

Towards an Open MDD Platform Initiative

There is increasing agreement that Model-Driven Development (MDD) is one of the important drivers of progress in the area of software systems engineering. Model-driven development is put forward by the Object Management Group (OMG) initiative called Model-Driven Architecture (MDA™) and is supported by the OMG new UML 2.0 standard. The Eclipse Foundation is also clearly driving pragmatic integration of MDA™ standards using Eclipse EMF runtime framework. The market is currently adopting MDD as shown by announcements from all major modelling tools vendors.

The European R&D community is already playing an important role in this major trend. There have been several MDD related R&D initiatives launched in the past ten months:

- The creation in March 2003 by Thales, CEA and Inria of the CARROLL Research Programme with an overall 3 years effort of 10 M €. CARROLL Research programme is dedicated to MDD and to middleware technologies¹.
- The creation in 2003 of the MODELWARE (MODELing solution for softWARE systems) Consortium and the submission to the IST FP6 Call 2 by this Consortium of a proposal of an Integrated Project dedicated to MDD: MODELWARE. The MODELWARE Consortium, lead by Thales, comprises 23 European partners, representing the end-users, tools vendors and academic communities. The proposal has been selected by the European Commission and the project will start in the second half of 2004. MODELWARE workplan includes the setting-up of an Open Source MDD platform hosted by the Eclipse foundation.
- The launch by CEA-List, ESSAIM-MIPS and LIFL-DaRT, in December 2003 of the TopModL initiative with participation from several European research teams.

The founding partners of the CARROLL Research Programme share the view that these initiatives have to be merged and combined into a single project aiming at the development of an Open MDD Platform proposed to and hosted by the Eclipse Foundation.

During the CARROLL Steering Committee of March 26th, Thales, CEA and Inria have jointly agreed to launch this project and to invite all current partners of the MODELWARE Consortium and members of the TopModL initiative to participate to this project.

The definition phase of the Open MDD Platform project will take place during Q2 2004. It will be conducted by a Thales, CEA and Inria kernel team which will liaise with all concerned organizations and individuals. The project definition will then be made public on the CARROLL web site (www.carroll-research.org). An international workshop will be organized for all potential contributors by the end of 2004 to launch this Open Source initiative.

For more information, please contact: Sébastien Gérard, CEA (Sebastien.Gerard@cea.fr)

¹ www.carroll-research.org