JAVIER PONTÓN GONZÁLEZ

Senior Backend Engineer

Java · Kotlin · Python | Spring Boot · FastAPI · Apache Kafka · PostgreSQL · Redis · AWS | LLMs & RAG
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EU citizen, no sponsorship required for EU work | B2B contractor through my own company
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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Senior Backend Engineer with 8+ years designing and operating distributed backend systems in production for Iberia, Mercadona, Inditex, Openbank and Idealista: microservices in hexagonal architecture with DDD, event-driven integration over Apache Kafka, PostgreSQL at scale, Redis and AWS. Technical lead of zero-downtime cloud and language migrations (Azure to AWS at Inditex, Java to Kotlin at Openbank) inside 100+ engineer organisations. Currently at Iberia, owning the fare pricing domain of the flight pricing platform. Also Python and FastAPI services, and LLM features in production: RAG with embeddings, hybrid search and reranking, pgvector and MCP servers, traced and evaluated like any other service.

- Technical lead of the zero-downtime Azure-to-AWS migration of Inditex's global logistics event platform (thousands of events per minute) and of the Java-to-Kotlin migration at Openbank, inside a 100+ engineer organisation.
- Engineered high-volume data platforms: Spring Batch ingestion of millions of product records per day at Mercadona with 85%+ automated test coverage under TDD, and serverless pipelines processing millions of financial transactions per day at Openbank.
- Owner of the fare pricing domain at Iberia under IATA NDC: Kafka, Redis caching and AWS (ECS, SQS, S3) on the highest-traffic pricing flows, plus an MCP server and a RAG service in Python and FastAPI for the engineering team.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Backend & Data: Python (async), FastAPI, Java, Kotlin, Spring Boot, TypeScript, React, React Native, Vue.js, SQL, REST, OpenAPI, Streaming APIs, WebSockets, Microservices, Apache Kafka, PostgreSQL, Redis, DynamoDB, Elasticsearch, MongoDB

Cloud & DevOps: AWS (ECS, Lambda, SQS, S3), Azure, GCP, Docker, Kubernetes, GitHub Actions, CI/CD

Architecture: Hexagonal Architecture, Domain-Driven Design (DDD), Event Sourcing, TDD, API-First

Observability & Quality: OpenTelemetry, Prometheus, Grafana, Dynatrace, JUnit, Karate, Regression Testing

LLMs in Production: LLMs, RAG (Retrieval-Augmented Generation), Embeddings, Semantic and Hybrid Search, Cross-Encoder Reranking, pgvector, MCP (Model Context Protocol), LangChain, LangGraph, Function Calling, vLLM, Ollama, Claude API, OpenAI API

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Iberia, S.A. — Senior Software Engineer | Mar 2025 – Present

Remote, Spain. Flight pricing platform. Technical owner of the fare pricing domain.

- Engineered the fare pricing services orchestrating external fare-calculation providers under IATA NDC on Kafka, PostgreSQL and AWS (ECS, SQS, S3) in hexagonal architecture with DDD; reduced latency and provider calls with Redis caching on the highest-traffic pricing flows and owned resilience (timeouts, retries, fallbacks) against provider degradation.
- Built an internal MCP (Model Context Protocol) server exposing pricing platform tooling to LLM clients, with governed function calling over fares, providers and configuration instead of ad-hoc scripts.
- Delivered a RAG service in Python and FastAPI over internal specs and NDC documentation with embeddings, hybrid search and cross-encoder reranking, giving the engineering team sub-minute, source-grounded answers; instrumented with OpenTelemetry and Dynatrace as a production service.

Technologies: Java, Kotlin, Python, Spring Boot, FastAPI, Kafka, Redis, PostgreSQL, AWS (ECS, SQS, S3), MCP, OpenTelemetry

Mercadona, S.A. (Contract) — Lead Backend Engineer | Mar 2024 – Mar 2025

Remote, Spain. Product analytics platform.

- Led backend engineering on a Spring Batch ingestion pipeline processing millions of product records per day from heterogeneous sources, with restartable jobs and idempotent writes.
- Designed API-first REST services (OpenAPI) in hexagonal architecture with DDD; sustained over 85% automated test coverage under TDD.

Technologies: Java, Kotlin, Spring Boot, PostgreSQL, Kafka, AWS, GCP, Docker, Flyway

Inditex, S.A. (Contract) — Lead Backend Engineer | Nov 2023 – Mar 2024

Remote, Spain. Global logistics, garment-sorting event platform.

- Technical lead of the zero-downtime Azure-to-AWS migration of a serverless platform processing thousands of garment-sorting events per minute across the logistics network.
- Built async REST APIs in hexagonal architecture with DDD and introduced Karate integration testing alongside the existing JUnit suite.

Technologies: Java, Kotlin, Spring Boot, MongoDB, PostgreSQL, Kafka, AWS, Azure, Docker, Liquibase

Earlier roles (employee positions):

Openbank (Open Bank, S.A., Santander Group) — Backend Engineer | Oct 2022 – Nov 2023 · Madrid, Spain

- Implemented serverless batch pipelines on AWS Lambda processing millions of financial transactions per day on the T24 core banking system, inside a 100+ backend engineer organisation; led the Java-to-Kotlin migration across services and delivered internal tech talks on DDD and hexagonal architecture to around 50 engineers.

Idealista, S.A. — Backend Engineer | Mar 2021 – Oct 2022 · Madrid, Spain

- Built a digital contract-signing platform for Spain, Portugal and Italy: REST APIs plus Kafka event streams for real-time signing, with event sourcing keeping an auditable, replayable history of every contract; contributed features to the platform's React front end.

Empathy.co — Backend Engineer | Jan 2019 – Mar 2021 · Gijón, Spain

- Built the configuration platform enterprise clients (Kroger, Carrefour, Inditex) use to tune their Elasticsearch-backed search engines; executed zero-downtime migrations: Java 8 to 11, GCP to AWS, and monolith to API Gateway.

SELECTED PROJECTS

Facturias — Invoice-processing SaaS, own product, live in production | facturias.es

- Structured extraction from invoices with a self-hosted vision-language model (Qwen2.5-VL) plus RAG over Spanish tax regulation; confidence scoring with human review on low-confidence fields, and a labelled evaluation set tracking field-level precision and recall across model versions, at 93% field-level extraction precision in production. VeriFactu-compliant, multi-tenant FastAPI backend on PostgreSQL 17 with row-level security and pgvector.

ZORRO — Consumer app shipped solo to iOS and Android | Jun 2026

- 700+ users with 50% D1 retention within three weeks of launch. React Native apps on both stores; semantic matchmaking with embeddings, pgvector retrieval and cross-encoder reranking; self-hosted vision-language photo moderation handling GDPR special-category data with no third-party processors; realtime chat over WebSockets.

EDUCATION & LANGUAGES

M.Sc. in Artificial Intelligence Research (official), UIMP / AEPIA — Specialisation in Machine Learning and Data Science | Sep 2026 – 2027, part-time alongside work.

B.Sc. in Computer Science and Software Engineering, University of Oviedo — Oviedo, Spain | 2017 – 2021.

Languages: Spanish (native) · English (professional working proficiency; daily working language on international engagements).