

Creating a NEW Professional Society: The Road Ahead

by Jason A. Dechoretz

With most things in our line of business we would rather start with an existing product (e.g., spreadsheet, briefing to management, a model, etc.) and then customize it for our immediate need than start from scratch! When it comes creating a professional society that address the needs of the cost analysis profession I think the same will hold true. If you were at the 2011 International Conference in Albuquerque and especially at the ISPA Members meeting on 8 June, you are well aware of both ISPA and SCEA's Board of Directors decision to integrate the two societies into one new organization. In his article our Chairman, Andy Prince, eloquently outline the motivation behind the Boards' decision. The goal is to take the best of both Societies products and culture, add in some new items to reflect the expected needs of the membership and broader community and create a NEW SOCIETY.

Now I'd like to share with you the road map and timeline on how we expect to achieve this feat. Bill Haseltine (now SCEA's past President) and I created a framework for how the two societies could integrate. In addition, we established some very specific goals and outline some basic ground rules. These were briefed to the respective Board of Directors, unanimously approved by them and shared at the respective Members' meeting. We have since drafted an integration plan which will be formally signed by the ISPA Chairman (Andy Prince) and SCEA President (Paul Marston). This plan sets the goal of accomplishing the integration effort by **1 January 2012**, however we want to do this right (meaning adhering to both Societies by-laws and making informed decisions) so the timeline may slip some.

To guide the efforts leading up to this milestone we have created a Society Integration Committee which is co-chaired by both Andy and Paul. They will have Neil Albert and Hank Apgar available as specific advisors to them. In addition they will be supported by the following committee members:

SCEA	ISPA
Bill Haseltine	Jason Dechoretz
Joe Wagner	Greg Kiviat
Carol Hibbard	Rich Harwin
Dan Nussbaum	Roy Smoker
Debra Lehman	George Stratton

All decisions about what to take from both Societies and what to add to create the NEW Society will vetted and decided by this committee. Their recommendations will be briefed at the Fall 2011 meetings of both Society's Boards. The decisions by the Boards will then be communicated to the respective memberships. In the case of ISPA there will be a formal, written notifications and a call for a vote to adopt the Board's decision. While we have agreed to a robust framework which defines the concept objectives and mechanics of the NEW Society, there are still some details to be worked out. These will be accomplished by seven (7) solution teams which will address the following specific topics and are expected to be staffed by the following leaders:

Solution Teams	SCEA	ISPA
Governance:	Bill Haseltine	Jason Dechoretz
Naming:	TBD	Greg Kiviat
Financial:	Debra Lehman	Greg Kiviat
Training & Body of Knowledge:	Dan Nussbaum	Tom Counce
Publications:	Joe Wagner	Sherry Stukes
Certifications:	Bill Haseltine	Roy Smoker
Awards:	Carol Hibbard	Hank Apgar

These solution teams will be supported by a variety of Subject Matter experts so that they can not only discuss the remaining issues but provide specific recommendations to the Integration Committee and eventually to the two Boards of Directors. Please contact the ISPA Solution Team Lead if you want to contribute to the recommendation! Otherwise, please stay tuned there will be more information posted on the ISPA Website (including a Blog to collection the thoughts of Members), sent via e-mail updates and in PW.