



Members' Newsletter
December 2022 Edition



Wishing you a wonderful festive season!

Dear ITSA Members

As we wind down another year and get ready to celebrate the festive season with friends and family, let's look at what ITSA's been doing, how it's been growing in terms of new members, and what it's got planned for 2023 – now that the world is opening up again.

Introducing Eddie!



Although Edward Alaszewski has been with us for a few months now, most of you will not have met him yet. Eddie is Subscriptions and Membership Executive at Reconnaissance, and part of the ITSA secretariat team.

Eddie has working experience in Australia, UAE, and the UK. Prior to joining Reconnaissance, he spent three years in the DACH market (Germany, Austria, Switzerland) for a large software company.

He completed a Post Graduate Diploma in Librarianship at Charles Sturt University, Australia, before going on to focus on library IT systems and development of electronic content.

So, welcome to ITSA, Eddie!

New Members and Board in 2022

Thanks to the ongoing support of our current members, including two new members in 2022, ITSA membership has grown to 26 – its highest level yet!

Our two new members are Baldwin Vision Systems and Zeiser. And we are happy to announce another new member from January 2023: the National Company for Advanced Industries and Integrated Strategic Printing Solutions (NASPS), providers of tax stamps for Egypt.



Juan Carlos Yañez Arenas (left) passes the chairman's baton to Gerben van Wijk at Tax Stamp & Traceability Forum, Malta, May 2022.



Since May 2022, we also have a new chairman and new board member.

Our new chairman is Gerben van Wijk of Luminescence Sun Chemical Security, who has been on the ITSA board since 2018. Gerben replaces Juan Carlos Yañez Arenas of Thomas Greg & Sons, who was appointed chairman in 2015, when ITSA was founded. Juan Carlos continues to serve on the board as director until the end of his term.

Our newest board member is Nasser Bakkar of De La Rue (left), who was elected in May, at ITSA's annual general meeting.

The other board members are Zbigniew Sagan of Advanced Track & Trace, Marietta Ulrich-Horn of Securikett, Tim Driscoll of Authentix, and Ruggero Milanese of SICPA, bringing the total to seven.

ITSA Launches ISO 22382 Review

The international tax stamp standard, ISO 22382:2018, is due for review in 2023, given that it is general ISO practice to formally review a standard every five years.

The standard was originally published in October 2018, with ITSA's support, as a best practice guidance for tax stamp issuers.

In order to provide input to ISO's review, ITSA has decided to launch its own review ahead of the formal ISO process, with the aim of gathering comments and suggestions from tax stamp issuers and suppliers.

ITSA has asked Ian Lancaster to lead this process. He was ISO's project leader for writing the original standard so is obviously familiar with it, as well as with current trends in tax stamps and ISO procedures.

Together with Ian, ITSA is establishing a small group of advisers, from mainly revenue authorities and ITSA members, to help ensure that the review is relevant to these key players in the tax stamp field.

We aim to keep the group to a maximum of nine people, and anticipate meetings will take place online, with the possible exception of a face-to-face meeting at the Tax Stamp & Traceability Forum™ in Autumn 2023.

The first meeting will be either before Christmas or in early January, after which we envisage a meeting every couple of months during 2023.

In terms of revenue authorities, the Irish and Kenyan authorities have already confirmed their participation in the advisory group. Should you also wish to become a member of this group, in your capacity as solution provider and ITSA member, please contact nicola@recon-intl.com.

And if you have suggestions on aspects of the standard that might benefit from a review, please contact ian@lancaster-consult.com, who would be happy to hear from you.

You can access the ISO 22382:2108 document in the **Member's Area** of the ITSA website.

What's New in the Member's Area?

Talking of the Member's Area, we've added some new links and info to this section, which you may find helpful:

- A direct link to all the Tax Stamp & Traceability News™ (TSTN) newsletters. Remember that your ITSA membership offers complimentary access to these newsletters as well as individual articles on the TSTN website.
- A list of the most recent tax stamp tender alerts, together with related documents. These alerts are initially sent to you by email, as soon as we receive them, but we thought it would be useful to have them filed together for future reference.

You may also be interested to know that, following the request of an ITSA member, there is now a French and Spanish version available of ITSA's Blueprint for an FCTC Protocol-Compliant Tobacco Control System. Click **here** to access all versions of the blueprint in the public area of the website.

Ramping Up ITSA's Online Presence

In 2023, we will be hiring the services of a part-time social and digital media executive to enhance ITSA's online presence and overall visibility, through social media and other digital channels.

In particular, the executive will help ITSA to:

- Formulate strategies to build a lasting digital connection between ITSA members, potential members, and the markets that ITSA serves.
- Plan and monitor ongoing ITSA presence on social media platforms (LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook).
- Create content – messages, posts, press releases, member communications – for all platforms.
- Engage with and encourage members to both create and disseminate social media content.
- Reach out to and create conversations with related social media groups.
- Respond to audience conversations on ITSA and other accounts.

We are currently in discussions with a potential candidate for this important role and will come back with an update on this in the New Year.

Workshops Are Back!

After several years of little to no travel as a result of COVID-19, it was wonderful to be able to hold in-person workshops again, in 2022, first at the High Security Printing™ conference in Mexico City, and then at the Tax Stamp & Traceability Forum™ (TSTF) in Malta.

ITSA workshops are regularly held in different regions throughout the year (although they only took place online in 2020 and 2021). The workshops typically include case study presentations by tax authorities, technology updates by ITSA members and interactive discussions around a specific theme.

Although many governments in the Latin American region were still hesitant about allowing tax administration members to travel, there was nevertheless a good showing of government authorities at the Mexico event, including delegates from Argentina, Chile, Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Panama, the United States and, of course, Mexico. Click [here](#) for more information.

The TSTF workshop, meanwhile, was attended by a large number of, mainly European, revenue authorities, with one highlight being a detailed presentation, by Francisco Mandiola, on the purpose of different tender documents and how to structure them. Click [here](#) for more information.

Looking forward to the 2023 event calendar, we plan to kick things off with a workshop in Abu Dhabi, in March, on the occasion of the High Security Printing™ EMEA conference. And we will, of course, be back in full force at the next TSTF, to be held in Tbilisi, Georgia, in Autumn 2023.

We'll be back to you with more details on these and other events, early in the new year.

Until then, we wish you and your family all the very best for the festive season.



Get in Touch

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to get in contact with the secretariat team:

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