

Possible TC-39 Response to ECMA / LF Proposal

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Timeline

- Proposed Partnership announced at 22-23 June 2021 GA meeting.
- Announced to TC-39 at 84th meeting 13 July 2021.
- Open meeting hosted by ECMA Executive Committee 21 July 2021.
- Ecma + LF Q&A for TC-39 30 August 2021.
Meeting notes available at: <https://github.com/tc39/Reflector/issues/386>
- *Special ECMA GA meeting to vote on proposal 14 September 2021.*

Concerns / Issues

- The process, rationale and proposal have not been adequately socialized.
- Don't understand the motivation for ECMA or the Linux Foundation.
- The LF provides undefined assistance in finance, member recruitment and new TC creation.
- ECMA's counsel's review pointed out legal issues with proposal.
- TC's in general, chairs in particular weren't consulted.
- What changes will happen to the operation of TC's?
- Concerned about unintended consequences and analysis of possible failure modes.
- Most TC-39 delegates have little say in this process.

Concerns / Issues cont.

- Is this a partnership or a takeover by the LF? Consider:
 - Newly created *Operational Member* for just the LF.
 - Operational Member has veto with a 80% override by ordinary members.
 - Should ECMA choose to leave, it needs to pay back 5 years of expense.
 - The LF appoints the Sec General and Treasurer.
 - The LF approves ECMA's budget before sent to the GA.
 - The LF can also observe ECMA meetings at all levels.
 - Highly unusual for consortia to be a member of another, at any level.
- Some aspirational goals of funding, new members, and projects.
None of this is quantified or in writing.
- What does a TC do if things go bad after the partnership is approved?

Recommend a 3 Month Delay

- Don't understand the urgency - let's slow down.
- Would like a diagnosis of the current issues in ECMA before taking action.
- Would like to see a more open process to the proposal.
- Want TC-39's concerns and possible consequences discussed and considered.
- Would like more balance in the partnership.
- Want a safety valve of a permissive copyright license for the spec.
(Which is in line with LF's philosophy.)

Questions

Consensus