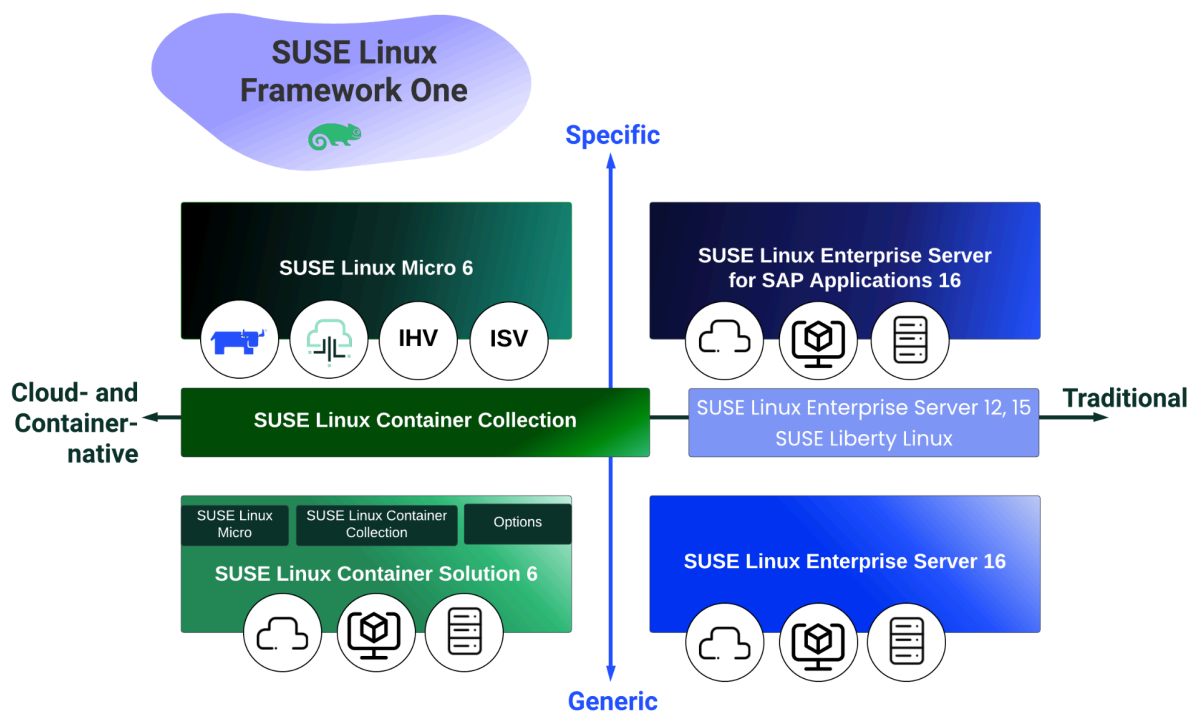Dear Customers and Partners,

For the last four years, SUSE has been working on a new way to create, deliver, maintain, and support our Linux portfolio according to your needs.

Based on your feedback and expectations, our new approach is driven by three essential factors:

- Approaching the lifecycle challenges of our industry, torn between 'always the most recent' and the requirements of long-term support.
- Leveraging our expertise and the experience we gained since inventing Enterprise Linux in 2000 to bridge these traditional products and the requirements of a container- and cloud-native world.
- Providing a certified basis for your development and operations, building on a secure software supply chain.

So far, we have used code names for our upcoming products, solutions and for the product family itself. Now we are pleased to announce their official names.

Welcome to SUSE Linux Framework One!

SUSE Linux Framework One upgrades and improves the way we create and deliver our Linux portfolio; it comprises future versions of SUSE Linux Enterprise Server and SUSE Linux Enterprise Server for SAP Applications.

SUSE Linux Framework One utilizes SUSE's unique open source build and test technologies, Open Build Service and OpenQA, to combine flexibility on the source code level with

consistency in the products and solutions, and to do away with the need for a 'monolithic' code base.

SUSE Linux Framework One enables you, our customers and partners, to choose the right solution for your digitalization journey.

More concretely, let's talk about four aspects:

1. **SUSE Linux Enterprise Server and SUSE Linux Enterprise Server for SAP Applications**

   SUSE is maintaining the investment into traditional Linux servers – SLES 16 and SLES for SAP Applications 16 amend SLES 12 and 15 and SLES for SAP Applications 12 and 15, respectively.

   Both products will be released in mid-2025.

   Taking your feedback and lifecycle expectations into account, we are also planning to extend the general support for SUSE Linux Enterprise 15 until 2031, facilitating a smooth migration towards a next-generation SUSE Linux product.

2. **Dedicated Host OS: SUSE Linux Micro 6**

   After careful consideration, we have decided to focus the development for the dedicated host OS into a single deliverable: SUSE Linux Micro 6, the direct successor to SUSE Linux Enterprise Micro 5.

   We aim to simplify our transactional portfolio for the next-generation SUSE Linux product family by leveraging a single underlying OS in all transactional products, and for all deployment scenarios: cloud, core and data center, edge and embedded systems.

   We believe it is in the best interest of our customers and partners to focus on one dedicated host OS, freeing your experts, as well as ours, to deliver new functionality and an improved user experience for that unified product.

   SUSE Linux Micro 6 will be released in May 2024.

3. **Container Native products: SUSE Linux Container Collection and SUSE Linux Container Solution**

   Along with SUSE Linux Micro as the transactional host OS, we will provide SUSE Linux Container Collection, a curated selection of base container images, development, infrastructure, and application containers. To be released in mid-2024, this offering will be available as an independent product as well as a component of our new SUSE Linux Container Solution.

   SUSE Linux Container Solution, a bundle of SUSE Linux Micro and SUSE Linux Container Collection, will be a lightweight, easy-to-deploy, and easy-to-maintain basis for container-native development and deployments.

4. **SUSE Linux Framework One and certifications**

   SUSE Linux Framework One will provide our new packages and containers, and will be the target for certifications and validations. Thus, any hardware validated or certified for SUSE Linux Micro will also work seamlessly with SUSE Linux Container Solution, SUSE Linux Enterprise Server, and SUSE Linux Enterprise Server for SAP Applications. This simplifies the verification efforts for hardware and software partners.

   Not only will it take less effort to validate our new offerings, but SUSE will also double down on new features that truly enhance our container solution for server applications. This allows us to provide the utmost security and stability of the solution, and improved ways of integrating containers into your workflows.

We thank you for your continuous support and feedback so far. This helped us to take the decision to focus on only one host OS going forward. This may also change your plans, and we apologize for any inconvenience caused. Our team remains committed to delivering innovative solutions and supporting you throughout this transition. We expect the transition to be smooth, as users of the previous betas will find that the user experience remains almost the same when they upgrade to SUSE Linux Micro 6.

The upcoming new SUSE Linux Container Solution will be available as a beta soon. Those of you who can't wait are encouraged to download and test SUSE Linux Micro 6, available in beta right now.

Thank you for your continued trust and support!

   Matthias G. Eckermann, Head of Products and Partners

   Scott Bahling, Head of Partner Technology Management

   Francois-Xavier Houard, Senior Product Manager, SUSE Linux Container Collection

   Andreas Jaeger, Senior Product Manager, SUSE Linux Enterprise Server for SAP Applications

   Sergio Ocón, Product Lead, SUSE Linux Container Solution

   Daniel Rahn, Senior Product Manager, SUSE Linux Micro

   Michal Svec, Senior Product Manager, SUSE Linux Enterprise

P.S.: *This information is shared with you as a customer or partner based on the mutual NDA between SUSE and your organization.*