Explanations regarding
Open Logistics Foundation
Membership Roles & Contribution Possibilities

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The Open Logistics Foundation (OLF) brings together organisations across the logistics sector to jointly develop open source components for digital logistics processes. Participation is voluntary and open to relevant companies of all sizes and profiles, from logistics service providers to software providers, industry associations, shippers, and more.

While software development is central to the Foundation's work, membership goes beyond coding alone thanks to the diversity of its members' contributions. By combining expertise from different perspectives with the resources that each organisation can offer, the Foundation creates a collaborative environment in which members can fully realise projects.

1. Diverse Expertise Drives OLF Projects

At the heart of every open source project is the ability to turn ideas into working software that is scalable and interoperable. The OLF's mission to create open source solutions for logistics depends on developer power: people who can design, build, implement, and maintain software components. Without sufficient developer capacity, even the most promising concepts get stuck in the planning phase.

We recognise, however, that not every member company can contribute developer power. That's why the Foundation relies on a balanced, heterogeneous membership base – a mix of technical expertise to keep the project moving, industry knowledge to meet real-world needs, and advocacy to build support across the logistics community. Each member brings valuable contributions and resources that shape and strengthen the projects for collective success.

2. Four Ways to Contribute

Members typically participate in one or more of the following roles:

1. Subject-matter experts

Organisations or individuals with deep knowledge of specific logistics segments, such as:

- Legal and regulation experts

- Local experts
- Specialised logistics experts

This expertise often comes from smaller or highly specialised companies that may not have in-house development capacity but provide critical insights into their focus area.

2. Developers

Individuals or teams who contribute the developer resources needed to implement open source components, with a focus on coding, testing, and maintaining software modules. Developers may concentrate primarily on technical implementation rather than logistics industry expertise.

3. Hybrid actors

Participants who combine both logistical operations and IT knowledge. Because they understand the needs from both sides, those in a hybrid role bridge the gap between the business and the developers. They are often key voices in shaping solutions, even if they don't code themselves.

4. Ambassadors

Individuals or teams who share the OLF's mission, advocate for open source adoption in logistics, and represent the Foundation's objectives in industry and policy discussions. Their work brings the Foundation's open source solutions into new spaces and broader awareness.

3. Participation Beyond Coding

Membership in the OLF offers value to all companies, not just those contributing to developer resources. Every member company can shape the development of open source solutions by sharing user perspectives, local requirements, and organisational needs to ensure the software's' practicality and relevance.

In addition to influencing projects, members gain early access to emerging standards and solutions that help them align IT strategies and test innovations safely. Participation also offers opportunities to increase visibility and influence in the industry through advocacy, engagement in forums, and peer networking. In these ways, membership delivers a strategic advantage through practical tools and early insights that help companies stay ahead.