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 “Hitchhiker’s 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)
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 ¾ 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.