

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

Hiroshima, 7 September 2026

Letter of support, candidature of Peter Löwe for the Digital Commons EDIC Advisory Board

Dear Director, dear members of the selection panel,

The Open Source Geospatial Foundation writes in strong support of the candidature of Peter Löwe for the Advisory Board of the Digital Commons EDIC.

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. What we can do is tell you precisely what Peter brings, which is what follows.

About OSGeo

OSGeo is a non-profit umbrella foundation supporting the development and adoption of open source geospatial software. It provides legal stewardship, project incubation, trademark protection, infrastructure and community governance to approximately 50 projects, among them QGIS, GDAL, PostGIS, GeoServer, GRASS GIS and MapServer. Together these form the underlying infrastructure of a large share of the world's spatial data processing, inside European public administrations and inside proprietary products that depend on them. We also run FOSS4G, the annual global conference for open source geospatial software, and coordinate local chapters in many EU Member States.

That structure gives us a direct view of a pattern the Digital Commons EDIC will recognise: critical, widely used infrastructure maintained by a small number of people with uncertain funding. GDAL, to take one example, is a dependency of nearly every geospatial system in existence, commercial and open alike, and its maintenance has historically rested on very few shoulders. Understanding and fixing that pattern is the work the EDIC has set itself.

Geospatial and European digital sovereignty

We take this opportunity to make a point we believe deserves the Advisory Board's attention, whichever candidates are appointed.

Geospatial software is absent from the priority domains named in the EU Open Source Strategy, yet it underpins cadastre, land registry, environmental reporting, INSPIRE compliance, emergency response and infrastructure management across the Union. The proprietary side of this market is unusually concentrated, and the dependency runs deep because spatial data formats and workflows are sticky.

The open alternatives are mature and in large part European, and they are already in production use in administrations across the Member States. Where the EDIC intends to promote European open alternatives in critical domains, geospatial is a domain where the alternative already exists and mainly needs recognition and sustained funding. We would welcome an Advisory Board able to take that up and Peter is well placed to put it before the Assembly of Members.

Peter Löwe

Peter Löwe has been an active member of the OSGeo community for more than 25 years, joining the newly founded German GRASS User Society (later FOSSGIS) in 2000. His engagement spans software development, community building, scientific outreach and governance. He served on the GRASS GIS Project Steering Committee, co-founded and currently chairs the OSGeo Open Geoscience Committee, and served as an OSGeo Vice President for Open GeoScience. He has consistently worked to strengthen the links between OSGeo, the geosciences and the wider research community, including through long-standing activities at EGU and AGU and the organization of OSGeo Townhalls at the EGU General Assembly.

A particular focus of Peter's recent OSGeo engagement has been the recognition, preservation and scholarly valorisation of open source geospatial software and its community heritage. He initiated the recovery of the MOSS GIS codebase, which subsequently became an OSGeo heritage project, and contributed to the introduction of persistent identifiers and software citation practices for OSGeo projects. As editor of the Open Source GIS chapter in the Springer Handbook of Geographic Information, he helped introduce DOI-based identification for OSGeo projects, and in 2025 founded FAIR4G to monitor and promote the adoption of FAIR principles and persistent identifiers across the OSGeo ecosystem. His work combines long-term community experience with a strong commitment to making open source software a recognized and sustainable part of modern research infrastructure.

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