Digital sovereignty – A cornerstone of future-ready IT architectures.

Digital sovereignty refers to the ability to make decisions freely and independently, with full technological autonomy, and to maintain control over one's own systems and data. It is a key prerequisite for business resilience, economic stability, and the capacity for growth and development. In this sense, digital sovereignty extends beyond purely technological systems to include operational and strategic dimensions.

This perspective reflects a holistic, architecture-driven approach. It's about recognising and reducing both current and future dependencies—shaping systems in a way that ensures operating models remain undisrupted, controllable, and economically efficient.

The following principles are essential:

- **Ensuring freedom of choice** in terms of technologies and providers.

- Building **robust** systems that can withstand disruptions and external influence.

- Enhancing **resilience** through deliberate alternative strategies, minimised dependencies, and viable exit scenarios.

Our understanding of digital sovereignty explicitly does not imply technological isolation. Rather, it involves developing resilient, end-to-end architectures. It represents a structured state characterised by transparency, informed decision-making, and a range of actionable options across different scenarios.

Bechtle – Europe's trusted IT partner for digital sovereignty.

Our goal is to systematically strengthen freedom of choice, reliability, and resilience for our customers—tailored to their specific business models, organisational purpose, and future development.

We focus on objective, needs-based consulting and offer one of the most comprehensive portfolios of technologies and services in Europe—supported by deep market insights and a thorough understanding of each customer's specific requirements.

Our value proposition:

- Extensive experience in integrating digital infrastructures—from workplace to data centre, from on-premise to multi-cloud, and from business applications to artificial intelligence.

- Decades of operational expertise across diverse IT environments, delivered by highly qualified specialists and through managed services.

- Access to established and specialised manufacturer and partner networks in Germany, across Europe, and worldwide.

- A vendor-neutral approach combined with in-depth product knowledge.

From strategy to structure.

Bechtle supports businesses and public-sector organisations in systematically analysing, assessing, and evolving their IT architectures with the aim of enhancing their digital sovereignty. Our approach is adaptable to the specific requirements and maturity levels of diverse organisations—whether in the highly regulated public sector, in the commercial sector with its focus on innovation and competitiveness, or in the financial sector with its stringent demands for compliance and the integrity of critical systems.

Our methodology enables:

- The assessment of applications, infrastructure, and processes.

- A cross-functional view of technology, organisation, and regulatory frameworks.

- The identification of areas for action and risk categories.

Based on these insights, organisations can implement targeted technical, procedural, and organisational measures. This allows them to actively reduce single-source dependencies and the associated business risks—resulting not only in greater flexibility, but also in stronger resilience to regulatory, geopolitical, or market-driven change.

Conclusion.

Ensuring digital sovereignty is a manageable process. Bechtle provides strategic guidance and a unique ecosystem of expertise and technologies to support this journey. As a trusted European IT partner to both the private and public sectors, we have been designing future-ready IT solutions and operating models for over four decades—with no dependency on specific vendors or technologies, experienced in analysing complex IT environments, and deeply embedded in the market. That's how we build IT architectures that remain sovereign in the long term.

This positioning statement on digital sovereignty is based on the work of the **Bechtle Group's Digital Sovereignty think tank**. The authors:

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