



AI



OBSERVATORY

SecNumCloud

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CROSS-PERSPECTIVES



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*SAP & Thales/S3NS:
An industrial
partnership strengthening
Europe's strategic
digital autonomy*



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Access to state-of-the-art, highly secure cloud infrastructures has become an essential driver of business competitiveness and digital transformation across Europe. Against this backdrop, SAP has chosen to deploy its RISE with SAP offering on the trusted cloud operated by S3NS, a Thales subsidiary, enabling its customers—particularly those operating in regulated sectors—to fully leverage SAP's capabilities within a SecNumCloud-qualified environment. Thales, itself an SAP customer, has already committed as the first customer of this alliance.

Olivier Nollent and Cyprien Falque explain to the SecNumCloud Observatory the strategic rationale behind this partnership.

SAP, Europe's flagship technology company and a leader in enterprise software, supports the digital transformation of the world's largest organisations. You recently decided to deploy your solutions on S3NS's trusted cloud. Could you explain this decision and its European significance?

Olivier Nollent (SAP): This decision is guided by our responsibility as a European leader. SAP sits at the heart of the information systems underpinning the global economy: more than 87% of commercial transactions run through our solutions. For more than 50 years, we have supported the continent's most critical organisations across strategic sectors, including industry, energy, defence and the public sector. Being at the core of these critical processes means helping our customers transform at a European scale without ever compromising business continuity, data security or regulatory compliance.

Today, we are entering the era of the autonomous enterprise, where trusted real-time data and embedded artificial intelligence enable organisations to make faster decisions and adapt more rapidly. Yet this autonomy only has value if it rests on complete confidence in the underlying infrastructure. For Europe's strategic and regulated sectors, the fundamental question was: "How can we migrate to the cloud without fragmenting our information systems or compromising our strategic autonomy?"

By building a joint offering with S3NS, we are providing a concrete answer: RISE with SAP in a SecNumCloud-qualified environment. Our European customers therefore benefit from world-class software innovation on a platform that fully complies with the European Union's strictest legal frameworks and data protection standards. This provides a solid foundation for the future growth of European industry.

How do you see the future of the trusted cloud market? Are you witnessing a change of scale, perhaps even the emergence of a broader European dynamic?

Cyprien Falque (S3NS): The core challenge of our collaboration was an ambitious one: ensuring that European strategic digital autonomy would not become synonymous with technical complexity or second-best technology. The decision of such a demanding player as SAP, Europe's leading enterprise software company, is a testament to S3NS's operational maturity. It represents a major endorsement of the path we have taken.

Trusted cloud is no longer a niche solution or a uniquely French requirement. It has become an industrial, scalable and genuinely European reality—a natural destination for the most critical enterprise applications.

At a time when the European Union is accelerating through major legislative initiatives currently under negotiation, such as the Cloud and AI Development Act (CADA), while also using public procurement to shape the market by establishing trusted frameworks for its own tenders—such as the Cloud Sovereignty Framework underpinning the DPS III cloud procurement programme—this partnership demonstrates that Europe is ready to promote its own standards of excellence without turning away from global innovation.

Thales occupies a unique position: the architect of this infrastructure through S3NS, a global defence leader and a European industrial champion. The Group has also recently launched a complementary trusted cloud region in Germany. What led Thales to choose SAP on S3NS?

Cyprien Falque: Organisations across every sector regard their ERP system as mission-critical and are looking for solutions that provide enhanced protection. Speaking on behalf of the Group, running our most critical business processes—including finance, supply chain, procurement and operations—on the combined SAP and S3NS platform quickly became a strategic imperative. It is the perfect combination of world-leading technology and a trusted operating environment.

This unified platform will enable the Group to streamline its internal processes, increase agility and scalability, and integrate the latest advances in artificial intelligence. Ultimately, this

will lead to faster decision-making, more agile management and stronger overall performance.

Beyond Thales's own use case, the momentum is fundamentally European. Trust requirements are increasingly converging, particularly along the Franco-German axis. The S3NS model is already expanding, as illustrated by Thales's recent deployment of a new trusted cloud region in Germany, built to the highest security standards.

For customers operating across Europe—or even globally—the challenge is to rely on a solution that has achieved sufficient scale to support business requirements of this magnitude. Thales is paving the way.

This redundant offering creates a genuine trusted cloud environment that is highly secure and protected against non-European extraterritorial legislation. By combining France's SecNumCloud framework with Germany's C5 scheme, Thales is delivering a pragmatic solution, laying the groundwork for the future harmonisation of European certification schemes (EUCS), and demonstrating that a genuine market for trusted cloud services already exists.

Digital trust and strategic autonomy are being built here and now. Migrating to the cloud is a long-term transformation that requires foresight, and this project demonstrates that Europe now possesses both the industrial maturity and the technological strength to take control of its own digital future.

Olivier Nollent: Through this partnership, European strategic digital autonomy moves beyond political ambition to become an operational reality that directly enhances the performance of European businesses. It is a forward-looking project for the competitiveness and sovereignty of the European ecosystem.

Its strategic importance is all the greater as data has become a critical—indeed vital—asset in an era where artificial intelligence is rapidly expanding. Together with Thales and S3NS, we have demonstrated that Europe can now deploy enterprise AI at industrial scale without ever relinquishing control over its data.

That is what tomorrow's true European competitiveness looks like—and together with our partners, we are already building it today.

