



THE OPEN LOGISTICS FOUNDATION'S **PLAYBOOK.**

BE
PART
OF IT



Everything about who we are,
how we work and how to join.

What most people **want to know first.**

What does the Open Logistics Foundation offer?

We provide a neutral platform that enables the collaborative development of open source solutions to existing challenges in logistics and supply chain management. Our focus is on non-market-differentiating services – so-called commodities.

What does the Open Logistics Foundation not offer?

We do not have any ready-to-use commercial products or services.

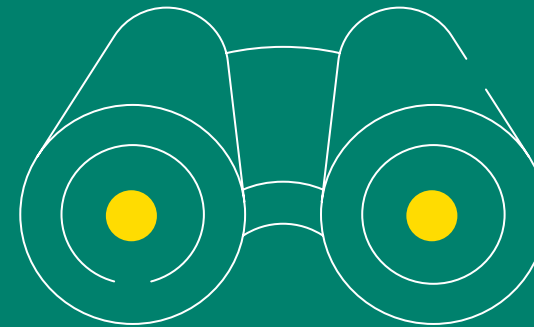
So, why should my company be part of the Open Logistics Foundation?

By joining the Open Logistics Foundation, your company becomes part of a dedicated network where businesses work together in Working Groups and Projects to develop open source solutions. These solutions benefit the entire industry – and, of course, your own organisation as well.



Our **mission.**

In our vibrant community, we facilitate the unbiased, collaborative development of open source software services and components for commoditised processes.



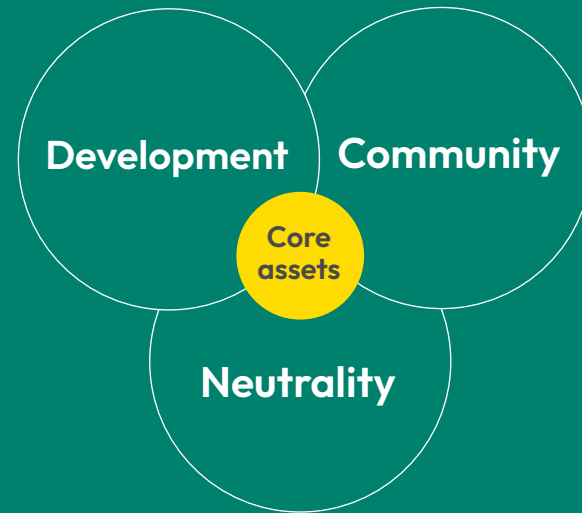
Our **vision.**

We foster jointly developed, free open source solutions that shape the industry's logistics standards of tomorrow.



Our core assets.

- **Development** of open source solutions and projects.
- Joint, active and diverse **community** working together to establish and maintain open source solutions.
- **Neutral place** where all parties can freely contribute and access open source software publications.





Our commitment.

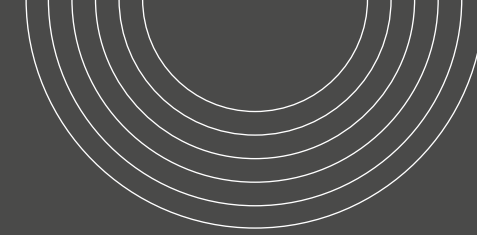
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Open source is the key.

Open source solutions address key logistical challenges. Open source means that the software's source code is freely accessible and publicly available. In the spirit of "sharing is caring", open source development is a community-driven approach to creating intellectual property through open collaboration, inclusiveness, transparency, and regular public updates.

Digital transformation in logistics cannot succeed without embracing open source.



Only **commodities**.

Commodities are the opposite of Unique Selling Propositions (USPs). The key question is: ***What can you not earn money with?*** Commodities are basic functionalities or processes that many companies must offer, but that do not differentiate them from competitors. From a compliance standpoint, these are the types of solutions that competitors are allowed to jointly develop – by publishing them openly and making them available as open source. Although developing commodities takes time and resources, customers generally don't value them explicitly. They simply expect them to be there – like having light in the fridge.

Main thing: the **community**.

The open ideation process brings together diverse perspectives. By combining different approaches and viewpoints from participants with varied backgrounds, the open ideation process produces high-quality, relevant ideas. The entire journey – from initial idea to project completion – is transparent for everyone involved. This openness fosters constructive discussions and ultimately results in solutions that benefit the entire industry. Since many of the challenges are shared across the sector, collaboratively developing de facto standards for commodities is the most efficient and sustainable way to address them.

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How we make things happen.

Developing ideas for open source solutions.

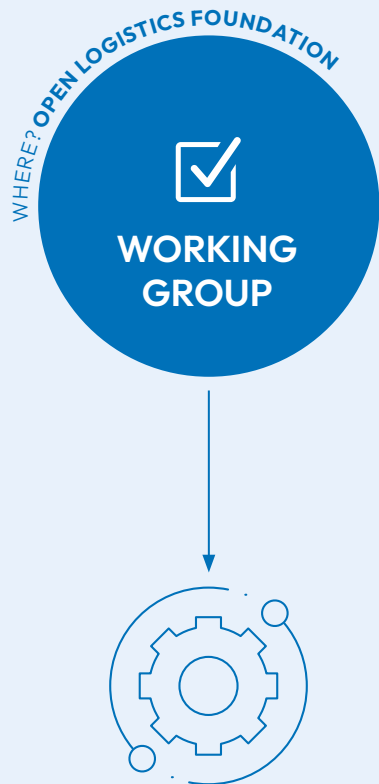
Current challenges companies are facing are the starting point of open source developments under the umbrella of the Open Logistics Foundation. The Head Office supports our member companies in concretising their topics as part of a **structured ideation process** based on the design thinking method. This includes market and technology research. In some cases, prototypes are also realised to test initial ideas. At the end of this phase, **a decision is based on consensus and a defined**

evaluation matrix as to whether the topic is suitable for processing within the Foundation or not. The **criteria include**, for example, the **chances of realisation**, the **members' interest**, and the **industry-wide relevance**.

If a topic is not realised, this is not a failure. After all, it is also important that the members recognise where cooperation is not worthwhile.



Information on
current activities
can be found in
the repository.



Finding common objectives for open source development.

As soon as it has been established that **an idea has the potential for a Working Group**, interested **member companies** assess the feasibility of the idea. Employees from various functions in the member companies contribute their expertise to do the assessment. This interest group works through a list of requirements, which focuses in particular on the logistical relevance of the topic.

The preparations and assessments are supported by the **Logistical Steering Committee** and the **Head Office** of the Foundation. For the Working Group to be established,

at least one company in the interest group must be willing to take the lead.

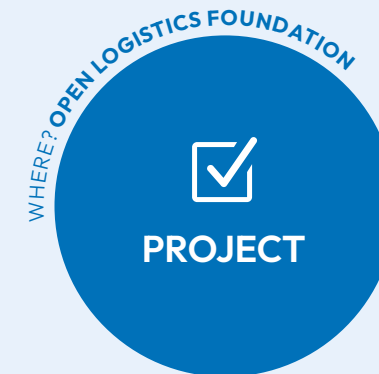
The next step involves **focused work on the framework conditions**. If necessary, experts are consulted in order to reliably clarify certain issues and open questions, including legal or security ones. This is because the biggest challenges often lie not in the technical development but in the different organisational and legal structures of the companies involved. On this basis, projects on specific topics can then be set up where the actual development occurs.

Going into the realisation of open source solutions.

Now, **the work on the open source solutions on a code basis begins**, and the developers of the **member companies** are in demand. The Foundation's **Technical Steering Committee** defines the rules and criteria for the development and publication process, and the **Head Office** supports this process. The

code is published as open source in the Open Logistics Repository. Early practical testing enables continuous improvement of the solutions.

Anyone can view the current development status in the Foundation's repository at any time.

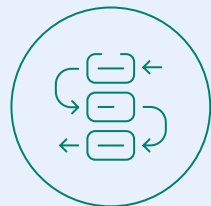


To find out about current coding, go to the repository.

WHERE? MARKET



INDIVIDUALISATION /
COMMERCIALISATION



Customising the components to **individual business processes.**

Whether a member of the Open Logistics Foundation or not, every company can now customise the components to its individual business processes and integrate them into its IT landscape. Commercial use is explicitly desired. As the work can be downloaded from the repository at any time, each company can decide when the time is right for customisation. Most companies wait until the solutions developed have reached a certain level of maturity.

Companies can do this themselves if they have the necessary developer resources or outsource it to IT service providers or R&D partners. The basis of the software must remain unchanged – this is the only way to create the intended de facto standards and maximise the efficiency potential for everyone.



Glossary.



➔ **Member companies.** The companies that are members of the Support Association Open Logistics e. V. form our community.

➔ **Working Group.** In our Working Groups, interested member companies come together to work jointly on industry-wide pain points. The first aim is to establish a common understanding of a topic among companies. One or more projects can develop from a Working Group.

➔ **Project.** This is where the member companies actually work on source code on an open source basis.

➔ **Logistical Steering Committee.** The Logistical Steering Committee assesses the quality and logistical relevance of topics generated by the Foundation's Innovation Community.

➔ **Technical Steering Committee.** The Technical Steering Committee makes sure that the quality of the software developed in the projects is fitting to the Foundation's criteria.

➔ **Head Office.** The Head Office is the matchmaker, enabler and moderator. It collects and bundles ideas and supports the partnering companies in their membership. Communications and political affairs give the Foundation's vision the appropriate outreach.



Our community's heartbeat.



How we unlock the potential **of our network.**

The Open Logistics Foundation offers companies a safe space for open exchange of ideas, problems and solutions. Prioritising transparency, a shared vision, and an incremental approach cultivates trust – unlocking open collaboration's potential across supply chains.

Our mindset – **it's all about trust.**

We bring stakeholders together around a shared vision. We align on common goals, principles, and a clear governance model. Radical transparency is at the core of our approach: we communicate challenges, successes, and lessons learned openly. We foster continuous dialogue and active feedback loops.

We start with low-risk pilot projects that deliver quick wins. As trust grows, we scale up to more ambitious initiatives. Along the way, we celebrate milestones and highlight the value of strong partnerships.



Our purpose – **more than the sum of its parts.**

We are working toward something greater – together. What we aim to achieve cannot be done alone, and it requires a new mindset.

Our focus is on developing user-friendly, practice-oriented solutions with the potential to shape the industry through the creation of de facto standards that truly matter.





Get **involved.**

Jointly develop **open source solutions!**

Our international community connects expertise across the industry. We bring together people and companies with the relevant knowledge and experience. The community is diverse, and every contribution counts. Small and medium-sized enterprises collaborate on equal footing with major industry players. Supported by the Head Office, participants combine practical experience and academic research to create real-world open source applications.



Find out more
about the activities
of our community.



Who are we **addressing**?

The answer is: Every company dealing with logistics and supply chain management. The work of the Foundation benefits different companies in different fields such as

- equipment service providers,
- forwarding companies,
- IT companies,
- logistics service providers,
- platform operators,
- port/airport operators and
- shipping companies.

They can leverage open source services to become more resilient, to improve relationships with partners and customers, improve agility and cost efficiency and much more. Interested universities, research institutes, associations and individual people can also benefit from the Foundation activities.





How much does it cost to become a member?

Membership fees vary for companies to persons. This depends on your annual turnover, type of membership and the group you belong to. Whether you want to play a key role in shaping our agenda or focus



Find out more about the types of membership on our website.

on projects that are of particular interest to your company: You can choose between two types of membership – the solution member and the strategic member.



Download the membership application form.



Why do I have to join under the Support Association Open Logistics e. V.?

The Open Logistics Foundation was founded by duisport, Dachser, DB Schenker and Rhenus. Due to its legal framework, a Foundation is a “closed shop”. To integrate other players and to build up a vibrant community, the Support Association Open Logistics e. V. was founded. The Association supports the Foundation financially as well as by sending experts to the Working Groups, Projects and other activities

of the Foundation. Both the Open Logistics Foundation and its Support Association, Open Logistics e. V., are independent and neutral organisations.



Take a look at our website, at how we are organised, and who is responsible for which tasks.



What can the source code licensed by the Foundation be used for?

The Open Logistics Foundation License (OLFL) is a permissive licence, which places only minimal restrictions on the software. Instead, the Open Logistics Foundation favours a widespread adoption of the software. Companies can use the software modules from the Open Logistics Repository in hardware and

software environments as well as in databases, data networks and online services. They can modify, interpret, edit or redesign it. Also, they can use the source code both for their internal purposes and to provide services to third parties.



What are the specific possibilities for commercial use?

Any open source software licenced under the Open Logistics Foundation License can be combined with other products and distributed or sold as a package to third parties. These can also be distributed under other licence conditions. The only requirement is to indicate which software in the product is covered by the Open Logistics Foundations License.

Companies do not have to report the use or contribute back modifications to the Open Logistics Repository.



You can find the text of the OLFL [here](#).



Can I participate even **without becoming a member?**

Even if you are not a member you have access to our Open Logistics Repository. Here, the open source software is developed and published. You can give feedback, stay updated and download the source code for free.



If you need reasons why you should join us, take a look here.



If you want to support the Foundation without becoming a member, you can endow or donate.



Services.



Look behind the scenes and get inspired.

Our **Open Logistics Magazine** provides interviews, viewpoints and background reports with classifications and analyses of current aspects of open source in logistics and supply chain management. The magazine is published two times a year and is available to read and download on our website.



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We are here to help.



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