

Eclipse Foundation Policy on Interacting with Standards and Specification Organizations

Effective Date: June 27, 2006

Definitions:

1. “*Specification*” shall mean the materials produced by recognized specification-setting organizations including without limitation the formal standards bodies and industry consortia.

Policy:

It is in the interests of the Eclipse community to engage with and support open Specifications wherever possible. To that end, the Eclipse Management Organization (EMO) is instructed by the Board of Directors as follows:

- Unless otherwise approved pursuant to the Eclipse IP Policy, if an Eclipse project implements a Specification, then the Eclipse project must implement only those Specifications whose implementation can be made available under the Eclipse Public License (EPL). The Board hereby instructs the EMO to ensure compliance with this policy by all Eclipse projects. Any exceptions require prior approval pursuant to the procedures of the Eclipse IP Policy...
- If an Eclipse project implements a Specification, then the Eclipse project is encouraged to base its implementation on a Specification that has been developed by an independent, open and transparent organization.
 1. The Specification must be generally available at zero or nominal cost. Any exceptions require prior approval by the EMO.
 2. If a Technology Compatibility Kit (TCK) is required to support a project implementation, then the TCK must be generally available at zero or nominal cost, or the EMO must secure a license to the TCKs sufficient for all Eclipse committers with a need to run them. If gaining access to the TCK will add an obligation to Eclipse (financial or otherwise), prior EMO approval is required.
- Upon request by one or more projects, the Executive Director is hereby authorized to execute the documents required to join a specification organization under the following conditions:
 1. All pertinent documents and agreements have been reviewed and approved by counsel to ensure that they do not conflict with the Eclipse Foundation Bylaws, Membership Agreement, IP Policy, and/or Anti-Trust Policy. Further, the licensing terms for the Specifications released by the organization must allow for implementations to be made available under the EPL.
 2. Participation in the specification organization has a clear benefit to one or more projects at Eclipse. In other words, participation in specification organizations must be based on tangible need
 3. Participation in the specification organization will not require participation of personnel (including committers) from any member company without prior written consent of the member company. (e.g. any staffing of expert groups must come from EMO staff or be previously approved by the staffing member companies
 4. Any costs associated with such membership greater than \$20,000 are either previously budgeted or approved in writing by the Finance Committee
 5. The EMO is instructed by the Board to work diligently to keep costs at a minimum by utilizing reciprocal membership arrangements or other mechanisms which result in low or zero cost participation by the Eclipse Foundation
 6. A minimum of fifteen days notification is given to the membership-at-large prior to execution of the agreements.

The Eclipse Foundation is willing to work with specification organizations on special agreements to join, as for many specification organizations having a .org join is a new, but important, experience. The preference would be to help the specification organization evolve their membership criteria such that other .orgs can join, rather than Eclipse being a special case.

- Participation in any specification process under the auspices of the Eclipse Foundation (whether by EMO staff or member employees as envisaged in #3 above), must be conducted in an open and transparent manner. This implies, for example, that the Eclipse Foundation is restricted to direct participation in only those specification processes which allow for transparent development of Specifications. Note that this allows the case where the Eclipse Foundation is a member of a specification organization but does not participate in the

specification process of that organization.

- The EMO is directed to not participate in any specification process where confidentiality provisions are required. Any exceptions require prior approval by the Board.
- It is recognized that many member companies participate in specification organizations in order to represent their own interests. Member companies or their employees cannot represent (e.g. vote on behalf of) the Eclipse Foundation without the prior written consent of the Eclipse Foundation. However, individuals who have committer or project leader status at Eclipse may make that affiliation known to anyone, and can in good faith represent the interests of that project.
- The Eclipse Foundation cannot represent the position of any member company within a specification process without the prior written consent of such member company.
- The Eclipse Foundation cannot contribute the intellectual property of any member company within a specification process without the prior written consent of such member company, such written approval to include any license grants required to make such contributions.