

OIX UK Chapter Board Representative Nomination 2018

Candidate Statement – Rob Laurence, Director, Innovate Identity Ltd

Key Opportunities for OIX UK Chapter in 2018

The UK Chapter opened in the UK in 2013. The catalyst was the engagement of the Cabinet Office who recognised that the founding principles of OIX could be embraced to help deliver the government's identity assurance programme (now GOV.UK Verify) through collaboration with the private sector in an open and shared learning environment.

Today, digital identity schemes are in place or being developed in 60 countries. Many are in an advanced state and some are moving to the "next generation" of technology to meet evolving requirements and user needs. The UK, though, lags behind many of these countries. GOV.UK Verify has not been a success for many reasons. It still could be, but the Cabinet Office vision of reuse in the private sector has not happened and won't be happening anytime soon.

This presents opportunities for OIX. Digital identity schemes will only be successful if they deliver compelling results for relying parties, identity providers and users. There has to be significant value for these parties to gain their commitment. Understanding where this value lies needs orchestration of these parties to collaborate, test and develop.

OIX can have a part to play in this orchestration. This could be at sector level, working with industry and trade associations to educate, guide and inform. It could extend beyond that at a cross-sector level, pulling together representation across industries; travel and finance, for example.

As digital identity schemes come to market, and perhaps beyond the immediate year ahead, new opportunities will emerge. Some of these will need independent and impartial guidance, governance or even custodianship. OIX could choose to develop a presence in these areas. The thinking and planning, though, should pre-empt the arrival of such schemes.

Demonstration of commitment to the work of the chapter

Since its inception, I have been actively involved in the work of OIX through a variety of projects. I have freely contributed to workshops as a presenter and moderator. I have contributed to the development of UK Chapter policies.

I am a great believer in the opportunity that exists for the Chapter and the role it could take in developing the UK digital identity landscape. In conversations and meetings with industry associations, suppliers and corporates, I have extolled the value that OIX brings and many have joined, or are working alongside OIX, as a consequence.

One role of the Board Representative Nomination is to represent the general membership who do not have a "voice" at Board level. I believe it is essential to actively engage with members, seek to understand their viewpoints and present these at Board level. This can be achieved through self-promotion, attendance at workshops and general accessibility.

Future accomplishments and making these achievable

OIX UK can only accomplish as much as its members see fit and, importantly, can commit resources and funding to. In past years, this commitment has largely been driven by the Cabinet Office to further the Verify programme. As this seems unlikely to continue, OIX UK must broaden its horizons and appeal more to existing and new members. To further this and attract new investment, OIX must be

seen to deliver real value to its members. In my opinion, OIX has not been able to demonstrate this and quantify the value it delivers.

For example, three projects have been completed to explore the digital transformation of the Blue Badge service in local government. The strapline, from 10 weeks to 10 minutes, was coined by myself but that wasn't the value. The value was the £20m savings per annum that such a service would bring to local authorities, plus the equivalent savings to applicants.

This is the kind of message that OIX needs to be delivering in 2018, helping establish the business cases for relying parties, in particular, to switch on to the benefits and quantifiable value digital identity will bring to them. This is the principle behind the current project proposal we are developing with UK Finance and some of the banks. If the relying parties can start to see the value, the investment will follow. This needs to be targeted at C-level.

Resource commitments

As a director of Innovate Identity, I am in a position to provide a reasonable level of commitment and follow the work of my colleague, Emma Lindley. This commitment is of mutual benefit, as Innovate Identity is well-regarded as an independent consultancy specialising in digital identity, and able to leverage the network effect of OIX to generate further business.

Relevant experiences, skills and interests

I have more than 40 years' experience in the information technology industry, spanning several industries and roles from systems design for blue chip industries to product development and sales. I have worked in many fields, from traditional ERP systems to CAD and robotics in manufacturing, to consumer data management, privacy and identity. My skills and personal interest lie in visioning, innovation and pioneering.

For the past 20 years, I have been involved in the data and identity sector. I have been involved in the development of new services in the energy and financial services sectors through demonstrating thought leadership and industry collaboration with regulators, trade associations and corporates. I have started and run, as MD, an identity business division within a PLC, achieving fast-growth and profitability and setting the foundations for a £600m business.

I have worked with identity providers to help develop their strategies. I have worked with Fintech and corporates to help them evaluate their requirements for KYC compliance within the customer onboarding journeys and select the appropriate technology and suppliers to deliver this. I have worked with States of Jersey for two years to help them establish their requirements for a digital identity scheme. I have overseen or coordinated some 10 or so OIX discovery and alpha projects.

I believe the breadth and depth of experience, gained over a life time, together with my specialist subject knowledge, will help me contribute positively to the next stage of OIX's development in 2018.