European power for more collaborative open-source projects in logistics and SCM

**ALICE is the first international network partner of the**
**Open Logistics Foundation**

Tuesday, January 9, 2023

**To promote the spread of collaborative open-source solutions for logistics and supply chain management (SCM), two broadly networked European non-profit organisations signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 19th December to intensify their cooperation. The Open Logistics Foundation and the European Technology Platform (ETP) ALICE (Alliance for Logistics Innovation through Collaboration in Europe) want to combine the power of their networks to give the industry a stronger voice and emphasise the importance of collaboration for Europe's future competitiveness.**

Founded in 2021 as a non-profit organisation, the Open Logistics Foundation is currently showing logistics and SCM a new way to remain fit for the future: Collaboration instead of strict competition. The implementation of a standard for the electronic consignment note or eCMR on an open-source basis is currently just the beginning. The Foundation's members already include a wide range of major logistics operators such as Dachser, Rhenus, DB Schenker and DHL. The Foundation aims to become the international platform for the development of common code from competitors - always with a view to non-market-differentiating features in logistics and SCM. The cooperation of as many market participants as possible is necessary for the desired de facto standardisation in the relevant areas. The first international network partner is the European Technology Platform for Logistics, based in Brussels: ETP ALICE.

Founded in 2013, ALICE recognised the need to work on supply chain collaboration initiatives to define standard processes and protocols supporting the implementation of the Physical Internet concept to increase the efficiency and sustainability of supply chains. ALICE gathers more than 160 members including leading experts and companies in logistics and supply chain innovation implementation. The Open Logistics Foundation stems from the initiative of one of the ALICE members and it is truly delivering on ALICE vision and mission and advancing in its implementation. Open-source, the facto standards and defining universal standards are key building blooks to enable collaboration and building the path towards the Physical Internet.

**Collaboration and open source as a game changer for Europe's competitiveness**

‘Thanks to its networking with the European Commission, its large number of members and its participation in many Europe-wide initiatives, ETP ALICE is an ideal network partner for us,’ explains Andreas Nettsträter, CEO of the Open Logistics Foundation. ‘As an association focussed on collaboration, ETP Alice is an important supporter and advisor to the EU Commission in the introduction of new research programmes. My long-time colleague and CFO Thorsten Hülsmann and I were even involved in the founding of ETP ALICE in 2013 in our previous Fraunhofer IML functions. The existing relationship is a good basis for a free exchange that will produce target-oriented open-source solutions for logistics. Together we want to give the logistics and SCM industry a stronger voice and emphasise collaboration as a game changer for the competitiveness of Europe, but also of each individual member.’

**Universal open-source solutions enable structural collaboration**

Francois Regis le Tourneau, Chairman of ALICE, adds: ‘The topic of 'Physical Internet' is at the top of our joint agenda, universal open-source solutions enable structural collaboration at zero marginal costs. This is a core building block of the Physical Internet enabling collaboration opportunities, visibility and increase resource utilization and sharing. Efficiency will be more and more important to achieve an affordable transition to climate neutral and sustainable logistics and supply chains. This makes it even more important for the Open Logistics Foundation and us to act as a driver for more collaboration and open standards in this field. We will collaborate in projects and will organise joint ideation workshops, events and seminars on an EU-wide level to identify pain points and opportunities in the logistics industry. Thanks to the high diversity of the Foundation's members, a wide range of interest groups from all over Europe can find a voice.’

Further information on the Open Logistics Foundation can be found at [openlogisticsfoundation.org](https://openlogisticsfoundation.org/)

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**Image 1: (L-R) Fernando Liesa (Secretery General of ETP ALICE), Francois Regis le Tourneau (Chairman of ETP ALICE), Andreas Nettsträter (CEO of Open Logistics Foundation) and Thorsten Hülsmann (CFO of Open Logistics Foundation) proudly present the signed letter of intent.**

**About**

The Open Logistics Foundation and its supporting association Open Logistics e.V. were founded in 2021 and are independent and neutral organisations. The non-profit foundation based in Dortmund is completely financed by industry partners and is dedicated to the voluntary development of innovative open-source solutions at commodity level for the logistics industry. The focus is on open and fair cooperation between different companies, which can also be competitors in the free market. The overarching goal is to solve the most pressing existing problems of the logistics and supply chain management (SCM) community with uniform standards, tools and services, based on an open source.

ALICE is The European Technology Platform ALICE. Set-up to develop a comprehensive industry lead strategy for research, innovation and market deployment of logistics and supply chain innovations in Europe. Leading experts and [companies](https://www.etp-logistics.eu/members/) in implementing supply chain and logistics innovation form ALICE aiming at transitioning towards net zero emissions transport & logistics operations in an affordable way. ALICE vision is that logistics, from global to urban, will be founded on a global open system of systems enabling assets and resources in logistics networks to be interconnected facilitating their use to the maximum capacity and productivity while increasing agility and resilience of supply chains. We call this vision the [Physical Internet (PI)](https://www.etp-logistics.eu/alice-physical-internet-roadmap-released/) and it will support the affordable transition of assets towards [Zero emissions logistics](https://www.etp-logistics.eu/alice-launches-the-roadmap-towards-zero-emissions-logistics-2050/).

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www.openlogisticsfoundation.org. and www.etp-alice.eu

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