SSG Newsletter
January 2026

Aerospace, Security and Defence Industries Association of Europe (ASD) is the European association representing the interests of industries in the aeronautics, space, defence and security sectors. Link

ASD Strategic Standardisation Group (SSG) is the governance group in charge of Aerospace and Defence digital interoperability. Link

IDENTIFYING THE SET OF STANDARDS REQUIRED FOR AEROSPACE AND DEFENCE DIGITAL INTEROPERABILITY.

ISO TC 184 SC4 : 25-31 October 2025 ; Nagasaki, Japan

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Industry Day -> Agenda

The 90th Plenary meeting of ISO/TC 184/SC 4 - Industrial data took place in Nagasaki/Japan.

The meeting was held in the city of Nagasaki through our Japan National Mirror Committee. My thanks to the Japan Mirror Committee and their sponsors for this meeting.

The meeting covered our full portfolio of projects that are underway across all of the working groups, task forces, and other working groups. We had a robust discussion on the role AI plays in our space with regard to the type of standards we produce, and the role industrial data plays in supporting advanced technology like AI and Large Language Models.

Industry day was very well attended and focused on Agile and Resilient Industry powered by Standardized Digital Ecosystem. We heard from industry and standardization experts alike on the importance of ISO standards to support the use cases of industry like Digital Twin, Digital Thread, Digital Engineering, and more.

The committee launched its next revision of the venerable and wildly popular ISO 10303 - 242 standard with planned enhancements in design data, manufacturing data, and will feature a new implementation of the modular architecture that will make producing the standard more user friendly and simpler. I am excited to see the final product!

In addition, SC 4 launched new work on digital twins and their interactions with industrial data and more work on ontology based interoperability.

With AI and Large Language Models taking center stage in our business, we had a robust discussion on the importance of structured data in these new technology spaces.

SC4 is looking forward to its next meeting in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia and it will be a first for the committee. We are super excited to see new P Members embrace the value of ISO Standards.

Strategy update at PDES Inc.

During the Board meeting organized 22nd September 2025 at the venue of GPDIS in Phoenix (AZ), it has been proposed to update the PDES strategy. The transformation of PDES into a non profit organisation, together with new challenges coming from technology changes or from the limitation of resources (e.g. NIST support has been stopped), are considered as a good opportunity and trigger to revisit, confirm and adapt the strategy.

Mike Jahadi, Chairman of the Board and Allison Barnard Feeney, General Manager of PDES have tasked Jean-Pierre Souzy (Airbus) to reactivate the Strategic Committee for this purpose.

Alberto Ferrari (RTX), Greg Weaver (Gulfstream), Jaswinder Walia (GE Aerospace), Jean Brangé (AFNeT Services), Sriram Krishnan (Istari Digital) and Bernd Feldvoss (Airbus) have been working since mid-November on the following chapters:

- Confirmation of the foundational value: Mission, Standards, and Value Articulation,
- Impact of evolving technologies: Digital Thread, AI, and Ecosystem Position,
- Reactivity to industry challenges: IP, Legacy Data, and Supply Chain,
- PDES Organization: Resourcing, Agility, and Funding,
- The future vision: Roadmap, Services, and KPIs.

Their proposal for a renewed strategy will be submitted to the Board session in Spring 2026.

A&D PLM Action Group New Working Groups

The Aerospace & Defense PLM Action Group (A&D PLM Action Group) is a consortium of major industry leaders (Airbus, Boeing, Bombardier, Eaton, GKN, Gulfstream, GE Aerospace, HondaJet, Moog, Pratt & Whitney, Rolls-Royce, Safran, Spirit AeroSystems) administered by CIMdata.

Their primary mission is to act as **a unified voice** to influence PLM software providers and standards bodies. By defining common requirements and addressing shared pain points—such as Model-Based Systems Engineering (MBSE) and interoperability—they aim to compel vendors to develop more effective, standardized, and cost-efficient PLM solutions for the industry.

Out of the already running Working Groups (like MBSE or Digital Thread/Digital Twin) the last Leadership meeting held at Airbus in Paris on Nov 3-4 has decided to launch 2 new Working Groups:

- **Manufacturing Engineering for Co-Development**
  - focus on collaborative development methods and tools for both Product and specifically manufacturing engineering leveraging PLM, MBE and MBSE
  - Sharing best practices specific to manufacturing and including the supply chain
  - provide a unified voice to Cloud and Software providers on manufacturing -specific PLM needs

In case of interest in participating to this working group please contact Rebeca Arista or James Roche

- **PLM for in-Service**
  - Share a common understanding about the main challenges for PLM-related activities for In-Service Aircraft
  - Share best practices and Identify common PLM-related capability gaps
  - Define common interest capabilities

In case of interest in participating to this working group please contact Marcellin Dagicour or James Roche

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STEP AP242 Day : 14 October 2025; Paris, FR

https://www.afnet.fr/step-ap242-day-2025-interoperabilite-industrielle/

The STEP AP242 Day 2025 in Paris covers various aspects of data interoperability and long-term archiving in the aerospace and automotive industries.

Key themes include:

- **Knowledge Graphs for Data Validation:** Mercedes-Benz and T-Systems presented on extracting topological insights from CAD models using knowledge graphs
- **Export Control License Management:** MBDA presented on managing export control licenses through data exchange based on neutral formats
- **Long-Term Archiving (LOTAR):** the LOTAR standardization project for archiving digital data, emphasizing the use of neutral, standardized formats like STEP AP242.

- **Data Interoperability Challenges:** JAMA representative addressed issues in data interoperability between OEMs and suppliers in the Japanese automotive industry.
- **STEP AP242 Implementations and Roadmaps:** Companies like Elysium, Datakit, CoreTechnologie, Dassault Systèmes, PROSTEP AG, Open Cascade, Kubotek Kosmos, AFNeT Services and Threedy showcased their commitment to STEP AP242, highlighting its use in various applications, including 3D CAD & PDM, data exchange, and discussed future roadmaps.

These presentations collectively demonstrate a strong industry focus on improving digital engineering processes through standardized data exchange, long-term archiving, and enhanced interoperability.

EWIS Day : 15 October 2025; Paris, FR

https://www.afnet.fr/ewis-day-2025-innovations-et-interoperabilite-des-harnais-electriques/

The EWIS Day 2025 focused on innovations and interoperability in electrical harness systems, emphasizing digital continuity and standardized data exchanges. Key presentations covered:

- **MBDA's digital continuity implementation:** Transitioning from Model-Based Systems Engineering (MBSE) to detailed design, highlighting the connection between CAPELLA, ZUKEN, and CREO tools.
- **Dassault Systèmes' end-to-end approach:** Bridging systems engineering, electrical & electronics, and harness design & manufacturing through their 3DEXPERIENCE platform.
- **EPLAN's intelligent harnesses:** Optimizing data flow from CAD to manufacturing with digital twins to reduce time-to-market and errors.

- **Siemens' Capital for EWIS excellence:** Showcasing their solutions for E/E systems development, harness engineering, and manufacturing, emphasizing integration and data consistency.
- **EWIS Interoperability Forum (EWIS-IF):** Promoting collective projects and standards to address challenges in digital continuity and data exchange, particularly with ISO 10303 STEP AP242.
- **ETAP/IGE's comprehensive product suite:** Addressing EWIS challenges across the entire lifecycle, from design and engineering to manufacturing and maintenance.

- **LKSoft's SST-EDM:** A new approach to STEP data using Semantic Web Technology, aiming for improved performance and cloud processing for electrical design and wire harnesses.

LOTAR Workshop & MBx IF Round Table: 16-19 September; Seattle/WA, USA

LOTAR Q3 & PDES Offsite event was well visited. We were around 40 onsite and additional 20 virtual participants.

We welcome some new participants from:

- Istari Digital
- nVariate and
- Naval Shipbuilding Advanced Manufacturing Center (NSAM)

The different working groups had a lot of internal discussion and progress on new and updates of LOTAR parts, but also multiple sessions between several teams took place.

A new ***"Integration Forum"*** has been set up to coordinate activities with other SDO's. First example is the modernisation of Holes & Fastener and an alignment to re-use Extended master connection file (xMCF).

Also a lot of side discussions took place for example about a new SAE S-19 working group "Digital Engineering Committee".

As part of the PDES Offsite event the annual awards were presented to:

- Bryan K. Martin Technical Excellence Award to Dr. Thomas Kramer for his engagement in QIF -> PDES Announcement
- Brad Rigdon Technical Management Award to Asa Trainer for his engagement about Persistent ID's in QIF & STEP -> PDES Announcement

As part of the closing day 9 CAx Vendors/Editors presented their standard roadmap and achievements. We also discussed which projects in 2026 should be taken into consideration by PDES.

Next onsite meeting will be again in America and will take place in Charleston/SC 24-27 March 2026 -> further information on PDES web site.

PLM Road Map & PDT Europe 2025: 5-6 November 2025; Paris, France

New Working Groups: Manufacturing & in Service

Agenda

The conference was fully booked with 150 participants.

Executive Overview

The conference highlighted a shift from traditional PLM toolsets toward Semantic Digital Threads and Data-Centric architectures. A recurring theme was that PLM vendors currently fall short of providing a "Single Source of Truth," necessitating the use of integration layers, ontologies, and AI ("Augmented Intelligence") to bridge gaps between design, manufacturing, and the supply chain.

Key Finding 1

The Evolution of Digital Thread & PLM

The PLM Gap: Current PLM providers do not offer a true "Single Source of Truth" or cloud-native, out-of-the-box solutions. The trend is moving toward Semantic Digital Threads rather than monolithic toolsets.

New Players: NVIDIA Omniverse is emerging as a revolutionary platform for collaboration and virtual factories (e.g., BMW).

Data-Centricity: Companies like NIO are developing in-house tools (85% of their stack) to ensure a user-centric, data-driven approach, moving away from document-based workflows to Semantic Data Models.

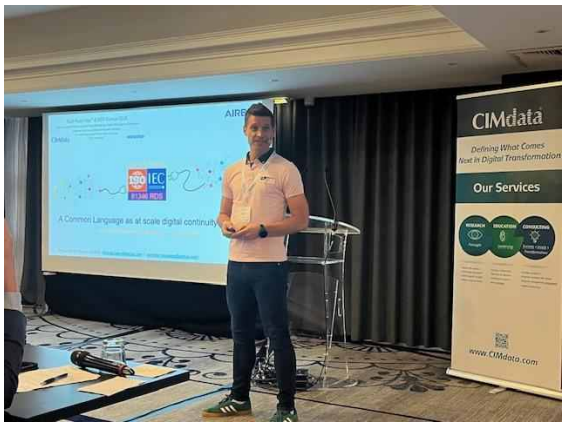
Key Finding 2

Semantics, Ontologies & Knowledge Management

Meaning over Data: Merely collecting data is insufficient; it requires context. TotalEnergies and Boeing emphasized the use of Ontologies (e.g., "SousLeSens" platform) to structure knowledge and make it machine-readable.

Knowledge Graphs: Essential for linking structured and unstructured data, enabling real-time updates and meaningful AI use cases.

Systems Engineering: There is a distinct move toward Data-Centric Systems Engineering (DCSE), where the semantic model acts as the foundational layer.



Key Finding 3

Standards & Interoperability (SysML v2 & STEP)

SysML v2 Assessment: While the goal is to avoid vendor lock-in, Gulfstream reported gaps in the current standard, specifically regarding UUID traceability, diagram layout storage, and the lack of a transition path from v1 to v2.

STEP Standards: Boeing highlighted the 40-year legacy of SC4. The focus is on AP242 (Edition 4) for managed model-based 3D engineering.

Goal: The industry demands open standards to support the "design anywhere, manufacture anywhere" philosophy.

Key Finding 4

Model-Based Definition (MBD) Real-World Value

Vestas Case Study: Successfully transitioned from 2D drawings to a 3D Master Model approach.

GPDIS: 23-25 September 2025; Phoenix, AZ, USA

Agenda & Presentations

The 2025 Global Product Data Interoperability Summit (GPDIS) was an event for the aerospace industry, moving the digital transformation conversation beyond technology pilots to the strategic imperatives of enterprise-scale deployment. The conference revealed a clear industry consensus on several key strategic fronts, providing vital intelligence on competitor strategies and demanding urgent, focused action from Airbus. Across the numerous presentations and discussions, four overarching takeaways became clear: the absolute necessity of a data-centric way of working across the entire product lifecycle; the maturation of Model-Based Engineering as the core methodology for digital transformation; the strategic business imperative for openness through standards and APIs to avoid vendor lock-in; and the emergence of a coordinated, multi-pillar strategy for achieving true MBSE interoperability.

GPDIS 2025 provided an unambiguous view of competitor strategies. The insights gathered underscore the absolute necessity for Airbus to not only participate in but to actively lead industry conversations and accelerate its own initiatives in production system modeling, enterprise data architecture, and strategic influence within key international standards bodies.

Key Finding 1
A Data-Centric Approach Across the Lifecycle is Paramount

A defining outcome of the conference was the unified message that the primary barrier to leveraging future capabilities like Artificial Intelligence is not the sophistication of algorithms but the lack of a clean, governed, and accessible data foundation. This requires a holistic view, as focusing on a single standard is insufficient. Competitors like Lockheed Martin are publicly sharing playbooks that detail a multi-standard approach, leveraging STEP AP242 for core product definition, 3D PDF for communication, and the Quality Information Framework (QIF) for inspection data. To remain competitive, Airbus must develop a similarly comprehensive strategy and an architecture of required specifications. Airbus must look deeper at standards from the Digital Metrology Standards Consortium (DMSC) like QIF and Model-Based Characteristics (MBC), comparing manufacturing connectivity standards like MTConnect versus OPC UA, and leveraging manufacturing standards like STEP AP238. These were heavily discussed at GPDIS. Furthermore, the industry's focus is shifting from solving purely technical challenges to addressing the complex organizational and cultural challenges of governing this data-centric enterprise at scale.

Key Finding 2
Model-Based Engineering (MBE) is the Core Methodology for Digital Transformation

A recurring theme, actively promoted by competitors like Boeing and Northrop Grumman, is the treatment of the production environment itself as a complex system-of-systems. This approach demands the full rigor of Model-Based Engineering (MBE) for the factory's design, integration, and lifecycle management. The industry is moving beyond simply creating models to using them as the authoritative source of truth for all downstream activities, a progression measured by frameworks like the MBE Maturity Index, which provides a roadmap for enterprise-wide adoption.

Key Finding 3
Openness through Standards and APIs is a Business Imperative to Avoid Vendor Lock-in

A compelling business case was made for prioritizing open, long-lifecycle standards as a critical risk mitigation strategy. Analysis presented by Boeing contrasted the 100+ year lifespan of a production system with the 5-year obsolescence cycle of proprietary software tools, framing reliance on closed formats and a lack of open APIs as a source of immense technological debt and business risk. This elevates the adoption of standards like STEP and active leadership within consortia like LOTAR from a technical choice to a strategic necessity for Airbus.

Key Finding 4
A Coordinated, Three-Pillar Strategy for MBSE Interoperability is Emerging

Discussions at GPDIS and the preceding LOTAR workshop revealed a coordinated industry strategy to finally solve MBSE interoperability, based on three distinct but complementary initiatives. The first pillar is ensuring Syntactic Interoperability through a new SysML v2 Interoperability Forum, hosted today by prostep ivip and likely with PDES Inc. in the future, to guarantee consistent exchange of the SysML v2 language itself. The second is achieving Semantic Interoperability via a proposed "ADF Lab," which will leverage the requirements for an effective ISO 42010 Architecture Description Framework (ADF) to enable the effective exchange of model viewpoints and meaning. The third pillar is Integration, the technical work here is driven by projects such as Catena-X, Decade-X and OMG CASCaDE, while the INCOSE MBSE-DE Integration Forum, will act as a "broker" to coordinate standards and provide an open platform for the architecture stacks needed to support the digital thread across these projects.

16th International Modelica & FMI Conference: 8-10 September 2025; Lucerne, Switzerland

https://modelica.org/events/modelica2025/

The 16th International Modelica & FMI Conference 2025 took place in Lucerne, Switzerland, from September 8-10, 2025. The event was the main gathering for users, developers, and vendors to share knowledge and present advancements in Modelica and the Functional Mock-up Interface (FMI), including new applications in digital twins, autonomous driving, and embedded systems. Key topics included the use of FMI and System Structure and Parameterization (SSP) standards for industrial cooperation and system engineering, with a strong focus on AI in simulation and real-time applications.

Agenda

All scientific papers and industrial presentations collected in the proceedings of the 16th International Modelica & FMI conference: Proceedings.

Some recordings are also available at Youtube.

The Aerospace related presentations were held by:

- Dassault Aviation
- Saab Aerospace And Defense
- Liebherr Aerospace Toulouse
- Airbus.

Two Majors parts:

First part : The Modelica & FMI conference during which we collected major updates on the FMI Standard.

- New Release : FMI 3.0 with very interesting new features (especially Layered Standard)
- New actors (Industrial users, editors which implement the standard, academic organisms which use/experiment the standard)
- Specific technical sharing linked to major issues that we encountered in our different Center of Competences, in our Next Gen Programs.

Second part : The FMI Advisory Committee

- One key point is the Increasing level of adherence to the standard (more and more involvements of the industrial)
- Airbus suggested updating the way to promote and communicate on the FMI standard : To make it more usable, to make it more documented (easy access to material, training, …)

Tokyo IPS Seminar & Forum: 28-29 October 2025; Tokyo, Japan

Agenda / Event Information

Taking place on 28–29 October 2025 at Hotel Grand Hill Ichigaya, the Tokyo IPS and S-Series Seminar and Forum brings together UK, European, US and Japanese logistics support communities to advance Integrated Product Support and S-Series adoption across the Asia-Pacific ecosystem. Organised by EVA Aviation Japan and supported by SJAC, ASD and the British Embassy, participation is free of charge with mandatory pre-registration and simultaneous English-to-Japanese interpretation with captioning throughout the programme.

Day 1 features keynote interventions from Phil Williams (Team Defence Information) exploring the new support ethos in UK and Europe, alongside Japanese representatives from JMSDF and C-ASTEC. The programme includes overviews of IPS efforts in Europe and the United States, and introductions to the Council for Logistics Engineering Professionals (CLEP) and the IPS Defence Interest Group (DIG). Technical sessions provide status updates and implementation guidance on SX000i, S3000L, S4000P, S5000F, S6000T and ASD-STE100, with contributions from organisations including Pennant, Airbus, Saab, TKMS and ASI.

Day 2 explores ILS/IPS history, lifecycle cost and RCM analysis via LSA, digital twins and modelling, US IPS-related standards and lessons learned, tool showcases from international solution providers, performance-based contracting, and topics in logistics and security.

Sessions include presentations from Leonardo on PBC strategy applications, PHMT on RAMS solutions, and Actica on cyber threats to defence logistics.

The ***block release of the S-series Specifications*** has been approved by both the Aerospace Industries Association, AIA, in USA and ASD in Brussels and the latest versions are now available for download from the ASD website.

To help foster the growing community of S-Series operators, the ASD took part in an IPS User Forum in Tokyo, Japan. Co-sponsored by the Society of Japanese Aerospace Companies, SJAC, the User Forum attracted attendees from Europe, North America, Australia and of course the home team, led by Admiral Hoshi of the Japanese Navy and head of logistics for the Japanese Defence Force. ADS began with an overview of the European aerospace and defence markets and gave an overview of IPS and the S-Series. Admiral Hoshi gave the position of the Japanese military, stressing the critical importance of effective through life support to enable an effective military mission.

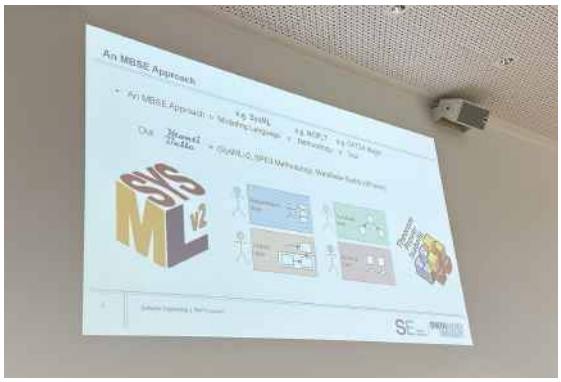
A number of ASD and AIA member companies presented their capabilities and their product support related tools and held meetings with counterparts from the host nation. In addition, the UK gave an insight into supportability audits as practised at home and gave a demonstration of life cycle cost analysis utilising digital twins and modelling.

SysML Extravaganza: 16 October 2025; Hamburg, Germany

On October 16th, the ZAL TechCenter in Hamburg was home to the "SysML v2 Extravaganza," hosted jointly by Airbus and the Gesellschaft für Systems Engineering (GfSE). The event convened experts from academia, research institutions, tool vendors, and consultancies to discuss the final specification of Systems Modeling Language version 2 (SysML v2) and its strategic implications for the wider community.

The symposium focused on the fundamental shift from diagram-centric notation to a "model-as-code" engineering framework, positioning SysML v2 as the digital backbone for the engineering lifecycle.

Key presentations and themes included:



- **SysML v2, Digital Twins, and AI:** RWTH Aachen presented on the synergies between functional systems engineering, Digital Twins, and the use of AI to generate and verify SysML v2 models.
- **Extending SysML v2:** Dassault Systèmes shared best practices and challenges regarding the extension of the language, utilizing the Unified Architecture Framework (UAF) v2 as a primary case study.
- **Aeronautics Exchange Models:** The German Aerospace Center (DLR) demonstrated the use of SysML v2 as a Common Exchange Data Model (CEDM) to support multidisciplinary design optimization in aeronautics.
- **Collaborative MBSE:** TU Ilmenau discussed the challenges of cross-organizational model exchange and proposed human-in-the-loop AI workflows to resolve semantic conflicts.
- **The Digital Thread Backbone:** oose highlighted the language's native support for 4D modeling (spatial and temporal) and its role in integrating disparate engineering models.
- **Interoperability Evaluation:** A report from the Aerospace & Defense PLM Action Group evaluated the standard's current capabilities, identifying critical gaps in UUID usage and graphical layout exchange that impact seamless interoperability.

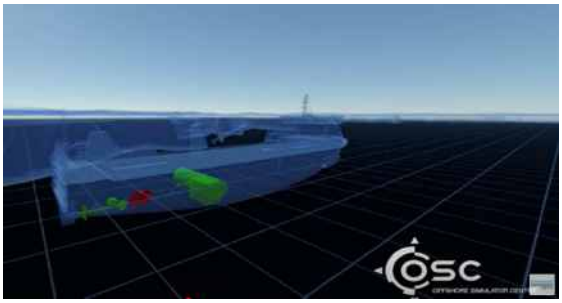
Open Simulation Platform Conference: 12-13 November 2025; Ålesund, Norway

Open Simulation Platform Conference, together with Norsk Katapult Digital, SINTEF Nordvest, DNV, and Kongsberg Maritime we invite for the annual Open Simulation Platform (OSP) Conference — a key meeting point for industry, academia, and developers working with maritime system simulation and co-simulation technologies.

Airbus has been invited to share its System Engineering approach and to share experience on the FMI standard usage to enable System Engineering.

12th November: Presentations

The first day sets the stage with updates on key maritime projects, showcasing progress from industry leaders and research partners. We will look into how simulation is driving innovation in ship design, operations, and safety – and explore lessons learned from other industries such as automotive and energy.



In addition, the Open Simulation Platform (OSP) debate revisits important discussions from 2024, giving space for reflection on achievements so far and outlining the way forward. The afternoon highlights academic contributions, with a series of abstracts from international universities and research partners, presenting cutting-edge methods, tools, and applications.

The day concludes with networking at the Blue Maritime Hang Out, offering a chance to continue discussions in an informal setting.

13th November : Workshop Day

On the second day, we turn from presentations to hands-on collaboration. Through group work and discussions, participants will identify needs, barriers, and opportunities for wider use of co-simulations in the maritime sector and beyond. The idea was to shape potential collaboration and knowledge sharing between the Co-simulation and by extension FMI standard User Community.

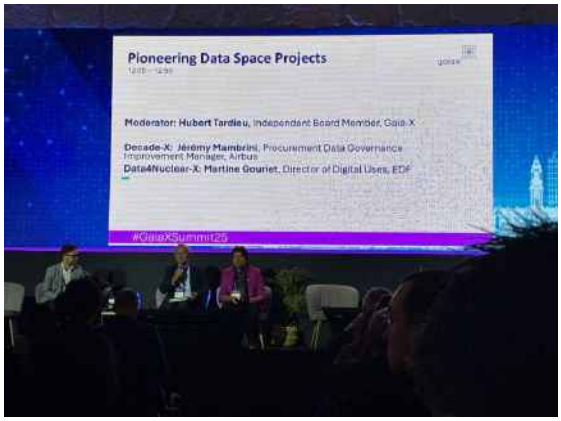
Gaia-X Summit: 20-21 November; Porto, Portugal

Agenda & Recordings

Gaia-X concludes its 2025 Summit with a major milestone for Europe's digital future: the formal release of the Gaia-X Trust Framework 3.0 – "Danube", a breakthrough that introduces domain and geographic extensions, enabling trust to be federated across diverse ecosystems and compliance regimes. With the Danube release, Gaia-X delivers the technical foundation required to scale trusted data spaces and support Europe's ambition for sovereign, interoperable, and AI-ready digital infrastructures.

The Summit brought together leaders from European institutions, industry, and technology to reflect on the concrete progress made since Gaia-X's founding. Representing the European Commission, Thibault Kleiner, Director for Future Networks at DG CONNECT, underscored the broader context of Europe's digital strategy: "We have achieved a lot in the past years in terms of data spaces, standards, data brokerage and legislative support. The time has come to scale up and federate our data spaces and build a European data ecosystem that will power AI and boost EU competitiveness."

Reflecting on the outcomes of the Summit, Ulrich Ahle, CEO of Gaia-X, stated: "This Summit marks a decisive step forward for Gaia-X and for Europe's digital future. We are moving from first pilot implementations to true operational deployment, where data spaces, trust frameworks, and interoperability tools are now ready to scale. With the Danube Release and the progress shown across all sectors, Gaia-X is proving that Europe can build a trusted, sovereign digital ecosystem that enables innovation while keeping control of data and AI firmly in European hands."



The introduction of the Danube Release was at the centre of the Summit. Alongside the updated specifications, Gaia-X also presented the Architecture Document (AD) and Compliance Document (CD), each incorporating substantial enhancements designed to automate trust and streamline interoperability.

Christoph Strnadl, CTO of Gaia-X, highlighted the architectural significance of the new extensibility model: "The updated Architecture Document and the new Danube software components define and implement a unified extensibility mechanism that allows arbitrary ecosystem rulebooks to be automated in a technically compatible way. It also enables extended identification schemes, which together provide the technical basis for true cross-ecosystem trust. With this, we are no longer talking about isolated compliance regimes. We are enabling – for the first time ever – a federation of interoperable digital ecosystems."

On the operational side, the Compliance Document delivers new functionality designed to reduce complexity and support scalable descriptions of digital services. Roland Fadrany, COO of Gaia-X, emphasised its practical impact: “The Gaia-X Trust Framework underpins this vision by providing verifiable identities, compliance mechanisms, and digital clearing houses that ensure sovereignty, transparency, and cross-border recognition. Data Space Governance Authorities (DSGAs) can define their own rules (“Bring Your Own Rules”), enabling automated compliance with sector-specific or regional regulations.

This framework supports cross-sector ecosystems—from mobility and energy to smart cities and manufacturing—enabling automated compliance, secure identity management, and seamless service orchestration, ultimately making data sovereignty practical and accessible on users’ own terms.”

The Summit also served as an opportunity to reaffirm Gaia-X’s alignment with Europe’s industrial priorities. Catherine Jestin, Chairwoman of the Gaia-X Board and Executive Vice President Digital at Airbus, reflected on the strategic importance of data spaces and the Gaia-X Trust Framework: “Digital sovereignty is the capacity to control one’s digital destiny. For aerospace and defence, this relies on protecting intellectual property, ensuring business continuity, mastering our technology stack, and limiting vendor lock-in. Data spaces such as DECADE-X are critical instruments to achieve this. Gaia-X plays a central role because its Trust Framework enables participants to collaborate and exchange data securely, automatically, and across borders. This is why Gaia-X has never been so important. It is a key component of Europe’s digital sovereignty and of the operational success of emerging data spaces.”

The Summit’s high-level roundtable on Season Two of Data Spaces, moderated by Catherine Jestin, signalled a turning point for Europe’s data economy. Joined by Thibaut Kleiner of DG CONNECT, Ernst Stöckl-Pukall of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, and Amandine Reix of the French Direction Générale des Entreprises, the panel examined how Europe can move beyond pilots toward a truly connected and scalable data ecosystem. Building on the achievements of recent years—more than 15 European data spaces, emerging standards, legislative support and federated tooling—the speakers emphasised the need to accelerate consolidation, ensure economic viability, and strengthen cross-sector interoperability. The discussion underlined a clear message: Season Two must deliver operational, sustainable, and federated data spaces capable of powering Europe’s industrial competitiveness and future AI leadership, anchored in trust and digital sovereignty.

At the Summit, Data4NuclearX and Decade-X demonstrated how strategic European industries are operationalising the Gaia-X Trust Framework to secure their digital futures in the nuclear and aeronautic sectors.

One of the Summit's most anticipated sessions, the Catalogue of Gaia-X Compliant Services on the Market, highlights how a growing number of services and providers are embracing Gaia-X principles of transparency, interoperability, and trust. From cloud infrastructure to domain-specific data services, the catalogue illustrates how companies can increasingly choose solutions aligned with European values of sovereignty, openness, and verifiable trust, such as Cloud Temple, Thésée DataCenter, OPIQUAD, OVHcloud, and Seeweb, which are the first 5 companies with Gaia-X Label level 3 services.

Gaia-X is also happy to share the creation of a new Hub: Gaia-X Hub Digital Trust Canada (DTC). This marks an important step forward in strengthening international collaboration around data sovereignty, interoperability, and trusted digital ecosystems

Following two days of presentations, technical sessions, and showcases, the Porto Summit closed with broad consensus: Gaia-X has entered a new phase of maturity. The release of Danube — together with the enhanced Architecture and Compliance Documents — equips Europe with a robust, extensible, and scalable foundation for trusted collaboration across sectors and geographies.

As data spaces continue to emerge across manufacturing, aerospace, nuclear energy, health, and other strategic domains, Gaia-X now provides the mechanism by which these ecosystems can interoperate confidently and transparently, fostering an environment where trust becomes automated, sovereignty becomes actionable, and Europe's digital future can be built on solid, shared foundations.

Sébastien Lescop, CEO of Cloud Temple has stated: "This week marks an important step for Europe. The Summit on European Digital Sovereignty and the Gaia-X Summit have demonstrated a shared commitment to building a trusted, interoperable digital ecosystem for our continent. With Gaia-X, we now have a concrete, collaboratively developed framework that brings together institutions, providers, and, above all, users. By becoming the first company to achieve the highest level of certification, Gaia-X Label level 3, Cloud Temple is proud to contribute to the foundations of a trusted digital infrastructure that will support Europe's ambitions for the years ahead."

Gaia-X extends its sincere appreciation to the partners who played a key role in making this Summit a success. Our gratitude goes to Cloud Temple, deltaDAO, neusta aerospace, and IRT SystemX. whose expertise, commitment, and continuous contributions have strengthened the Gaia-X ecosystem and accelerated the deployment of trusted, interoperable data spaces across Europe and beyond.

Summit on European Digital Sovereignty: 18 November; Berlin, GE

Further information can be found on the webpage from the German Federal Ministry for Digital Transformation and Government Modernisation.

Agenda
Great discussions with Chancellor Friedrich Merz, President Emmanuel Macron, EVP Henna Virkkunen, Minister Karsten Wildberger, and many more at the Summit on European Digital Sovereignty in Berlin.

The key takeaway is clear: Europe's industrial future, from achieving sustainable aviation targets to securing defence capabilities, depends on mastering our digital infrastructure.

This is why we were proud to formally announce the launch of **ESTIA**, the **European Sovereign Tech Industry Alliance**, at the EU AI Champions Initiative roundtable.

As a strategic industrial user, **Airbus** is joining forces with ESTIA members and other industry players to demand:

- A clear EU definition of Sovereign Cloud that guarantees immunity from foreign extraterritorial laws.
- The strategic use of public procurement to create market scale for competitive European solutions.

We have the ambition. We have the technology. We have the talent. Now, we need a unified political framework to secure Europe's digital destiny. The time for decisive hashtag#action is now.

Sopra Steria, A1 Digital, Airbus, Dassault Systèmes, Deutsche Telekom, evroc, OpenNebula Systems, Orange, OVHcloud, Post Luxembourg, Schwarz Digits and Telecom Italia — to found ESTIA, the European Sovereign Tech Industry Alliance.

This new alliance, announced at the European Digital Sovereignty Summit, marks an important step in building a truly sovereign and competitive digital space in Europe.

[European Sovereign Cloud Pledge Manifesto]

A shared commitment to a truly sovereign cloud

In response to Europe's growing dependence on non-European providers — with nearly 90% of European data currently being transferred outside the EU, according to the Draghi report — ESTIA's members are joining forces to promote an ambitious and coherent vision of digital sovereignty.

Their commitment is built around four priorities:

- Promoting European sovereign cloud services through coordinated political initiatives;
- Enshrining a clear definition of sovereign cloud in the future Cloud and AI Development Act (CAIDA), inspired by the EUCS High+ standard, ensuring European control, data localisation and protection from extraterritorial legislation;
- Supporting the establishment of a principle of European preference in public cloud procurement, essential to creating a genuine anchor market;
- Strengthening the EU's digital sovereignty and competitiveness through industrial policies grounded in European values and driven by leading European players.

[Official Press Release]

Next events

- **LOTAR 2026 meetings:**
  - **1st Qtr. Workshop:** 23-27 March 2026; Charleston, SC, USA
    - In conjunction with MBx-IF Workshop
  - **2nd Qtr. Workshop**: 22-26 June 2026; Online Meeting
  - **3rd Qtr. Workshop:** 28 September - 2 October 2026; Frankfurt area, Germany
    - In conjunction with MBx-IF Workshop
  - **4th Qtr. Workshop**: 30 November - 4 December 2026; Online Meeting
- **INCOSE International Workshop 2026:** 31 January - 3 February; Torrance, CA, USA
  - https://www.incose.org/events/international-workshop2026
- **INCOSE International Symposium 2026:** 13-18 June 2026; Yokohama, Japan
  - https://www.incose.org/events/international-symposium2026
- **OMG Q1 Technical Meeting:** 23-27 March 2026; Reston, VA, USA
- **OMG Q2 Technical Meeting:** 15-19 June 2026; tba
- **OMG Q3 Technical Meeting:** 14-18 September 2026; tba
- **OMG Q4 Technical Meeting:** 7-11 December 2026; tba
- **AIAA SciTech Forum:** 12-16 January 2026, Orlando, FL, USA
  - https://scitech.aiaa.org/
- **AFNeT Standard Day:** 17th March 2026, Paris
- **prostep ivip Symposium:** 14-15 April 2026, Frankfurt, Germany
  - https://www.symposium.de/agenda
- **3D Collaboration & Interoperability Congress:** 2-5 March, Golden, CO, USA
  - https://3dcic.com/
- **MBE & QIF Summit:** 14-16 April 2026, Chicago, IL, USA
  - https://qifstandards.org/2026-mbe-qif-summit/
- **VDMA Interoperability Summit:** 7 May 2026; Bonn
  - https://interoperability-summit.com/
- **ISO TC 184 SC4 Meeting:** 10-14 May 2026; Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
- **Global Product Interoperability Summit (GPDIS):** 15-17 September 2026; Phoenix, AZ, USA
  - https://gpdisonline.com/
- **ISO TC184 SC4 Meeting:** 1-7 November 2026; Hangzhou, China

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