

# OPEN SOURCE CONSORTIUM ANNOUNCES PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND ETHICAL PRACTICES TASKFORCE FOR EUROPE

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Mark Taylor, Executive Director of  
the Open Source Consortium

The Open Source Consortium (OSC), the independent voice of the Open Source Community in Europe, has established a Professional and Ethical Standards Taskforce. The Taskforce will look initially at the UK market and then look towards France and Germany, later this year. The Taskforce will aim to address other European territories in 2006.

Commenting on the move, Mark Taylor, Executive Director of the OSC said, “The EU Patent debate is crucially important but the furore over recent events risks overshadowing fundamental issues such as professional standards and ethics. The work of the Taskforce will hopefully ensure that this key element of the Open Source market is not overlooked.”

The remit of the Taskforce is to establish a set of standards based on current best practices and recognised industry accreditations in a form which fits Open Source companies. These will cover areas traditionally associated with professional standards, such as quality control and project management.

Heading up the Taskforce, Alex Hudson said, “the hallmark of Open Source is the collaborative development method, and the members of the Open Source Consortium will be working together in a similar fashion. These standards will ensure that although our working methods are novel, our output will be recognisably and measurably excellent, and we will prove that using methods the industry already accepts. Quality and professionalism remains the corner stone of our product, and this work will show how that is achievable in the Open Source world, and how we can equal or better the quality of our competitors.”

For interviews with Mark Taylor or Alex Hudson please contact Leigh Richards, The Right Image on: 07850 704116 or e-mail on [leigh.richards@therightimage.co.uk](mailto:leigh.richards@therightimage.co.uk)

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About Alex Hudson

Alex Hudson was the MIS manager of a reknowned multinational languages company before co-founding Stratagia Ltd. three years ago, to develop a range of services based on Free Software/Open Source as part of Stratagia's broad portfolio. Alex is also the vice-chair of the Association for Free Software, a UK

membership-based organisation for users and developers of Free Software which is the UK associate of the Free Software Foundation Europe.

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