



Global Statement for Indoor Maps as Accessible, Open Data

This statement aims to foster global development of indoor public space venue maps as Open Data to unleash the opportunities for indoor Location Based Services (i-LBS). The signees of this statement recommend that i-LBS be based on indoor maps that are readily accessible via agreed upon open standards, and are made available as open data where possible. Indoor venue maps as the basis for i-LBS will benefit multiple societal sectors with particular benefit for indoor emergency response.

Accurate localization positioning technologies are now available for i-LBS. Indoor location systems, when complementing traditional outdoor location positioning solutions, can enable new sophisticated services based on real-time tracking of people or assets.

[The Benefits of Indoor Location](#) – a recent white paper, jointly edited by the OGC, ILA and i-Locate, - highlighted how indoor location technologies can be an essential enabler for radical innovation, facilitating market entry of new companies proposing innovative businesses in a variety of different domains ranging from e-government services to eHealth, from personal mobility to logistics, from facility management to retail, to name but a few. The whitepaper, based on a global survey, highlighted that one of the key barriers preventing widespread usage of indoor positioning services is the lack of interoperable solutions and practices for indoor positioning. An additional barrier is the availability of open indoor map data of public venues. OGC, ILA and i-Locate and many other organizations seek to eliminate these barriers to widespread i-LBS.

- To address the need for of interoperable solutions and practices for indoor positioning, OGC, ILA, and i-Locate working in multiple international communities seeks the widespread adoption of effective standards for accessing and using indoor maps.
- The lack of available indoor maps limits the potential and opportunities that location-based service can unleash. OGC, ILA, and i-Locate advocate defining well-acknowledged policies regarding different degrees of accessibility of indoor data. For instance, availability of indoor maps of public places supports freedom of access for other-abled people. Further, availability of indoor maps to first responders increases safety and effectiveness in emergency situations.

Industry alliances such as OGC, ILA and i-Locate bring together the industry ecosystem in indoor positioning technology and have the skills and will to solve these issues. They jointly recognize that this requires standardized access to public space indoor maps, wherever possible as open data. Such access to public space indoor maps will enable small and large businesses as well as public institutions to create more efficient and productive organizational models, delivering more flexible, and above all easy access to (traditionally closed or tacit) direct field knowledge.

Ensuring open access to public space indoor maps will empower industry and public agencies with a powerful enabler for next generation of services. Readily accessible indoor maps will be an enabler of exponential growth for indoor location based services.

The Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC), the InLocation Alliance (ILA), and i-Locate invite organizations to sign on to this global statement in support of the inclusion of Indoor Maps in Open Data follow this link:
<http://inlocationalliance.org/global-statement-for-indoor-maps-as-accessible-open-data/>.