EMA IMPACT BRIEF

Broadcom Positions Automic as an AI Control Plane with V26

Abstract

Broadcom's upcoming release of Automic Automation V26 represents a structural shift in workload automation, positioning the platform as a foundational execution layer for enterprise AI rather than a traditional job scheduler. The release introduces agentic AI capabilities embedded directly into orchestrated workflows, supported by governance, auditability, and policy enforcement mechanisms designed to address enterprise trust requirements. Key innovations include AI job types, Model Context Protocol (MCP) orchestration, natural language workflow generation, and expanded developer and operational tooling.

Unlike incremental AI feature additions seen across the market, V26 is explicitly designed to operationalize AI within deterministic systems of record. Broadcom frames this as an "intelligent control plane," aligning orchestration, observability, and governance into a unified layer capable of coordinating AI, data pipelines, and traditional automation across hybrid environments.

Context/Background

Enterprise AI adoption has largely been confined to conversational interfaces, copilots, and retrieval-augmented generation use cases. While these approaches improve individual productivity, they do not address the central challenge facing IT and business operations: how to embed AI into execution workflows in which outcomes must be reliable, auditable, and governed.

The barrier is not AI capability. It is trust.

Enterprise systems—mainframes, ERP platforms, CRM systems, and internally-developed applications—were designed for deterministic execution, traceability, and control. Introducing non-deterministic AI into these environments creates immediate concerns around hallucination, inconsistent decision-making, and lack of auditability, driving demand for human oversight, auditability, and policy-based governance within workflows. As highlighted in the briefing, organizations are demanding three core safeguards: human-in-the-loop control, retroactive audit of AI decisions, and policy-based governance embedded directly into workflows.

At the same time, architectural fragmentation is accelerating. Enterprises are deploying multiple automation platforms, data orchestration tools, AI services, and emerging MCP-based integrations. This creates a new coordination problem: how to orchestrate not only jobs and workflows, but also AI agents, APIs, and distributed decision logic across domains.

Broadcom's response is to reposition workload automation as a control layer rather than a scheduling engine. The V26 release explicitly targets this gap by introducing what it defines as an "intelligent control plane"—a unified orchestration and observability layer that connects systems of record, systems of intelligence, and external automation tools. This reflects a broader shift in workload automation from scheduling toward orchestration and, increasingly, coordination of agentic systems.

EMA research underscores the urgency behind this shift. In a 2024 EMA study, 91% of organizations indicated that AI-enhanced orchestration capabilities will be extremely or very important within the next 1–2 years.

This is not a future requirement; it is an immediate expectation. Vendors that cannot operationalize AI within governed orchestration frameworks will fall behind enterprise demand.

Key Ramifications

Broadcom's Automic V26 introduces a set of strategic shifts that extend beyond feature enhancement, reflecting a broader transition in workload automation toward governed, AI-enabled execution at enterprise scale.

AI Execution Moves into the Governed Control Layer

Broadcom's introduction of AI job types represents a fundamental shift in how AI is operationalized within enterprise environments. Rather than treating AI as an external or loosely integrated capability, V26 embeds AI-driven reasoning directly into orchestrated workflows as governed, auditable objects. Paired with Bring Your Own LLM (BYOLLM) which gives organizations the freedom to connect their approved models, this approach ensures that non-deterministic AI behavior operates within deterministic control frameworks, preserving traceability, policy enforcement, and role-based access. The result is a practical path for enterprises to adopt AI within mission-critical processes without compromising operational integrity.

Closing the Gap Between AI Potential and Operational Reality

Despite rapid advancements in AI capabilities, enterprises continue to struggle with reliably orchestrating AI-driven workflows. V26 integrates AI execution into the same orchestration framework as traditional workloads, enabling a transition from isolated pilots to governed, repeatable operations and positioning workload automation as the mechanism through which AI becomes operationally viable.

A Unified Orchestration Model for Distributed Agent Ecosystems

The platform's support for Model Context Protocol (MCP) as both a client and server reflects a forward-looking approach to orchestrating distributed agent ecosystems. Automic V26 extends coordination across external AI agents, APIs, and services, creating a unified execution model that combines traditional automation with AI-driven decision-making across domains. The effectiveness of this model will depend on the availability of rich contextual data and sufficiently deep integrations, highlighting an ongoing industry challenge that extends beyond protocol standardization.

Consolidation of Automation Capabilities into a Single Governed Platform

V26 strengthens Automic's role as a consolidation layer for enterprise automation by integrating capabilities that were historically distributed across multiple tools. Native Python execution, agentless deployment options, and AI-assisted workflow creation reduce reliance on fragmented orchestration and scripting solutions. This consolidation simplifies operational complexity while maintaining governance and control, positioning Automic as a central platform for coordinating data pipelines, AI processes, and operational workflows.

EMA Perspective

Broadcom's Automic V26 release represents one of the most complete attempts to date to reposition workload automation as the control plane for enterprise AI. The market is actively moving in this direction, with multiple vendors advancing agentic AI, orchestration, and observability capabilities in parallel. Broadcom's contribution in this release is the degree to which these elements are brought together into a single, cohesive operational model.

This direction mirrors broader market movement. EMA research shows that 80% of organizations are already shifting workload automation toward enterprise-wide orchestration, while 86% view orchestration as critical to achieving digital transformation goals.

The implication is clear: orchestration is no longer a feature—it is becoming the structural backbone of enterprise execution.

This release also reflects the maturation of Broadcom's multi-year effort to rationalize its workload automation portfolio following acquisition. Rather than forcing convergence at the scheduler level, Broadcom has progressively unified non-scheduler-specific capabilities—APIs, integrations, observability, and now AI and orchestration—into a shared set of core services. Many of these capabilities originated within the Automic platform and were incrementally extended across AutoSys, ESP and CA-7, creating a more consistent and contiguous automation stack without disrupting existing customer investments.

V26 represents an inflection point in that journey. With agentic orchestration and AI now built into this shared architecture, Broadcom effectively established a foundation that can extend these capabilities across its broader scheduler portfolio over time. While this release is centered on Automic, the underlying architecture is not. It is designed to support a broader evolution in which multiple schedulers can participate in a common orchestration and AI-driven execution model.

The introduction of AI job types is particularly significant. By embedding AI reasoning within a governed object model, Broadcom avoids the common failure mode seen in early AI orchestration efforts: externalizing decision logic without enforcing execution constraints.

Acting as both MCP client and server, Automic positions itself as a central coordinator across an increasingly fragmented ecosystem of AI agents and MCP-enabled services.

Broadcom's emphasis on developer and operator experience—through native Python execution, AI-assisted workflow creation, and agentless deployment—addresses longstanding friction points while maintaining governance, strengthening Automic's position as a platform of record for automation.

From an industry perspective, this release reinforces a broader trend: workload automation is evolving into a control plane for coordinated, intelligent execution. Vendors that fail to address governance and cross-domain orchestration will be confined to narrow use cases or displaced by platforms that can operate at this level.

Broadcom established a clear direction with V26. The challenge now is execution, ensuring that this architectural vision translates into consistent, scalable outcomes across enterprise environments.