

Simon Foster – Motivation Letter for APP Change Management Board

I have been privileged to represent Service Providers on the APP CMB for the last 2 years, as well as in the Agreements Revision Task Force that operated beforehand. I would like to continue in this role and ensure that Service Providers' needs are forcefully represented, through consultation across the OpenPeppol SP membership.

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.

I am currently employed as GM Product – e-Invoicing for Xero, a NZ headquartered global small business accounting software vendor with 3.5 million customers. During my 2 year tenure, we have grown registrations in Australia, NZ & Singapore to almost 50,000 Peppol IDs and continue to grow at a rapid rate. Prior to joining Xero, I was GM Asia Pacific at Storecove and led their entry into Asia Pacific, in particular Singapore.

After the successful migration to the new Peppol Agreements in July 2022, the APP CMB has the tasks of ensuring the agreements, internal regulations and operating procedures remain fit for purpose. Since implementation it has become clear where updates are necessary to the documents and the APP CMB has seen a productive collaboration between Peppol Authority and Service Provider representatives support by the Operating Office. We have identified gaps around the semantic versioning annex, Peppol Authority Specific Requirements change management, end user & transaction reporting and implementation of the recommendations from the Security Working Group are likely to involve changes to the internal regulations.

One of the most important functions of the agreements managed by the APP CMB is mandating the change release process across the OpenPeppol interoperability framework. It is critical to Service Providers that appropriate consultation and notice is given to implement these changes, and their full impact is understood and documented. Ensuring this occurs continues to be my priority.

As OpenPeppol expands into new jurisdictions and the impact of the upcoming EU ViDA Directives become apparent, this work will be even more important. APP CMB members also participate in the "MC++" OpenPeppol strategic working groups, which includes representation from across the different Peppol stakeholder communities, service domains and geographies. I bring significant governance experience from my involvement in the boards on a number of non-profit organisations, including industry associations and charities as well as my work experience across Europe, North America and Asia Pacific.