



SOLANA MAINNET BETA

056 / 16 MAR 2020 / SOLANA / UNCOMMON

BUILT FOR WHAT COMES NEXT

On 16 March 2020, Solana launched Mainnet Beta. After more than two years of development, the network was operating with real transactions and an international validator community. The launch established a working foundation, while the beta label acknowledged that important functionality and further engineering work still lay ahead.

One of Solana's central ideas was Proof of History: a continuously generated sequence of hashes that provides a verifiable record of time and ordering. This clock supports the network's consensus process. It does not replace the validators that check transactions and agree on the ledger.

The launch was an early stage in a longer rollout. Solana's May 2020 newsletter still described enabling smart contracts and inflation as upcoming work. The builders, cables and scaffolded SMART CONTRACTS sign turn that unfinished infrastructure into a fairground being prepared for visitors.

The huge illuminated wheel gives the scene its sense of scale, while the technicians keep the machinery running below. These are invented people and attractions, not a depiction of an actual launch venue. BUILT FOR WHAT COMES NEXT is the card's editorial phrase, expressing the possibility of a network others could build on.

The named stalls deliberately look forward from 2020: Raydium and Jupiter arrived in 2021, BONK in 2022 and Pump.fun in 2024. Their COMING signs are retrospective clues chosen with hindsight. They were neither operating attractions at launch nor an announced Solana roadmap in March 2020.

DETAILS IN THE ART

01 MAINNET BETA / 16 MAR 2020

The foreground plaque anchors the scene to Solana's launch date. Beta signals an initial live network whose capabilities were still being expanded.

02 THE PoH EQUIPMENT

The small PoH labels point to Proof of History, Solana's verifiable clock. The separate VALIDATORS equipment recalls the people and machines maintaining consensus.

03 RAYDIUM / COMING 2021

The left-hand stall looks ahead to Raydium's 2021 launch. Its bright sign is a hindsight clue, not a documented 2020 announcement.

04 JUPITER / COMING 2021

The planet-shaped sign points to Jupiter's 2021 arrival as a swap aggregator. This future attraction is deliberately placed here with hindsight.

05 BONK / COMING 2022

The dog mascot foreshadows BONK, launched on Christmas Day 2022. It belongs to the scene's retrospective future, not the mainnet-beta launch.

06 PUMP.FUN / COMING 2024

The right-hand balloon stall refers to Pump.fun's January 2024 launch. Its later date makes the artwork's forward-looking, hindsight construction explicit.

SOURCE & ART NOTE

Sources: Solana, May 2020 newsletter; Solana, clock and consensus; Raydium, history and milestones; Jupiter, May 2022 founder post; BONK, project history; Pump.fun, launch history. The fairground and workers are fictional. All later-project signs are explicit hindsight, not an actual 2020 roadmap. The phrase is original editorial wording; no endorsement or investment outcome is implied.