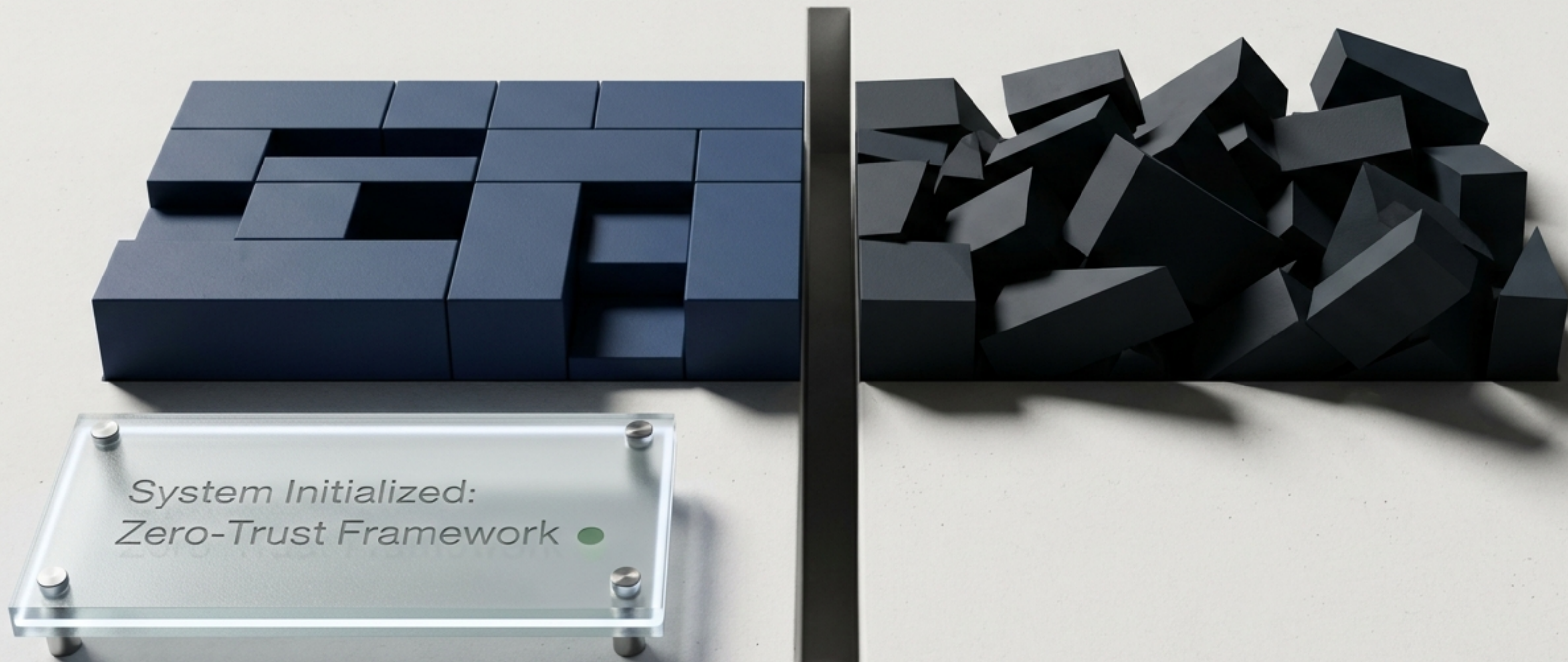
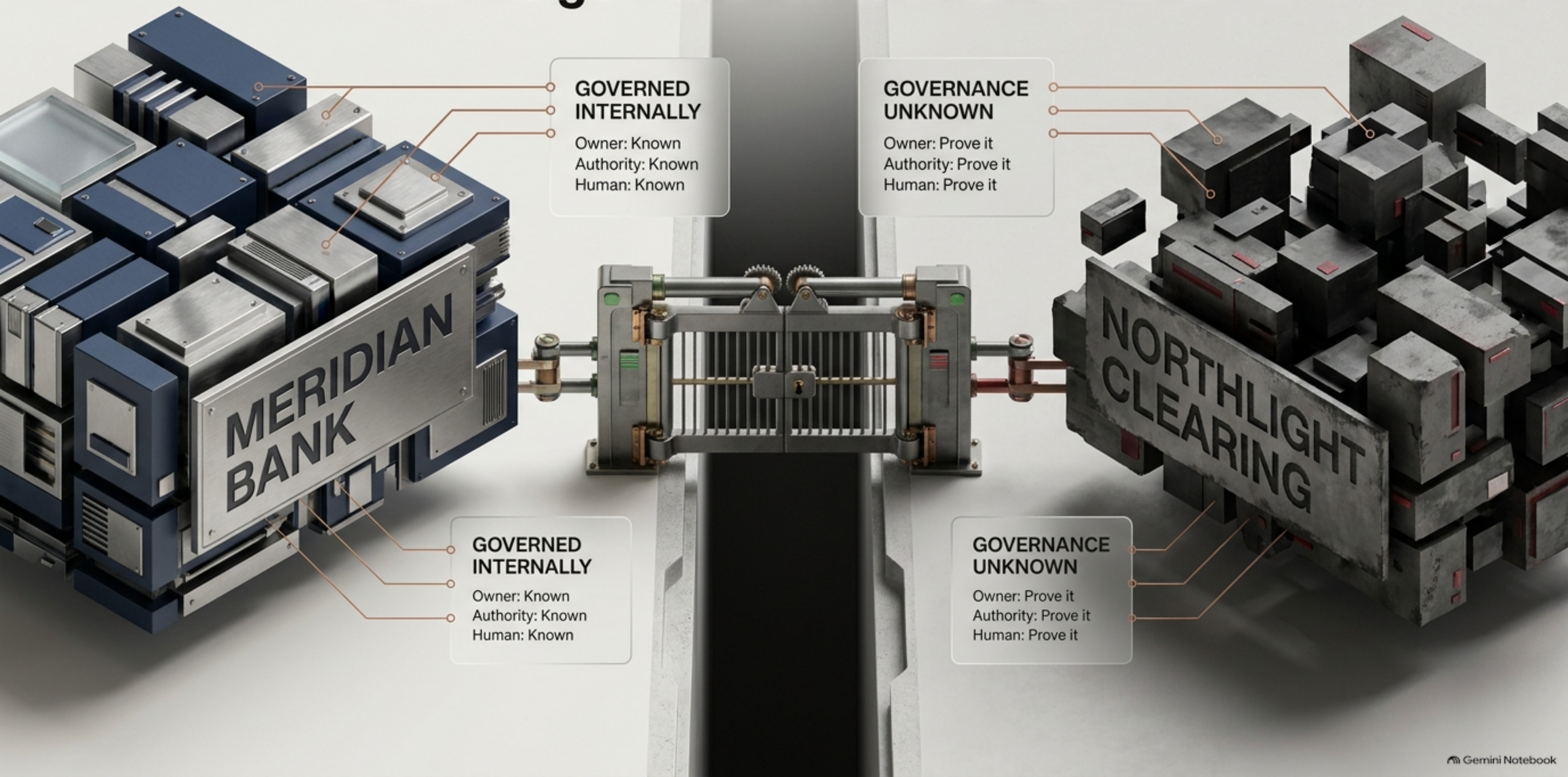


ENSIGN: Governance Beyond the Perimeter

The missing control layer for inter-institutional AI.



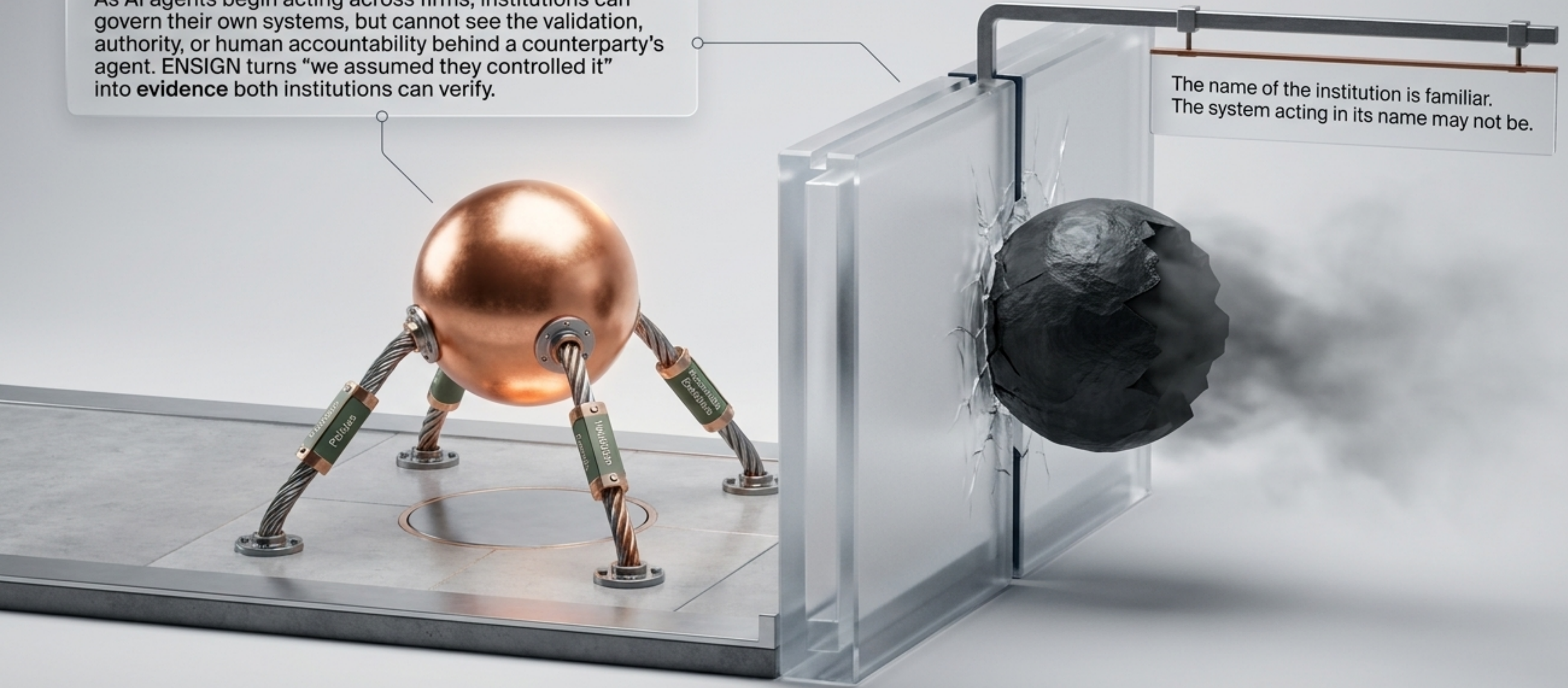
Your AI is governed. Theirs is unknown.



Governance stops at the wall. Agents do not.

As AI agents begin acting across firms, institutions can govern their own systems, but cannot see the validation, authority, or human accountability behind a counterparty's agent. ENSIGN turns "we assumed they controlled it" into **evidence** both institutions can verify.

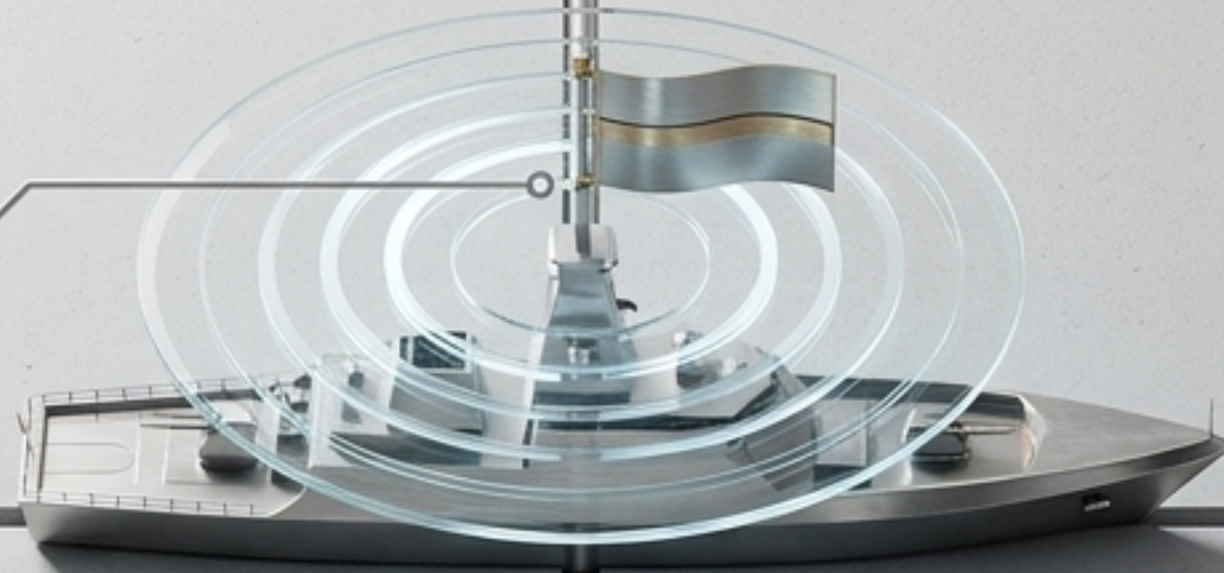
The name of the institution is familiar.
The system acting in its name may not be.



The Maritime Doctrine for Autonomous AI

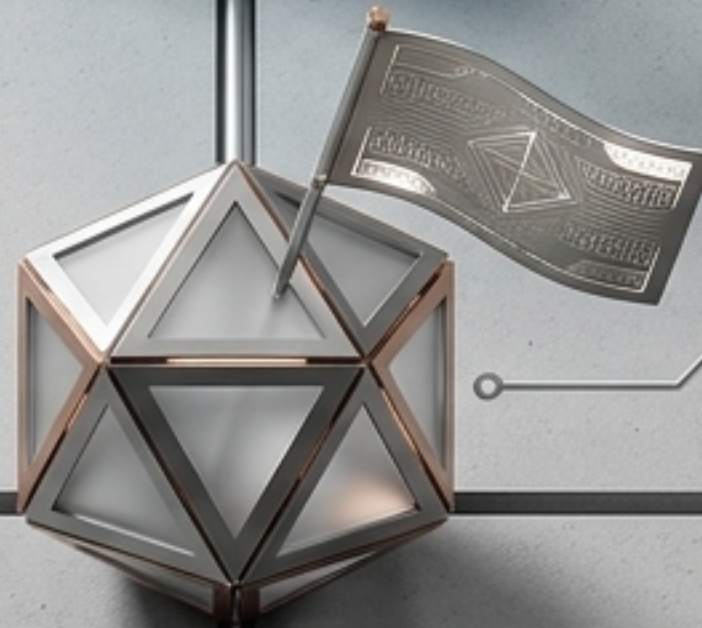
Proof Before Permission

An actor crossing jurisdictions carries its issuing institution's governance and must show verifiable colors before engagement.



The Conceptual Shift

ENSIGN uses a verifiable digital passport that forces external agents to prove identity, authority, and human accountability before any transaction occurs.



The Seam has a vocabulary now.

Flag state

The institution accountable for the AI.

Port-state control

The receiver's right to verify or refuse.

Ensign

The signed governance passport.

Trust asymmetry

The difference between governance postures.

The Seam

The control gap between institutions.

Dual-signed receipt

The shared authoritative record.

The Handshake Mechanics

Every bilateral agent transaction passes through four understandable control moments. The protocol completes before either institution is bound.

01: PRESENT

Action: Show the passport.
Question Answered: Who are you?

02: VERIFY

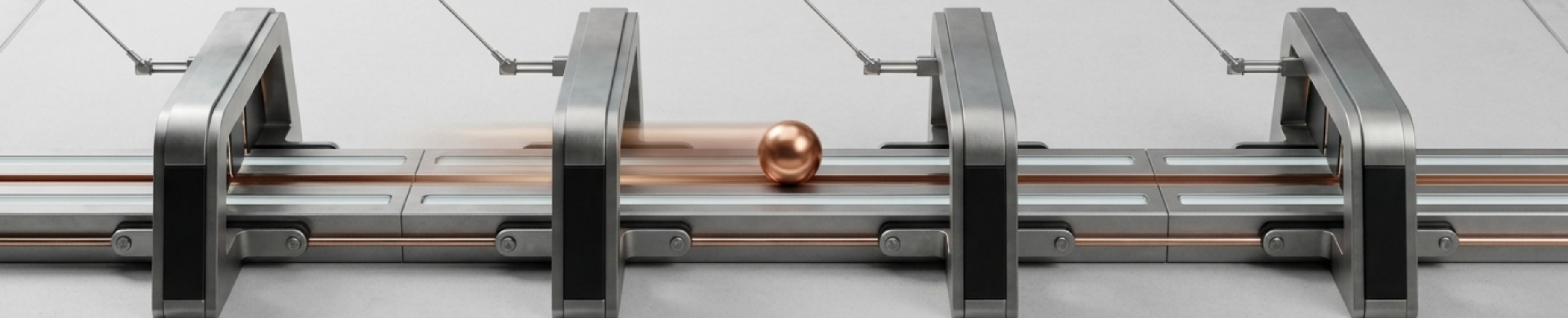
Action: Check the controls.
Question Answered: May you act?

03: DECIDE

Action: Set the boundary.
Question Answered: On what terms?

04: BIND

Action: Share one record.
Question Answered: What happened?



Phase I: Establish Identity & Authority

01 PRESENT

02 VERIFY

Signed Credential

Institution Identity

Transaction Authority

Validation Freshness

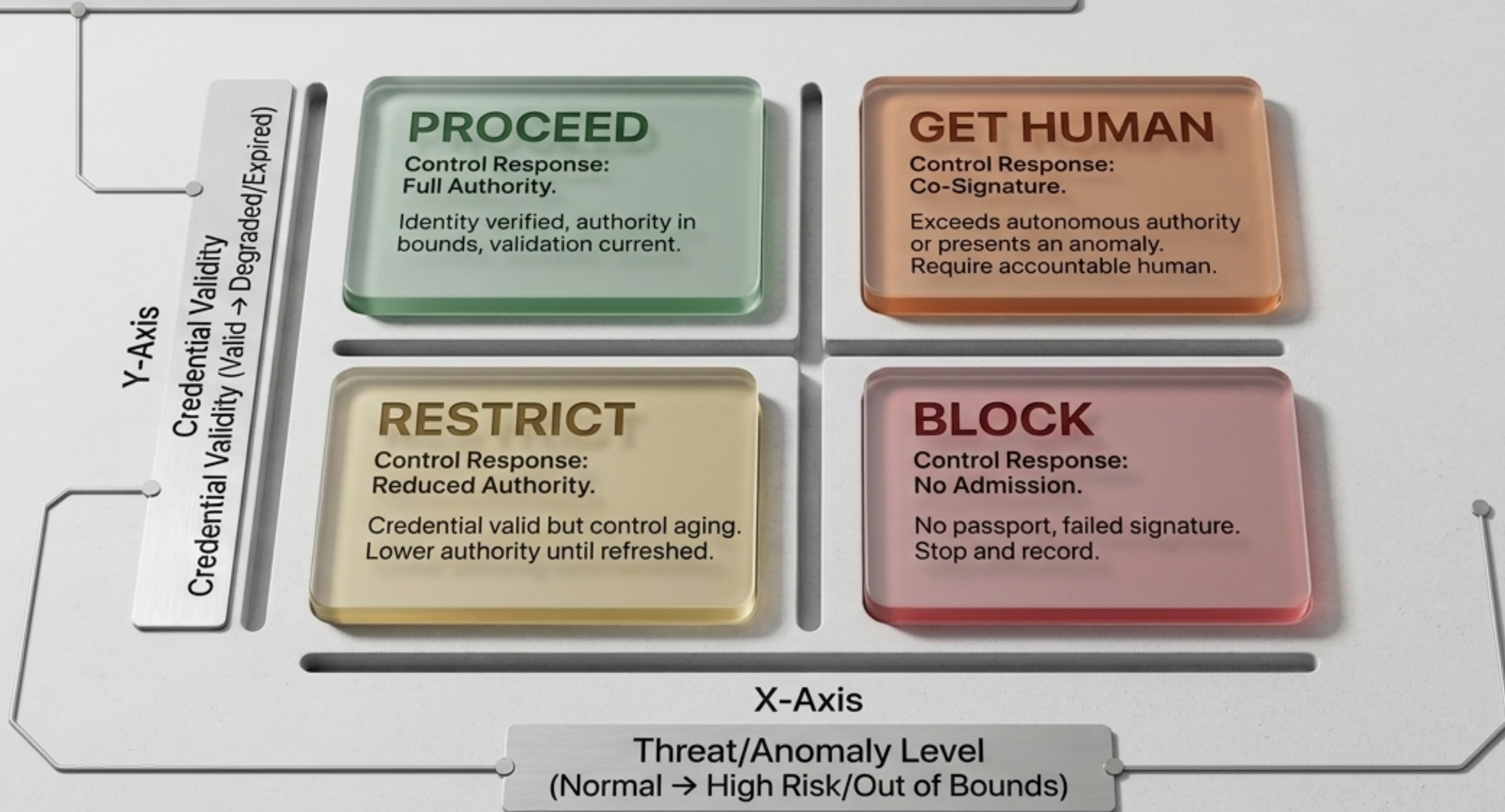
Accountable Human

- ✓ Signature Match: **Valid**
- ✓ Expiry Check: **Current**
- ✓ Transaction Limit: **Within Bounds**
- Policy Alignment: **Scanning...**

Designed to extend, not replace, existing controls: Zero-trust security, Model risk governance, Institutional PKI, Incident response.

Four decisions. No false binary.

ENSIGN lets institutions price governance differences operationally by changing how much autonomous authority they accept.



Detect

Challenge every agent

- Verify live key possession.
- Check credential status and signed authority.
- Validate transaction hashes before admission.

Contain

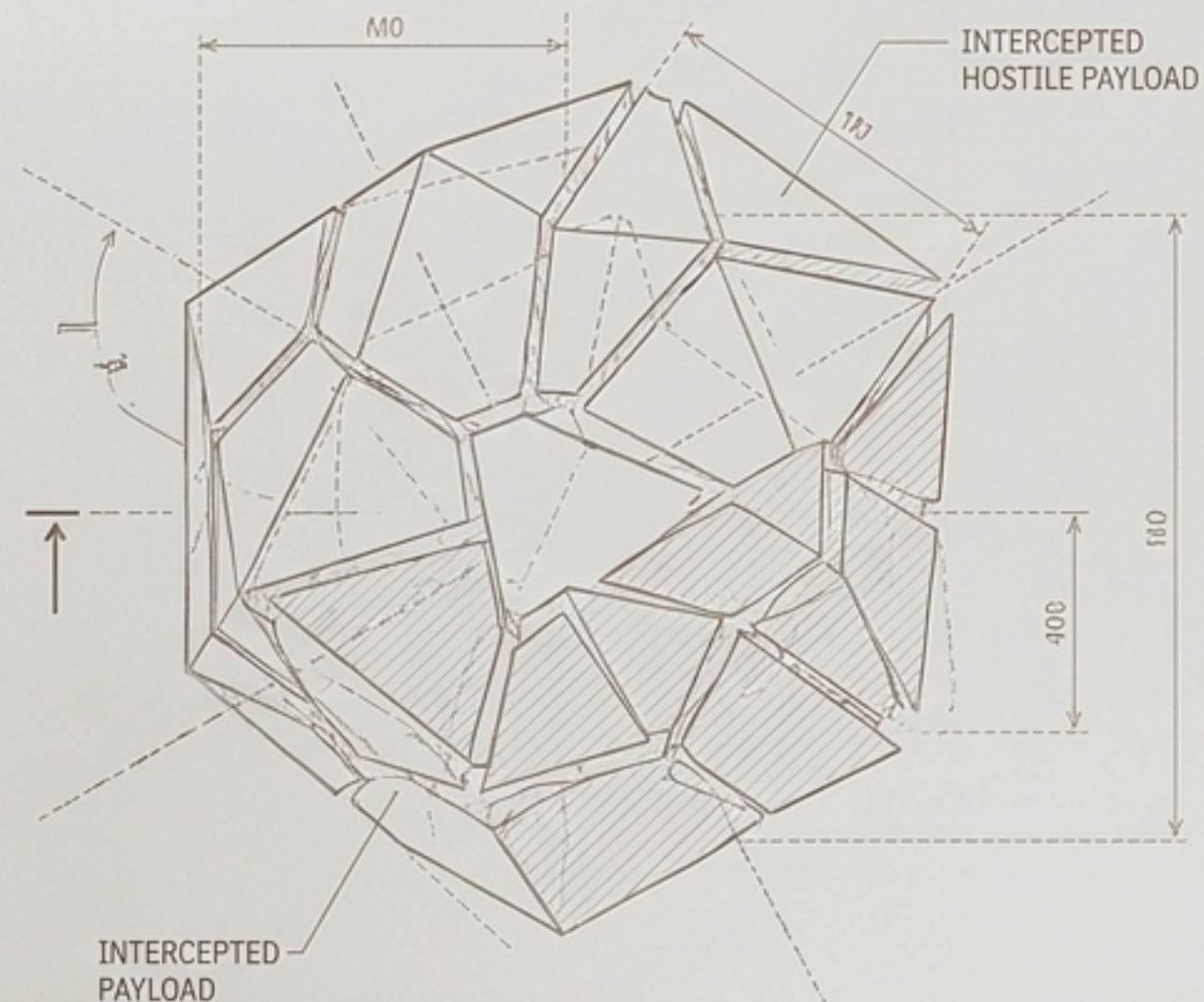
Stop autonomous action

- Block the session.
- Freeze evidence.
- Prevent a suspect request from becoming an institutional obligation.

Respond

Create an accountable incident

- Preserve the security finding.
- Assign the responsible human.
- Add to the audit register.



The Evidence Layer

When records disagree, stop negotiating. Recompute. ENSIGN gives both institutions an identical, dual-signed receipt.

Meridian Bank

Northlight Clearing

Frozen Agreement

Exact terms frozen at the moment of agreement. No reconstruction from emails or independent system logs.

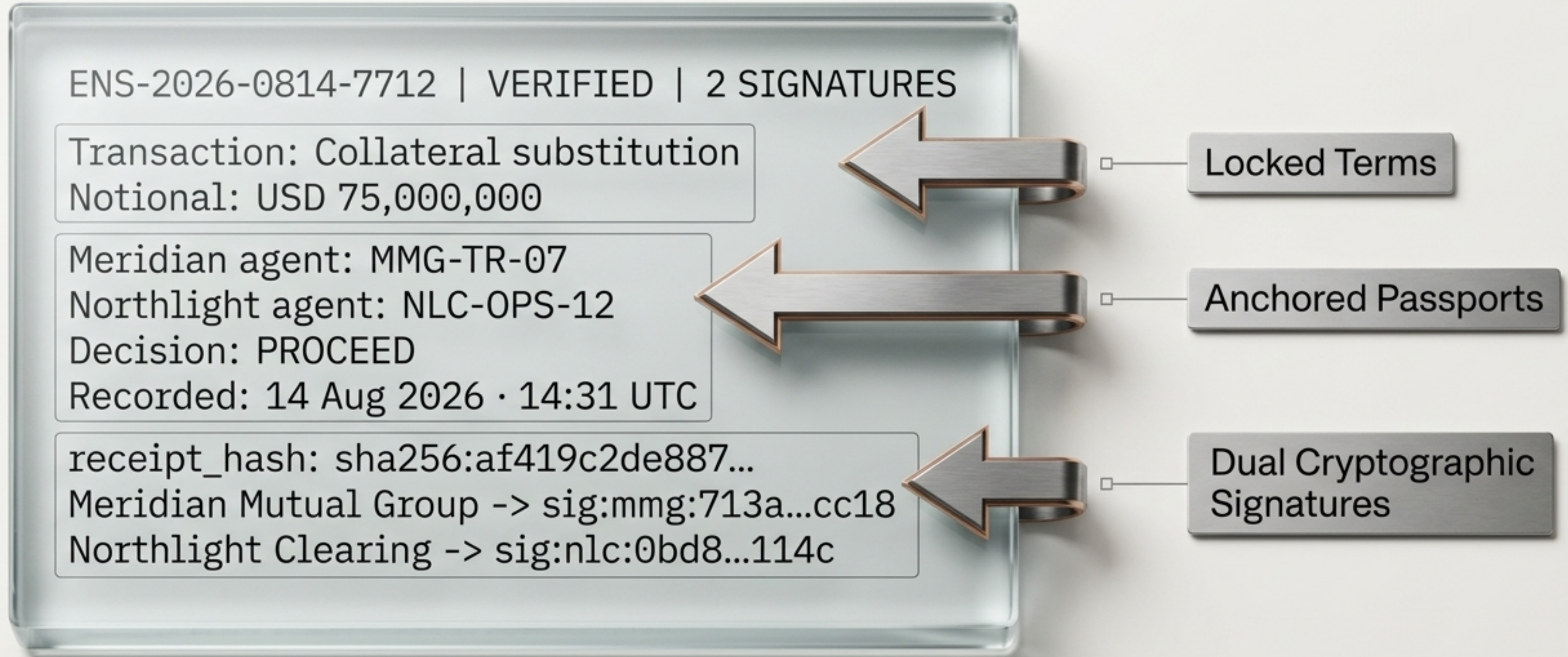
Anchored Authority

Both governance passports anchored to the trade. Authority proven as it existed when the action occurred.

Immutable Record

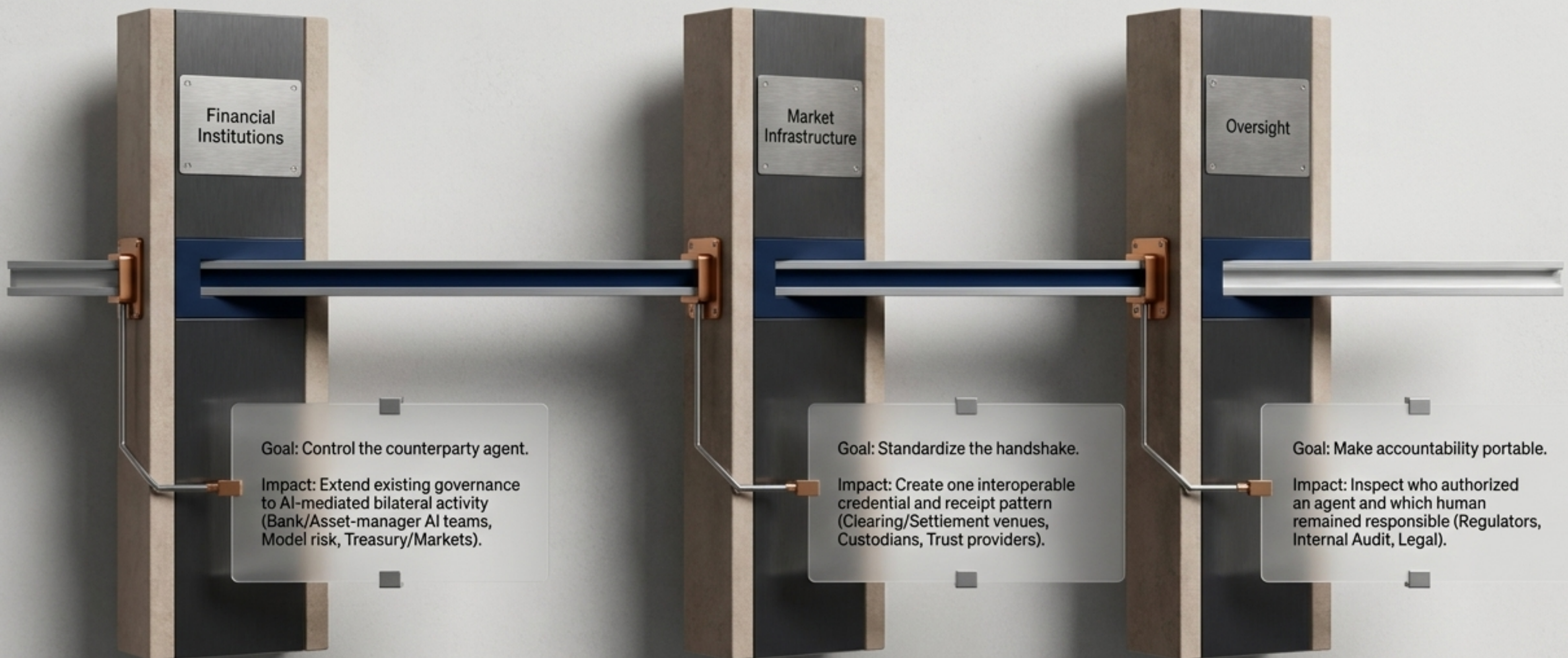
Two signatures, held by two institutions. Neither party can silently rewrite the shared evidence.

Anatomy of a Dual-Signed Receipt



The standard is written for both sides of the Seam.

A reference proposal for the institutions, infrastructure providers, and oversight functions governing cross-firm autonomous action.



ENSIGN proposes the governance content, verification duties, decision ladder and dispute doctrine. The standard is ready.

[Explore the
working
standard]

[Run the 6
defensive
simulations]

[Test the
control
gap]