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## **Ecma International welcomes Small Private Companies**

*Organization adds new SPC membership category designed to enhance the expertise available in Ecma standards development work*

Geneva 19 December 2003 – The General Assembly of Ecma International has voted to introduce a new category of membership in the association for Small Private Companies (SPCs).

Such companies have often in the past been involved informally in Ecma standardization work, with the support of multiple Ecma members, and have contributed significantly to the success of Ecma standards.

SPC membership may be applied for by an organization – a company or other legal for-profit organization – with no more than five employees and a global annual turnover of less than 5 million Swiss Francs.

The rights of SPC members are identical with those of associate members of Ecma International, with the following exceptions:

- An SPC member is only entitled to participate in one TC;
- An SPC has no right to take part in the discussions at the General Assembly;
- A project proposal made by SPC members shall be supported by at least three companies in other membership classes, in addition.

A proposed SPC member shall not be accepted if it holds at least 50% of the capital of an existing company member, nor if at least 35% of its capital is held by an existing company member.

Additionally no two or more SPCs, where at least 35% of whose capital is held by the same company, which is not a company member itself, may be SPC members but shall be represented by one of these SPCs only.

Jan van den Beld, Ecma International Secretary General welcomed the decision, noting: “This is a very useful development, enabling Ecma standardization projects to benefit from some of the world’s leading experts, who often work for - or own - very small companies, much more significant to technology progress than their headcounts would suggest.”

### ***Other General Assembly Decisions***

In other decisions at the meeting:

- The application for Full membership from Macromedia was accepted (See the [Macromedia](#) announcement.);
- The application for Not for Profit (NFP) membership from the University of Copenhagen was accepted; and
- Several [new standards](#) were approved.

### ***About Ecma International***

Since its inception in 1961, Ecma International (Ecma) has developed standards for information and communication technology (ICT) and consumer electronics (CE). Ecma is a not-for-profit industry association of technology developers, vendors and users. Industry and other experts work together in Ecma to complete standards. Ecma submits the approved work for approval as ISO, ISO/IEC and ETSI standards.

Ecma is the inventor and main practitioner of “fast tracking” of specifications through the standardization process in Global Standards Bodies like the ISO. In ISO/IEC JTC 1, Ecma has the status of an A-liaison, equivalent to a national body without voting rights. Since its start in 1987, about 200 (more than 80%) of the 232 proposals for fast-track processing have come from Ecma International.

Main areas of standardization include: Scripting and programming languages; Optical and Magnetic storage; High speed interconnects; Safety, Environmental, Acoustical and Electromagnetic product attributes; Enterprise and Proximity Communication and Networking; and File and Volume structures. Publications can be downloaded free of charge from <http://www.ecma-international.org>.