LF Deep Learning Foundation Project Lifecycle Document

This document is maintained by the Technical Advisory Council ("TAC") of the LF Deep Learning Foundation ("Deep Learning"), and has been approved by both the TAC and the Governing Board of Deep Learning ("Governing Board"). This document and related materials (such as the Project Contribution Proposal, as defined below) may be updated by the affirmative vote of both the TAC and the Governing Board.

This document provides for three lifecycle stages for Deep Learning projects:

- Incubation;
- Graduation; and
- Archive

Projects may apply to join Deep Learning by completing and submitting the Project Contribution Proposal Template maintained on the Deep Learning web site (the "Project Contribution Proposal"), and projects should state their preferred maturity stage in their completed Project Contribution Proposal.

A vote of both the TAC and the Governing Board is required for a project to be accepted into Deep Learning. If there are not enough votes for a project to enter at the Graduation stage, then the vote may be retaken for the project to instead join at the Incubation stage.

Incubation Stage Requirements

To be accepted to at the Incubation stage, a project must:

- Submit a completed Project Contribution Proposal to the TAC at the email address indicated in the proposal template.
- Provide such additional information as the TAC or Governing Board may reasonably request.
- Be available to present to the TAC and, if requested, the Governing Board with respect to the project's proposal and inclusion in Deep Learning (project teams should be prepared to present a detailed (20-30 minutes in length) overview on the project in addition to speaking to the information contained in the project contribution proposal).
- Be deemed by the TAC and Governing Board to add value to the artificial intelligence, machine learning and/or deep learning space and to fall within the mission and scope of Deep Learning.

- Have a technical charter that provides for inbound and outbound licensing of code under the Apache-2.0 license or another OSI-approved license approved by the Governing Board for Deep Learning projects as indicated on the Deep Learning web site.
- Agree to transfer any relevant trademarks to The Linux Foundation or its affiliate, LF Projects, LLC, and to assist in filing for any relevant unregistered ones. In the case of projects with established trademarks where a trademark transfer is difficult, we generally recommend the project begin operations under a new name. Note that no patent or copyright assignment is necessary in order for a project to join the Deep Learning effort.
- Receive the affirmative vote of the TAC and Governing Board.

An initial review of a proposal submitted to the TAC will be conducted within four weeks following acceptance of a project contribution proposal.

Graduation Stage Requirements

To be accepted to the Graduation stage, a project must meet the Incubation stage requirements plus:

- Have a healthy number of committers from at least two organizations*. A committer is defined as someone with the commit bit; i.e., someone who can accept contributions to some or all of the project.
- Have achieved and maintained a Core Infrastructure Initiative [Best Practices Badge](#).
- Demonstrate a substantial ongoing flow of commits and merged contributions*.
- Document current project owners and current and emeritus committers in OWNERS.md and COMMITTERS.md files. A copy of the project's charter (or other authorized governance document) shall be included or linked to in a GOVERNANCE.md or in a similar file.
- Have a technical lead appointed for representation of the project to the TAC.
- Receive the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the TAC and the affirmative vote of the Governing Board.

*Since these metrics can vary significantly depending on the type, scope and size of a project, the TAC has final judgment over the level of activity that is adequate to meet these criteria.

Project Benefits Associated with Each Lifecycle Stage

Incubation stage projects are eligible to receive the following benefits:

- Incubation stage projects will constitute "Technical Projects" under the Deep Learning Charter and may receive support as determined by the Governing Board.
- Neutral hosting of the project's trademark by Deep Learning.
- Appointment of an existing TAC member by the TAC that will act as a sponsor of the project and provide recommendations regarding governance best practices.

- Deep Learning blog announcement or similar announcing the inclusion of the project.
- Right to refer to the project as a "LF Deep Learning Foundation Project," with the right, subject to applicable trademark usage guidelines, to display the Deep Learning logo on the project's code repository.
- An initial license scan of the project's codebase.

Incubation stage projects are expected to leverage third party public code repositories.

Graduation stage projects are eligible to receive the following benefits:

- Graduation stage projects will constitute "Technical Projects" under the Deep Learning Charter and may receive support as determined by the Governing Board.
- Right to refer to the project as a "LF Deep Learning Foundation Project," with the right, subject to applicable trademark usage guidelines, to display the Deep Learning logo on the project's code repository.
- Deep Learning blog announcement or similar announcing the graduation of the project.
- Graduation stage projects, unless otherwise determined by the Governing Board, will constitute "TAC Projects" under the Deep Learning charter with a representative on the TAC.

Archive Stage

- Archive stage projects will constitute "Technical Projects" under the Deep Learning Charter and may receive support as determined by the Governing Board.

Annual Review

The TAC will undertake an annual review of all Deep Learning projects. This annual review will include an assessment as to whether each Incubation stage project is making adequate progress towards the Graduation stage. Any project may be moved to Archive stage by affirmative vote of the TAC, provided, that in the case of any Graduation stage project both of the following conditions must be met: (a) the affirmative vote of the TAC must be of at least two-thirds of the TAC and (b) the transition to Archive stage must also be approved by the affirmative vote of the Governing Board.