

CHAIRMEN’S REPORT – AGM 2022

MAY 2021 – MAY 2022

As I look back on the past year, at a world that is still dealing with and adapting to the impacts of the pandemic, I must recognise the board members, working groups and association members for their continued contribution to the growth of the STS standard.

Our active membership, as at June 2022, stands at 230. Membership continues to grow year on year with 25 new members joining the association in 2021, 13 more in 2022 and 14 membership applications pending approval. To those new members, I welcome all of you to the STS Association. The accumulative growth year on year is shown in Figure 1 with membership now distributed across 82 countries.

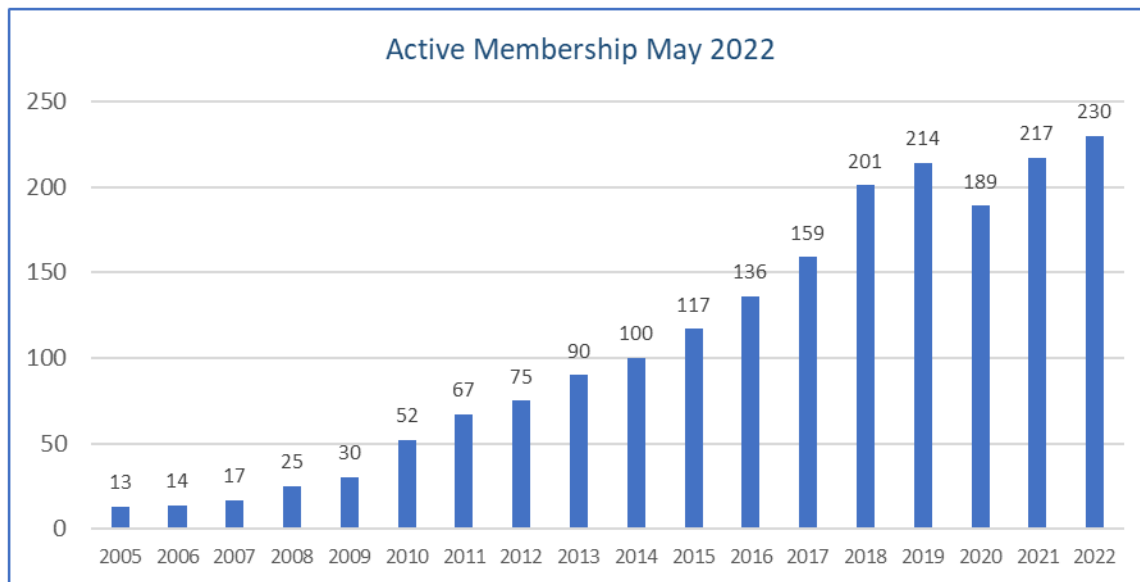


Figure 1: Accumulative Year on Year Membership Growth

As at 31 December 2021, the Association’s financial year end, membership contributed 7.6MZAR against a budget of 7MZAR. Healthy cash reserves enabled the board to invest in activities to further enhance the standard while promoting the standard on a global scale.

Audited financial results, which will be tabled and explained in more detail at the Annual General Meeting in June 2022, reflect a Net income for this financial year of around 2MZAR. Although this is almost 1MZAR down from the previous year, it is indicative of the operational investments made during the year. Again, as in 2020, significant investment was made into marketing. Primary drivers were the continued rollout of the TID rollover communication campaign, enhanced digital presence and digital content. The Key Management Centre (KMC) remained a focal point with around 1.1MZAR being invested in new upgrades and enhancements to the systems as well as ensuring that the system is up to date in terms of technology and has sufficient redundancy and backup.

Expanding further on marketing activities, I would first like to thank Mr. Dave Tarr and his team for the exceptional work carried out during the past year. In addition, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Mr. Riccardo Pucci as a full-time employee of the STS Association (STSA), as he takes up the role of Technical Marketing Specialist, focusing on supporting the TID Rollover project team with communications and creating valuable video content on various important STS related topics.

Marketing activities flowing from 2021 and which will continue to remain our focus in 2022 are:

- **TID ROLLOVER**

With 2024 only 2.5 years away, it is imperative that STS users ensure that all STS meters are rolled over before 24 November 2024 – a significant communication and knowledge sharing effort has been made by the TID Rollover team under the guidance of Don Taylor. This campaign has been ongoing for many years and remained the focus during 2021 and will continue throughout the next few years, to keep TID Rollover top of mind with all users.

- **STS Evolution**

The evolution of the standard, as it relates to developments and enhancements of other relevant global specifications, continues to be a priority. The inclusion of the IEC62055-41 Attributes COSEM interface class into the newly published in DLMS UA Blue Book 15, is a significant move in this direction.

- **Digital Platforms**

Marketing continued to promote the STS standard by enhancing our digital presence on platforms such as Facebook, LinkedIn, YouTube, and Twitter. With events and conferences starting up again in 2022 we will once again ensure presence at these events for the benefits of STS members and users of the STS specifications and services. Attended events include the South African Revenue Protections Association (SARPA) event in May 2022 and the Enlit Africa event (previously known as Africa Utility Week) in June 2022.

- **Digital Content**

A wealth of STS technical information has been broken down into segments, captured as a series of videos and published on the STS website. While these videos are currently in English, we are in the process of including subtitle translations in other languages. Many of the videos are aimed at providing more information and guidelines about TID Rollover, while other videos are aimed at technical training and sharing STS technical information to support our members and end users of STS specifications. A total of 31 videos have been completed to date with more to come in the following weeks and month.

Please visit the STSA website and the YouTube site to get the benefit of the information in the videos created for you.

- STS website: <https://www.sts.org.za/video22>
- STS YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfvyubUByRC78lkmh4xJKQ>
- **Website**
A significant update to the STSA website has been the updates made to our Wiki page. The Wiki has been enhanced to include exceptional STS content and technical information.

The TID Rollover project team continued to reach out to all stakeholders and to make them aware of the 24 November 2024 deadline, before which all STS compliant prepayment meters must be key changed to base date 2014. In reaching out both locally and internationally to users of STS, multiple channels have been utilised including couriers, email, webinars, conference presentations and social media. While the Association endeavors to do its best, some of these mechanisms are not quantifiable with regards to the degree of success in making confirmed contact with relevant organizations. In terms of notification and guideline deliveries, we have managed to successfully reach approximately 70% of the 1955 Supply Group Code users registered with the Key Management Center. The 30% remnant users remain a concern. I implore all members to reach out to your customers and assist in getting the message out. The project team will continue to utilise STSA social media platforms as well as participation in local Municipal workshops and branch meeting such as SALGA, AMEU, SARPA and CIGFARO which represents the municipal treasurers in South Africa.

As a key component of the STS ecosystem, the STSA continued to make investments into its KMS. This included the purchase of 4 state of the art servers to replace the previous desktop system. One server has been commissioned to host the live KMS and a second has been commissioned as a backup which receives regular updates from the live system. The backup server is currently being hosted by Prism in their secure room however the STSA is in contractual negotiations to have this hosted with an ISP.

The remaining 2 systems are being utilised to test any operating system of application software updates and enhancements that are to be implemented. A risk identified during the pandemic was the issue of 24/7/365 support by the KMC. To this end the STSA have commissioned an email gateway which will

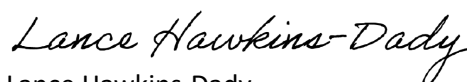
allow all users to request key file updates using a secure email channel. Although some users have experienced technical issues, which are being investigated, the gateway is currently active and working well. The official release date is July 2022.

In terms of certification and compliance, 153 meters, vending systems and hardware security modules were tested in 2021 with 90 being tested in 2022. Statistics retrieved from the test houses show a significant uptake in the adoption of STS technology across utilities other than electricity. To date around 34 water meters and 9 gas meters have been certified.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the current board for their continued support throughout the year. The 2021/2022 STSA board was constituted as follows:

- Mr. Lance Hawkins-Dady (Conlog and chairman)
- Mr. Don Taylor (Itron)
- Mr. Shawn O'Neil (Security Module Manufacturers)
- Mr. Deon van Rooi (Eskom)
- Mr. Dave Tarr (Landis+Gyr)
- Mr. Lee Naicker (Alternate Landis+Gyr)
- Mr. Lebina Tsepe (Vending System Manufacturers)
- Ms. Grace Yao (Meter Manufacturers)
- Mr. Andy Stoner (Independent co-opted Director)
- Mr. Franco Pucci (Technical Consultant)
- Ms. Jayshree Pershad (Association of Municipal Electricity Utilities)
- Mr. Vally Padayachee (Alternate Association of Municipal Electricity Utilities)
- Mr. Jean Venter (Secretariat)

Many thanks and stay safe,



Lance Hawkins-Dady
STSA Chairman
11 June 2022