3DEXPERIENCE DISCOVERY DAY 2026

AI SUMMARY

PANEL DISCUSSSION | EUROPEAN SOVEREIGNTY: SECURE COLLABORATION FOR CRITICAL PROGRAMMES



KEY TAKEAWAYS

Sovereignty as Control, Not Isolation

Digital Architectures for Sovereign Critical Programs

Concrete Steps to Strengthen European Sovereignty

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DASSAULT SYSTEMES

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Panel Discusssion | European Sovereignty: Secure Collaboration for Critical Programmes
Thursday, November 12, 2026

SUMMARY

The panel examined European sovereignty in critical programs, focusing on how to safeguard strategically important assets while sustaining collaboration, innovation, and global partnerships. Speakers from nuclear energy, telecoms, medtech, and systems integration described sovereignty not as isolation, but as informed control over data, technology, and supply chains. They stressed that perfect autonomy is unrealistic and prohibitively costly; instead, organizations need clear choices, trusted architectures, and exit strategies so they can depend on global partners without losing control of core capabilities.

From a telecom perspective, sovereignty centers on safeguarding digital infrastructure that underpins public services, health systems, emergency response, and defense. The speaker traced the sector's evolution from server-filled switch rooms to cloud-native, AI-enhanced networks, noting that connectivity now carries sensitive data, technology, and intelligence. Data location within Europe is only a starting point; real sovereignty requires deciding who manages data, builds AI models, and operates networks. Competence must remain in-house, while sandboxes and data masking enable learning from global partners without breaching guardrails.

The nuclear perspective framed sovereignty through energy security, arguing that nations cannot treat energy as a commodity and must retain policy control. Nuclear technology is inherently sensitive, yet international vendors increasingly offer standardized reactor designs. Countries therefore need to balance global products with domestic regulation and supply chains. The discussion emphasized using digital twins and a shared single source of truth to align regulators, owners, architects, and suppliers, manage program complexity, and give investors confidence that large nuclear projects can be delivered predictably.

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The medtech contribution focused on a company that designs and manufactures power wheelchairs across Europe, North America, and Asia-Pacific. Operating in multiple jurisdictions with regulated products, the organization must keep data consistent across continents while accelerating innovation. Its IT leader described a "schizophrenic" role, balancing fast-moving R&D and AI experimentation with rigorous quality, validation, and regulatory processes. The company uses global templates and reusable building blocks to industrialize solutions, then adapts them locally to meet legal and supplier requirements without fragmenting core systems.

The systems integration perspective defined sovereignty as the set of choices a company makes about dependencies on platforms, vendors, and partners. Absolute sovereignty would be expensive, so organizations must identify critical dependencies, assess risks, and maintain exit strategies when they rely on external providers. Architectures for shared programs should control who accesses which data and record usage. As AI shifts knowledge into models and agents, contextual and semantic layers that explain relationships in data become crucial intellectual property that organizations must guard.

In closing, the panel converged on practical steps European companies should take within the next year to strengthen sovereignty. They urged firms to deepen control over AI while keeping humans in the decision loop, to embrace digital capabilities such as twins that unify stakeholders around a single source of truth, and to treat regulation as an enabler of trust rather than a burden. Finally, organizations should map dependencies, apply risk frameworks, and prepare exit plans, ensuring collaboration enhances rather than erodes sovereign control.

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Sovereignty as Control, Not Isolation

Sovereignty is framed as practical control over data, technology, and operations rather than isolation. Organizations should define what must remain under direct control, accept that some dependencies are necessary, and design architectures, access controls, and logging to share data safely with partners.

Digital Architectures for Sovereign Critical Programs

In critical sectors like energy and medtech, successful sovereign programs depend on shared digital architectures. Building digital twins and global templates that integrate regulators, vendors, owners, and local supply chains lets teams model lifecycle risks, align requirements, and reduce failure in capital projects.

Concrete Steps to Strengthen European Sovereignty

Over the next year, companies should tighten control of AI with humans in the loop, invest in digital capabilities, and treat regulation as a strategic trust enabler. They must map key dependencies, apply risk frameworks, plan exits, and clearly define truly critical assets.



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