Minutes of the 13th meeting of TC39
held in Redmond on 21st March 2002

Chairman: Mr. A. Clinick (Microsoft)
Secretary: Mr. J. van den Beld (SG ECMA)
Attending: Mr. Beard (Netscape), Mr. de Icaza (Ximian), Ms Horton (Microsoft),
Mr. Jaeschke (Microsoft), Mr. Kadhim (Fujitsu), Mr. Ksar (Microsoft),
Mr. Marcey (Intel), Mr. Meyer (ETH/ISE), Mr. Miller (Mainsoft),
Mr. Miller (Microsoft), Ms. Mingins (Monash University), Mr. Plum (Plum-Hall),
Mr. Ruby (IBM), Mr. Schneider (BEA), Mr. Stapf (ISE), Ms Thompson (HP),
Mr. Torr (Microsoft), Mr. Wiltamuth (Microsoft)
Excused: Mr. Horwat, Mr. Lewis

1 Opening, welcome and roll call
Mr. Clinick, Chairman of TC39, opened the meeting. A roll call was held.

2 Adoption of the agenda (02/4)
The agenda was adopted.

3 Approval of the minutes of the 12th meeting (2001/16)
The minutes were approved.

4 Matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere
None

5 Reports / actions
5.1 Status report from TG1: ECMAScript
Mr. Torr, Convenor of TG1, presented his report (2002/7). Good progress has been made during the last half year in the preparation of the 4th Edition of ECMA-262. Controversies have been resolved. Agreement has been archived on the execution model, and other important issues. A lot of editing work has to be done, and a lot of details have now to be worked out. The final draft for vote by the ECMA General Assembly will be submitted at the latest for the GA meeting in December 2003.

The rather new SALT Forum is going to use ECMAScript: see: http://www.saltforum.org/

5.2 Status report from TG2: C
Ms Thompson, Convenor of TG2, presented her report (2002/6).
The TG is now collecting possible comments for the ISO ballot of the fast-track ECMA-334 (DIS 23270).
Mr. Plum expressed high appreciation for the quality of the work done by TG2 in developing the C# Standard. He found amazingly few issues – 6 to 8 – when preparing the test suite for C#. He has rarely seen a document defining a programming so well.

5.3 Status report from TG3: CLI

Mr. Ruby, Convenor of TG3, presented this report (2002/8).

The task group is currently collecting issues, clarifications and typographical errors in the standard to be submitted to the ISO balloting process. A write-up of these will be prepared prior to the meeting in June 2002, at which time plan for completion will be made.

The task group considered 24 issues, clarifications and typographical errors, of which 14 are likely to be included in the submission to ISO.

6 Presentation and discussion of new work proposals

6.1 Presentation of Eiffel

Prof. Meyer of the ETH in Zürich and the company ISE gave a lively and interesting presentation about Eiffel: see 2002/9.

An extensive explanation was given about the following aspects of Eiffel:

− Method: seamlessness, reversibility, design-by-contract, uniform access….
− Language: O-O, genericity, multiple inheritance….
− Environment: Eiffelstudio, Visual Studio….
− Component libraries: Eiffelbase, Eiffelvision ….

The development of Eiffel has started in 1985, and ISE has released version 5.0 mid July 2001.

The Eiffel language is still very close to its original 1985 design. ETL 3 (“Eiffel, The Language”) is targeted for standardization.

The goal is to arrive at an ECMA Standard in about 1.5 years, followed by a fast-track submission to JTC 1.

6.2 Discussion

From the discussion by TC39 the following was noted:

− There are at least four implementations, from:
  two German companies, ISE and the University of Nancy (SmallEiffel).
− Terms of Reference (Scope, PoW) are needed
− It must be warranted that an ETL 3 Standard can be developed without infringing any copyrights. The standard will be extracted from the upcoming book on ETL 3: Mr. Meyer will check into this, but does not expect a problem.
− Ms Mingins is proposed as Convenor for a new TG in TC39, the editor is Mr. Meyer. Mr. Stapf will act as liaison officer with TG3.
− An invitation letter will be sent by Ms Mingins to interested parties, including the Nice Forum on Eiffel.

6.3 Actions

The TC39 decided unanimously to set up TG4 for the standardization of Eiffel.

TG4 will have to agree on a ToR at their first meeting, which is scheduled for 30th-31st May 2002, in Zürich/Switzerland.

7 Any other business

None
8 Date and place of the next meetings

The 14th TC39 meeting will be held back-to-back with the ballot resolution meetings for DIS 23270 (C^®) and DIS 23271 (CLI) / dTR 23272 (CLI)

30th September 2002: TC39 and TGs, with educative sessions, if required
1st-2nd October 2002: CLI ballot resolution (1,5 day)
2nd-3rd October 2002: C^® (1 day)
3rd October: TC39 (continued on 4th October, if needed).

The meetings will be held on Hawaii/Big Island.