

# Network News

FEBRUARY 2025

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Russell Bedford International North America Conference 2025
- IPPC Group joins as the second member firm in India
- Russell Bedford 2025 Webinars now available
- Stay ahead with the Russell Bedford Centres of Excellence
- Client Onboarding: How to tackle AI-enabled Identity Fraud
- Lubbock Fine expands corporate finance team
- Russell Bedford Spain appoints 3 new partners in Barcelona
- Russell Bedford DACH LinkedIn Page
- Russell Bedford Ecuador celebrates its 40th Anniversary
- Congratulations to our taking you further 2024 quiz winner, John Donnelly!
- Tribute to Stavros Papantonis
- Webinar Recordings

## Russell Bedford International North America Conference 2025

The Russell Bedford International North America Conference 2025 in New Orleans, USA, brought together members from across the region for insightful discussions, valuable networking and strategic planning for the future.



The event began with a wonderful welcome dinner at the Chemin a la Mer restaurant in the Warehouse District where delegates had the opportunity to connect with peers while enjoying the panoramic views of the Mississippi River.



The conference agenda started with introductions and updates from member firms, followed by key sessions on practice management. This included roundtable discussions facilitated by Jack Cartmel from Numis and Michael Parrish from PW Associates which explored strategies for streamlining operations and enhancing profitability.



Scott Peterson from Avalara provided crucial updates on SALT/GST, keeping firms informed on the latest regulatory changes. This was followed by a session on CAAS led by Amy Langfelder from Cray Kaiser which highlighted innovative approaches to reengineering accounting service departments for growth.





Bruce Benator from WBL CPAs + Advisors then led an in-depth discussion on workforce strategies, addressing key challenges in recruitment, retention, and the evolving landscape of remote vs. in-office work.

The final discussions of the day focused on growth, succession planning, and futureproofing, with David Barbeito from De La Hoz, Perez & Barbeito leading the discussion on how to prepare for long-term success.



Rounding out the agenda, Russell Bedford International CEO, Stephen Hamlet, and Associate Director of Network Engagement, Kathryn Davis, led an engaging roundtable on strengthening collaboration and enhancing the Russell Bedford brand across North America.



To close the conference, delegates enjoyed an authentic New Orleans experience at the Olde Nola Cookery, right in the heart of the French Quarter, overlooking Bourbon Street.



“It’s been an exciting start to 2025 with the North America Conference – providing a fantastic opportunity for our US firms to reconnect, focus on regional growth, and plan long-term strategies for collaboration on an international scale.” Stephen Hamlet, CEO, Russell Bedford International.

Members can visit the portal to access event photos and presentations: [North America Conference 2025](#)

## IPPC Group joins as the second member firm in India



Russell Bedford International has announced the appointment of Delhi-based IPPC Group as the global network's second member in India.

Founded in 1978 by senior partner Inderpal Singh Pasricha, IPPC Group has grown significantly over the years.

Serving more than 300 private and public clients, including multinational and domestic enterprises, the group comprises two main entities: I.P. Pasricha & Co Chartered Accountants and PMC Consultants Pvt Ltd, a business consulting firm.

With a team of 90 professionals across eight offices in northern and central India, the group offers a wide range of services. These include internal and external audit, tax, advisory and business process outsourcing (BPO).

The group's expertise spans many sectors, including media, IT, telecoms, manufacturing and pharmaceuticals.

Speaking about the appointment, Russell Bedford CEO, Stephen Hamlet, said: "It is a pleasure to welcome IPPC Group as our second member in India. For the most part, the new group and our existing member, Sharp & Tannan, provide complementary service-lines. So, as well as considerably enhancing our presence in India, the move greatly broadens our network's scope of services for domestic and international clients."

IPPC Group managing partner, Maneet Pal, added: "We aim to provide a comprehensive suite of services beyond traditional audit and taxation. This diversification allows us to cater to a wide range of client needs. Our goal is to serve multinational clients and access emerging markets while leveraging local expertise. Joining Russell Bedford allows us to expand our reach and network, collaborate with other like-minded firms, and access resources and expertise that can help us provide better services to our clients."

## Russell Bedford 2025 Webinars now available



This year's learning and development webinars for members are now open for [registration](#). Topics cover Tax, Risk and Regulation, Audit, Technology and AI, Personal Development and Wellbeing.

We look forward to seeing you attend these webinars and hope that the wide range of topics will assist in your continuous learning and development. For the complete list and to register for each webinar, visit the events page [here](#).

You will have received a recent survey that allows you to vote on themes for additional webinars this year. Please take the time to let us know what topics are of interest to you by completing the survey [here](#).



## Stay ahead with the Russell Bedford Centres of Excellence



Our Russell Bedford Centres of Excellence are designed to help our members excel in specialised fields by sharing valuable insights, experiences and best practices. These centres provide a unique opportunity to collaborate, learn and drive growth for your firm.

We're excited to relaunch our Centres of Excellence and are looking for passionate professionals to join us in shaping the future. Get involved, connect with industry peers and stay ahead in key areas of expertise.

More updates are coming soon. In the meantime, visit our [Centres of Excellence](#) and [Events pages](#) to explore upcoming sessions and opportunities to participate.

## Client Onboarding: How to tackle AI-enabled Identity Fraud



In our recent webinar, Client Onboarding: How to tackle AI-enabled Identity Fraud, we explored the complexities of the client onboarding process and how robust ID checks not only create great first impressions for new clients, but also ensure your firm stays on the right side of AML compliance, whilst minimising the ever-increasing threat of AI-enabled identity fraud.

If you couldn't attend, don't worry – you can watch the full recording now on the [intranet](#).

**Member discount available:** Russell Bedford members who sign up with ID-Pal before 31 December 2025 will receive 12 months' subscription for the price of 10. [Find out more here.](#)

## Lubbock Fine expands corporate finance team



Rahid Rashid has joined Lubbock Fine, our member firm in London, UK, as a new Partner in their corporate finance team.

With 15 years of experience in mergers and acquisitions (M&A), Rahid brings extensive knowledge and expertise to support clients in achieving their business goals.

[Read more](#)

## Russell Bedford Spain appoints 3 new partners in Barcelona



Russell Bedford Spain significantly strengthened its Financial Advisory Services, Strategy and Operations, and Public Sector departments with the addition of three new partners.

As leaders for these key strategic areas we welcome Alejandro Heredia, Alejandro Miró-Sans and Jesús Andreo.

[Read More.](#)

## Russell Bedford DACH LinkedIn Page



Some of our Russell Bedford members from Germany, Austria, and Switzerland have decided to leverage synergies, pool knowledge and communicate the brand together.

Representatives met in Munich to collaborate and exchange ideas, forming working groups to deepen their expertise. The DACH region focuses on marketing and recruitment (\*DACH stands for Germany (D), Austria (A), and Switzerland (CH)).

Russell Bedford DACH has now launched a LinkedIn page to increase awareness, highlight benefits and attract clients and talent. Stay up to date by following, liking, sharing and commenting!

[View here.](#)

## Russell Bedford Ecuador celebrates its 40th Anniversary



This year Russell Bedford Ecuador celebrates its 40th Anniversary.

This is a huge milestone for the firm which has evolved from a local family business to offering international services in audit, finance and consulting. Congratulations to Russell Bedford Ecuador!

Read more [here.](#)

## Congratulations to our taking you further 2024 quiz winner, John Donnelly!

As part of taking you further day 2024, we hosted an exciting quiz to test our members' knowledge of Russell Bedford International – from our founding and core values to our achievements at the IAB awards.

During our taking you further day global virtual call, we revealed the quiz champion: John Donnelly from Russell Bedford (Dubai) Limited, who answered all questions correctly in record time. We extend a huge congratulations to John who won a donation to the charity of his choice.

John chose to support Stay Dogs Center UAE which is an animal rescue shelter for stray dogs. This centre houses more than 1,400 dogs and purely relies on donations and support from the public to cover their ongoing costs.

This cause is close to our hearts, as the team previously visited the center as part of *taking you further* day 2019, where they spent time walking and interacting with the dogs.

For more information about Stay Dogs Center UAE you can visit their website here: [Animal Rescue Shelter | Stray Dogs Center](#)





## Tribute to Stavros Papantonis



Stavros Papantonis, one of the Founders and Chairman of the Board of Directors at Action Auditing S.A. in Greece, sadly passed away on Sunday 29th December 2024.

Stavros Papantonis was a leader and a fundamental member of Action Auditing S.A, his presence will truly be missed. His position will be taken over by his son Thomas Papantonis who is a Certified Public Accountant.,

## Webinar Recordings

Thank you to those who attended our recent webinars. We hope you found them useful.

For members who were unable to attend, please see the links below where you will be able to access the recording for each webinar.

[Deferred Tax - IAS 12 Accounting and Auditing](#)

[Work-Life Balance](#)

[Strategy for 2025 - Competing Against Luck](#)

## Forthcoming conferences

For further details about upcoming Russell Bedford conferences and to register, please visit the [Events](#) page on the intranet.



### Ibero-America Conference

The 2025 Russell Bedford Ibero-America Conference will be held on 27 - 30 March in La Paz, Mexico. Please visit our members [Events Page](#) on the Intranet for details.



### International Tax & EMEA Conference

The 2025 Russell Bedford International Tax and EMEA Conference will be held on 16 - 18 May in Budapest, Hungary. Registration will be launching in the coming weeks. Please visit our members [Events Page](#) on the Intranet for details.

## Russell Bedford - key facts and figures

- **More than 40 years** of global service
- **Top 20** global accounting network
- **USD 900 million** global fee income
- Some **1000 partners** and over **10,000 staff**
- Almost **400 offices** in more than **100 countries**

For previous editions of Network News, visit our [Network News](#) webpage.