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Drive innovation with openness

Building, validating, sharing, and operating in Ericsson's Intelligent Automation Platform Ecosystem

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Introduction

Moving forward as one

Autonomous networks will scale through ecosystems: shared platforms, open and standard interfaces, developer resources and trusted communities that turn ideas into rApps and rApps into operational value.

Autonomous networks are becoming essential to handle the pressures created by rising complexity, dynamic traffic patterns, sustainability demands and the need to deliver better customer experiences at speed. But autonomy cannot be achieved through isolated automation projects or by any single organization acting alone. It requires an ecosystem model: a shared foundation where operators, Ericsson, independent software vendors, developers and technology partners can co-create, test, validate and scale intelligent automation applications.

The Ericsson Intelligent Automation Platform (EIAP) Ecosystem shows how this model works in practice. Through its combined elements, ecosystem members' ideas can be turned into rApps, which in turn can become trusted operational capabilities.

Real-world collaborations between service providers and third-party developers show that ecosystem collaboration is already moving autonomous networks from concept to measurable value.The result is a practical path toward trusted, scalable network intelligence: one platform, different perspectives, and a community that can innovate faster together.

How we got here

Why build an ecosystem for autonomous networks?

Autonomous networks are becoming a strategic necessity. Traffic patterns are more dynamic, customer expectations are higher, energy efficiency is now a top priority, and coexisting 4G, 5G, cloud, edge, Open RAN and multi-vendor environments increase complexity.

The traditional model of manual engineering, optimizing and troubleshooting networks cannot scale to this reality. Networks need to observe what is happening, interpret what it means, decide the best action and execute that action with speed, accuracy and trust. This is the promise of autonomous networks: not automation as a collection of isolated scripts, but automation as an industrialized capability embedded across the network lifecycle.



Managing complexity

To achieve that ambition, no single organization can innovate fast enough on its own. Autonomous networks depend on a continuous flow of domain expertise, software innovation, operational insight, AI models, data-driven use cases and real-world validation. They require applications that address highly specific operational needs, from anomaly detection and energy optimization to capacity planning, uplink performance, service assurance and intent-based optimization. The diversity of these needs makes an ecosystem essential. The value of the autonomous network is multiplied when operators, technology vendors, independent software vendors, cloud players, research communities and domain specialists can build on a shared foundation, contribute applications, test ideas and bring innovation into live or live-like environments.

Collaboration is essential

This is why ecosystems matter now. The industry is moving from closed, monolithic automation toward open, programmable and software-driven operations. In the case of the RAN, open interfaces such as those defined around Service Management and Orchestration (SMO) and the R1 interfaces make it possible for rApps to interact with a common automation platform. AI and generative AI are accelerating the conversion of operational intent into deployable applications. At the same time, these applications need to be able to be governed, validated and scaled safely. An ecosystem brings these dimensions together: openness, speed, specialization, trust and repeatability.

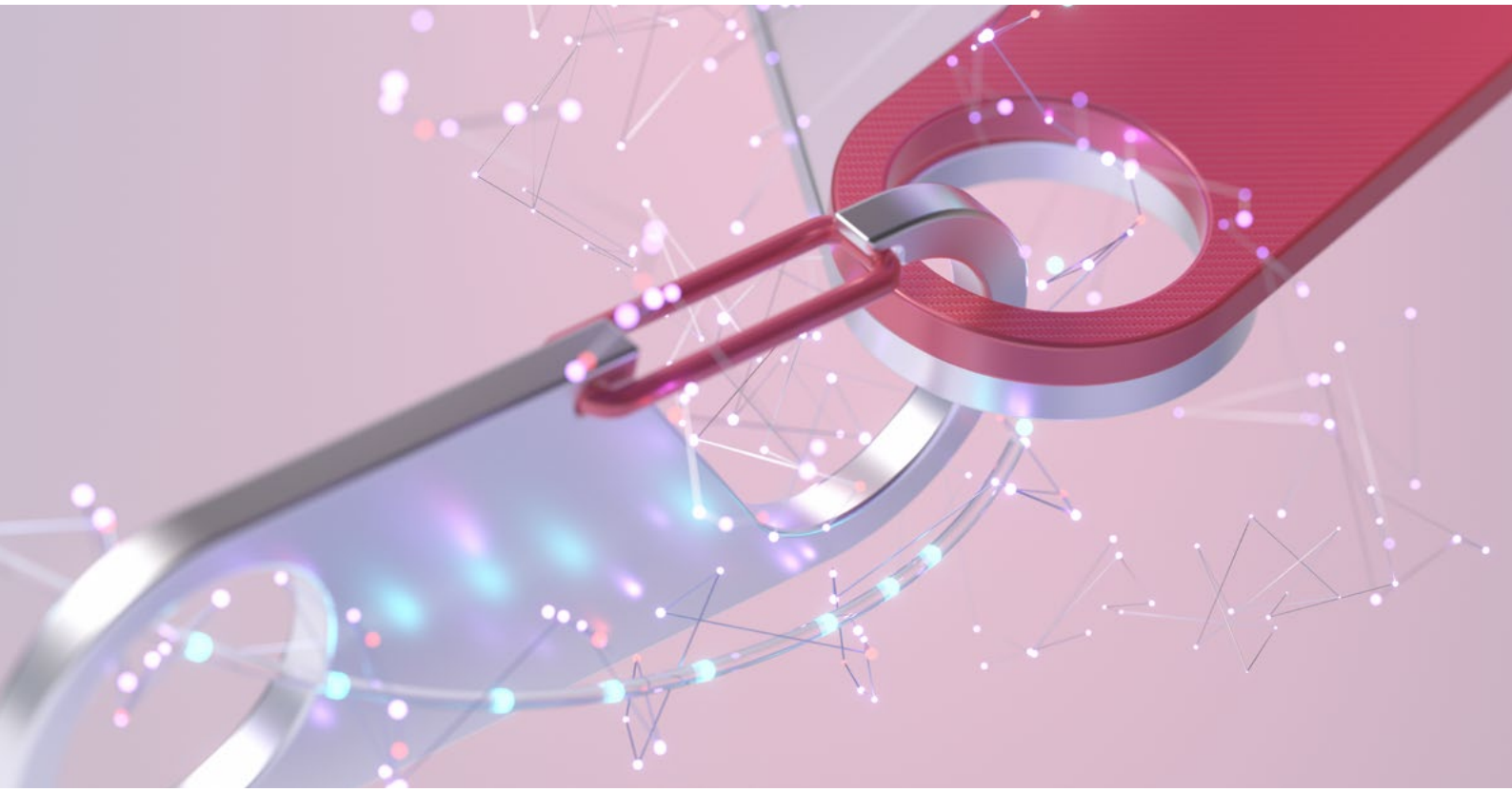
Our solution

The EIAP Ecosystem provides a concrete example of how this model can work for autonomous networks. EIAP is Ericsson's open network management and automation platform for multi-vendor and multi-technology networks, including 4G and 5G RANs. It includes an SMO foundation, a non-real-time RAN Intelligent Controller, open software development capabilities and support for rApps that can automate use cases across the network lifecycle. The role of the ecosystem is to make EIAP more than a technology layer. It turns it into a place where developers can build, validate, share and operate automation applications, and where you can access a broader innovation pipeline than any single roadmap could provide.

Where we started, where we are

The story of the EIAP Ecosystem

The history of the EIAP Ecosystem reflects the industry-wide shift to collaboration. Early automation was often built around vendor-specific capabilities or custom integrations. This delivered value but limited speed, reuse and openness. The SMO and rApp model changes the logic.



This approach creates a software application layer for network intelligence, where applications can be developed by Ericsson, service providers or third parties and then used on a common automation platform.

Over time, the ecosystem has expanded from the idea of programmable RAN automation into a growing community of operators, independent software vendors and developers.

The launch of an rApp Directory, developer resources and developer community forums has made the products of the ecosystem more visible and accessible, while successful trials and live deployments have shown that ecosystem innovation is moving past the concept stage and gaining operational relevance.

From RAN to core

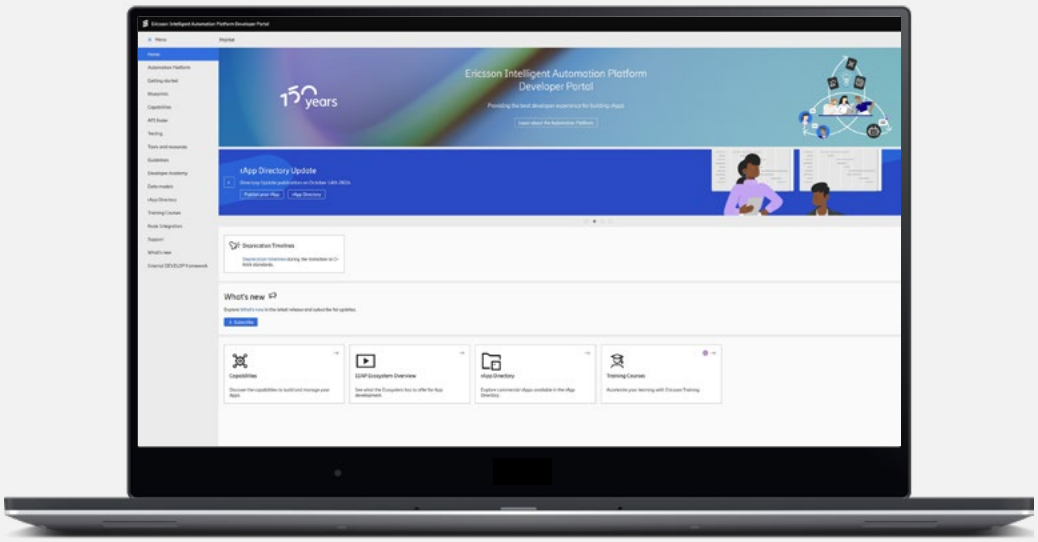
And the latest update in the EIAP Ecosystem is the expansion to support cApps—applications focused on automating core network operations. This broadening in the scope of EIAP represents a significant step forward in progress towards core network autonomy.



The key building blocks

What nurtures the ecosystem

A successful ecosystem needs two things: resources and community. Resources give developers the means to create and validate apps. Community gives them the environment to learn, collaborate and build shared momentum. The EIAP Ecosystem has both elements.



The developer portal

In the EIAP Ecosystem, the developer portal acts as a single-entry point for rApp developers. It gives access to documentation, platform information, software development resources and guidance that helps developers understand how to create applications for the platform.

The aim is to reduce friction: developers should be able to find the information they need, understand the capabilities available, and move from idea to prototype with clarity.

Together, these components cover the full developer journey from understanding EIAP's capabilities, to creating an rApp, validating it, engaging with peers, and sharing the result with the wider eco-system.

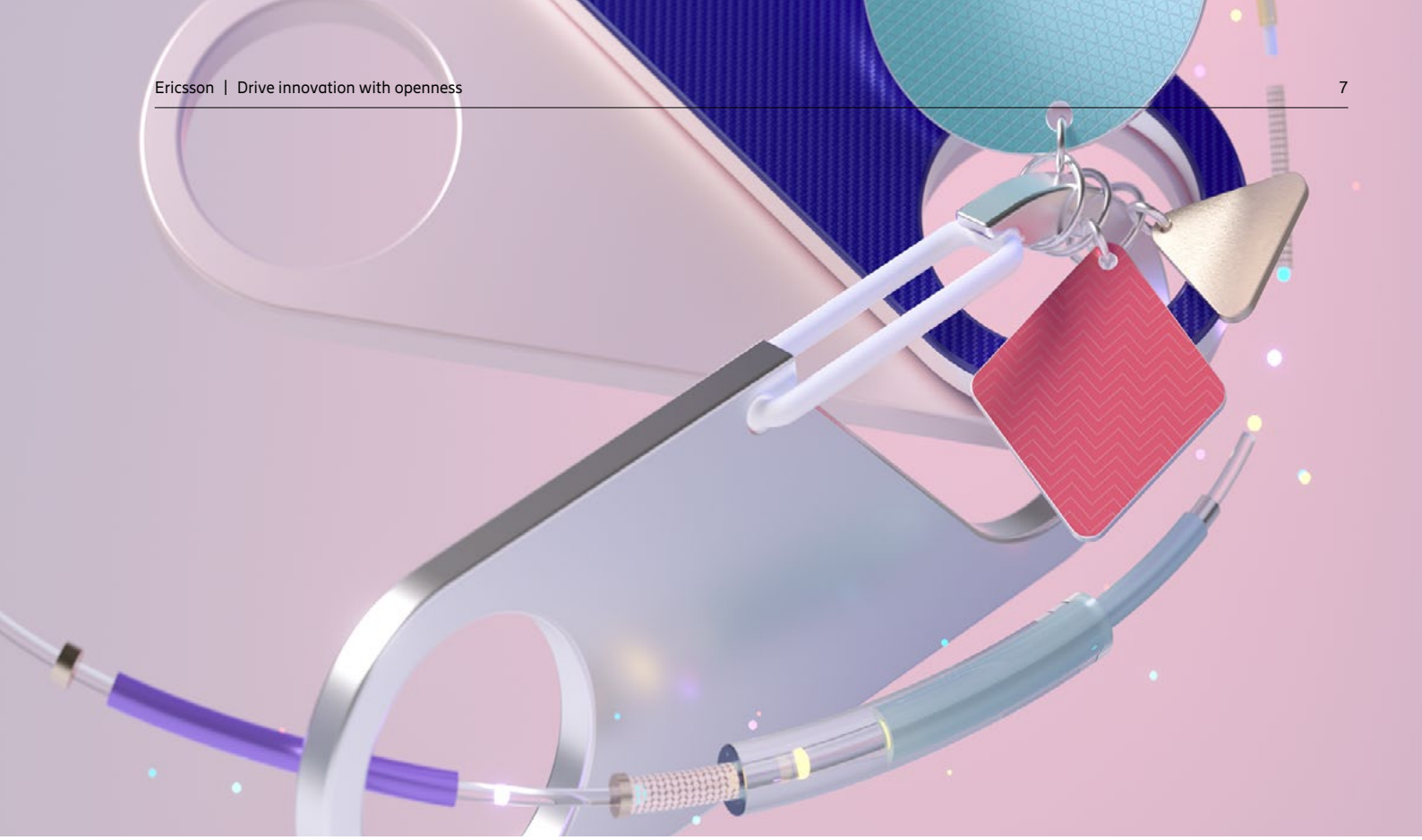
A useful way to describe the portal is as the front door to five connected ecosystem components:

- The developer portal itself
- The developer toolkit, which includes:
  - The AI developer assistant
  - The developer community
  - Developer labs (test resources)
  - The rApp Directory.

Code templates

Code templates and software development resources are another important part of the foundation. They help developers avoid starting from a blank page. Templates, sample applications and reusable patterns make it easier to understand how an rApp should be structured, how it interacts with platform services, and how it can be aligned with open standards.

This matters because developer productivity is central to ecosystem growth. The more repeatable the development process becomes, the faster the ecosystem can respond to new operational needs. In an autonomous network context, where innovation cycles take weeks instead of months or years, this is especially important.



Developer toolkit

The purpose of the developer toolkit is to simplify rApp development by providing a set of AI-based tools and solutions that developers can use. Following the principles of openness and neutrality that guide the EIAP Ecosystem, Ericsson provides a set of enabler artifacts that can be used with any existing AI-assisted development stack, command-line interface (CLI) or integrated development environment (IDE).

The developer toolkit lowers the complexity of generating, packaging, validating and testing network automation applications, allowing developers to focus on the business logic of the use case rather than building the software structures required to run it.

Its role is to help developers move faster through the development process, reducing the complexity of turning an automation idea into a working application. This is especially relevant for an autonomous network ecosystem. Many high-value ideas originate with domain experts who understand operational problems deeply, but the experts often need support in translating those ideas into deployable software. By combining developer resources with AI assistance, the ecosystem can lower barriers to participation and increase the number of contributors able to create meaningful automation use cases.

Developer assistant
The Developer assistant adds an AI-powered chatbot capability to the developer experience. It is a chatbot trained on content from the developer portal and connected to the developer community, capable of answering questions by combining knowledge from the documentation with individual developers' expertise.

The assistant includes additional features for updating the code following API deprecations, or testing CSAR packages for errors. It can also be contextualized from the developer portal to explain key concepts and methods, aiding developers in the development process.

Python libraries SDK
This set of Python libraries serves to abstract platform complexities. With simple method calls, platform authorization is handled automatically. It includes built-in SSL/mTLS to facilitate working with platform certificates, and helps developers focus more on the business logic of their applications rather than the builds themselves.

EIC simulator
The EIC simulation is a Docker Compose app for offline local development that simulates REST interfaces and Kafka, without the need for an EIC cluster or CSAR build tests. It has an AI-configurable interface that exposes the right interfaces, as well as injectable test data, allowing it to work offline and connect with AI-assisted code generation tools.

The simulator's purpose is to facilitate rApp testing for EIC APIs, without requiring a connection to an online runtime environment.

Developer labs

Beyond generic sandboxing, the portal points to the importance of concrete test resources: environments with EIAP capabilities, access to representative network data and the possibility to order as-a-service test environments.

This matters because rApps must be proven against the conditions they are designed to influence. Access to realistic data and platform behavior helps developers move from a promising concept to an application that can be assessed for accuracy, robustness and operational relevance.

Test resources and sandboxes
Test resources and sandbox environments are equally critical. Network automation cannot be treated as ordinary software development. rApps may influence network behavior, service quality, energy consumption and operational workflows. They must therefore be tested in realistic conditions, with access to relevant data, interfaces and validation processes.

Sandbox and as-a-service test environments help developers prove that applications can operate as intended before they are considered for broader use. This is where trust is built. For your network, it means that innovation can be accelerated without compromising stability. For developers, it means that applications can be refined against real operational constraints rather than theoretical assumptions.



rApp Directory

The rApp Directory adds a marketplace-like dimension to the ecosystem. It enables ecosystem members to discover rApps, understand their functionality and connect with application owners. This is important because autonomous networks will not be enabled by one application. They will be built from many specialized applications working across the lifecycle: network evolution, deployment, optimization, healing, automation, and AI foundations.
A directory makes that innovation visible. It allows you to explore which use cases are already available, which partners are active, and how applications may support their own network automation roadmap.
It also gives developers a way to showcase their work and make it easier for their innovation to be adopted.

Expanding to cApps
The rApp Directory is evolving to add support for cApps, making it a highly comprehensive resource that hosts network automation applications covering both RAN and core and created both by Ericsson and 3PP developers.

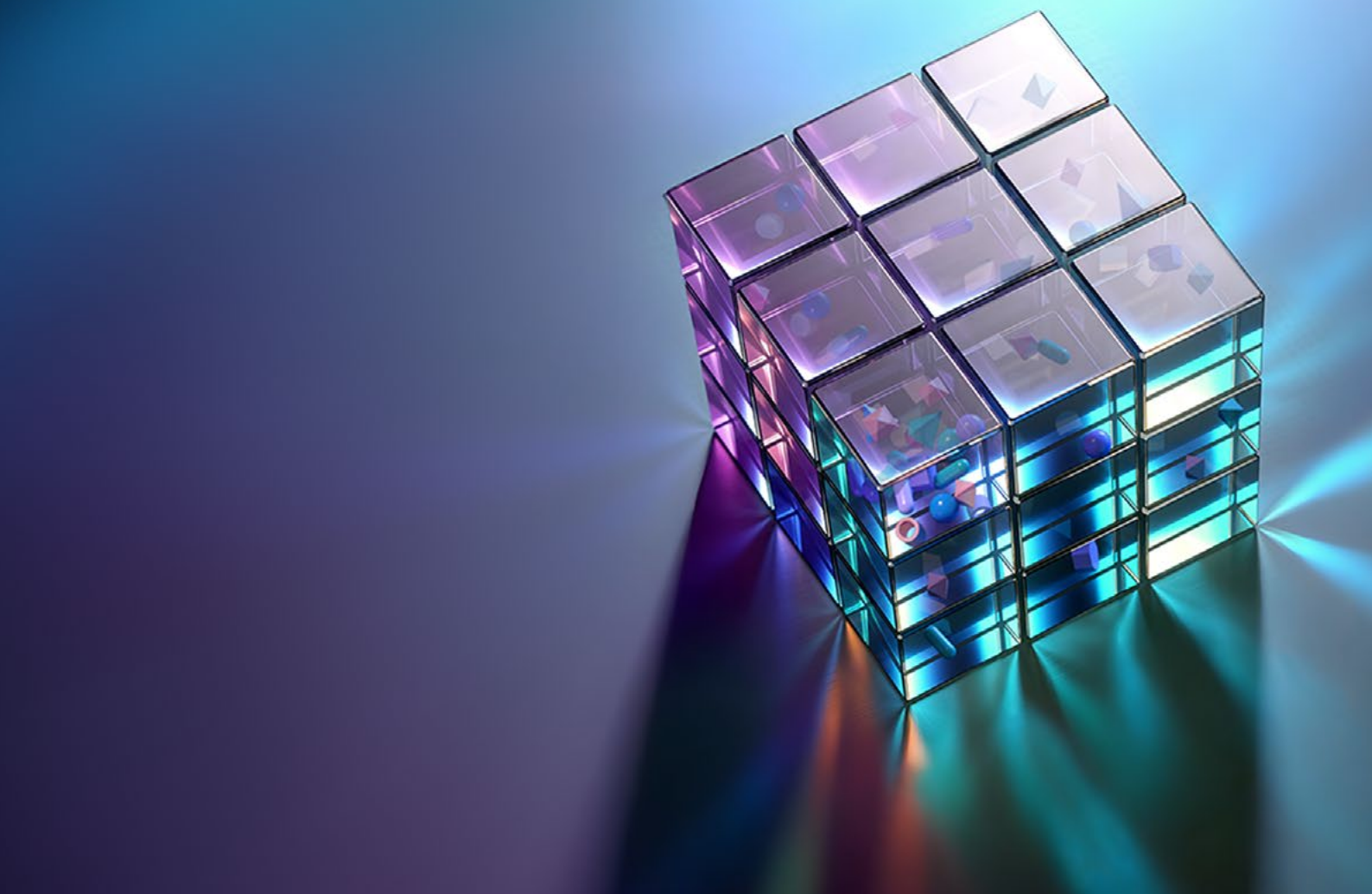
Multiplying your capabilities

Enabler rApps and portfolio-wide innovation

A portfolio approach is essential to the ecosystem. Innovation is not just about individual applications, but about a range of capabilities working together: from rApps addressing specific use cases to enablers that provide data access, manage workflows, validate behavior and integrate systems.



As the ecosystem matures, these enabling capabilities become multipliers. They reduce code duplication with reuse, simplify development and support more advanced automation patterns. In this sense, the ecosystem becomes both a source of applications and a source of shared building blocks for future innovation.



rApp DevCon

The ecosystem as a community

The community is the other pillar of the EIAP Ecosystem, and our rApp Developer Conference (DevCon) is one of the clearest examples of how that community has become active.

Our yearly DevCon is designed as a dedicated gathering where rApp and cApp developers, ecosystem members, industry leaders and experts go deeper into the practical side of telecom automation. The goal is not simply to create awareness, but to provide a working forum for learning, discussion, networking and hands-on collaboration around rApps and cApps, EIAP and the next phase of network automation.

The power of collaboration

The value of DevCon is in bringing the different parts of the ecosystem into the same conversation. Developers can explore how to build rApps and cApps more effectively, learn from practical sessions, and use code clinics to address implementation questions. Service providers and ecosystem partners can share how they are using rApps and cApps to solve real network challenges, while platform experts can explain how EIAP capabilities, open interfaces and development resources are evolving. This makes DevCon a bridge between strategy and execution: it connects the industry narrative around autonomous networks with the day-to-day work of creating, testing and scaling automation applications.

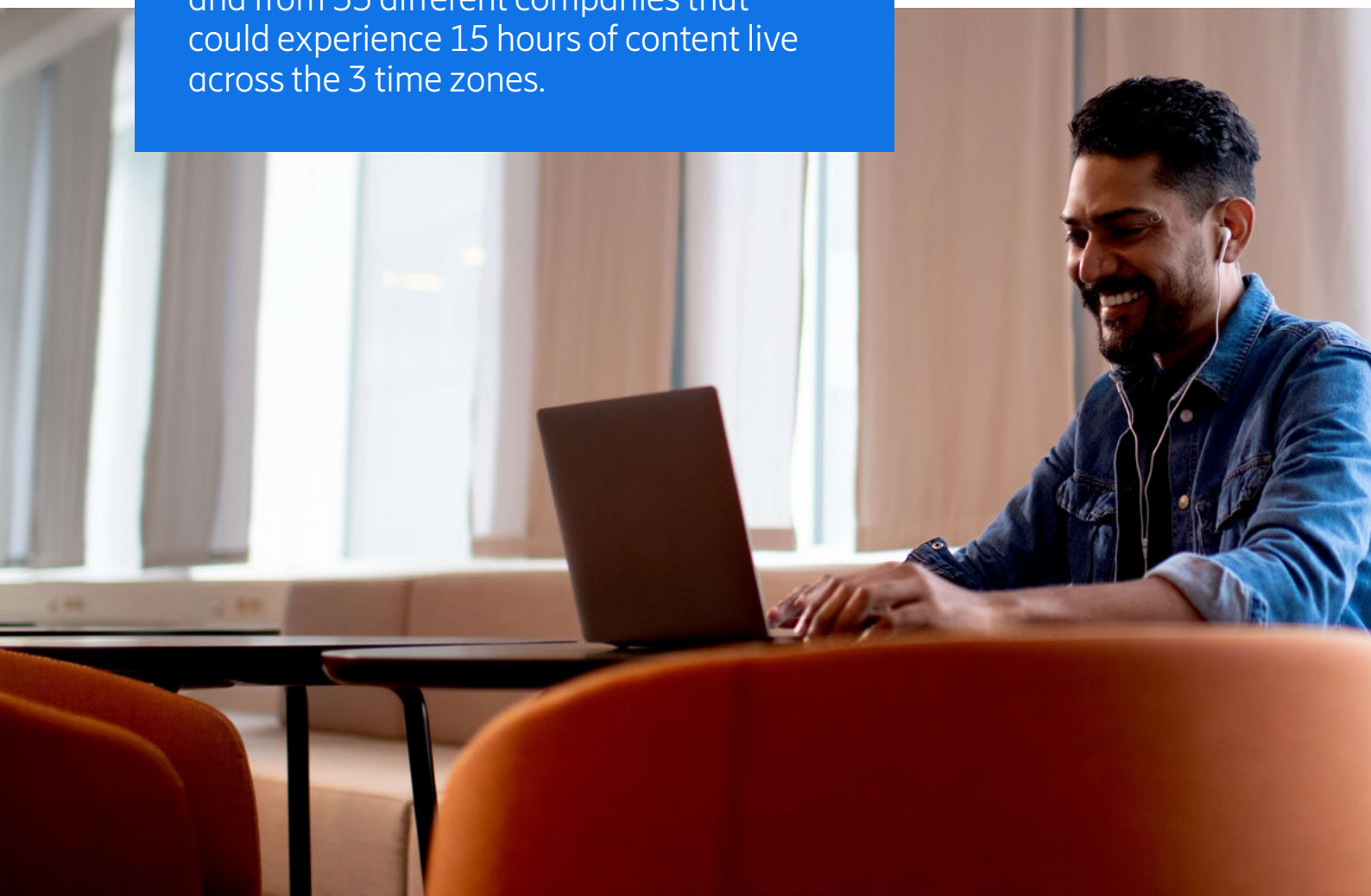
Learning together
DevCon also gives the ecosystem a shared rhythm. By creating a place where developers, operators, Ericsson teams and third parties can exchange experiences, demonstrate progress and discuss technical barriers, it helps turn individual rApp initiatives into a collective learning loop. The keynote and partner sessions show how different ecosystem members are approaching intelligent automation, from operator journeys toward automation and self-healing networks to partner innovations in AI, data and application development. These shared experiences help developers understand not only how to build rApps, but why specific rApps matter in real operational environments.

Moving collaboration online
The same community logic extends into rApp developer forums and Dev-to-Dev support channels. These forums provide continuity between major events. They allow developers to ask questions, exchange implementation experience, provide feedback on platform capabilities and learn from peers. For a new software category such as rApps, that continuity matters. It helps the ecosystem mature faster because knowledge does not remain locked in one project or one organization. It is shared, challenged, reused and improved across the developer community.

Pushing innovation forward
In this sense, DevCon is more than an event in the EIAP Ecosystem. It is a mechanism for acceleration. It helps lower the barrier to entry for new developers, gives experienced teams access to deeper technical exchange, and creates visibility for the rApp innovation already emerging across the ecosystem. Most importantly, it reinforces the idea that autonomous networks will not be built by isolated development efforts. They will be built by a community that can innovate, validate and learn together.

Worldwide reach
The 2026 edition of rApp DevCon took place on June 10 and brought together 410 attendees from 28 different countries and from 53 different companies that could experience 15 hours of content live across the 3 time zones. The agenda included keynotes from relevant stakeholders, code clinics and presentations from the ecosystem members about their experiences with trials and development. Following the event, all participants and ecosystem members can revisit all the sessions from the Developer Portal.

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One ecosystem, different roles

The ecosystem's key players

The members of the ecosystem play different but complementary roles. All perspectives are needed in building the ecosystem as a whole, and they ensure it becomes a well-rounded innovation environment.

Keeping the ecosystem alive
The EIAP Ecosystem is not a static entity. We always aim to drive the diversity, quality and impact of our ecosystem and protect the value it delivers.

For that reason, we continuously encourage ecosystem members to stay active and build a collaborative and useful environment. Being part of the ecosystem is not just about displaying the logo; it's about being committed to developing real applications that are ready for commercial trials or deployment.

- Service providers bring the operational reality. They define the problems that matter, provide insight into live network conditions, and help validate whether an application delivers value in practice.
- Independent software vendors bring specialized capabilities, new algorithms, AI expertise and domain-specific innovation.
- Ericsson provides the platform foundation, the integration environment, lifecycle sup port and its own rApp portfolio.
- Other technology players can contribute complementary capabilities in areas like data, cloud, analytics or system integration.

The strength of the ecosystem comes from this division of labor: each participant contributes where it has distinctive expertise, while the platform provides a common structure for collaboration.



Success stories

How the EIAP Ecosystem creates value

The EIAP ecosystem value emerges when operators, independent software vendors, and we unite our capabilities, expertise, and AI innovation in workflows and commercial networks. Below cases illustrate how this collaboration accelerates the journey to autonomous networks.

Future Connections

"Working with Ericsson's EIAP Ecosystem has been a great experience"

Sergio Carrillo,
Principal Solutions Manager,
Future Connections:

"Working with Ericsson's EIAP Ecosystem has been a great experience for our team at Future Connections. The EIAP developer portal and sandbox environment provided a safe, hands-on space to test platform capabilities and adapt our automation algorithms to a RIC-based approach.

What impressed us most was the ease of transferring our sandbox work into production-ready environments. We experienced this firsthand with our NIX Energy Saver solution, since both environments share the same underlying architecture. With direct support from Ericsson experts, we were able to validate complex multi-rApp setups in advance and move seamlessly into deployment.

This unified flow significantly accelerates our time to market. For our operator customers, it means access to field-tested, highly flexible rApps that deliver on their promises. That combination of speed, reliability and flexibility is hard to beat."

Press release: Ericsson and MasOrange advance Autonomous Networks

FYRA Corp

"For us, the EIAP Ecosystem means market access, credibility and a clear path to scale"

Kento Hirose,
CEO,
FYRA Inc.

"As a small, specialized rApp developer, FYRA depends on an ecosystem that lowers the barrier between a good idea and a production deployment. Ericsson's Intelligent Automation Platform and the EIAP developer portal do exactly that.

The portal's SDK, interface specifications, sandbox and onboarding guidance let us integrate our AI-based RAN analytics rApps quickly and with confidence that they will behave the same way in a live network. That was demonstrated when a Tier-1 CSP in Japan tested the FYRA Suite rApp on EIAP as part of its recent field trial with Ericsson, validating that a third-party rApp developed in Japan can run on the platform through the R1 standard.

For operators, the ecosystem means they can adopt partner innovation without custom integration work. For us, it means market access, credibility and a clear path to scale globally."

Press release: Ericsson and KDDI succeed in AI uplink optimization trial

HCL Tech

"EIAP offers us a reliable rApp platform that enables us to get started quickly"

Debraj Saha,
Account manager,
HCLTech:

"EIAP offers us a reliable rApp platform that enables us to get started quickly, with useful documentation and evolving R1 standard interface support. The helpful support team and wider community responds to developer queries swiftly.

Looking ahead in this exciting journey, we look forward to seeing support for a broader set of use cases, closed loop verification, leveraged AI agents and other features that will speed up the dev-to-deploy lifecycle, from idea to production."

Rimedo Labs

"We value EIAP for its rich documentation"

Dr Marcin Hoffmann,
Technical Solutions Manager,
Rimedo Labs:

"Rimedo Labs joined the EIAP Ecosystem in 2025. Since then, we have published our Traffic Steering, RF Channel Reconfiguration, Cell On/Off Switching, and Beamforming Optimization rApps in the directory and are progressing toward making them ready for field trials. We value EIAP for its rich documentation covering hands-on tutorials, code samples, and most importantly, a well-documented API and data model. Most importantly, EIAP enables testing and verification of rApps against the data models and APIs, which is an essential step toward their field trials. The process is supported by Ericsson engineers and the possibility of exchanging knowledge with other rApp providers over the Developer Portal Community. One of Rimedo Labs' greatest achievements on the EIAP in 2026 was to develop a Connector rApp creating a bridge between RAN and NAOS - an advanced radio planning tool by FORSK."

Forsk

"The support from Ericsson engineers and the developer portal community has been instrumental"

Yasir Rabbani,
Technical Fellow - Telecom, Automation, AI,
Forsk:

"Forsk is proud to be a member of the EIAP Ecosystem. Since early 2025, Forsk has been engaged in developing automated RAN planning and optimization solutions in the form of rApps using the resources and means provided by the EIAP platform.

The developer portal provides comprehensive documentation, tutorials, examples, and detailed data models and network topology descriptions that significantly accelerate development. We particularly value the continuous enhancement of these resources, as well as the platform's validation capabilities prior to field deployment.

The support from Ericsson engineers and the developer portal community has been instrumental, fostering knowledge sharing, collaboration, and problem-solving throughout our development journey.

In 2026, Forsk collaborated with Rimedo Labs to integrate our network self-healing rApp with Ericsson's SMO. This successful partnership enabled us to develop automated, closed-loop RAN optimisation capabilities for our clients, helping mobile operators achieve greater operational performance and network resilience."

Creating impact

From proof points to ecosystem value

Our success stories point to a broader change in the industry. The move toward autonomous networks is not a single leap. It is a progression, built through practical use cases that prove value, establish trust and create repeatable operating models.

Energy optimization may be one step. Uplink interference optimization may be another. Anomaly detection, service assurance, capacity recommendations, intent translation and closed-loop optimization may follow. Each successful use case adds confidence, expands the library of reusable knowledge and makes the next use case easier to deliver. Ecosystems are the mechanism that turns isolated success into cumulative progress.

The value of the ecosystem

For CSPs, the value of an ecosystem can be summarized in four dimensions:

Speed

It increases innovation speed by giving access to a broader developer base and reusable resources.

Openness

It supports openness by enabling multi-vendor participation through standardized interfaces and a common platform environment.

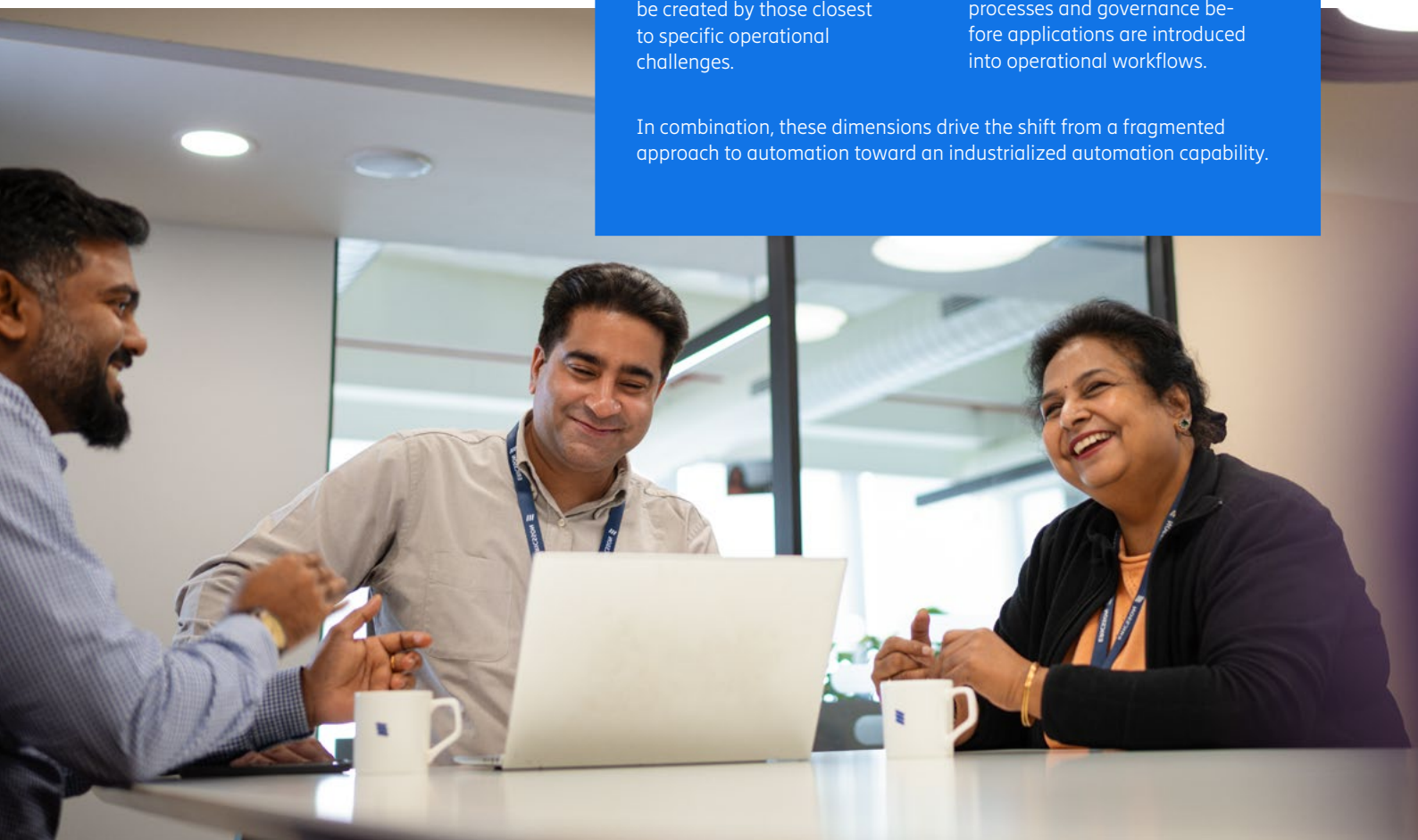
Relevance

It improves relevance because applications can be created by those closest to specific operational challenges.

Trust

It strengthens trust by providing test resources, validation processes and governance before applications are introduced into operational workflows.

In combination, these dimensions drive the shift from a fragmented approach to automation toward an industrialized automation capability.





Looking ahead

Scaling trusted intelligence for the next phase of autonomy

The next phase of autonomous networks will depend on the ability to scale trusted intelligence. Networks must handle growing data, services, devices and demand while supporting faster service introduction, sustainability, resilience and differentiated customer experiences.

An ecosystem approach is well-suited to the challenges of tomorrow's networks because it does not assume that all answers are known in advance. Instead, it creates the conditions for continuous innovation: a common platform, open interfaces, developer resources, validation environments, a visible rApp portfolio and an active community.

A new industry model

Ultimately, the autonomous network is not only a technical architecture. It is an industry operating model. It asks operators to express intent more clearly, platforms to expose capabilities more openly, developers to build applications more rapidly, and the whole ecosystem to validate outcomes more rigorously. The EIAP Ecosystem shows how this operating model can take shape.

By combining resources and community, platform capabilities and partner innovation, real-world use cases and open collaboration, it helps turn autonomous networks from an aspiration into a practical path. The result is a network automation ecosystem where ideas can become rApps, rApps can become operational capabilities, and operational capabilities can become measurable value for your network and customers

Conclusion

Ecosystems are how autonomous networks scale

Autonomous networks will not emerge from isolated automation projects, but from an ecosystem that can continuously turn intent, expertise and innovation into trusted operational capabilities.

The EIAP Ecosystem shows how this can work in practice: open interfaces, developer resources, test environments, rApps, community forums and partner collaboration all combine to accelerate progress. As networks become more complex and expectations continue to rise, the ability to innovate together will be as important as the technology itself. Ecosystems are therefore not just a way to support autonomous networks — they are the way autonomous networks will scale.

About Ericsson

Ericsson's high-performing networks provide connectivity for billions of people every day. For nearly 150 years, we've been pioneers in creating technology for communication. We offer mobile communication and connectivity solutions for service providers and enterprises. Together with our customers and partners, we make the digital world of tomorrow a reality.

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