# Member Category Definitions

Based on 2024 Membership Remodeling

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<tr>
<th>MEMBER CATEGORY</th>
<th>CATEGORY DEFINITION</th>
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| **Telecom Operators**                               | • Provides connectivity services to consumer or enterprise end customers, including billing and provisioning  
• May hold full, shared or unlicensed spectrum  
• Procures solutions from telecom network vendors, OEMs, integrators, distributors, and infrastructure providers  
• May have a core network  
• Joins associations like TIP to contribute to requirements to evaluate, test, and tender in vendors that can fulfill your network capacity and expansion requirements |
| **Managed Service Organizations, Internet Service Providers** | • Provides managed internet access services to consumers and/or enterprises  
• Has the equipment and telecommunication line access required to have a point of presence on the internet for the geographic area served  
• Has the services organization to offer access and support to internet services for end customers |
| **Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs)**          | • Provides hardware-based solution variants that conform to industry standards  
• Provides hardware that can interface with software stacks (including open source based solutions)  
• Interested in the commercial deployment of your hardware solutions |
| **Chipset Vendors**                                 | • Has a primary business based on the provision of chipsets in the industry  
• Potentially offers solutions that vertically integrate with your chipsets  
• Offers solutions that can integrate with other vendor hardware or software solutions while conforming to industry standards |
| **Software Solution Providers**                     | • Provides software-based solutions (proprietary or based on open-source platforms) that conform to industry standards  
• Provides software-based solutions that can interface with hardware-based solutions available in the market (including your own), as well as other software-based solutions  
• Interested in the commercial deployment of your software solutions as a part of interoperable multi-vendor stacks |
## Member Category Definitions (continued)

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| **System Integrators**   | • Has a core business focused on the integration and deployment of multi-vendor solution stacks  
                           • Has an existing or developing set of tools that allow for integration into OSS/BSS, lifecycle management, release management, and /or bug fixing  
                           • Has a commercial model that is based on integration, deployment, and/or managed services |
| **Distributors & Resellers** | • Partners with national and/or global connectivity service providers  
                               • Has a commercial model which is based on managing the logistics, placement, and integration of vendor solutions |
| **Infrastructure Providers** | • Provides telecom infrastructure assets that can be used in the integration or and deployment of vendor-led solutions  
                                 • Has a commercial model which is based on monetising your infrastructure assets |
| **Test Lab Providers**   | • Has a core business model based on the provision of rack space, test engineering resources, testing tools, and testing of vendor supplied solutions  
                           • Has experience and expertise in the setup, integration, and readiness of multi-vendor solution stacks for controlled testing in indoor and open field environments  
                           • Has test engineering resources that can develop and run automated and manual test scripts  
                           • Has tools at hand that can support CSP-grade testing, including specification conformance, interoperability, performance, and security  
                           • Willing to be audited and endorsed by TIP to be an industry-level test facility |
| **Test Specialists**     | • Has a core business focused on the provision of testing methodologies, testing hardware, and software suites, that can simulate CSP-grade testing before integration into a real network |
| **Academia**             | • Has a core business based on student education, research and development  
                           • Participating in, or interested in participating in, innovation within telecom network disaggregation  
                           • Has developed concepts or proof-of-concepts that could be in TRL 1-3, and that can be contributed to the design, build, and maturing of commercial solutions  
                           • May have a lab facility whose primary purpose is for research and development into new areas of innovation, as well as student education  
                           • Interested in building partnerships with commercial organizations in the industry  
                           **Please Note:** If your objective is to become a TIP-endorsed lab host, then you will fall into the Lab Host category once audited and approved by TIP. |