the architecture proposed for the umbrella registry.
- Key criteria to be considered for integrating or connecting the existing and new registries to the umbrella registry according to the approach chosen by respondent.
- Features for optimized functionality and user experience that could be included in the umbrella registries (e.g., transactions dashboards, account management module, etc.)
- Expected challenges or limitations to design, deploy, and operate an umbrella registry. This could include operational, technical, and legal risks that should be addressed.
- Recommendations for data standards and operational controls needed to ensure the registry's transparency, interoperability, security, and long-term effectiveness.
- Sequence of key development actions. Depending on the approach outlined, this may include a progressive or multistage integration of features and actions of new and future registries. If applicable to the proposed approach, include the outline or criteria for a transition and migration plan for transferring relevant data, documentation, and functionality from existing registries to the new platform.

Respondents should describe their experience in the following areas:

- EAC markets, or analogous contractual instrument or digital commodity transactions.
- Design, implementation, operation, and/or use of a digital asset registry, transaction ledger system, or other platforms requiring secure asset issuance, transfer, and retirement functionality.

- Management or utilization of systems that integrate multiple data sources through standardized interoperability frameworks, such as an Application Programming Interface (API), a Secure File Transfer Protocol (SFTP), or other common data exchange standard

Respondents should also provide information regarding their availability to contribute to the development, testing, operation, and ongoing administrative support of registries, as well as the proposed commercial structure for such services.

At this stage, the Partners are primarily seeking information on recommended commercial and contracting structures rather than a binding price proposal. Respondents are encouraged to provide indicative cost ranges or pricing drivers.

Timeline & submission instructions

If you intend to respond to the RFI, please indicate your intention to us by emailing Registry@rmi.org. We will use this as a way to contact intended respondents in the event that we receive questions or make clarifications that all respondents should be aware of.

Responses to this RFI are due on Friday, November 6th. Please submit your responses in the form of a Microsoft Word or PDF document to Registry@rmi.org.

Please direct any clarifying questions regarding this RFI to Registry@rmi.org.

Appendix

About our organizations

RMI

Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) is an independent, nonpartisan nonprofit founded in 1982 that transforms global energy systems through market-driven solutions to secure a prosperous, resilient, clean energy future for all. In collaboration with businesses, policymakers, funders, communities, and other partners, RMI drives investment to scale clean energy solutions, reduce energy waste, and boost access to affordable clean energy in ways that enhance security, strengthen the economy, and improve people's livelihoods. RMI is active in over 50 countries.

Center for Green Market Activation

The Center for Green Market Activation (GMA) – a US-based, globally focused nonprofit – fills a previously unmet need within the climate solutions ecosystem for a cross-sector, market-based approach to decarbonizing hard-to-abate value chain emissions. By leveraging innovative procurement approaches and collaborative alliances, we maximize our ability to promote, enhance and accelerate progress towards decarbonization of high-emitting and hard-to-decarbonize sectors of the economy.

About the Mærsk McKinney-Møller Center for Zero Carbon Shipping

The Center is an independent foundation established by A.P. Møller og Hustru Chastine Mc-Kinney Møllers Fond til Almene Formaal for the primary purpose of establishing and operating an independent and global research center, Maersk Mc-Kinney Møller Center for Zero Carbon Shipping, which shall contribute to research, innovation and development of technologies and solutions facilitating and accelerating the development and implementation of new technology solutions in order to decarbonize the global maritime industry by building a neutral and open platform for cross-disciplinary collaboration, thereby becoming a global, visible driving force in decarbonizing the entire maritime industry.

About the existing registries

SAFc Registry

The SAFc Registry is a standardized secure electronic database that enables issuance, transfer and retirement of sustainable aviation fuel certificates (SAFc). It enables consistency, transparency and auditability of aviation-related emissions reduction claims. More information can be found at <https://safcregistry.org/>.

Katalist Registry

Katalist is a non-for-profit Book & Claim registry pushing maritime decarbonization forward, developed by Fonden Mærsk Mc-Kinney Møller Center for Zero Carbon Shipping and RMI in collaboration with 29 organizations across the value chain. Katalist provides companies with the independent, verified solutions they need to decarbonize their businesses today and take the lead on reshaping the future of the maritime industry. More information can be found at <https://www.katalist.org/>.