

From Manifests to Orchestration

SHACL Contracts and RDF Choreographies for Federated Digital Twins

FERNANDO CASSOLA

Germany | Frankfurt (Oder), 24 march 2026



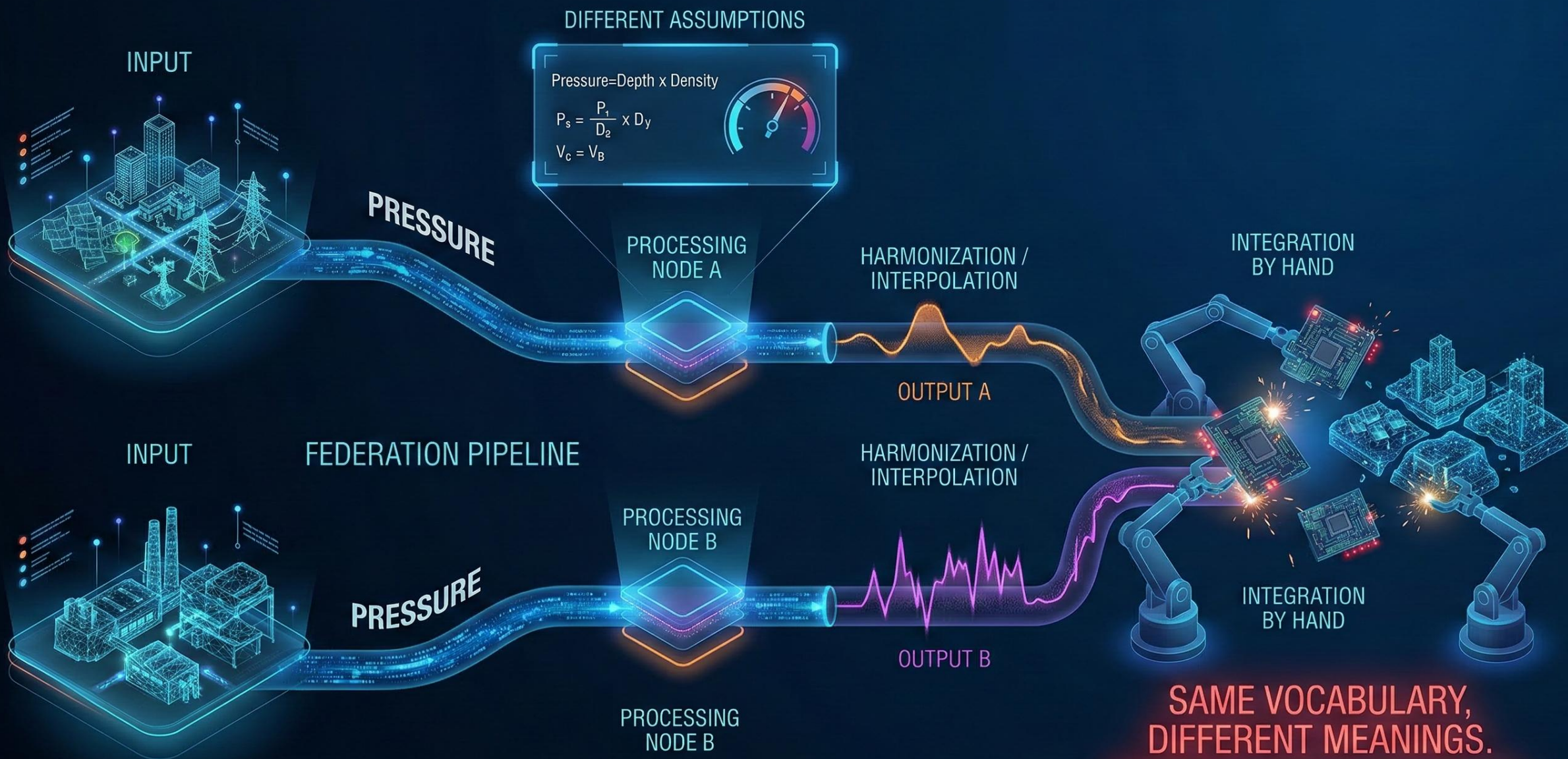
fernando.c.marques@inesctec.pt



[/fernandocassola](https://www.linkedin.com/in/fernandocassola)

BLUE-X

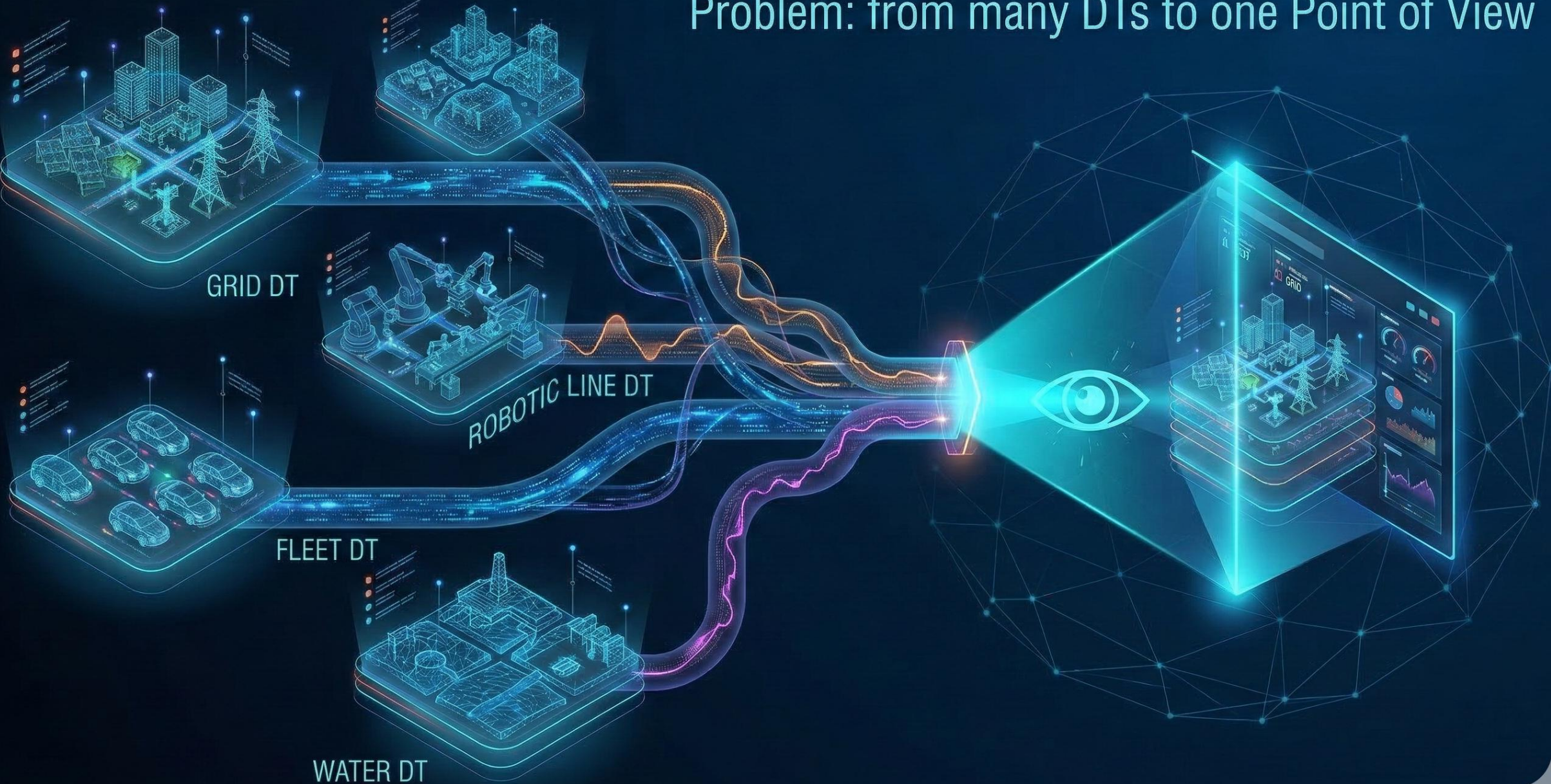
www.inesctec.pt —



**SAME VOCABULARY,
DIFFERENT MEANINGS.
FEDERATION FAILS.**



Problem: from many DTs to one Point of View



Why current federation does not scale?

Interop \neq vocabulary

Interop = contract + conformance



Vocabularies help, but are insufficient for cross-platform conformance



Contracts are often implicit \rightarrow failures discovered downstream



Missing: machine-checkable contracts for data AND processes, plus orchestration validity

Core idea: Virtual Choreographies (VChor)

- Model actions and internal state as platform-independent semantic behaviors
- Compose multiple DTs into a system of systems
- Validation-first: fail early, then execute consistently

VChor = semantic behaviors + contracts + orchestration



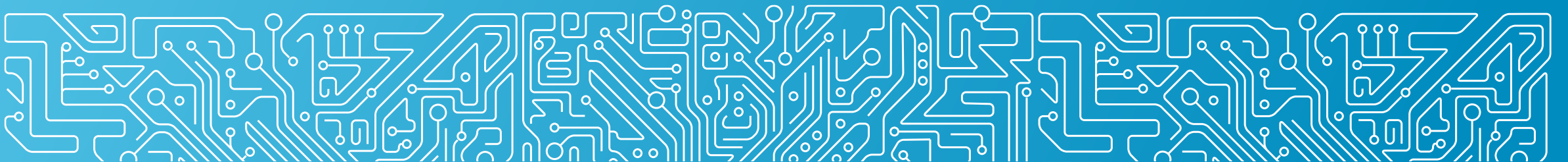
Virtual Choreographies Definition

Corollary: actions and active elements are platform-independent

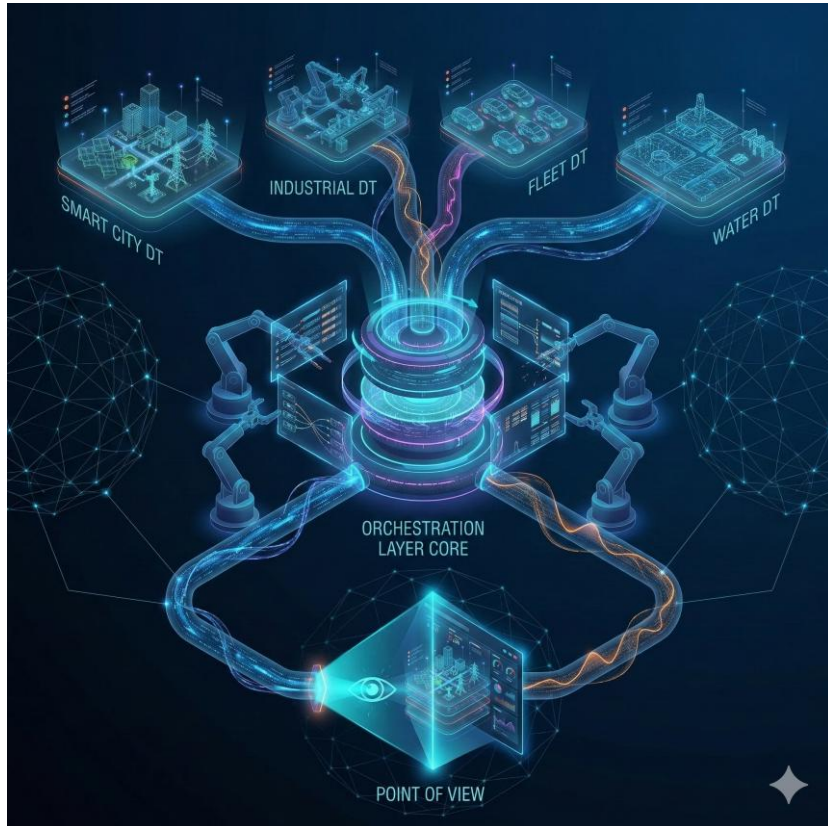
Choreography = set of actions (each action linked to active elements)

Actions depend on internal state (state of active elements changes through actions)

Hyperentities (e.g., goals) are also active elements (goals have state; can interact and conflict)



Theoretical approach: orchestration layer for DT federation



Use VChor to map interactions of all agents with the system

Agents can belong to different DTs; data and processes may be heterogeneous

Introduce an orchestration layer to map behaviors and ensure semantic consistency

Enable composition into a unified environment with FAIR-aligned reuse and behavior compatibility

Technical approach (high-level)

SHACL manifests = contracts

- Constraints over inputs and outputs
- Output expectations
- Expose DT processes as first-class components
- (transform - harmonize - interpolate - augment)

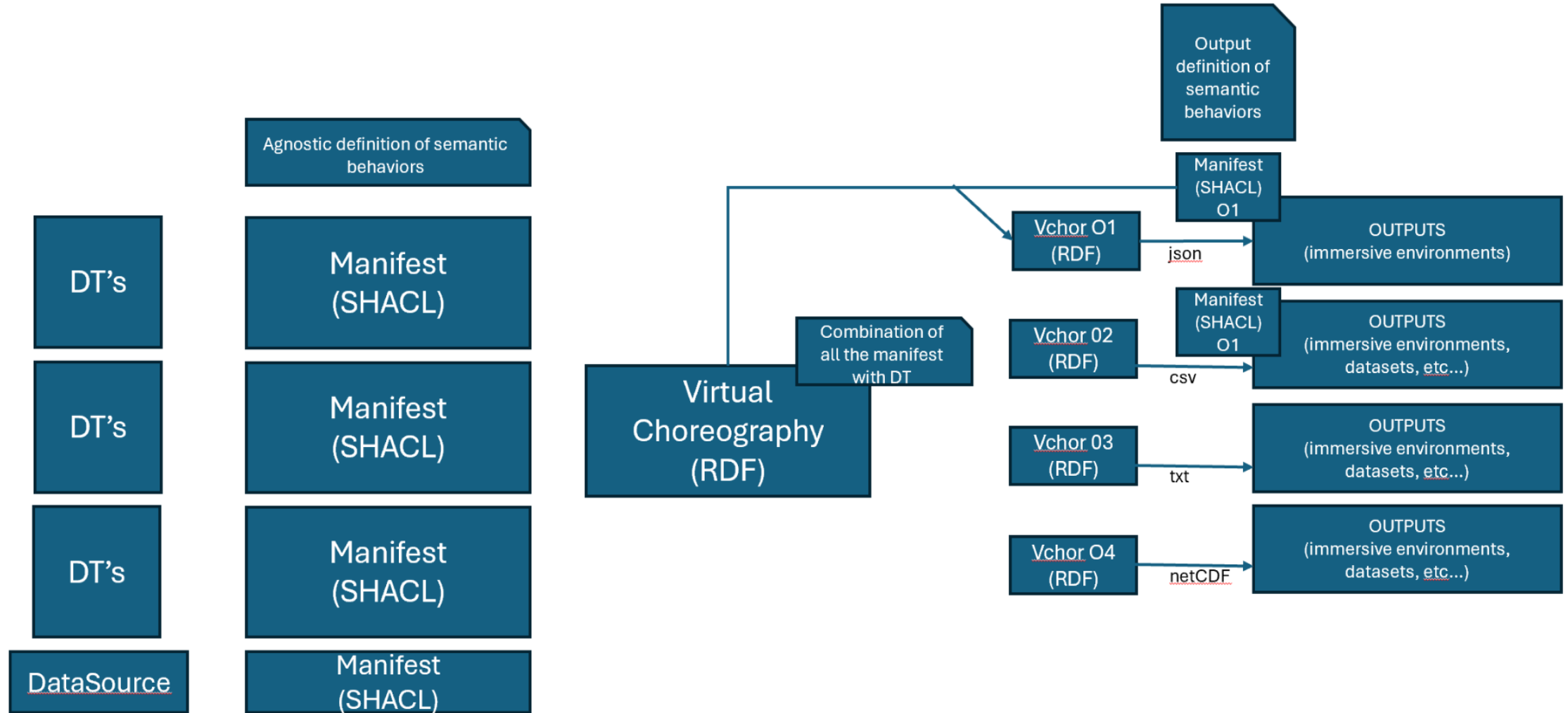
RDF choreography = semantic orchestration

- Declares orchestration of behaviors and actors exposed by the DT manifests
- Dependencies, sequencing, conditions
- Platform-independent execution intent

Both are needed:

*contracts (what exists, constraints) +
choreography (how it is composed)*

From manifests to orchestration to outputs



Validation-first federation

SHACL validates

- Data shape constraints (types, units, cardinalities)
- Output expectations
- Process I/O compatibility (signatures)

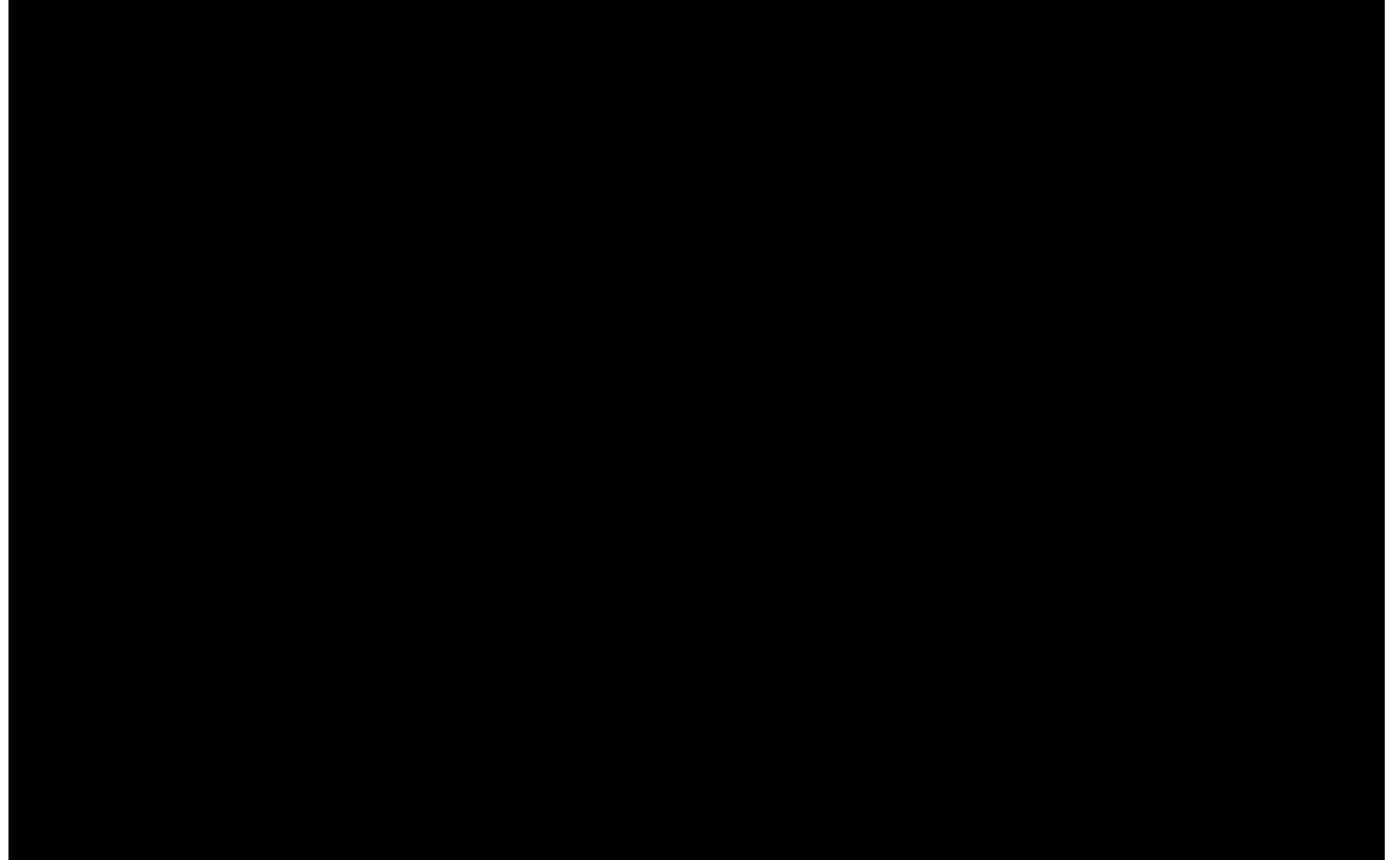
RDF choreography validates

- Actor/behavior availability (from manifests)
- Dependency satisfaction
- Orchestration coherence (validated plan)

Oil Spill Use Case

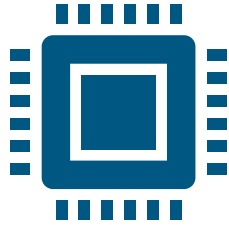
GOAL:

Train stakeholders (developers, regulators, the public) using immersive environments with what-if scenarios (oil spill).



<https://drive.inesctec.pt/s/zr3JbAQYzG35nt5?dir=/&editing=false&openfile=true>

Outcomes & roadmap



Expected main outcomes

Combine heterogeneous DTs into one single Point of View

Interoperable federation with machine-checkable contracts

Domain-agnostic and platform-independent

Reusable and extendable across domains



Future work

AI-assisted authoring: natural language → manifest generation

AI-assisted authoring: platform-adapted choreography generation

Apply the approach to other use cases in different contexts

QUESTIONS...

Thank you!

CREATING A FULFILLING
AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURE
THROUGH IMPACTFUL
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY
AND INNOVATION.

From Manifests to Orchestration

SHACL Contracts and RDF Choreographies for Federated Digital Twins

FERNANDO CASSOLA

Germany | Frankfurt (Oder), 24 march 2026



fernando.c.marques@inesctec.pt



[/fernandocassola](https://www.linkedin.com/in/fernandocassola)

BLUE-X

www.inesctec.pt —

**WE ARE SCIENCE.
WE ARE TECHNOLOGY.
WE ARE INNOVATION.
WE ARE INESC TEC.**