

Controlling AI Agents: Why the Verification Layer Must Be Deterministic

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY & CORE TAKEAWAY

AI agents produce more and more work – but verification must remain deterministic. Zurich-based Klarent's seed round highlights 'deterministic autonomy': AI writes tests, execution stays deterministic. For Swiss SMEs that means fixed rules, confidence thresholds, and human escalation – and this control layer can be outsourced.

CONTEXT & EXECUTIVE RELEVANCE

As AI agents generate more invoices, contracts, analyses and decision memos, the scarce resource shifts from producing to judging. This is the core shift from execution to evaluation. That principle underpins 'deterministic autonomy' – the approach of Zurich-based startup Klarent, which closed a €7.13M seed round in October 2026 with customers including NZZ, Sixt and JD Sports.

The most dangerous mistake is giving verification to a second AI agent that 'corrects' the first. If the verification layer itself hallucinates, you trust a false control – the worst failure mode. Deterministic means: same input, same output, reproducible and auditable. For decision rights, a clear decision matrix helps; insights from executive AI competence discussions can sharpen this, as explored in [the KI-Podcast episode on AI agents as decision-makers](<https://www.ki-podcast.ch/ki-agenten-als-entscheider-ceo-kompetenzen-2025>).

COMPARISON & BENCHMARK MATRIX

Agent only, no verification layer	Fast but uncontrolled. Errors surface late; trust suffers.
AI checks AI	Scales, but the verification layer can hallucinate. No audit trail.
Deterministic rules + confidence thresholds	Reproducible, auditable. Rules require upfront effort.
Deterministic verification + human-in-the-loop (outsourced)	Clear escalation, no in-house team needed. Best balance of control and effort.

SWISS COMPLIANCE & ARCHITECTURE GUIDELINES

- ☑ Full compliance with revised Swiss Data Protection Act (revDSG).
- ☑ Zero vendor lock-in on closed proprietary models.
- ☑ Seamless integration into Abacus, Bexio and M365 ecosystems.

Non-Binding Process Analysis

Let us review in 20 minutes where AI agents create immediate measurable efficiency in your workflows.

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