

# Ecma International

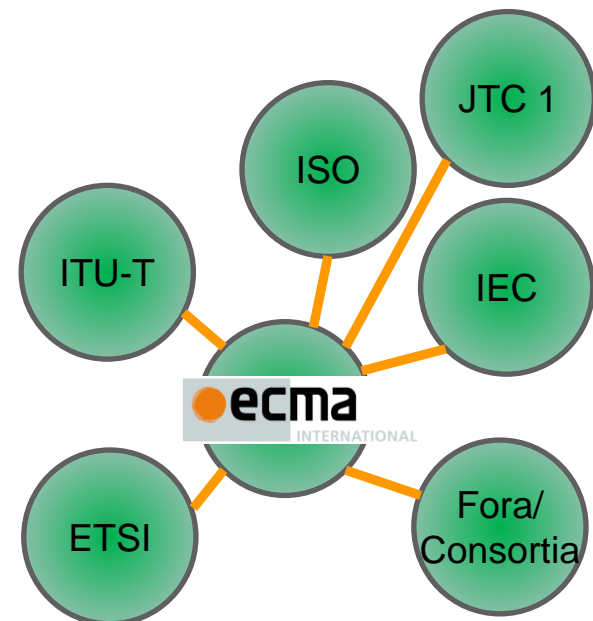
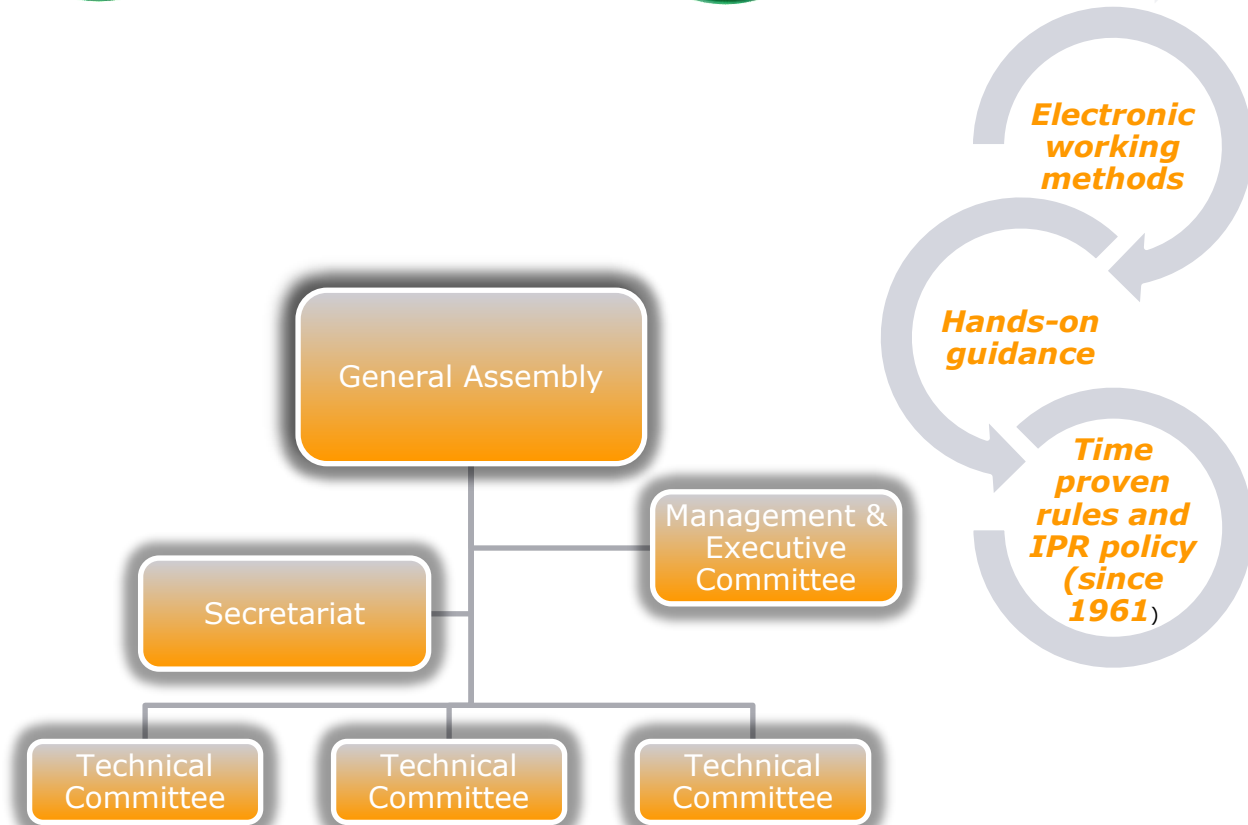
*January 2021*

*Standards@Internet Speed*



- 1. Executive Summary**
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- 4. Membership**
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## Two staged efficient process



Effective liaisons

- Technical content of Standards and TRs developed under expert control
- Efficient, transparent and customizable standards development process
- One vote per member organization (on technical level): 5 member categories
- Proven track record: **527 publications, since 1961; some 239 standards fast-tracked to other SDOs**
- Solid infrastructure and highly efficient secretariat support available
- Hands-on guidance, if needed: each TC supported by dedicated secretary
- Patent policy: RAND conditions (not necessarily, but also including royalty-free)

**Technical solidity allows 5-month (minimum in optimum case) fast-track procedure towards International ISO/IEC standard**

## Two decision levels:

- **Technical: TC, TG with technical experts**
- **Managerial: General Assembly (GA)/Executive Committee (ExeCom)**

## Five membership categories, to reflect the diversity of stakeholders in the ICT industry:

- **Paying: Ordinary (OM), Associate (AM), Small and Medium-sized Enterprise (SME), Small Private Company (SPC)**
- **No charge: Not-for-Profit (NFP)**

*Note: Members are organizations, not individuals*

## Voting:

- **Simple majority: technical (TC) and simple managerial (GA) issues such as the creation of a new TC, budget changes: in a TC each member can vote, and has one vote; in the GA only Ordinary members can vote, and have one vote each.**
- **Qualified majority (two thirds of all Ordinary members must be in favour): GA issues like publications, budget, new members, new membership types, expulsion, changes of membership class, By-laws, Rules, and IPR**

*Note: Voting in a TC or TG is very rare*

**Ecma International is a not-for-profit association under Swiss Law/Geneva, established in 1961**

**Purpose of Ecma: Development and publication of standards/TRs for Information & Communication Technology and Consumer Electronics**

**Track record: 525 publications (standards/TRs), 239 also published by ISO/IEC**

**Ecma publications are free of charge and can be freely downloaded from the Ecma website [www.ecma-international.org](http://www.ecma-international.org)**

**A-liaison with ISO/IEC JTC 1 accelerates Ecma technical input into JTC 1**

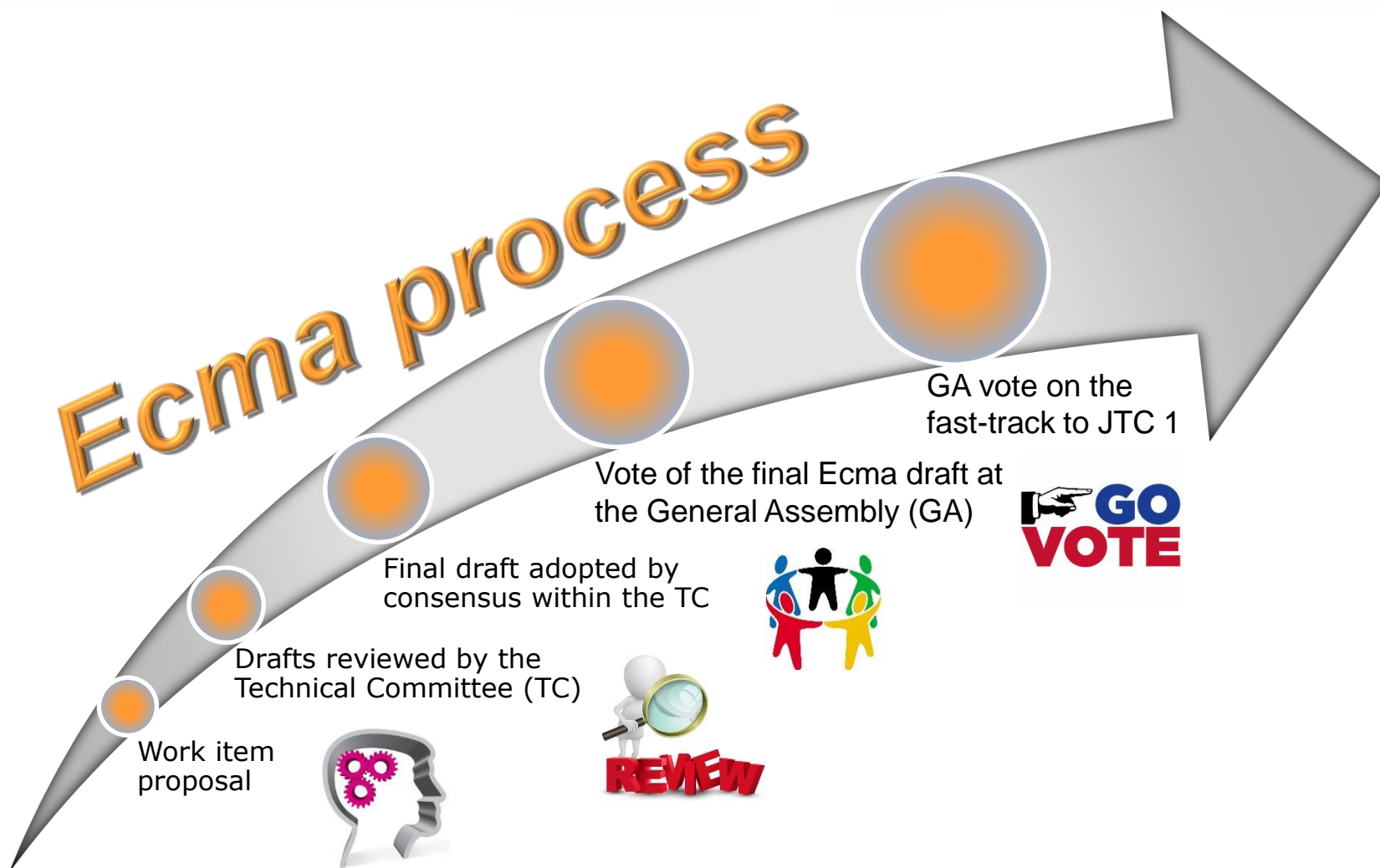
**ISO/IEC fast-track procedure (5-month international ballot) originally proposed by Ecma and accepted in 1987**

Formed in **1961** by major multinational computer hardware manufacturers present in Europe.

Originally "**ECMA**" stood for "European Computer Manufacturers' Association".

In 1994 - due to the high reputation and wide public knowledge - the "brand name" was kept, but changed to simply "Ecma" (now with capital and small letters, signalling the change of the original mission of the Association).

- "**International**" was added because membership is from around the world, in Asia, Australia, Europe and North America.
- **Broad scope** of standardisation topics including hardware, software, communications, consumer electronics, media, storage, environmental subjects, etc...





To begin work, **several (3, or more) existing or potential Ecma members must agree** a standard is required:

- If the work (area) is new, the GA has to approve it by simple majority, and the **Secretary General of Ecma forms a new Technical Committee (TC)** responsible for creating the standard.
- If the work fits in an existing TC, then the TC has to approve a project for the new work.

Industry experts work together in the TC to **create and prepare the standards** for industry use, by means of successive drafts.

An editor, or editing team, is responsible for the drafts: An editor is essential for the **contribution-driven** progress in a TC.

TCs may use additional tools, e.g., a spreadsheet to control open issues and their progress.

**Ecma staff provides “hands on” process guidance**, manages procedures for forwarding and escalation, editing and structure of the standards under development.

The infrastructure for the TCs and the GA consists of a web site for working documents, electronic mail facilities and archive, etc.

IPR and other non technical issues must be resolved **outside** technical meetings.

Ecma is designed to **defuse and separate** the political from the technical:

- “No” votes at the TC may only be **for technical reasons**
- ALL members, not only Ordinary members, can vote at TC level
- At GA “No” votes and abstentions **are not counted**, only “Yes” votes are counted: only Ordinary members can vote at GA level

When the **Ecma General Assembly** approves a standard for publication, the GA may also decide to submit **it to ISO, IEC, ISO/IEC JTC 1** and/or **ETSI** for their approval and publication.

## Ordinary (Full)



## Associate



## SME Members



## SPC Members



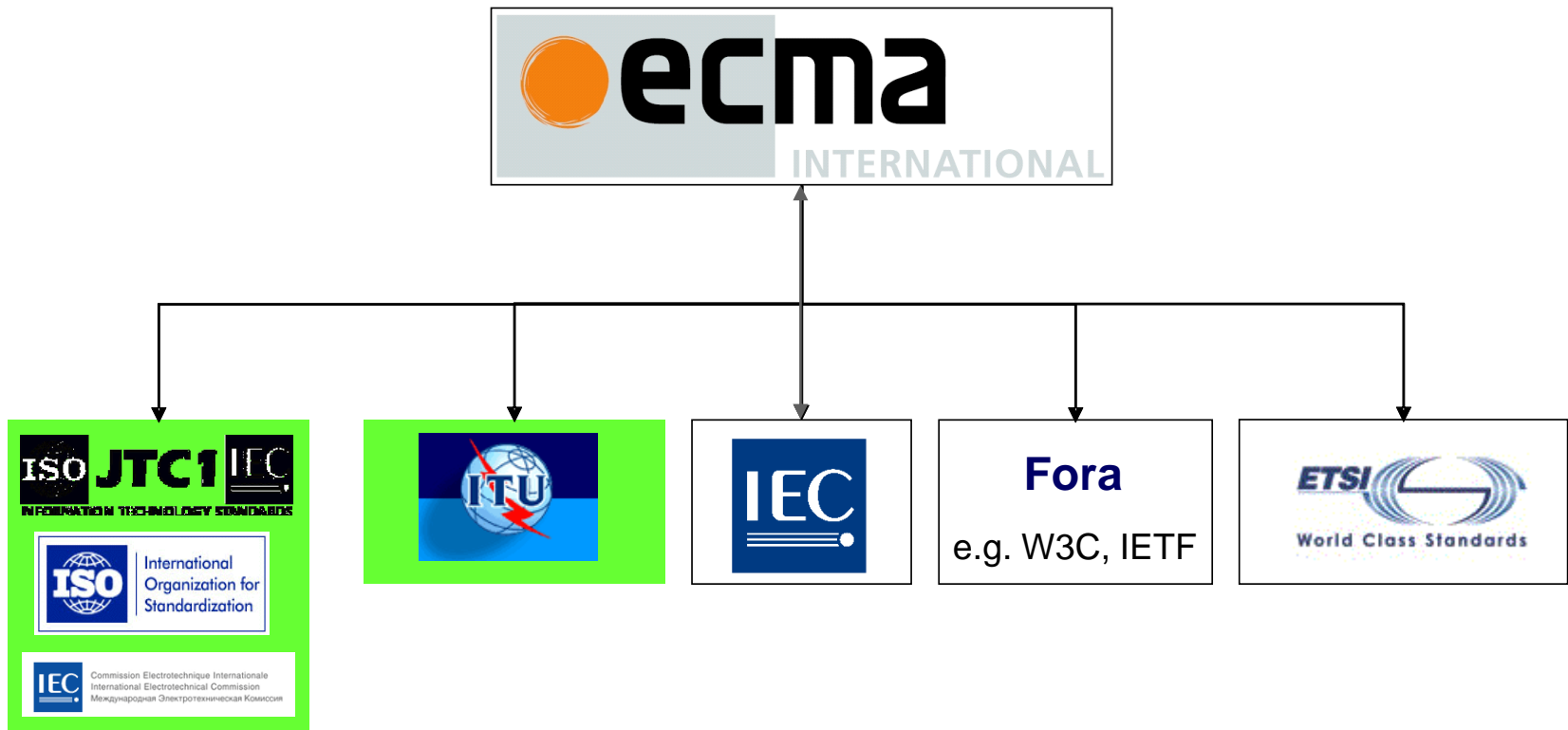
## Not For Profit Members



## Members: their Rights and Duties

Rights and Duties	Ordinary	Associate	SME	SPC	NFP	Non-Ecma
Voting Rights in GA	Yes					
Participation in GA	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	
Participation in CC and Management	Yes					
Participation in TC	Yes	Yes	Yes	1 TC	Yes	
Chairmanship of TC	Yes					
Voting Rights in TC	Yes	Yes	Yes	1 TC	Yes	
Percentage of full membership fee*	100	50	25	5	0	
Access to standards and TRs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Access to working documents	Yes	Yes	Yes	1 TC	Yes	On special request

**\*The full annual membership fee since 2000-01-01 is CHF 70'000.**



**Ecma IPR policy has several components (which is more extensive than e.g. of ISO and IEC) :**

- Copyrights:** Ecma International grants a non-exclusive, royalty-free license to obtain (on paper or per download), reproduce and use the information contained in its standards. On Software Copyright an experimental policy is in force (with Royalty Free BSD like license)
- Trademarks:** Ecma International has internationally trademarked its logo and some Ecma standards' name.
- Patents:** Solid and proven patent policy and practice, similar to the patent policies of other SDOs (ITU-T / ISO/ IEC/ ETSI,...): minimum RAND conditions along with a Royalty Free (RF) Patent Policy (this is important to some Open Source Project communities such as related to basic web standards)

A proactive, problem solving **experts' group** that ensures **"high speed"** publication of international **standards**;

Right balance between **process** and **agility**

Offers industry a **"fast-track"** to global standards bodies, through which **standards are made available on time**;

Solid IPR policy and practice

Balances Technical Quality and **Business Value**:

- Quality of a standard is pivotal, but the balance between timeliness and quality as well: Better a good standard today than a perfect one tomorrow!

Further advantages:

- International membership with an international reputation
- "Pay one price and participate as much as you want"
- "Bring new work – only need 3 members to sponsor – no extra cost"



- **Ecma: small working structures (15 companies or less), working fast, consensus easy to achieve**
- **Public reviews made possible: process defined, use is not systematic (by topic, TC choice to use it)**
  - *Input to and review of intermediate drafts either from general public or targeted at organization in liaison*
  - *Adherence to WTO principles for given standardization topics*
- **Speed or wide consensus: Ecma can do either**
  - *Ecma experience, like elsewhere, is that the wider the consensus, the more time it takes*
- **Ecma part of the larger standardization landscape**
  - *choice to have an Ecma standard as final step or to propose it to other SDOs, e.g. to JTC 1 for fast-track*

- **Continue to play a key role in the extraordinary development in IT, telecommunications and Consumer Electronics,**
  - *via dissemination of new technologies,*
  - *and delivery of first class standards to its members, partners and the standard user community.*
- **Continue to bring in major contributions**
  - *Move technology from our members to mature standards*
- **Collaborate with the world's major SDOs**

**Example:**

Download [ECMA-262](#) (free of charge) from



(alternatively [order](#) the CD-ROM with ALL Ecma publications)

# Thank you!



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