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INDUSTRY WEEKLY DIGEST

Collaborating for impactful change

In more recent times, the move away from “Fintech” and “cryptocurrency” has sparked a rise in interest in Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDC) which is evolving at a rapid pace ([Ozili, 2023](#)). This innovation in digital currency has enormous potential impact to foster economic growth and development, impacting financial transactions, transparency, efficiency and performance. With increased prospects to accelerate financial inclusion and access, an effective framework for its development and implementation is vital. The APPG (All-Party Parliamentary Group) provides the forum for policymakers, academics and industry leaders for continued early engagement.



In this week’s issue, [**Dr Vahid Mirzabeiki**](#) shared with government the outcomes of the ESRC IAA-funded research project that he has been leading, on the impact of Central Bank Digital Currencies and asset tokenisation on SMEs and their supply chain financial transactions – sparking lively discussion with policymakers and industry leaders.

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About Dr Vahid Mirzabeiki

Dr Vahid Mirzabeiki is a Senior Lecturer in Business Analytics in **Surrey Business School**. His research is published in several leading outlets including a number of CABS-4 and 3* journals. He is a member of the review board of the International Journal of

Operations & Production Management. As a project lead and co-Investigator, through several research and consulting projects, he has worked with leading organisations in Europe and the UK.

CREATING WAVES - CBDC AND TOKENISATION EFFECTS ON SMES TO ALL-PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP AT THE HOUSE OF LORDS

By **Dr Vahid Mirzabeiki**

On 13th May at the House of Lords, **Dr Vahid Mirzabeiki** presented to the APPG (All-Party Parliamentary Group) for Digital Money and Digital Markets the outcomes of the research project funded by the **ESRC Impact Acceleration Account** that he has been leading since last year, on the impacts of CBDC and tokenisation on SME supply chains.

The project aims to make an impact in the real world by researching advanced, innovative methods for supply chain financial transactions that can improve the liquidity of SMEs and enhance their ability to recruit or invest in technology and assets — alongside engagement with key stakeholders and policymakers. **Lord Kulveer Ranger** and **Lauren Edwards MP** co-chaired the session, and after the presentation there was great engagement, including questions and answers and interesting discussions and networking with APPG parliamentary and industrial members and attendees – including several top business leaders and entrepreneurs in relevant industries.

The research project included extensive field studies, modelling, and engagement with key stakeholders. The link to the project's website, where the three main reports on the organisational, regulatory, and technical aspects of implementing CBDC for SME supply chains are available, is provided below:

Further Reading:

Mirzabeiki et al. (2023). [Central Bank Digital Currency \(CBDC\) for small and medium-sized businesses and supply chains: opportunities and challenges](#). University of Surrey Research Projects



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