



**MEF Market Brief**

# Accelerating Adoption of LSO Sonata APIs for Inter-Provider Service Automation

September 2021

## INTRODUCTION

The communications industry is undergoing a multi-year transformation to dynamic, secure, and certified services across a global federation of automated networks, as envisioned in the MEF 3.0 Framework. Service providers worldwide are not only becoming more automated internally to deliver solutions with user- and application-directed control over service capabilities. Many also are collaborating to build an emerging business ecosystem of automated networks that will support rapid delivery

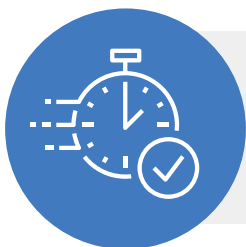
of digital services across multiple providers and reduce friction in connecting enterprise users to cloud applications.

In this MEF Market Brief, we provide groundbreaking insight into the adoption of standardized MEF LSO Sonata APIs that are critical enablers of the automated ecosystem and highlight new resources from MEF that will help drive adoption of these APIs across the world.

## LSO SONATA-ENABLED MARKET IS TAKING OFF!

New research from MEF indicates a growing number of service providers are embracing standardized LSO Sonata APIs for automation of inter-provider business functions that will enable them to accelerate service delivery, speed time to revenue, and improve customer experience. The pace of the transition to LSO Sonata APIs has picked up significantly with the latest “Billie” LSO SDK Release in June 2021, which now provides a robust set of APIs for address validation, site query, product offering qualification, quote, product order, product inventory, and trouble ticket. LSO Sonata APIs initially enable automation of Carrier Ethernet services but will also support Internet Access and other services in future releases.

### Top Sonata Benefits



**Accelerate  
Service  
Delivery**



**Accelerate  
Time to  
Revenue**



**Improve  
Customer  
Experience  
& Loyalty**

“Standardized APIs for interoperability of business applications will vastly improve the customer experience through faster cycle times and resolving service delivery issues earlier, offering automated near real-time availability and pricing information.”

— John Nolan, Vice President, Global Connections & Alliance Management at AT&T

## KEY FINDINGS ON LSO SONATA ADOPTION

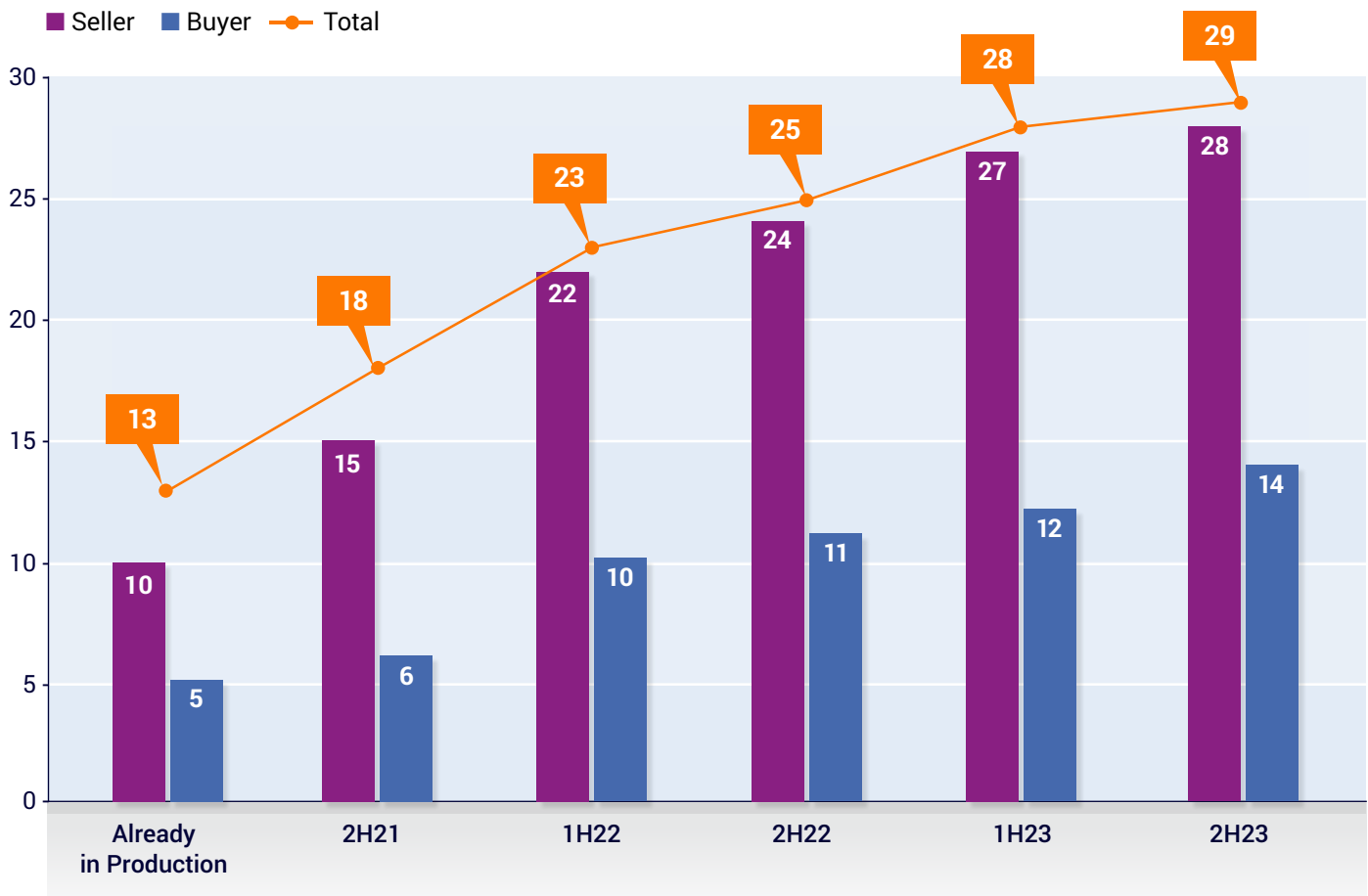
Below are a few key findings based on data from 32 companies involved in **MEF's LSO Sonata market study conducted in April – August 2021**. MEF will be expanding engagement with many more companies in the next phase of research tracking LSO Sonata adoption.

**29 companies** are either in production with LSO Sonata or intend to be by the end of 2023, including **23 companies by the end of June 2022**.

**28 companies** have implemented LSO Sonata or intend to as a seller, and **14 have implemented LSO Sonata** or intend to as a buyer.

**18 service providers** expect to each have **6+ LSO Sonata production partners** by the end of 2023.

### Forecast of Service Providers in Production with LSO Sonata APIs





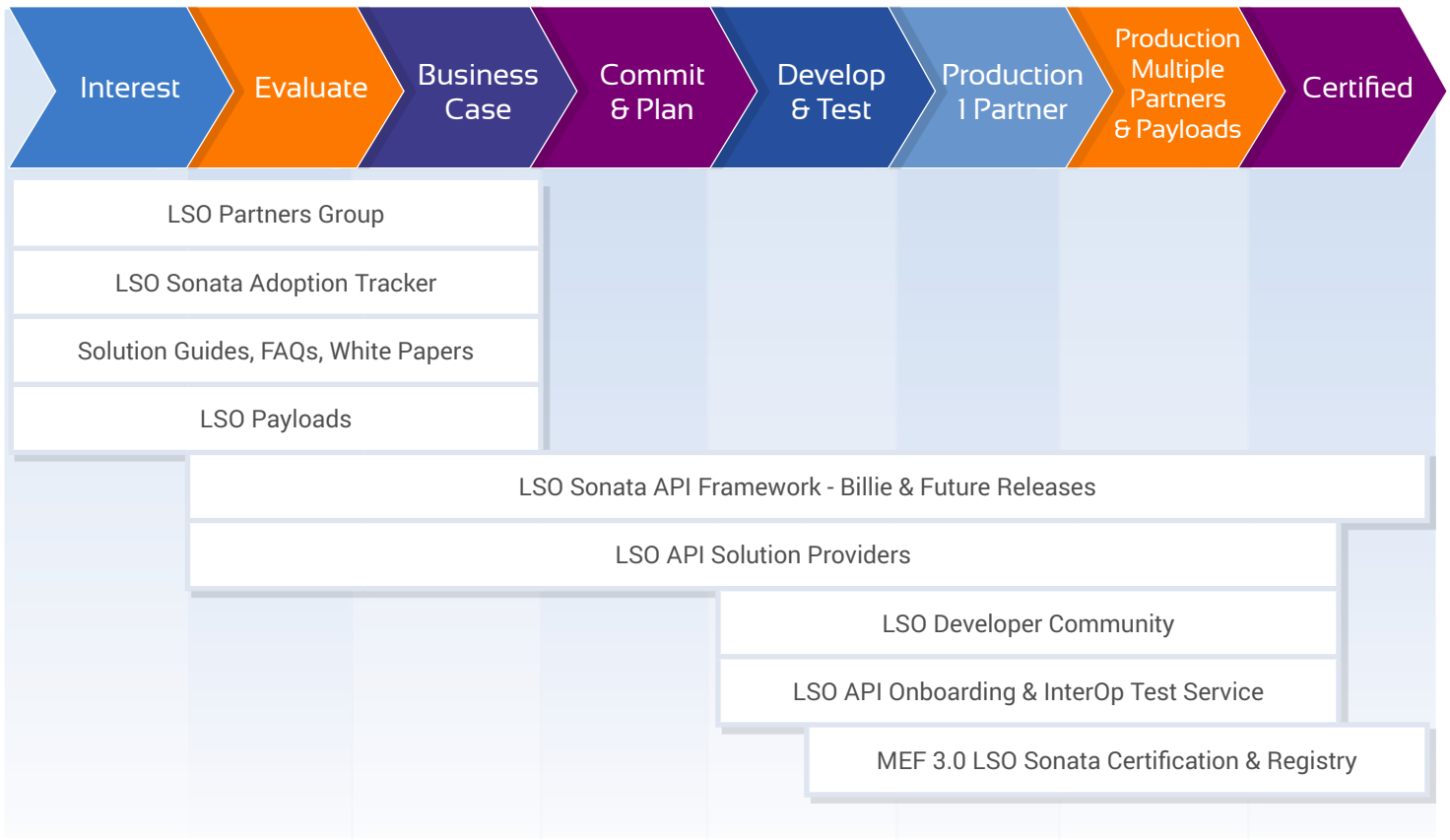
## NEW COMMERCIAL & TECHNICAL RESOURCES TO FACILITATE ADOPTION

In a market sea change, MEF has introduced a broad range of commercial and technical resources to make it much easier for service providers of all sizes to adopt LSO Sonata APIs. These programs and resources are designed to support service providers throughout all stages of their adoption lifecycle journey (see graphic below). Chief among the new programs are MEF's LSO API Onboarding & Interop Test (OIT) Service and MEF 3.0 LSO Sonata Certification, which are of strong interest to many service providers who participated in MEF's market study.

"We're now at the cusp of adoption for inter-carrier API automation. The opportunity to order inter-carrier services in an automated fashion is now here. There is significant momentum with lots of carriers working together already and we expect to see many more in 2022."

— Mirko Voltolini, VP Innovation  
Colt Technology Services

### LSO Sonata Adoption Lifecycle & Resources



## LSO API ONBOARDING & INTEROP TEST (OIT) SERVICE

MEF's LSO API OIT Service offers an efficient, predictable, and scalable solution that service providers can use to test their LSO Sonata implementation and to perform interop testing with partners. It consists of LSO Sonata buyer and seller software-based emulators hosted on a dedicated public cloud server for a subscriber. Available from Amartus, a MEF-Authorized Test and Certification Partner, starting in October 2021, the **OIT Service performs the following roles:**



### LSO SONATA FAMILIARIZATION

Run the buyer and seller emulators with default configurations (test requests/ response and product payloads) to get familiar with LSO Sonata APIs.



### IMPLEMENTATION TESTING

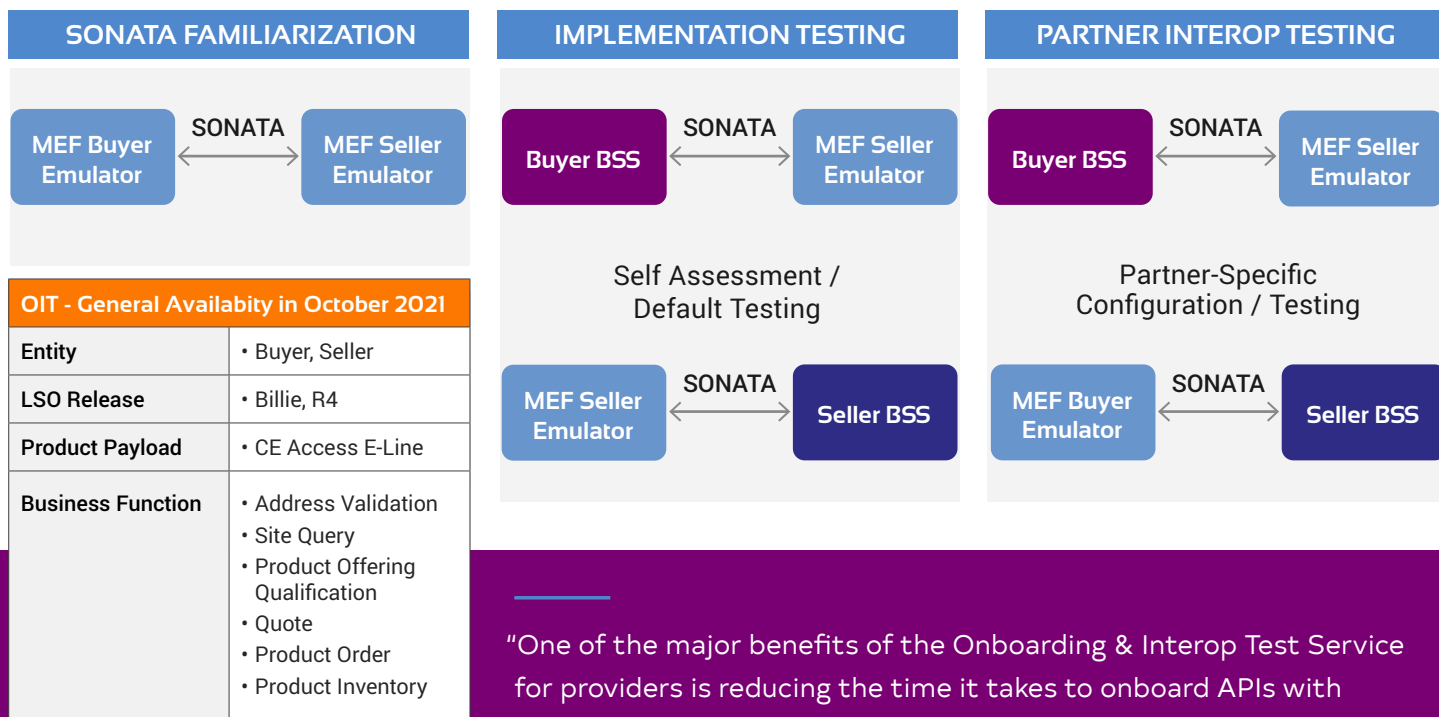
Perform self-assessment by testing against MEF's reference implementation of LSO Sonata.



### PARTNER INTEROP TESTING

(1) Prepare an emulator configuration to match specific scenarios/ configurations so this can be shared with partners and (2) Load partner-specific configurations shared by partners for interop testing.

## MEF OIT Service – At a Glance



“One of the major benefits of the Onboarding & Interop Test Service for providers is reducing the time it takes to onboard APIs with partners...With the use of the OIT Service, you could increase the number of onboarded partners tenfold.”

— Divesh Gupta, VP, Technology & Sales Operations, PCCW Global

## MEF 3.0 LSO SONATA CERTIFICATION

MEF 3.0 LSO Sonata certification enables buyers and sellers of wholesale MEF 3.0 services to validate that their suite of APIs used for inter-provider business transactions conform to MEF standards. Tested and certified LSO Sonata APIs are a combination of four elements:

1. Buyer or seller
2. Business function
3. LSO Sonata release
4. Product payload

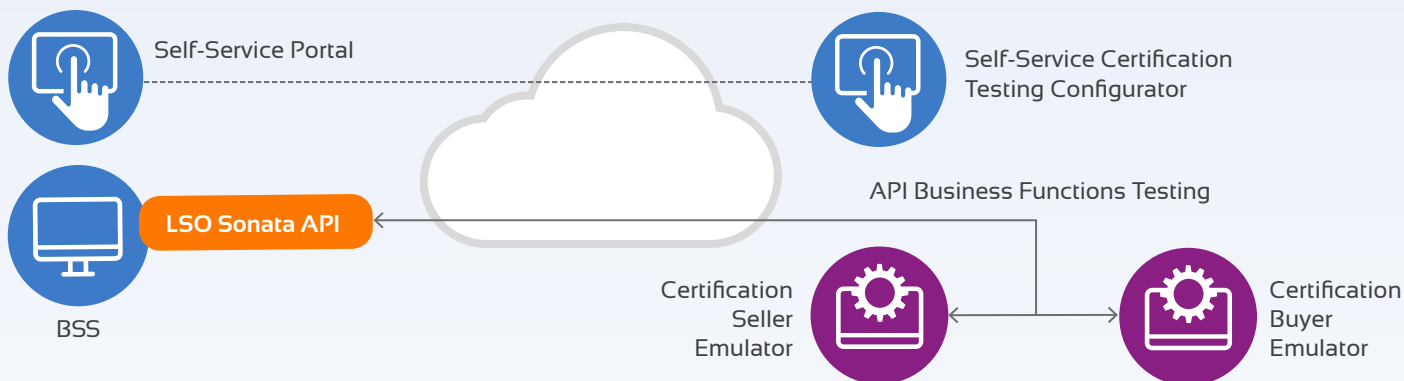
The table below shows the plan for certifiable MEF 3.0 LSO Sonata APIs supporting CE Access E-Line services, with general availability beginning in October 2021. MEF plans to certify LSO Sonata APIs supporting Internet Access and other services in the future.

The MEF 92.1 LSO Sonata Test Requirements draft standard is used to determine MEF 3.0 conformance. Certification is delivered via a cloud-based platform with a self-service testing configurator and buyer and seller emulators. Iometrix is a MEF-Authorized Test and Certification Partner for both MEF 3.0 LSO Sonata APIs and MEF 3.0 CE services.

CERTIFIABLE MEF 3.0 LSO SONATA APIS FOR CE ACCESS E-LINE SERVICES				
API Business Functions Supported for Buyers & Sellers	Certification General Availability & Release			
	R4	Billie	Celine	Dolly
	Available	Oct 2021	Planned	Planned
Address Validation				
Site Query				
Product Offering Qualification				
Quote				
Product Order				
Product Inventory				
Trouble Ticket				
Product Catalog				
Billing and Settlement				

### Service Provider

### Cloud-Based Certification Platform



“Certification is the only tool that guarantees providers are implementing (the APIs) in a rigorous way according to what has been standardized by MEF.”

— Daniele Mancuso, Chief Product Management, Sparkle

## LEARN MORE

MEF offers tools and resources to help you move through the LSO adoption lifecycle. Here are few to help you get started.

Visit: [MEF.net](https://mef.net)

FAQ – [LSO Sonata](#)

FAQ – [LSO API Onboarding & Interop Test Service](#)

FAQ – [MEF 3.0 LSO Sonata Certification](#)

[MEF LSO APIs Overview video](#)

[MEF 3.0 POC 137 video](#)

[LSO Sonata Onboarding and Interop Verification Solution Guide](#)

White paper: [The Case for Standardized and Automated Inter-Provider Business Interface](#)

White paper: [Business and Operational Aspects of Implementing LSO Sonata](#)

Contact [LSOOIT@mef.net](mailto:LSOOIT@mef.net) to learn more about the LSO OIT Service.

Contact [LSOCert@mef.net](mailto:LSOCert@mef.net) to learn more about MEF 3.0 LSO Sonata certification.

## ABOUT MEF RESEARCH SERVICE

MEF produces original market research and joint research with analyst partners to provide unique industry insights that empower MEF members on their network transformation journey. This market brief is a public resource based on information in the comprehensive MEF LSO Sonata Adoption Tracker (September 2021), which is exclusively for MEF members.

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