

O-RAN Participation Guidelines

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The O-RAN Alliance (“O-RAN”) has been established to develop architectures and specifications and to take other actions to encourage rapid and broad industry promotion and adoption of open standards and interfaces, embedded intelligence, software-based functions/ microservices (including open source) and white box hard-ware for radio access networks.

The objective of the O-RAN Alliance is to advance the commercial success of mobile broadband communications and to ensure a successful cycle of investment, innovation and adoption of services that would benefit the end user as well as all other members of the mobile ecosystem.

O-RAN is committed to gathering the views of all interested stakeholders in the RAN ecosystem in an open and transparent process to realise its ambition to develop and implement these requirements. Participation in O-RAN is limited to two categories of stakeholder, Members and Participants. Participants are further sub-divided into two categories: Contributors and Academic Contributors.

In pursuing its objectives, O-RAN will launch various activities, e.g. special initiatives, projects, work streams or task forces. In making decisions and setting any further rules and procedures relating to these activities, the O-RAN Board adopts the following principles:

1. O-RAN is an inclusive organisation that values the contributions made by both its Members and Participants in achieving its goals and objectives. Therefore, all Members and Participants shall be entitled to make contributions to activities of O-RAN by, at least, receiving and being given the opportunity to submit comments on O-RAN deliverables, proposals and/or requirements before a decision on the relevant matter will be taken.
2. In order for O-RAN’s objectives to be realised, it must produce realistic deliverables on time so that the results can be presented to standardisation organisations, to technology providers and to manufacturers to enable these parties to deliver in time to mobile network operators what they require for the envisaged services to be offered to customers.
3. As stated in O-RAN’s Constitution, any activity, e.g. initiative, project, work-stream or task force will be created by the direction of the O-RAN Board. Each activity shall have a leader, who will be responsible for the coordination of the efforts and outputs

of that activity. Each activity will offer Members, Contributors and Academic Contributors with relevant expertise in the subject matter the opportunity to contribute to these activities.

4. All Members and Participants shall be able to propose new activities or amendments to existing activities for any activity at any time, provided that the proposal falls within the scope of the O-RAN work programme. All new activities must ultimately be submitted to the O-RAN Board for approval including a delivery plan, detailing *inter alia* required resources, tasks, timelines and targets of the proposed activity. Following any significant amendment to the delivery plan, it must be re-submitted to the O-RAN Board for approval.
5. Each delivery plan will identify those Members and Participants who have committed to provide resources. Those who have not committed such resources will still be entitled, at appropriate times or upon achievement of certain milestones, to receive relevant documentation and provide input and feedback on the activity.
6. The final decision on such deliverables, proposals and/or requirements shall be taken by the O-RAN Board, taking into account the views of all Members and Participants (including any dissenting Members or Participants). In any such decision, the O-RAN Board will include a clear statement setting out the reasons for its decision in accordance with O-RAN's objectives and scope.
7. Initiatives, projects, work-streams or task forces will, so far as it is possible to do so, seek to work and, in particular, formulate their deliverables, proposals and/or requirements by consensus¹ of all Members and Participants within that activity.

As stated, there shall be two distinct categories of Participants – Contributors and Academic Contributors. Admission as a “Contributor” shall be open to any commercial or trading entities, which, in the opinion of the O-RAN Board, have a relevant interest in and commitment to the scope and objectives of O-RAN. Admission as an “Academic Contributor” shall be reserved to academic institutions, non-industry affiliated research institutes and, at the O-RAN Board's discretion, other non-profit making organisations. The rights of Contributors and Academic Contributors can be summarized as follows:

- Contributors and Academic Contributors shall have the right to fully participate in any activity of O-RAN, subject to Board discretion, and shall in particular participate in the O-RAN Forum, which is specifically designed to enable full engagement with the Contributors and Academic Contributors at a delivery/proposal/requirement approval level.
- Contributors and Academic Contributors may raise proposals for new activities or amendments to existing activities, and may volunteer to lead projects within activities, all subject to O-RAN Board approval.
- Contributors and Academic Contributors will be entitled to review and comment on the draft deliverables of any activity.
- Contributors and Academic Contributors will be named in relevant press releases and on the O-RAN website.

The above-mentioned rights will ensure that key eco-system partners have the opportunity to play a significant role in the activities of O-RAN and also have full public visibility.

ⁱ The interpretation of “consensus” is based on the 3GPP Working Procedures Document (Annex A, Definitions, Version 29-10-2012): “General agreement, characterized by the absence of sustained opposition to substantial issues by any important part of the concerned interest and by a process that involves seeking to take into account the views of all parties concerned and to reconcile any conflicting arguments. (Note: consensus need not imply unanimity).” (<http://www.3gpp.org/specifications-groups/working-procedures>)