AI for business

The AI questions business leaders are asking – and the answers they need now!

Key barriers preventing value from AI

Do you need a strategy?

Ideally, AI should be integrated into your overall company strategy and not separated. This ensures that your AI use is aligned with existing strategic priorities, like efficiency, growth or customer experience. Based on this strategy, you can create an actionable plan to manage progress and costs, working towards the 'North Star' of your existing business goals.

Organisational and data readiness

AI maturity is achieved by integrating AI into your core business. In order to reach this point, you'll need to assess your current capabilities, goals and data infrastructure. Organisational readiness requires an AI-ready workforce with the right skills and culture, such as change management, continuous learning and innovation.

Setting up an efficient AI team

We recommend establishing a cross-functional AI team with a blend of technological and business expertise. You'll need people with deep understanding of the company's context and business goals, combined with specialists on areas such as data, research, design and security. These teams can build their capabilities, address compliance risks early, and foster a change-ready culture in the rest of the organisation.

Lack of best practices for scaling AI

Some of the best practices we've seen at Sopra Steria include:

- A structured approach to AI, aligning initiatives with business goals
- Setting clear objectives, governance and infrastructure
- Collaboration between technical experts and business stakeholders
- Ethical practices around bias and transparency

How to get started: organising your rollout

With these initial barriers overcome, it's time to start bringing AI to life within your organisation. Here are our top tips:

- **Spread AI responsibility across the organisation:** with cross-functional teams known as 'Tiger Teams' developing proof-of-concepts (POCs) in line with your defined ambitions

- **Experiment within the guidelines of your strategy and ambitions:** everything should lead back to the ambitions in your company strategy. Focus on projects that are quick to deploy to maximise learning and potential value.

- **Consider establishing a Centre of Excellence (CoE)** to centralise expertise, resources and best practices. C-suite buy-in is crucial: appoint a senior leader to head the CoE and oversee the POC development. Once AI has matured, it can be integrated from the CoE into core business operations.

- **Establish a project selection framework** to assess and prioritise AI initiatives. Decide whether you will buy or build AI solutions, starting with off-the-shelf options that can deliver fast value and be customised for your organisation.

- **Invest in data infrastructure** and ensure data quality through robust management systems.

Download our comprehensive AI for Business report to explore strategies for overcoming AI barriers, achieving readiness, and unlocking scalable value.

Read the report

AI is nothing without you.

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