Simon Foster – Motivation Letter for PoAC Change Management Board

I have been a PoAC CMB Member for the last 2 years and seek to continue in this role, working across the broader Peppol membership seeking feedback from all who are interested and supporting the work of the operating office staff. I bring the perspective of the "new Peppol world" to the PoAC CMB, along with deep technical expertise.

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 – eInvoicing 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.

While on the PoAC CMB, I have championed formal consultation with members via the PAC and SP Community, and am also leading the Message Level Acknowledge Working Group – presenting on this at the November 2022 Brussels face-to-face meeting. I continue to be heavily involved in working groups in Australia & New Zealand, together with other OpenPeppol members and the broader software community.

Peppol moves into an important period over the next few years, with the introduction of the ViDA Directives in Europe, expansion into new countries, roll-out of Peppol International Invoice (PINT), and eInvoicing & CTC mandates likely across the world.