

Additional Quotes

Quotes from leadership available for additional coverage.

Min Kim, Founder, SODAX

On Pivot to SODAX

“I’m not trying to play the game of just building cool tech and getting grants. We’ve been doing this for too long. The mission is real utility. That’s the only thing that matters.”

“I want to bring power back to users — not platforms, not market makers. That’s the whole reason we’re building SODAX.”

Strategic Shift

“ICON was always about interoperability. But over time, it became clear the real value was in making those capabilities useful — and that meant going full-stack.”

“We’re not a Layer 1 anymore, and that’s by choice. It frees us to go all-in on product and unlock a real flywheel.”

On Sonic & Migration Rationale

“Sonic has the right building blocks. Sub-second finality, builder incentives, and no validator tax. That’s why we chose it.”

“There are a lot of Layer 1s chasing the same game. Sonic’s different — it’s built for DeFi and actually rewards usage. That’s where we want to be.”

Community, ICX Holders, & Responsibility

“We owe everything to the ICX community. They’ve stuck with us through all the pivots. We wanted to build something that actually brings value back to them.”

“Even with this transition, we’re giving ICX holders a path forward. This isn’t abandonment — it’s evolution.”



Michael Kong, CEO, Sonic Labs

“We really appreciate ICON/SODAX choosing to launch exclusively on Sonic. They of course had a number of different L1s to choose from, so we are happy that they like what the platform offers.

ICON is one of the earliest L1 chains to exist. They’ve been around even before Fantom (our previous chain) existed in 2017, and they gained significant hype. Now as a DeFi platform, they offer a unique application that currently doesn’t exist on Sonic, namely, an ‘intent-based’ execution layer from over 12 chains to Sonic.”

“It could help further unify our DeFi ecosystem. We’ve already seen multiple DeFi protocols interact with each other for mutual benefit, and I believe SODAX could further enhance that collaboration.”

“We at Sonic are trying our best to answer this fundamental question: ‘Why would a developer or user choose Sonic over another chain?’ An important answer to that question is user experience. SODAX’s platform could make the DeFi user experience significantly better by integration with other DeFi apps on Sonic, abstracting away the complexity of blockchain technology.”

“Sonic and developer incentives are completely aligned. When apps succeed by gaining users and digital assets, then Sonic is achieving its goal of growing an L1 ecosystem as big as possible. We’re keen to help SODAX succeed in any reasonable way we can, whether it be through marketing, technical, or other support.”

Elise Shin, Head of Growth, SODAX

On the ICON to SODAX Pivot

“This is building on the momentum of the pivot that we made early last year, where we decided to go all in on the user application side. We weren’t really getting traction competing on the infrastructure play.”

“The heart and soul of ICON is still very much the same. We’re just focusing all our energy and attention on a goal that’s still aligned with the interoperability infrastructure we’ve always believed in.”



On Sonic and Infrastructure Migration

“We’re retiring the Layer 1 and building on a blockchain that is optimized for DeFi application performance — strong enough to support cross-chain DeFi, and lets us focus entirely on what we’re best at.”

“Every user action that touches any of the 12+ chains we’re integrated with will route through Sonic. Even users who don’t know what Sonic is will be interacting with it — through us.”

On Protocol-Owned Liquidity and Ecosystem Value

“We’ve been steadily purchasing protocol-owned liquidity — BTC, ETH, SUI, SOL — and we’re migrating that to Sonic. It becomes a liquidity source any DeFi app can tap into, just by routing through us.”

“We’re not just bringing an application. We’re bringing interoperability infrastructure that other projects on Sonic can build on — and we make it easy with our SDK.”

On Continuity and Community

“None of our infrastructure work is lost. We’re still building on that foundation — we’ve just honed in on the most competitive piece: the SDK for intents and solvers.”

“As a long-term ICON foundation member, I’m very stoked about this direction. I have a strong, optimistic outlook on what’s to come in 2025 and 2026.”

Alexandre Chirouze, Lead Developer, SODAX

On Solver SDK & Cross-Chain UX

“The solver is doing everything for the user. You just send ETH and say ‘I want SUI,’ and it’s done — no waiting, no bridge, no extra steps. The user doesn’t even know what happened under the hood.”

“Our SDK is basically a tool for developers to offer seamless cross-chain swaps. They don’t need to build their own solution or worry about how the solver works — just plug it in.”

“Big competitors focus only on high-volume chains. We built our solver for the chains they ignore — like Solana to SUI. That’s where users need real solutions.”



On Fast Finality with Sonic

“Sonic gives us 200ms finality. That means when a user sends funds, we’re 100% sure we have it — and we can complete their swap instantly without risk.”

On Dev and Builder Flexibility

“Integrating our SDK takes a day. Building your own cross-chain solution takes months. So your boss is going to be happy.”

“Developers can unplug from our SDK anytime — no lock-in. You can use our solver, or others, or both. That’s how real aggregators work.”

On Vision & Motivation

“There are too many chains — and the user experience is horrible. I want to build something that fixes that. You should be able to just say what token you want, and we make it happen.”

“I’ve got ICON in my heart. The tech was great, but the narrative changed. Now we have liquidity and new tech — and we can actually build something that helps users.”