



## Summary of Membership Options for User Firms

Updated: 20 March 2024

This document explains how user firms can take advantage of the benefits of STAC Benchmark Council™ membership. “User firm” means banks, brokers, hedge funds, exchanges, and other financial institutions. The available benefits are detailed at [www.STACresearch.com/council](http://www.STACresearch.com/council) and at the links below:

- Participation in Council events ([www.stacresearch.com/events](http://www.stacresearch.com/events)), access to event materials and other members-only resources such as certain webinars and virtual panel discussions;
- Enterprise license to STAC Test Harness™ software and product-specific STAC Packs™ ([www.STACresearch.com/tools](http://www.STACresearch.com/tools)), enabling a firm to run STAC Benchmarks™ or customized benchmarks on systems of its choosing;
- Access to non-public benchmark results, configuration details from public and non-public tests, and other restricted information in the confidential STAC Vault™ ([www.STACresearch.com/vault](http://www.STACresearch.com/vault));
- Ability to participate in working groups that define benchmark specifications and design test harnesses, to read/contribute to online forums, and to vote on STAC Benchmark specifications. In addition to influencing the benchmark standards that drive industry solutions, working groups are an opportunity to discuss key issues with other industry experts.

### Memberships

The Council has three types of user membership. *Firms*, not individuals, are members. Membership benefits generally extend to all employees of a firm:

- **Contributing Member** firms receive the following benefits:
  - Admission to general Council meetings and access to materials from these meetings
  - Right to participate in working groups in any domain. By current STAC policy, the ability of a Contributing Member firm to participate in the standards process is permanent upon payment of the one-time initiation fee.<sup>1</sup>
  - Right to purchase a premium subscription (access to STAC Vault information and STAC Test Harness software in particular areas). Premium subscriptions carry an annual fee. A Contributing Member firm receives a discount on its premium subscriptions, provided that it participates in at least one working group during the year.
- **Recipient Member** firms have the same benefits as Contributing Members except that they do not participate in the standards process.
- **Observer Member** firms are admitted to general Council meetings and can access materials from these meetings. Observer Member firms have a standard subscription (i.e., access to publicly available information) but may receive one sample report from the STAC Vault in order to evaluate the benefit of upgrading to a premium subscription.

---

<sup>1</sup> A Contributing Member without a premium subscription is not entitled to information from the STAC Vault or STAC testing software but can still participate in working groups to exert influence on benchmark standards.

STAC focuses on capital markets workload domains described at [www.stacresearch.com/domains](http://www.stacresearch.com/domains). These domains are divided into “STAC Tracks” for which premium subscriptions are available:

- **Trade Flow STAC Track.** This includes STAC-TS, STAC-T1, STAC-T0, STAC-N1, STAC-M1, STAC-M2 and other things that concern low-latency or high-throughput exchange of trading messages or pre-trade information.
- **Analytics STAC Track:** STAC-A2, STAC-A3, STAC-M3, STAC-ML, and other workloads involving big data or big computing challenges.
- **ML STAC Track:** STAC-ML and other workloads involving the ML life cycle.

The following table summarizes the benefits and annual fees (in US Dollars) by membership type:

	Observer	Recipient	Contributor
<b>BENEFITS</b>			
Admission to Council events and access to event materials	✓	✓	✓
Access to information in the STAC Vault		✓	✓
Enterprise license to STAC testing software		✓	✓
Ability to participate in working groups in specific domains			✓
<b>FEES</b>			
Initiation (one-time fee for new members only)	0	5,930	5,930
Trade Flow STAC Track premium subscription (annual fee)	Not available	26,580 <sup>1</sup>	21,425 <sup>1</sup>
Analytics STAC Track premium subscription (annual fee)	Not available	26,580 <sup>1</sup>	21,425 <sup>1</sup>
ML STAC Track premium subscription (annual fee)	Not available	15,950 <sup>2</sup>	12,850 <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Small firm discount (user firms with <100 employees) of 50%

<sup>2</sup> Small firm discount (user firms with <100 employees) of 30%

## Notes

- As a condition of membership, STAC may include the name of the firm 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. Contributors have highest priority at space-constrained events, followed by Recipients, then Observers. Our goal, of course, is always to choose venues with ample space.
- This benefits list and fee schedule are subject to change at any time.

### Additional Offerings

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

- Testing of specific solution stacks.
- Training, verification, and premium support for STAC Test Harnesses.
- Member-requested STAC Test Harness Extensions (e.g., platform ports, STAC Packs™ for specific vendor products, etc.).

→ For more information, see [www.STACresearch.com](http://www.STACresearch.com) or contact [council@STACresearch.com](mailto:council@STACresearch.com). ←