

New Affiliate Participation Policy effective on 1st of January 2025

The OPC Foundation Affiliate Participation Policy formalizes the combination of the rules defined in the Bylaws and the living practice of the management of affiliates of the OPC Foundation Members. The bylaws have been updated to point to this new Affiliate Participation Policy for the definition of the exact rules. OPC Foundation wants to provide a clear and fair approach for its members and their affiliates. This policy provides two main options for affiliate participation: Conventional Affiliate participation and Independent Affiliate Membership.

Conventional Affiliate Participation

This is the default status of all affiliates of members and provides a clear legal assurance to all our members without creating a big management overhead for the designated representatives.

- **Eligibility and Benefits:** All Affiliates of Members can participate under the Member's umbrella, with access to most benefits except certain marketing privileges, voting rights, and discounts.
- **Responsibilities:** Members must ensure their Affiliates comply with OPC Foundation rules and applicable laws, including U.S. sanctions.
- **Representation:** Affiliates participate under the Member's name unless a separate Named Affiliate is designated. Public benefits list only the Member or Named Affiliate and products marketed under that principal brand, not individual Affiliates.

Independent Affiliate Membership

- **Eligibility and Benefits:** Affiliated entities can choose to register for OPC Foundation membership separately, disclose their affiliation, and pay their own membership fee. They receive all benefits of their membership class and Conventional Affiliate benefits, including voting rights, marketing activities, and discounts.
- **Voting Rights:** Independent Affiliate Members can vote independently, aligning with their specific company strategies.
- **Marketing Activities:** They can be listed under their own name in marketing activities, partner pods at trade shows, and advertisements in OPCF newsletters.

- **Discounts and License Rights:** Independent Affiliate Members are eligible for the same discounts as Corporate Members and benefit from commercial-friendly source code licensing terms.

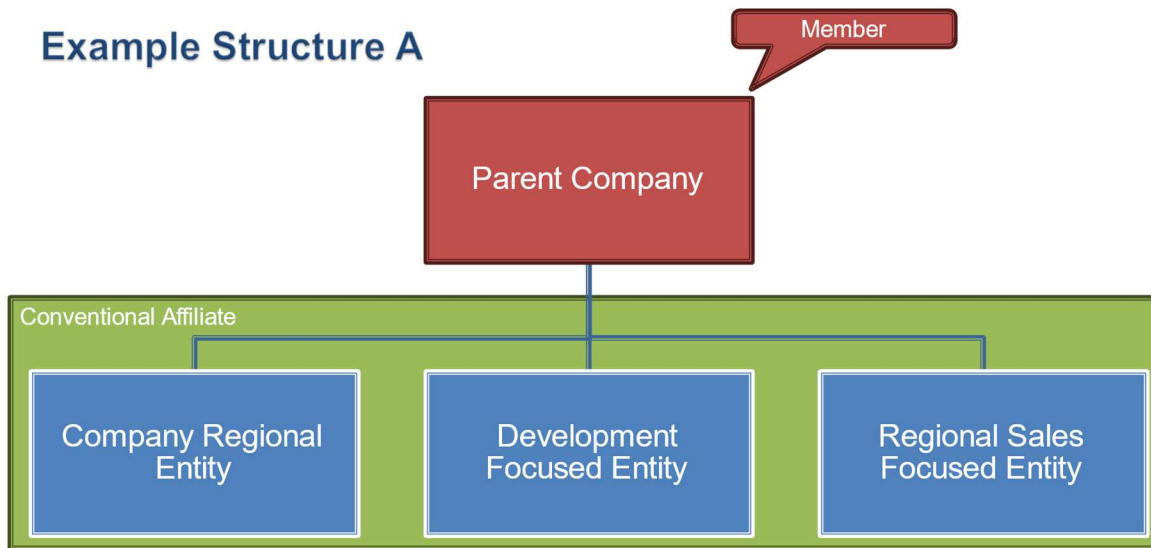
Nevertheless, the OPC Foundation encourages large, influential affiliated entities to opt for Independent Affiliate Membership to showcase the strength of the OPC Foundation and the OPC UA ecosystem.

Example Scenarios

Single Entity

Most Class D corporate members (revenues below \$2M) are single legal entities, without affiliates. Since they don't have affiliated companies in their corporate structure, nothing will change and no action is necessary.

Corporation with regional affiliates

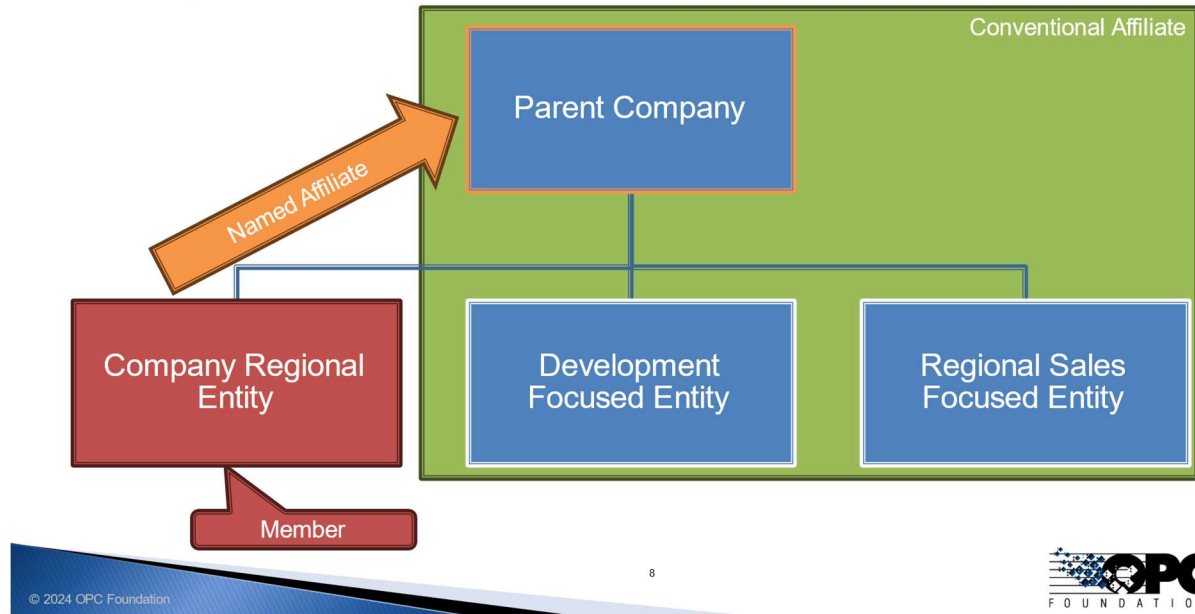


If an OPCF member has regional entities in other countries, these regional entities fall under the new affiliate participation rules. In this scenario, we expect that most regional entities operate under the company brand of the parent member company and work on products and services under that brand. In this case such affiliates can participate as Conventional Affiliates in the company's OPC Foundation activities. When the regional affiliates share a common part of the company name and use the corporation E-Mail Domain no additional steps are needed. If they have distinct names, the member should

identify such entities and associated domain names, to the extent they will be participating in OPCF activities.

Corporation with contracting affiliates and separate brand

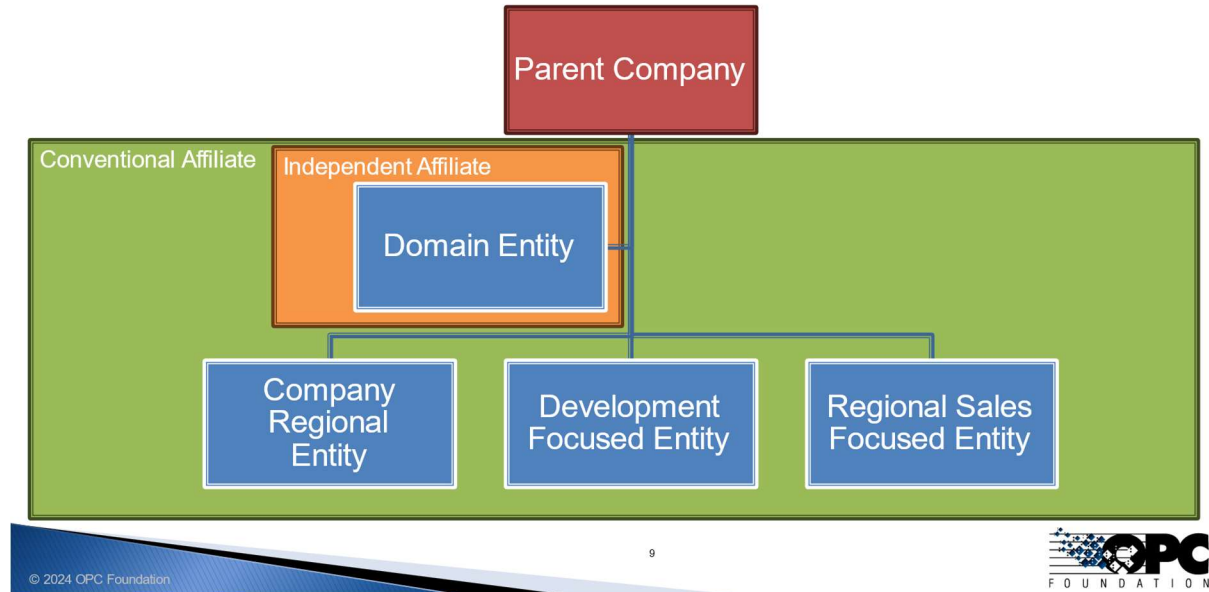
Example Structure B



Some corporations have policies that result in a subsidiary entity joining the OPC Foundation on behalf of the corporate family. This scenario is covered by the Named Affiliate concept in the policy. This allows for a main corporate brand to represent the corporate family's activities within OPC Foundation, even if the direct contractual member is a subsidiary entity.

Corporation with affiliates and multiple brands

Example Structure C



Some corporations have a multi-brand strategy, for example for products in different domains, categories or regions. If a brand is managed by a distinct legal entity and that entity desires to benefit from independent access to OPC Foundation tools for their own brand and be visible to the market as an independent OPC Foundation member or OPC UA supporter, that affiliate can decide to become an Independent Affiliate Member. Such independent members receive similar rights and benefits as an OPC Foundation member of the Corporate Member class, including the opportunity to use the benefits of its OPC Foundation membership for products marketed under their own brand. Such affiliates are required to register with the OPC Foundation and request to become an Independent Affiliate Member.

Summary

These are example scenarios and a summary of the Affiliate Participation Policy.

For more detailed information, please refer to the full policy document [[link](#)].