TRADETRUST NEWSLETTER | MARCH 2026

Interoperability in Action: From Live Trials to New Opportunities

TRADETRUST Spotlight

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As part of the recent first Digital Documents against Payment D/P transaction, CNRC International Trading Co. Ltd. (CNIT), the trading and marketing center of China Railway Materials Group (China Railway), joined a key role in demonstrating how cross-border trade finance and logistics operations can be more seamlessly across digital platforms in a real-trade environment.

As a leading agricultural commodity trader operating across multiple jurisdictions and counterparties, CNIT recognizes that digital transformation is not just about adopting electronic documents. It is about aligning processes, partners, and trust frameworks so that digital records can move with the same confidence as paper. In the D/P transaction enabled by TradeTrust, CNIT showcased how cross-platform interoperability strengthens operational resilience, enhances trust between trading partners, and reduces dependency on any single platform provider.

The pilot also underscores a key point: cross-border trade transformation aligns with its broader ecosystem economy, and any interoperability is a business imperative for scaling secure and seamless global trade.

> How does digital trade transformation align with CNIT's broader business strategy?
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> Digital trade transformation is closely aligned with CNIT's broader strategy of strengthening trade finance and logistics capabilities and building a more efficient, resilient, and future-ready supply chain. As a company operating across multiple jurisdictions and trading commodities, CNIT sees digitalization not as a standalone initiative, but as a way to improve visibility, reduce friction, and strengthen operational efficiency, enhancing control over cross-border trade processes, and supporting sustainable long-term growth.
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> The recent live Digital Documents against Payment D/P transaction involving the African Cocoa–China trade corridor reflects this strategic direction. In a traditional cocoa trade, documents move slowly and are vulnerable to delays or errors. By using electronic documentation through TradeTrust, CNIT was able to streamline the entire process, from document preparation to processing, and improve the overall efficiency of trade execution.
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> Beyond this specific transaction, we anticipate the use of eBLs, digital collections, and other related digital trade records will become enabled by TradeTrust over time to broaden effort to build a secure, transparent, and efficient cross-border trading ecosystem.
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> 围绕贸易数字化转型的战略方向，CNIT与其战略目标保持高度一致。作为一家在多个司法管辖区开展业务并交易大宗商品的企业，CNIT将数字化视为一项单独的倡议，而是视为一种在提升可见性、减少摩擦、增强运营效率、加强对跨境贸易流程的控制、以及支持可持续长期增长的方式。
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> 近期在African Cocoa–China贸易走廊开展的实时Digital Documents against Payment D/P交易，正是这一战略方向的具体体现。在传统可可贸易中，单据流转速度较慢，且容易出现延误或错误。通过TradeTrust以可信电子单证方式开展单证准备、传递及处理，CNIT显著提升了贸易执行的效率。
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> 展望未来，中国贸易数字化转型的战略方向清晰，通过以可信电子单证为核心的TradeTrust生态系统，以及电子提单（eBL）、数字托收（digital collections）等相关数字贸易记录的推广，逐步构建一个安全、透明、高效的跨境贸易生态系统。

> From a risk management perspective, how does the integration of TradeTrust provides resilience or dependency on any one system or provider?
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> In cross-border trade finance, resilience is not just about uptime, it is about trust, verifiability, and coordination among several different parties. Dependency on any single platform provider creates concentration risk, but it also creates a single point of failure that affects business continuity.
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> TradeTrust helps mitigate this by enabling trusted interoperability across platforms, so that documents and records can be verified and exchanged without relying on any single platform. This strengthens our resilience perspective. It allows participants across the ecosystem to maintain operational continuity, reduce the risk of operational bottlenecks caused by platform dependency, and strengthens governance and control over processes on particular verifiable, trusted ecosystem.
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> In the recent D/P transaction, this interoperability allowed different parties to verify document authenticity and complete title transfer through trusted digital interactions. This helped improve both security and efficiency, while ensuring that no single platform could unilaterally control the transaction. This is exactly what we want between cross-border trade.
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> 在跨境贸易融资中，韧性不仅仅是系统可用性，更在于信任、可验证性以及各方之间的协同。单一平台提供商带来集中风险，但也会成为单点故障，从而影响业务连续性。TradeTrust通过实现跨平台可信互操作，帮助降低对单一平台的依赖，并增强治理与控制能力。
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> 在近三笔国际信用证交易中，实现所有权转移等关键流程可通过可信数据结构和相关参与方协同完成，而无需任何单一平台单方面控制。这正是我们在跨境贸易中希望实现的效果。

TradeTrust APRECIATION DAY 2026

Connect. Innovate. Transform Trade.

TradeTrust Appreciation Day 2026: Advancing Interoperability in Global Trade

Collaboration remains critical in an increasingly interconnected world. With Interoperability as this year's theme, TradeTrust Appreciation Day, held on 4 February 2026, brought together industry leaders and partners to reaffirm our shared commitment to strengthening digital trust and infrastructure for global trade.

The event featured presentations from distinguished guest speakers and thought leaders who shared insights on advancing cross-platform data exchange. An interoperability demonstration showcased how verifiable trade records (eBLs) can be transferred seamlessly across TradeTrust-enabled platforms, moving beyond pilots towards real-world implementation.

We also marked key milestones in TradeTrust's journey:

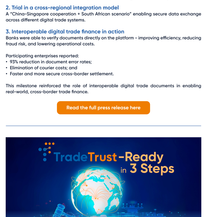
TradeTrust Partners Awards
Recognising ecosystem partners who have made significant contributions to advancing interoperability in trade.

Launch of the TradeTrust Readiness Programme
A catalyst initiative to support businesses in achieving TradeTrust readiness and enabling cross-platform trade transactions.

As interoperable systems transition from experimentation to live adoption, TradeTrust will continue working closely with industry and government partners to accelerate the exchange of trusted digital documents across borders.

Thank you to all our speakers, partners, and attendees who made the event a success. Your continued collaboration is helping to build an open, trusted, and connected digital trade ecosystem.

In case you missed the event, watch our post-event video:



Successful Trial of the First Africa-Singapore–China Interoperable Digital D/P

On 20 January 2026, the first Africa-Singapore–China bulk commodity import transaction using end-to-end interoperable Digital Documents against Payment (D/P) was successfully completed.

The project was jointly promoted by the Beijing Two-Zone Office and supported by Singapore's Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA), marking another milestone in Beijing-Singapore digital economy collaboration.

The transaction involved:

- CNRC International Trading Co. Ltd. (CNIT), the trading and marketing center of China Northeast Materials Group (China Railway), as the buyer, and Jiangsi Copper Company Limited as trading parties;
- Pacific International Lines (PIL) leading an electronic Bill of Lading (eBL);
- DBS Bank and OCBC Bank acting as remitting banks; and
- Bank of China (Jiangsi Branch) serving as the collecting bank.

The shipment of anode copper (valued at USD 5 million) was carried out by CNIT and Jiangsi Copper Company Limited, originating from Ghana, South Africa, to Ningbo, China, with the eBL issued via AEOTradeChain integrated with TradeTrust.

This project achieved three major breakthroughs:

1. The first end-to-end interoperable Digital D/P for bulk commodities
An end-to-end digital workflow covering document circulation and payment settlement – reducing title transfer time from 20 days to 5 days, and B/L processing time from 10 days to 5 minutes.

2. Trial in a cross-regional integration model
A "China-Singapore cooperation + South African economic" enabling secure data exchange across different digital trade systems.

3. Interoperable digital trade finance in action
Banks were able to verify documents directly on the platform – improving efficiency, reducing fraud risk, and lowering operational costs.

Participating enterprises reported:

- Faster document circulation and settlement;
- Elimination of courier costs; and
- Faster and more secure cross-border settlements.

This milestone reinforced the role of interoperable digital trade documents in enabling real-world, cross-border trade finance.

Read the full press release here

TradeTrust-Ready in 3 Steps

Join the TradeTrust Readiness Programme

From now until 30 April 2026, applications for the TradeTrust Readiness Programme are open for Digital Trade Platform (DTP) and Carrier pairs. The programme, supported by Singapore's Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA), runs until 31 March 2027.

Through the programme, TradeTrust brings together DTPs and Carriers to integrate the TradeTrust framework and demonstrate live, cross-platform interoperability for electronic Bills of Lading (eBLs).

Why this programme matters

While the adoption of eBLs is growing, the industry continues to face key challenges:

The TradeTrust Readiness Programme directly addresses these gaps by enabling DTP–Carrier pairs to demonstrate title transfer interoperability, legal compliance, including alignment with the Model Law on Electronic Transferable Records (MLETR), and real-world cross-platform transactions.

Selected DTP–Carrier pairs will receive S$80,000 in funding upon successful completion of key milestones, including:

1. Integration of the TradeTrust framework
2. At least 3 live cross-platform eBL transactions
3. Demonstration of interoperability with other TradeTrust-enabled platforms

Be part of the open, interoperable eBL network. Move beyond siloed systems and demonstrate interoperability across the maritime ecosystem.

Learn more about the programme

TECH UPDATES

Rebranding to serve you better: TradeTrust Libraries is now TrustVC

What was previously known as TradeTrust Libraries is now TrustVC. With this rebranding, platform providers and integrators will find clearer documentation, stronger W3C Verifiable Credentials (VC) alignment, and a more streamlined path to new features.

What this means for you

For business users (carriers, traders, banks)

- Your existing document issuance and verification processes remain unchanged.
- All previously issued documents remain valid.
- Your platform provider will manage the upgrade in the background.

What you may want to check with your vendor

Confirm that your platform provider is upgrading to TrustVC (W3C VC-aligned) to stay on the latest TradeTrust infrastructure.

For platform providers and system integrators

New builds will start with the TrustVC. However, existing builds will need to ensure that your platform provider is using the TrustVC to stay on track for upcoming updates.

Recommended conformance self-checks:

- Issue a sample credential (VC 2.0) with amazeeng (MM), ECDSA).
- Render via decentralised renderer.
- Verify two independent verifiers and capture logs.

What stays the same

Why the change

TradeTrust's underlying libraries have evolved into a broader toolkit used for document attestation beyond trade. The rebrand to TrustVC clarifies its role as the technology engine behind TradeTrust, making it more closely with W3C VC standards. This enables vendors to build one system and interoperate across industries, while TradeTrust continues to focus on trade-specific legal and operational frameworks.

Improvements with TrustVC

This update ensures TradeTrust continues to evolve on a standards-aligned foundation while maintaining stability for the businesses that rely on it.

Migrate to TrustVC at your fingertips

About TradeTrust

TradeTrust Connecting governments and businesses for cross-border trade

Catch the TradeTrust podcast series featuring Thought Leaders' views and opinions on Trade Digitalisation

Discover how TradeTrust lets you create, exchange, verify, and trade digitally signed trade documents securely.

The podcast series will discuss the concept and importance of interoperability in digitalising trade digitalisation.