

Crypto & Investment scams exploiting the Tesla Brand

TLP:CLEAR

Executive Summary

In recent months, there has been a significant surge in online scams leveraging the Tesla brand—particularly targeting cryptocurrency enthusiasts and investors.

Scammers are capitalizing on Tesla's global reputation, its high media visibility, and CEO Elon Musk's vocal support for emerging technologies such as Bitcoin and Dogecoin.

- These scams typically involve impersonation tactics that present fraudulent investment opportunities or cryptocurrency giveaways, often using Tesla's logo, imagery, and fabricated endorsements. Fake YouTube livestreams, cloned websites, sponsored ads, and social media accounts posing as Tesla or Elon Musk are frequently employed to create a sense of legitimacy and urgency.

This trend underscores a broader evolution in scam sophistication, including:

- The use of AI-generated videos and deepfakes of Elon Musk.
- Real-time interaction via chatbots on fake investment platforms and Telegram/Whatsapp etc.
- Reuse of infrastructure and templates across multiple scam operations.

The impersonation of Tesla is not only a threat to individual consumers but also risks damaging brand integrity and undermining public trust in the cryptocurrency ecosystem.

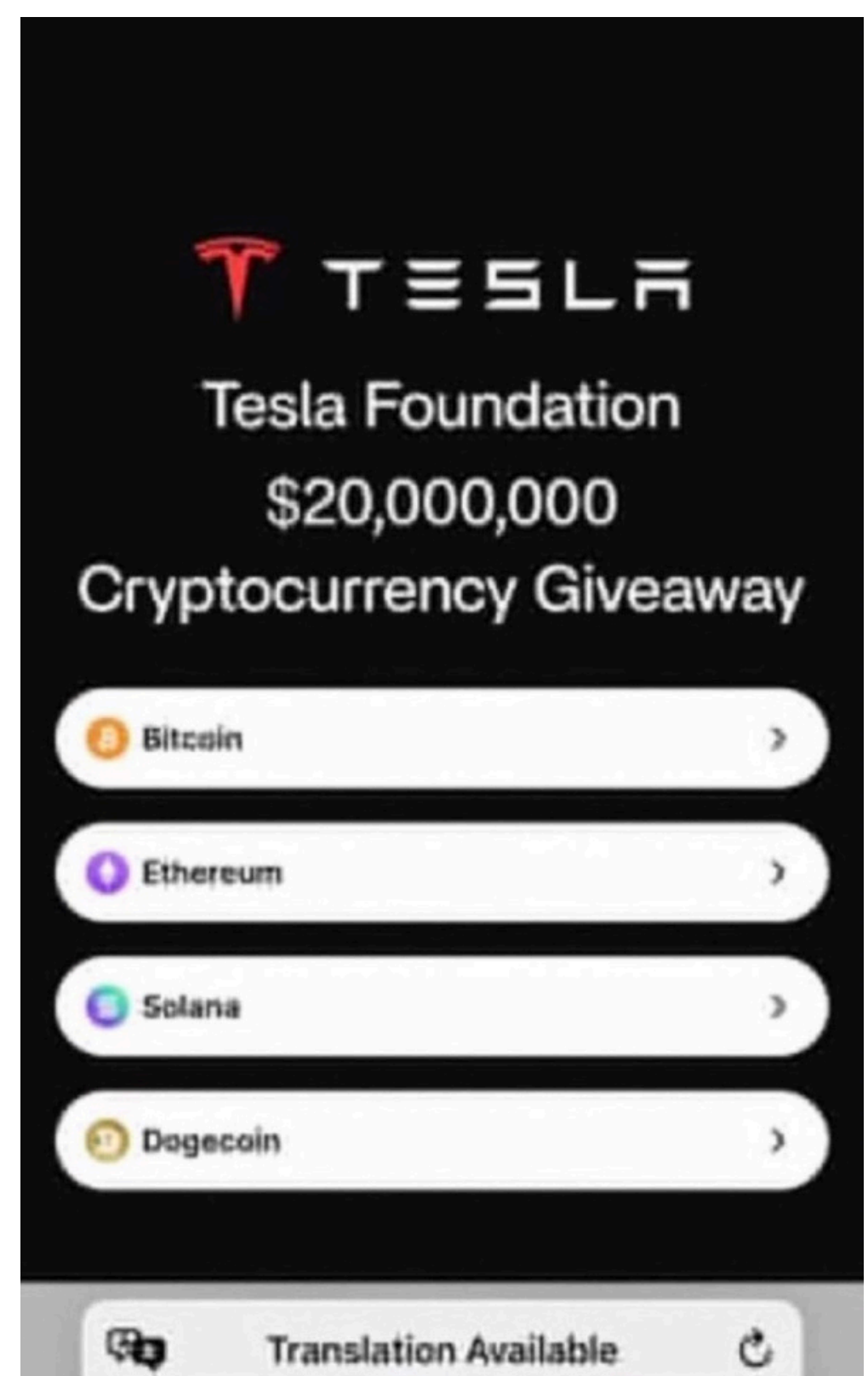
Tesla, SpaceX, and other company names mentioned are registered trademarks of their respective owners.

Key Findings

Tactics

Scammers employ a wide range of social engineering and technical deception techniques, including:

- **Brand Impersonation:** Use of Tesla's logo, website design, and CEO Elon Musk's likeness (including AI-generated deepfakes and fake endorsements).
- **Fake Investment Portals:** Professionally designed websites promising returns on "Tesla-backed crypto investments" or "Tesla Energy mining programs."
- **YouTube Livestream Hijacks:** Compromised channels rebroadcasting edited Tesla events with on-screen instructions to send crypto.
- **Social Media Spoofing:** Fake X/Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook accounts posting crypto giveaway links or replying to real Tesla content to appear authentic.
- **Search Engine Ads:** Malvertising campaigns using paid search results to direct victims to scam domains.
- **Telegram & WhatsApp Scams:** Group invites to fake "Tesla investment communities" that pressure victims into sending crypto.



Channels of Distribution

Social Media Platforms: X (formerly Twitter), Facebook, Instagram, TikTok.

- **Video Platforms:** YouTube (via livestream scams and compromised channel)
- **Search Engines:** Google and Bing used for sponsored malicious ads.
- **Messaging Apps:** Telegram, WhatsApp, and Discord groups impersonating Tesla channels.
- **Email & SMS:** Phishing emails and SMS messages directing to fake Tesla crypto portals.

Scam Types & Techniques

Threat actors impersonating Tesla employ a variety of scams to defraud individuals by exploiting brand trust, social media influence, and cryptocurrency hype. Below are the most commonly observed scam types and the techniques used to carry them out:

1. Fake Tesla Investment Platforms

- **Overview:** Professionally designed websites that claim to offer high returns through "Tesla-approved" crypto investments.
- **Techniques Used:**
 - Use of Tesla branding and Elon Musk imagery to gain trust.
 - Fictitious claims like "Tesla Energy Mining Program" or "Tesla Bitcoin Accelerator."
 - Real-time ROI calculators and fake user testimonials to simulate legitimacy.
 - Prompts to deposit Bitcoin or Ethereum to participate.
- **Red Flags:** No regulatory compliance, anonymous domain registrations, fake company registrations

2. Telegram, WhatsApp & Discord Investment Rings

- **Overview:** Private groups claiming to be "Tesla Investor Communities" that lure users into Ponzi-style schemes.
- **Techniques Used:**
 - Invite links shared in comment sections and private messages.
 - Early "profits" shown to encourage further deposits.
 - Exit scams once a threshold is met.
- **Red Flags:** Admin-only posts, lack of transparency, pressure to refer others.

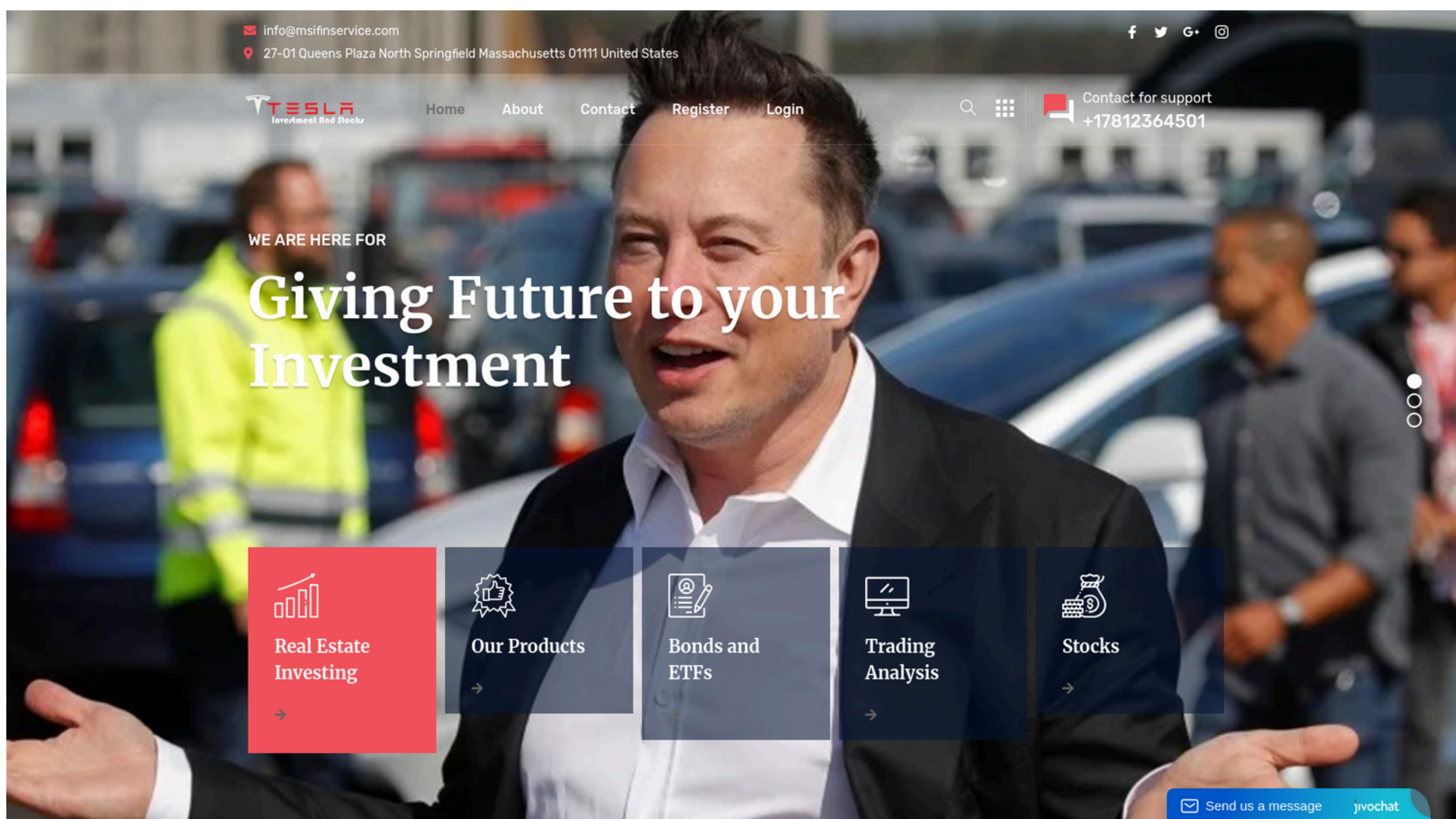


Figure 1 - Scam investment website impersonating Tesla

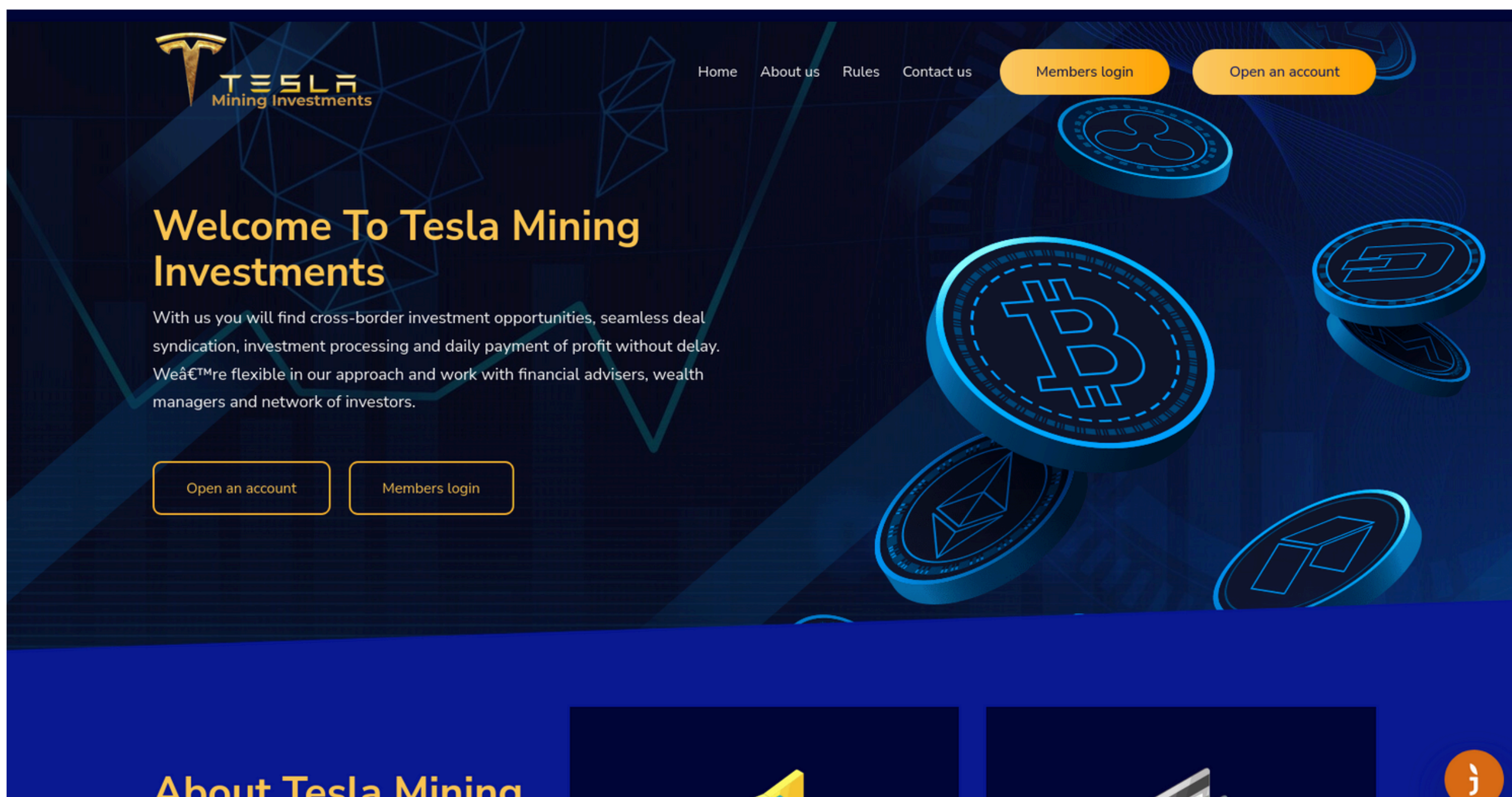


Figure 2- Scam investment website impersonating Tesla

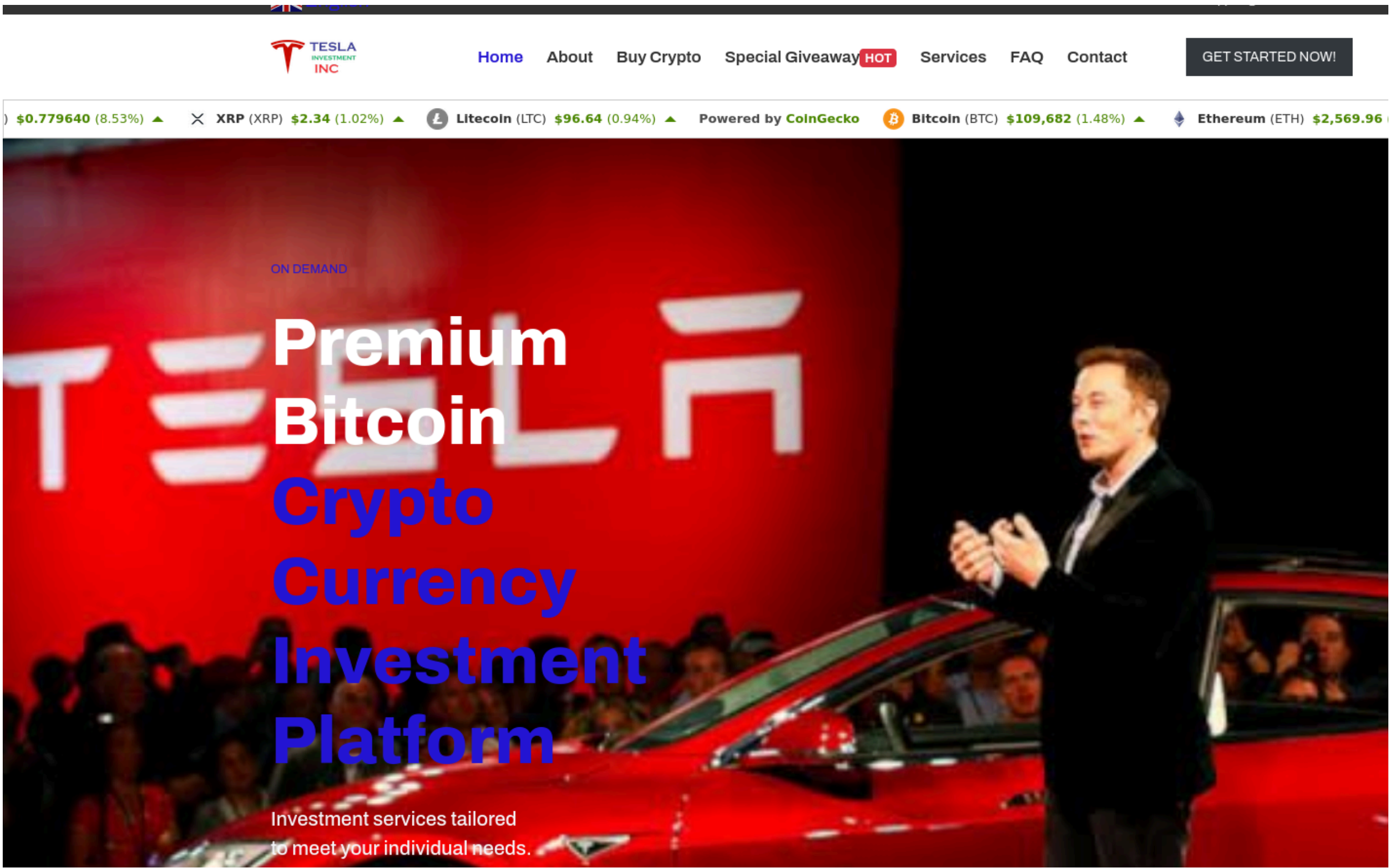


Figure 3 - Scam investment website impersonating Tesla

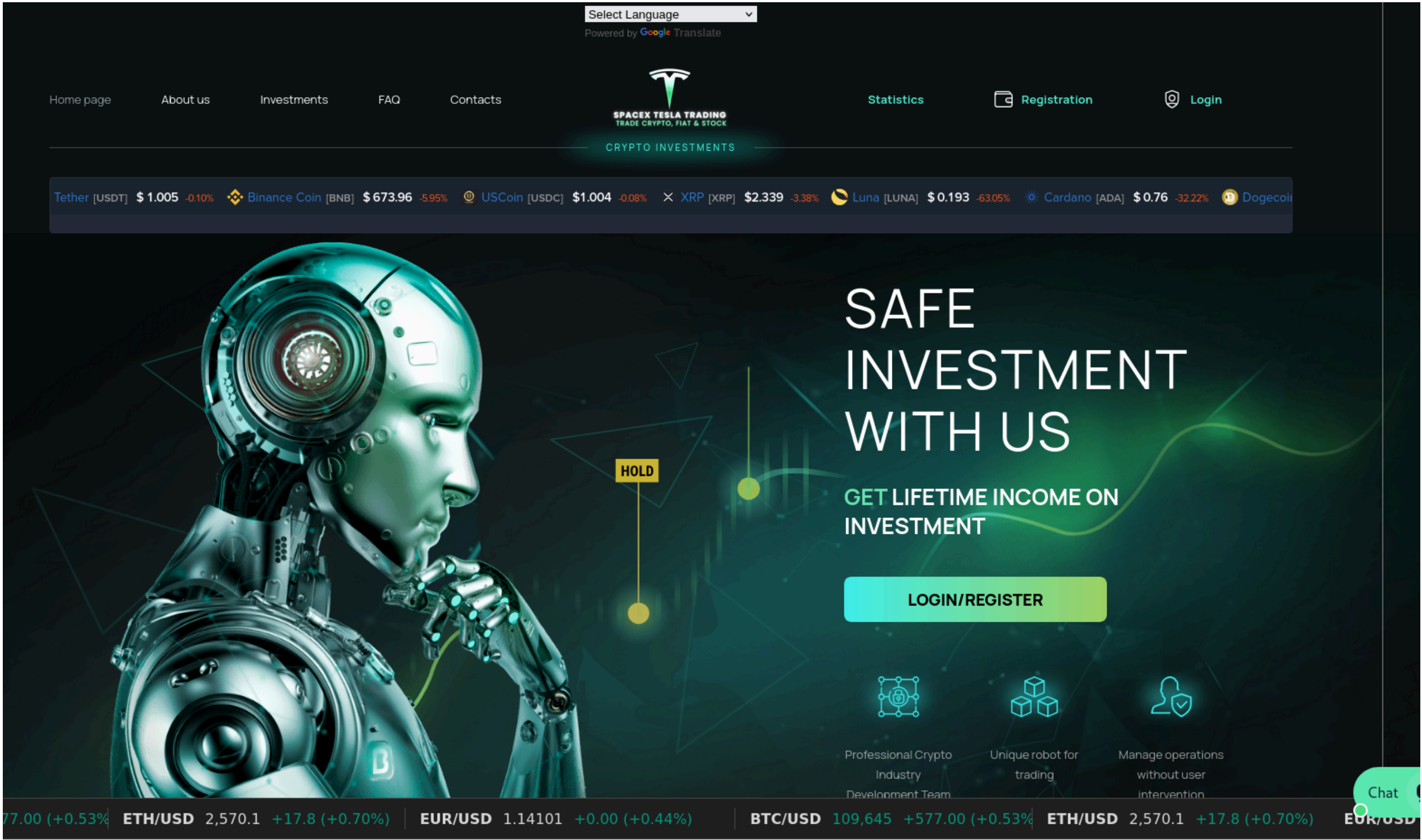


Figure 4 - Scam investment website impersonating Tesla

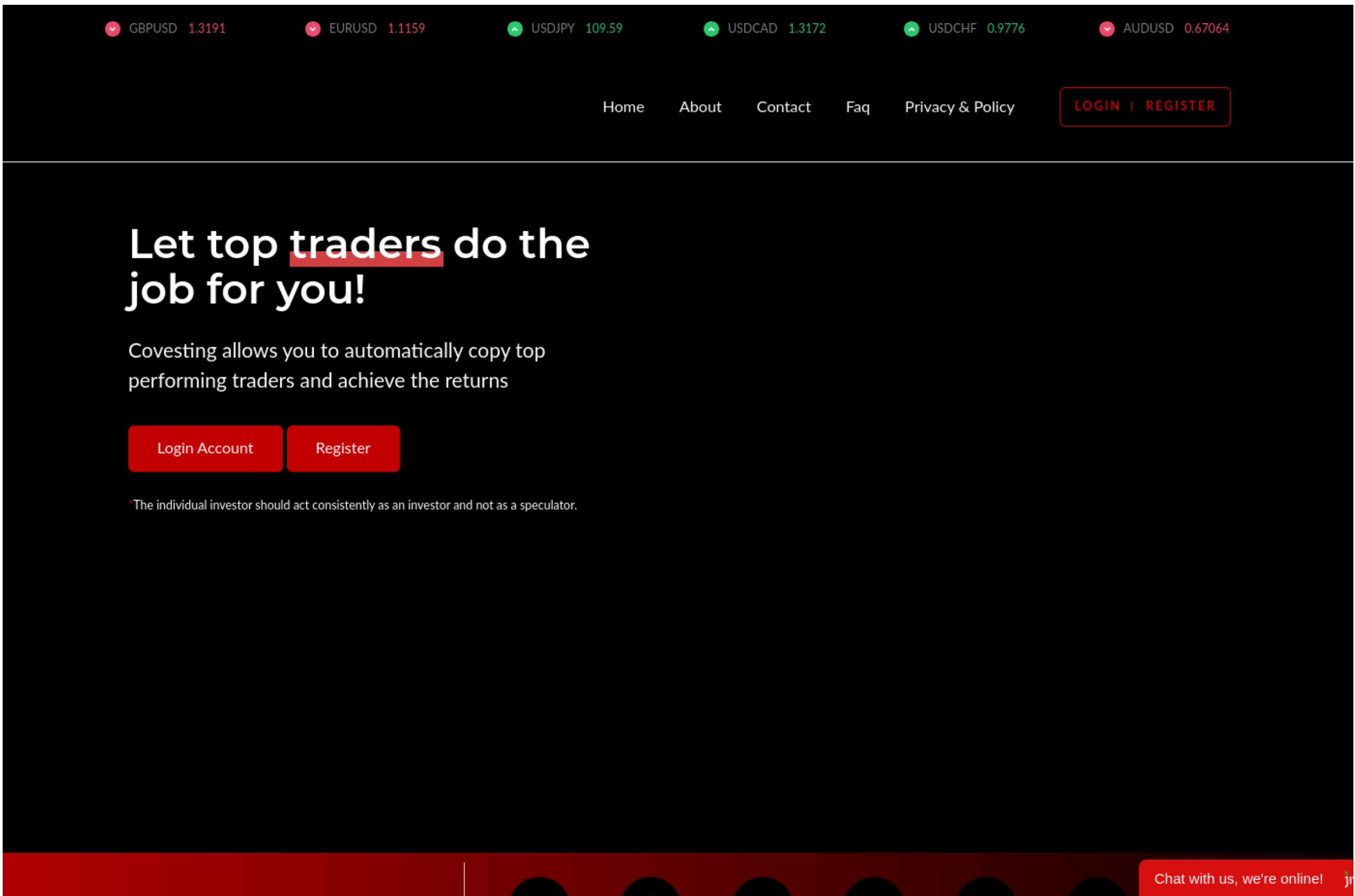


Figure 5 - Scam investment website impersonating Tesla

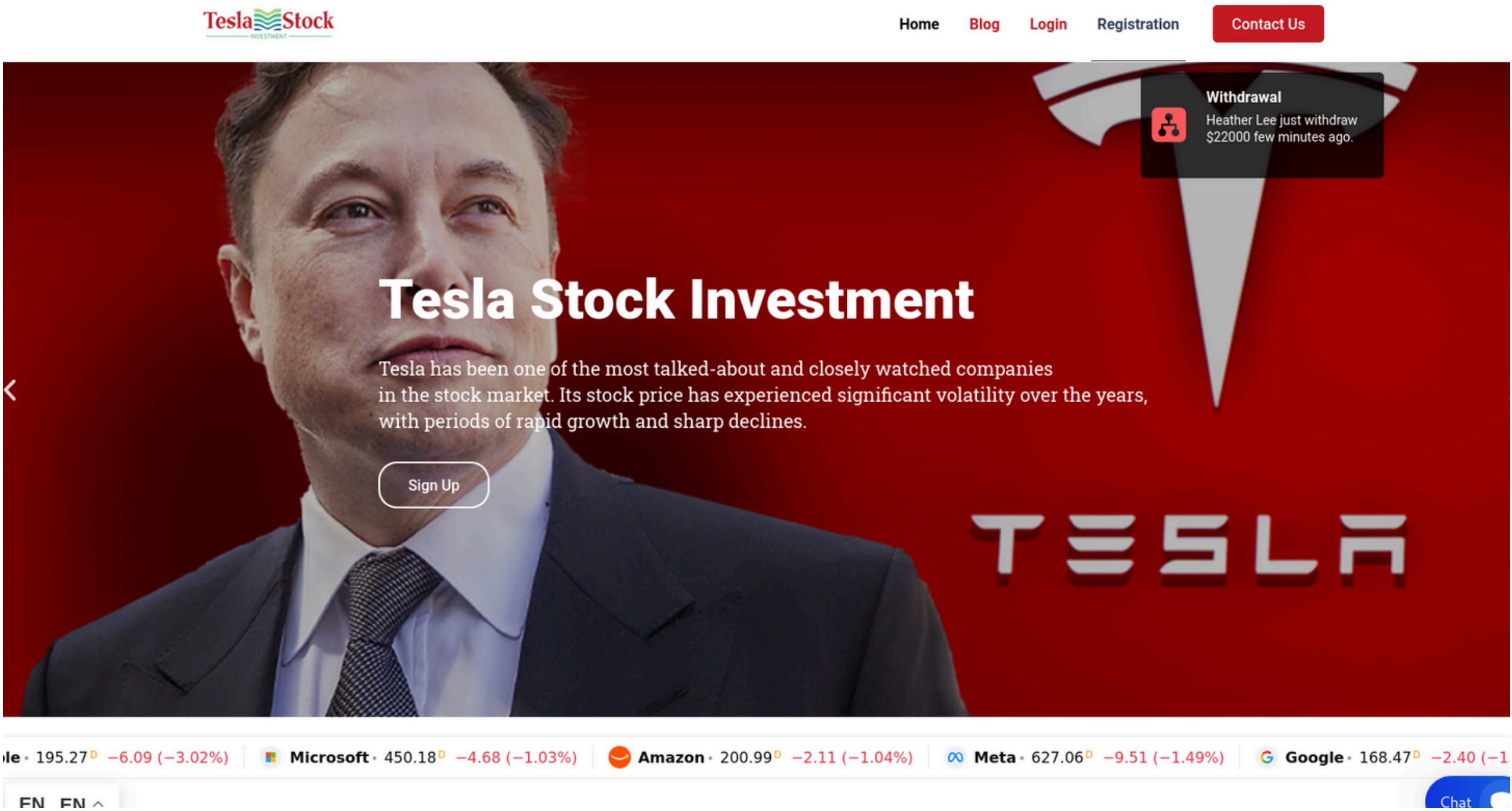


Figure 6 - Scam investment website impersonating Tesla

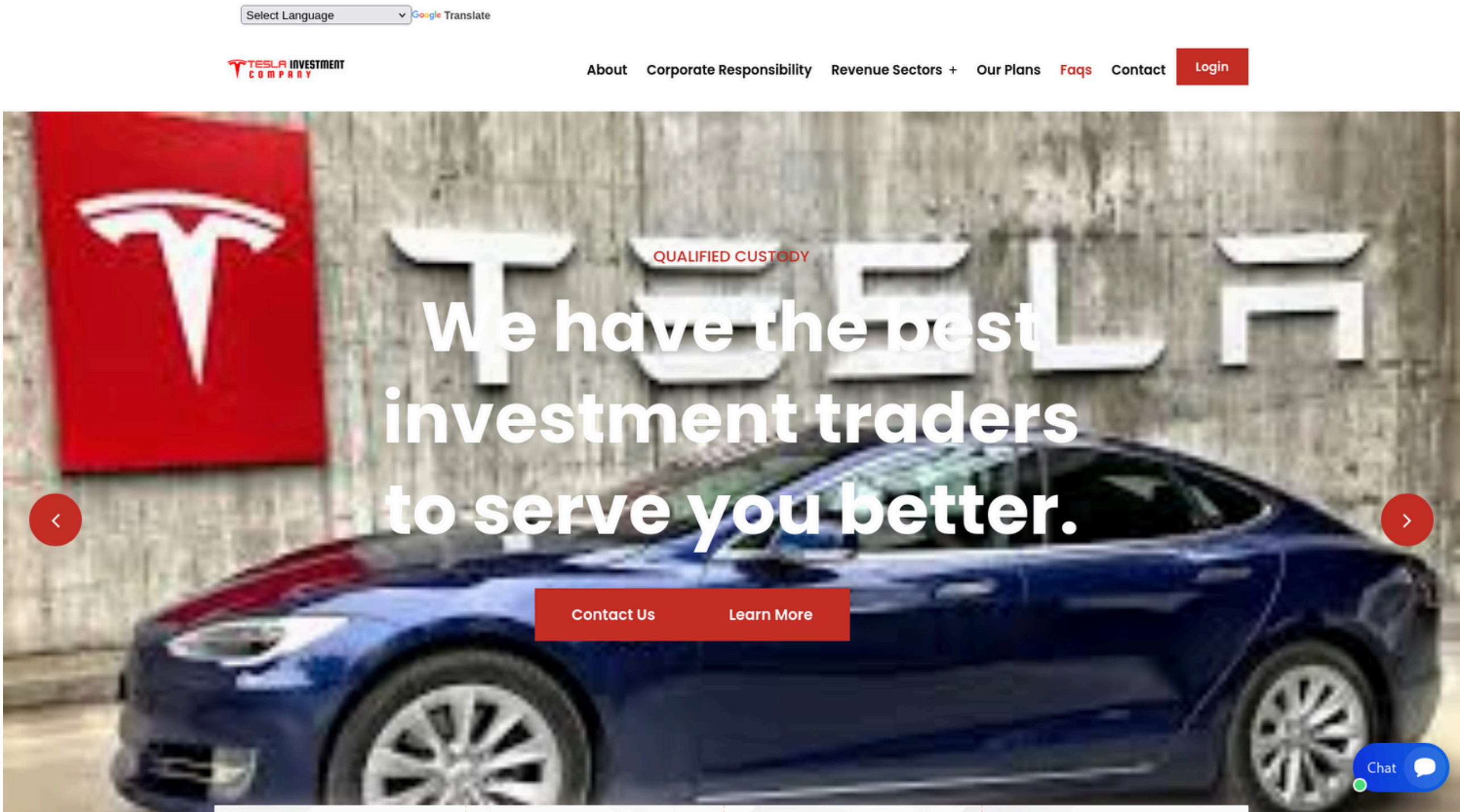


Figure 7 - Scam investment website impersonating Tesla

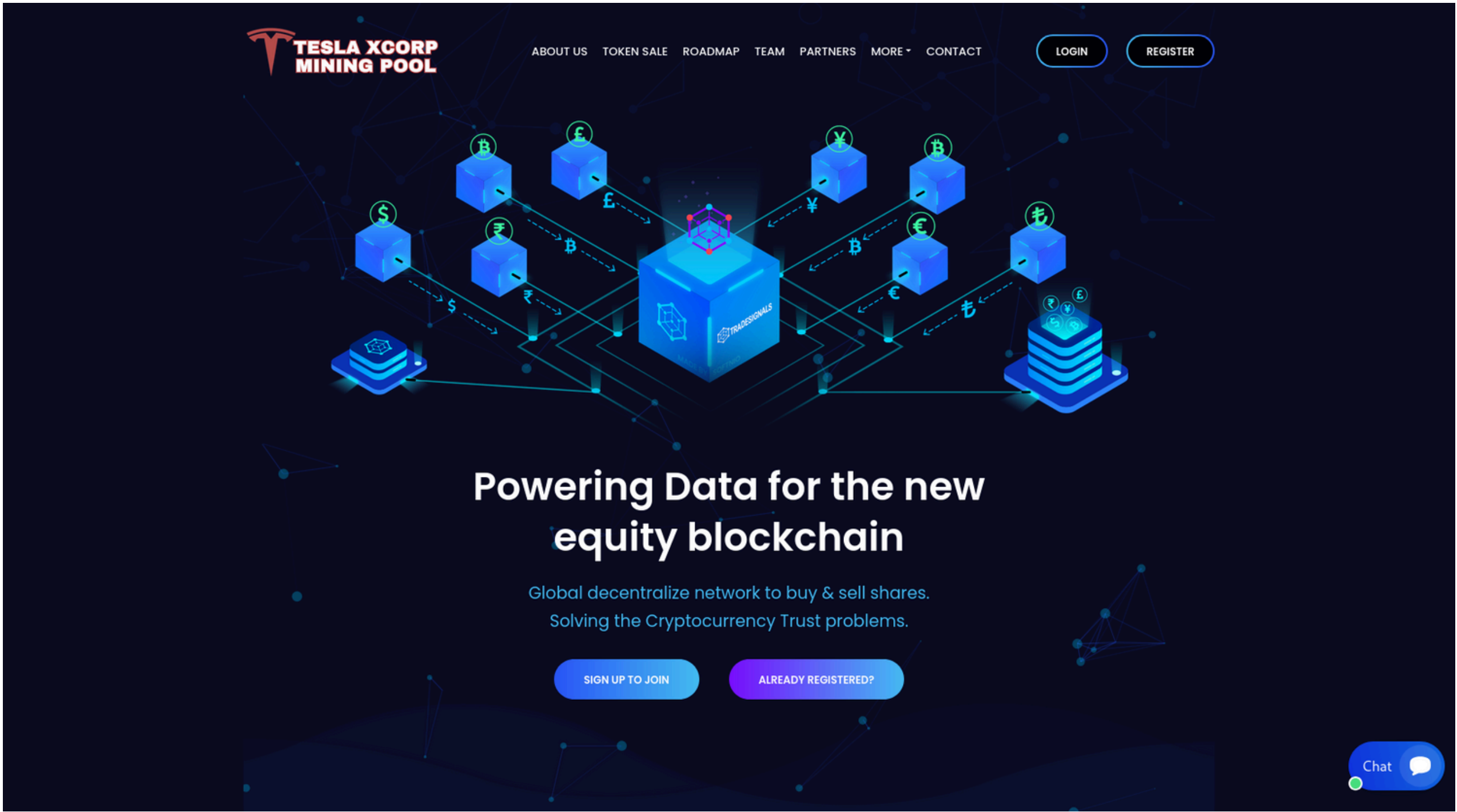


Figure 8 - Scam investment website impersonating Tesla

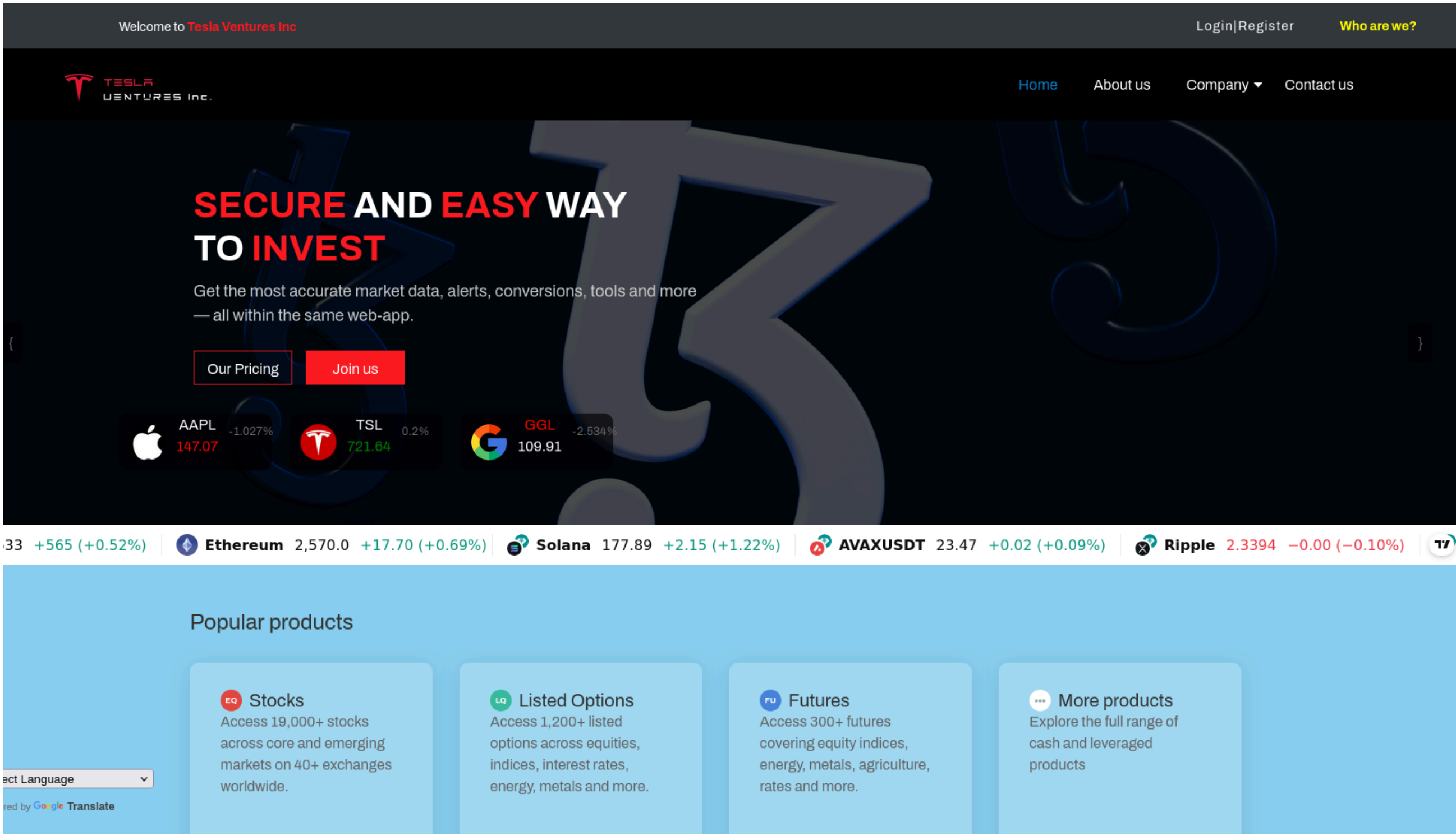


Figure 9- Scam investment website impersonating Tesla

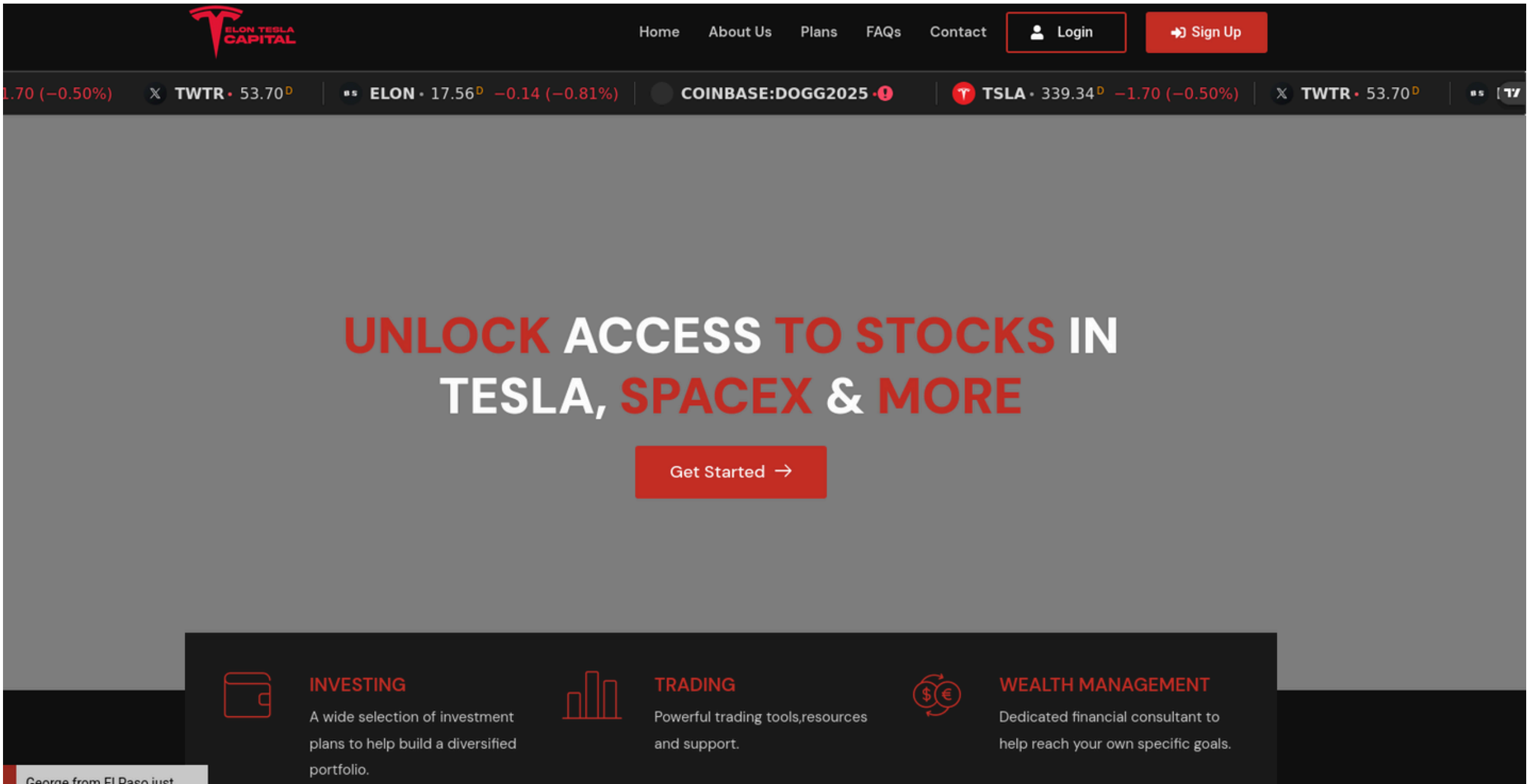


Figure 10 - Scam investment website impersonating Tesla

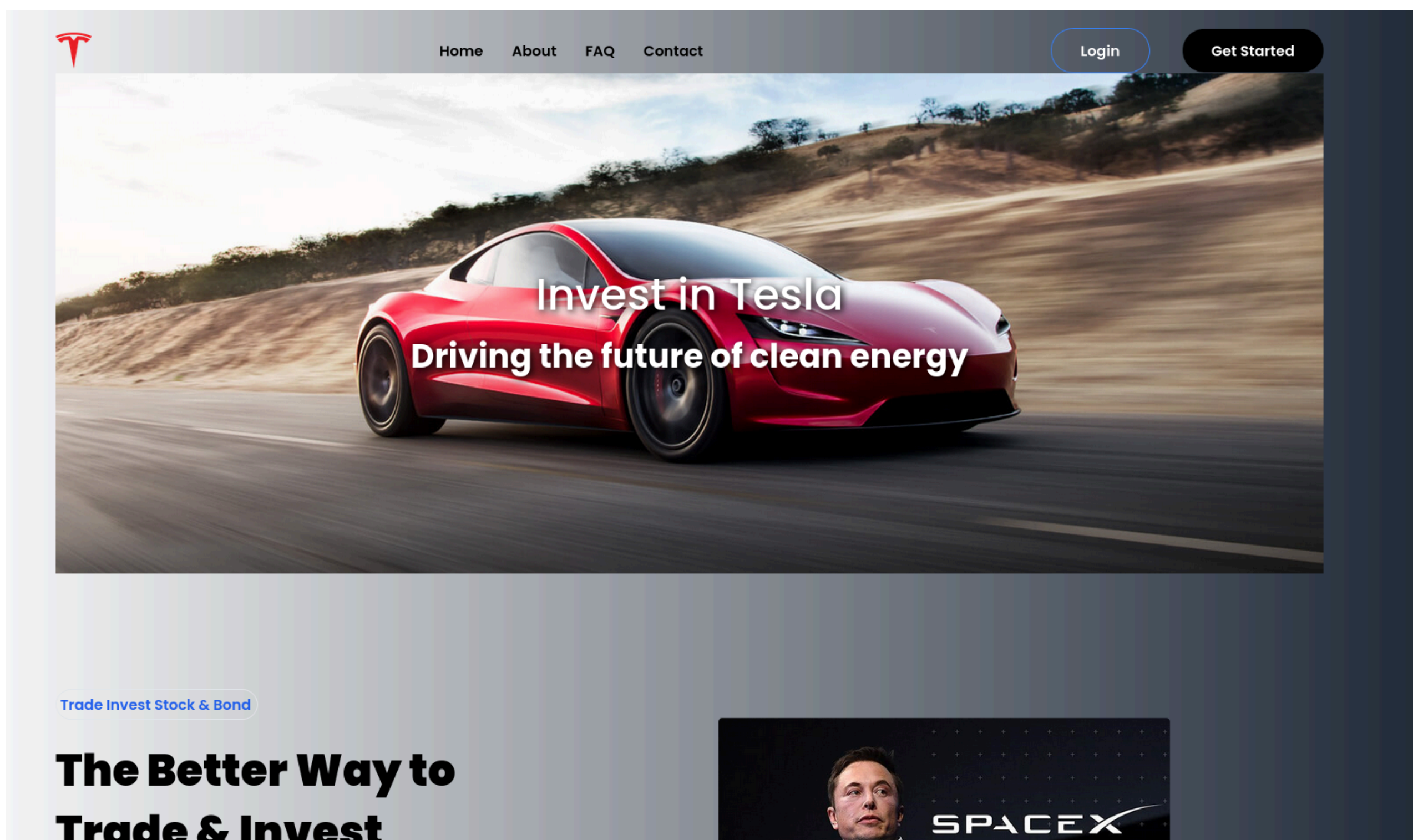


Figure 11 - Scam investment website impersonating Tesla

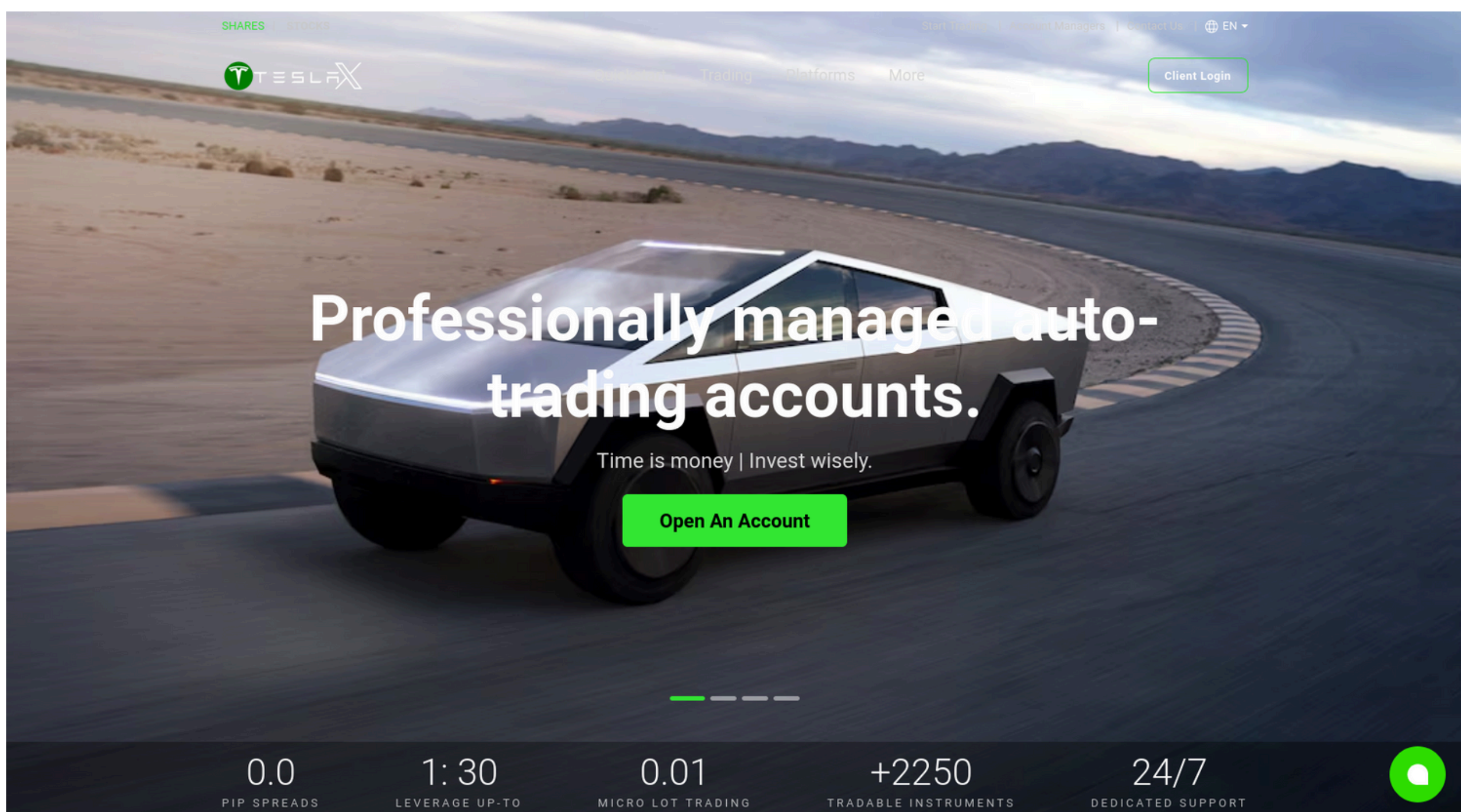


Figure 12 - Scam investment website impersonating Tesla

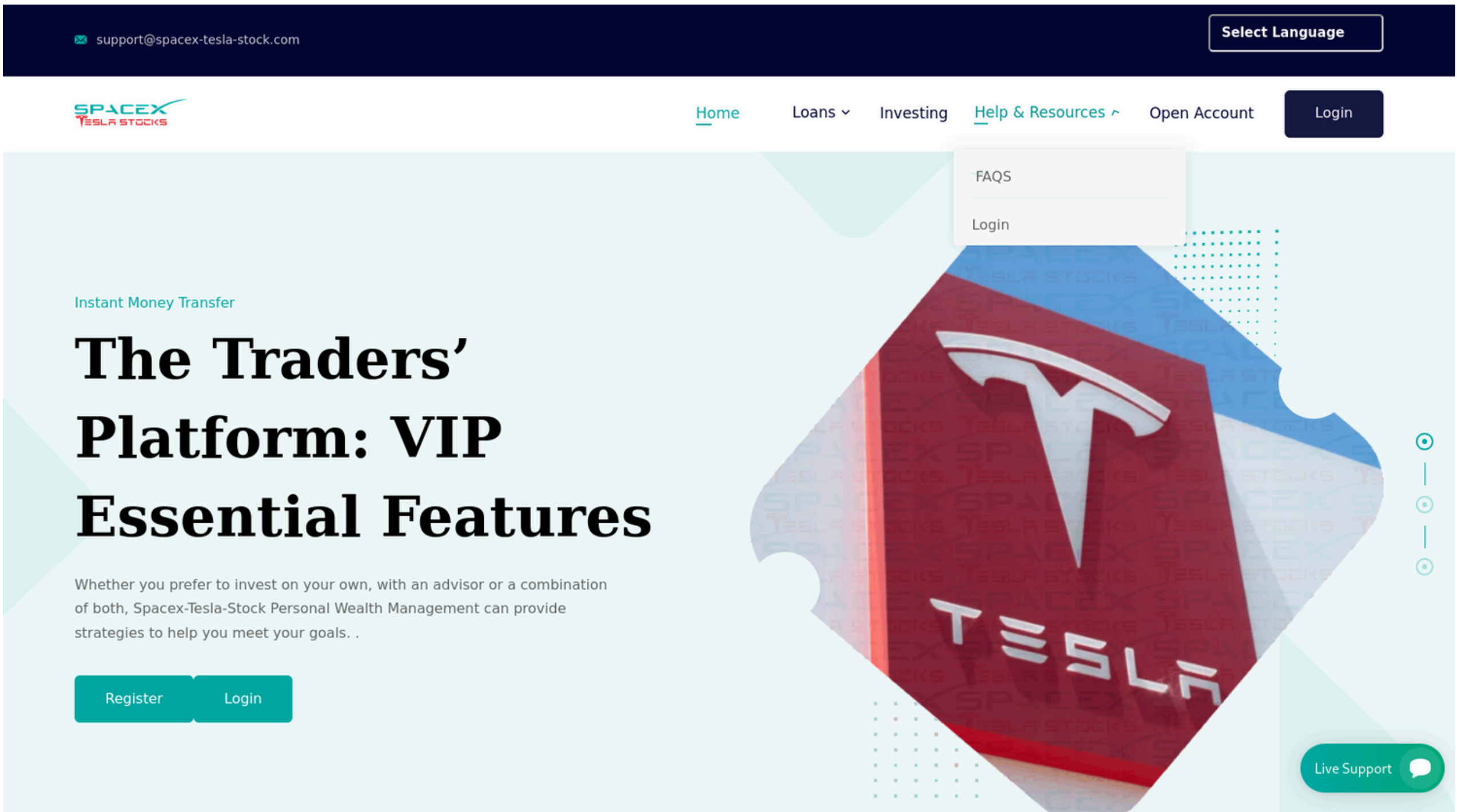


Figure 13 - Scam investment website impersonating Tesla

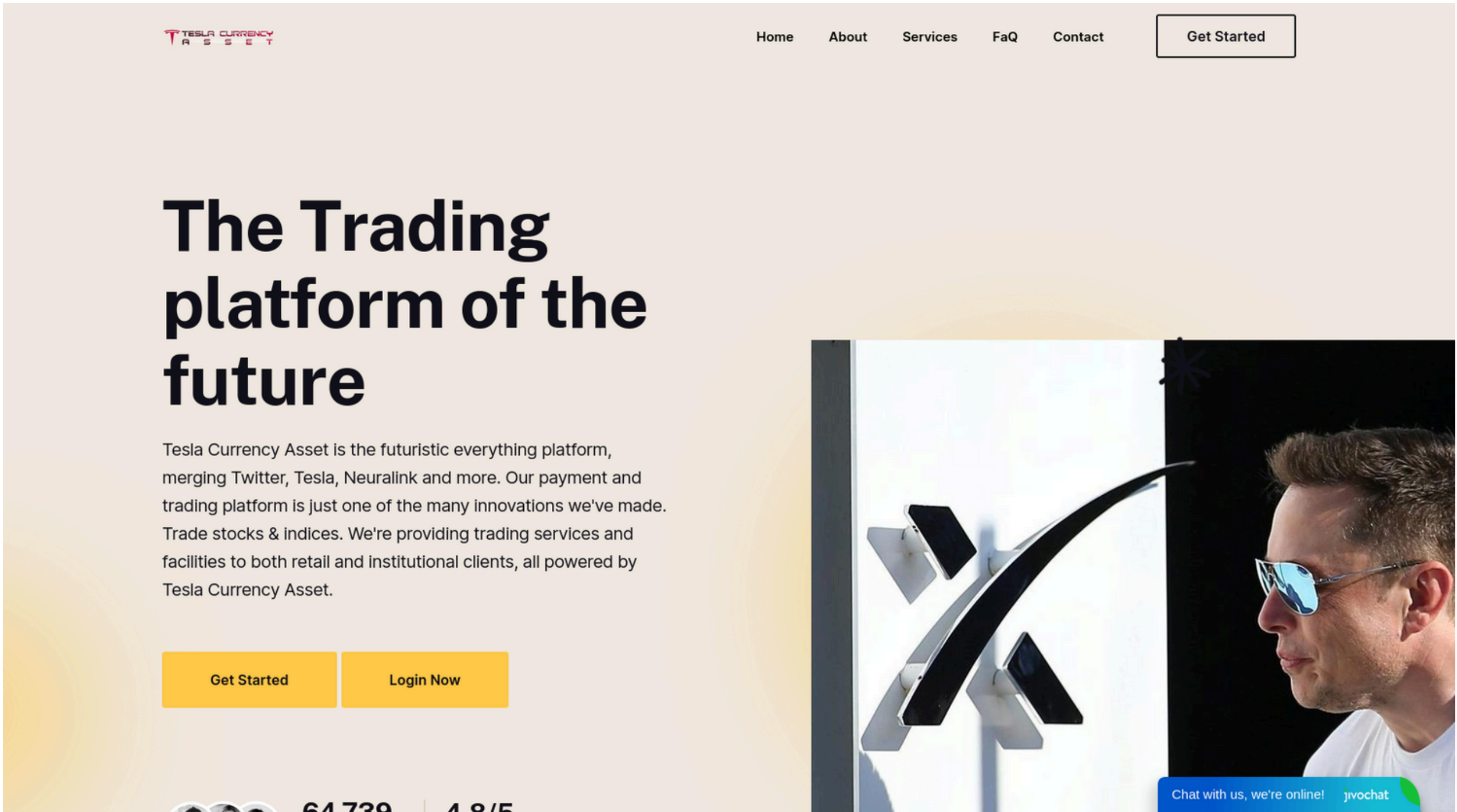


Figure 14- Scam investment website impersonating Tesla

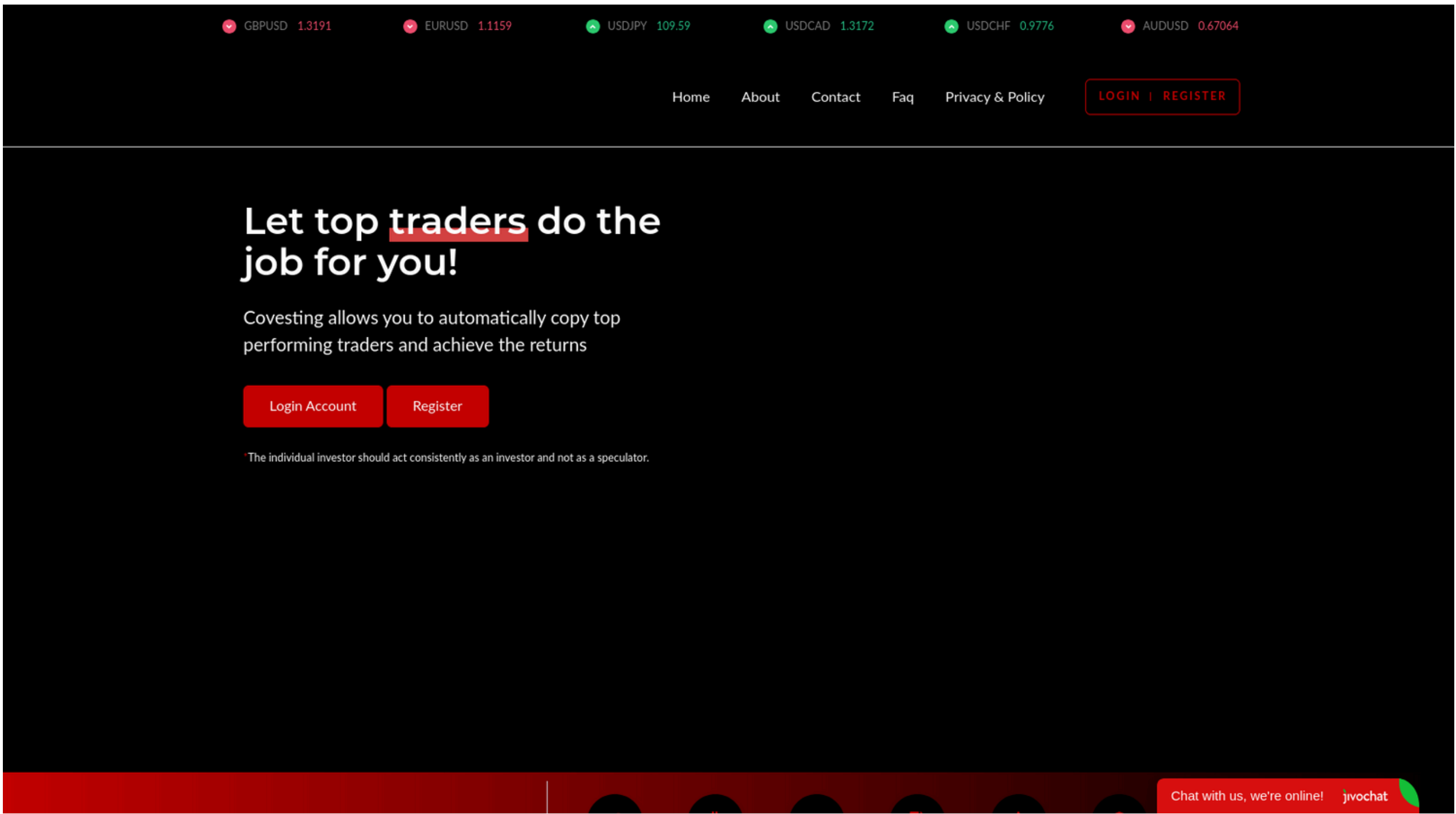


Figure 15 - Scam investment website impersonating Tesla

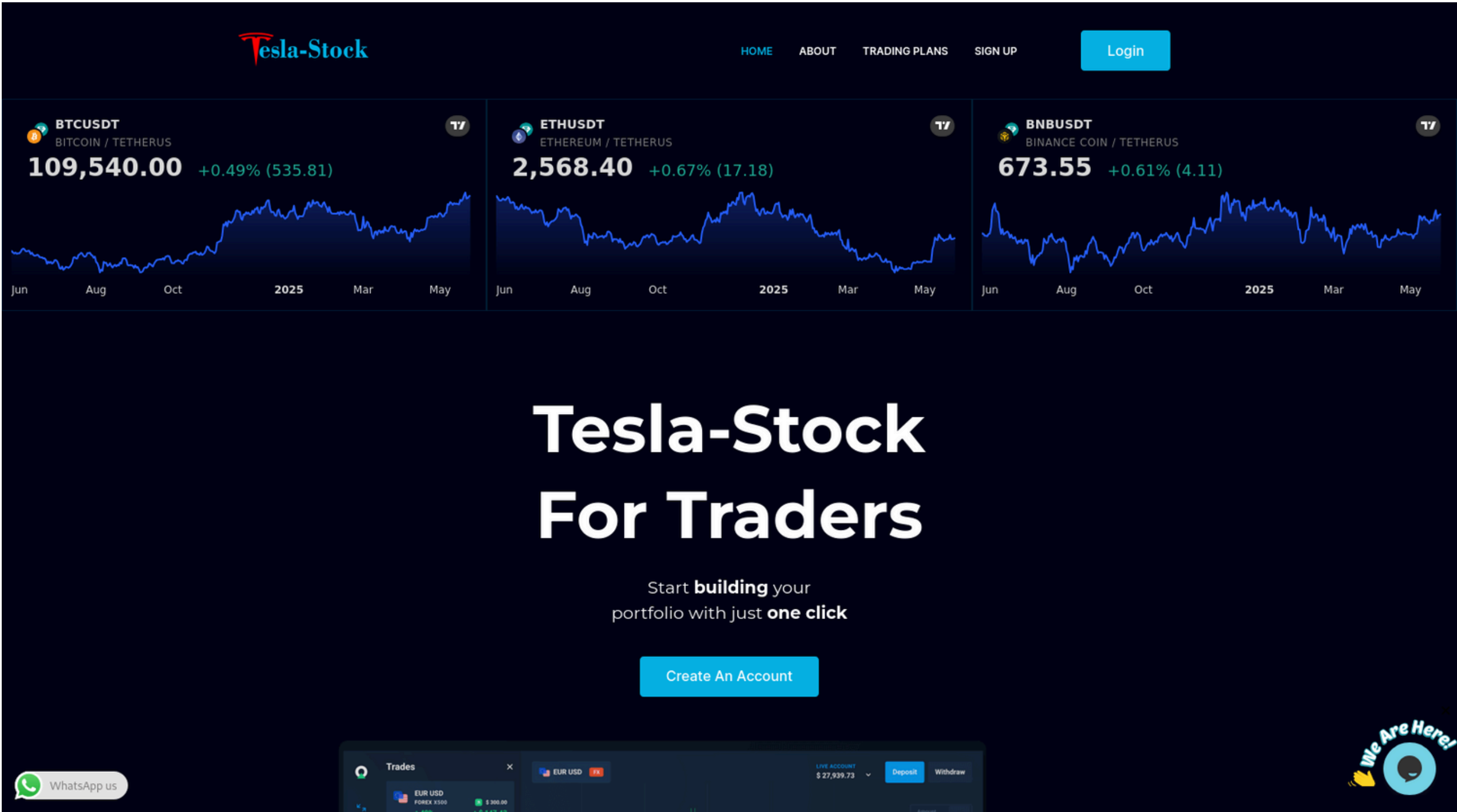


Figure 16 - Scam investment website impersonating Tesla

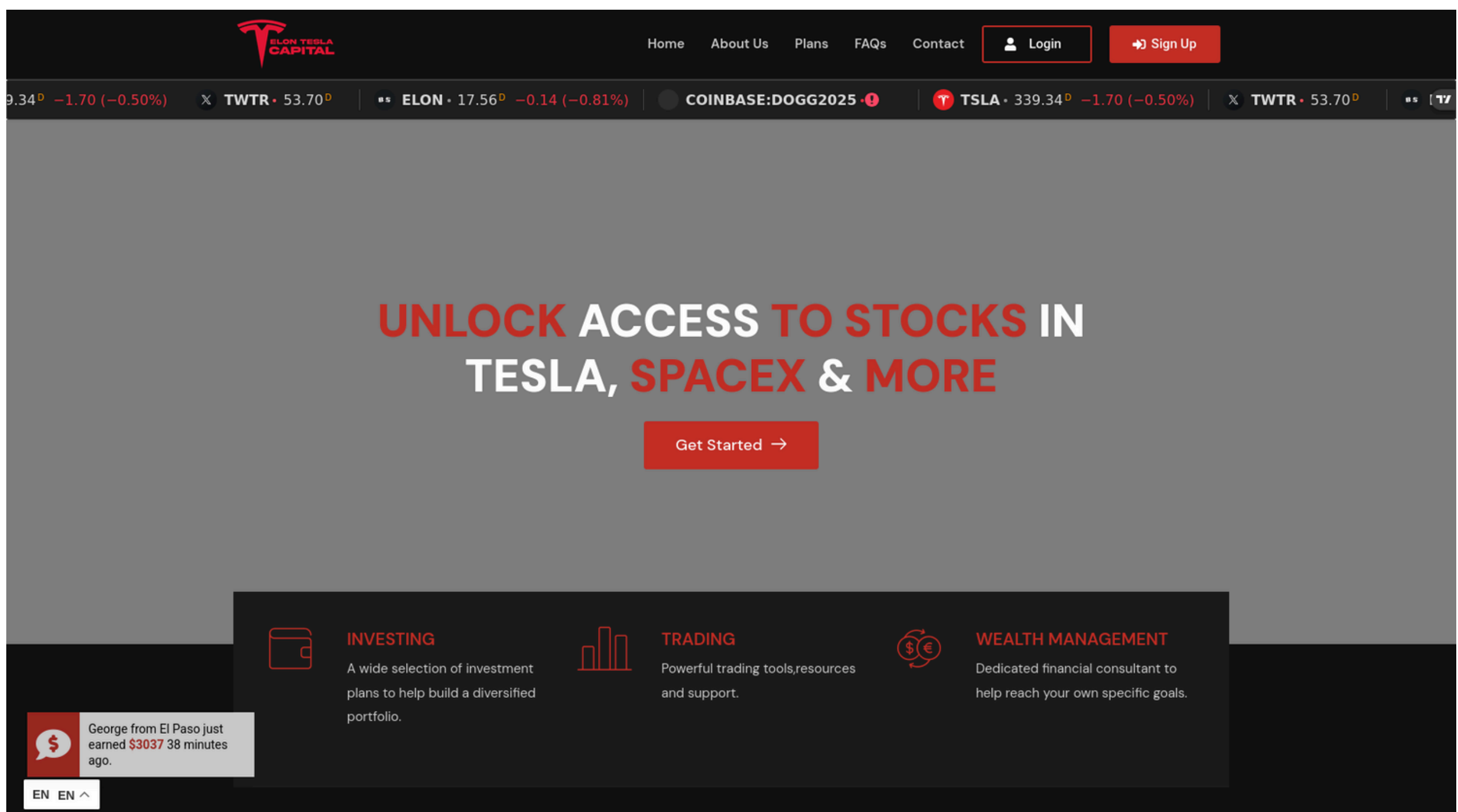


Figure 17 - Scam investment website impersonating Tesla

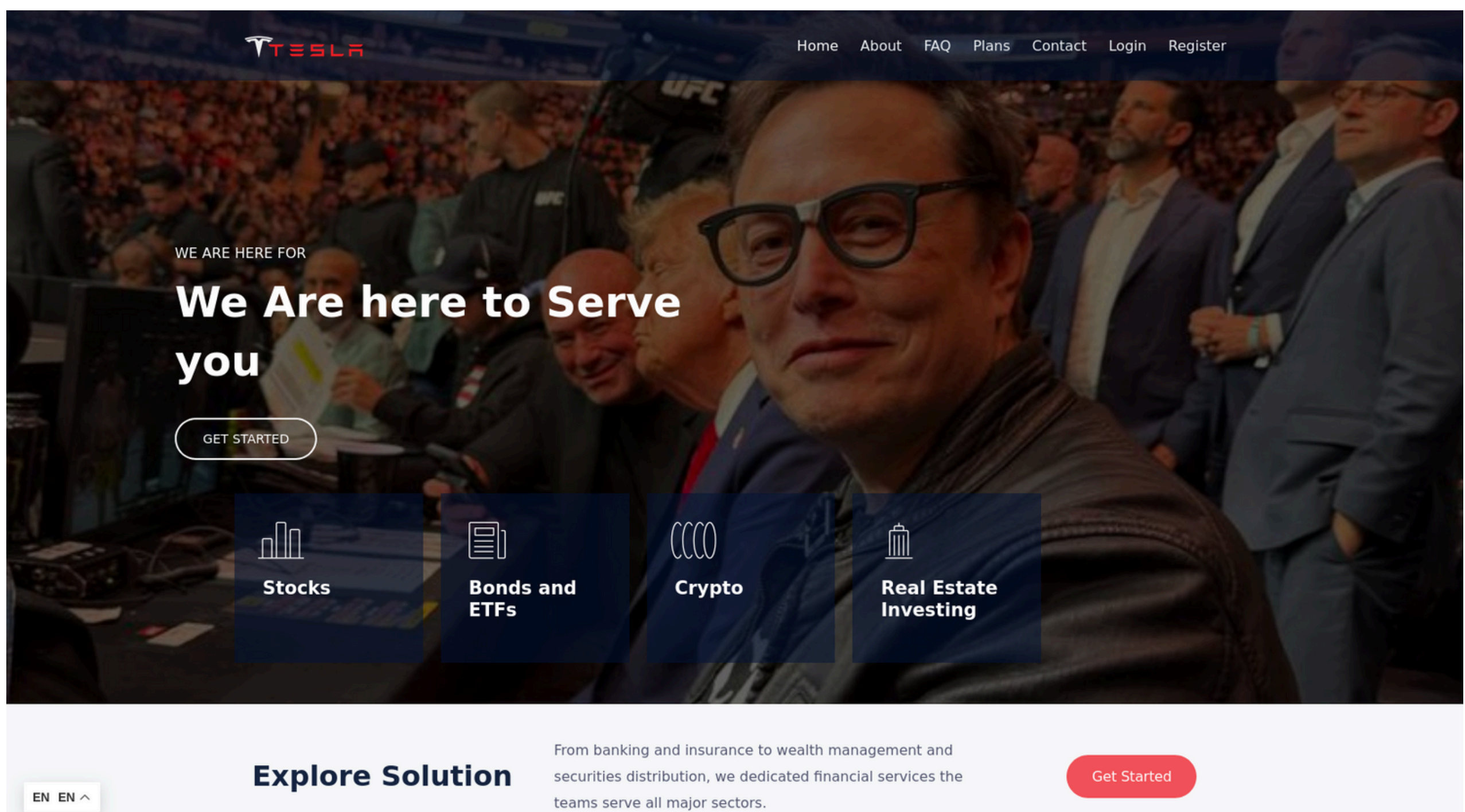
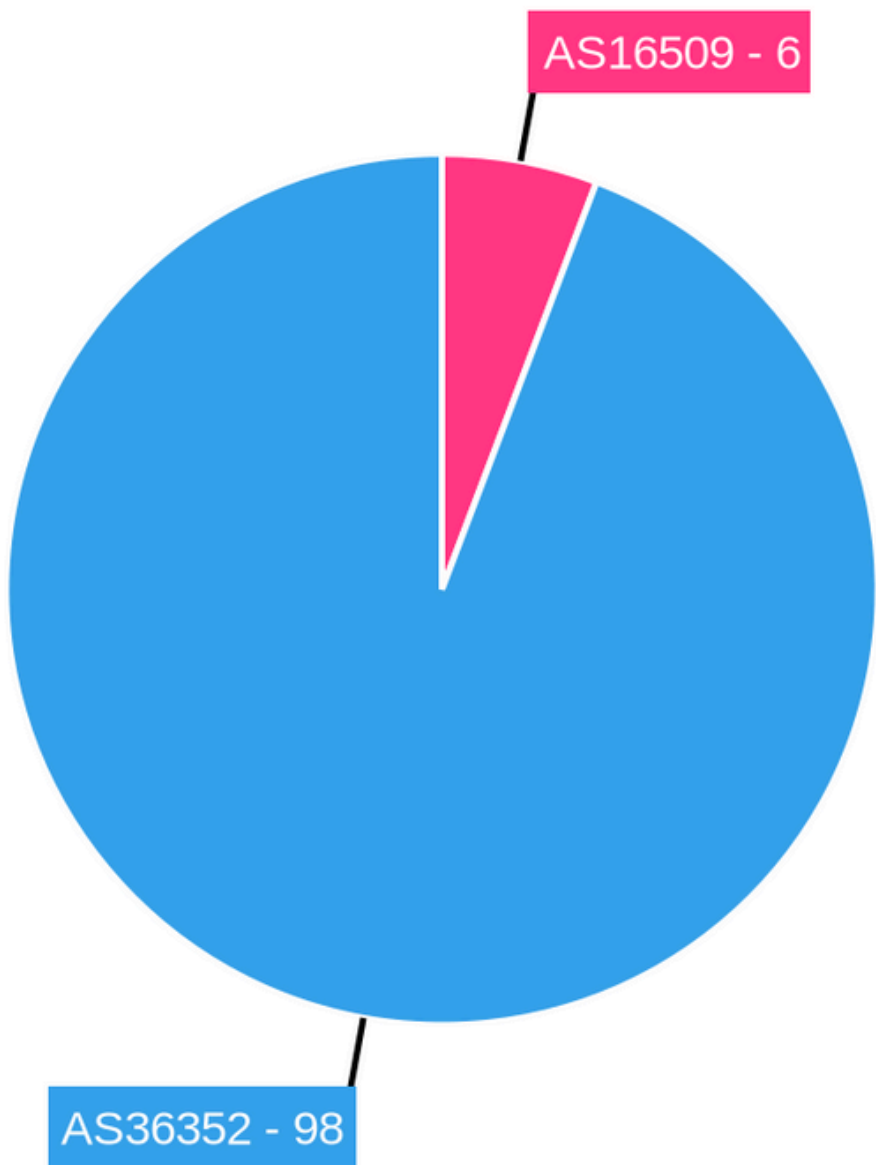


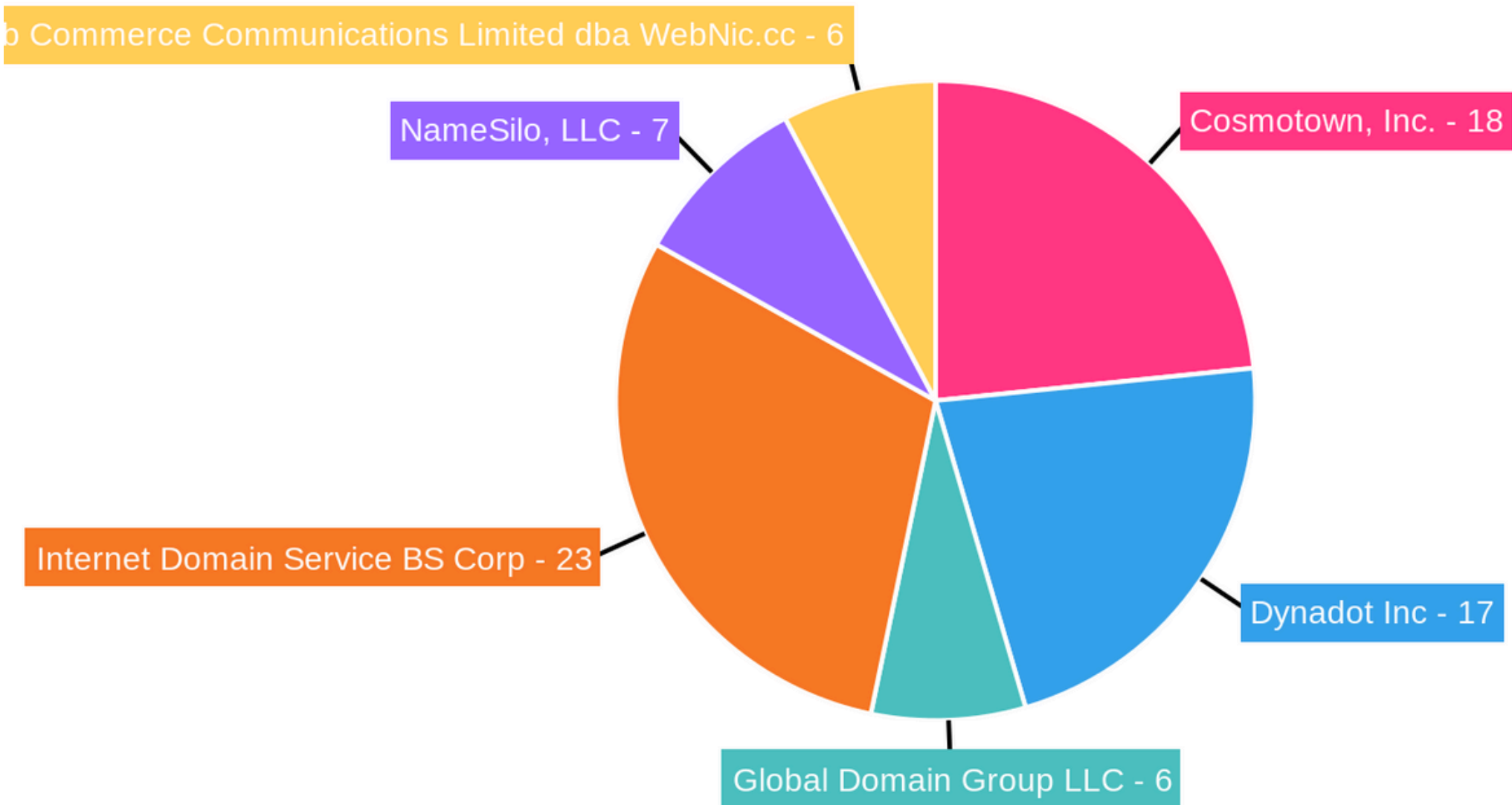
Figure 18 - Scam investment website impersonating Tesla

Network Infrastructure analysis

ASN Distribution
(Note: ASN with fewer than 5 domains are excluded)

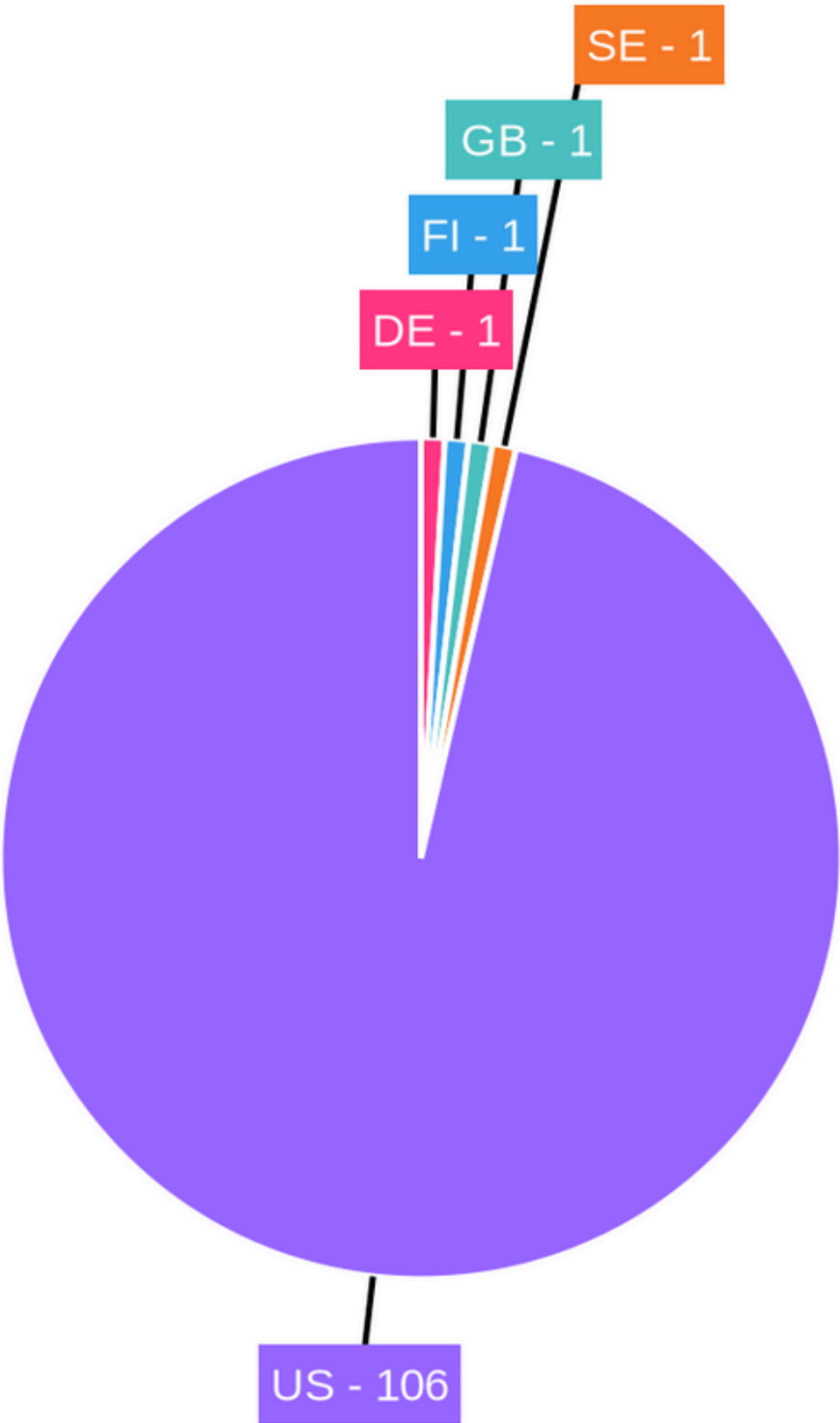


Registrar Distribution
(Note: Registrar with fewer than 5 domains are excluded)



Network Infrastructure analysis

Country Code Distribution
(Note: Country Code with fewer than 1 domains are excluded)



Indicators of Compromise

account.elonteslacapital[.]com
adine-abro.com.teslacurrencyasset[.]com
app.xteslatradingplatform[.]com
auth.teslainvests[.]com
bitwaveequity.com.teslaoscorptraders[.]com
intestastock[.]com
investwithtesla[.]com
teslastockinvest[.]com
teslainvestcompany[.]com
teslaprimeinv[.]com
habitatsuiteslagos.com[.]ng
app.teslaerc20invest[.]com
teslaerc20invest[.]com
cryptoptionfx.com.teslaoscorptraders[.]com
elitetestlahub[.]com
elonmuskworldfx.com.teslainvestmentplatform[.]com
teslaautomated[.]com
teslaautomated.com.coniproasset[.]com
teslacompanyinvestment[.]com
teslacurrencyasset[.]com
tesladuxhub[.]com
teslafxhorizon[.]com
teslainvestmentplatform[.]com
teslainvestmentpro[.]com
teslaoscorptraders[.]com
teslaproinvestment[.]com
teslaulttrapro[.]com
teslaxcorpminingpool[.]com
teslaxhorizon[.]com
today.teslaoscorptraders[.]com
unionsantanderconfidentialbank.com.teslaoscorptraders[.]com
user.teslafxhorizon[.]com
user.teslaxcorpminingpool[.]com
faircreditfinance.com.teslapublicholdings[.]com
teslapublicholdings[.]com
fastunipac.com.teslaoscorptraders[.]com
app.teslatradingsignal[.]com

Indicators of Compromise

teslatradingsignal[.]com
tesla-stk[.]com
elite.inteslastock[.]com
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teslafagmfb[.]com
estat.inteslastock[.]com
teslaplatformtrading[.]com
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spacex-tesla-stock[.]com
teslaequitypro[.]com
teslaxmodel.apex-tradefx[.]us
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teslaspacexquantum[.]com
teslastockmining[.]com
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teslastockmarkettradingplatform[.]com
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account.teslastockmarkettradingplatform[.]com
teslastocktradebroker[.]com
home.teslaincsshares[.]com
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Indicators of Compromise

teslastocktradingbroker[.]com
teslastockchain[.]com
teslalitestock[.]com
teslasinvestmentsllc[.]com
tesladigitalstockportal[.]com
tesladigitalstock[.]com
dashboard.teslaprofits-capitals[.]com
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tesla.destineddigitalacademy.com[.]ng
teslaquantinvest[.]com
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teslaexpresscourier[.]com
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