AVANTRA

From LaMa to Live

The Faster, Safer Path to Post-LaMa SAP Operations

How Avantra turns a mandatory migration into a 12-month modernization sprint without disrupting what is already working.

Executive Summary

We've spent a long time working with the people who keep SAP landscapes running. Yes, those hero basis engineers and operations leads who are on-call when something breaks at 2am in a complex global enterprise environment. The ones who know exactly which automation is running on a LaMa scheduler nobody has touched perhaps in four years, and who lie awake wondering what happens when it stops being supported.

And now here we are. SAP LaMa reaches end-of-support in December 2027 and is being treated in many organizations as a procurement problem - find a replacement, run an RFP, execute a migration.

But that framing misses what's really at stake for the enterprise. The real issue is operational sovereignty: the ability to maintain visibility, control, and assurance over your business processes regardless of what your vendor, hyperscaler, or managed service provider does or doesn't tell you. Waiting for ticket updates to know whether the business is running is not conducive to growth and introduces risk to the organization. Here we'll outline the answer to the LaMa challenge for the global enterprise.Not the answer that sells the most services, but the one that gets your landscape to a safe, governed, and modern footing in the shortest time - with as little disruption as possible to the teams who keep the lights on every day.

The deadline is real, but the path forward is clearer than you think.

12 Months
to full LaMa decommission

Day 1
operational coverage from Out-of-Box

Zero Rewrites
required before go-live

The Real Problem with LaMa End-of-Life

SAP officially announced in 2023 that LaMa support ends December 31, 2027. What that means in practice is less well understood, and the misunderstanding is driving two equally dangerous responses: panic rewrites and complacent delay.

What Actually Stops Working

From January 1, 2028, running LaMa is not immediately catastrophic. The system keeps running. What stops is everything that makes it safe to run:

- No security patches: existing vulnerabilities remain unaddressed indefinitely
- No compatibility updates: future SAP releases, OS upgrades, and cloud integrations will break LaMa silently
- No manufacturer support: when something fails in production, you resolve it alone
- Compliance exposure: auditors will flag unsupported infrastructure in regulated industries

The Depth-of-Integration Problem is Underestimated

In large enterprises, LaMa is rarely a standalone tool. Over years of operation it becomes the execution backbone for:

- System copy and client refresh workflows, often scheduled weekly or daily across DEV, QA, and PROD landscapes
- Provisioning sequences for new systems, cloud instances, and RISE migrations
- Housekeeping automation: job log cleanup, spool management, archive triggers
- Start/stop orchestration that must respect dependency ordering across dozens of systems
- Custom scripts and ABAP-backed hooks built by Basis teams over years of iteration
- Ansible playbooks that call LaMa APIs or assume LaMa-managed host inventories

Critically, many of these automations are not documented. They exist in LaMa's database, in tribal knowledge, and in scheduled job definitions that nobody has audited in years. The migration challenge is not just technical: it is an inventory problem first.

Why the 24-Month Waterfall is the Wrong Model

Standard migration guidance borrows its structure from ERP implementation playbooks. It assumes you need to rebuild everything before you can decommission LaMa. You do not. In a typical large SAP landscape:

- 60 to 70 percent of LaMa-dependent automation covers standard operational tasks that Avantra handles out-of-the-box
- 20 to 25 percent consists of existing scripts and Ansible playbooks that remain technically valid and need governance, not replacement
- Only 10 to 15 percent represents genuinely custom logic that requires real modernization effort

A 24-month timeline that treats all automation as requiring a full rebuild introduces unnecessary risk, cost, and organizational friction. The Avantra Three-Tier Framework cuts this to 12 months by handling each category appropriately and delivering operational value from day one, not month ten.

The Avantra Three-Tier Migration Framework

Every automation in your LaMa landscape - every workflow, script, Ansible playbook, scheduled job, and custom hook - is classified into one of three tiers. The tier determines the response, the timeline, and the resource required.

Tier	What It Is	Speed	Avantra Action
1 - Use It Now	Out-of-Box Avantra template covers this	Day 1	Activate and configure - no migration effort
2 - Adopt In-Place	Existing scripts / Ansible / LaMa hooks still valid	Week 1-4	Wrap under Avantra execution, scheduling, and audit control
3 - Modernize	Custom logic worth rebuilding properly	Month 2-9	No-code builder, community Ansible, DIY engine, or Pro Services - prioritized by frequency x value

Tier 1: Use It Now

Avantra ships with production-ready automation covering the most operationally critical SAP tasks. These are easy to install and activate and provide immediate coverage without configuration (or with minimal configuration) effort.

What Avantra Covers Out-of-the-Box

- System monitoring and alerting across ABAP, Java, HANA, S/4HANA, and BTP
- System refresh and client management with guided end-to-end workflow
- Patching orchestration with maintenance windows, pre/post validation, and rollback logic
- Start/stop sequences with configurable dependency management
- Housekeeping automation: jobs, users, profile parameters and more,
- Backup monitoring and validation
- Certificate monitoring and security posture tracking
- RISE with SAP and BTP landscape management with cloud-native connectivity from day one

For most large SAP landscapes, Tier 1 coverage replaces 60 to 70 percent of what LaMa currently handles. This is operational continuity achieved in the first week, not the tenth month.

Tier 2: Adopt In-Place

The most underused option in LaMa migration discussions is the simplest one: keep the automation that works, and put it under proper governance. For many automation items, Tier 2 is the permanent answer, not a temporary workaround.

What Adopt In-Place Means in Practice

- Ansible playbooks execute, schedule, and monitor through Avantra with no rewrite required
- Existing shell scripts and ABAP reports are wrapped as managed workflows with execution history, alerting, and retry logic
- LaMa workflow definitions are mapped to Avantra-managed execution sequences
- All execution generates audit-ready logs automatically, satisfying compliance requirements LaMa never addressed cleanly

The Governance Value

One of the core weaknesses of the LaMa-plus-scripts model is that automation runs in silos. Ansible playbooks sit in one system, LaMa workflows in another, manual scripts somewhere else. Nobody has a single view of what ran, when, and whether it succeeded. Avantra consolidates this immediately:

- Centralized execution scheduling with dependency management
- Unified alerting: failures surface in the same console as monitoring events
- Full execution audit trail for SOX, ISO 27001, and SAP security audits
- Role-based access control with optional approval workflows

Tier 2 is not technical debt. It is the pragmatic recognition that well-written Ansible automation does not become invalid because LaMa is going away. The goal is governance, not rewrite.

Tier 3: Modernize

Tier 3 covers automation that cannot be adopted in-place and has no direct Avantra OOB equivalent. This is where real migration effort lives. The critical discipline is ensuring it is the last layer you address, not the first, and that it is prioritized ruthlessly.

The Prioritization Criterion: Frequency x Business Value

Each Tier 3 item is scored on two dimensions. Frequency: 3 for daily execution, 2 for weekly, 1 for monthly or ad hoc. Business value: 3 for direct production SLA impact, 2 for system quality and test environment availability, 1 for internal ops convenience. Items scoring 5 to 6 are migrated in months 2 to 5. Items scoring 3 to 4 are migrated in months 5 to 9. Items scoring 1 to 2 are evaluated for retirement, since many low-frequency, low-value automations exist only because nobody has asked whether they are still needed.

Modernization Options

- No-code / low-code Avantra workflow builder: for standard orchestration patterns, no SAP scripting knowledge required
- Community Ansible for SAP: the SAP-certified Ansible collections cover a wide range of standard operations; reuse before rebuilding
- DIY with Avantra's SAP-focused automation engine: for teams with Basis expertise who want to build custom logic natively
- Avantra Professional Services: for complex orchestration, ABAP-backed workflows, or teams who need to accelerate without pulling internal resource off production support

Tier 3 is where most vendors start the migration conversation. Avantra starts with Tiers 1 and 2, and only reaches Tier 3 for the automation genuinely worth building properly.

Automation Decision Framework

The matrix below maps the most common LaMa-dependent automation categories to the three-tier decision criteria. Use this as the foundation for your initial inventory classification. The goal in the first two weeks is to classify everything, not to build anything.

Automation Type	Q1: OOB Template?	Q2: Adopt In-Place?	Q3: Modernize How?
System monitoring and alerting	Yes - activate on connect	N/A	N/A
System refresh / client refresh	Yes - guided wizard OOB	N/A	N/A
Patching / upgrade orchestration	Yes - patch management OOB	N/A	N/A
System start/stop sequences	Yes - landscape operations OOB	N/A	N/A
Housekeeping (jobs, users, HotNews application)	Yes - automated housekeeping OOB	N/A	N/A
Backup monitoring and validation	Yes	N/A	N/A
Existing Ansible playbooks	Check OOB first	Yes - execute via Avantra Automation Engine with full audit log	Community SAP Ansible collections
Custom LaMa scripts (standard tasks)	Often yes - check first	Yes - wrap as managed script jobs	Low-code workflow builder
Custom LaMa orchestration (complex)	Partially	Yes - orchestrate via Avantra	Pro Services or low-code rebuild; prioritize by frequency x value
Custom provisioning / cloud/RISE	Partial (RISE and BTP OOB)	Yes if API-accessible	DIY automation engine or Pro Services

Running the Inventory

Before any migration work begins, you need a complete picture of what LaMa actually does in your environment. This is the highest-value activity of the first month.

Step 1: Extract and Export

- Export all LaMa workflow definitions, scheduled operations, and system profiles
- Pull execution history for the last 12 months: frequency data is your most important Tier 3 prioritization input
- Inventory all Ansible playbooks that interact with SAP systems, whether or not they call LaMa directly
- Catalogue custom scripts and ABAP-based automation triggered by or triggering LaMa

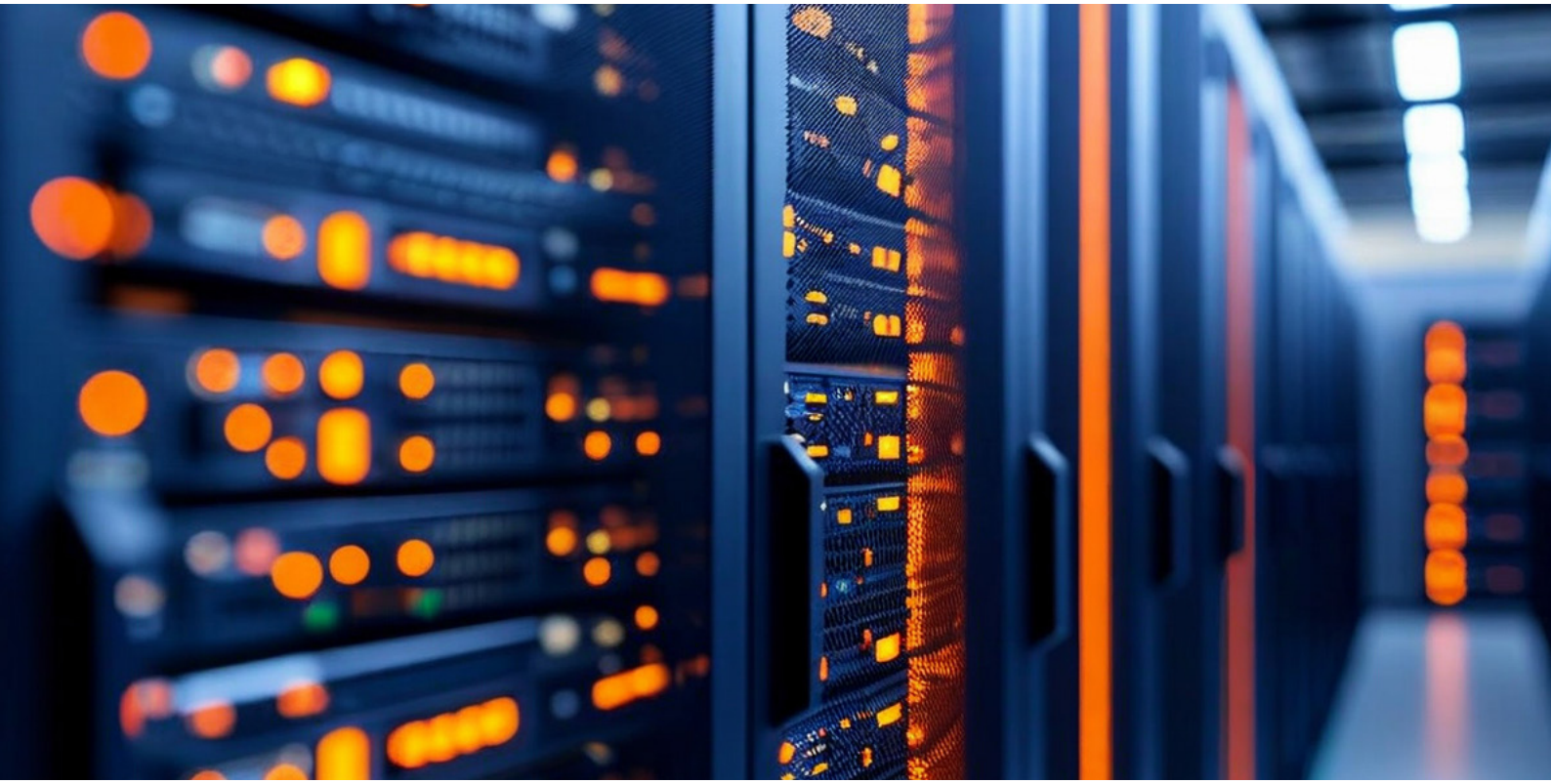
Step 2: Classify Against the Three Tiers

- Apply Tier 1 first: does Avantra cover this out-of-the-box? If yes, mark it and move on
- Apply Tier 2: is the existing script or playbook technically sound and still valid? If yes, adopt in-place
- Apply Tier 3 only to what remains: score by frequency and business value to build the prioritized modernization backlog

Step 3: Identify the High-Risk Items Early

- LaMa API dependencies in Ansible playbooks that will break without LaMa running: flag for Tier 2 adaptation
- Custom provisioning workflows with cloud or RISE integration that assume LaMa's orchestration layer
- Scripts with hardcoded LaMa hostnames, ports, or authentication tokens
- Seldom-run but compliance-critical workflows such as annual DR tests that score low on frequency but high on value

Avantra's landscape discovery engine automates much of this inventory work. Connecting Avantra to your landscape immediately surfaces system dependencies, scheduled operations, and integration points, reducing manual inventory effort by several weeks.



The 12-Month Migration Timeline

The timeline below reflects a realistic, aggressive approach for a large enterprise with a complex LaMa landscape. The critical difference from the 24-month waterfall is that operational coverage begins in week one, and LaMa decommission happens in month six to nine rather than month twenty-four.

Phase	Month	Tier	Key Milestone	LaMa Status
0 - Discovery and Inventory	1-2	Prep	Full automation inventory complete; every item classified to Tier 1/2/3	Running (parallel)
1 - Immediate Coverage	1-2	Tier 1	Avantra live; monitoring, alerting, patching, housekeeping, system copies active	Running (parallel)
2 - Adopt In-Place	2-6	Tier 2	All existing scripts and Ansible playbooks wrapped and executing under Avantra governance	Backup only
3 - Prioritized Modernization	3-9	Tier 3 (top 80%)	High-frequency, high-value custom automations rebuilt as native Avantra workflows	Decommissioned month 6
4 - Long Tail and Hardening	9-12	Tier 3 (remainder)	Remaining custom logic migrated or retired; full regression and sign-off complete	Fully decommissioned

What Makes 12 Months Achievable

Parallel operation, not sequential replacement

Avantra runs alongside LaMa from day one. There is no gap in coverage while the replacement is being built. Tier 1 activates immediately on Avantra. LaMa continues running Tier 2 and Tier 3 items until Avantra governance is established for each, then it is progressively switched off.

Tier 1 eliminates the largest volume immediately

In a typical large enterprise, Avantra OOB capabilities replace the majority of LaMa-dependent automation by volume. The number of items still requiring migration work drops dramatically in the first two weeks, which transforms the perceived complexity of the remaining backlog.

Tier 2 requires configuration, not engineering

Adopting existing scripts and Ansible playbooks under Avantra does not require Basis engineers working full-time. It requires configuration: defining schedules, success criteria, alerting thresholds, and RBAC rules. This is weeks of effort, not months.

Tier 3 runs in parallel with Tiers 1 and 2

Modernization work begins as soon as the Tier 3 backlog is prioritized, but it does not block decommission. The Tier 2 governance wrapper provides continuity for any Tier 3 items not yet fully rebuilt. LaMa decommission is triggered by Tier 3 completion, not Tier 3 initiation.

The 12-month timeline depends on one critical input: completing the automation inventory in month one. Teams that delay the inventory because the deadline feels distant will consume the planning runway that makes 12 months achievable.

The Honest Case for Avantra

Any serious LaMa replacement evaluation should ask the questions that vendor materials typically avoid. We answer them directly.

Does it actually replace what LaMa does?

For the operational core - monitoring, system copies, patching, housekeeping, start/stop orchestration - yes. Avantra has been running production SAP landscapes for nearly three decades and covers the standard operational playbook in depth. For highly customized provisioning workflows, ABAP-backed orchestration, or non-standard cloud integration patterns: partially. This is the Tier 3 work that requires assessment. We will not claim otherwise, and we recommend validating coverage against your specific landscape before any commercial commitment. Avantra is a platform designed to be capable of matching any customer need with no, low and pro-code options to match any requirement.

How does it handle hybrid and RISE landscapes?

Avantra connects to on-premises SAP, cloud-hosted SAP on AWS, Azure, and GCP, and RISE with SAP environments from the same platform. There is no separate tool for cloud-managed systems. For enterprises mid-journey to RISE, the monitoring and automation estate does not need to be split. SAP BTP integration supports monitoring and alerting. BTP-native automation orchestration is an evolving area and should be validated against specific use cases during the evaluation process.

What about existing Ansible investments?

Ansible investment is preserved, not abandoned. Avantra's Automation Engine executes Ansible playbooks natively, manages scheduling and dependencies, and provides execution logging and alerting that most standalone Ansible deployments lack. Avantra also supports the SAP-certified Ansible collections for teams looking to standardize or extend their playbook library during Tier 3 modernization.

What does it actually cost?

Avantra is licensed on a per-system basis. The migration effort is front-loaded in the inventory and Tier 2 adoption phases, both of which are configuration-heavy rather than engineering-heavy. Tier 3 modernization effort depends on the complexity and volume of custom automation in your landscape and should be scoped during a structured assessment. Avantra has been designed to help you run your landscape, not run Avantra and so the overhead to run and maintain the platform is deliberately really low. The TCO comparison against maintaining LaMa beyond 2027 - growing maintenance overhead, security exposure, and escalating workaround costs - typically makes the case clearly.

If you are running a formal evaluation, the right first step is a structured assessment of your LaMa landscape, not a product demo. Avantra offers a guided inventory workshop designed to produce a full classification of your automation estate against the Three-Tier Framework within two weeks.

Conclusion

SAP LaMa end-of-support is a fixed date. The question is not whether to act, but in what order and how quickly. The Three-Tier Framework provides the answer:

- **Tier 1:** Start Avantra, activate OOB coverage, achieve operational continuity in week one
- **Tier 2:** Wrap existing scripts and Ansible playbooks under Avantra governance within weeks - no rewrite, full audit trail
- **Tier 3:** Modernize custom automation in a prioritized backlog, highest frequency and value first, with the right level of effort for each item

Executed in sequence, this is a 12-month programme but can be achieved much faster. Done with discipline on the inventory and classification, it is achievable without disrupting production operations or pulling your entire Basis team off business-as-usual support.

Recommended First Actions

1. Book an Avantra LaMa Inventory Workshop - a guided session to classify your automation estate against the Three-Tier Framework **THIS MONTH**
2. Connect Avantra to one non-production landscape to validate Tier 1 OOB coverage against your actual environment **WITHIN 2 WEEKS**
3. Run the 12-month frequency analysis on your LaMa execution history to identify Tier 3 prioritization order **WITHIN 2 WEEKS**
4. Identify your three highest-value, highest-frequency custom workflows as your Tier 3 proof of concept targets **WITHIN 4 WEEKS**
5. Build the 12-month business case - Avantra can provide the TCO model against continued LaMa operation **WITHIN 4 WEEKS**

The course for the future is not set in 2027.

It is set in the next four weeks: when you know what you have, what Avantra covers, and what needs to be built.

AVANTRA

Now you're *really* running.