

Digital Commons EDIC  
Attn: Director and Selection Panel  
Paris, France

Bennekom, 7 September 2026

**Letter of support, candidature of Marco Bernasocchi for the Digital Commons EDIC Advisory Board**

Dear Director, dear members of the selection panel,

The Open Source Geospatial Foundation writes in support of the candidature of Marco Bernasocchi, nominated by QGIS.org, for the Advisory Board of the Digital Commons EDIC.

OSGeo is the umbrella foundation for open source geospatial software, providing legal stewardship, incubation, trademark protection and governance to some fifty projects, among them QGIS, GDAL, PostGIS and GeoServer.

That position gives us a direct view of a pattern the EDIC will recognise. European cadastres, environmental reporting pipelines and INSPIRE services rest on GDAL, PostGIS and QGIS. GDAL is a dependency of very nearly every geospatial system in existence, open and proprietary alike, including the products of the commercial vendors these administrations pay. PostGIS holds the spatial data underneath a large share of them. QGIS is the desktop through which public servants actually work. In each case the number of people maintaining the software is small, and the funding is a rounding error against the value of what depends on it. This is the shape of the problem you have set out to solve, and it is why we think geospatial belongs in the conversation about European technological sovereignty, alongside the cloud, workplace and messaging domains already named in the EU Open Source Strategy.

**Marco Bernasocchi**

Marco has served on our Board of Directors since January 2022. He chairs QGIS.org, and he founded and runs OPENGIS.ch, a company of around forty-five people whose revenue comes entirely from open source geospatial software and which funds upstream development from it.

QGIS is the clearest case we have of a European open alternative winning on merit. It is in production use in public administrations across the Member States, for cadastre, spatial planning, environmental monitoring and civil protection, and it displaced proprietary software without any procurement mandate telling anyone to adopt it. Marco has led its association since 2020, and much of that work is the problem described above: turning a project whose adoption vastly outruns its funding into one that can pay maintainers, run a grant programme, and hold together when competing firms contribute to the same codebase.

He also created QField, which took QGIS out of the office and into the field. It began as a student project and has passed two million downloads, used by crews in administrations and utilities who have no GIS training at all. Turning that into something that sustains itself commercially, without closing it, is the problem your sixth area of expertise describes. He gave the main-track talk on exactly this at FOSDEM 2026 in Brussels, under the title "Who Pays Your Bills?", and the recording is public.

Most people who can speak about funding digital commons have seen it from one position: as a maintainer, as a funder, or as a policy observer. Marco has had to reconcile all three, and he meets a payroll of forty-five people from revenue earned on software he gives away. He is also straightforward about the tension that creates. He declares his commercial interests and abstains where they touch a decision, and we have never had cause to question that.

More than one member of our community is standing in this round, and OSGeo supports each of them. We do not rank our candidates, and this letter should not be read as doing so.

The Board approved the issue of this letter by electronic vote on 7 September 2026, following discussion at its meeting during FOSS4G 2026 in Hiroshima. Marco is a member of the Board and took no part in that decision.

We remain available for any further information the panel may require.

Yours sincerely,



**Jeroen Ticheler**

President, Open Source Geospatial Foundation  
on behalf of the Board of Directors