

# The Eclipse Foundation: An open source means to an end

**A**s the editor of *Embedded Computing Design*, I have received many requests for articles on the Eclipse development system. After reviewing the requests along with ESC San Francisco and EclipseCon 2005 wrap-ups, it is readily apparent that there is more than enough interest in the embedded community to justify the establishment of an Eclipse News column.

I will author this column with the assistance of the Eclipse Foundation and the Eclipse community at large. As a show of support for Eclipse, OpenSystems Publishing has joined the foundation as an Associate member.

For this initial column, here is a quick overview of Eclipse and its governing body. I included a snapshot of the members in this issue to point out to those devoted to proprietary solutions to review the tables carefully, as your competitors may be listed.



By Mark David Barrera

## What is Eclipse?

For a detailed summary of Eclipse, refer to the article entitled "Eclipse: The development system that crosses RTOS boundaries" in the January 2005 issue of *Embedded Computing Design*. This article by Robert Day of Accelerated Technology will prove to be of special interest to those completely unfamiliar with Eclipse. It is available on our website at the following address: [www.embedded-computing.com/articles/id/?190](http://www.embedded-computing.com/articles/id/?190)

Here are some key points from that article:

- **Open platform** – Eclipse is an open platform for tool integration built by an open community of tool providers. To quote the Eclipse website: "The Eclipse Platform is an open IDE for anything, and for nothing in particular."
- **Open community** – Eclipse is an open source community whose projects are focused on providing an extensible development platform and application frameworks for building software.
- **Eclipse plug-ins** – Each tool provider can build their tools to a certain set of rules and APIs that allow them to plug in to the Eclipse framework. If the Eclipse plug-in rules are adhered to, the embedded tools will track the latest versions of the Eclipse framework, as well as plug into other Eclipse-based environments.
- **Licensing** – The Eclipse Public License (EPL) provides royalty-free source code and world distribution rights, and allows tools developers to offer the Eclipse framework and their plug-in products without putting their own Intellectual Property (IP) back into the community.

## The Eclipse Foundation

There are five classes of membership, and current members (April 2005) are listed in Table 1. Note that the Committer members are not listed as they are in a constant state of flux. The following member class descriptions are from the *Eclipse Foundation Membership Agreement* that is available at the Eclipse website.

### Strategic Developers

Strategic Developer members agree to lead an Eclipse Platform development project and commit, on a full time basis, a Developer who shall act as leader for this project, and a minimum of seven additional Developers assigned to work on this project or other Eclipse Platform development projects. Strategic Developers are entitled to Board representation and are permitted to vote with the Membership At-Large. The Strategic Developer membership fee varies according to the member's annual revenue.

### Strategic Consumers

Strategic Consumer members agree to commit, on a full time basis, up to two Developers to participate in an Eclipse Platform development project. The total commitment is tied to the member's annual membership fee level. Strategic Consumers are entitled to Board representation and are permitted to vote with the Membership At-Large. The Strategic Consumer membership fee varies according to the member's annual revenue and/or staffing commitment.

### Add-in Providers

Add-in Provider members are entitled to Board representation and are permitted to vote with the Membership At-Large. Add-in Providers pay a \$5,000 membership fee.

## Committers

Committer members are individuals that are involved in the development of the Eclipse Platform and do not fall within any other membership class. Committers are entitled to Board representation and are permitted to vote with the Membership At-Large. Committers do not pay a membership fee.

## Associates

Associate members are entities such as standards organizations, research institutions, academic institutions, open source organizations, publishing organizations, and other organization types as established from time to time by the Eclipse Foundation Board of Directors. Associates are not represented on the Board of Directors and are not permitted to vote with the Membership At-Large. Associates do not pay a membership fee.

## Board of Directors

The members of the Board of Directors are selected according to the above criteria, and are listed in Table 2.

## Future columns

I am open to any suggestions from the Eclipse community for future *Eclipse News* columns. You can send your abstracts to: [mbarrera@opensystems-publishing.com](mailto:mbarrera@opensystems-publishing.com)

For more information on Eclipse:

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Actuate	Strategic Developer
Accelerated Technology	Add-in Provider
ACM Queue magazine	Associate
Acucorp	Add-in Provider
Addison Wesley	Associate
Advanced Systems Concepts	Add-in Provider
Agitar Software	Add-in Provider
Aldon	Add-in Provider
Aonix	Add-in Provider
AvantSoft	Add-in Provider
BEA Systems	Strategic Developer
Borland Software	Strategic Developer
BZ Media	Associate
Catalyst Systems Corporation	Add-in Provider
CollabNet	Add-in Provider
Comm. and Media Arts (CMA)	Associate
Computer Associates	Add-in Provider
Compuware	Add-in Provider
Discovery Machine	Add-in Provider
Eclipse Plug-In Central (EPIC)	Associate
Embarcadero Technologies	Add-in Provider
ENEA	Add-in Provider
Ericsson	Add-in Provider
ETRI	Add-in Provider
Exadel	Add-in Provider
Fraunhofer Institute (FOKUS)	Associate
Fujitsu Limited	Add-in Provider
Genuitec LLC	Add-in Provider
Hitachi Software Division	Add-in Provider
Hewlett-Packard	Strategic Consumer
IBM	Strategic Developer
ILOG	Add-in Provider
INNOOPRACT	Add-in Provider
Inpriva	Add-in Provider
Instantiations	Add-in Provider
Intel	Strategic Developer
ITG	Add-in Provider
JBoss	Add-in Provider
Kinzan	Add-in Provider
Klocwork	Add-in Provider
Logic Library	Add-in Provider
Lombardi Software	Add-in Provider
M1 Global Soutions	Add-in Provider
M7 Corporation	Add-in Provider
Mercury Interactive	Add-in Provider

Meta-1 GmbH	Add-in Provider
Micro Focus	Add-in Provider
MKS	Add-in Provider
MontaVista	Strategic Consumer
Motorola	Add-in Provider
mValent	Add-in Provider
Novell	Add-in Provider
NTT Comware	Add-in Provider
Object Management Group (OMG)	Associate
ObjectWeb	Associate
OC Systems	Add-in Provider
Omondo	Add-in Provider
OpenSystems Publishing	Associate
Optena Corporation	Add-in Provider
Oracle	Add-in Provider
PalmSource	Add-in Provider
Panscopic	Add-in Provider
Parasoft Corporation	Add-in Provider
Penton Technology Media	Associate
PureEdge	Add-in Provider
QNX Software	Add-in Provider
Real-Time Innovations	Add-in Provider
Red Hat	Add-in Provider
RTC Group	Associate
SAP	Strategic Consumer
SAS	Add-in Provider
Scapa	Strategic Developer
Secure Software	Add-in Provider
Serena	Strategic Consumer
SlickEdit	Add-in Provider
SocialPhysics.org	Associate
Soft Landing Systems	Add-in Provider
Sybase	Add-in Provider
Teamstudio	Add-in Provider
Telelogic	Add-in Provider
Tensilica	Add-in Provider
Texas Instruments	Add-in Provider
THALES	Add-in Provider
TimeSys	Add-in Provider
Tsinghua University	Associate
Unisys	Add-in Provider
VA Software	Add-in Provider
Wasabi Systems	Add-in Provider
webMethods	Add-in Provider
Wind River	Strategic Developer

**Table 1**

Michael Bechauf, SAP AG Strategic Consumer	Robert Levy, Computer Associates Add-in Provider	Jim Ready, MontaVista Strategic Consumer
Ed Cobb, BEA Strategic Developer	Howard H. Lewis, SlickEdit and Discovery Machine Add-in Providers	Raaj Shinde, Borland Strategic Developer
Mark Coggins, Actuate Strategic Developer	Scott Lewis Committer	Dave Thomson, IBM Strategic Developer
Tomas Evensen, Wind River Add-in Provider	Kai-Uwe Maetzel Committer	David Tong, Sybase Add-in Provider
Boris Kapitanski, Serena Strategic Consumer	Rich Main, SAS Add-in Provider	John Wiegand Committer
Jonathan Khazam, Intel Strategic Developer	Michael Norman, Scapa Strategic Developer	Todd Williams, Genuitec LLC Add-in Provider
	Michael J. Rank, Hewlett-Packard Strategic Consumer	

**Table 2**