## STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS SECURITIES DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF DETERMINING Whether there has been a violation of the Securities Act of Washington by:

Order No. S-24-3729-24-SC01

DCPTG LLC,

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STATEMENT OF CHARGES AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO ENTER ORDER TO CEASE AND DESIST, TO IMPOSE A FINE, AND TO CHARGE COSTS

Respondent.

THE STATE OF WASHINGTON TO:

DCPTG LLC

### STATEMENT OF CHARGES

Please take notice that the Securities Administrator of the State of Washington has reason to believe that Respondent DCPTG LLC has violated the Securities Act of Washington. The Securities Administrator believes these violations justify the entry of an order against Respondent DCPTG LLC to cease and desist from such violations, to impose a fine, and to charge costs pursuant to RCW 21.20.390 and RCW 21.20.395. The Securities Administrator finds as follows:

### TENTATIVE FINDINGS OF FACT

### Respondent

1. DCPTG LLC aka Digital Currency Pioneer Technology Group ("DCPTG") is a Washington entity formed on December 2, 2022 with its principal place of business purportedly in Spokane, Washington. DCPTG claims to be a global cryptocurrency trading platform that utilizes artificial intelligence ("AI") quantification, which allows investors to buy and sell cryptocurrency on the DCPTG platform at a guaranteed profit.

### **Nature of the Conduct**

#### Overview

STATEMENT OF CHARGES

2. In or around early 2024, DCPTG defrauded at least two internationally located investors who purchased securities in the form of cryptocurrency investment contracts via the DCPTG platform by making false or misleading claims about its trading platform and offerings. Specifically, DCPTG offered and sold cryptocurrency investment contracts with the promise of 1.5% to 4% returns. At least two known investors purchased investment contracts in amounts ranging from hundreds to several thousands of dollars. No known investors have been able to withdraw any of their initial investment nor purported profit.

### Background

3. DCPTG offered investment contracts in AI driven crypto trades to the general public through its website (www.dcptg.com; www.dcptg.xyz). DCPTG's website and promotional materials claimed it utilized AI driven "quantitative trading" technology, which allows it to "intelligently buy cryptocurrencies from various exchanges at low prices and then sell them at high prices, generating profits from the high frequency of transactions." Thus, DCPTG promised investment returns based on its ability to quickly identify and complete profitable crypto transactions across multiple sales platforms. DCPTG also offered multilevel marketing promotions which promised investors 1.5% to 10% commission returns on investments made by "subordinate" investors invited to DCPTG's platform.

## The Offering

4. DCPTG's website and promotional materials posted on its Facebook page provided investors with step-by-step instructions on how to passively invest by merely transferring crypto to DCPTG and then clicking on buttons within the platform. Its website states "at the quantitative trading platform, the weapons are ready for you, you don't need to build it yourself, you just need to learn to use it." Once investors logged on to the DCPTG platform, they selected a "recharge" icon in the platform. After clicking on "recharge" the platform then revealed a DCPTG wallet address identified for their deposit. The webpage instructed investors

to copy the deposit address and paste it in their crypto wallet to transfer USDT<sup>1</sup> to DCPTG. Once the transaction was complete, DCPTG instructed investors to return to the platform and click a "TRC20" icon. The webpage promised that funds would be credited to their account within three minutes of hitting "TRC20."

- 5. Investors relied on DCPTG to trade for a profit. The investor did not have any additional role in earning a profit on their investment beyond clicking buttons within the platform.
- 6. DCPTG offered investors guaranteed profits via a tiered investment structure in which larger investments yielded larger returns. DCPTG posted promotional materials on Facebook on April 19, 2023 in which it broke investment tiers down to 6 "VIP levels." VIP1 was designated for investment account values of 100 USDT and promised a daily yield of 1.5%-2.0%, VIP2 required 300 USDT promising a 2%-2.5% daily return, VIP3 required 500 USDT promising a 2.5%-2.7% daily return, VIP4 required 3,000 USDT promising a 2.7%-2.9% daily return, VIP 5 required 5,000 USDT promising a 2.9%-3.2% daily return and VIP 6 required 10,000 USDT promising a 3.2%-3.5% daily return.
- 7. DCPTG also renumerated those who invited new investors with increased rates of return on their investment. DCPTG rewarded those who invited three or more investors to the platform with the designation of "SVIP." SVIP investors were granted six investment tiers that promised greater returns than those designated to the corresponding VIP levels. DCPTG's April 19, 2023 promotional brochure identified six "SVIP levels" including SVIP1 for investments of 100 USDT which promised a daily yield of 2.0%-2.5%, SVIP2 required 300 USDT promising a 2.5%-2.7% daily return, SVIP3 required 500 USDT promising a 2.7%-2.9% daily return, SVIP4 required 3,000 USDT promising a 2.9%-3.2% daily return, SVIP 5 required 5,000 USDT promising a 3.2%-3.5% daily return and SVIP 6 required 10,000 USDT promising a 3.5%-4.0% daily return.

STATEMENT OF CHARGES

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Tether (USDT) is a stablecoin, or a type of cryptocurrency, pegged to the United States Dollar.

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8. Each VIP and SVIP level allowed investors a certain number of "daily orders" which increased based on the tier correlated to an investor's total account value. VIP1 and SVIP1 were allowed three daily orders. Each VIP and SVIP level increased the number of daily orders allotted incrementally by one or two numbers, ending with nine daily orders permitted for VIP6 and SVIP6. DCPTG did not define what constituted a "daily order" anywhere on its webpage nor promotional materials. The chart in the promotional materials seems to suggest that the daily orders correlate to the number of times an investor can expect to yield the rate of return on the value of their account funds associated with their VIP or SVIP level, thus allowing higher VIP and SVIP levels to compound their investments more frequently within a twenty-four-hour time period.

9. DCPTG did not disclose how it purportedly was able to determine the exact range of rate of return on future crypto trades such that investors' earnings would yield the promised rate of return within their VIP or SVIP tier. DCPTG further did not disclose how it was able to determine that the exact rate of return on investors' future trades would match the promised rate of return within their tier despite having no way of knowing when investors would choose to buy and sell crypto.

## Multilevel Marketing

10. DCPTG offered a recruitment compensation plan in which users were promised a percentage of profit made off of their invitees' investments. One offering posted on DCPTG's Facebook page on March 7, 2023 promised both VIP and SVIP investors a 10% return on invitees' investments. Another version of DCPTG's commission tiers posted on its Facebook page on April 19, 2023 offered various commission rates for up to three generations of investors. DCPTG advertised 10% commission for first generation "invitation level A" investors' investments, 4% commission for "level B" second generation investments and 2% for "level C" third generation investments.

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On January 6, 2024, DCPTG advertised a "bonus gift package" on its webpage which ran from March 31, 2024 through April 3, 2024 in which it advertised a one-time payment for inviting new users. The webpage indicated "invite a new user to deposit 200 USDT or more for the first time and get a reward of 38 USDT." The webpage then promised an additional commission structure based on the value of the new invitee's "deposit" indicating "200 USDT or more...and get a reward of 20 USDT, 500 USDT or more...and get a reward of 50 USDT, 1000 USDT or more...and get a reward of 100 USDT, 2000 USDT or more...and get a reward of 200 USDT and 10,000 USDT or more...and get a reward of 800 USDT."

### Misrepresentations and Omissions

12. DCPTG misrepresented material information related to its location in an apparent attempt to give the company legitimacy and prestige. DCPTG posted an advertisement on Facebook stating that the company is headquartered in New York, New York. DCPTG also posted a promotional video on its website of what appears to be professionals dressed in suits presenting to a crowd of well-dressed attendees who are all wearing conference lanyards around their necks at what purports to be DCPTG's "2023 Summary Conference." The conference is led by three individuals at a podium who appear to be presenting to the attendees. Each speaker's microphone is adorned with a different logo, all of which appear to be similar, but not identical, to the names and logos of well-known news organizations including "MSN Money, ABC, and Business Insider." The "Business Insider" speaker states that DCPTG is headquartered in New York, USA and is currently comprises (sic) of sixteen special departments with a total of 1,400 high-tech talents." Behind the speaker is a large screen which shows a map location icon next to "Newyork (sic), USA," thus suggesting that New York is the location of either DCPTG and/or the conference. The "about DCPTG" portion of DCPTG's website states "DCPTG is headquartered in New York, USA," while further down on that same webpage under "contact us" it indicates they are located in Spokane, Washington and shows a google maps image which identifies their physical location in Spokane. DCPTG filed its Articles of Incorporation with

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Washington State's Secretary of State on December 02, 2022 in which it indicates its physical location is in Spokane, Washington. No known DCPTG location exists.

13. DCPTG misrepresented material information regarding the legitimacy of a "DCPTG 2023 Annual Summary Conference," as well as media and investor presence at the purported conference, in a video on its webpage in an attempt to give the company legitimacy and status. The first eleven minutes and eighteen seconds of the conference video consists of three individuals seated at the podium reading a promotional speech, the vast majority of which is a verbatim transcript of the verbiage located throughout DCPTG's website. For instance, the first speaker indicates "DCPTG's main business involved combining the capabilities of big data, artificial intelligence and cloud computing to provide industry leading new data and intelligent technological services for quantitative investors and investment institutions," which is a repetition of exact language posted on DCPTG's website. The remaining portion of the roughly 15-minute video shows individuals who appear to be investors answering questions posed by off-camera reporters. After posing the questions, the reporters then hold one of the microphones labeled "MSN Money, ABC, and Business Insider" up to the speaker while they answer. A purported reporter from "ABC" asks an investor "when did you join the DCPTG platform?' The investor responds, "I joined DCPTG in 2021," which was well before DCPTG filed its Articles of Incorporation with Washington State's Secretary of State on December 02, 2022. Although the investor was not prompted with further questioning, he continued speaking unprompted, indicating in a slow, methodical manner consistent with reading aloud that "DCPTG is a quantitative trading platform that provides tools and services for investors to engage in quantitative trading and perform better. Its low costs, diversified investment options, effective intelligent portfolio management, flexible investment strategies, and risk diversification make it extremely user-friendly. I sincerely hope that DCPTG will become a shining gem globally." The video then shows interviews of purported global investors with "reporters" posing questions in English to investors who then respond in other languages. The video closes with images of investors

drinking wine and champagne and eating elaborate desserts. This purported conference concocted by DCPTG was a lavish ruse created in an attempt to deceive investors as to the platform's legitimacy and the ease with which one could grow wealth.

- 14. DCPTG misrepresented material information when it registered with the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network ("FINCEN") as a money service business ("MSB") located in Spokane, Washington in an attempt to give the fraudulent platform legitimacy. FINCEN is a bureau of the United States Department of Treasury whose mission includes safeguarding the financial system from illicit use. DCPTG registered itself as a MSB through FINCEN and posted a video on its Facebook page that shows investors how to go to FINCEN's webpage and search for DCPTG in the MSB directory. Underneath the video, DCPTG posted that "DCPTG holds the same MSB digital currency license as Binance and Huobi." DCPTG portrayed this licensing as proof of the platform's legitimacy, however FINCEN notes at the bottom of their search tool that "the inclusion of a business on the MSB Registrant Search Web page is not a recommendation, certification of legitimacy, or endorsement of the business by any government agency" as FINCEN is not able to review each filing for accuracy. Furthermore, a Washington company that engages in the business of money transmission is required to file with the Department of Financial Institutions Consumer Services Division as a money transmitter pursuant to RCW 19.230.030. DCPTG has never been licensed as a money transmitter with Consumer Services.
- 15. DCPTG misrepresented material information related to the company's status by indicating on its website that "DCPTG has received multiple awards from global blockchain alliances for its innovation in the blockchain space, a feat that few companies have been able to achieve." DCPTG indicated it won "Excellent Online Stock Trading Platform" at the Metro Radio and Hong Kong Computer Society Hong Kong Outstanding Digital Brand Awards in 2019, "Excellent Online Securities Trading Platform" at the Metro Radio and Hong Kong Computer Society Hong Kong Outstanding Digital Brand Awards in 2017, "Best E-

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Commerce Company (Financial Services) Silver Award" at the Marketing Magazine eCommsAs Awards in 2017, and "Outstanding Online Securities Investment Management Platform" at the ET Net FinTech Awards in 2017. None of the awards DCPTG listed on its webpage are legitimate. DCPTG filed its Articles of Incorporation with Washington State's Secretary of State on December 02, 2022. All of the awards DCPTG claims to have won were purportedly earned prior to the date on which it was created.

- 16. DCPTG failed to disclose material information related to the function of the DCPTG quantification system including but not limited to what cryptocurrencies it trades in, the assumptions and parameters used to program the quantification system, whether these assumptions and parameters could change, the mistakes or malfunctions that could impact the function of the quantification system, how it could earn up to 4% immediate, daily investment returns, and whether an investor had a remedy if the quantification system does not function as expected.
- 17. DCPTG misrepresented material information when it posted a promotional tutorial showing the ease of withdrawing funds from the platform by merely clicking the withdrawal icon. No known investors have been able to withdraw any of their investment nor any profit from the DCPTG platform.
- 18. DCPTG failed to disclose material information when it did not warn users of any associated risks with investment nor the possibility that investors may not earn a profit at the promised rates of return.
- 19. DCPTG failed to disclose to investors that the offered investment contracts are securities, and that anyone who offers or sells securities must be registered or exempt from registration.

# **Registration Status**

20. DCPTG is not currently registered to sell its securities in the state of Washington and has not previously been so registered, nor has it filed a claim of exemption from registration.

Based upon the above Tentative Findings of Fact, the following Conclusions of Law are made:

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

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- 1. The offer and/or sale of the investment contracts described above constitutes the offer and sale of a security as defined in RCW 21.20.005(14) and (17).
- 2. DCPTG violated RCW 21.20.140, the securities registration section of the Securities Act of Washington, by offering and/or selling securities for which no registration is on file with the Securities Administrator.
- 3. DCPTG violated RCW 21.20.010, the anti-fraud section of the Securities Act of Washington, by making untrue statements of material fact or omitting to state material facts necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances in which they were made, not misleading.

### NOTICE OF INTENT TO ORDER THE RESPONDENT TO CEASE AND DESIST

Pursuant to RCW 21.20.390(1), and based upon the Tentative Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Securities Administrator intends to order DCPTG, and their agents and employees, to each permanently cease and desist from violating RCW 21.20.010 and RCW 21.20.140.

### NOTICE OF INTENT TO IMPOSE FINES

Pursuant to RCW 21.20.395, and based upon the Tentative Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Securities Administrator intends to order that DCPTG shall be liable for and shall pay a fine of \$75,000.

#### NOTICE OF INTENT TO CHARGE COSTS

Pursuant to RCW 21.20.390, and based upon the Tentative Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Securities Administrator intends to order that DCPTG shall be liable for and shall pay the costs, fees, and other expenses incurred in the administrative investigation and hearing of this matter, in an amount not less than \$2,552.50.

#### AUTHORITY AND PROCEDURE

This Statement of Charges is entered pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 21.20 RCW and is subject to the provisions of Chapter 34.05 RCW. DCPTG may make a written request for a hearing as set forth in the

Notice of Opportunity for Hearing accompanying this Order. If a respondent does not make a hearing request 1 in the time allowed, the Securities Administrator intends to adopt the above Tentative Findings of Fact and 2 Conclusions of Law as final and to enter a permanent order to cease and desist as to that respondent, to impose 3 any fines sought against that respondent, and to charge any costs sought against that respondent. 4 5 SIGNED and ENTERED this 1st day of July, 2024. 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 Approved by: 17

/s/

William M. Beatty Securities Administrator

Presented by:

/s/

Denise Griffith Financial Legal Examiner

/s/

Brian J. Guerard Chief of Enforcement

Reviewed by:

/s/21

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Holly Mack-Kretzler

Financial Legal Examiner Supervisor

STATEMENT OF CHARGES

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DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS Securities Division PO Box 41200 Olympia, WA 98504-1200 360-902-8760