

# The uIC Founders Committee

## Founders' Statements

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### 1 Fraunhofer IGD

The Fraunhofer Society <[www.fraunhofer.de](http://www.fraunhofer.de)>, represented by Fraunhofer IGD <[www.igd.fraunhofer.de](http://www.igd.fraunhofer.de)>, has been a proponent of creating a sustainable IoT landscape, driven by European parties, to foster the innovation in Germany, Europe and beyond. Therefore, we have supported universAAL from the very beginning, taking further steps in ReAAL <[www.cip-reaal.eu](http://www.cip-reaal.eu)> and now ACTIVAGE <[www.activageproject.eu](http://www.activageproject.eu)>, in order to make it the leading and most innovative platform in the market.

The universAAL IoT Coalition (uIC) is one of the deciding factors to accomplish these goals. The original loose partnership of the uIC founders in the journey concerted so far will not be effective enough in the future for serving the market breakthrough of universAAL. Taking the characteristic of universAAL as a collaboratively developed open source software into account, only an independent party that is flexible enough to represent the interests of a growing ecosystem will be able to guarantee the sustainability of the platform in accordance with market priorities. uIC will provide the opportunity for all of the stakeholders in its ecosystem to realize the full potential of universAAL, by developing innovative IoT products and service solutions that empower citizens to become co-creators and managers of their own lives and environments.

While acting as a pillar for accomplishing the mission of uIC, the organizational focus of Fraunhofer IGD – like other stakeholders in the universAAL IoT ecosystem – has to move towards the capitalization of universAAL IoT-based solutions. This would not be sustainable without an organization such as uIC that can focus on the innovation and further development of the platform, while we focus on the development of innovative services based on universAAL IoT, together with our national and international partners.

### 2 ITACA Institute

One of the core goals of the SABIEN <[www.sabien.upv.es](http://www.sabien.upv.es)> group within the ITACA institute <[www.itaca.upv.es](http://www.itaca.upv.es)> of the UPV <[www.upv.es](http://www.upv.es)> is to research, design and evaluate ICT solutions that enhance the quality of life and healthcare of the elderly or people with chronic disease, along with their caregivers. This drove our interest in the project universAAL, of which we were part, and the platform it created, and the subsequent project ReAAL <[www.cip-reaal.eu](http://www.cip-reaal.eu)>, to make it grow.

We believe in the potential of IoT technologies to foster, enhance and innovate ICT-based services for supporting our goal, in what was initially known as AAL. However, we are not satisfied with the current fragmentation and obstacles of the IoT industry, and thus back the

idea of empowering the universAAL community to become an open, independent player that allows any party to participate in the revolution of IoT-based services for assisted living. We do believe that the more parties involved in this endeavor, the better opportunities will arise for both consumers and providers. But this is a big effort that requires an entity to lead the way and gather followers under its banner, and here is where uIC comes into play.

SABIEN will continue to back the universAAL IoT platform and ecosystem, developing new AAL services on top of it for its own needs, participating in projects that take advantage of it, and encouraging others to do the same. We will keep helping enhance the platform under the guidance of the uIC, together with the community that will grow around it.

### 3 LifeSTech Research Group

The Life Supporting Technologies research group <[www.lst.tfo.upm.es](http://www.lst.tfo.upm.es)> at the Technical University of Madrid (UPM) <[www.upm.es](http://www.upm.es)> is focused on researching the technologies and services which make life easier. Whether people suffering from chronic diseases, common diseases, any form of impairment, problems derived from the ageing process, all the way to active and healthy individuals, UPM has always inquired into the technologies and mechanisms that can help them.

With this research focus on the challenges of the AHA market, LifeSTech has participated from very early on in the core research projects, which originally created and refined the universAAL platform, as well as in the European innovation projects focused on using it in, and adapting it to, real life conditions. LifeSTech personnel believe that universAAL IoT is a key technology which will enable rapid development of innovative IoT and AHA solutions, serving not only as a cutting-edge platform for the development of innovative multi-vendor solutions, but also as medium for the successful transfer of these solutions to the market. As a matter of fact, UPM has been contributing its know-how to the development of this platform as part of its core developer team.

As an enabler for developing and integrating technologies in a smarter way, universAAL IoT has been, in our eyes, a ground-breaking environment for innovation. LifeSTech has been able to use universAAL for pushing its technologies closer to environments, in which they can really be utilized. This has resulted in several exploitable results that can benefit people in need. With this status, we now believe that the uIC is key for the successful continuation with these assets and extending the spectrum, as it will guarantee the collaborative maintenance and further development of what has been the basis for our achievements. In our eyes, the existence of the uIC is essential for fostering the universAAL IoT ecosystem, in which technologies and products can be combined to create complex solutions at relatively lower costs. Through this ecosystem, UPM will be able to more closely monitor the market, more constructively address the real life problems, and obtain better scientific results for its research lines. In addition, the uIC will enable us and the entire stakeholders in its ecosystem, to improve the efficiency of our development processes, actually help more people, and eventually achieve higher rates of RoI.

Empowering this ecosystem, and putting the related supporting processes into place, cannot be addressed by a single stakeholder, but all stakeholders in the growing community have to unite their forces in the uIC in order to make it the leading organization that helps next generation IoT

and AHA products and service solutions to emerge and positively impact citizens' lives. UPM is proud to be part of that effort.

## 4 MySphera

MySphera <[www.mysphera.com](http://www.mysphera.com)> is a Spanish SME based in Valencia focused on **transforming healthcare systems** through **location** and **process visibility** leveraging **smart IoT solutions**. MySphera provides solutions in the fields of healthcare organizations, senior care organizations and private homes, all of them based on IoT technologies and as part of a portfolio provided on top of our platform.

As an SME, it is crucial for MySphera to keep itself in the forefront of the innovation, profiting from reusability, flexibility, interoperability and transferability achievements from innovation projects in the field of IoT. This is where universAAL comes into play, providing an open framework that we expect to become the basis for extending MySphera's business. Therefore, MySphera has started to use universAAL in the development of its IoT solutions within the EU projects ACTIVAGE <[www.activageproject.eu](http://www.activageproject.eu)> and vCARE that has just started recently.

However, to achieve this, the sustainability of the open source platform must be ensured and it requires an initiative, such as the universAAL IoT Coalition, to coordinate efforts across different innovation or research projects and promote its adoption by other stakeholders, thus growing the ecosystem around it. MySphera is willing to play a leading role in this Coalition with the goal of translating the expectations and requirements of demand side organizations and promoting its adoption within the healthcare and the IoT domain.

## 5 TRIALOG

TRIALOG <[www.trialog.com](http://www.trialog.com)> is a French SME based in Paris with a main business to transfer innovation to its industrial customers. TRIALOG's activity domains, such as smart metering, smart grid, electric mobility, social innovation, privacy and cybersecurity, are all incorporated into innovation for IoT and smart cities systems.

TRIALOG is promoting platform approach in all its business domains together with interoperability. In this context, the universAAL platform with its generic approach of interoperability is an important asset. TRIALOG was involved in the ReAAL project in order to promote, enhance, use universAAL in a pilot; such pilot has been extended after the end of the ReAAL project. TRIALOG is currently involved in an H2020 robotics project called ACCRA <[www.accra-project.org](http://www.accra-project.org)>, where universAAL should be utilized in order to facilitate the semantic context management in this project.

The universAAL IoT Coalition is therefore an important initiative to pursue the growth of this new market. Such a partnership will be a cornerstone for the collaborative continuation of the enhancement of universAAL in open source, for instance in order to add a layer for simplifying application development. A second objective of the uIC is to enable the advent of a marketplace for universAAL based components, products and service solutions that facilitates both the

demand-supply and the B2B interactions, thus accelerating the development and market entry of innovative solutions.

In consequence, TRIALOG will play a coordination role within the uIC in order to meet these concrete objectives.

## 6 CERTH ITI

The Information Technology Institute <[www.iti.gr](http://www.iti.gr)> of the Centre for Research and Technology Hellas (ITI-CERTH) is one of the leading Institutions of Greece in the fields of Informatics, Telematics and Telecommunications. ITI-CERTH exhibits substantial research activity, both basic and industry-oriented, as well as technology transfer actions in the Internet of Things technologies and smart connected objects.

From the very beginning, ITI-CERTH has been one of the core partners of the universAAL FP7 project gaining a strong background in context-aware and IoT platforms in order to provide a middleware for supporting heterogeneous and interoperable services and data from various domains. Moreover, ITI-CERTH has actively supported the adoption of the universAAL platform, by taking further steps in other projects like ACTIVAGE <[www.activageproject.eu/](http://www.activageproject.eu/)>, InLife <[www.inlife-project.eu](http://www.inlife-project.eu)>, OCARIOT (EU-Brazil IoT project) and other internal projects, in order to provide a middleware for supporting heterogeneous and interoperable services and data from various domains.

Therefore, ITI-CERTH is interested in reusing such experience for supporting the universAAL IoT Coalition (uIC) and more specifically the adaptation of the universAAL IoT infrastructure for becoming as one of the world-leading initiatives for the open and efficient Internet of Things platforms for addressing a large majority of IoT use cases out of the box and fostering the innovation in Greece, Europe and beyond.

Consequently, and taking into consideration the available infrastructures of universAAL and uIC, ITI-CERTH will further enable the broad adoption of IoT technologies and on the ease of connectivity and interoperability of IoT devices, platforms, and infrastructure. In this way, by creating a flexible and powerful Internet of Things ecosystem, the uIC can establish new revenue streams towards the capitalization of universAAL IoT-based solutions.