Votes forge way for new EHS Audit Center

Audit Roundtable membership, IIA boards approve merger of two organizations

PHOENIX, Ariz. (March 9, 2015) — Recent votes in favor of a merger between The Auditing Roundtable (AR) and The Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) pave the way for creation of a dedicated Environmental, Health, and Safety Audit Center at The IIA, which will greatly expand the reach and impact of EHS auditing professionals globally.

The yearlong effort to bring the two professional organizations together took a major step forward in late February when AR members overwhelmingly approved the proposed merger. That positive vote was followed by approvals by The IIA’s North American Board, Executive Committee and Global Board of Directors earlier this month.

“A significant majority of our members saw the clear value in joining forces with The IIA,” said Bill Qualls, president of The Auditing Roundtable. “This vote helps assure that services for the EHS auditing community will continue uninterrupted at the highest levels. It also assures that the BEAC certification, which the AR and IIA have jointly overseen since 1997, will continue to resonate as a valued credential signifying the best our profession has to offer.”

In January, the AR Board of Directors unanimously approved a letter of intent to merge with The IIA and scheduled a vote of its membership. Member votes, which included proxies and in-person ballots, were tallied at the AR’s National Meeting in Phoenix. The final count had 72 percent of members supporting the merger. A two-thirds vote in support was required under AR bylaws.

“I couldn’t be happier with the positive outcome of the vote,” said IIA President and CEO Richard F. Chambers, CIA, QIAL, CGAP, CCSA, CRMA. “In the month leading up to the vote, AR members were diligent and tenacious in their analysis of the merger proposal, raised tough questions, and debated the pros and cons thoroughly. That due diligence, which we would expect from high-performing auditors, makes this vote especially gratifying.”

The letter of intent calls for the AR to merge into the newly created EHS Audit Center and for the current AR board to serve as the center’s initial advisory board. It also calls for The IIA to hire a dedicated director for the center and support staff as needed. The transition period until the new center opens in 2016 will see the development and execution of an integration plan and continued service by the AR to its membership.
“Partnering with the IIA will allow us to extend our reach to the global EHS auditing profession and continue to provide value-added services to our community while continuing with the core elements that made the Roundtable successful,” Qualls said.

Leaders of both organizations agree that the joining of these two organizations, along with the launch of the new EHS Audit Center, will elevate the professional practice of EHS auditing globally by supporting auditors with targeted resources, training, and networking opportunities.

**About the IIA**

The Institute of Internal Auditors (The IIA) is the internal audit profession’s most widely recognized advocate, educator, and provider of standards, guidance, and certifications. Established in 1941, The IIA today serves more than 180,000 members more than 170 countries. The association’s global headquarters are in Altamonte Springs, Fla. For more information, visit [www.theiia.org](http://www.theiia.org).