

Snapshot: The omg technology adoption process

The OMG is dedicated to solving complex industry problems through the development of software specifications. OMG members develop these specifications through a mature, proven technology adoption process. This is a brief overview of that process; for more information, visit the OMG "Hitchhikers Guide" at <http://www.omg.org/cgi-bin/doc?hh>.

An optional first step in the Technology Adoption process is the development and issuance of a Request for Information (RFI). The RFI is used to gather information that will guide a subgroup in its efforts to provide solutions to industry problems.

The RFI is an *optional* process used by a subgroup to canvass a targeted industry segment for one or more of the following purposes:

- Acquiring general or specific information about industry requirements.
- Soliciting assistance in identifying potential technology sources and validating a subgroup's roadmap.

The next step in the process involves the Request for Proposal (RFP). An RFP is a statement of industry need and an invitation to the software industry to provide a solution, based upon requirements stated within. The process of identifying need is a culmination of experience within an OMG technical group (be it a Task Force or a Special Interest Group) and solicitation of industry recommendation.

Before a RFP can be crafted, one more extremely important task must be accomplished: verifying

that suppliers exist that are willing to respond to the RFP and to commit to building its implementation.

Here is a quick breakdown of the steps involved in both the RFI and RFP process.

Optional RFI Stage

- The Task Force (TF) writes a Request for Information (RFI) and votes to recommend issuance by parent Technical Committee (TC).
- The TC votes to issue the RFI.
- The TF accepts, reads, and analyzes responses to the RFI, which become part of their roadmap.

TF Issues RFP, Evaluates Submissions

- Possibly using information received via the RFI, the TF writes and votes to recommend issuance of an RFP by parent TC.
- The AB approves the RFP.
- The TF's parent TC votes to issue RFP.
- Voting list is opened.
- On or before the Letter of Intent (LOI) deadline, one or more OMG member companies submit LOIs.
- On or before the Initial Submission deadline, which falls three weeks before an OMG technical meeting week, all or most of these companies submit Initial Submissions.

(Continued on reverse)



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- Voting list is closed.
 - Interested OMG members read the Initial Submissions and comment on them during the meeting.
 - The Revised Submission deadline may be extended. There may be multiple deadlines for Revised Submissions.
 - On or before the Revised Submission deadline, one or more Revised Submissions may be submitted.
 - OMG members read and evaluate the Revised Submission. If most members consider the Revised Submission worthy, a series of votes begins.

Voting to Adopt an OMG Specification

- If the votes are to begin at the meeting that immediately follows the Revised Submission deadline, a procedure known as the “vote to vote” is conducted. (Requires a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority.)
- The TF votes to recommend adoption to its parent TC.
- The AB votes to recommend adoption.
- The parent TC votes to recommend adoption to OMG’s Board of Directors (BOD).
- The BOD Business Committee (BC) reports to the BOD on Business Committee Questionnaire responses from the submitters.
- If at least one satisfactory response was received, the BOD votes to adopt the specification. At this point, the submission becomes an official OMG *Adopted Specification*, but does not receive a release number.

Finalization

- TC charters a Finalization Task Force (FTF) with membership and deadlines.
- The FTF performs the first maintenance revision on the specification, resolving issues submitted to OMG, while simultaneously producing implementations back in their companies.
- The FTF-revised version of the specification is adopted as official OMG technology, through the same series of votes as the original submission (TF, AB, TC, and BOD). This time it receives a release number, and is designated an *available specification*.
- The document is edited into a formal OMG specification.
- Typically, products reach the market around this time.

Specification Maintenance Cycle

- A recurring maintenance cycle starts here. The TC charters an RTF and sets membership and deadlines for its report and specification revision.
 - The RTF collects and acts on issues submitted to OMG, producing a revised specification.
 - The revised specification is adopted through the same approval process as the revised submission.
 - If required, a new RTF is chartered, and the process repeats.
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