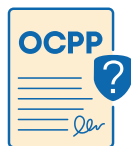




# OCPP

## THE FOUNDATION FOR THE EV CHARGING ECOSYSTEM

### WHAT IS OCPP?



The Open Charge Point Protocol (OCPP) is an open-source communication protocol for Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations and network software companies. It enables EV charging stations to communicate with central management systems from different vendors. Simply put, OCPP-certified hardware can host any OCPP-certified network software – and vice versa. OCPP is a free and readily available open standard used by some of the largest players in the EV space and has become the benchmark for interoperability amongst charging service providers.

### WHY USE OCPP?



In terms of laying the groundwork for a long-term scalable EV charging ecosystem, choosing OCPP-certified hardware might be the most important thing any potential site host could do.



### 1/ NO MORE STRANDED ASSETS

Certain devices (smart EV charging stations, mobile phones, etc.) can only be operated by a unique software, language, or communication protocol. If the manufacturer of that software went out of business, no one outside of that insolvent organization could understand or operate this unique communication protocol, and consequently the devices would be of no use—aka stranded assets.

Business owners cannot ignore the possibility that their charging network provider might go out of business. This is why it's important that you are able to switch network providers if you need to. And the only way to ensure you'll be able to do that is with hardware and software that are both OCPP compatible and certified.

## 2/ NO VENDOR LOCK-IN

On the surface, this might sound a lot like the point raised above. It certainly stems from the same functionality of being able to switch between numerous service providers. The difference here is that “no stranded assets” is how OCPP protects you from a potential drop in service. No vendor lock-in is how OCPP protects you from being stuck with a service you are unhappy with—regardless of whether it’s operational or not.

Let’s say you invest thousands of euros in an EV charging solution for your location. You do all the research, you select a manufacturer with a track record of success, you place the order, and have it installed. Then, one year later, the company you’ve chosen to work with decides that they’re doing so well now that they can afford to increase their network service fees by 25%. Since they’re not an OCPP-certified manufacturer, their hardware only works with their software, meaning you’re stuck paying those increased prices unless you want to rip those costly stations out of the ground.

If the station you had installed initially was OCPP-certified, instead of being handcuffed to increasingly expensive network fees, you could easily reconfigure your stations to run on software that is more affordable.

There are a lot of different network providers out there, offering lots of different features and coming in at a wide range of prices. With OCPP-certified hardware, you can be sure you’ll find your glass slipper, and change your network to grow alongside you.

## 3/ INCREASE INNOVATION AND REDUCED COSTS

OCPP keeps EV charging manufacturers from resting on their laurels. With the knowledge that site hosts have the power to switch out their network provider at a moment’s notice, there is a powerful incentive for them to continue innovating at a rapid pace. We have all seen how tumultuous the tech-

nology sector can be. A company who is on top of the food chain today could be usurped by a new startup tomorrow. With OCPP you ensure that you’ll never be tied to some EV relic.

OCPP also keeps service prices competitive. When the site host retains the ability to swap out their network whenever they want, networks end up finding ways to reduce service fees. With OCPP you never have to worry about being a captive audience or forced into paying inflated fees for your charging station network—because if that happened, you can just swap it for a cheaper one!

## 4/ AN IMPROVED EV DRIVING EXPERIENCE

OCPP stations and networks increase driver choice of access to compatible charging stations. Drivers subscribed to a particular open charging network may worry less about where they roam because there is an increasing amount of charging stations that work with their charging service provider, and with no additional cost. This interoperability results in a larger pool of charging stations that can be used by drivers.

OCPP stations and networks also ensure that drivers get a fair price. If a driver was forced to only charge at stations which were part of a closed network service provider (like a locked cell phone), the business owner and the network could add any cost they wish to the bottom-line utilization price. This could mean that a driver ends up paying over the odds for a service purely because both the charging station owner and network provider know that there are no compatible stations close-by to compete with.

Several networks and hardware manufacturers claim their products are based on open standards. Until now, customers had no way of being sure of this, and they relied on the word of the vendor. However, customers can now be assured that they’re investing in the real deal.

## ChargeUp EUROPE PERSPECTIVE

- ★ The adoption of open, non-discriminatory and uniform communication protocols such as OCPP in EV charging infrastructure is fundamental to facilitating a seamless charging experience for the driver across charging networks and across borders.
- ★ Any publicly accessible infrastructure should require open protocols like OCPP.