

Simon Foster – Motivation Letter for APP Change Management Board

The Agreements, Policies and Procedures Change Management Board is an important new addition to the OpenPeppol structure. I have been one of the Service Provider Representatives on the Agreements Revision Task Force and it's work since December 2020. I have attended weekly meetings on Internal Regulations and then daily meetings during April with a smaller group aligning the Agreements, Internal Regulations and Operating Procedures into the documents that are now in front of Service Providers.

During this period I have also presented updates on the agreements to the Global OpenPeppol Service Provider Community and to the Australia and New Zealand group, as well as individual Service Providers who have asked for briefings. I also developed the Service Provider Lifecycle document that has been used to determine agreement coverage.

The new agreement structure is a significant milestone for OpenPeppol, but there is still much work to be done. I bring experience working for software developers and service providers large and small across Europe, Asia and Australia/New Zealand.

I came to be involved in e-Invoicing after receiving an invite from the Australian Government in January 2016 to participate in a consultation to design the first Australian e-Invoicing Framework. At the time, I had been running, Squirrel Street (formerly Shoeboxed Australia) for 6 years, as one of the earliest receipt scanning startups. Squirrel Street takes receipt and invoice data and integrates it with small business accounting software via public APIs.

It didn't take long before I was sold on the future of e-Invoicing and the benefits it would bring the Australian and global economy. Later in 2016 I joined the Board of the Association of Digital Service Providers Australia and New Zealand (DSPANZ – formerly ABSIA) and was involved in the first tests of the new Australian standard that September. During 2016 and 2017, I was an active participant in a number of DBC Working Groups - including the local equivalents of PoAC and eDEC WG.

In recent years, I have worked across industry to co-design the DSP Operational Framework used by the Australian Tax Office to regulate its software ecosystem. My participation at DSPANZ has been instrumental in the development and adoption of the Security Standard for Addon Marketplaces (SSAM), a world first industry security standard that applies to third party apps that integrate with major global accounting software vendors including Sage, Intuit and Xero. Today, the SSAM standard has been implemented by more than a dozen software platforms and regulates the security environment of more than 1000 third party ecosystem applications – including Squirrel Street and many Peppol access point providers.

In 2018 I took on the role of DSPANZ'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 and 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.

In the last 2 years, I have been an active participant in the weekly Peppol International Invoice (PINT) Working Group meetings led by Georg Birgisson and Paul Simons. I have presented a number of times at the monthly Service Providers Community webinars and represented Service Providers on the Agreements Revision Task Force. In Asia Pacific, I have worked with IMDA in Singapore and led Storecove to 20% of registered end users in Singapore and continue to lead the e-Invoicing Service Provider Community in Australia and NZ.