

Eclipse Foundation and Actuate Announce Approval of Business Intelligence and Reporting Tools Project

Actuate Corporation (NASDAQ: ACTU), the world leader in Enterprise Reporting Applications, and the Eclipse Foundation, a community committed to the implementation of a universal platform for tools integration, today announced that the Eclipse Foundation has officially approved the Business Intelligence and Reporting Tools (BIRT) Project. Thirty days after posting the BIRT proposal on the Eclipse website, there has been a positive response from Open Source developers who have given feedback to the first Eclipse-backed BI project.

The Eclipse community and our board members are pleased to accept BIRT as a top level project, said Mike Milinkovich, executive director of the Eclipse Foundation, Inc. The volume of positive feedback received in response to the BIRT proposal clearly demonstrates the need for a Business Intelligence and reporting tool as part of the Eclipse technology portfolio.

Now that the BIRT project has been officially approved by Eclipse, Actuate will begin the task of stewarding development of BIRT, which is expected to culminate in the industry's first open Business Intelligence and Reporting platform by early 2005. Industry analysts agree that BIRT will benefit developers and Actuate by expanding the visibility of business intelligence and reporting to a wide audience of developers. These developers require easy to use tools, such as BIRT, to decrease development costs associated with the core application functions of reporting and analysis.

Industry Analysts Embrace Actuates Decision to Support BI Open Source Development

Forrester Research

Actuate is being aggressive in an area where most of its competitors choose not to be: open-source, noted Keith Gile, senior analyst, Forrester Research. In his September 2004 report, Actuate Pioneers Open Source Business Intelligence And Reporting, he adds that BI vendors that have avoided participation in an open-source initiative need to rethink this approach, and ideally get involved, as open-source will be an issue that must be addressed sooner than later.

Gartner

On 26 August 2004 Bill Hostmann, research director, Gartner Research and Mark Driver, vice president and research director, Gartner Research co-authored an article entitled "Actuate Brings BI Technology to Open Source Group." The full text of their analysis is available at:

http://www.actuate.com/download/actuate_brings_.pdf

IDC

"Actuate could realize strong pull-through revenue from its involvement in the Eclipse community," said Dan Vesset, research director, IDC. "Should demand for an open source reporting standard exist, Actuate's active participation in Eclipse is a positive strategic move that could give it first-mover advantage in this open source community."

META Group

Actuate will be building BIRT from the ground up (i.e. no Actuate iServer code will be used). However, application developers without a core BI and reporting standard will be able to use a free open source tool to embed with the applications they develop, said Kurt Schlegel, senior program director, META Group.

Ventana Research

"The Eclipse Foundation's Java IDE technology reaches thousands if not millions of Java developers. Adding BIRT to the Eclipse project portfolio means these developers now gain similar access to business intelligence technology," said Eric Rogge, vice president and research director, Ventana Research. "BIRT will benefit from Actuate's experience and competence in enterprise reporting. Actuate will benefit by expanding their visibility in a community where the need for reporting technology is growing."

Actuate to Steward BIRT Development Roadmap

Actuate is honored to have the opportunity to collaborate with the Eclipse community to build a strong Open Source foundation for Business Intelligence and reporting, said Mark Coggins, senior vice president of engineering at Actuate Corporation. Our goal is to provide cooperative leadership in the quest to bring developers an easy-to-use tool that will help decrease Business Intelligence and reporting development costs and increase innovation in this area. Now that BIRT is approved, the next order of business is to post a set of project milestones for the technology. The BIRT Project will leverage the Eclipse platform to provide infrastructure and tools for designing, deploying, generating and viewing reports. BIRT will be an easy-to-use platform to quickly and effectively create and deploy reports without the high development cost associated with having the developer hand-code the reports components.

To Find Out More

To become involved in the development of BIRT please visit www.eclipse.org/proposals/eclipse-birt/index.html. More information is available at: www.actuate.com/corporate/corporateresources.asp?ArticleId=7256.

About Eclipse

The Eclipse Foundation is a not-for-profit, member-supported corporation that hosts community based open-source projects. Eclipse creates royalty-free technology and a universal platform for development tools integration, modeling, testing and functionally-rich application construction. Eclipse based offerings give developers freedom of choice in a multi-language, multi-platform, multi-vendor supported environment. Eclipse delivers a dynamic plug-in based framework that makes it easier to create and integrate technology, saving time and money. By collaborating and sharing core integration technology, technology providers can concentrate and focus on areas of expertise and differentiation. The Eclipse Platform is written in the Java language and comes with extensive plug-in construction toolkits and examples. It has already been deployed on a range of development workstations including Linux, QNX, Mac OS X and Windows-based systems. Full details of the Eclipse Foundation and white papers documenting the design of the Eclipse Platform are available at www.eclipse.org.

About Actuate Corporation

Actuate Corporation is the world leader in Enterprise Reporting Applications that ensure 100% adoption by users. Actuates Enterprise Reporting Application Platform is the foundation on which Global 9000 organizations (companies with annual revenues greater than \$1 billion) and packaged application software vendors develop intuitive, Web portal-like reporting and analytic applications that empower 100% of users with decision-making information. These applications are deployed inside and outside the firewall to improve corporate performance across a range of business functions including financial management, sales, human resource management, and customer self-service. When tested against other business intelligence products, Actuates Enterprise Reporting Application Platform has been proven to offer industry-leading scalability and the lowest Total Cost of Ownership. Actuate has 2,900 customers globally in a range of industries including financial services, pharmaceuticals, insurance, and distribution services, as well as the government sector.

Founded in 1993, Actuate has headquarters in South San Francisco, Calif., and has offices worldwide. Actuate is listed on the NASDAQ exchange under the symbol ACTU. For more information on Actuate, visit the company's web site at www.actuate.com.

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