Introduction to the Experimental TC39 Royalty Free Patent Policy review package

Dear GA members,

The attached Experimental TC39 Royalty Free Patent Policy will be proposed to your approval during the 105th Ecma General assembly next June, as well as the creation of a Royalty-Free Task Group within TC39 (scope attached).

TC39 is responsible for ECMAScript. Now the most widely used programming language, it has become a key element in Internet today. This comes with a strong requirement that the technology be royalty-free, a requirement shared with the other building blocks of the Internet (e.g., HTML).

The Ecma IPR ad hoc committee, together with Ecma management and Coordinating Committee, has thus sought to develop an experimental extension to Ecma Patent Policy that would satisfy the requirements of TC39 without impacting the other Technical Committees in Ecma.

This is now proposed for your review and decision during our next General Assembly.

In the "decision package" there are two types of documents:

    a) Policy documents (for vote by the Ecma GA)

    b) Operational documents (for information to the Ecma GA, they are derived from the policy documents and contain additional or operational information)

Ad a): These are the documents for vote by the Ecma GA in the June 2013 GA. These documents define

    – the experimental TC39 Royalty Free Patent policy, to be used in TC39 in addition to the Ecma Code of Conduct in Patent Matters

    – the scope of the TC39 Task Group proposed (according to the experimental TC39 Royalty Free Patent policy) for designation as a Royalty Free Task Group.

These documents are expected to be stable for the duration of the experiment in TC39. Any change to them will require GA approval.

Ad b): These are documents strictly derived from the experimental TC39 Royalty Free Patent policy or operational in nature. As such they are also very important and they complement the policy documents under a). These documents include operational rules, operational procedures and operational forms.

Due to their operational nature these documents are under control of Ecma Coordinating Committee and approved by the CC and Management. Comments on them are welcome prior to the June 2013 GA time. In case of change the GA will be timely informed.

    a) Policy documents:

        CC/2013/010   *Ecma Experimental TC39 RF Patent Policy (March 8, 2013)*

        CC/2013/001/R1   *TC39 RFTG Scope*

    b) Operational documents:

        CC/2013/009   *Registration Form for a TC39 RFTG*

        CC/2013/011   *Withdrawal Form from a TC39 RFTG*

CC/2013/012   *Opt-out Form from a TC39 Royalty Free draft standard*

CC/2013/005/R1   *Operating Rules for a TC39 Royalty Free Task Group*