WHY MODERNIZE ORCHESTRATION ALONGSIDE YOUR SAP S/4HANA® MIGRATION



Modernizing your orchestration platform during an SAP S/4HANA migration protects existing automation investments, closes integration gaps across hybrid landscapes, and creates a governed control plane for AI workflows. Doing both together reduces dual-run risk and helps critical business processes run reliably through change and after go-live.

SAP runs the core processes that keep a business moving: financial close, order flows, supply chain, and reporting. But those processes rarely stay inside SAP. They reach into data platforms, cloud services, mainframes, and dozens of non-SAP applications. When you migrate from ECC to S/4HANA, the systems your workflows depend on shift too, and the coordination between them gets more fragile.

That's the part many migration plans overlook. Teams focus on the ERP move itself, then assume their existing automation will behave the same way in the new environment. It usually doesn't. New complexity (multi-cloud execution, longer dependency chains, parallel ECC and S/4HANA operation) changes how workflows perform. The result is missed SLAs, manual recovery, and the kind of late-night escalations no one budgets for.

This post explains why your orchestration platform deserves attention at the same time as your S/4HANA migration, not after it. You'll learn how modernizing both together protects what you've already built, supports emerging AI-driven work, and keeps business processes running predictably through one of the biggest transitions your organization will face.

Why modernize SAP orchestration during migration?

A migration to S/4HANA is rarely a clean, single-day switch. Most organizations run ECC and S/4HANA in parallel for a stretch, coordinating cutover and validation across both. That dual-run period is where execution risk spikes. You're managing timing, dependencies, and handoffs across two ERP environments plus everything connected to them, often with disconnected tools and a lot of manual effort.

Modernizing orchestration at the same time gives you a single control plane to manage that complexity. Instead of stitching together SAP-native schedulers and siloed point tools, you coordinate end-to-end business processes across ECC, S/4HANA, and dependent systems from one place. You see what's running, what's blocked, and what's at risk before it affects the business.

Treating orchestration as a separate, later project tends to backfire. Execution coordination is hardest to fix once fragmentation is already entrenched. Addressing it during the migration, when you're already redefining how work runs, means you build the new environment on a stable foundation rather than retrofitting one under pressure.

The forcing function: legacy automation reaching end of support

There's a practical reason this conversation is happening now. Legacy SAP automation tools are reaching end of support, which pushes many organizations into a replacement decision they can't defer. Rather than swapping one siloed scheduler for another, this is the moment to adopt an enterprise-wide orchestration layer that consolidates SAP and non-SAP execution under unified control, without rebuilding the same workflows in a tool that only understands SAP.

Protect the automation investments you've already made

Here's the concern that keeps IT leaders up at night during a migration: years of carefully built automation suddenly at risk. You've invested time and budget into workflows that span SAP, data pipelines, file transfers, cloud services, and homegrown applications. Moving to a SAP-specific tool often means rebuilding much of that from scratch, which adds cost, delay, and risk to an already demanding project.

Modernizing with an enterprise orchestrator preserves that work. Control-M brings your existing non-SAP automation and your new S/4HANA workflows into the same control plane, so you extend what you've built rather than recreate it. With more than 100 native integrations covering AWS, Azure, Google Cloud, Oracle, Informatica, Kubernetes, Databricks, Apache Airflow, and many more, the workflows surrounding SAP keep running while the ERP environment changes underneath them.

The financial logic is straightforward. SAP S/4HANA migration projects already carry significant investments across planning, licensing, resources, and implementation. Folding orchestration modernization into the same program reduces the number of follow-on upgrade projects later, and the savings can be redirected elsewhere in the business. Investment protection isn't only about preserving old work. It's about getting more value from the project you're already funding.

AI agents need governed orchestration, not free rein

SAP is moving fast into AI-assisted operations. SAP Joule and intelligent agents built on the SAP

Business Technology Platform (BTP) can generate decisions, trigger actions, and interact with APIs across systems. That's powerful, but business value doesn't come from isolated intelligent components acting on their own.

Agent-driven workflows are dynamic, cross-platform, and sensitive to compliance requirements. They need a structured, observable, and accountable layer to sequence execution, enforce SLAs, and maintain an audit trail of what ran, when, and with what outcome. Without that governance, AI activity becomes another source of risk rather than a source of value.

This is where orchestration earns its place in your future architecture. Control-M orchestrates event-driven and AI workflows within governed business services, so intelligent systems operate inside guardrails instead of around them. If you're audited tomorrow, you can show what executed and whether it met policy. As more AI enters production, accountability becomes essential rather than optional.

The migration challenges that orchestration solves

The more established an organization is in SAP ECC, the harder the transition tends to be. A few recurring challenges show up across nearly every migration:

- **Accumulated integrations.** Over years, companies have built up a growing web of integrations with their SAP systems. Managing all of them during a migration pulls focus away from the project itself and creates more places for things to break.
- **Complex landscapes.** Many organizations run multiple ERPs, add-ons, non-SAP systems, and custom scripting. If any associated job or process breaks during migration, operations can grind to a halt, costing real time and money.
- **Clean core pressure.** SAP's clean core strategy moves custom logic and integrations out of the ERP and into the surrounding landscape. Without a capable orchestration layer to manage those externalized workflows, teams end up with new coordination gaps where the old customizations used to be.
- **No plan for ongoing automation.** Teams often keep running automation the way they always have. During migration, that lack of forward thinking leads to gaps as workflows move to S/4HANA.

Each of these comes down to the same root issue: execution that spans systems without coordinated, end-to-end control. A modern orchestration layer addresses all three by mapping dependencies, sequencing execution, and giving teams one view across the whole process lifecycle.

How Control-M supports your S/4HANA migration

As an SAP-certified solution, Control-M creates and manages SAP ECC, S/4HANA, and BW jobs, plus data archiving, and supports any application in the SAP ecosystem. It connects to SAP through the SAP-certified BC-XBP interface, and both the self-hosted and SaaS versions are SAP Certified for Integrations with RISE with SAP S/4HANA Private Cloud. Here's what that delivers in practice:

- **Reduced project time and cost.** Pre- and post-migration automation keeps operations smooth

and consolidates modernization into one program, cutting the number of follow-on upgrade projects.

- **Reduced integration complexity.** Control-M provides a complete integration view across SAP and non-SAP systems, so data flows and dependencies stay coordinated through the transition.
- **End-to-end visibility and governance.** Real-time monitoring, SLA management, and full execution traceability give teams the control and audit readiness modernization demands.
- **Scalability and stack alignment.** Control-M scales with the business and sets a clean foundation for the innovation projects that follow migration.

Proof that this approach works

Two examples show what reliable orchestration looks like during high-stakes change.

When **REWE digital** migrated its mission-critical distribution systems, the cutover was seamless. At 23:59 on go-live, the previous automation tool ran its last workflows. One minute later, at 00:00, Control-M launched every workflow, managing orders to all fulfillment centers across the company's markets. The entire distribution system shifted with zero downtime, no small feat when thousands of supermarkets depend on it.

Coty, one of the world's largest beauty companies, uses Control-M to automate and orchestrate its most critical business processes. By consolidating onto a single orchestration platform, Coty streamlined execution across its environment and sustained high process reliability. This is clear evidence that unifying fragmented automation pays off in day-to-day operations, not just at cutover.

Build the foundation before you need it

A migration to S/4HANA succeeds only when workflows run reliably, make daily work better for business users, and support what the enterprise wants to build next. Your ERP can be perfectly migrated and still fall short if the processes around it stumble.

Modernizing orchestration alongside your S/4HANA migration protects the automation you've already invested in, simplifies the integrations that make migration risky, and prepares your environment for AI-driven work that needs governance to be safe. The organizations that handle both together don't just survive the transition. They come out of it with a stronger foundation for everything that follows.

To see how Control-M can de-risk your S/4HANA migration and strengthen your broader SAP workflows, visit the Control-M for SAP website.

Frequently asked questions

Why should I modernize orchestration during an SAP S/4HANA migration instead of after?

Migration is when execution risk is highest, because you're often running ECC and S/4HANA in parallel and coordinating cutover across connected systems. Modernizing orchestration at the same

time gives you one control plane to manage that complexity. Waiting until after means retrofitting coordination once fragmentation is already entrenched, which is harder and costlier.

How does Control-M protect existing automation investments?

Control-M brings your existing non-SAP workflows and new S/4HANA jobs into a single control plane, so you extend what you've built instead of rebuilding it in an SAP-only tool. With more than 100 native integrations, the automation surrounding SAP keeps running while the ERP environment changes.

What does the end of support for legacy SAP automation mean for my migration plan?

It forces a replacement decision you can't postpone. Rather than swapping one siloed scheduler for another, you can use the moment to consolidate SAP and non-SAP execution into one enterprise orchestration layer, reducing tool sprawl and avoiding a rebuild later.

Is Control-M certified to work with SAP and RISE with SAP?

Yes. Control-M is an SAP-certified solution that manages SAP ECC, S/4HANA, and BW jobs through the SAP-certified BC-XBP interface. Both the self-hosted and SaaS versions are SAP Certified for Integrations with RISE with SAP S/4HANA Private Cloud.