

Simon Foster – Motivation Letter for Managing Committee SP Representative

I came to be involved in e-Invoicing after receiving an invite from the Australian Government in Jan 2016 to participate in a consultation to design the first Australian eInvoicing Framework as part of the Digital Business Council (DBC). At the time, I had run my business, Squirrel Street (fka Shoeboxed Australia) for 6 years, as one of the earliest receipt scanning startups taking receipt & Invoice data and integrating it with small business accounting software via public APIs.

It didn't take long before I was sold on the future of eInvoicing and the benefits it would bring the Australian and global economy. Later in 2016 I joined the Board of the Australian Business Software Industry Association (ABSIA) and was involved in the first tests of the new Australian standard that September. During 2016 & 2017, I was an active participant in a number of DBC Working Groups - including the local equivalents of PoACC and SML WG.

In 2018 I took on the role of ABSIA's e-Invoicing Lead, representing the Australian business software industry on the Digital Business Council itself, and being active in consultations with government and industry. In early 2019, Australia & NZ followed the lead of Singapore and decided to become Peppol Authorities. I was closely involved in this process, through government and industry consultations in both my professional and industry association capacities.

I ran my own start-up for 10 years, prior to which I have held a variety of senior management roles in technology companies. I have also held board positions in a number of industry & professional associations including ABSIA, the Australian Computer Society (IT Professional Association) and the Pearcey Foundation (not for profit established to honour the memory of Australia's first computer scientist by recognising high achievers in the Australian IT Industry and being an independent IT policy influencer). I have also completed the Australian Institute of Company Directors Not For Profit Directors course.

As service providers representative on the managing committee, I can straddle the new Peppol jurisdictions of Singapore, New Zealand & Australia (and onwards) as well as Europe, since I work for a European service provider, Storecove, but am based in Asia Pacific. I also spent the first 10 years of my career based in Europe, and lived and worked in London, Stockholm, Copenhagen, Brussels and Northern Germany during the dotcom boom and subsequent bust, before moving back to Australia with my family.

The next 2 years provide an unprecedented opportunity to grow the Peppol network, with mandates being implemented across the world, new jurisdictions coming on board, and digital transformation at the centre of government & enterprise. OpenPeppol needs to be globally representative to take advantage of this opportunity, and I would like to help make that happen by representing service providers from all over the world on the managing committee.