



# Sparkplug Steering Committee Minutes

April 9, 2020

## Attendees

Jeff Knepper, Canary Labs  
Arlen Nipper, Cirrus Link Solutions, Chair  
Don Pearson, Inductive Automation  
Mao Huang, ORing Industrial  
Todd Anslinger - Chevron (Guest)  
Ian Skerrett, HiveMQ  
Jackie Eldridge, Inductive Automation  
Kristine Zukose, Inductive Automation  
Paul Buck, Eclipse Foundation  
Sharon Corbett, Eclipse Foundation  
Frederic Desbiens, Eclipse Foundation  
Ioana Maftai, Eclipse Foundation

## Minutes

### Program and Budget Plan

#### Budget

The [Charter](#) defines the fee schedule for the Working Group. While funding for the working group is modest at this time, it is sufficient to get things started and an opportunity to grow membership. The recommendation is to have a very simple budget assigning those funds directly to the Eclipse Foundation to offset branding and compatibility costs. It was recognized the working group is in startup mode and the future is bright.

## **Program Plan**

The Program Plan will consist of standing up the Specification Committee, creating the Project and TCK, as well as the Compatibility and Brand Guidelines. An example program plan can be viewed [here](#).

## **Specification Committee**

Responsibility to apply the [Eclipse Foundation Specification Process](#) ensuring the process is adhered to in order to produce a ratified specification to be used for supporting aTCK.

The Committee elects a chair reporting to the Steering Committee. Meeting frequency often in the early phases. This time slot can be utilized for this committee as well.

Strategic Members of the working group have a seat on the Specification Committee. One seat is allocated to Participant Members.

Technical work is performed at the project level. Members vote but other employees of the member can attend the meetings with no vote.

Its time to consider who will be your representative on the specification committee and who will be chair.

## **Specification Project Creation**

Next step is to create the project proposal.

Specification document and TCK can be in separate github repositories. Its time to think about the TCK and what assets are available to use in conjunction with the specification for compatibility.

Three elements are required to ratify the specification; specification document declared final, a TCK and at least one open source implementation that when ran against the TCK, passes. Initial TCK can be assembled from other technology to start to build the foundation of the TCK and add additional tests later.

Tahu could be the compatible implementation. The sparkplug project already has several reference implementations in Github repositories today.

TCK should be part of the project proposal as well as the notion of profiles. Its time to think carefully about the initial group of committers; specifically for the specification and another set of committees focused on the implementation of the TCK.

The initial project committers are determined by the project proposal. Once the project is created, committers are elected based on meritocracy. Therefore contributors must

demonstrate value and earn the trust of the project and can then be voted into the project as committers.

Proposal creation is required as soon as possible. An example was walked through. Here are two examples for reference:

<https://projects.eclipse.org/proposals/jakarta-contexts-and-dependency-injection>

<https://projects.eclipse.org/proposals/asciidoc-language>

Project committers could also be a specification committee member; that can be helpful; and sometimes separation is better. Both scenarios work so its up to the members here.

Project Lead is not necessarily an authority figure but must ensure the project adheres to the [Eclipse Development Process](#) and facilitate the project runs smoothly.

Arlen agreed to take the lead on drafting the proposal and have it prepared prior to the next meeting.

### **Compatibility and Branding Process**

Paul walked through a “DRAFT” [Sparkplug Trademark Guidelines](#) based on the Jakarta EE Trademark Guidelines.

Trademark Guidelines depict how an implementer can be entitled to use the Sparkplug compatible mark. It identifies the requirements to use the logo and what to provide in order to enter into the Sparkplug Compatibility Trademark License Agreement.

It was pointed out that it will need to take into account the notion of hardware and other profiles (remote or host, etc.).

This “Draft” is a starting point to adopt together; to ensure everyone is aware of its presence so that it is not critical path and will be ready to go when required.

There will also be a requirement to create a Sparkplug Brand Usage Handbook. Jeff offered to take ownership of creating the draft to adapt it to Sparkplug. Please see an example [here](#).

### **Membership Pipeline Discussion**

Pipeline was discussed. Arlen arranged a form letter that redirects to the slack channel. It was also discussed that more could be done on the Website. Jeff and Ian agreed to investigate and provide feedback. Messaging needs clarification and a clear call to action. Frederic offered to provide assistance if required.

Paul thanked everyone for attending and for their continued engagement.

**Next Meeting**

April 23, 2020