

# SoftBank Vision Fund 2 (SVF2)

## What Is SoftBank Vision Fund 2?

- **Fund Basics:** SoftBank Vision Fund 2 (SVF2) is the second major “Vision Fund” managed by SoftBank Group. It was publicly announced in July 2019. ([ソフトバンクグループ株式会社](#))
- **Size & Backing:** When launched, the targeted fund size was very large — SoftBank reported expected contributions around **US\$108 billion** based on MOUs. ([ソフトバンクグループ株式会社](#))
- **Management:** The fund is managed by SB Investment Advisers (UK) Ltd., a SoftBank-owned subsidiary. ([ソフトバンクグループ株式会社](#))
- **Vision / Strategy:** While SVF2 is broadly a “tech-enabled growth” fund, SoftBank has emphasized AI as a core thematic driver. ([ソフトバンクグループ株式会社](#))
- **Long-Term Orientation:** SoftBank’s Vision Funds, including SVF2, are designed for a medium-to-long-term perspective, backing “high growth potential” companies rather than very short exits. ([ソフトバンクグループ株式会社](#))

## How SVF2 Operates in the Cryptocurrency / Blockchain Space

SoftBank Vision Fund 2 is *not a crypto-only fund*, but it has made **significant strategic bets** in blockchain infrastructure, DeFi, and related areas. Here’s how SVF2’s crypto involvement works:

### 1. Infrastructure First

- a. SVF2 tends to back **blockchain infrastructure** — companies that provide foundational services (nodes, staking, blockchain operations) rather than just consumer crypto apps.
- b. Example: It invested in **InfStones**, a company that helps developers build applications across many blockchain platforms. ([TechCrunch](#))

- c. Another example: **Blockdaemon**, a major node / staking infrastructure firm, received a Series B led by SVF2. ([The Business Times](#))
- 2. Gaming / Metaverse / NFTs**
- a. SVF2 has backed *The Sandbox*, a blockchain-based virtual world where users can own virtual land and assets (NFTs). ([Crypto Daily](#))
  - b. It also led a large round for **Sorare**, a fantasy-soccer game where “cards” are blockchain-based NFTs. ([Axios](#))
- 3. Blockchain Analytics / Compliance**
- a. SVF2 has backed **Elliptic**, a firm specializing in blockchain analytics, compliance, and anti-money laundering tools. ([Wikipedia](#))
  - b. These types of investments support the institutional and regulatory side of crypto, making the ecosystem more compliant and safer for large players.
- 4. Other Strategic or Speculative Crypto Bets**
- a. There was reported interest in **FTX** (the exchange) — SoftBank Vision Fund 2 was among its investors in earlier rounds. ([Nippon](#))
  - b. SVF2 may also participate in other blockchain / crypto ventures indirectly or through later-stage investments as part of its growth thesis (though not all are crypto-native).

## Impact of SVF2 on the Cryptocurrency Industry

SoftBank Vision Fund 2’s involvement in crypto has had multiple important effects:

- 1. Legitimizing Blockchain Infrastructure**
- a. By investing large sums into infrastructure companies like Blockdaemon and InfStones, SVF2 helps scale the backbone of blockchain networks. This supports adoption by institutions (exchanges, custodians, financial firms) that need reliable nodes / staking infrastructure.
  - b. These investments reduce operational risk and cost for blockchain players, making it easier for more businesses to leverage decentralized tech.
- 2. Powering Metaverse & NFT Growth**
- a. The Sandbox investment helps build out the *metaverse economy*. The Sandbox is one of the more visible blockchain-based virtual worlds. SoftBank’s capital accelerates creator growth, land sales, and ecosystem-building.

- b. With Sorare, SVF2 is pushing the intersection of sports + fantasy + blockchain NFTs, creating mainstream use cases for NFT collectibles tied to real-world assets (sports players).

### 3. Bridging Compliance & Institutional Adoption

- a. Backing Elliptic supports compliance technology, which is crucial for institutional players to enter crypto safely. More crypto firms and traditional finance institutions can rely on such analytics tools to manage AML risk, thereby increasing trust.
- b. These investments help position crypto not just as speculative tokens but as a regulated, structured asset class.

### 4. Risk Signaling

- a. The fact that a mega-fund like SVF2 is putting money into crypto startups signals that even very large, traditional tech-growth investors see long-term value in blockchain. That encourages others to follow, increasing the flow of capital into the space.
- b. However, this also means SVF2's successes/failures in crypto could have outsized influence: if its portfolio companies do well, it can catalyze broader growth; if not, it could cool investment sentiment.

## Risks, Criticisms, and Challenges

SVF2's crypto strategy is not without risk or critique. Some of the main challenges include:

- **Regulatory Risk:** Blockchain and crypto remain under regulatory uncertainty globally. Large infrastructure investments (nodes, staking) are particularly exposed to policy risk, especially in regions that might tighten crypto regulation.
- **Concentration Risk:** SoftBank is not purely a crypto fund — its capital is split across many high-growth bets (AI, biotech, etc.). Some of its crypto bets may not get as much internal focus, and there's risk of overcommitment or dilution of attention.
- **Market Volatility:** Crypto markets are volatile. Infrastructure companies depend on long-term adoption; if token economics or chain usage slows, their growth could be hurt.
- **Exit Risk:** Vision Fund-style investments are often very large and long-horizon. Exiting via IPO or sale may be difficult for some crypto companies, and there's risk that SoftBank may struggle to realize returns in a timely way.

- **Reputation & Timing Risk:** Some prior SoftBank bets (in tech) have turned out poorly, and big crypto bets are scrutinized. Poor performance in crypto could damage SoftBank’s reputation among LPs and co-investors.

## Why SoftBank Vision Fund 2’s Role Matters in Crypto

- **Capital Powerhouse:** SVF2 is *not a small VC fund*. Its very large size means it can write big checks — enabling capital-intensive infrastructure plays rather than just small token projects.
- **Long-Term Horizon:** With SoftBank’s backing and its dedicated technology growth mandate, SVF2 can support projects that may take *years* to mature (e.g., node infrastructure, metaverse economies).
- **Cross-Discipline Investment:** Because SVF2 invests across AI, cloud, and crypto, it is well-positioned to back companies that integrate blockchain with other frontier technologies (AI + Web3, metaverse + compute, etc.).
- **Institutional Bridge:** By investing in compliance (Elliptic) and scalable infrastructure (Blockdaemon, InfStones), SVF2 plays a key role in bridging traditional finance and the decentralized future — making crypto more “institutionally ready.”

### Key Examples of SVF2’s Crypto Investments (Summarized)

| Company     | What They Do                | Role of SVF2                                                                                     |
|-------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Blockdaemon | Node management and staking | SVF2 led a major round (\$155M) to help scale global operations. ( <a href="#">Coinspeaker</a> ) |

|                    |                                                              |                                                                                              |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                    | infrastructure for many blockchains.                         |                                                                                              |
| <b>InfStones</b>   | Helps developers deploy and operate on multiple blockchains. | SVF2 co-led a \$66M round. ( <a href="#">TechCrunch</a> )                                    |
| <b>The Sandbox</b> | Virtual world / metaverse where users own land and NFTs.     | SVF2 led a \$93M funding round. ( <a href="#">Crypto Daily</a> )                             |
| <b>Sorare</b>      | Fantasy soccer game with NFT player cards.                   | SVF2 led a \$680M round. ( <a href="#">Axios</a> )                                           |
| <b>Elliptic</b>    | Blockchain analytics, compliance, risk tools.                | SVF2 backed Elliptic to support crypto firms and institutions. ( <a href="#">Wikipedia</a> ) |

## Citation

### Official SoftBank Sources

1. SoftBank Group. "SoftBank Announces Launch of SoftBank Vision Fund 2." *SoftBank Group Press Release*, July 26, 2019.
2. SoftBank Group. "SoftBank Vision Fund – Segment Overview." *SoftBank Group*, Corporate Website.

### Crypto / Blockchain Investment Sources

3. Lunden, Ingrid. "SoftBank co-leads \$66M round for blockchain-focused InfStones." *TechCrunch*, June 1, 2022.
4. Cryptodaily. "SoftBank Leads \$93M Investment Round for The Sandbox." *CryptoDaily*, November 2021.

5. Primack, Dan. "SoftBank leads \$680M fundraising for Sorare." *Axios*, September 2021.
6. Business Times. "SoftBank Fund Joins Goldman in Minting Latest Crypto Unicorn." *The Business Times*, coverage of Blockdaemon's raise.
7. Coinspeaker. "Blockdaemon Raises \$155M in Series B Led by SoftBank." *Coinspeaker*, 2021.

## **Compliance / Analytics Investments**

8. *Elliptic (Company)*. *Wikipedia*, overview of blockchain analytics company and its investors.

## **Other Relevant Coverage**

9. Reuters / Nippon.com. "SoftBank Vision Fund among investors in FTX funding round." *Nippon.com*, 2022.