



Summary of Membership Options for Vendors

14 September 2009

This document explains the options for vendors joining the STAC Benchmark Council™ or renewing their membership in 2009. The term “vendor” includes technology vendors and data/infrastructure vendors. Note: Some vendors are also end users relative to other vendors. For example, a trading-system vendor might be an end user of messaging middleware.

Council membership

In 2009, vendors receive the following benefits from membership in the STAC Benchmark Council:

- Ability to participate in working groups and to read/contribute to online forums
- Access to pre-release specifications
- Ability to contribute benchmark results to the private STAC Vault™
- Possible right to vote on select benchmark specifications (those that measure products for which the firm is a qualified end user and not a vendor)
- Access to detailed STAC Reports™ in addition to STAC Report Cards™, for STAC Benchmarks™
- Admission to general Council meetings/events (2 reps)
- Discounted rate for opportunities at Council events (e.g., sponsorships, panels, Innovation Roundup)
- Space in Innovation Search™. Innovation Search enables a vendor to project its message to the STAC subscriber base by posting its own white papers, case studies, and other thought-leadership materials on the STAC web site. Innovation Search is organized to make it easy for end users to find solutions of interest.
- Inclusion in STAC publicity of Council members in STAC literature, on STACresearch.com, at STAC events, and at trade shows

STAC Test Harnesses™

A vendor may opt to subscribe to one or more STAC Test Harnesses™ that enable it to run rigorous STAC Benchmarks™ in the privacy of its own lab. A Test Harness subscription provides the enterprise right to use to the software and the STAC Test Harness forums during the subscription period. This includes access to pre-release versions of the Test Harness software.

Innovation Sponsorship

An Innovation Sponsor™ is a lower-stack vendor who makes significant tangible resources like data-center space and hardware available to STAC, end user firms, and partners to conduct STAC Benchmarks. (A lower-stack vendor is a provider of operating systems, servers, processors, networking, storage, or something else below the application layer, including infrastructure services such as connectivity.) In addition to encouraging innovation and solution validation on the vendor's products, Innovation Sponsors receive special recognition on STACresearch.com and in other STAC publicity. The preferred 2009 model is for the vendor to establish STAC Test Harnesses in its own lab, where access to the vendor's products and knowledgeable staff is most plentiful. The vendor must also commit to a reasonable model for allowing the STAC community to run benchmark projects. STAC will use its discretion to determine the adequacy of the vendor's contribution and lab arrangements in qualifying for Innovation Sponsorship.

Fees

The following table summarizes the annual fees for each of the options above.

ANNUAL FEES (USD)	
Membership	10K
Membership: STAC-E1 Only	5K
Test Harness Set, per domain	5K
Publisher's Discount***	Full waiver of fee for relevant Test Harness

*** Publisher's Discount: STAC will waive the Test Harness subscription fee for any domain in which a vendor publishes complete benchmark results for at least four system configurations in the subscription period (two of them must be in the first six months). Publication can be public distribution of audited STAC Reports or vendor-controlled disclosure through the confidential STAC Vault (see www.STACresearch.com/vault).

Notes

- "STAC-E1 Only" Membership is for vendors who only participate in the STAC-E1 working group, which is starting up in 2009. The fee reflects a \$5K discount off the first year of membership and is only available to firms that join by October 15, 2009.
- As a condition of membership, STAC may include the names of all member firms in its member listings (along with a disclaimer that the member does not necessarily endorse STAC standards or offerings.)
- Attendance at Council meetings and events is subject to availability, RSVP rules and other constraints. End-user firms have highest priority at space-constrained events.
- If physical media are required to deliver a Test Harness, additional charges may apply.
- This fee schedule is subject to change at any time.

Additional Offerings

STAC provides a range of additional products and services, including:

- STAC Benchmark Audits. For approved STAC Benchmark specifications, a vendor may hire STAC to verify a Test Harness, run the test sequences, and certify the results through an official STAC Report. The vendor may choose whether the STAC Report is made public on www.STACresearch.com or remains confidential to the vendor. Audited benchmarks may be run in the vendor's lab or the STAC Lab Network.
- Training, verification, and premium support for Test Harnesses.
- Creation of Member-requested Test Harness Extensions (e.g., exchange decodes, platform ports, STAC Packs for specific vendor products, etc.). STAC offers incentives that encourage Members to contribute these Extensions to the other Members. Under certain circumstances, STAC may also accept Member-created Test Harness Extensions in exchange for incentives.
- Additional tools and test harnesses not linked to STAC Benchmark specifications.

→ For more information, see www.STACresearch.com or contact council@STACresearch.com. ←