Docket #0438 Date Filed: 06/17/2026

IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

In re: RELIZ TECHNOLOGY GROUP HOLDINGS INC., *et al.*,[1] Debtors.	Chapter 11 Case No. 26-10371 (TMH) (Jointly Administered)

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF (A) CONFIRMATION HEARING WITH RESPECT TO JOINT CHAPTER 11 PLAN OF RELIZ TECHNOLOGY GROUP HOLDINGS INC. AND ITS DEBTOR AFFILIATES AND (B) RELATED OBJECTION DEADLINE IN THE NEW YORK TIMES

This Affidavit of Publication includes the sworn statement verifying that the *Notice of (A) Confirmation Hearing with Respect to Joint Chapter 11 Plan of Reliz Technology Group Holdings Inc. and its Debtor Affiliates and (B) Related Objection Deadline* was published and incorporated by reference herein as follows:

1. In *The New York Times* on June 5, 2026, attached hereto as **Exhibit A**.

[1] The Debtors in these chapter 11 cases, along with the last four digits of their respective federal tax identification numbers, are: Reliz Technology Group Holdings Inc. (6265); Reliz Technologies LLC (1968); Reliz LTD (N/A); and Reliz CI LTD (N/A). The Debtors' service address is 401 West Ontario St., Suite 400, Chicago, IL 60654.

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Exhibit A

The New York Times Company

620 8th Avenue
New York, NY 10018
nytimes.com

PROOF OF PUBLICATION

June 9, 2026

I, Larnyce Tabron, in my capacity as a Principal Clerk of the Publisher of The New York Times, a daily newspaper of general circulation printed and published in the City, County, and State of New York, hereby certify that the advertisement annexed hereto was published in the editions of The New York Times on the following date or dates, to wit on.

6/5/2026, NY/NATL, pg B3

Larnyce Tabron

Sworn to me this 9th day of June, 2026

Shannon Schmidt
Online Notary Public
State of New York
Nassau County
Commission #: 01SC0033223
Commission Expires: 01/28/2029

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NOTICE OF (A) CONFIRMATION HEARING WITH RESPECT TO JOINT CHAPTER 11 PLAN OF RELIZ TECHNOLOGY GROUP HOLDINGS INC. AND ITS DEBTOR AFFILIATES AND (B) RELATED OBJECTION DEADLINE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that:

On April 7, 2026, Reliz Technology Group Holdings Inc. and its affiliated debtors and debtors in possession in the above-captioned chapter 11 cases (each a "Debtor" and, collectively, the "Debtors") filed the *Joint Chapter 11 Plan of Reliz Technology Group Holdings Inc. and its Debtor Affiliates* [Docket No. 128] (as may be amended, supplemented, or otherwise modified, the "Plan"), pursuant to and as described in the *Disclosure Statement Relating to Joint Chapter 11 Plan of Reliz Technology Group Holdings Inc. and its Debtor Affiliates* [Docket No. 129] (as modified, the "Disclosure Statement"), with the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware (the "Court"). Capitalized terms used in this notice (the "Notice") which are not defined have the meanings set forth in the Plan.

On May 28, 2026, the Court entered the *Order (A) Approving Disclosure Statement; (B) Scheduling Hearing on Confirmation of Plan; (C) Establishing Deadlines and Procedures for (I) Filing Objections to Confirmation of Plan, (II) Claim Objections, and (III) Temporary Allowance of Claims for Voting Purposes; (D) Determining Treatment of Certain Unliquidated, Contingent, or Disputed Claims for Notice, Voting, and Distribution Purposes; (E) Setting Record Date; (F) Approving (I) Solicitation Packages and Procedures for Distribution, (II) Form of Notice of Hearing on Confirmation and Related Matters, and (III) Forms of Ballots; (G) Establishing Voting Deadline and Procedures for Tabulation of Votes; and (H) Granting Related Relief* [Docket No. 388] (the "Solicitation Procedures Order"), approving the Disclosure Statement, establishing certain deadlines, approving voting procedures, and granting related relief.

The hearing to consider confirmation of the Plan (the "Confirmation Hearing") will be held on **July 13, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. (Eastern Time)**, or as soon thereafter as counsel can be heard, before the Honorable Thomas M. Horan, United States Bankruptcy Judge, at the Court, 824 N. Market Street, 5th Floor, Courtroom No. 5, Wilmington, Delaware 19801, to consider the entry of an order confirming the Plan within the meaning of section 1129 of title 11 of the United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code"). See 11 U.S.C. §§ 101-1532. The Confirmation Hearing may be continued from time to time by way of announcement of such continuance in open court, without further notice to parties in interest.

Responses and objections, if any, to confirmation of the Plan (each, a "Plan Confirmation Objection") must (a) be made in writing; (b) comply with the Bankruptcy Code, the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure, and the Local Rules of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware; (c) state the name and address of the objecting party and the nature and amount of any claim or interest asserted by such party against the Debtors, their estates, or their property; (d) state with particularity the legal and factual bases and nature of any objection to the Plan; (e) be filed with the Court, 824 N. Market Street, 3rd Floor, Wilmington, DE 19801; and (f) served upon (i) the Debtors, 401 West Ontario Street, Suite 400, Chicago, IL 60654 (Attn: Joseph Perry); (ii) counsel to the Debtors, McDermott Will & Schulte LLP, The Brandywine Building, 1000 N. West Street, Suite 1400, Wilmington, DE 19801 (Attn: David R. Hurst (dhurst@mcdermottlaw.com) and Andrew A. Mark (amark@mcdermottlaw.com)), One Vanderbilt Avenue, New York, NY 10017 (Attn: Darren Azman (dazman@mcdermottlaw.com), Joseph B. Evans (jbevans@mcdermottlaw.com), and R. Ethan Dover (edover@mcdermottlaw.com)), and 333 SE 2nd Avenue, Suite 4500, Miami, FL 33131 (Attn: Gregg Steinman (gsteinman@mcdermottlaw.com)); (iii) proposed counsel to the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors, Morris James LLP, 3205 Avenue North Blvd., Suite 100, Wilmington, DE 19803 (Attn: Eric J. Monzo (emonzo@morrisjames.com), Tara C. Pakrouh (tpakrouh@morrisjames.com), and Siena B. Cerra (scerra@morrisjames.com)); and (iv) the United States Trustee for the District of Delaware, 844 King Street, Suite 2207, Lockbox 35, Wilmington, DE 19801 (Attn: Benjamin Hackman (benjamin.a.hackman@usdoj.gov)), so that it is received on or before **July 1, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. (Eastern Time)**.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Plan provides for releases, exculpations, and injunctions of certain conduct, and Article VIII.B contains a third-party release (the "Third-Party Release"). The injunctions in the Plan include a permanent injunction of the commencement or prosecution by any Entity, whether directly, derivatively, or otherwise, of any Claims, Causes of Action, or other liabilities released, exculpated, or otherwise barred pursuant to the Plan. You are advised to carefully review and consider the Plan, including the release, exculpation, discharge, and injunction provisions in Article VIII of the Plan (including Sections VIII.A through VIII.D thereof), as your rights might be affected. If you are a Holder of a Claim entitled to vote, you may elect not to grant the Third-Party Release only if you return a ballot checking the box to "opt out" from the Third-Party Release.

The Disclosure Statement, Plan, and Solicitation Procedures Order may be examined by any party in interest (a) between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays, at the Office of the Clerk of the Bankruptcy Court, 824 N. Market Street, 3rd Floor, Wilmington, Delaware 19801; (b) at the Debtors' case website (https://www.veritaglobal.net/blockfills); or (c) at the Court's website (http://www.deb.uscourts.gov) (a PACER account is required). Such documents also may be obtained by written request to Kurtzman Carson Consultants, LLC dba Verita Global (the "Voting Agent") at www.veritaglobal.net/BlockFills/inquiry or by telephoning the Voting Agent at (866) 554-5810 (toll free in the U.S. or Canada) or +1 (781) 575-2032 (International callers).

If you have any questions regarding this Notice, please contact the Voting Agent at (866) 554-5810 (toll free in the U.S. or Canada) or +1 (781) 575-2032 (International callers), or www.veritaglobal.net/BlockFills/inquiry. The Voting Agent is not permitted to provide legal advice.

Dated: May 28, 2026, Wilmington, Delaware. **MCDERMOTT WILL & SCHULTE LLP.** */s/ David R. Hurst* David R. Hurst (I.D. No. 3743), Andrew A. Mark (I.D. No. 6861), The Brandywine Building, 1000 N. West Street, Suite 1400, Wilmington, Delaware 19801, Telephone: (302) 485-3900, Email: dhurst@mcdermottlaw.com, amark@mcdermottlaw.com -and- Darren Azman (admitted *pro hac vice*), Joseph B. Evans (admitted *pro hac vice*), R. Ethan Dover (admitted *pro hac vice*), One Vanderbilt Avenue, New York, New York 10017, Telephone: (212) 547-5400, Email: dazman@mcdermottlaw.com, jbevans@mcdermottlaw.com, edover@mcdermottlaw.com -and- Gregg Steinman (admitted *pro hac vice*), 333 SE 2nd Avenue, Suite 4500, Miami, Florida 33131, Telephone: (305) 358-3500, Email: gsteinman@mcdermottlaw.com, *Counsel for Debtors and Debtors in Possession*

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ENERGY | BANKING

World Leans on Two Pillars for Liquefied Natural Gas, but One Teeters

FROM FIRST BUSINESS PAGE

It is easy, in hindsight, to say countries should have been better prepared, said Henning Gloystein, a managing director for energy at Eurasia Group, a political risk research firm. Yet significant energy supply disruptions occur virtually every decade, he said, and the industry's growing reliance on just two suppliers had created a structural vulnerability.

"The industry was too concentrated," he said. "Now, of the two big players, half are out of the market."

Carved Out of the Desert

Qatar's ascent to the top of the global L.N.G. industry began in 1992 when Chubu Electric, a Japanese utility, was scouring the globe for the four million metric tons of liquefied natural gas needed to fuel a new domestic power plant.

Finding traditional suppliers tapped out, Chubu turned to Qatar, then an oil-dependent nation mired in debt. Though sitting atop the world's largest natural gas field, Qatar needed enormous investment to build the infrastructure required to liquefy gas for export.

For Qatar, the Japanese supply deal was transformative. The contract enabled the country to secure international bank loans needed to construct its first L.N.G. trains — the giant industrial processing units that liquefy gas.

From there, Qatar became a primary supplier in a rapidly expanding global market. Around the world, industrialized nations increasingly viewed natural gas as a critical bridge fuel, helping them move away from the more carbon-intensive coal while building toward a future powered by renewables. The worldwide demand for L.N.G. surged to more than 220 million metric tons by 2010, up from 55 million in 1990.

North of Doha, the Qatari capital, the authorities built Ras Laffan, an industrial city that today contains more than 100 square miles of gas-processing and liquefaction infrastructure. Visitors permitted inside the heavily guarded complex describe it as a dizzying labyrinth of steel rising from the desert.

The L.N.G. boom propelled Qatar's annual economic growth above 10 percent for years. By 2006, Qatar had surpassed Indonesia to become the world's largest L.N.G. exporter, a distinction it comfortably held for much of the past two decades.

Fracking Boom Takes America

In the United States, policymakers spent much of the early 2000s fearing the country was running out of domestic gas and building enormous import terminals. But starting around 2008, hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling helped unlock immense resources previously trapped in shale.

The refinement of those technologies transformed the United States into a major exporter. Across the Permian Basin and the Marcellus Shale, new gas projects fed terminals in Texas and Louisiana that liquefied natural gas for shipment to Europe and Asia.

Throughout the 2010s, the U.S. fracking boom incited public backlash over issues like contaminated groundwater and gas leaks, but the L.N.G. surge carried forward as regulators refrained from halting permits for large and lucrative export projects. By 2023, the United States had overtaken Qatar as the world's top exporter.

Around the same time, the duopoly was also being cemented as rivals receded. Russia's plans to expand its gas sector were stalled by Western sanctions. Australia saw production plateau amid tightening environmental regulations and domestic supply mandates. Legacy Southeast Asian exporters such as Malaysia and Indonesia began consuming more of their own gas at home and exporting less.

That left two countries — Qatar and the United States — to divide an expanding global market. Both embarked on major production expansions. In 2019, Qatar announced plans for new wells and L.N.G. trains that would nearly double its export capacity by 2030.

Meanwhile, a new wave of projects sprang up along the American Gulf Coast that the U.S. Energy Information Administration expects will more than double American L.N.G. export capacity by 2029. By the end of the decade, Qatar and the United States are expected to control about half of the world's total supply.

This dynamic has raised red flags in Japan for years. With the market increasingly concentrated in just two countries, importers faced the risk of sudden supply disruptions or the wielding of exports as geopolitical leverage. Japan has sought to diversify its liquefied natural gas portfolio, leaning heavily on Jera, a joint energy venture between two of the country's biggest electric utilities, created in 2015 in part to achieve the scale needed to secure a broader array of supply lines.



YUICHI YAMAZAKI/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE — GETTY IMAGES

A liquefied natural gas tanker in April in Japan, the second-largest importer of the product, behind China. Supply concerns have been elevated for years.

Rise of a Near Monopoly

Now, one of the two global pillars of L.N.G. supply has been hobbled, with the Strait of Hormuz shut and Qatar unable to export. Even if the waterway reopens, production is likely to remain impaired for years because of structural damage at Ras Laffan. The expansion project, already behind schedule, is also likely to face further delays.

Countries heavily dependent on Qatar are struggling. Pakistan, which gets nearly all of its L.N.G. from Qatar, is enduring power blackouts. Vietnam and India are rationing gas and reverting to coal-fired generation. Even wealthier countries such as Singapore, which relies on Qatar for roughly a quarter of its L.N.G. imports, have issued sweeping energy-conservation guidelines.

American officials have sought to seize the moment. At an Asian energy forum in Tokyo in March, Interior Secretary Doug Burgum used the Middle East energy crunch to pitch U.S. suppliers. "We have energy to allow for prosperity at home, and the ability to sell energy to friends and allies across the Pacific," Mr. Burgum said. Now, he told gathered business and government officials, "You don't have an alternative."

In reality, while American companies are racing to bring new export capacity online, those efforts will fall far short of offsetting the near-term loss of Qatari gas. Even after the strait reopens, supplies are likely to remain tight for years.

Parts of Asia are likely to continue rationing power. Eurasia Group's Mr. Gloystein also expects a rush to diversify supply lines, with producers in countries like Australia, Norway and Canada scrambling to bring additional output online as quickly as possible.

Qatari production will eventually recover, but for the next few years, the industry is likely to shift from a duopoly-like structure toward one dominated by the United States, Mr. Gloystein said. "The U.S. will play a very, very dominant role."

For gas importers already concerned that American energy exports could be used as leverage in trade disputes and diplomatic negotiations, the prospect is troubling. "That's a very legitimate concern, which I think will reappear in the next two years," Mr. Gloystein said.

Lured by White House and Regulatory Cuts, Firms Jump at Chance to Be Banks

FROM FIRST BUSINESS PAGE

But the Trump administration has made it clear that it believes regulations went too far, creating excessive red tape. President Trump appointed regulators who have significantly cut bank supervision and have rewritten rules to reduce the amount of capital banks need to retain to protect against losses.

The relaxed regulations are another factor making it more attractive for financial firms to now seek bank charters.

"The regulators under Trump are signaling they are open for business, and that's really a sea change from the Biden era," said Michele Alt, a partner at Klaros Group, a financial consultancy that helps companies navigate the licensing process.

The shift comes after a 15-year stretch in which the average number of new banks created annually plunged to its lowest level since the 1960s.

The day after Mr. Trump began his second term, the leader of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation encouraged "new entrants" into the banking industry. Companies heeded the call: The agency this year granted preliminary deposit-insurance approval to industrial banks run by Ford Motor, General Motors and Stellantis. Affirm and PayPal have applications under review.

Roughly a quarter of the nation's 4,500 banks are federally chartered; the rest are licensed and primarily supervised by individual states.

After the risks exposed in the 2008 financial crisis led to the Great Recession, lawmakers and regulators responded with a sweeping set of systemic reforms and safeguards. Those are now being pared back.

Jonathan Gould, the comptroller of the currency, broadcast the new tone in a December speech at an event hosted by the Blockchain Association, a crypto trade group.

"New charters ensure a diverse banking sector," he said. "We believe that innovation, competition and fair access should always triumph over regulatory stagnation."

Days later, his agency granted conditional approval of national bank charters for five crypto ventures, including ones from a stablecoin issuer, Ripple Labs, and from Fidelity Investments, which sought a charter for its Fidelity Digital Assets subsidiary.

Many of the firms seeking bank charters won't necessarily look like Main Street banks, with retail branches, savings accounts and A.T.M.s.

The charters that the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency approved late last year allow the operators to create "national trust banks," a specialized license that lets companies act as custodians for customers' assets, such as cryptocurrency, but prohibits them from accepting traditional cash deposits. National trust banks are not required to meet the same stringent capital requirements as full-service banks, and they are not typically insured or regulated by the F.D.I.C.

That means that if they fail, customers risk being completely wiped out.

Many of the industry's incumbents are unhappy with the expansion of charters. The American Bankers Association warned that the new charters "create opportunities for regulatory arbitrage" — the tactic of exploiting gaps in regulators' varied rules — and the Independent Community Bankers of America, which represents smaller banks, said the O.C.C. had stretched the national trust bank charter "beyond its statutory and historical purpose" in a way that "endangers consumers."

A coalition of more than 100 consumer groups also voiced concerns in a letter this month opposing the applications of two companies in particular — Enova and OppFi — that specialize in high-cost, short-term loans.

"These would be the first national banks dedicated to directly making predatory loans," the consumer groups wrote.

OppFi says its business model serves people "who are forgotten by traditional lenders." Obtaining a national bank charter "will allow us to expand that mission by reaching more underserved consumers in more states, at lower rates, with better outcomes," said Todd Schwartz, the company's chief executive.

Both Enova and OppFi are seeking to obtain charters by buying nationally chartered banks. Enova declined to provide a comment.

Businesses that lack a charter are typically barred from making loans, holding assets or processing payments directly, which has spawned an entire ecosystem of intermediaries providing workarounds. Many fintechs, including online lenders and payment apps, rely on partner banks to legally hold and handle their customers' funds.

That arrangement is often invisible to clients — unless it goes catastrophically wrong.

In 2024, a software company called Synapse Financial Technologies imploded. Synapse operated as a bridge between fintechs and a network of F.D.I.C.-insured banks that were supposed to hold money for the fintechs' customers. But Synapse kept shoddy records, and when disputes with several of its banking partners threw its own finances into disarray, the company fell apart. More than 100,000 people found their accounts frozen, and at least $60 million in customer funds disappeared.

Obtaining a bank charter lets financial companies cut through such tangles and directly handle their customers' accounts. And eliminating the middleman can, of course, increase their profits.

"A lot of lenders — mostly small-business lenders and consumer lenders — want to pursue a bank charter as a pathway to a cheaper cost of funds," said Jasper Sneff Nanni, a managing principal at FS Vector, a consulting firm.

Upstart Holdings, in San Mateo, Calif., has for more than a decade been using its own algorithms to evaluate consumers' creditworthiness. Last year, it underwrote 1.5 million home equity, auto and personal loans, totaling $11 billion. But Upstart cannot issue its loans directly. For that, it relies on a network of more than 100 banks and credit unions, which then often immediately resell those loans to other investors or to Upstart itself.

In March, Upstart announced that it would seek to become a national bank holding company, subject to Federal Reserve supervision. That, paired with a national charter, would give Upstart the ability to offer similar loan terms and pricing across all 50 states, potentially filling in gaps in its current geographic reach.

Annie Delgado, Upstart's chief risk officer and the intended chief executive of Upstart Bank, cited expanded approvals and lower costs as "two primary benefits that our customers will experience."

The charter would also, executives hope, give Upstart a seat at the table as federal agencies write the rules on how financial companies can use artificial intelligence, a core part of Upstart's heavily automated lending platform.

"It was just a natural next step for us," said Paul Gu, the company's chief executive.



AARON WOJACK FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Annie Delgado, the intended chief executive of Upstart Bank, cited expanded approvals and lower costs as "two primary benefits" for its future customers.

The United States has logged a 15-year drop in the formation of new banks.



KIM RAFF FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Paul Gu, the chief executive of Upstart, an online lender seeking a bank charter. "It was just a natural next step for us," Mr. Gu said.

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Dated: May 28, 2026, Wilmington, Delaware, **MCDERMOTT WILL & SCHULTE LLP**, */s/ David R. Hurst* , David R. Hurst (I.D. No. 3743), Andrew A. Mark (I.D. No. 6861), The Brandywine Building, 1000 N. West Street, Suite 1400, Wilmington, Delaware 19801, Telephone: (302) 485-3900, Email: dhurst@mcdermottlaw.com, amark@mcdermottlaw.com -and- Darren Azman (admitted *pro hac vice*), Joseph B. Evans (admitted *pro hac vice*), R. Ethan Dover (admitted *pro hac vice*), One Vanderbilt Avenue, New York, New York 10017, Telephone: (212) 547-5400, Email: dazman@mcdermottlaw.com, jbevans@mcdermottlaw.com, edover@mcdermottlaw.com -and- Gregg Steinman (admitted *pro hac vice*), 333 SE 2nd Avenue, Suite 4500, Miami, Florida 33131, Telephone: (305) 358-3500, Email: gsteinman@mcdermottlaw.com, *Counsel for Debtors and Debtors in Possession*

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