

Frequently asked questions

What is the purpose of the openmovement association?

The aim is to stimulate watchmaking creativity and facilitate the application of know-how. To this end, openmovement has developed a first movement and in the future wishes to have component kits manufactured.

Why sponsorship?

Because until now no one has ever published the files of a watch movement and this is particularly interesting for young and less young people in training, regardless of the level or branch (apprenticeship, HES, watchmaking technique, mechanics, design, etc.).

This stimulates watchmaking creativity. This is the observation that has already been made following the publication of the first 3D file on 21.3.2021. In order to publish the tolerated plans and to launch the production of raw component kits, it is necessary to validate the plans and design by prototyping and homologating 20 pieces. This phase also serves to validate the production processes with the chosen suppliers and to prepare for the production of future component kits.

How much is the contribution?

The amount is CHF 30'000 for each sponsor. This money is needed to complete the manufacturing and homologation of 20 prototypes. If there is too much money, we will make the surplus available for the next step; the OM10 automatic winding.

Does the sponsorship create a kind of unfair competition?

No. The prototyping and homologation phase is an investment in the art of watchmaking. Afterwards, for the production, we will be equivalent to market prices and will depend on the size of the series that openmovement can produce.

Why open source?

On the one hand to allow to work freely with an approved base and to favour the manufacturing of value added watches, (like Wordpress is a base for websites and Arduino for mini computer hardware) and on the other hand, to leave a trace of this watchmaking to future generations. In the past, too many movement plans have disappeared forever in company liquidations, while others remain locked away in the depths of factories.

In the future, watches produced today that are intended to last will need today's know-how. Repair and restoration will be facilitated.

Does open-source make it possible to earn a living?

Open source provides a raw material that will be used as a basis by users. The work done on this base is to be valued by the users, even if the base is freely accessible. The association is non-profit. The suppliers who produce the components charge them to openmovement, and the users benefit from a mass effect. We are opening up a new market that will not overshadow anyone. It will be complementary.

Won't the plans be stolen by Asian companies?

Open source cannot be stolen. Whoever wants to make the components has to apply his know-how, and he will do it in the quality he is capable of and for which the customers will be the judge. There are also good watchmakers in Asia, who also take care of the prestigious Swiss watches.

Others who just want to imitate or fake will not have waited for openmovement to do so.

Is the association recognised as being of public utility?

To date and after having followed this subject for two years, the recognition of public utility has been refused by a notice of the service of contributions. One of the reasons was that our cause would not interest enough people. This is despite the fact that watchmaking occupies an important place in the Swiss labour market and in the UNESCO heritage.

What do I have to do to become a sponsor?

Contact us and fill in the form that you will find in the presentation brochure.

www.openmovement.org



Picture: Street sign in La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland, a sponsor thanks to whom the first watchmaking school was established in the city.