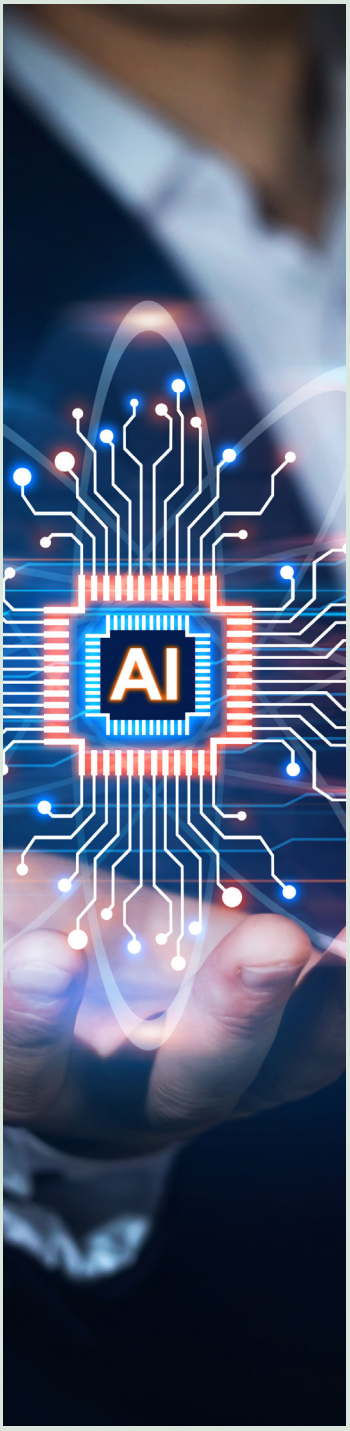
WHITE PAPER



THE PATH TO INDUSTRY 5.0: AGENTIC AI-DRIVEN IT/OT CONVERGENCE AND CLOSED-LOOP OPTIMIZATION

Abstract

Industrial enterprises operating legacy plants face fragmented IT and OT environments, reactive operations, and rising cyber risk—often constrained by the cost and risk of large-scale modernization. This white paper introduces AION, a cloud-native, SaaS-based Agentic AI platform with a two label semantic layer approach ***(Business-friendly Data interface)***, designed for brownfield-first IT/OT convergence, enabling organizations to start with existing control systems (PLC, DCS, SCADA, historians) and progressively evolve toward advanced analytics and autonomy. In its first phase, AION delivers value using existing hardware through semantic unification and autonomous AI agents, achieving 70% faster IT/OT integration, 30–50% fewer alarms, and 20–30% reduced unplanned downtime without requiring new sensors. In the second phase, selective IoT sensor enablement extends visibility where data gaps exist, unlocking 10–15% energy savings, predictive maintenance, and closed-loop optimization validated through digital twins and Model Predictive Control (MPC). Built on open standards (OPC UA, MQTT) and aligned to ISA/IEC 62443, AION enables a low-risk, stepwise transition from reactive legacy operations to autonomous, Industry 5.0–ready industrial systems.

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Introduction

Industrial operations across factories and process plants continue to suffer from a long-standing IT–OT divide—marked by siloed data, brittle point-to-point integrations, reactive operations, and expanding cyber risk surfaces. These gaps slow decision-making and increase operational exposure. Key challenges include **data silos**, where OT data remains locked in proprietary systems; **fragile integrations** that cannot adapt to changing conditions; **reactive operations** constrained by limited real-time insight; and **fragmented security**, resulting in inconsistent protection across IT and OT layers.

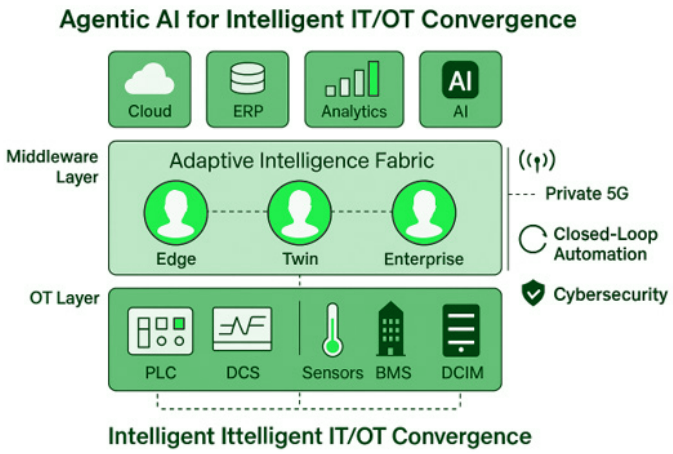
Intelligent IT/OT convergence addresses this by unifying modern IT capabilities—cloud, analytics, cybersecurity, AI—with OT systems such as PLCs, DCS, BMS, sensors, and actuators, enabling real-time, data-driven automation. AION, an agentic AI–driven platform, builds this foundation by creating a **semantic data fabric** and deploying **goal-oriented autonomous agents** across edge, twin, and enterprise layers. The Adaptive Intelligence Fabric (AIF) provides an automated middleware that harmonizes data, control flows, and security policies across enterprise systems (APM, ERP, MES, Analytics) and industrial controls (BMS, DCS, PLCs, Historians). Its core innovation is real-time, bidirectional synchronization and predictive, closed-loop execution.

By combining **agentic operations**, semantic middleware, and private5G integration, the architecture delivers two major benefits:

- **Stronger OTlayer cybersecurity** through autonomous detection and response
- **True closed-loop optimization**, shifting from reactive monitoring to proactive, constraintaware control via Agentic AI and Model Predictive Control on PLC/DCS—improving quality, efficiency and uptime.

Aligned with Industry 5.0 principles, this approach supports human-centric, sustainable, and resilient operations while embedding AI safely across IT and OT environments.

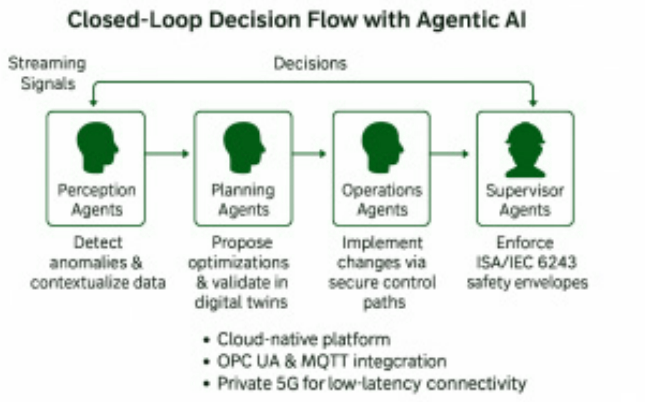
Emerging technologies such as **Private 5G (3GPP Rel-16+)** introduce **Ultra-Reliable Low-Latency Communication (URLLC)** and **Time-Sensitive Networking (TSN)** to industrial wireless environments—delivering deterministic connectivity while ensuring **data sovereignty** and **QoS control** within on-premises networks.



The middleware layer, i.e., AION, transforms streaming signals into closed-loop decisions through a hierarchy of specialized agents.

- **Perception Agents** detect anomalies, semantic tagging and contextualize raw data.
- **Planning Agents** propose adaptive mapping strategies and validate them within digital twins.
- **Operations Agents** implement approved changes via secure control paths and implement mapping changes securely.
- **Supervisor Agents** Orchestration, coordination, enforce ISA/IEC 62443 safety and security envelopes, **governance, oversight, and decision arbitration**, ensuring that the entire multi-agent system operates safely, efficiently, and in alignment with organizational goals.

Built as a **cloud-native platform**, AION bridges **OPC UA and MQTT** for seamless brownfield integration, leverages Model Context Protocol (MCP) for standardized AI-driven interoperability, and uses **Private 5G** to deliver ultra-reliable, low-latency connectivity for mission-critical industrial operations.



When applied in manufacturing, this architecture enables:

- **Cost Reduction**: Through energy savings and improving operational efficiency.
- **Revenue Growth**: By improving throughput and reducing downtime.
- **Agility**: Faster adaptation to market changes and customer demands.
- **Sustainability**: Meeting ESG targets and reducing waste

Modern IT–OT architectures combine physical devices, control systems, edge gateways, cloud platforms and autonomous AI agents to form Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS)—enabling real-time monitoring, efficiency and innovation.

The AIF introduces a breakthrough: goal-oriented AI agents that deliver bidirectional synchronization and predictive modeling at the source, enabling closed-loop automation and autonomous threat detection at the OT layer.

Why is IT/OT convergence core infrastructure now

As infrastructure scales and operational pressures intensify, maintaining separate IT and OT silos creates blind spots and inefficiencies that fail to meet today's speed and precision requirements. **Converging IT and OT unlocks transformative benefits:**

- **Unified Visibility:** Correlating power, process operation, and IT data accelerates problem detection and clarifies root causes.
- **Faster Decisions:** Real-time insights across physical and digital layers enable rapid troubleshooting and informed planning.
- **Predictive Reliability:** Early anomaly detection reduces downtime and extends equipment life.
- **Scalable Operations:** Standardized processes ensure consistent performance across multiple sites.
- **Energy Efficiency:** Coordinated load and cooling management minimize energy use while maintaining design limits.

To overcome foundational challenges in IT/OT contextualization, we introduce **AION**—a next-generation integration and orchestration platform. Its core innovation is **Agentic AI**, a federation of specialized, autonomous agents operating at the intersection of IT and OT. These agents go beyond moving data; they **understand intent, reason about outcomes and execute coordinated actions** across both domains.

AION acts as a **dynamic, intelligent fabric** that translates high-level business objectives into safe, efficient operational reality—delivering **closed-loop automation, predictive control and cybersecurity compliance** at scale.

AION Advantage: Transforming IT/OT intelligence

Unlike traditional integration approaches, AIF moves beyond static data pipelines to deliver actionable, closed-loop control. For industrial leaders, sustainability executives, data officers and enterprise architects, AIF offers:

Operational Benefits

- Autonomous Orchestration: Automates complex workflows across IT and OT layers.
- Real-Time Resilient Decisions: Enables edge intelligence for mission-critical operations.
- System-Wide Intelligence: Multi-agent collaboration ensures holistic optimization.

Business Impact

- Reduced Downtime and Improved Uptime: Predictive maintenance and proactive anomaly detection.
- Energy Optimization: Up to 15% reduction in energy consumption through coordinated load and cooling strategies.
- Unified, Secure Data Foundation: Supports Industry 5.0 objectives, boosting asset utilization and profitability.

Core Value Proposition- AION Platform

The AION Platform's unique value proposition is:

- True IT/OT Semantic Unification: It doesn't just centralize data; it creates a single, unified semantic model for both OT and IT datasets, enabling context-aware data governance and analysis that informs strategic business outcomes (IT) based on shop-floor performance (OT).
- Real-time Autonomous Decision-Making: It is the first platform to operationalize Agentic AI to initiate, execute, and adapt complex OT process optimizations and IT system adjustments without human intervention, moving beyond simple rule-based automation.

Value Proposition Metrics:

Key benefits

Autonomous orchestration of complex workflows

Real-time, resilient decision-making at the edge

System-wide intelligence through agent collaboration

Reduced downtime and expenses

Value proposition

Metric	Improvement
Energy savings	10–20%
Reduction in unplanned downtime	40–70%
Predictive detection	30–60 days
Faster incident stabilization	Up to 40%
Reduction in manual interventions	30–40%
Annual TCO savings	7–12%

Step-by-Step Implementation Strategy

Implementation Workflow:

To achieve intelligent IT/OT convergence and autonomous operations, organizations should adopt a phased approach covering three core areas:

1. Foundation (Connectivity & Edge Layer):

- Asset inventory and classification
- Edge protocol translation and gateway deployment
- Basic MQTT/OPC UA integration for brownfield compatibility
- Private 5G rollout for ultra-reliable, low-latency connectivity

2. Data Integration, Semantics & Control:

- Development of canonical data models
- Deployment of semantic middleware for unified context
- Automated I/O mapping and control logic validation
- Secure interoperability across IT and OT systems

Positioning of the Semantic Layer (Business-friendly Data interface)

A two-level approach is most effective. The Plant-Level Semantic Layer harmonizes diverse PLCs and control systems by mapping raw tags to standardized assets **with targeted KPIs.** The Enterprise-Level Semantic Layer integrates IT and OT data to enable cross-plant consistency, governance and enterprise analytics.

Step 1: Deploy Edge-Native Semantic Nodes. Install software-defined layers at each plant to harmonize heterogeneous equipment (Siemens, Rockwell, etc.) into a standard asset model (ISA-95).

(Standard asset model: Line →Machine → Subsystem →Equipment →Parameters → KPIs) (e.g.: Waste per Shift / Waste per Batch)

Step 2: Establish Enterprise Data Fabric. Use a universal semantic platform to virtualize these plant nodes into a single global view.

(Enterprise→Region→Site→Value Stream→Line Class→Asset Class→Object Model→KPIs (Enterprise Standard) (e.g.: Cost of Poor Quality (COPQ)

3. Autonomy & Resilience (Industry 5.0):

- Agentic AI with continuous learning and adaptive decision-making
- Human-in-the-loop optimization for safety and compliance
- Integration of sustainability KPIs into operational workflows
- Dynamic production strategies leveraging digital twins

Private 5G networks play a pivotal role in this transformation by connecting sensor networks, machinery, and IT systems into a unified infrastructure—enabling seamless data flow and deterministic control. IT/OT integration is essential for realizing the Industry 5.0 vision, where automation and digitalization become standard practice.

Investments in Private 5G and related technologies are no longer optional—they are strategic imperatives for organizations seeking to optimize processes, reduce operational costs and gain a competitive edge in an increasingly digital and automated world.

3 Phase Agentic AI Adoption: Foundation → Control → Closed Loop

- Phase 1 — Foundation (Connectivity & Edge):
- Perception Agents + Semantic Tagging + Alarm Triage; Supervisor sets safety/policy envelopes; HITL Gatekeeper active.
- Phase 2 — Data, Semantics & Control:
- Planning Agents (Adaptive Mapping, Setpoint Optimizer, Maintenance Planner) validate changes in twins; Operations Agents begin controlled deployments; Evidence & Compliance Agent enabled.
- Phase 3 — Agentic AI & Closed-Loop:
- MPC Orchestrator + Energy Optimization + Workflow Orchestration deliver closed-loop autonomy; Autonomous Cybersecurity and Policy Agents; Private5G QoS Agent assures URLLC/TSN; scale via Semantic Governance.

Pillars for Acceleration:

To accelerate digital transformation and operational resilience, the strategy focuses on six pillars:

- **OT System Audit** – Identify all assets, protocols, and data points
- **Unified Semantic Data Model** – Harmonize IT and OT datasets for context-aware analytics
- **Deploy AION Platform** – Use Agentic AI for autonomous orchestration and predictive insights
- **Closed-Loop Automation** – Enable proactive optimization and real-time decision-making
- **Cybersecurity Integration** – Continuous threat modelling and autonomous device isolation
- **Pilot & Scale** – Validate outcomes and expand across enterprise operations

Key OT Differentiators for Intelligent Operations

Modern OT environments demand **intelligent control, resilience, and semantic context.** AION addresses these requirements through the following differentiators:

The table below provides a concise summary of the key OT differentiators for intelligent operations, highlighting core features and Agentic AI contributions.

Differentiator	Key Features	Agentic AI Contribution
Intelligent I/O Allocation Strategy	Resource pooling, semantic discovery, critical channel segregation, deterministic PLC cycles	Dynamic sensor re-weighting, healing data loss, drift detection
Engineering Automation	Auto-generation of FDS/SDS, I/O mapping, logic validation	Cuts integration time by 70%, reduces errors
AI-Driven Autonomy	Goal-based control, closed-loop with twin, semantic data fabric	Multi-agent orchestration for adaptive control
OT Asset Layer Coverage	Integration with UPS, MCCs, Motors, VFDs, pumps	Coordinates power, cooling, mechanical subsystems
Safety & Reliability	SIL-grade logic, redundant PLCs, ring networks	Supervisor agents enforce safety envelopes
Autonomous Cybersecurity	Firmware validation, tamper monitoring, OT firewalls, compliance with ISA/IEC 62443	Continuous threat modeling and isolation
Digital Twin Integration	Real-time thermal/electrical models, anomaly detection, energy optimization	Test actions in the twin before execution
Alarm Triage & RCA	Composite reasoning, alarm flood reduction	Predictive, explainable outcomes
Closed-Loop Control	Automated load shedding, energy optimization, predictive maintenance	Autonomous decision-making with safety
AIF	Semantic orchestration across IT/OT layers	Creates a unified data fabric for context-aware decisions
Self-Healing Networks	Automatic failover, topology optimization	Detects and heals network faults autonomously
Zero-Touch Compliance	Automated audits, ISA/IEC 62443 alignment	Generates compliance reports without manual effort
Explainable AI for Governance	Transparent decision logs, audit trails	Ensures accountability and trust in autonomy

Industry Use Cases for Agentic AI in IT/OT Convergence

Agentic AI enables autonomous, connected operations by bridging IT and OT systems. These use cases demonstrate practical applications and measurable business impact.

Use Case	Problem	Solution	Business Impact
Predictive Maintenance & Reliability	Unplanned downtime and high maintenance costs	Agentic AI monitors OT assets, predicts failures, and triggers automated workflows	• Increased uptime • Reduced maintenance cost • Improved asset reliability
Energy Optimization	High energy consumption in process industries	AI-driven setpoint optimization using digital twins and real-time analytics	• Lower energy costs • Sustainability compliance • Enhanced operational efficiency
Cybersecurity & Risk Mitigation	OT vulnerabilities and threat exposure	Autonomous threat modeling, device isolation, and compliance with ISA/IEC 62443 standards	• Reduced risk • Improved resilience • Continuous compliance
Autonomous Workflow Orchestration	Manual intervention slows operations and increases errors	Agentic AI executes closed-loop workflows across IT and OT systems	• Faster decision-making • Improved productivity • Scalable operations

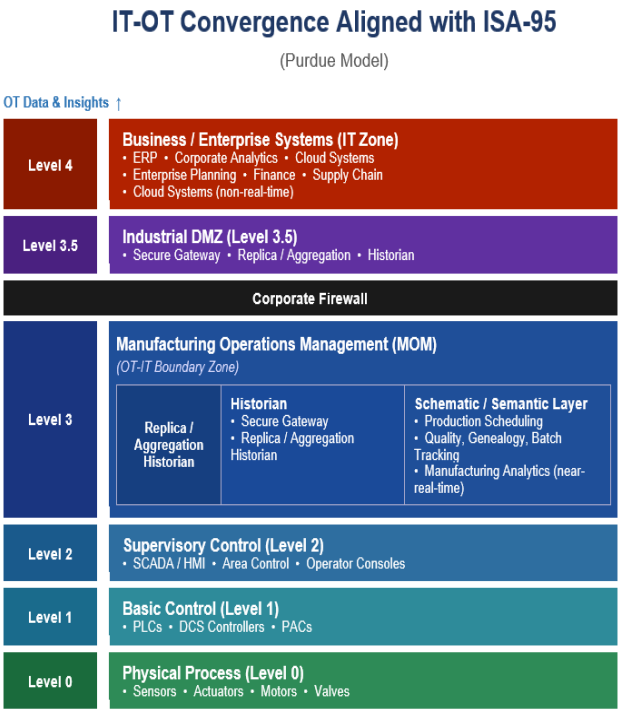
Technical Architecture Deep Dive

A modern IT–OT architecture consists of physical devices, control systems, edge gateways, networking layers, cloud platforms and Agentic AI systems capable of autonomous operation.

Platform Components

- Edge Computing: IoT Edge gateways for local analytics and buffering.
- Unified Namespace (UNS): MQTT broker for standardized data exchange.
- Digital Twin: Virtual representation of assets and processes.
- AI/ML Models: Predictive maintenance, anomaly detection, process optimization.
- MPC Orchestration with Agentic AI: Integration of MPC with Agentic AI for dynamic orchestration, adaptive optimization, and autonomous decision-making.
- MPC (Model Predictive Control): Core control strategy for multi-variable optimization under constraints, enabling predictive and adaptive closed-loop control.
- LLM Copilot Layer: Natural language interface for operators and engineers.
- Cybersecurity: Zero-Trust, IEC 62443 compliance, network segmentation.
- Data Governance: Metadata management, lineage tracking, compliance.

Architecture Explanation by ISA-95 Levels



Level 4 – Enterprise / IT Systems

Includes ERP, enterprise analytics, and cloud platforms. These systems consume curated and contextualized manufacturing data for planning, finance, supply chain and performance reporting. No direct connections to plant control systems.

Level 3.5 – Industrial DMZ

Acts as a secure buffer between IT and OT environments. Hosts historian replicas, secure gateways, APIs, and controlled data services for enterprise/cloud access without exposing OT systems.

Level 3 – Manufacturing Operations Management (MOM)

Operational intelligence layer including MES, primary plant historian, and semantic layer. Historians capture high-resolution time-series data; the semantic layer enriches data with asset hierarchy, process context, and ISA-95 object models. Model Context Protocol (MCP) enables standardized contextualization and interoperability between AI/ML models, MPC, and digital twins by providing a common protocol for exchanging model metadata, constraints, and operational context.

Level 2 – Supervisory Control

SCADA and HMI systems provide real-time monitoring and supervisory control. Generate operational events and measurements, but do not perform semantic modeling or enterprise integration.

Levels 1 & 0 – Control and Physical Process

Includes PLCs, DCS controllers, sensors and actuators that directly interact with the physical process, focusing on deterministic control and execution.

Integration & Semantic Middleware (Point List Mapping)

Purpose: Unify tags/points across BMS, DCIM and PLC/SCADA; resolve naming conflicts; keep a single source of truth.

Operations: Alarm Rationalization & Incident Management - reduce alarm noise; correlate events; create a single high priority incident with root cause.

Executive Takeaway for Historian-powered Semantic Layer

A Historian-powered Semantic Layer at ISA-95 Level 3 is the critical bridge between shop-floor reality and enterprise intelligence, forming the foundation for scalable digital manufacturing and AI across plants

Principles for Autonomous Operations

The AION Platform is engineered to enable autonomous, connected operations by adhering to the following foundational principles:

Core Design Principles

- Agentic-AI First: Every function—from data ingestion to process orchestration- is designed around autonomous, goal-directed AI agents capable of adaptive decision-making.
- Model Context Protocol (MCP) & AI Governance: Define a standardized protocol for managing context across multiple AI agents and models. It includes versioning, explainability and audit trails for compliance and trust.
- API-First & Open Standards: All capabilities are exposed via secure, well-documented APIs to ensure interoperability with enterprise IT systems and industrial OT protocols.
- Data Fabric & Semantic Layer: Implement a unified data fabric that abstracts heterogeneous OT/IT data sources. Semantic layer ensures consistent interpretation of data for AI agents.
- Cloud-Native & Scalable: Built on microservices and containerization for public or private cloud deployment, ensuring elastic scalability and resilience for massive industrial data streams.
- Privacy & Zero-Trust Security by Design: Security is embedded at every layer, including data masking, granular access controls and IEC 62443 compliance to protect sensitive OT data.
- Extensible & Modular: Component-based architecture allows customers and partners to develop and deploy custom AI agents, connectors and analytics modules.

Typical Implementation Pattern (3C approach)

- Connect: Stream DCS/SCADA/EMS events and contextual ERP/APM/MES data via composable pipelines supporting industry protocols.
- Contextualize: Build operational digital twins to align alarms, states, work orders and KPIs to assets and processes.
- Control (act): Drive alarm triage, maintenance actions and operator guidance via apps and AI agents with supervisory control.

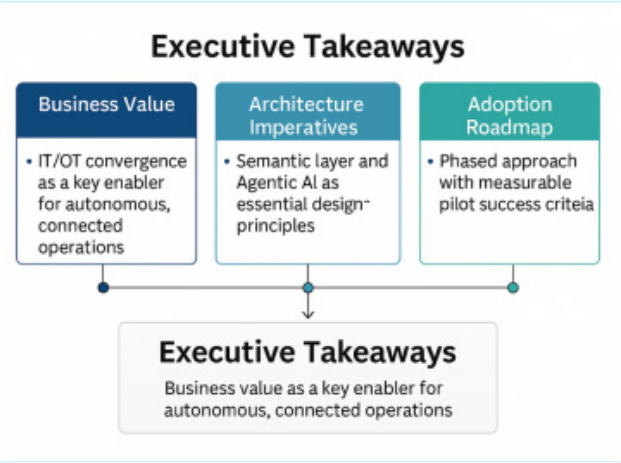
Phased Approach (Assuming ~5000 Tags)

- Phase 1: Discover & Design (4–6 weeks) — Asset inventory, adaptive mapping, add auto-tag discovery and I/O prioritization logic definition, protocol mapping, IAM/PKI setup, latency and safety envelopes, baseline KPIs.
- Phase 2: Data Foundation & Twin (6–10 weeks) — Embed adaptive mapping and namespace governance, OPC UA→MQTT bridge; Lakehouse; initial digital twins and dashboards.
- Phase 3: Agentic AI & Closed-Loop (8–12 weeks) —Introduce auto-generation of control logic and twin-based validation, deploy agents; pilot on one utility/line; measurable process parameters, leading indicators, analyze historical failure pattern and uptime improvements.
- Phase 4: Scale & Secure (3–6 months) — Implement load balancing, failover automation, and version-controlled deployments, multi-line/site rollout; Private 5G slice design; continuous model monitoring; OT security audits.

Executive Takeaways

This section distils the strategic insights and imperatives from the white paper into actionable takeaways for leadership teams. These points emphasize business value, architectural priorities and next steps for adopting Agentic AI-driven IT/OT convergence.

- IT/OT Convergence is no longer optional—it is a core enabler for Industry 5.0 and autonomous operations.
- Agentic AI introduces goal-directed autonomy, enabling closed-loop decision-making and adaptive optimization across industrial environments.
- The Historian-powered Semantic Layer at ISA-95 Level 3 is the architectural cornerstone for contextual intelligence and scalable AI deployment.
- Security and compliance must be embedded from the ground up, leveraging Zero-Trust principles and IEC 62443 standards to protect OT integrity.
- Cloud-native, API-first, and modular design ensures interoperability, scalability and future-proofing for evolving industrial ecosystems.
- Early pilots should focus on measurable outcomes—alarm reduction, MTTD/MTTR improvements and energy optimization—while mitigating risks through gated actions and safety envelopes.
- A phased approach accelerates adoption: Discover & Design → Data Foundation & Twin → Agentic AI & Closed-Loop → Scale & Secure.



Call to Action

The convergence of IT and OT, powered by Agentic AI, is no longer a vision for the future—it is a present-day imperative for organizations seeking resilience, efficiency, and autonomy. To unlock the full potential of autonomous, connected operations, leadership teams must act decisively.

Immediate Next Steps

- Identify High-Impact Pilot Areas: Focus on processes with measurable KPIs—alarm triage, anomaly detection, predictive maintenance and energy saving.
- Establish Governance: Define cybersecurity, compliance and AI ethics frameworks aligned with IEC 62443 and NIST SP 800-82.
- Invest in Foundational Architecture: Deploy edge infrastructure, unified namespace and semantic modeling to enable real-time contextualization.
- Engage Cross-Functional Teams: Bring IT, OT, and data science teams together for seamless integration and adoption and document new use cases.
- Plan for Scale: Design modular architecture and connectivity (e.g., private 5G) for multi-site rollout.

Conclusion

IT–OT integration powered by Agentic AI, cloud-native architectures, and ultra-low latency 5G connectivity is redefining industrial operations. This convergence creates autonomous, self-optimizing ecosystems where machines, sensors and enterprise systems collaborate intelligently in real time.

By embedding AI agents at the edge and leveraging predictive analytics, organizations can achieve:

- Closed-loop automation and continuous process tuning
- Proactive anomaly detection
- Dynamic resource optimization

This transformation is not incremental—it is foundational for the future of smart manufacturing, energy grids, intelligent buildings and mission-critical infrastructure. It enables:

- Resilience
- Sustainability
- Industry 5.0 readiness

The time to act is now. Organizations that embrace this paradigm will lead the next era of industrial innovation.

See Appendix A for a detailed case study on OT Semantic Layer delivering measurable business value, an example lever for IT/ OT integration.

Appendix A: Customer Case Study - Creating Business Value with an OT Semantic Layer

Customer Profile

A leading FMCG manufacturer

Business Challenge

Despite modern manufacturing systems, the customer experienced recurring quality issues, including inconsistent viscosity, increased rework, and delayed batch release. The root cause analysis process was slow and heavily manual.

Key issues included:

- Supplier eCOAs were received as PDF documents and stored separately
- Machine and process data existed as raw numbers without business meaning
- Quality teams could not easily link material lots to machine conditions and batch outcomes

As a result, decisions were based on experience and assumptions rather than facts.

Solution

The company implemented an OT Semantic Layer to act as a common language between machines, quality systems, and business users.

The Semantic Layer converted raw data into meaningful business objects, such as:

- Raw Material Lot
- Batch
- Production Line
- eCOA Quality Parameters
- Process Conditions (temperature, mixing speed, time)

This enabled automatic correlation between supplier material quality, real-time machine behavior, and finished product quality.

Real-World Example

During shampoo production, a supplier-provided chemical arrived with an eCOA indicating moisture content close to the upper specification limit.

The Semantic Layer linked:

- The specific material lot from the supplier
- The batch in which it was used
- The mixing tank temperature and speed from shop-floor systems

The system identified a clear pattern: when higher moisture material was combined with higher mixing temperature, the final product viscosity dropped below the target.

Business Impact

By understanding this relationship, the customer was able to:

- Adjust machine parameters proactively
- Flag high-risk material lots before production
- Prevent quality failures instead of reacting to them

Measured benefits included:

- Reduction in batch rework and scrap
- Faster batch release through confidence in quality
- Improved supplier performance discussions based on data
- Better alignment between operations, quality, and supply chain teams

Outcome and Value Delivered

The OT Semantic Layer transformed disconnected data into actionable insight. What was previously guesswork was becoming a clear, explainable cause-and-effect understanding.

The customer now uses the Semantic Layer as a foundation for predictive quality, continuous improvement, and scalable digital manufacturing initiatives.

Key Takeaway

An OT Semantic Layer does not replace existing systems—it enhances them by adding meaning, context, and correlation with faster solution deployment. This enables faster decisions, better quality outcomes, and measurable business value with improved ROI.

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ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Sibaji Pattanaik
Principal Consultant, IOT, Infosys

Bikash Das Burma
Principal Consultant, IOT, Infosys

Amit Kumar Rath
Industry Principal, IOT, Infosys

For more information, contact askus@infosys.com

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