

Meridian Frontiers Summit 2026

Multi-Track Schedule Grid – Engineering the Next Decade of Intelligent Systems

📅 14–16 October 2026 📍 Meridian Convention Centre, Lisbon 👥 Approx. 550 attendees, in person & livestreamed 🎤 48 sessions, 4 tracks + 1 plenary stage

Track legend

■ **Track A**
AI & Machine Intelligence
Room 101

■ **Track B**
Cloud & Infrastructure
Room 204

■ **Track C**
Security & Trust
Room 118

■ **Track D**
Product & Design
Room 310

Programme committee chair
Elena Bartosz, Chief Scientist, Nexa

Host organisations
Nexa ▪ Synapse ▪ Vertex ▪ Nimbus ▪ Apex

Schedule at a Glance

All three days, plenary blocks and track sessions

Time	Day 1 – 14 Oct	Day 2 – 15 Oct	Day 3 – 16 Oct
08:00 – 09:00	Registration & coffee, Grand Hall Foyer	Registration & coffee, Grand Hall Foyer	Registration & coffee, Grand Hall Foyer
09:00 – 09:45	Opening keynote: The Next Decade of Distributed Intelligence – Elena Bartosz (Nexa)	Keynote: Building Infrastructure for a Slower, Safer Internet – Tomas Reyes (Nimbus)	Workshop keynote: Designing Systems People Can Actually Trust – Layla Haddad (Apex)
09:45 – 10:15	Coffee & networking	Coffee & networking	Coffee & networking
10:15 – 11:55	Track sessions, slots 1–2 (4 tracks)	Track sessions, slots 1–2 (4 tracks)	Workshop block 1 (3 parallel workshops)
12:00 – 13:15	Lunch, Grand Hall	Lunch, Grand Hall	Working lunch, Grand Hall
13:15 – 14:55	Track sessions, slots 3–4 (4 tracks)	Track sessions, slots 3–4 (4 tracks)	Workshop block 2 (3 parallel workshops)
15:00 – 15:30	Coffee & poster session	Coffee & poster session	Coffee & demo showcase
15:30 – 17:10	Track sessions, slots 5–6 (4 tracks)	Track sessions, slots 5–6 (4 tracks)	Closing brunch wrap-up
17:15 – 18:00	Fireside panel, Grand Hall	Closing panel: Where Do We Go From Here, Grand Hall	—
19:00 – 21:30	Welcome reception, Rooftop Terrace	Gala dinner, Riverside Pavilion	—

Room key: Track A – Room 101 ▪ Track B – Room 204 ▪ Track C – Room 118 ▪ Track D – Room 310 ▪ Plenary – Grand Hall.

Day 1 – Wednesday, 14 October

Detailed multi-track schedule

Time	Room 101 Track A – AI & Machine Intelligence	Room 204 Track B – Cloud & Infrastructure	Room 118 Track C – Security & Trust	Room 310 Track D – Product & Design
08:00 – 09:00	☕ Registration & coffee – Grand Hall Foyer			
09:00 – 09:45	🎤 Opening keynote: The Next Decade of Distributed Intelligence – Elena Bartosz, Chief Scientist, Nexa – Grand Hall			
09:45 – 10:15	☕ Coffee & networking – Grand Hall Foyer			
10:15 – 11:00	Retrieval at Scale Vector indexing for billion-row corpora Grace Kim, Nexa	Zero-Downtime Migrations Multi-region Postgres in practice Jonas Weber, Nimbus	Supply Chain Attestation Signing and verifying container images Layla Haddad, Apex	Designing for Trust Interface patterns for AI-driven products Ana Beaumont, Vertex
11:10 – 11:55	Agentic Workflows in Production Lessons from six months of live traffic Marcus Feld, Synapse	Cost Modelling for Elastic Compute Right-sizing without the guesswork Sam Whitfield, Nimbus	Threat Modelling Workshops Formats teams actually finish Rui Tanaka, Synapse	Feature Factory to Outcome Team Rewiring a roadmap around metrics Owen Castillo, Synapse
12:00 – 13:15	🍴 Lunch – Grand Hall			
13:15 – 14:00	Fine-Tuning Economics When not to fine-tune a model Chiara Rinaldi, Nexa	The Sidecar Tax Service mesh overhead in practice Nadia Petrov, Vertex	Zero Trust, Real Budget Segmentation without a platform team Daniel Osei, Meridian Labs	Onboarding That Survives Users Field notes from three redesigns Priya Chandran, Vertex
14:10 – 14:55	Evaluation Harnesses Benchmarks that do not lie to you Ben Okafor, Independent	Edge Caching Budgets Meeting a global latency target Tomas Reyes, Nimbus	Incident Postmortems as Culture Making the blameless review stick Sofia Lindqvist, Apex	Metrics That Mislead A field guide to vanity dashboards Grace Kim, Nexa
15:00 – 15:30	☕ Coffee & poster session – Grand Hall Foyer			
15:30 – 16:15	Context Windows at Work Long-document reasoning in support tooling Marcus Feld, Synapse	Autoscaling Postmortems Three outages, three fixes Jonas Weber, Nimbus	Attesting Third-Party Code SBOMs beyond the checkbox Rui Tanaka, Synapse	Research Ops for Small Teams Getting signal without a research team Ana Beaumont, Vertex
16:25 – 17:10	Small Models, Sharp Tasks Where distillation beats scale Chiara Rinaldi, Nexa	Storage Tiering on a Budget Cold data without the cold shoulder Sam Whitfield, Nimbus	Detecting Drift, Not Noise Alert design for security telemetry Layla Haddad, Apex	Design Systems That Scale Governance without a committee Owen Castillo, Synapse
17:15 – 18:00	🎤 Fireside panel: Shipping Reliable AI Products – Grand Hall			
19:00 – 21:30	Welcome reception – Rooftop Terrace			

Day 2 – Thursday, 15 October

Detailed multi-track schedule

Time	Room 101 Track A – AI & Machine Intelligence	Room 204 Track B – Cloud & Infrastructure	Room 118 Track C – Security & Trust	Room 310 Track D – Product & Design
08:00 – 09:00	☕ Registration & coffee – Grand Hall Foyer			
09:00 – 09:45	🎤 Keynote: Building Infrastructure for a Slower, Safer Internet – Tomas Reyes, CTO, Nimbus – Grand Hall			
09:45 – 10:15	☕ Coffee & networking – Grand Hall Foyer			
10:15 – 11:00	Multi-Agent Orchestration Coordinating specialised models in one pipeline Ben Okafor, Independent	The Queueing Theory You Forgot Backpressure design for real systems Sam Whitfield, Nimbus	Zero Trust for Legacy Estates Migrating without a rewrite Daniel Osei, Meridian Labs	Trust Signals in Onboarding What users actually notice first Priya Chandran, Vertex
11:10 – 11:55	Evaluation at Enterprise Scale Sampling strategies that hold up Grace Kim, Nexa	Multi-Region Failover Drills Rehearsing the outage before it happens Jonas Weber, Nimbus	Access Reviews That Finish Automating the quarterly audit Sofia Lindqvist, Apex	Research Debt What accumulates when nobody talks to users Ana Beaumont, Vertex
12:00 – 13:15	🍽️ Lunch – Grand Hall			
13:15 – 14:00	Retrieval-Augmented Support Grounding answers in live documentation Marcus Feld, Synapse	The Real Cost of Multi-Cloud What the invoices do not show Tomas Reyes, Nimbus	Logging Without Leaking PII-safe observability pipelines Layla Hadad, Apex	Prototyping With Real Data Faster feedback loops for design Owen Castillo, Synapse
14:10 – 14:55	Model Routing in Production Sending each query to the cheapest capable model Chiara Rinaldi, Nexa	Chaos Engineering, Small Team Edition Fault injection without a platform org Jonas Weber, Nimbus	Third-Party Risk in Practice Vendor reviews that catch real issues Rui Tanaka, Synapse	Accessibility as Default Building it in, not bolting it on Priya Chandran, Vertex
15:00 – 15:30	☕ Coffee & poster session – Grand Hall Foyer			
15:30 – 16:15	Guardrails That Do Not Annoy Balancing safety and usefulness Ben Okafor, Independent	Latency Budgets End to End Tracing a request across five services Sam Whitfield, Nimbus	Incident Response Tabletop Running the drill your team will remember Sofia Lindqvist, Apex	Naming Things Well Information architecture for growing products Ana Beaumont, Vertex
16:25 – 17:10	The Economics of Context Paying for tokens versus paying for latency Marcus Feld, Synapse	Postgres at 10 TB Partitioning, vacuum, and the fear of both Jonas Weber, Nimbus	Attack Surface Mapping Keeping the inventory honest Layla Hadad, Apex	Design Reviews That Ship Critique without gridlock Owen Castillo, Synapse
17:15 – 18:00	🎤 Closing panel: Where Do We Go From Here – Grand Hall			
19:00 – 21:30	Gala dinner – Riverside Pavilion			

Day 3 – Friday, 16 October

Workshop day (half-day format, three parallel tracks)

Time	Room 101 AI & ML hands-on	Room 204 Infrastructure hands-on	Room 118 Security hands-on
08:00 – 09:00	Registration & coffee – Grand Hall Foyer		
09:00 – 09:45	Workshop keynote: Designing Systems People Can Actually Trust – Layla Haddad, Apex – Grand Hall		
09:45 – 12:00	Building an Evaluation Harness Hands-on lab, laptops required Grace Kim & Ben Okafor	Zero-Downtime Migration Clinic Bring your own schema Sam Whitfield & Jonas Weber	Threat Modelling in 90 Minutes Small-group facilitated exercise Rui Tanaka & Sofia Lindqvist
12:00 – 13:15	Working lunch – Grand Hall		
13:15 – 15:00	Agent Tooling Deep Dive Design patterns for tool-using agents Marcus Feld & Chiara Rinaldi	Cost Modelling Workshop Build a model for your own workload Tomas Reyes & Nadia Petrov	Container Signing End to End From build pipeline to admission control Layla Haddad & Daniel Osei
15:00 – 15:30	Coffee & demo showcase – Grand Hall Foyer		
15:30 – 16:30	Closing brunch wrap-up & next-year preview – Grand Hall		

Speaker Index

Alphabetical – slide decks posted within 48h at the registration desk

Speaker	Affiliation	Featured session	Track
Elena Bartosz	Chief Scientist, Nexa	The Next Decade of Distributed Intelligence (opening keynote)	Plenary
Ana Beaumont	Vertex	Designing for Trust / Research Debt	D
Owen Castillo	Synapse	Feature Factory to Outcome Team	D
Priya Chandran	Vertex	Onboarding That Survives Users	D
Layla Haddad	Apex	Supply Chain Attestation / Workshop keynote	C
Grace Kim	Nexa	Metrics That Mislead	A
Sofia Lindqvist	Apex	Incident Postmortems as Culture	C
Ben Okafor	Independent	Evaluation Harnesses	A
Daniel Osei	Meridian Labs	Zero Trust, Real Budget	C
Marcus Feld	Synapse	Agentic Workflows in Production	A
Nadia Petrov	Vertex	The Sidecar Tax	B
Tomas Reyes	CTO, Nimbus	Building Infrastructure for a Slower, Safer Internet (keynote)	Plenary
Chiara Rinaldi	Nexa	Fine-Tuning Economics	A
Rui Tanaka	Synapse	Threat Modelling Workshops	C
Jonas Weber	Nimbus	Zero-Downtime Migrations	B
Sam Whitfield	Nimbus	Cost Modelling for Elastic Compute	B