

Open Source Robotics Alliance FAQ

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About the organization

1. What is the OSRA?

- The Open Source Robotics Alliance (OSRA) is an initiative created by the OSRF to provide funding, greater community involvement, and long-term stability to OSRF open-source projects. It is based on a mixed membership and meritocratic model, following other successful foundations for open-source projects, including The Linux Foundation and the Eclipse Foundation. The OSRA will enable the community to participate in the technical governance of OSRF projects, provide funding to support those projects, and contribute to growth in contributions and adoption.

2. Why was there a need for a new model?

- The Open Source Robotics *Foundation* (OSRF) is a non-profit organization, but it had a for-profit subsidiary, the Open Source Robotics *Corporation* (OSRC). The profits from this subsidiary were used to fund the open-source projects of the OSRF, paying for the various infrastructure the projects required (such as cloud computing costs for the build farm) and some of the on-the-clock time of OSRC engineers to perform development tasks for those projects. In return for providing these resources to the open-source projects, the community supported the OSRF and OSRC in stewarding the projects for the benefit of the community. This represented a Benevolent Dictator For Life (BDFL) governance model in many ways.

At the end of 2022, the OSRF sold the OSRC to Intrinsic Innovation LLC **but retained full ownership and control of its open-source projects**. With the removal of the OSRC and the engineers who worked for it from the OSRF's control, the BDFL model of funding and supporting the OSRF's open-source projects became less feasible. Furthermore, the Board of Directors of the OSRF had felt for some time that the existing model of governance, development, and funding was no longer sufficient to keep up with the scale and needs of the projects.

Instead, the Board of Directors and Officers of the OSRF wished to shift to a more "traditional" governance and funding model that relied on funding from a diverse set of stakeholders, community involvement in governance with sufficient room for meritocratic voices to be heard, and far greater community involvement in and responsibility for developing and growing the open-source projects. With the growth in usage of the OSRF's projects, particularly the ROS Suite, by commercial entities and a growth in willingness by these entities to directly invest in the software for the good of all, OSRF management decided the time was right for a change in governance model.

The result of this process is the Open Source Robotics Alliance (OSRA).

3. Why did you move to a pay-to-play system?

- As many community members have observed, there are quite a few areas where the OSRF can better support the community. Likewise, the community has observed that companies that are financially benefiting from the OSRF's projects, such as the ROS Suite, could better support it. Finally, dependence on any single company decreases as more companies formally support the OSRF through OSRA membership and developer contributions.

4. How will the OSRA work?

- The OSRA is a significant initiative of the OSRF, so it has its own Charters and other documents that define how it is structured and works. To make it more understandable, we have prepared the following documents. Please see each for an understanding of the OSRA and how it works.
 - A brief overview of the OSRA's structure and the purpose of each entity within it.
 - A plain-English version of the OSRA Charter.
 - This FAQ.

You can also view the legal OSRA Charter and project Charters on our ["How it works" page](#).

5. What will happen to the OSRF?

- The OSRF is not changing. It will continue to exist as a 501(c)(3) independent non-profit organization, just as it has since 2012. The OSRF will continue pursuing its mission of supporting the development, distribution, and adoption of open source software in robotics. The OSRA is an initiative of the OSRF (in legal terms, it is a charitable program) that will support the OSRF in performing this mission while allowing us to maintain the complete independence of the OSRF.

6. Who owns ROS and the other ROS Suite trademarks now?

- The OSRF remains the vendor-neutral owner and maintainer of the Open Robotics, ROS, Gazebo, and other trademarks related to its open-source projects and mission.

7. Is this a common governance structure?

- The OSRA's structure is based on existing, successful non-profit organizations for open-source software projects. In designing the structure, we took inspiration from these organizations, including The Linux Foundation, the Cloud Native

Computing Foundation, the Dronecode Foundation, the RISC-V Foundation, the Eclipse Foundation, and the Debian Project.

- It is also common for non-profit organizations to compartmentalize aspects of their operation into programs. This allows for better organization and prioritization of resources. In the case of the OSRA, it allows us to ensure the OSRF maintains its independence and protects our open-source projects.

8. What non-profit foundations did you look at to decide on your governance model?

- We examined in detail the charters and other relevant legal documents of the following organizations.
 - Linux Foundation
 - Apache Software Foundation
 - Cloud Native Computing Foundation
 - Open 3D Foundation
 - RISC-V International
 - Open Source Security Foundation
 - The Dronecode Foundation
 - Eclipse Foundation
 - Nivenly Foundation
 - Debian (Software in the Public Interest, Inc.)
 - FreeBSD Foundation

9. How was this decision made, and by whom? Where can the community input their thoughts on this change?

- With the changing robotics industry and considering the community's needs and input, the OSRF's management has continuously planned how to ensure the health of the Foundation, its projects, and the community. In the last few years, it was decided that the OSRF would pivot to a different funding model. The sale of its for-profit subsidiary (the Open Source Robotics Corporation) and the creation of this new membership model result from those plans.
- The OSRF has multiple avenues for receiving community input, including representation in various ways via the OSRA, reaching out to our community managers or developer advocate, or directly contacting OSRF management. We

welcome your ideas and look forward to hearing from you. While the OSRF Board of Directors has adopted the current OSRA Charter and Project Charters, they can be changed over time as needed.

10. When will all this happen?

- Membership applications are now open. Those accepted by March 31 will be considered inaugural members, although membership applications will be open year-round. Go-live preparations (initial member representative voting, committee formation, meeting scheduling) will wrap up in the first half of April, and the OSRA will commence operations on April 15, 2024.

The OSRA and the ROS 2 TSC

11. How is this different from the ROS 2 TSC? Is the OSRA's TGC the same as the ROS 2 TSC?

- The first, and most significant, difference is that the OSRA, and so the Technical Governance Committee (TGC), has a much broader scope than the ROS 2 TSC. The ROS 2 TSC solely covered ROS 2. The OSRA and its TGC cover ROS, Gazebo, Open-RMF, and the OSRF's project support infrastructure (such as the build farms).
- The second difference is in how membership in the TGC is attained. Apart from three community representatives, who were elected by people generally keeping an eye on the ROS Discourse at the right time of year, membership in the ROS 2 TSC is based on a company agreeing to provide 1 full-time employee's worth of contributions to ROS 2. This was a nebulous, unbalanced, and difficult to monitor requirement. Membership in the TGC is attained through being a paying member of the OSRA or being a representative of a project. This structure is patterned on the many existing open-source software foundations.

12. What will happen to the ROS 2 TSC?

- The ROS 2 TSC will be dissolved after its March meeting, as its duties will now be fulfilled by various parts of the OSRA. We thank everyone involved in the ROS 2 TSC over the years. They have been an integral part of the growth of the ROS project, and we look forward to continuing to work with them within the OSRA.

13. What will happen to the TSC reps?

- The representatives of commercial members of the ROS 2 TSC will complete their terms after the March meeting. These individuals are prominent community members, and we look forward to continuing to work with them within the OSRA.
- The community representatives are transitioning to Supporting Individual Representatives in the OSRA structure. Steve Macenski will be the initial year Supporting Individual representative on the TGC due to receiving the most votes during the 2023 election. David Lu!! and Francisco Martin Rico will serve as representatives on the ROS Project Management Committee. All three will serve until the end of 2024, at which point we will transition to representatives elected by the Supporting Individual Members of the OSRA.

14. What will happen to the current Working Groups?

- There are two current working group categories within the ROS project: official TSC Working Groups and informal/unofficial Community Working Groups.

Official TSC working groups are being handled individually. Some may be transitioned to Special Interest Groups under the TGC, some may be transitioned to Working Groups under the ROS PMC, and the remainder will be dissolved. Keep an eye out for news about your favorite working groups in the near future.

Community Working Groups are not run by the OSRF or the ROS 2 TSC, so we have no input or control over them. However, we will refer to these as “Community groups” going forward to avoid confusion.

15. What will happen to ROS 1? Is ROS 1 going to be under the OSRA as well? Does ROS 1 have its own Project Management Committee?

- The OSRF has placed ROS as a whole under the governance of the OSRA. This includes both ROS 1 and ROS 2. The ROS PMC will create a Working Group for ROS 1 as one of its first actions. The responsibility of this Working Group will be to manage ROS 1 through to its End of Life in mid-2025, and work to promote and assist with migration from ROS 1 to ROS 2 by those users still using ROS 1.

Membership

16. Who are the inaugural members?

- We are pleased to announce the following as the inaugural members of the Open Source Robotics Alliance, with more to be announced over the next few days.
 - Platinum: Intrinsic Innovation, NVIDIA and Qualcomm
 - Gold: Apex.AI and Zettascale
 - Silver: Clearpath Robotics, Ekumen, eProsima and PickNik
 - Associate: Silicon Valley Robotics
 - Supporting Organizations: Canonical and Open Navigation

17. How can I join?

- Participating Organizations
 - Prospective members may apply anytime [here](#). New members are welcomed to the Alliance at the beginning of each calendar month.
- Individuals and Organization Supporters
 - Individuals and organizations not considering a participatory membership may sign up on [the same page](#) and opt for a Supporting Organization or Supporting Individual membership. Supporting memberships become effective immediately upon payment of the membership fee.

18. What are the membership levels and benefits?

- Please see [this table of all membership levels](#) with corresponding fees and benefits.

19. Why do in-kind contributions no longer count towards paid membership?

- We have found that tracking contributions is complicated, with visibility and metrics particularly difficult to monitor and enforce. We believe that the new structure, with opportunities for participation through paid memberships and meritocratic qualifications, better allows for broader community participation.

20. Why should my organization/company join the OSRA?

- As a member organization, you (through your representative) will be able to:

- participate in the technical management of the OSRF's projects;
- benefit from investment in the project via continued development and maintenance of software you depend on;
- contribute to the long-term sustainability and viability of a core part of your products or services;
- demonstrate your commitment to and be a part of promoting the use of open-source software in robotics;
- show your involvement in open-source robotics projects to top talent; and
- increase your opportunities for collaboration with other members of the OSRA and other contributors to OSRF projects.

21. Why should I, as an individual, become a member of the OSRA?

- As a supporting individual, you will be able to:
 - signify your support of Open Robotics and the community;
 - vote for the Supporting Individual Representatives for the TGC and PMCs; and
 - have your input on technical governance of OSRF projects considered through your Supporting Individual Representatives.

22. I would like my employer to join the OSRA. How do I convince upper management to join the organization? What is the OSRA's value for us as an organization?

- Thank you for wanting to help; we prepared [this prospectus](#) for interested potential members that you can share with your employer. We would also be pleased to present the OSRA to your organization's decision-makers. Please contact us at osra-membership@openrobotics.org to schedule a meeting.

23. My small startup would like to join OSRA. Are discounted memberships available for smaller organizations?

- Yes. We designed the OSRA fee structure to help make membership accessible for organizations of all sizes, so smaller organizations' fees are lower than larger organizations for the same membership level. The current schedule of fees is [available here](#).

24. I would like to join the OSRA as an individual, but the membership fee is a hardship for me. Are there discounted memberships?

- We are not offering discounted memberships at this time. However, anyone in the community can still make their voice heard by contacting OSRF's Developer Advocate, our community managers, or OSRF Management.

25. What benefits do inaugural members receive over conventional OSRA members?

- Our inaugural members do not receive any additional benefits. However, in appreciation of their early support to the OSRA, they will be designated as Inaugural Members throughout their OSRA membership. We will always appreciate their confidence in our vision for the OSRA and OSRF.

26. The TGC includes representatives from companies and the open source projects. Who represents the interests of Sponsoring Individual (private) members at the TGC? What prevents corporations from exercising an outsized influence on the project?

- The Sponsoring Individual Members of the OSRA are represented on the TGC by a Sponsoring Individual Representative. This person is also a Sponsoring Individual Member of the OSRA, who has been such a Member for at least one year and is elected by all Sponsoring Individual Members. Their job is to sound out the other Sponsoring Individual Members for their opinions on topics brought before the TGC and then exercise their voice and vote in the TGC in the best interests of all Sponsoring Individual Members.
- The overall number of representatives on the TGC is balanced between representatives of paying OSRA company members and representatives of projects. The TGC Chair is responsible for ensuring this balance is maintained. There are also rules that prevent a single organization from having more than two people on the TGC to ensure no organization gets an outsized influence over the TGC.

27. How does this new system address the risk of technical direction being 'bought' by a small number of companies?

- The OSRA is structured to maintain a balance between the consortium and meritocratic sides of the organization. The Technical Governance Committee is to comprise an equal number of sponsoring members and meritocratic representatives. In addition, most of the OSRA's activities will lean heavily on meritocratic procedures to ensure community agency and participation through Project Management Committees and Working Groups. Policies have also been established so that the OSRF's mission and principles prevail over all proceedings.

28. How will the community's opinions be considered in this new organization?

- The OSRA's structure provides for Supporting Individual Representatives participating in the TGC and each PMC. These representatives are responsible for voicing the community's opinion on issues brought before these committees.

29. What safeguards do you have for improper member behavior?

- The OSRF board has the authority to remove any organization or individual member not acting in good faith or by the organization's rules and regulations, including the OSRF's code of conduct.

Technical governance and participation

30. You mention voting quite often; what will people be voting on exactly?

- What will be voted on will depend on the committee in which that voting is happening. Here are a few examples of things the Technical Governance Committee will vote on.
 - Recommending the adoption of a new project by the OSRF.
 - Chartering new Special Interest Groups and new Technical Committees.
 - Altering the Charter of a Project.
 - Approving a Project Leader.
 - Approving new OSRA-wide policies for Projects.
- Project Management Committees have less *formal* decisions to be made, as the day-to-day work of running a Project is more informal. Here are some examples of formal decisions that a PMC might make.
 - Nominating the Project Leader.
 - Approving release dates and release date changes.
 - Adding a new repository to the Project.

31. How will selection of a Project Leader work? Who is eligible to be Project Leader? Who is eligible to vote for Project Leader?

- The Project Leader is selected from amongst the PMC Members on an annual basis; they are selected by the PMC Members. They serve for one year, and then selection of the next Project Leader is performed; the current Project Leader is eligible to serve consecutive terms with no term limits, so they can remain as Project Leader for as long as the PMC feels they are doing a good job. Selection of the Project Leader is performed as follows.
 - One or more PMC Members put themselves forward to be Project Leader. To be eligible, a PMC Member must have served on the PMC for the same Project for at least one year.
 - The TGC reviews the candidates for suitability, sufficient access to resources to fulfil the role, and sufficient time available.

- The PMC Members vote on which candidate from those remaining that they would like to be Project Leader for the following year using a Condorcet method.

32. How are Project Leaders chosen?

- We appointed the existing project leads as the inaugural Project Leaders to facilitate a smooth transition to the new structure.
 - ROS - Chris Lalancette
 - Gazebo - Addisu Taddese
 - Open-RMF - Michael Grey
 - Infrastructure - Steven! Ragnarok

Elections will be held for new Project Leaders annually, with terms starting at the beginning of each calendar year.

33. When do elections take place for:

- Project Leaders?
 - In the fourth quarter of each year, for one-year terms starting each calendar year. The members of the relevant Project Management Committee are eligible to vote.
- Supporting Individual Representatives?
 - In the fourth quarter of each year, for one-year terms starting each calendar year. All current Supporting Individual Members of the OSRA are eligible to vote.
- TGC representatives?
 1. Platinum members: Each member organization will designate its representative upon joining.
 2. Gold and Silver members will vote on their representative(s) in the fourth quarter of each year for terms starting at the beginning of each calendar year.

34. How many Supporting Individual Representatives are there?

- There is one Supporting Individual Representative on the Technical Governance Committee. Each Project Management Committee has one or more Supporting Individual Representatives, depending on the size and needs of the Project.

35. What sort of control does the TGC exercise over the PMCs?

- The TGC exists to set OSRA-wide technical policies that Projects are expected to implement in a way that makes sense for each Project. Because the Committers of a Project are volunteers, it is not possible for the TGC to contractually force them to act. However, the TGC can remove PMC Members, Committers, and even the Project Leader if they have good reason to do so, such as when they manage the Project inappropriately. To guard against the TGC's unreasonable actions, such decisions of the TGC can be appealed to the Board of Directors of the OSRF.

36. What if I don't like how the TGC or a PMC works?

- We will use feedback collected from the community to keep improving our processes, so please do not hesitate to contact us or your most relevant representative in the TGC to provide general comments.

Suppose you feel that a PMC is operating incorrectly or not working in the best interests of its project. In that case, you should raise this with the TGC via your most relevant representative (e.g., for employees of Gold Member companies, one of the Gold Representatives on the TGC, or for Supporting Individual Members, the Supporting Individual Representative on the TGC).

If you feel that the TGC is operating incorrectly or against the OSRA Charter or our Policies & Procedures, then you should make a report to OSRF management.

37. What projects/github organizations/repositories will be managed by the OSRA?

- The OSRA is directly responsible for managing the following open-source projects of the OSRF:
 - ROS,
 - Gazebo,
 - Open-RMF, and
 - Infrastructure (the computing infrastructure that supports the other projects).

Each of these projects manages one or more GitHub organizations and repositories. To inform users and contributors where a project hosts its source

code and other such resources, each project will provide a list of organizations and repositories managed by that project. We are working with the project leaders to finalize these lists and expect to have them publicly available well before commencement of operations.

- Many in the community have considered specific projects to be part of ROS “by default,” but they are actually separate projects. The following well-known projects do not belong to the OSRF and will not be managed by the OSRA.
 - Nav2
 - MoveIt 2

38. What is the process for adding a new project to the OSRA?

- We do not yet have a specific process for adding a new project to the OSRA. The Technical Governance Committee will design the process and identify criteria on which a project should be judged for acceptance or not. The final steps of that process will necessarily be the OSRF adopting the project and assigning responsibility for governance to the OSRA.

39. What is the process for adding a repository to a project, such as to ROS?

- Every repository added to a project represents an additional resource ask from the Committers and contributors, so we must carefully consider the benefits of including that repository in the project versus the available resources. The best people to make this decision in an informed way are the PMC members for that Project.

To add a new repository to a project, the PMC must make a formal decision to create or adopt one. This requires that a PMC Member bring the proposal to the PMC for consideration. If you have a repository you would like to see added to one of our projects, please contact a PMC member for that project and propose it to them.

40. What’s the difference between working groups, special interest groups, and a technical committee?

- Working Groups are subcommittees of Project Management Committees. They report to their parent PMC, are chaired by a PMC Member, have a formal Charter describing their operation and goals, and are typically set up to perform a specific task, such as preparing the next ROS release or investigating a new physics engine for Gazebo. They allow a PMC to compartmentalize an in-depth topic or task to a sub-group of people who are interested in it, and get back a result at a later time. Working Groups do not make formal decisions, they instead advise the

parent PMC on what to do. Working Groups have explicitly open membership, in that anyone can participate in a Working Group and contribute to its goal. Most Working Groups will have a limited lifetime based on when their task must be completed (such as completing a ROS release prior to the intended release date), but some may be set up on an on-going basis with period reviews by the PMC.

- Special Interest Groups are subcommittees of the Technical Governance Committee. They are set up by the TGC with a Charter when the TGC needs to gather information on a particular topic, either once-off or on an ongoing basis. For this reason, SIGs do not so much perform a task as they hold discussions, receive presentations from subject matter experts, and so on in order to gather information on their topic. A SIG presents the information it has gathered to the TGC so that the TGC can make a more informed decision. SIGs are chaired by a TGC Member, and will often involve subject matter experts who are not TGC Members nor OSRA members. As information-gathering entities, SIGs do not take formal decisions. Some SIGs may have open participation, allowing anyone to join, but others may not; this is decided by the TGC when the SIG is chartered.
- Technical Committees are subcommittees of the Technical Governance Committee. They are set up by the TGC when it needs a complex or in-depth task to be performed. Examples include creating a process for adopting a new project into the OSRF and setting or revising a policy to be applied to all Projects. TCs are set up with a Charter describing their task, the expected outputs to the TGC, and the expected completion date. A TGC Member chairs them and may involve outside experts who are called to participate and assist with the task. Participation in a Technical Committee is limited to people appointed to the TC; these people must be TGC Members or employees of Platinum, Gold, and Silver members of the OSRA. The output of a TC is typically one or more recommendations to the TGC, usually in the form of a recommendation to adopt a policy or document drafted by the TC. TCs have a limited lifetime of up to three years, with most TCs expected to last less than one year.

41. How can we get our community group adopted as an official Special Interest Group or Working Group under the OSRA?

- The OSRA has three types of short-term committees: Special Interest Groups (SIGs), Technical Committees (TCs), and Working Groups (WGs).

TCs are formed to carry out a task for the TGC and would not apply here.

SIGs are chartered by the Technical Governance Committee and are for information gathering purposes. If your community group serves a purpose suitable for a SIG, then you should contact a member of the TGC, such as the Supporting Individual Representative or one of the Project or Member

representatives, to make a proposal on your behalf.

WGs are chartered by a Project Management Committee for performing some task the PMC needs done, or to gather information for the PMC. With their open membership, a WG is the most appropriate way to formalize a community group. However, a WG must be chaired by a PMC Member, and it must continue to be active and perform useful work or the PMC may dissolve it. If you feel that your community group would be useful to a particular project, then approach one of the PMC Members of that project to have them make a proposal on your behalf.

If neither of the above is appropriate to your community group, then there is nothing wrong with continuing as a community-run group. Such groups are useful for the community to coordinate activities outside of the scope of the OSRA/OSRF and are highly encouraged!

42. Do I have to be an OSRA member to contribute to a project?

- No.

43. Will I need to be an OSRA member to commit code to ROS?

- No, but you must be a Committer for the ROS Project. If you are not a Committer, you can still contribute code to the project by opening a pull request.

44. Will I lose my commit rights if I don't join the OSRA?

- No. However, you might lose them as we clean up legacy permissions as part of the OSRA's start-up. If you wish to contribute code to a Project, the correct approach is to open a pull request.

45. Will my organization need to be an OSRA member to submit our ROS packages to the build farm?

- No. You are welcome, as always, to include your packages in the ROS Build Farm. However, we hope organizations will join the OSRA as they can, and we would appreciate the financial support for our infrastructure.

46. Who are the Committers for the projects now? Who are the PMC Members for the projects now?

- Although the Board of Directors of the OSRF has appointed the four Project Leaders already, we have not yet asked the Board to appoint the initial set of Committers and PMC Members for each Project. This is because we need to contact each potential Committer/PMC Member and confirm that they wish to participate in that way before appointing them. We plan to have these lists of people finalized in advance of the April 15th start-of-operations date.

47. How do I become a committer?

- Each Project's Charter defines the process for accepting a contributor as a new Committer. All Projects have a process based on mentorship by an existing member of the Project for some time, followed by a vote for acceptance by the Project Management Committee of that Project. If you are interested in becoming a Committer for a Project, you should review the Charter for that Project, and then contact an existing PMC Member to inquire about beginning the process. Remember that the stronger your existing contributions, the greater the chance of a PMC Member agreeing to mentor you, so if you don't have many contributions yet, we recommend you start.

48. What are the immediate issues that the new Technical Governance Committee (TGC) will take on?

- Some of the TGC's first initiatives include matters related to:
 - an OSRF-wide policy for the use of generative AI such as Large Language Models;
 - a new process for ROS Enhancement Proposals (REPs), and extending the process to all OSRF projects;
 - setting quality assurance standards for all OSRF projects; and
 - an adoption process for new projects joining the OSRF.

49. Will participants in the TGC, PMCs, SIGs and TCs be compensated for their efforts? Will contributors be compensated?

- No. Participants in the OSRA's committees (aside from OSRA's own staff) are all considered volunteers of the OSRF. Some participants may be compensated by their employers for their time on OSRA work.

Impacts

50. Other than changing the governance model, how will this improve the OSRF's projects?

- We expect the OSRA to benefit the OSRF's projects in three significant ways.
 - By providing a stable stream of funding to cover the operational costs of the projects.
 - By encouraging greater community involvement in development through open processes and open, meritocratic status achievement.
 - Bringing greater community involvement in governance to the projects ensures all stakeholders have a voice in decision-making.

51. How will the funds collected by the OSRA be used? Is there a breakdown of spending?

- Membership fees collected by the OSRA will support the maintenance and continued development of the OSRF's open-source projects. This includes paying for infrastructure (keeping the trains running), core and feature development, and any other expenses as decided on by the OSRA.

52. Where will the membership fees go?

- Membership fees collected by the OSRA will support the maintenance and continued development of the OSRF's projects. This includes paying for infrastructure (keeping the trains running), core and feature development, and any other expenses as decided on by the Alliance.

53. Will OSRF be able to pay for developers now?

- That is certainly one of the goals and a significant part of caring for the ecosystem around OSRF projects. Identifying and recommending priorities and appropriate expenditures for each project will be one of the PMCs' duties, with the TGC making funding decisions based on the needs of all Projects. We hope to raise enough membership funds to accommodate all project needs.

54. How will this impact me as a developer?

- If you are a contributor to an OSRF Project, then in general, nothing will change regarding how you contribute. You will still contribute new and modified source code via pull requests. Over time, though, we hope to see the number of Contributors for each project grow so that the responsiveness to pull requests increases.
However, if you are a contributor, you can become a formal part of a Project by

becoming a Committer, a PMC Member, and perhaps even a Project Leader. Each project will have a publicized process based on mentorship to achieve the right to commit to that project's repositories and take part in formal decision-making.

55. I am a ROS package maintainer; how do these changes impact me?

- If your package is considered a part of the ROS Project, then there may be changes to your access rights and how you conduct your work. You will be contacted by the Chair of the TGC or the Project Leader for ROS shortly to discuss this.

If your package is *not* considered a part of the ROS Project, then there will be no changes for you. The repository remains your own, and the process for releasing the package is unchanged.

56. How will this impact us as a business that uses OSRF software such as the ROS Suite, Gazebo, and Open-RMF?

- In the short term, we do not foresee any significant impacts to your use of OSRF software. The next release of each software will happen as planned, and development will continue uninterrupted.

In the longer term, we look forward to the OSRA providing resources, both financial and in terms of contributed time, to significantly improve the projects, their development processes, and the speed at which new features and bug fixes are made and included - not to mention a higher level of software quality, making the projects more robust and reliable for commercial users.

We are pleased to offer all businesses within our ecosystem a chance to help [support the OSRF through an OSRA membership](#).

57. How will this impact us as a research lab that uses OSRF software such as the ROS Suite, Gazebo and Open-RMF?

- All OSRF projects will remain open source and free for anyone to use as they wish, including research labs. As with commercial users, in the longer term those who use OSRF projects to support their research will benefit from an increase in development speed and software quality.

58. What changes should developers expect to see to ROS in the next year due to the formation of the OSRA?

- No immediate sudden changes are expected. This is a long-term plan for long-term stability and growth. We are excited, however, to provide a more formal and organized way to encourage community contributions.

59. How do you envision the OSRA will impact the development of OSRF projects?

- The OSRA will allow us to better drive growth in community involvement, particularly contributions from the community, through more open processes, better structures for community involvement, and, notably, financial resources that we can direct toward areas of development that are lagging. For example, in the future we may be able to directly hire professional technical writers to assist with documentation, and pay for commercial tools for improving software quality where open-source tools are not available.