

Introduction to the Experimental TC52 Royalty Free Patent Policy review package (including the TC52 (Dart) Scope and Programme of Work)

Dear GA members,

The Experimental TC39 Royalty Free Patent Policy was approved at the 105th Ecma General assembly next June 2013, as well as the creation of a Royalty-Free Task Group within TC39.

TC39 is responsible for ECMAScript. Now we got the request that also for the newly proposed Dart project (future TC52) we should adopt a similar Patent policy as that is also a web programming language. This also 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).

PLEASE NOTE THAT AT THE WRITING OF THIS CONTRIBUTION TC52 WAS NOT YET APPROVED BY THE ECMA GA. SUCH APPROVAL IS ON THE AGENDA OF THE DECEMBER 2013 ECMA GA. THEREFORE THE TC52 NUMBERING OF THIS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS IN THIS PACKAGE ARE NOT OFFICIAL TC52 DOCUMENTS YET. BUT THE ENTIRE PACKAGE IS AN OFFICIAL GA DOCUMENT. THE TC52 DOCUMENTS MAY BECOME OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS IN TC52 IF TC52 IS APPROVED BY THE ECMA GA. THE APPROVAL OF THIS PACKAGE IS ON THE CONDITION THAT TC52 IS APPROVED AS A NEW ECMA TC.

The CC has discussed this matter at its October 2013 meeting and suggested that a similar experimental policy should also be applied for TC52.

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

The changes to the TC39 experimental policy are purely editorial.

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 December 2013 GA. These documents define

- the experimental TC52 Royalty Free Patent policy, to be used in TC52 in addition to the Ecma Code of Conduct in Patent Matters
- the scope of the TC52 Task Group proposed (according to the experimental TC52 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 TC52. Any change to them will require GA approval.

Ad b): These are documents strictly derived from the experimental TC52 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 December 2013 GA time. In case of change the GA will be timely informed.

a) Policy documents:

TC52/2013/002 Ecma Experimental TC52 RF Patent Policy (Nov. 8, 2013)

TC52/2013/005 TC52 and TG52 RFTG Scope and Programme of Work

b) Operational documents:

TC52/2013/003 Registration Form for a TC52 RFTG

TC52/2013/006 Withdrawal Form from a TC52 RFTG

TC52/2013/007 Opt-out Form from a TC52 Royalty Free draft standard

TC52/2013/004 Operating Rules for a TC52 Royalty Free Task Group

TC52/2013/008 Contribute to Ecma TC52 Royalty Free Task Group as a non-member