**Proposed Governance Process for Associate Membership Applications**

**Background:**

The Associate Membership scheme was launched with a view to

* widening the FPS influence within the wider industry
* engaging the supply chain to solve common isssues
* provide some additional funding for FPS activities

Rig manufacturers, materials suppliers and testing houses were invited to join initially. The scheme was amended to create Technical AM’s in order to bring back into the fold technical expertise that had left direct employment of Members and also create a mechanism to work with Arup, Atkins and other consultants.

To date we have 15 AMs, split across rig manufacturers/plant suppliers (x6), Testing houses (x3) and TAMs (x6). The core requirements of Membership are currently:

* Be a provider of services to the FPS Members in one or more AM categories
* to have been trading in the UK or Ireland for a year and
* to have two references from within the main Membership
* they must fill in an application form and there is a discretionary meeting with the Executive Committee for approval.

Any company that fulfils these criteria is currently able to join the FPS.

**Proposed Governance changes**

The view of the FPS Executive and Quarterly Committee is that we have a good number of AMs currently. Any further expansion to the numbers and types of Associate Members needs to be managed in order to ensure the interests and work of the FPS are supported appropriately. The option of adding new AMs who would be of benefit to the FPS should remain open.

To meet these objectives FPS governance should be amended as follows:

* New associate members can be considered for Membership if:
  + They are nominated by an FPS full Member, the Executive Committee or an FPS standing Committee and are approved for consideration by the Quarterly Committee
  + Alternatively, if they approach the FPS and the Executive Committee agree the application can be considered
* Applicants must meet the requirements that the FPS has set for AMs.
  + Special exceptions may be made at the discretion of the Executive Committee with the approval of the Quarterly Committee.