AgentSLA

Trend Report 2027

The M2M Economy

The First Protected M2M Economy

Nine trends for developers, API providers and the people their agents serve.

The economy is learning to pay itself.

AI agents have started to buy on their own: data feeds, inference, search, tools. They pay per call, in stablecoins, in the time it takes a page to load. When the buyer is software, nobody is watching the moment money moves, and nobody notices a dead endpoint until the budget is gone.

2027 is the year checking becomes part of paying. AgentSLA sits at that point: we check APIs and MCP servers live, sign every result with our oracle, and keep a trust registry agents read before they pay. The money waits until the API has worked.

This report follows nine trends across the three groups the machine-to-machine economy touches first: the developers who build agents, the businesses that sell to them, and the people those agents work for.



01

Developers & Builders

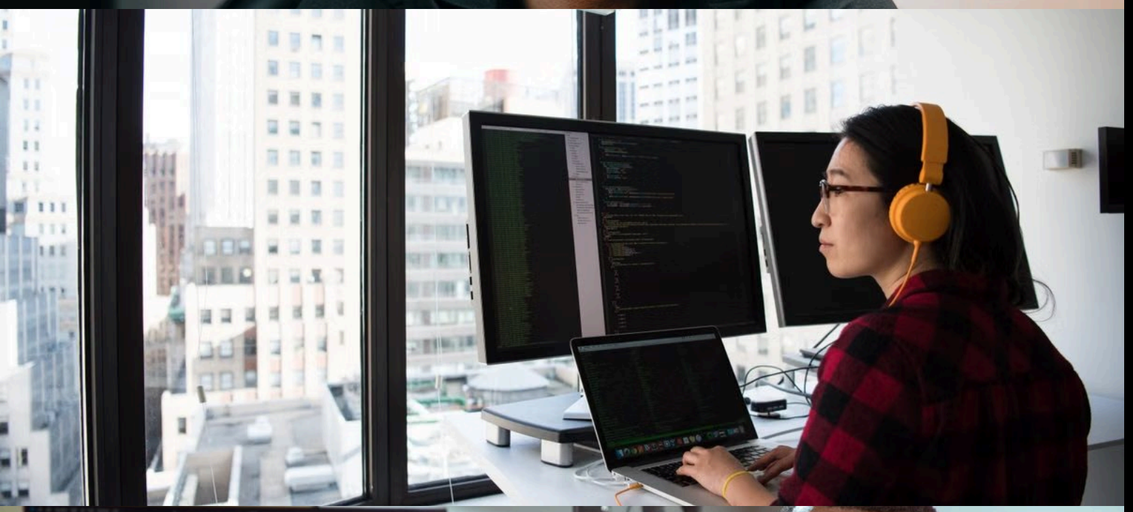
Your agent is now a buyer. The craft shifts from making it act to making it spend well.

01 CHECK BEFORE YOU PAY

02 PAY-PER-CALL EVERYTHING

03 VERIFIABLE BY DEFAULT







DEVELOPERS · TREND 01

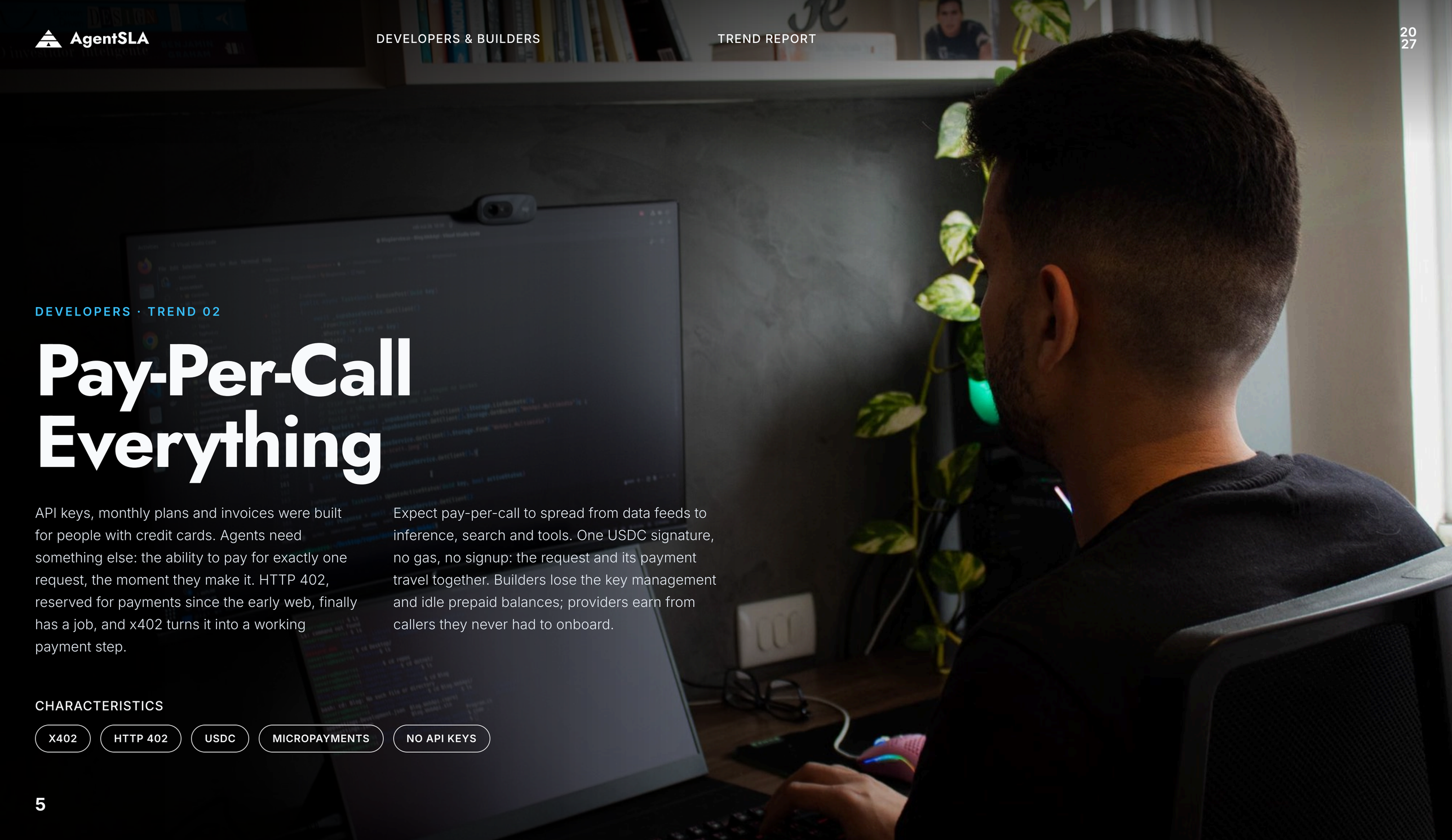
Check Before You Pay

Agents don't hesitate. Give one a budget and a task, and it will call whatever endpoint looks right, and pay for it. The builders whose agents waste the least in 2027 add a single step before every payment: a live check of the endpoint against a clear rule.

A pre-flight check answers one question in milliseconds: does this API answer, right now, within my latency limit? If not, the agent moves to the next provider before a cent leaves the wallet. It's the cheapest line of code in the stack, and the one that saves the most.

CHARACTERISTICS

PRE-FLIGHT CHECKS · LATENCY LIMITS · SLA RULES · MCP TOOLS · FAILOVER



DEVELOPERS · TREND 02

Pay-Per-Call Everything

API keys, monthly plans and invoices were built for people with credit cards. Agents need something else: the ability to pay for exactly one request, the moment they make it. HTTP 402, reserved for payments since the early web, finally has a job, and x402 turns it into a working payment step.

Expect pay-per-call to spread from data feeds to inference, search and tools. One USDC signature, no gas, no signup: the request and its payment travel together. Builders lose the key management and idle prepaid balances; providers earn from callers they never had to onboard.

CHARACTERISTICS

X402 · HTTP 402 · USDC · MICROPAYMENTS · NO API KEYS

DEVELOPERS · TREND 03

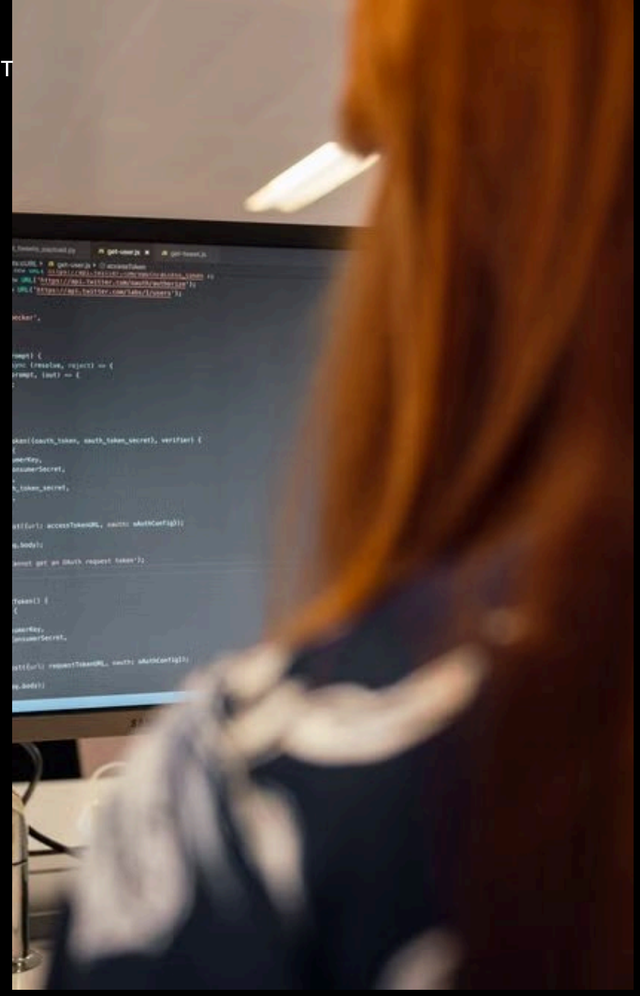
Verifiable by Default

"It worked when I tested it" isn't evidence. As agents spend real money, every decision needs a receipt another machine can check. A signed result, an oracle's EIP-712 signature over the status, latency and time of a check, turns a log line into proof.

Builders will store these attestations next to their payments, so disputes, audits and refunds settle themselves. Anyone can verify a signature in a few lines of code without trusting whoever produced it. Verifiability stops being a feature and becomes the default.

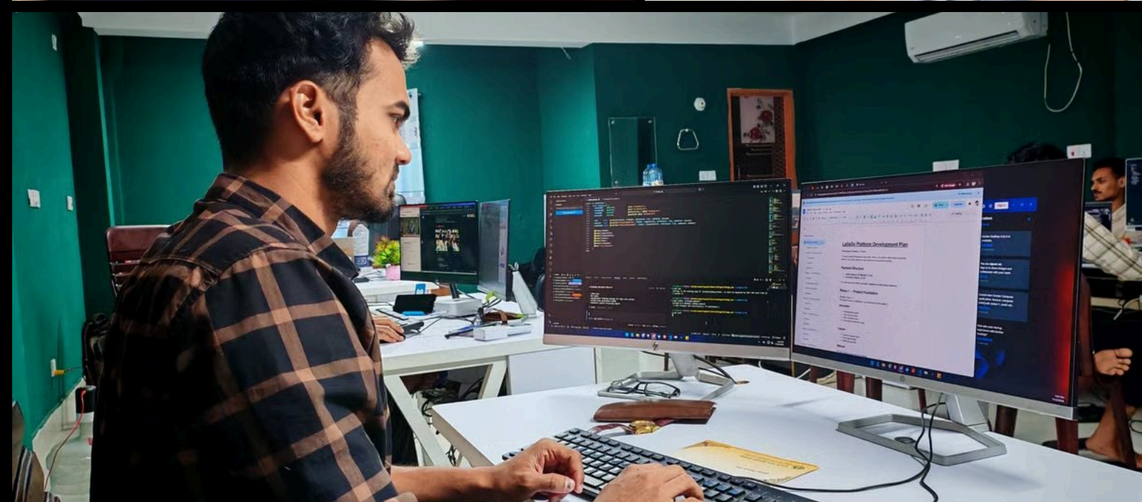
CHARACTERISTICS

EIP-712 · SIGNED ATTESTATIONS · AUDIT TRAILS · ON-CHAIN RECEIPTS









02

B2B & API Providers

Your next customer has no inbox. It reads your schema, checks your uptime and pays by the call.

04 UPTIME IS THE NEW BRAND
05 ESCROW-BACKED SLAS
06 MACHINE CUSTOMERS

API PROVIDERS · TREND 04

Uptime Is the New Brand

When the buyer is an agent, there's no logo to admire and no sales call to win. What it sees is a track record: how often an endpoint answered, how fast, and who signed for it. Reputation becomes a column of numbers.

Providers who publish verifiable uptime, signed checks, a verified badge, a place in the trust registries agents consult and a history anyone can inspect, get picked first by the agents comparing them. Marketing moves from what you say about your API to what independent checks prove about it, every hour.

CHARACTERISTICS

SIGNED UPTIME · VERIFIED BADGES · TRUST REGISTRIES · RANKINGS · REPUTATION





API PROVIDERS · TREND 05

Escrow-Backed SLAs

Service-level agreements used to mean a PDF, and a credit request after the outage. In the M2M economy the SLA carries itself out: the buyer's payment waits in escrow, an oracle checks the endpoint, and the money moves one way only, to the provider if it worked, back to the buyer if it didn't.

For providers that's a sales line no competitor's promise can match: pay only if it works. Buyers try new APIs with nothing to lose, and providers who deliver get paid automatically, without chasing a single invoice. The same rule is moving into the payment rail itself: x402 facilitators that settle a payment only once the endpoint has answered.

CHARACTERISTICS

USDC ESCROW · CONDITIONAL PAYMENTS · X402 FACILITATORS · AUTOMATIC REFUNDS







API PROVIDERS · TREND 06

Machine Customers

A growing share of API traffic comes from software choosing on its own. Agents find providers in MCP registries, llms.txt files and machine-readable directories, not on landing pages. If your service isn't described where agents look, it doesn't exist for them.

Winning machine customers takes clear schemas, honest pricing right in the 402 response, and an endpoint that answers every time. The providers who treat agents as first-class customers in 2027 will own their categories before most people notice the buyers changed.

CHARACTERISTICS

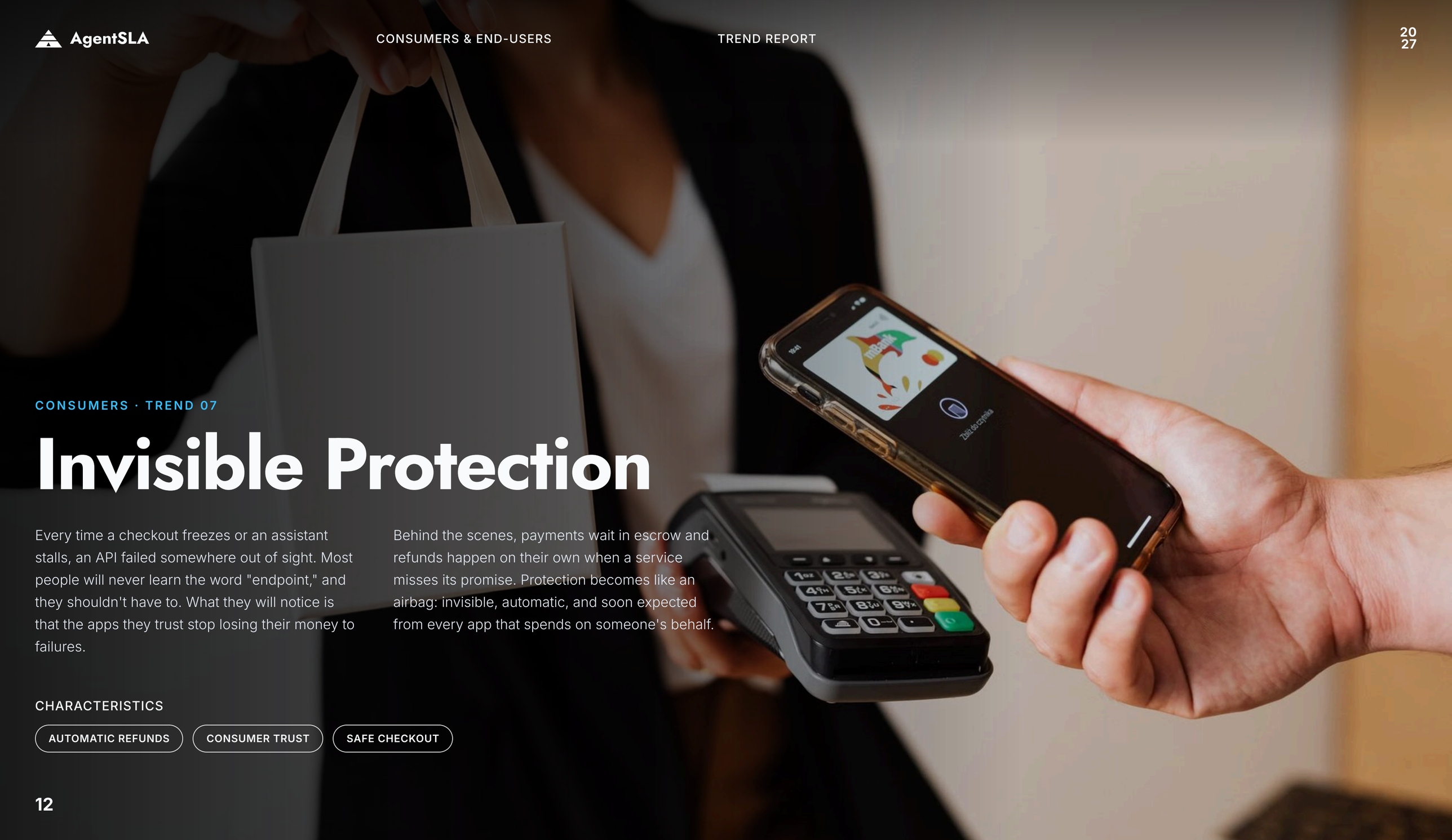
MCP REGISTRIES · LLMS.TXT · OPENAPI · DISCOVERABILITY

03

Consumers & End-Users

Protection you never have to think about, from the agents and apps that spend on your behalf.

07 INVISIBLE PROTECTION
08 AGENTS THAT SPEND WISELY
09 PROOF OVER PROMISES



CONSUMERS · TREND 07

Invisible Protection

Every time a checkout freezes or an assistant stalls, an API failed somewhere out of sight. Most people will never learn the word "endpoint," and they shouldn't have to. What they will notice is that the apps they trust stop losing their money to failures.

Behind the scenes, payments wait in escrow and refunds happen on their own when a service misses its promise. Protection becomes like an airbag: invisible, automatic, and soon expected from every app that spends on someone's behalf.

CHARACTERISTICS

AUTOMATIC REFUNDS | CONSUMER TRUST | SAFE CHECKOUT



CONSUMERS · TREND 08

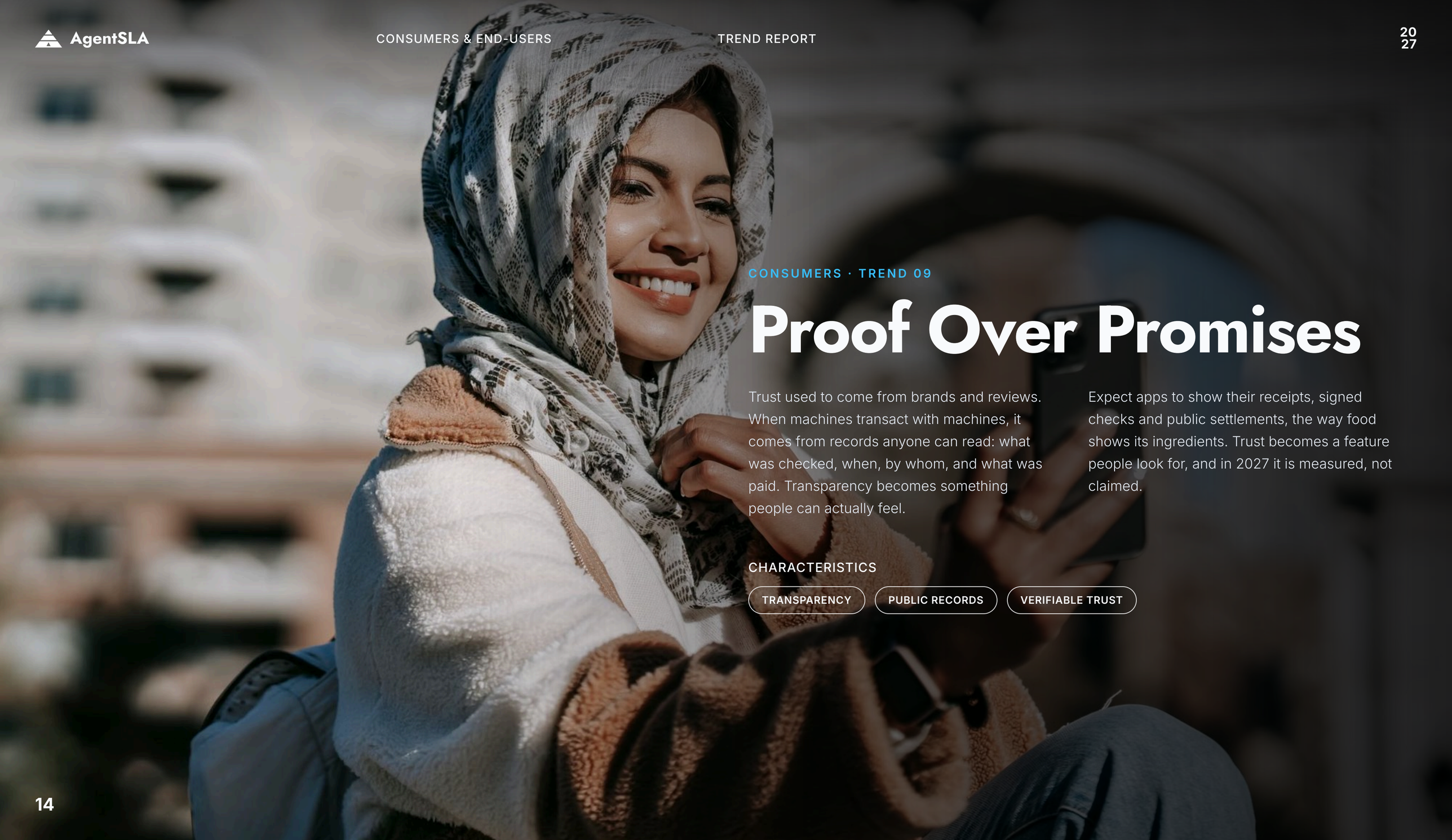
Agents That Spend Wisely

Assistants are beginning to book, buy and subscribe for us. The question people will ask in 2027 isn't whether an agent can spend, but whether it spends well: on services that work, at fair prices, within the limits they set.

Agents that check before they pay, stay inside their budgets and choose providers on verified records will earn the right to handle more of daily life. The ones that don't will be switched off after the first bad purchase.

CHARACTERISTICS

DELEGATED SPENDING · BUDGETS · SMART ASSISTANTS · VALUE



CONSUMERS · TREND 09

Proof Over Promises

Trust used to come from brands and reviews. When machines transact with machines, it comes from records anyone can read: what was checked, when, by whom, and what was paid. Transparency becomes something people can actually feel.

Expect apps to show their receipts, signed checks and public settlements, the way food shows its ingredients. Trust becomes a feature people look for, and in 2027 it is measured, not claimed.

CHARACTERISTICS

TRANSPARENCY · PUBLIC RECORDS · VERIFIABLE TRUST

The First Protected M2M Economy

AgentSLA checks APIs and MCP servers live, signs every result with its oracle and keeps a trust registry that agents and wallets read before they pay. A guard checks each x402 paywall before your agent signs; our facilitator settles only when the API works, and USDC escrow on Base (beta) refunds the buyer when it doesn't.

Agents pay 0.05 USDC per check on Base or Solana, or hold a 7-day pass. Providers can become a Verified API: a VERIFIED badge, a place in the trust registry and monitoring every 20 minutes, for $49 per 30 days. Verified Pro adds a listing above unpaid ones and a VERIFIED PRO badge, for $199 a month or $1,990 a year. Start with 10 free checks a month, connect the MCP server in one line, or add **checkBeforePaying()** from the SDK.

Start at agentsla.io

Docs agentsla.io/docs · **MCP** agentsla.io/mcp · **SDK** npm install agentsla · **Python** pip install agentsla



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