

John Murphy, (SSIP Forum Chair 2007 – 2010) steps down as Chair

The Safety Schemes in Procurement Forum (SSIP), a not for profit, umbrella organisation, was launched in May 2009 with the full support of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) to facilitate mutual recognition between health and safety pre-qualification schemes, reducing duplication and improving standards of health and safety – ultimately saving lives.

Almost one year on, I am delighted to say that SSIP's membership has grown to 13 Registered Members including the original Founder Members: The Contractors Health and Safety Scheme (CHAS), the National House-Building Council (NHBC), Exor Management Services and Constructionline to include the following:

- Safety Management Advisory Services (SMAS)
- Altius Vendor Assessment
- Facilities Services Group (FSG)
- Eurosafe UK Ltd
- British Constructional Steelwork Association (BCSA)
- Heating and Ventilating Contractors' Association (HVCA)
- Association for Project Safety (APS)
- British Standards Institute (BSI) (UKAS accredited)
- NQA (UKAS accredited)
- Laing O'Rourke Construction Ltd (subject to successful audit on 4 May)

There are currently eight Affiliate Members actively supporting and promoting SSIP: The Specialist Engineering Contractors' (SEC) Group, Clients Contractors Group (CCG), Construction Industry Council (CIC), United Kingdom Contractors Group (UKCG), National Specialist Contractors Council (NSCC), National Federation of Demolition Contractors (NFDC), VolkerFitzpatrick and the Civil Engineering Contractors Association (CECA).

All these Members work together to enhance mutual recognition across the construction industry – and we look forward to welcoming more members throughout the rest of 2010 and beyond.

So currently, the number of suppliers (service provider to a buyer) registered under an SSIP scheme now totals more than 50,000 and taken together each scheme services over 10,000 buyers (procurer of services from a supplier). This is very encouraging.

On a personal note, after three years the time has come for me to step down as SSIP chair. It has been a great privilege to have held this post, lead on the formation of the Forum and to have worked with a number of excellent, like minded professionals. As a team we have overcome numerous challenges in getting the Forum off the ground (the grey hair is a testament to that!). Our reward for all that hard work is summarised eloquently in this newsletter.

At the SSIP bi-annual elections held during the Forum meeting on 8 April, leadership passed to the new management team. I am delighted to announce that Simon Mantle of the National House-Building Council will be Chair and Dermot Maurer of Exor Management Services will be Vice Chair. In addition, a vote was taken to determine the five Registered Members joining Founder Members on the Forum Management Group. The five are Altius Vendor Assessment, Association for Project Safety (APS), British Standards Institute (BSI), Eurosafe UK and Facilities Services Group (FSG).

I will continue to offer support to the new Chair and Vice-chair, wherever needed. However, I know that with the new team at the helm, SSIP will move forward and continue to influence improvement in mutual recognition and safety compliance.

I want to take this opportunity to thank collectively and publicly, those of you who have cajoled, supported and encouraged me over the years. Without you I could not have done all that I have – thank you!



John Murphy