Australian Government   New Zealand Government

MEETING MINUTES

A-NZ Service Provider Forum

Date: **2 February 2021**

Time:

- Sydney – 11:00am – 01:00pm
- Brisbane – 10:00am – 12:00pm
- Wellington – 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Chair	Mark Wierzbicki, Director, New Zealand Peppol Authority	
Co-chair	Mark Stockwell, Director, Australian Peppol Authority	
Members	Services Australia	Link4
	Esker	Pacific Commerce
	Ozedi	IBM Australia
	MessageXchange	Pagero AB
	Storecove	Xaana Pty Ltd
	BE2BE NZ Pty Ltd	Payreq Australia Pty Ltd
	Edicom Capital S.L	B2B Router
	Xero	Luca+ (The Block Ledger Pty Ltd)
	Havi Technology Pty Ltd	Open Test
	Basware Corporation	Cloud Trade Technologies
	Celtrino (EDI Factory Pty Ltd)	SAP SE
	Tickstar AB	
Guest	Rick Harvey – Layer Security	
Observers	Various service providers undertaking accreditation were not identified to protect any potential commercial sensitivities	
Apologies	Mark Stockwell	
Next meeting	16 March 2021	

Agenda item: 1 – Welcome and administration

- The chair welcomed attendees and acknowledged new member Tickstar AB and new Expression of Interest applicants.
- Previous meeting minutes accepted.
- Action items update provided (refer to action items summary on page 6-8).

Agenda item: 2 – Invitation for feedback

PINT consultation
- Australia and New Zealand (A-NZ) PAs are seeking feedback on two different approaches for adoption of Peppol International invoice (PINT) for A-NZ
  - Approach 1 - A-NZ PINT localisation to continue to align with the Peppol BIS Billing where possible.
  - Approach 2 – the initial release of A-NZ PINT localisation will minimise changes from the current A-NZ invoice extension, and service providers can take time to consider enhancements PINT has incorporated.

- It would be appreciated if you could send feedback on the proposed approach for adoption of PINT to
- e-Invoicing@ato.gov.au or Support@nzpeppol.govt.nz
- An initial draft of A-NZ PINT specification will be ready to support the Proof of Concept (POC) planned for March Post Award Community (PoAC) meeting and will be published on the A-NZ Peppol GitHub page. The first official release of A-NZ PINT localisation is planned for May 2021 (normal release cycle), pending approval and POC.
- PINT is subject to approval of OpenPeppol Management Committee.
- If you would like the Peppol Authorities to hold a PINT information session or if you have any other feedback, please let us know by email.

Invoice routing draft guidance

- Slides were presented to describe invoice routing issue. In summary, some corner 4 (C4) businesses need to 'route' invoices to different branches or systems within their business structure.
- There are two high level options available which were discussed:
  o Option 1: All invoices for a business are received by one access point, and they are routed internally within C4 (e.g. using buyer reference or PO number). For this option, there would be one record for the business in the SML.
  o Option 2: C4 chooses to use different access points to receive invoices directly to desired systems. For this option each access point will need to register C4 in SML and SMP, using a different Peppol participant ID.
    o Some providers raised a question on how ABN potentially could support this option. Previously a proposal was raised to ABR which however did not proceed. It was suggested that this is discussed as part of the invoice routing discussion. .
- C4 businesses are required to use different identifiers (as Peppol ID) if they choose to use multiple access points to receive the same business document type. It is ok to use a single Peppol identifier to indicate one AP to receive invoices while another AP to receive, for example, orders as these are listed separately in their SMP.
- Potential challenges and risks with option 2 (multiple access points)
  o Multiple identifiers may not be an issue for some businesses, however not all businesses, (especially SME) want to maintain multiple identifiers.
  o In Australia, an ABN is the most commonly used identifier, and only one ABN is available to each business. Other options would need to be explored for Australian businesses to obtain more than one Peppol ID. Some communication effort may be required to ensure that suppliers use the correct Peppol ID, so that the invoice is sent to the correct receiving access point.
  o NZ business number is a GLN and additional branch Organisational Part Number (OPN) can be acquired if needed, so this is not an issue in NZ.
- There is no right or wrong option but is about which option better suits the business need.
- A draft document is published in A-NZ Peppol GitHub. Its purpose is to support service providers and their C4 clients to assess their requirements and situation so they can choose an optimal solution.
- We would like to hear your experience and thoughts for this topic. Feedback can be sent to e-Invoicing@ato.gov.au or Support@nzpeppol.govt.nz

Feedback / discussion in meeting key points

- Singapore has solved this multiple identifier issue by 'altering' the Unique Entity Number (UEN).
- Why can't A-NZ do same as Singapore? A better workable solution is needed.
- Previous discussions on multiple identifiers were discussed by Digital Business Council (DBC).
- OpenPeppol standard is that a Peppol ID must be a number that is officially registered (e.g. ABN on ABR). If we move away from ABN what does this mean?
- Belgian organisations use a specific identifier for this purpose, which is registered in the International Code Designator (ICD).

- It may be challenging for C1 to determine which C4 address to send to when there are multiple listings for a C4. It creates overcomplication for the small business.
- NZ is funding 2 Organisational Part Numbers per organisation; businesses won't want to buy from GS1. The Modern Business Registers project is revamping the Australia Business Registers, this will be raised at the meeting to be held 3/2/21.
- This identifier is used for the 'message transmission' purposes, which is different from business document contents. Don't want to open document to see the number.
- Separate invoice routing discussion into two parts:
  o Part 1 – Invoice routing
    ▪ Suit what they have today, network should allow for flexibility
  o Part 2 – Multiple identifiers
    ▪ Identifier needs to be discussed as a separate topic – i.e. there is need for a recognizable (e.g. in ICD) and affordable identifier that are also commonly used and can be easily supported by small businesses.
- Having multiple IDs goes against making it easy to discover recipients and sounds difficult.
- Need to ensure that we are not 'exporting' the multiple identifier issue to the network.
- Determine what it means for the network and every corner and if we are causing complications for one corner.
- Some suggest that using multiple access points is not a suitable solution due to integration cost. Large business might be able to do but not ideal for medium businesses.
- AU PA will draft a 'problem statement' to ensure the issue is understood by all. Some attendees suggested convening a working group (C1 and C4 predominately), similar to the invoice content group, to analyse and solve this issue.

Action Item	Description	Responsible	Status
2021/02/02-01	**Invoice routing draft guidance** Service providers to provide written feedback on the identifier topic to enable development of a problem statement and fully understand the issue. Convene working group (C1 and C4 predominately), similar members to invoice content group, to discuss invoice routing solutions. Examples to be brought to Working Group.	A-NZ Peppol Authorities	**New**

Agenda item: 3 – Service provider updates

Interoperability feedback

- When accrediting service providers only sending capability of invoice is tested. Should we be testing both send and receive capability?

Feedback / discussion in meeting

- Generally bigger job to receive than send. Don't want to make service providers do both, limit to what the service provider needs to do.
- Access Points must be able to send and receive messages. Capability needs to be demonstrated.

- To pass Peppol conformance access points must be able to send and receive.
- Comment was that in A-NZ you don't have to demonstrate that you can send and receive both.

Invoice Response – message level response

- Should it be mandatory, as per the Invoice Response Practice Statement?

Feedback / discussion in meeting

- Service providers should be able to demonstrate capability.
- Access Point sending message invoice response is a no brainer. Using as customer, reconfigure ERP to generate upon receiving.
- Response messaging provides an incentive to adopt. Will help overcome the 'we didn't get your invoice' excuse.
- Some access points might not be able to receive the invoice response message.
- Suggested to make it part of A-NZ accreditation process.
- C4 might reject A-NZ on proprietary business deals. Invoice response should indicate failure of delivery, not on basis of undiscoverable or undocumented process.
- All access points can send and receive invoice responses, you could send to C3, but no business response because C4 didn't do it, or C2 didn't send it to C4. Publish who can send invoice responses.
- Suggest mandate with transition period to comply.
- As SPs don't need to be accredited to operating in A-NZ, some SPs will not follow this guidance.
- Europe will possibly follow.
- A-NZ move forward faster than Europe.
- Europeans discourage different rules in countries.
- There will always be some country specific items.
- This is an opportunity for A-NZ to influence as this could apply to anywhere.

Action Item	Description	Responsible	Status
2021/02/02-02	**Invoice Response** Invoice response is considered an important component in A-NZ. A-NZ Peppol Authorities to raise invoice response with OpenPeppol, to see if they are receptive to making Invoice Response part of OpenPeppol Accreditation.	A-NZ Peppol Authorities	**New**

Agenda item: 4 – OpenPeppol activities

Update on Peppol Test Bed 2.0 – provided by Rick Harvey

- There has been a mailout regarding Test Bed 2.0.
- No decision has been made on whether re-testing with Testbed 2.0 will be mandatory.
- Documents conformance suites are BIS/ and extensions for A-NZ and SG (Singapore).
- No capability for PINT testing.

SML maintenance:

- 21 January 2021 - allowing 30 days to clean up.
- 20 February 2021 - deletion will occur.

New OpenPeppol agreements update from A-NZ Peppol Authorities:

- Robust consultation.
- Concern amongst SP community that there isn't proper consultation.
- European concerns different to A-NZ.
- Element of assumption on timelines.
- Reminding OpenPeppol that there needs to be full consultation on process, time to react and consume.
- The suggestion of a checklist of requirements for new service providers was a revelation to OpenPeppol.
- There are 3 working groups for the new OpenPeppol agreements:
  o Australian PA - Operational Procedures,
  o New Zealand PA – Contracts
  o Service provider representative – internal regulation.
- Service providers helpful and vocal in the working groups.
- Peppol are looking at 'minimum viable contract'.
- Internal working group looking at service provider lifecycle and the steps required to become a new access point.
- OpenPeppol is endeavouring to have agreements finalised by July 2021. These timeframes may be aggressive considering updating the agreements is a significant change and there is a need for service providers to be given the opportunity to provide feedback and be fully consulted. The A-NZ Peppol Authorities are making representations to ensure that service providers will have their views considered.

Agenda item: 5 –Working Group updates

Invoice content

- Information regarding Peppol ready solution providers (C1 and C4) that can support Invoice Content Best Practice Statement to be published on ATO website.
- Suggested that we look at IMDA (Singapore) Peppol ready solution provider information as a guide.
- Discussion regarding:
  o how to assess that a service provider is adhering to the Invoice Content Best Practice Statement.
  o Which parties the 'Best Practice Statement' applies to.
    Reminder that the 'Best Practice Statement' works on the 80/20 rule – there is no guarantee that invoices that contain the best practice fields will be processed by every buyer.

Invoice response

- Discussed at agenda item 3.
- Further detail on this topic to be provided at the March forum.
- Need to create migration plan for mandate for invoice status.

Action Item	Description	Responsible	Status
2021/02/02-03	Paper to be developed on Invoice Response for March meeting	A-NZ Peppol Authorities	**New**

Agenda item: 6 Adoption progress updates

- Update skipped so that meeting didn't go over time.

Agenda item: 7 Other business

- Thanked attendees for input.
- Next meeting – Tuesday 16 March 2021.
- Meeting closed 1pm (AEDT).

Action item summary

Open Action Items (including new action items raised)

Action item	Description	Responsible	Status	Progress/Comments
2020/02-04	Gather learnings from interoperability testing to determine any gaps and clarify testing requirements. Convene hook-up to share learnings from recent testing, to provide to OpenPeppol so they can update their documents where there is ambiguity.	A-NZ Peppol Authorities	Closed	A-NZ Peppol authorities have processes in place and will actively source anonymised feedback in relation to accreditation and e-invoicing implementation. Will present feedback on a monthly basis to SPF forum. Authority to issue template to capture learnings (Interoperability, intelligence, requirements issue etc) Can be anonymised. Will do first report back at next meeting with view to close item and make this a standard cycle. **Update** Form issued end of November, 2 response in AU and 1 in NZ. This item will be closed and added to the agenda as a regular item.
2020/02-08	Understand each member's onboarding strategy.	A-NZ Peppol Authorities	**Closed**	**AU** Meetings have commenced with Service Providers and are ongoing. Goal is to have 1 on 1 with service providers anticipate having meetings set up in current month or 2. ATO and MBIE will attempt to complete this first round pre-Christmas. **NZ** Want to understand customer's journey – will also be communicating on what is happening in NZ. **Update** - Process started: AU should be completed in new year.

				Plan to develop a formal process with regular scheduled contact e.g. 6 mthly**.** Action item will be closed and standing agenda item on service provider onboarding progress to be added.
2020/09-01	Review need for interoperability testing if SP passes new test harness 2.0.	A-NZ Peppol Authorities	**Closed**	**On hold** – need details from OpenPeppol on incorporating A-NZ specifications. **2/2/21** Propose close and cover under agenda item. Scope of interoperability testing will be reviewed once testbed 2 in production.
2020/12-01	**A-NZ specification update Agenda item 2B** The broad question was: 'to what extent our local A-NZ specifications should align with BIS Billing?' A-NZ Peppol Authorities to review the release process and discuss with Open Peppol to address gaps and seek improvements. Also ask: How to get involved earlier and provide input, not just find out about the output e.g. can we request observer status on Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)?	A-NZ Peppol Authorities	Open	Engaged with OpenPeppol, will be covered by new agreements but looking at interim solution. **2/2/2021** Can a formal request be made from the A-NZ Peppol Authorities and ask Paul to brief Peppol Authorities on progress?
2020/12-02	Consider the issues identified in the Peppol Directory analysis paper and correct any issues.	All Service Providers	**Closed**	**2/2/21** New Peppol directory coming within the month. Service providers should check their records. Recommend closing action item and refer to working group.
2020/12-03	**Set up work group to analyse Peppol Directory data quality**. Australian PA identified entries in the Peppol Directory that contained incorrect information. Australian PA to review and develop a set of recommendations.	A-NZ Peppol Authorities	**Open**	**2/2/21** Setup working group before March meeting – email will be sent requesting volunteers for working group.
2020/12-04	Service providers (SMPs) to provide feedback directly on Jira or to the authorities to collate.	SMP Service Providers and A-NZ Peppol Authorities	**Closed**	**2/2/21** Rick Harvey provided update that the full solution is SMP Oasis V2. Work for SMP provides – publication on certificate end to end encryption. Working group has been convened, no solution

				expected this year. The lack of HTTPS has been around since beginning of Peppol, pressure is increasing for a solution to be provided. Close action item.
2020/12-05	Develop approach to which DSPs are supporting Invoice Content.	A-NZ Peppol Authorities	**Closed**	**Refer to agenda item 5 at February 2021 meeting.**
2021/02/02-01	**Invoice routing draft guidance** Convene working group (C1 and C4 predominately), similar members to invoice content group, to discuss invoice routing solutions. Service providers to provide written feedback on the identifier topic to enable development of a problem statement and fully understand the issue. Examples to be brought to Working Group.	A-NZ Peppol Authorities	**New**	
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