



**cham'pi-ŏn, v.t.** To maintain or support, as a cause or individual; to protect; to defend.

So you want to champion a project...congratulations! You are in good company with many others in the cuasterisk.com network who have been instrumental in driving a new product or service, an enhancement, or some other special project to fruition for themselves and others throughout the network.

So what does it mean to champion something? Beyond having enthusiasm for an idea, being a project champion comes with some real, concrete expectations that should be clearly defined for all parties up front. In most cases these types of projects involve bringing an outside party into the fold, such as a new vendor to which you want to integrate your CU\*BASE member data, or a new product on the market you would like the network to endorse or connect to in some way. In many cases, these vendors are unable or unwilling to work with us until a client agrees to commit to a project and act as liaison between the vendor and the CUSO.

This document outlines the specific commitments being made between your credit union, the CUSO and its partners, and your chosen vendor, to move your idea forward. See the companion "Special Project Request/Authorization Form" for more specific details and project fees.

Project title:

Brief overview:

### What You Are Committing To Do

Your credit union promises to:

- Choose a **vendor**.
- Perform **due diligence** on that vendor and share your findings with our team.
- Provide integration capabilities and **specifications** from the vendor along with the costs that the vendor charges for the integration.
- Provide technical and management support **contacts** for the vendor along with an approval letter indicating that we may contact them on your behalf regarding an integration.
- Identify a **project leader** within your credit union that will be authorized to handle any necessary decisions that come up along the way.
- Submit your **project champion commitment/R&D fee**, as outlined in the separate "Special Project Request/Authorization Form," along with this signed agreement. *This non-refundable fee is required to begin a feasibility study and research the project scope, and will be subtracted from your final project cost should we move forward to the next phase.*

- Assuming the project proceeds all the way to completion, **turn it on** within 30 days (or other agreed-upon timeframe as appropriate) following the final implementation date.

### What We Are Committing To Do

Once this agreement is signed, our team will:

- Perform the necessary due diligence **evaluation** of your selected vendor, from both a technical and business standpoint. Once cleared we will continue to the next steps.
- Assign individuals or a team as appropriate to begin the project **R&D** evaluation work.
- Submit complete details via the "Special Project Request/Authorization Form" for your credit union's signature.

## Commitment to Proceed

I agree to adhere to the commitments outlined in this document, and to pay the R&D fee quoted on the companion Special Project Request/Authorization Form.

### Credit Union Commitment

Credit Union

CU Representative Name

Title

Signature

Date

### CUSO Commitment

CUSO

CU\*Answers

CU\*Answers Representative

Title

Signature

Date

**Return the signed copy to CU\*Answers Management Services**

**Attn: Geoff Johnson, EVP Client Interactions**

**Email: [gjohnson@cuanswers.com](mailto:gjohnson@cuanswers.com)**

**Fax: 616-285-5735**