Simon Foster – Motivation Letter for Managing Committee SP Representative

As a governance and strategic board, the Managing Committee will have an important role over the next few years as OpenPeppol grows, and the organisation matures into the new agreement structure and associated regulations and procedures. I bring extensive not-for-profit governance experience, as well as expert knowledge on e-Invoicing. I was a founding member of the Digital Business Council which launched e-Invoicing in Australia in 2016. I am the elected President and e-Invoicing lead of the Association of Digital Service Providers Australia and New Zealand (DSPANZ – formerly ABSIA). I have worked for the first Service Provider accredited in all Peppol jurisdictions. In early May 2021, I joined the product team at Xero, as part of their significant investment in e-Invoicing, Peppol and small business workflow automation globally.

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 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, regularly being asked to present on Peppol e-Invoicing including TV interviews.

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 and professional associations including DSPANZ, 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 and Australia (and onwards). I also understand Europe, having worked for a European service provider, Storecove until very recently. I spent the first 10 years of my career 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 period provides 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 and 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.