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Re-Charging Days

ISO 15118 is no longer the future

It's becoming reality.

What experts say about adoption, challenges, and opportunities.



A close-up photograph of a person's hand inserting a black charging cable into the charging port of a light-colored car. The car's body panels and a wheel are visible in the background.

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Adoption takes more than “following the standard”

In theory, standards guarantee interoperability. In reality, different interpretations of ISO 15118, plus gaps in implementation, still cause systems that should work together... not to.

The logo consists of the word "ETREL" in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The letters are widely spaced, giving it a modern, minimalist appearance. The background of the entire slide is a photograph of an electric vehicle charging station, which is a tall, dark grey or black rectangular unit. A charging cable is plugged into the station and lies on the ground. The station has a small screen and some buttons. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a parking area with other vehicles and buildings in the distance.

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“Optional” doesn’t always mean optional

Some parameters in ISO 15118 are labeled optional but are actually conditionally required in real use cases. When parts get skipped, interoperability suffers across chargers, vehicles, and platforms.

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Collaboration is the real bottleneck

Plug & Charge isn't built by one player. It depends on tight coordination between OEMs, CPOs, EMSPs, and tech providers. Multi-party alignment is one of the biggest rollout challenges.



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Don't reinvent what already works

ISO 15118 and OCPP 2.0.1 are quickly becoming baseline capabilities, not differentiators. Adoption accelerates when companies use proven standards and innovate on top, instead of rebuilding from scratch.

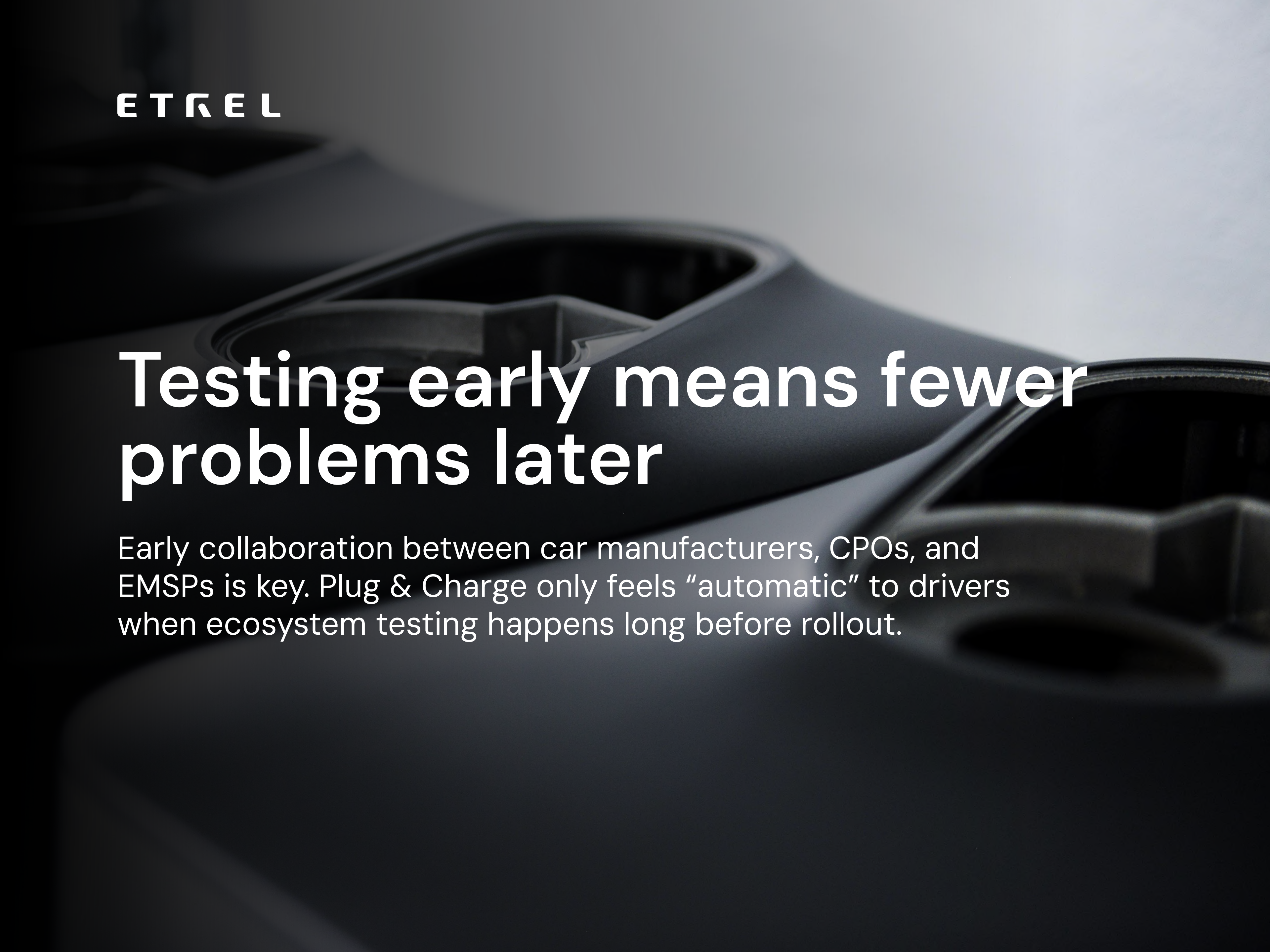




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The business case goes beyond convenience

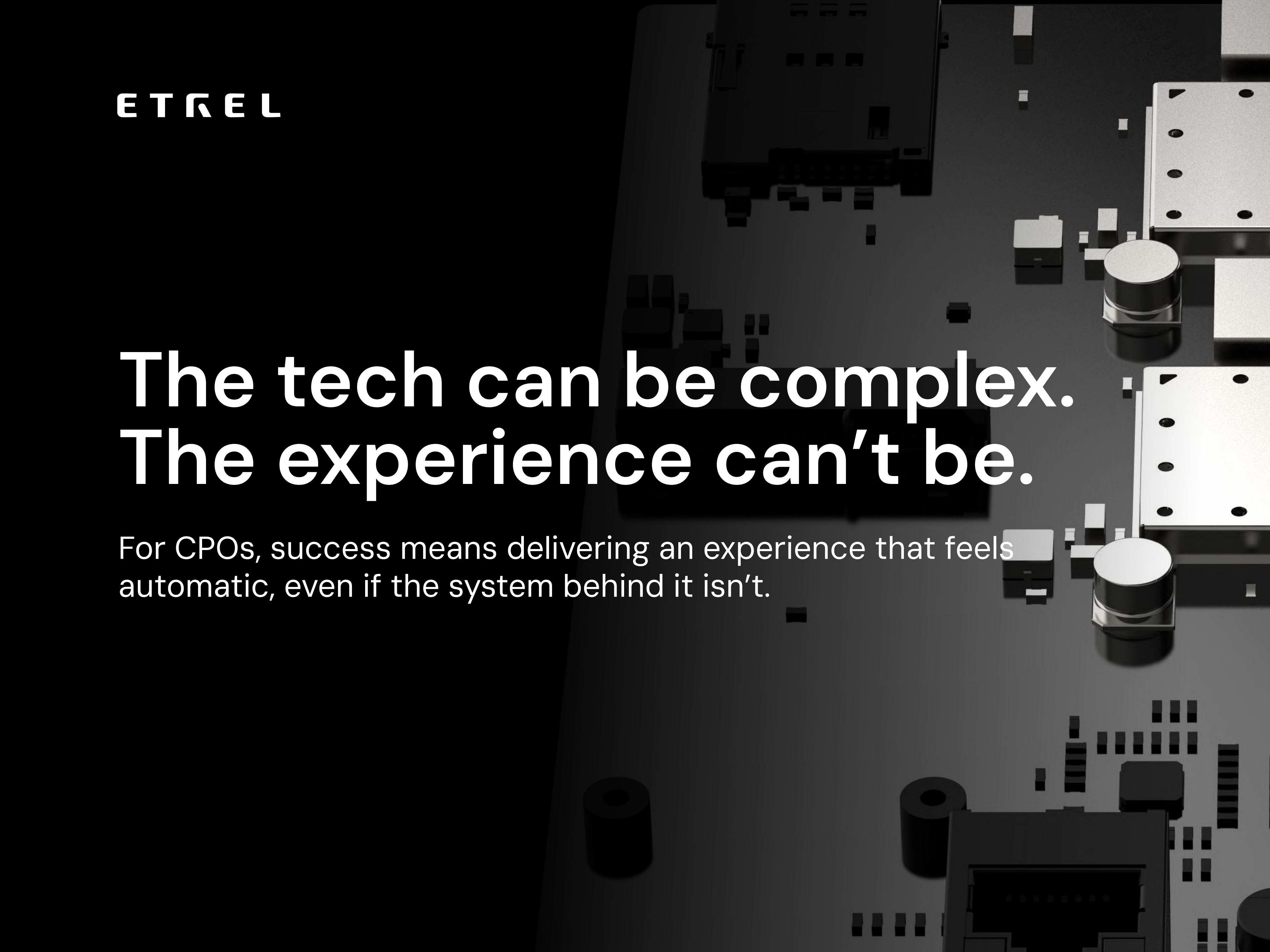
- Stronger cybersecurity than legacy methods
- Potentially more reliable charging sessions with Plug & Charge
- A path to improved smart charging and V2G services



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Testing early means fewer problems later

Early collaboration between car manufacturers, CPOs, and EMSPs is key. Plug & Charge only feels “automatic” to drivers when ecosystem testing happens long before rollout.



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The tech can be complex. The experience can't be.

For CPOs, success means delivering an experience that feels automatic, even if the system behind it isn't.

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On-site UX still matters, a lot

Even with automation, clear charger interfaces and screens remain essential. When something goes wrong, users still need confidence and clarity on site.

