

STATE OF ALABAMA  
ALABAMA SECURITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF: )  
ASIC BITPRO )  
SALLY BAKER )  
KLAUS GUNTER )  
LINDA COPELAND )  
RESPONDENTS )  
 )  
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER  
NO. CD-2020-0022

## **CEASE AND DESIST ORDER**

The Alabama Securities Commission ("Commission"), having the authority to administer and provide for the enforcement of all provisions of Title 8, Chapter 6, Code of Alabama 1975, the Alabama Securities Act ("Act"), upon due consideration of the subject matter hereof, has determined as follows:

## **RESPONDENTS**

1. ASIC BITPRO (“BITPRO”) purports to be a cryptocurrency cloud mining company and may be served at the address listed on the company’s website, [www.asicbitpro.net](http://www.asicbitpro.net), which is 144 Louisiana Street, Winnfield, LA 71483, USA. BITPRO may also be contacted through its domain provider [www.Orangewebsite.com](http://www.Orangewebsite.com) at the following address: Klapparstigur 7, 101 Reykjavik, Iceland or at contact [abuse@orangewebsite.com](mailto:abuse@orangewebsite.com).

2. SALLY BAKER (“BAKER”) purports to be from the Montgomery, Alabama area. BAKER represents herself as an Investment Specialist at BITPRO. BAKER may be served at the address listed on the company’s website, [www.asicbitpro.net](http://www.asicbitpro.net), which is 144 Louisiana Street, Winnfield, LA 71483, USA. BAKER may also be contacted through its domain provider [www.Orangewebsite.com](http://www.Orangewebsite.com) at the following address: Klapparstigur 7, 101 Reykjavik, Iceland or at contact abuse@orangewebsite.com.

3. KLAUS GUNTER ("GUNTER") purports to be from the Birmingham, Alabama area. GUNTER represents himself as an Investment Broker at BITPRO. BAKER may be served

at the address listed on the company's website, [www.asicbitpro.net](http://www.asicbitpro.net), which is 144 Louisiana Street, Winnfield, LA 71483, USA. GUNTER may also be contacted through its domain provider [www.Orangewebsite.com](http://www.Orangewebsite.com) at the following address: Klapparstigur 7, 101 Reykjavik, Iceland or at contact [abuse@orangewebsite.com](mailto:abuse@orangewebsite.com).

4. LINDA COPELAND ("COPELAND") purports to be from the Montgomery, Alabama area. COPELAND represents herself as an Investment Specialist at BITPRO. COPELAND may be served at the address listed on the company's website, [www.asicbitpro.net](http://www.asicbitpro.net), which is 144 Louisiana Street, Winnfield, LA 71483, USA. COPELAND may also be contacted through its domain provider [www.Orangewebsite.com](http://www.Orangewebsite.com) at the following address: Klapparstigur 7, 101 Reykjavik, Iceland or at contact [abuse@orangewebsite.com](mailto:abuse@orangewebsite.com).

#### **STATEMENT OF FACTS**

5. On or about December 4, 2020, BAKER and BITPRO delivered to an Alabama resident via a social media platform, a solicitation to invest in a cloud mining platform which could generate daily returns up to 0.1323 BTC or \$2,491.00 in fiat currency. The Alabama investor was directed to the BITPRO website. Further examination of the BITPRO social media platforms revealed false and misleading profiles for BAKER, GUNTER and COPELAND who are allegedly domiciled in Alabama and other fraudulent representations about returns on investment like those identified in paragraphs #6, #7 and #8 below.

6. Prior to the representation made in paragraph #5 above, through content delivered to various Alabama residents via a popular social media platform and the BITPRO website, RESPONDENTS guaranteed returns of "*7,662% to 34,259% R.O.I. daily/weekly on starting capital.*" RESPONDENTS also represented that a \$1,000 investment in their scheme would generate a daily return on investment of \$2,870 for a thirty-day contract duration. This is a daily investment return of approximately 120% and a total return of approximately 840% on the full thirty (30) day investment contract.

7. Prior to the representations made in paragraph #5 above, through content delivered to various Alabama residents, RESPONDENTS made a direct inducement to cryptocurrency investment in the scheme by claiming:

*“... our company has over 30,000 units of the strong U8 Pro miners and we let the public invest/subscribe to these miner units according to the various plans available on our platform. This is one Golden shot to min our own bitcoin and generate tremendous return on investments daily by just subscribing to miners in our facilities. You can make up to 0.1323 BTC (\$2491) daily on the Diamond Cloud mining plan which is our most lucrative package. Revert to get more info and our website if this is of interest to you.”*

8. Prior to the representations made in paragraph #5 above, through content delivered to various Alabama residents, RESPONDENTS referred potential investors to a website, which can be accessed by Alabama investors, at the URL of [www.asicbitpro.net](http://www.asicbitpro.net). A review of the website at this URL revealed RESPONDENTS claiming:

*ASIC BIT PRO IS an International Investment Company in Louisiana, USA....(offering) real incomes per day. The funds of our investors are reinvested by our team in the Financial Market & Used to rent machines in our world class mining farms, where we guarantee the payment to all investors with total security and responsibility, which are fundamental to our success over the years...Farm-Mining offers an excellent Referral Commission and multi-level marketing system, which pays commissions of levels (10%).*

9. The representations made by BAKER and BITPRO to the Alabama resident identified in paragraph #5 above, are the same representations made by the RESPONDENTS to the various Alabama residents identified paragraphs #6 through #8 above. The representations made in paragraphs #6 through #8 above were the subject of a prior Commission cease and desist order numbered CD-2020-0016. Evidence obtained by the Commission revealed that BITPRO representatives are aware of the Commission's prior order and are continuing to solicit investments through the use of social media platforms. Furthermore, the Commission has developed evidence which indicates BITPRO is utilizing false and misleading profiles and images on the social media platforms to further induce investors. BITPRO and its agents are obtaining pictures of unsuspecting real people from the internet and posting their pictures on BITPRO's website. The result is BITPRO's website then represents that person to be an agent of BITPRO under a false name. Using social media platforms, the BITPRO scammers are trying to delude future victims into investing. They are doing this by claiming that the Commission's order was issued by rival scammers to disrupt their wholly illegitimate business enterprise. The flagrant and brazen

representations by BITPRO scammers are further proof of their illegal, malevolent, and fraudulent intent toward the investing public.

10. A review of the registration files of the Commission revealed no registration for RESPONDENTS in any capacity as of December 17, 2020. As of this date, no registration, notice filing, or exemption has been perfected for the investment contracts offered by RESPONDENTS.

11. A review of the Alabama Secretary of State's online database revealed no record for BITPRO as a domestic or foreign business registered in Alabama. A review of the Louisiana Secretary of State's online database revealed no record for BITPRO as a domestic or foreign business registered in Louisiana

### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

12. Pursuant to Section 8-6-2(10), Code of Alabama 1975, the definition of "security" includes an investment contract. The "mining plans" offered and made available from BITPRO to Alabama citizens in which investors invest monetary value in a cryptocurrency mining scheme from which profits would be derived from the crypto-mining efforts of BITPRO are securities as defined by the Act.

13. Pursuant to Section 8-6-2(5), Code of Alabama 1975, the definition of "issuer" includes "every person who proposes to issue, has issued, or shall hereafter issue any security." BITPRO is representing itself to be issuing securities in the form of investment contracts and is an issuer as defined by the Act.

14. Pursuant to Section 8-6-2(2), Code of Alabama 1975, the definition of an "agent" includes any individual who represents a dealer or issuer in attempting to affect the sale of a security. BAKER, GUNTER and COPELAND represent BITPRO, an issuer, in attempting to affect the sale of securities, the investment contracts called "mining plans", and are agents as defined by the Act.

15. Pursuant to Section 8-6-3(a), Code of Alabama 1975, it is unlawful for any person

to transact business in this State as a dealer or agent for securities unless such person is registered under the Act. Additionally, it is unlawful to employ any person as an agent for sale of securities unless that person is registered. BITPRO employed BAKER, GUNTER and COPELAND, unregistered agents, to assist in effecting sales of securities, the "mining plans", on behalf of BITPRO in violation of the Act. BAKER, GUNTER and COPELAND acted as agents of BITPRO while not registered as such with the Commission in violation of the Act.

16. Pursuant to Section 8-6-4, Code of Alabama 1975, it is unlawful to offer any security in this state unless it is registered under the Act or is subject to a perfected exemption from registration. BITPRO and BAKER offered a security to an Alabama citizen while that security was not registered, nor subject to a perfected exemption from registration in violation of the Act.

17. Pursuant to Section 8-6-17(a)(1), Code of Alabama 1975, it is unlawful for any person, in connection with the offer of a security, to employ any device, scheme, or artifice to defraud. BITPRO and BAKER, GUNTER and COPELAND employed a scheme or artifice to defraud through the offer of securities, the "mining plans", in which they represented that investment returns would be in excess of 7,000% per annum and offered guaranteed returns without any reasonable basis in violation of the Act.

This Order does not prevent the Commission from seeking such other civil or criminal remedies that are available to it under the Act.

This Order is appropriate in the public interest for the protection of investors and is consistent with the purposes of the Act.

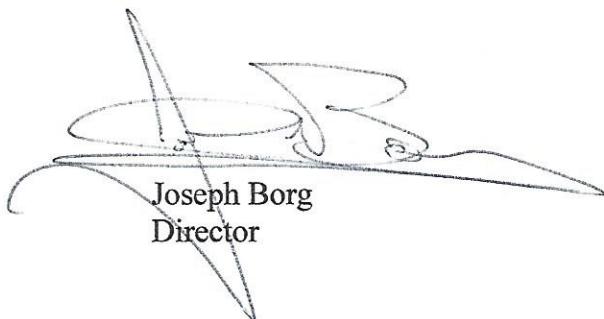
Additionally, if the allegations set forth herein are found to be true, through either administrative adjudication, failure of the RESPONDENTS to make a timely request for a hearing, or default of the RESPONDENTS, it is the intention of the Commission to impose sanctions upon the RESPONDENTS. Such sanctions may include, *inter alia*, an administrative assessment imposed on the RESPONDENTS, an additional administrative assessment for investigative cost arising from the investigation of the violation(s) described herein against the RESPONDENTS,

and a permanent order to bar the RESPONDENTS from participation in any securities related industry in the state of Alabama.

**ACCORDINGLY, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that the RESPONDENTS immediately **CEASE AND DESIST** from further offers or sales of any security into, within or from the state of Alabama.

Entered at Montgomery, Alabama, this 21st day of December 2020.

ALABAMA SECURITIES COMMISSION  
P.O. Box 304700  
Montgomery, AL 36130-4700  
(334) 242-2984  
BY:



Joseph Borg  
Director

