

# OPEN SOURCE CONSORTIUM ANNOUNCES EUROPEAN TASK FORCE ON IP LAW

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Taylor Calls For Cohesive European Open Source Response.

The Open Source Consortium, the independent, European “proprietary-vendor free” voice for all organizations deploying or contemplating the Open Source alternative, has set up a Task Force to investigate the implications of a change in European Patent law with regard to Open Source technology and to provide a cohesive response to the current debate.

Commenting on the announcement, Mark Taylor, Executive Director of the Open Source Consortium, who will head up the Task Force said, “There has been a great deal of noise recently about the IP and Patent Law issues on both sides of the Atlantic. However, the most pressing issue is the prospect of a change in current European law.

“Much of the opinion generated by the stakeholders of the Open Source movement, to date, has been atomistic and uncoordinated. However, there does seem to be an emerging trend that strong European patent laws, far from protecting innovators, will in fact emasculate the development of Open Source technology. Indeed one has to face the prospect of a market mired in litigation for years. On the other hand there does seem to be fairly strong support for protection of Intellectual property as a concept and a right.

“It seems timely therefore that the OSC should now serve as a fulcrum for action by providing a unified, cohesive approach that identifies and campaigns for the best interests of the Open Source movement.”

The members of the Task Force have been drawn from industry, government and the Open Source community across Europe. Additional support will come from specialist legal counsel. Amongst the terms of reference from the OSC advisory board is the establishment of a substantive consultation process to provide an in-depth dialogue with Open Source stakeholders. This will poll opinion from domestic and European government contacts already represented on the OSC committee, together with the Consortium's corporate network and those members of the Open Source community actively involved in deploying leading enterprise ready projects. ”

Ends.

[www.opensourceconsortium.org](http://www.opensourceconsortium.org)

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