The blockchain timeline
From inception to maturity

31 October 2008
Satoshi Nakamoto introduces bitcoin and blockchain in a white paper [1]

12 January 2009
The first bitcoin transaction takes place (between Hal Finney and Satoshi Nakamoto) [3]

22 May 2010
Bitcoins are used to make a purchase for the first time: two pizzas were bought for 10,000 bitcoin ($25 at the time, approx $46m at Nov ’17) [5]

March 2013
Market capitalisation of bitcoin reaches $1bn [7]

December 2013
Vitalik Buterin introduces Ethereum and smart contracts in a white paper. China’s central bank bars financial institutions from handling bitcoin [9]

July 2014
The Ethereum Project is launched via crowdfunding as the first smart contract [11]

September 2015
Blockchain tech company R3 is founded by a consortium of financial institutions including Barclays, Credit Suisse, Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan and RBS [13]

May 2016
The DAO (Decentralised Autonomous Organisation) sets a crowdfunding record by raising more than $150m investment (11.5m ethers) [16]

January 2017
Seven major European banks announce Digital Trade Chain, a partnership to offer a trade finance platform via blockchain [17]

July 2017
Bitcoin exchange Bitthumb is hacked [19]

References
6. https://blockexplorer.com