ABI RESEARCH COMPETITIVE RANKING

5G RAN AUTOMATION PLATFORM VENDORS

ERICSSON

OVERALL: 86.0 | INNOVATION: 81.0 | IMPLEMENTATION: 90.8 | RANK: 1

INNOVATION

ERICSSON

INNOVATION SCORE: 81.0

Ericsson is a multinational telecommunications and technology company headquartered in Sweden. The company operates in more than 180 countries around the world with almost 90,000 employees. Ericsson provides a broad portfolio of mobile connectivity and digitalization solutions with a portfolio spanning networks, cloud software and services, enterprise wireless solutions, and a global communications platform.

Ericsson launched its Ericsson Intelligent Automation Platform (EIAP) in 2021 and has six commercial references for this platform as of end of 2025, each in different phases of implementation. The EIAP platform is an Open RAN SMO & non-RT RIC solution, and Ericsson has spent a great deal of effort in establishing a comprehensive ecosystem of rApps, enabling operators and third-party developers to leverage the capabilities of EIAP to independently develop automation applications. Currently, the EIAP ecosystem has 84 members, 19 of which are operators. Ericsson has consistently been an active participant and leader in different standardization bodies such as the O-RAN Alliance and The 3rd Generation Partnership Project (3GPP).

Ericsson has also been making significant efforts to integrate AI capabilities into its RAN automation capabilities. Some examples include Graph Neural Networks (GNNs) for uplink interference optimization, Red Dot awarded user interface with natural language capabilities using Gen AI, being able to better utilize frequencies by the help of AI, and deep reinforcement learning with explainable AI for cell shaping rApps. These algorithms include Explainable AI to allow users to understand what the models do and why certain decisions are taken.

Ericsson has participated in different projects to show end to end automation capabilities, such as the collaboration with Amazon Web Services (AWS) it established to drive the evolution of autonomous networks, incorporating Agentic AI into rApps to enable intent management and support operator efforts in achieving Level 4 and Level 5 autonomous networks.

IMPLEMENTATION

ERICSSON

IMPLEMENTATION SCORE: 90.8

Ericsson's EIAP is commercially deployed across North America, Europe, and Asia-Pacific. Its legacy Centralized Self-Organizing Network (SON) optimizes over 1 million cells globally. Additionally, more than 50 customers use Ericsson's Cognitive Software, optimizing 11 million cells on a daily basis.

Ericsson offers modular, value-based models that allow customers to scale its platform at their own pace. Flexible packages and engagement ensure customers have an optimized Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) and clear business outcomes. EIAP supports multi-vendor Open RAN deployments, with the integration of 1Finity radios as part of the AT&T deployment a proof point.

As part of the EIAP rApp ecosystem, Ericsson currently provides 11 rApps alongside numerous third-party rApps, with advanced AI capabilities such as reinforcement learning and digital twins. Ericsson provides tools like an open Software Development Kit (SDK) and developer portal, and services needed to support developing rApps and fostering innovation.

CRITERIA AND METHODOLOGY

VENDOR MATRIX

Methodology: After individual scores are established for innovation and implementation, an overall company score is established using the Root Mean Square (RMS) method:

$$Score = \sqrt{\frac{innovation^2 + implementation^2}{2}}$$

The resulting overall scores are then ranked and used for percentile comparisons.

The RMS method, in comparison with a straight summation or average of individual innovation and implementation values, rewards companies for standout performances.

For example, using this method, a company with an innovation score of nine and an implementation score of one would score considerably higher than a company with a score of five in both areas, despite the mean score being the same. ABI Research believes that this is appropriate as the goal of these matrices is to highlight those companies that stand out from the others.

RANKING CRITERIA

Leader: A company that receives a score of **75 or above** for its overall ranking.

Mainstream: A company that receives scores **between 60 and 75** for its overall ranking.

Follower: A company that receives a score of **60 or below** for its overall ranking.

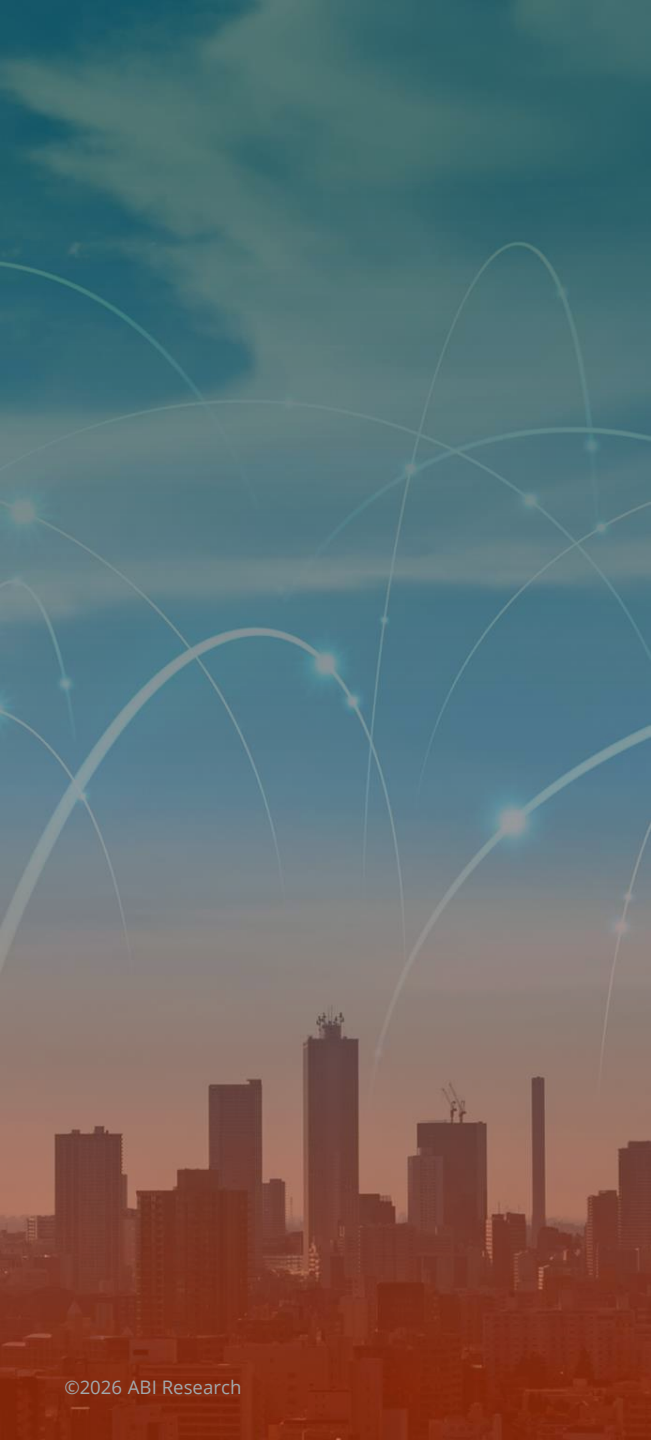
Innovation Leader: A company that receives a score of **75 or above** for its innovation ranking.

Implementation Leader: A company that receives a score of **75 or above** for its implementation ranking.

INNOVATION CRITERIA

The innovation criteria take into account novel capabilities in technology development and deployment, as well as in commercialization.

- **Solution Features:** The features of the RAN automation and orchestration solution (such as for near-RT and non-RT scenarios). The demonstration of a vendor's ability to deliver unique capabilities will enable a vendor to excel in this category.
- **Proofs of Concept (PoCs) and Trials of New Features:** The upcoming innovations that a vendor is looking to develop and/or commercialize.
- **Integration Across Diverse RAN Architectures:** The extent to which the platform enables seamless integration and interoperability across purpose-built, virtualized, and cloud-native RAN architectures. It also assesses how effectively the solution aligns with and integrates into an operator's existing platforms, with commitment to supporting open interfaces also considered.
- **Research and Development (R&D) Investment Related to RAN Automation:** The vendor's commitment to developing its RAN automation solution, as well as R&D contributions to standardization organization(s) and/or open-source communities.
- **Use of AI/Machine Learning (ML) Within Solution:** The degree of AI/ML integration within the platform for a variety of capabilities and use cases.



IMPLEMENTATION CRITERIA

These criteria relate to the commercial activity, features, and capability of RAN automation platforms in order to assess their completeness and fitness for purpose.

- **Live Networks & Commercial Activities:** The market penetration, real-world deployments, and proven results of RAN automation solutions. Similar importance for both number and size of deployments.
- **Engagement & Business Models:** The flexibility of the business model employed by the vendor (such as modular and Software-as-a-Service (SaaS)), which contributes to the overall ease of deployment.
- **Multi-Vendor Interoperability & Integration:** The ability of the solution to integrate and orchestrate third-party RAN infrastructure. This includes both Open RAN and traditional RAN deployment scenarios.
- **Application Ecosystem:** The breadth, availability, and operational readiness of automation applications provided by the platform. This includes built-in vendor applications and third-party applications (where applicable).
- **Geographic Reach:** The geographic spread of commercial activity for a vendor's automation platform.

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