



ACT

The Biomethane Buyer's Guide

A procurement playbook for cutting
Scope 1 emissions with confidence

ACT ON IT.

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Why this guide is for procurement?

Biomethane is one of the clearest routes to cutting Scope 1 emissions from natural gas, and it does not require new infrastructure. The market is maturing fast: Europe started in 2024 with 1,620 biomethane plants across 25 countries, with installed capacity now passing 8 bcm a year, and more than €28 billion in private investment is already committed ahead of 2030 (The EBA Statistical Report 2025).

For buyers at corporate companies, the appeal is practical rather than technical. Because roughly 86% of plants inject straight into the existing gas grid, biomethane is progressively raising the renewable share of the gas you already consume, year on year, without re-engineering the operations that it has always served. That makes it a clear, phased route to your own decarbonization targets and to the rising renewable thresholds EU policy now sets.

The purchase, not the molecule, is where this gets complicated. Biomethane spans multiple registries, feedstock categories, and certification schemes, and the rules change by country. The wrong contract can lock in higher costs in multi-year procurement plans or leave you with a claim you cannot defend at audit. This guide walks through what to understand, and what to prepare, before you speak to sellers.

01.

How does biomethane prove it is renewable?

Biomethane is chemically interchangeable with fossil natural gas. The difference that matters to a buyer is its renewable origin and how sustainability evidence is proven.

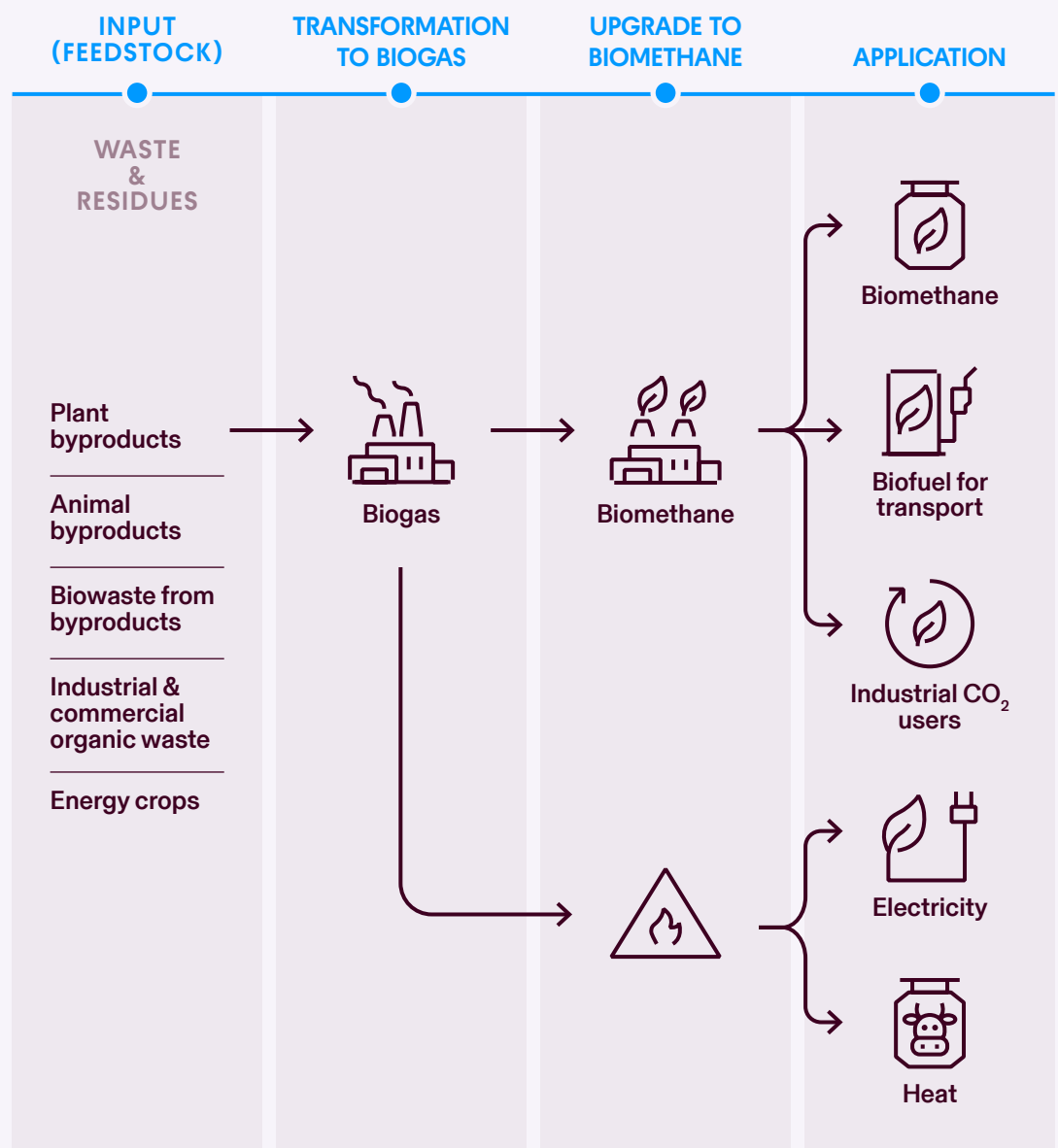
Biomethane is considered renewable because of its origin. Biogas is produced by the anaerobic decomposition of organic feedstocks including manure, crop and food residues, municipal and industrial waste inside a digester. The carbon released when biomethane is burned is carbon that the feedstocks recently absorbed, rather than fossil carbon pulled from underground, which is what gives it a low lifecycle footprint.

Raw biogas is then upgraded to biomethane by stripping the CO₂, water and trace gases out to leave near-pure methane which is pipeline quality. Once injected, it is physically indistinguishable from fossil gas and can serve the same uses such as heat, power, industrial processes, and transport fuel.





For procurement, the takeaway is that the renewable aspects of biomethane are delivered in the form of certificates meaning that the physical procurement of gas does not change. No changes to existing infrastructure are necessary. You need the right certificates that are correctly tracked and cancelled. Sections 3 and 4 cover how this works.



02.

How is biomethane sustainable?

Biomethane that is certified by a RED II approved voluntary scheme such as ISCC, will be able to declare the carbon-intensity associated with its production processes. Biomethane feedstocks are the primary driver that determine its carbon intensity (CI).

CI is calculated based on emissions from feedstock type, cultivation and collection processes. CI is expressed in gCO₂e per MJ, which is evidence that is shown on the Proof of Sustainability declaration. Waste and residue-based feedstocks that avoid land-use change and heavy fertilizer use carry the lowest CI scores, compared to feedstocks such as purpose-grown energy crops which carry the highest CI scores. Most European plants run a blended mix of feedstocks, grouped into three broad categories:

CATEGORY 1 Waste and residues

Feedstock is exclusively waste: livestock manure and slurry, municipal waste, and food and beverage waste. These carry the lowest CI scores and are increasingly favored by regulation and corporate buyers.

CATEGORY 2 Waste and intermediate crops

A mix of waste and intermediate (cover) crops that do not compete with food production and improve soil health through rotation. Some European plants still run on energy crops, but regulation discourages it: energy-crop use has declined steadily since 2017, and few new plants are built to run only on crop feedstock.

CATEGORY 3 Waste and restricted crops

A mix of waste and food or feed crops that may be restricted or not approved under RED II, and which can compete with food production. Eligibility for claims using these feedstocks varies by scheme, so check before contracting.

THE PRACTICAL READING FOR A BUYER:

Sourcing varies sharply by country, which affects both price and eligibility. For example, around 70% of French biomethane comes from agricultural residues, while a large share of German volume has historically come from energy crops, and roughly half of UK production comes from waste and residues. The country of origin is therefore a procurement decision, not an afterthought.



03.

How Guarantees of Origin track your purchase

Because biomethane mixes into a shared grid, a certificate- not the gas itself- **is what proves and transfers the renewable claim.**

A Guarantee of Origin (GoO) represents one megawatt-hour (MWh) of bio-methane injected into the grid, and records where and when it was produced and its environmental attributes. Once the biomethane is injected into the gas grid network, it is mixed with fossil gas and cannot be traced physically, so the GoO is the instrument that carries traceability from producer to buyer.

A GoO can be traded multiple times, then cancelled (redeemed) when the end user consumes it. After cancellation, it cannot be traded or claimed again as there are mechanisms to prevent double counting. The lifecycle runs through four stages:

Injection

biomethane must meet grid quality standards; the transmission operator (TSO) installs the metering that governs safe injection.

Measurement and Tracking

producers' meter the quantity and quality of gas injected.

Issuance

once a producer is certified, one GoO is issued per MWh. European GoOs are generally valid for 12 months; the UK's RGGOs last three years and three months.

Transactions

GoOs trade over the counter between producers, traders and end users until cancellation.



04.

GoO vs. Proof of Sustainability: know which you need

A Guarantee of Origin proves renewable origin. A Proof of Sustainability proves the sustainability evidence of the biogas. **Many buyers require both.**

A GoO verifies the renewable origin of energy and is used for disclosure. A Proof of Sustainability (PoS) is a broader instrument that evidences compliance with the sustainability criteria of RED II and is issued under voluntary schemes recognized by the European Commission, such as ISCC and REDcert. Which one you need depends on why you are buying.

Guarantee of Origin (GoO)

Proof of Sustainability (PoS)

PURPOSE

disclose the renewable attributes of biomethane to the end consumer (RED II, Article 19).

demonstrate compliance with RED II sustainability criteria (Articles 25–30).

DOCUMENTS

origin and facility, production time, commissioning date, technology, support scheme, and audit against double disclosure. Some also record feedstock and final CI.

production methods, feedstock source, volume produced, GHG savings, and every step in the value chain.

USED BY

voluntary buyers with Scope 1 targets. Once certificates are cancelled in the respective registry linking the location of the gas use, the volume can be claimed, disclosed and communicated as renewable gas usage.

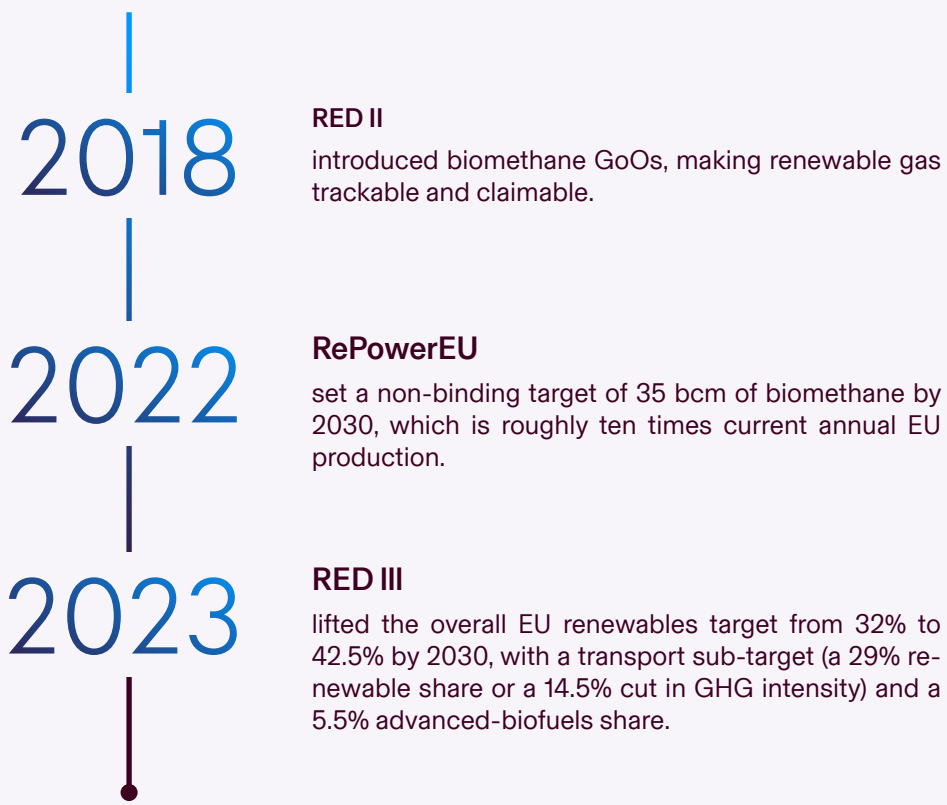
organizations needing to prove RED II compliance or wanting detailed lifecycle, CI and feedstock data.

Certification criteria continue to evolve, so confirm current requirements with schemes relevant to your operating locations before you rely on a given certificate for a specific claim.

05.

The policy backdrop and what it means for your targets

EU directives set up the ambition while target-setting frameworks determine what you can actually claim. [Procurement needs both in view.](#)
 Three directives frame the European market.



THE PRACTICAL READING FOR A BUYER:

policy is pushing the renewable share of gas upward on a fixed timetable. This phased bio-methane program encourages gas users to raise renewable ratios year on year by directly mapping a trajectory that adheres to EU thresholds.

SCIENCE
BASED
TARGETS

DRIVING AMBITIOUS CORPORATE CLIMATE ACTION

The SBTi Corporate Net-Zero Standard v2.0

This framework is used by buyers most often to report against decarbonization progress, and was updated in 2026. For companies setting targets from 2028 (available from February 2027), SBTi's v2.0 Standard addresses market-based instruments like biomethane certificates in the Scope 1 context for the first time.

Two points matter for procurement:

Physical inventory test:

To count toward a reduction target, certificate-based claims must result in reductions within the company's physical inventory which puts a premium on traceability and contract structure.

A recognized supporting role:

Under v2.0's "best-efforts" hierarchy, once feasible direct actions have been assessed and implemented, certificates can support target implementation under a clearer role than with the previous standard.

THE PRACTICAL READING FOR A BUYER:

This updated guidance is still settling. The GHG Protocol's 'Actions and Market Instruments' workstream is developing a reporting structure that explicitly covers biomethane certificates, with a public-consultation draft expected in 2027, so expect the accounting methodology to be refined further. Decide your reporting framework first, outlining the technical criteria and contract type you intend to take to market.



06.

Cross-border trade: an opportunity, with caveats

There is no single European biomethane market yet, but cross-border transfer is possible and increasing. This widens your sourcing options.

National markets remain fragmented, but private-sector schemes now facilitate the transfer of volumes across borders. Transfers through the ERGaR Certificates of Origin scheme reached record levels in early 2025, with over 1,200 GWh moved cross-border in a single quarter. Even with this 47% year-on-year rise in cross-border trade, this however only represents around 5% of total production, so it broadens choice rather than guaranteeing liquidity.

European Renewable Gas Registry (ERGaR)

ERGaR's GoO scheme has facilitated cross-border biomethane trade since 2021, linking several national registries. Transfers can take longer than the nominal 5–10 business days and are sensitive to certificate validity windows, so build timing into any cross-border plan.

Association of Issuing Bodies (AIB)

The AIB runs the European Energy Certificate System (EECS), a standardized framework of common rules that underpins reliable cross-border GoO transfers across energy carriers. Interoperability between ERGaR, AIB and standalone national registries is still maturing.





07.

What is driving corporate demand

Four forces are pulling corporate buyers into the market, and they are [why securing supply early is becoming a competitive move](#).

Energy independence

The European Commission has made reducing import dependence a priority and named biomethane a core part of the REPowerEU plan, giving the market durable policy support.

Science-based climate targets

Thousands of global companies choose to align with the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi), which provides a framework for setting climate targets in line with the Paris Agreement and aligns with guidance proposed by the GHG Protocol. While there isn't a section specifically dedicated to biomethane, its use and accounting fall under the broader principles and methodologies outlined in these frameworks.

Improving economics

Advances in anaerobic digestion and upgrading have lowered production costs over time. Biomethane still typically trades at a premium to fossil natural gas, but the gap is narrowing, which is steadily putting it on a path toward a competitive option for more buyers.

Locking in supply

The market is still growing and, for now, demand outpaces supply. Securing a source early lets you lock in volume and price ahead of competitors, hedge against a tightening market, and- where you hold more certificates than you need - potentially open a new revenue line through resale..



08.

What determines the price

Biomethane is priced in the same way other energy commodities are. Price is shaped by policy, supply, and the specific attributes you ask for.

Prices vary by region and market dynamics. The main levers to understand before you request a quote:

Subsidy Schemes:

national incentives (or their absence) strongly shape both price and which volumes qualify for your target.

Vintage:

each certificate carries a creation date, and the market values different years differently.

Market Demand:

sectors such as power, heat and transport compete for volume; higher demand tightens the market.

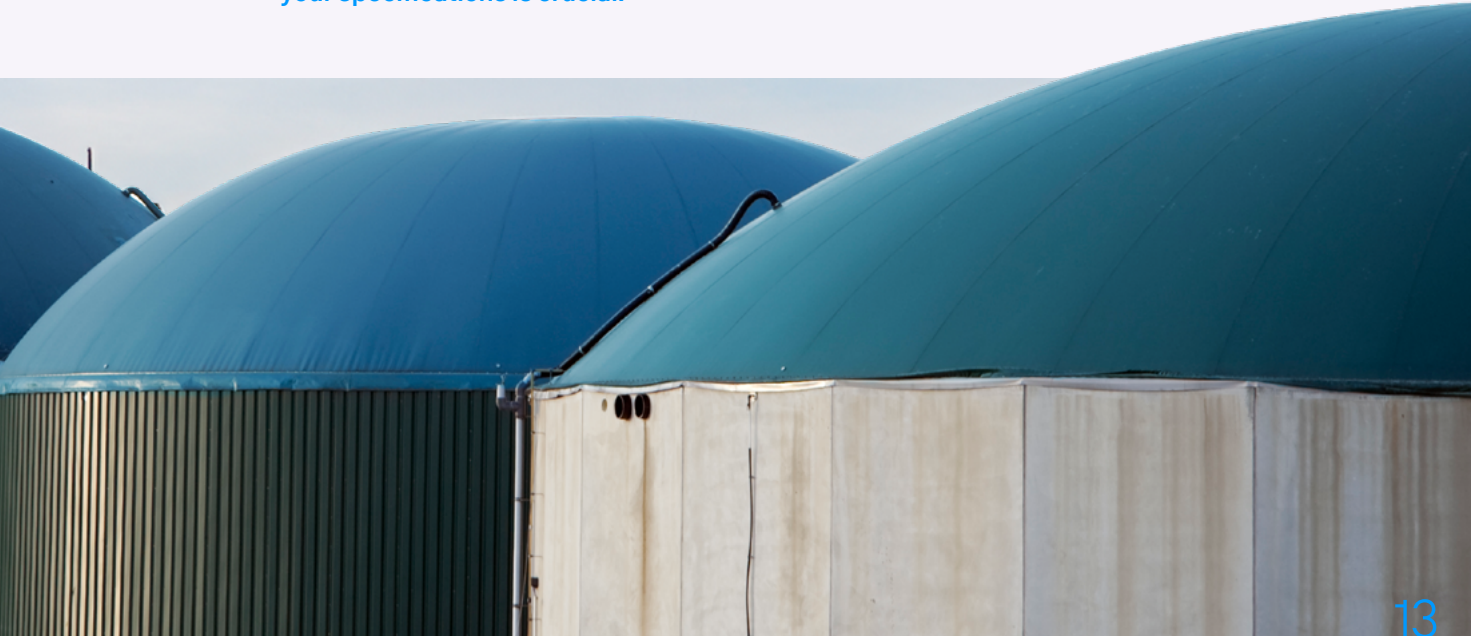
Certification:

schemes vary by country. More robust certification can carry a higher price.

Feedstock:

abundant waste and residues tend to cost less to process. Waste-derived feedstocks such as manure and circular sources often command a premium in demand over energy crops.

Because biomethane is still a relatively young environmental commodity and the market is taking shape, pricing factors fluctuate, meaning the timing that you going to market with your specifications is crucial.





09.

The benefits reach beyond Scope 1

Cutting Scope 1 emissions is the high-level ambition, while the wider payoff spans compliance, reputation, and transparency.

SCOPE 1 EMISSION REDUCTIONS AND COMPLIANCE TARGETS IN ONE PURCHASE

Biomethane lets you lower GHG emissions from gas consumption, support climate targets, meet EU compliance obligations, and strengthen energy resilience.

GIVE STAKEHOLDERS PROOF AND SHOW THE WORK

Customers, investors, and the public increasingly favor organizations that are visibly cutting emissions. Certificate-backed renewable gas gives stakeholders concrete evidence of your decarbonization.

TRACE EVERY CERTIFICATE BACK TO ITS SOURCE

GoOs let you trace the origin of your energy and evidence its renewable attributes through recognized tracking standards.

A NOTE ON THE REPORTING FRAMEWORKS

Guidance on using biomethane certificates for Scope 1 has been evolving since the GHG Protocol removed its Scope 2 EAC provision for Scope 1 in 2019. The current picture:



GHG Protocol: its 'Actions and Market Instruments' workstream is developing a reporting structure that explicitly includes biomethane certificates with a public-consultation draft expected in 2027.



SBTi: v2.0 recognizes a supporting role for biomethane certificates in Scope 1, subject to the physical-inventory test (Section 5).



CDP: aligns with the GHG Protocol and requires certificates to evidence renewable origin where gas is drawn from a shared, mixed-source network.



10.

Match the contract to your goals

The contract structure is where procurement strategy is won or lost. Three horizons cover most needs.

SHORT-TERM

Spot Purchasing

Buying a set number of certificates to match your existing needs keeps you agile and covers near-term requirements. In some countries certificates can also meet EU ETS compliance. Structures span physical delivery, certificates, and mass-balancing.

MID-TERM

Production Offtakes

Buying full or partial offtakes from a specific facility's future production gives better visibility into source and quality than buying volumes that have already been produced. This helps plants plan and expand. Delivery can include physical and/or certificates.

LONG-TERM

Gas Purchase Agreements (GPAs)

In a tightening market, GPAs offer a solution to source volumes typically for 10–15 years into the future, backed by the buyer's credit to lock in price and supply. This method gives ownership of your renewable gas supply and long-term budget visibility. RED III encourages long-term deals such as GPAs to de-risk new capacity.

Unbundled vs. bundled

In unbundled procurement, gas and GoOs are contracted separately so you keep your physical gas supply and match it with GoOs from a third party. This removes reliance on the utility provider for renewable credentials and gives clearer visibility into sourcing and generating assets.

In bundled procurement ("green tariff"), the GoO and physical gas sit in one contract. A common misconception is that this ties the certificate to the same asset as the gas, however the GoO can only be traced to the same origin when purchased through a GPA or where the supplier states it explicitly.

11.

Why a specialist sourcing partner **pays off**



Global Presence, Local Reach

A dedicated product desk with relationships across Europe's producers, native-language expertise, and price validation across markets for smoother negotiation and access to physical flows and mass balancing.



Infrastructure & Administrative Support

A sustainability-compliance function specializing in the major European certification schemes across energy sectors, so your claims withstand audit and regulatory scrutiny.



Policy & Trend Tracking

A research team that tracks regulatory change and shifts in frameworks such as SBTi and the GHG Protocol, including movements in the unsubsidized and biotickets markets so you see regulatory movement before it hits your contract.

14+

years experience
in Biomethane
markets

8,000+

clients worldwide
(and growing)

9

global offices

4

offices in Europe
with dedicated
biomethane
market experts

12.

The Next Steps

A clear eight step path that ACT uses to get from conversation to delivered and cancelled certificates.

Understanding & Discovery

We meet your team to understand strategy, technical criteria and reporting needs, then share what we need to build a proposal.

ONLINE MEETING

Indicative Proposal

After onboarding, we share a tailored proposal with indicative prices.

E-MAIL

Firm Proposal

With requirements agreed, we provide firm volumes and prices.

E-MAIL

Contract

We send your organization a contract.

DIGITAL DOCUMENT

Communicate Requirements

You share preferences including country of origin, approximate consumption, timelines.

E-MAIL

Finalize Requirements

We discuss the proposal together and address questions or feedback.

ONLINE MEETING

Transaction Confirmation

On agreement, we source biomethane in your required volumes.

E-MAIL

Delivery

We handle administration so certificates are correctly delivered and cancelled and provide a symbolic certificate for your communications.





About ACT

ACT structures procurement across renewable energy, biomethane, renewable fuels, carbon, and compliance markets, so clients can meet regulatory and voluntary targets without building that expertise in-house. Since 2009, over 8,000 clients have used ACT to source, validate, and cancel environmental certificates across European and global markets.

We believe sustainability should be actionable and achievable. That's why we give every organization the tools to act on their environmental goals.

This is our ambition. What's yours?
ACT ON IT.



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