RETURN.

A MARKET MECHANISM FOR NON-SCARCE GOODS

Use is free. Return is priced. The market is the mechanism.

> *Classical markets price scarcity. Open systems produce value* **without** *scarcity, leaving their producers unpriced. This protocol specifies a market mechanism for them —* **a deterministic pricing function, no governance, no token**.

THE MECHANISM · ONE FIXED FORMULA

```
AnnualObligation = max(0, AttributableRevenue
  × BaseRate(revenue) × ReturnDiscount(in-kind value)
  × HistoryMultiplier(karma) )
```

BaseRate: *progressive curve, asymptotic 1.5%, EUR 100k floor.* **ReturnDiscount:** *in-kind work offsets cash 1:1 at market value.* **HistoryMultiplier:** *long-term over-contributors earn permanent discounts (0.5×); long-term extractors pay permanent premiums (1.5×). Range [0.5, 1.5].*

FIVE FIXED AXIOMS

01 **Access is free.** No financial, geographic, or institutional gate.

02 **Commercial use creates a priced obligation.** Above floor, the formula computes proportional return.

03 **The formula is fixed.** No board, no vote adjusts it. Disagreement leads to a fork.

04 **Contribution substitutes for payment.** In-kind return offsets cash at market value.

05 **History is priced.** Karma earns permanent discounts or premiums.

Draft v0.2 — open for review

License, protocol, and supporting materials are published openly for critique, legal review, pilot adoption, and stewardship outreach. **Not yet recommended for productive adoption at scale** until a reviewed v1.0 is released.

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