

European Cloud Providers and Industry Data Spaces Join Forces to Bring 10,000 SMEs into Trusted Data Networks

9th February 2026, Madrid - Today, at Data Spaces Symposium, European cloud providers, managed service providers (MSPs), and industry data spaces working together as the Data Space Adoption Forum (DSAF) announced an initiative, tools and go-to-market strategy to help small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) join trusted data spaces at scale. The initiative aims to onboard 10,000 SMEs into existing and new data spaces within the next 18 months, strengthening innovation, competitiveness, and regulatory compliance across Europe and globally.

Trusted industry data spaces are becoming essential for visibility, efficiency, innovation and sustainability across complex global value chains. Yet most SMEs – which form the backbone of many sectors from automotive to pharma – struggle to participate due to high integration costs, specialised skill requirements, and fragmented onboarding processes. The automotive industry alone has over 800,000 suppliers, the vast majority of which are companies with fewer than 250 employees, highlighting the scale of the SME enrolment challenge. The DSAF initiative addresses this through an open-source, low-cost onboarding tool, making participation simpler, faster, and economically viable for smaller companies.

“Data spaces have evolved into a key innovation for the digital future of our economy and society. They are already delivering value across sectors for both – economy and society – by enabling trusted data sharing and new forms of collaboration. As data spaces have matured, one challenge has become clear: scale. Without simple and affordable participation for small and medium-sized enterprises, their impact remains limited. Today’s announcement marks a paradigm shift. It lays the foundation to move from hundreds of participants to millions – turning data spaces into a scalable, practical reality for entire value creation ecosystems,” says Lars Nagel, CEO of IDSA.

The Data Space Adoption Forum members have co-engineered open-source software projects that accelerate the scaling of data spaces with SME engagement. The common underlying technology is a new, multi-tenant architecture and implementation of the Eclipse Dataspaces Components coupled with new innovations in resource management and supplier onboarding technologies.

The Eclipse Dataspaces Components are also integrated with the OPC UA architecture to extend value even further for manufacturing firms. These tools collectively break down technical and financial barriers that have limited SME accessibility to data spaces. The DSAF is targeting the enablement of 10,000 new SME participants in data spaces in the next 18 months as a proof-of-concept for this new model.

A scalable solution for SMEs

Data Space Adoption Forum members have co-developed a new approach designed to simplify access to data spaces:

Technical Innovation. The group has created open-source elements that deliver Data Space Onboarding-as-a-Service capabilities. These include EDC-V – A highly optimized variant of the Eclipse Foundation’s Dataspace Component (EDC) architecture tailored for Cloud Service Providers. Connector Fabric Manager (CFM) – A multi-tenant resource manager and orchestration platform enabling automated deployment and lifecycle operations of EDC-V services. And JAD – A demonstrator for Cloud Service Providers that assembles all components required to run EDC-V and CFM, providing a ready-to-install reference for custom offerings.

Distribution. Cloud service providers act as a critical scalability layer, enabling rapid and large-scale deployment. Alongside Cloud Exchange Points and federated cloud infrastructures, this ecosystem

leverages the widespread footprint of local providers to extend these technologies to SMEs across all geographies and industries.

Commitment. DSAF brings together every layer of the data space ecosystem – from cloud providers and systems integrators to OEMs, trust framework providers, and SMEs themselves. This collaboration enables end-to-end support, secure data sharing, and a standardised onboarding experience across multiple data spaces.

The new solution benefits:

SMEs benefit from managed services that remove the cost and technology barriers to joining data spaces. Working with existing trusted service providers to run their data space participation as a service will reduce time and cost overheads.

Managed Service Providers gain a simple-to-deploy value-added service that can increase revenue and deepen engagement with their existing customers, as well as create new business opportunities.

Cloud Service Providers can offer an additional hosted ‘as-a-service’ product to MSPs and potentially a wider array of data space-related services.

Data Spaces: Standardized onboarding accelerates adoption, opening access even to the smallest supply chain participants. Impact in practice

The pilot demonstration and collaborative workshop, held with Catena-X, highlights how this approach is already showing value in the automotive sector. However, it can be applied across industries and multiple data spaces simultaneously. Organisations across the data space ecosystem—including SMEs, managed service providers, cloud providers, industry data spaces, and systems integrators—are invited to engage with the Data Space Adoption Forum to explore collaboration, participation, and adoption opportunities.

About International Data Spaces Association (IDSA)

The International Data Spaces Association is on a mission to create the future of the global, digital economy. Its 200 member companies and institutions have created the International Data Spaces architecture (IDS): a secure system of sovereign and trusted data exchange in which all participants can realize the full value of their data. IDS enables new smart services and innovative business processes to work across companies and industries while ensuring that the control of data remains in the hands of data providers. We call this data sovereignty.

Please visit our website at <https://www.internationaldataspaces.org/> for more information.

Press contact

Nora Gras
Senior Communications Manager
[+49 162 2104263](tel:+491622104263)
nora.gras@internationaldataspaces.org