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Support for Open Hardware in CERN's Open Source Program Office (OSPO)

Friday 9 May 2025 15:50 (10 minutes)

The CERN OSPO provides support for designers willing to open-source their hardware and gateway designs. This is in addition to the more traditional support offered by OSPOs in the context of software.

The OSPO is not involved in the decision to open-source a given design. Its role is guiding and facilitating the open-sourcing process once that decision has been made. The support includes:

- Maintaining a set of best practices for sharing hardware and gateway designs in the OSPO documentation website.
- Discussing licensing options, in collaboration with Knowledge Transfer (KT), and providing advice on how to publish the designs to maximise impact and gather communities around them.
- Participating with KT and procurement in discussions with companies and other potential stakeholders, in particular explaining how Open Source Hardware (OSHW) can be made part of an overall commercial strategy, and providing examples thereof.
- Providing advice on the drafting of Price Enquiry and Call for Tender documents in the context of OSHW, in collaboration with the IPT-PI-SU (procurement of supplies) section.

The talk will quickly present the CERN OSPO and summarise the different types of support hardware designers can expect from it, providing references and points of contact for those who would like to discuss further.

Presenter: BOUKABACHE, Hamza (CERN)