Facts about Open XML

Amy Marasco
General Manager, Standards Strategy
Microsoft

Beijing, China
November 1, 2007

Background at Ecma

- "OOXML" is the same as "Open XML" (ECMA-376 and ISO/IEC DIS29500)
- At the request of customers and governments, Microsoft contributed the initial document to Ecma for international standardization
- Many companies (including Apple, Barclays Capital, BP, The British Library, Essilor, Intel, Microsoft, NextPage, Novell, Statoil, Toshiba, and the United States Library of Congress) participated to Ecma TC45 to create Open XML . The work started in December 05, and took place in 8 face-to-face meetings and 55 meetings via conference call.
- The initial document submitted was 2,000 pages, and through TC45 work, it grew to close to 6,500 pages – thousands of technical additions and improvements were made.   Drafts have been publicly available on the Ecma web site since May 2006 to facilitate early review.
- Except for one company, all Ecma voting members approved Open XML and sent it to ISO/IEC JTC 1 for "Fast-Track" adoption

Fast-Track Voting at ISO/IEC JTC 1

- In September, 2007, the initial National Body approval vote on Open XML was close, and many expect Open XML to be approved eventually
- Fast-Track procedures require a "Ballot Resolution Meeting" (BRM) which will discuss all comments so that "No" votes may be converted to "Yes" votes
- The Open XML BRM will be in Geneva, 25-29 February 2008
- National Bodies may change their vote in March 2008 following the BRM discussions
- The DIS29500 Editor, supported by Ecma, is now working with National Bodies to respond to voting comments before the BRM

China National Body Voting

- China voted "No" on Open XML in September 2007

- China submitted only one comment which was to request more time for evaluation and study

- China may attend the BRM and possibly change its vote on Open XML during February 2008

IPR and Implementation Concerns

- Open XML meets the Ecma and ISO/IEC IPR Policies

- Further, Microsoft offers a royalty-free patent promise to Open XML implementers

- Open XML is not defective legally or technically – it is already being implemented on the Windows, Mac, Linux and other platforms

- See http://www.openxmldeveloper.org for further implementation information