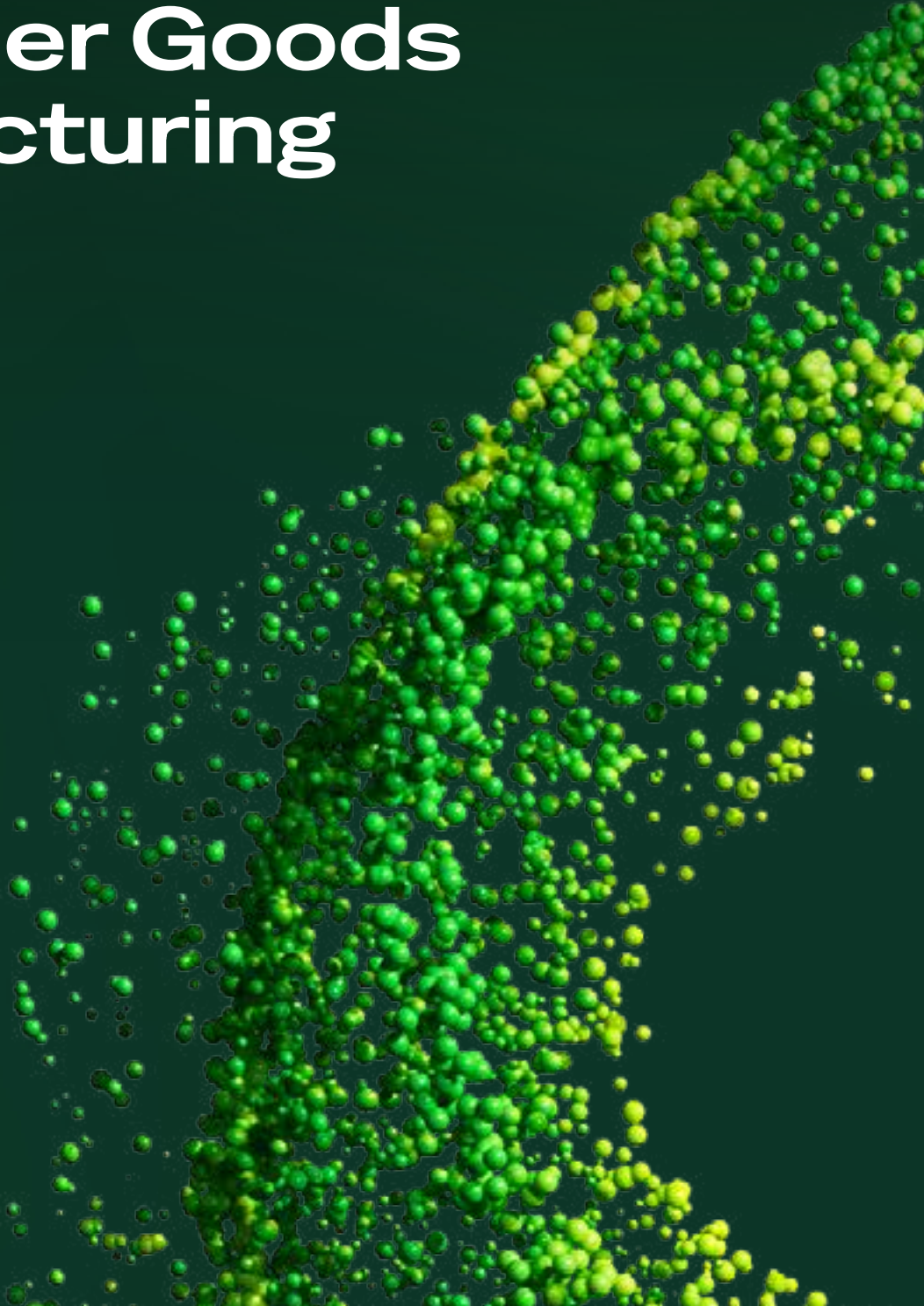


**Beyond the Hype:  
Practical AI for  
Competitive  
Consumer Goods  
Manufacturing**



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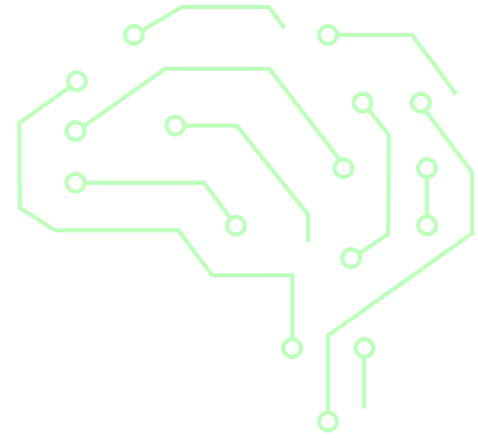
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# Turn Complexity into Competitive Strength



**Neil Smith**

Segment President,  
Consumer Packaged Goods  
**Schneider Electric**



What happens when the industries that power global progress cannot afford to invest in their own future? The cost-of-living crisis has made it difficult for many to save, plan, and invest for the long term. Manufacturers are in the same situation. Ballooning OpEx, the daily cost of running a business, has drastically reduced the room for CapEx investment in research, innovation, talent, training, or improved manufacturing methods. Energy-efficient automation and electrification upgrades are often the quickest way to reduce OpEx. This makes investments in energy technology even more strategic.

Meanwhile, the broader business environment that industrial players cannot control is characterized by volatility, uncertainty, complexity, and ambiguity, often referred to as “VUCA.” Some describe it in even starker terms such as “BANI,” meaning brittle, anxious, nonlinear, and incomprehensible. This new stark reality, the equivalent of living from paycheck-to-paycheck in the short-term while still trying to deliver efficiency and profitability longer-term, is shaping nearly every business decision and keeping many manufacturing leaders up at night. Integrated automation, electrification, and digitalization provide a way to adapt in real time, easing some of that volatility.

For leaders in food, beverage, and life sciences, stakes are even higher. These sectors serve as guardians of the supply security and ensure access to vital medication, affordable generics, and budget-friendly quality staples for millions. Yet market change remains the only constant. Consumer behavior continues to shift, supply chains are stretched, and global reshoring and reindustrialization require new levels of sustainable efficiency. It’s not only the scale of the challenges that matters. It’s also how frequently they arise for discrete industries today.

European manufacturers may be hit hardest with cost increases. Energy prices that were once stable enough to forecast are now **2-3 times higher in Europe** than in the U.S. or China, squeezing margins, limiting investment capacity, and impacting industrial competitiveness.

## The Risk of Standing Still

Manufacturers may be tightening budgets, but they cannot afford to step off the treadmill. That is the challenge, and the cost of doing nothing keeps rising. **New research from Omdia** shows that companies that are unable or hesitate to invest in easily adaptable production lines risk losing up to USD 1.2 million, or about 8 percent of their order volume, because they cannot efficiently support smaller, more customized orders. Smaller manufacturers are hit even harder, with losses reaching as high as 20 percent of orders. Integration of automation, electrification, and digital intelligence is becoming essential to unlock efficiencies and keep up with competition.

## The Most Efficient and Future-Ready Automation

Industrial automation must be flexible, reliable, and future-proof. In practice, this means building a strong foundation that can integrate technologies across automation, electrification, and digitalization. When these elements work together, they strengthen competitiveness and resilience at scale.

Examples include AI-driven open, software-defined automation that supports next generation production orchestration, high precision motion control, operational technology (OT) and information technology (IT) integration, and accelerating the shift toward fully autonomous operations. They also include energy technologies that allow facilities to electrify core processes, optimize power use, and connect operational data with energy management systems. This integration helps companies operate more efficiently and meet increasingly strict sustainability expectations.

Future-ready automation also requires modular, scalable frameworks for production facilities. These frameworks provide industry-grade cyber resilience and support operations that are progressively more autonomous, safe, and secure.

In every challenge, there is an opportunity. The **same research from Omdia** found that companies could gain USD 11.28 million per year by adopting vendor-agnostic, open software-defined automation. This is our chance to rethink how operations run, how decisions get made, and how resources are allocated.

## High Quality Data, High Impact AI

Industrial intelligence is already driving major gains in productivity, quality, and sustainable efficiency. The key to making an AI initiative succeed is complete and reliable industrial data. That requires vendor-neutral interoperable systems that let data flow easily across the operation.

With the right foundation, Industrial AI becomes a practical and proven way to elevate performance, support continuous team learning, optimize resources, and keep production agile and efficient. It can also identify clear, measurable sustainability improvements.

AI-driven automation and energy solutions are already here, and their impact grows when automation, electrification, and digital intelligence operate as one system. Embedding industrial AI into operations is the next step, helping organizations move further and faster.

## Your Path to Scalable Industrial AI

This paper focuses on the mindset shifts, building blocks, and real-world use cases that show how CPG leaders can move from firefighting to future-proofing. Industrial AI helps companies turn their energy technology into a competitive advantage. Industrial AI must be a part of your sustainable efficiency equation, if it isn't already.

We'll cut through the hype and get practical, exploring what industrial AI looks like today, where it delivers the most value, what's holding it back, and how leaders can lay the right foundations to scale it. If you're looking for clarity, inspiration, and a realistic path forward, you're in the right place.

### Annex 22

**Annex 22** is a new guideline for how AI can be used in life sciences manufacturing regulated under Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP), the quality system that ensures medicines are made safely and consistently. It introduces AI-specific rules for validation, transparency, and human oversight. Although still a draft in EU GMP, it has already been adopted by PIC/S, a global network of regulatory authorities that harmonize medicine manufacturing inspections, making Annex 22 the emerging worldwide reference for using AI in GMP controlled pharmaceutical processes.

### Why the Urgency?

- Up to **73%** of industrial data goes unused.  
Source: **Forrester** and **Forbes**.
- European energy prices jumped **28%** in a single day following geopolitical disruption.  
Source: **The Economic Times**.
- Global food prices rose **5.8%** YOY.  
Source: **FAO Food Price Index**.
- **5,710** FDA drug recalls were tied to sterility, contamination, or cGMP issues.  
Source: **NIH**.

# Emerging Trends, Challenges, and Opportunities

Feeding and healing the world has never been simple - but right now, it's more challenging than ever. For manufacturers in food and life sciences, the pressure isn't just about keeping shelves stocked. It's increasingly about ensuring affordable access, hitting sustainability targets, and delivering innovation at speed, without breaking compliance or the bottom line.

The stakes are only getting higher. Disruption is the default now, with supply chains becoming more local yet increasingly fragile, while input costs continue to spike. Climate shocks, geopolitical tensions, and resource scarcity are all fueling food price volatility and pharma delays. As consumer expectations for personalization rise, trust is harder to earn, and regulations are evolving faster than most follow.

Momentum is growing. According to **Deloitte**, 92% of manufacturers now see smart technologies as critical to maintaining competitiveness. The right energy technology exists, and many are already putting it to work. The challenge now is change management and scaling.

“AI gives us the power to save a lot of energy at a very small cost. The specialized industrial AI we use doesn't consume more energy than running a PowerPoint presentation.”

**Guillaume Schoebel**  
Country President Community SVP,  
Schneider Electric

“AI's biggest opportunities in life sciences clearly lie in drug discovery and development. It can accelerate identifying molecules, screening them, and predictive modelling for clinical trials.”

**Vicki Pearson**  
Strategy Lead, Life Sciences,  
Schneider Electric

Amid all the chaos, standing still isn't an option. CPG leaders need to be more predictive, more responsive, and more efficient than ever. That's where industrial AI can help. Not by solving global challenges in one fell swoop, but by helping companies become more agile, more data-driven, and better equipped to adapt.

Applied AI gives manufacturers practical ways to optimize what they control. That includes precision dosing in cleanrooms with next-generation **“Clean-in-Place” or CIP**, faster coding for new production lines with an **industrial copilot**, and easier facilities management and ESG reporting that save energy and time. It's about infusing AI into **energy technology** through integrated automation, electrification, and digital intelligence, to make operations more intelligent, productive, and sustainable.

# Agile, Localized, Efficient, Compliant, and Profitable

The once gold standard of mass production: big batches, global sourcing, and squeezing budgets wherever possible doesn't cut it anymore. Today's CPG world demands something else entirely:

- Shorter supply chains.
- More personalized products.
- Clear traceability, and
- Agile responses to changing consumer and regulatory demands.

Manufacturers are being pushed to adapt quickly. Instead of chasing scale above everything else, they now need flexibility at every level. Reshoring is back in focus, batch sizes are shrinking, and product lines keep multiplying. And all of it must happen without slipping on compliance or sustainability.

That shift, while critical, brings real complexity. Just look at fast fashion—a sector that mastered speed and personalization but at huge cost to labor rights and sustainability. CPG manufacturers cannot afford to repeat those mistakes.

That's where AI and modern energy technology can make a real difference. Together, they enable agility without compromise, helping manufacturers forecast demand shifts optimize yield, improve energy use, and maintain real-time compliance. Industrial AI gives team the tools to work smarter, not just faster.

Instead of chasing scale, AI allows CPG players to chase precision—delivering the right product, at the right time, with minimal waste.

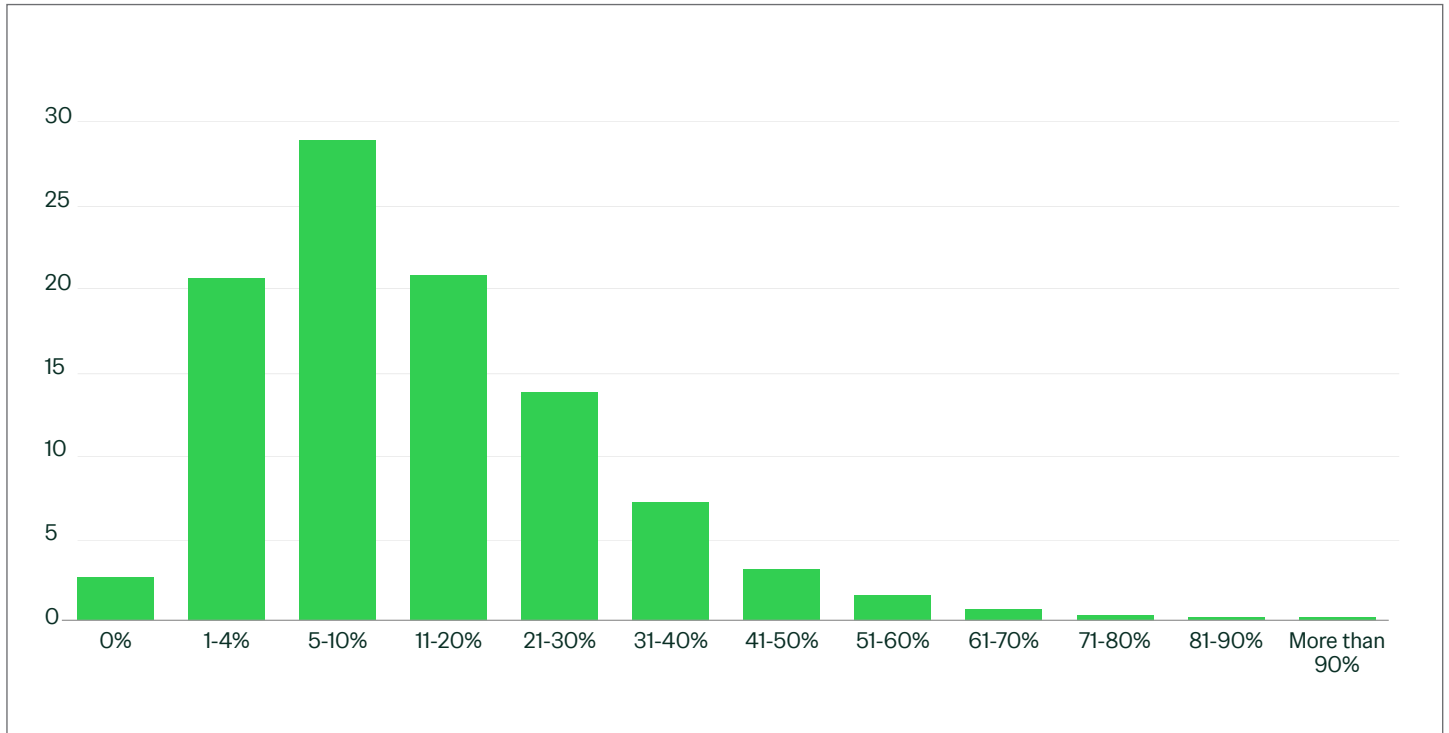
“New UK legislation enables hospitals to produce personalized medicines on site, making near-patient therapies like CAR-T viable at scale. However, it also brings complexity: both production and consumption must happen in a matter of days, sometimes within 24 hours. For these decentralized micro-factories, AI-enabled open, software-defined automation is key to quality, traceability, and compliance. It's a glimpse of where manufacturing is headed: local, flexible, and AI-powered. And it's not just for pharma—these principles apply across all CPG.”

**Neil Smith,**  
CPG Segment President  
Schneider Electric

## Production Inefficiency Outlook

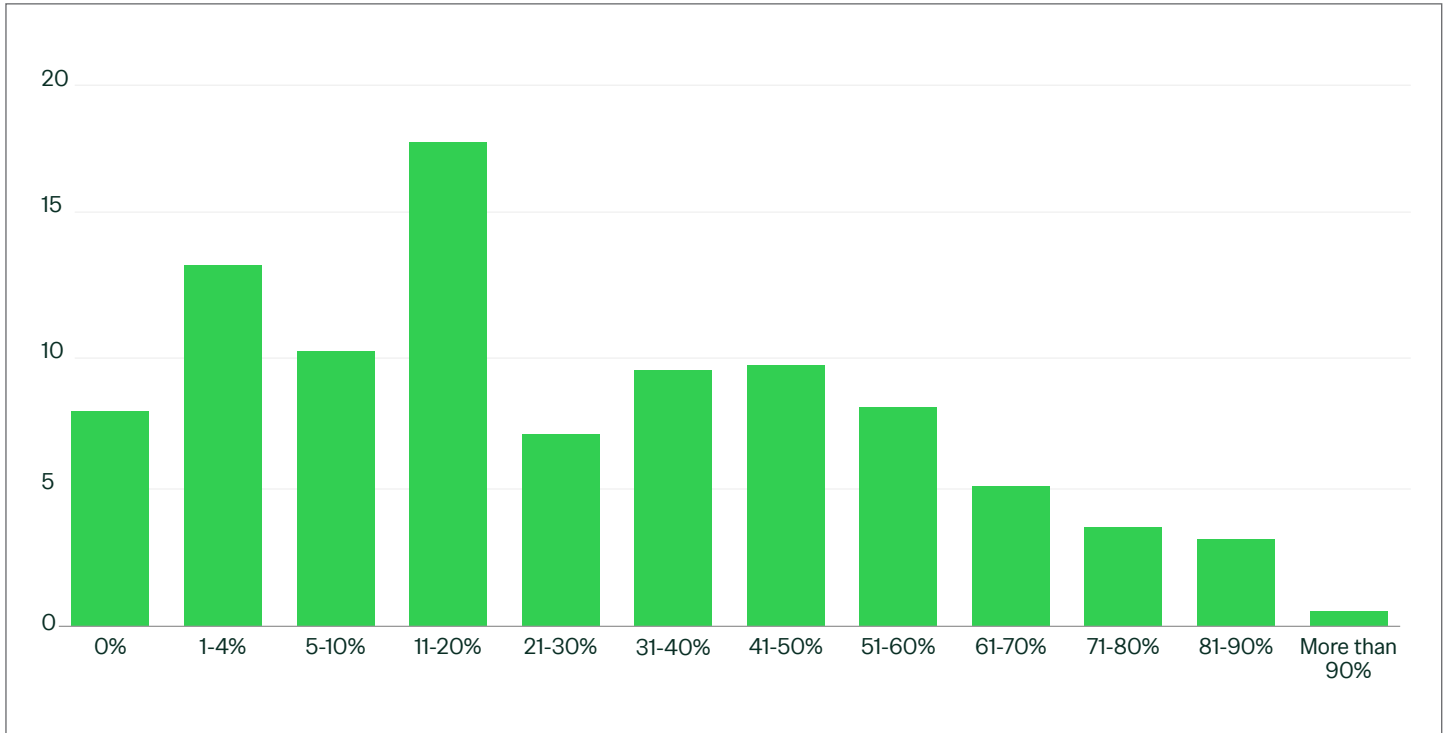
Schneider Electric’s global survey of 1,453 global CPG manufacturing decision-makers, conducted in March 2026, showed manufacturers see inefficiency-related production losses increasing by 2030. Inefficiencies include downtime, waste, delays, rework, or sub-optimal use of assets.

Approximately what percentage of your organization’s potential manufacturing revenue is lost due to production inefficiencies today?



Production inefficiencies today.

Approximately what percentage of your organization's potential manufacturing revenue could be lost due to production inefficiencies by 2030?



Production inefficiencies expected by 2030.

### Key Trends Defining the Future of CPG Manufacturing

- **62%** of global manufacturers say they plan to reshore or nearshore by 2026.  
Source: **McKinsey**.
- **71%** of consumers expect personalized interactions from brands. **76%** get frustrated when they don't get it.  
Source: **McKinsey / Forbes**.
- **40%** of companies see personalization driving 10-15 % revenue uplift.  
Source: **McKinsey**.
- **55%** of manufacturers already use generative AI, and over 40% plan to increase AI investments within 3 years.  
Source: **Deloitte**.

# Strategic Pillars of AI in CPG

## Scale AI to Unlock Bigger Wins

If AI pays off, why aren't we scaling it? Industrial AI is no longer a gamble. It's a proven driver of efficiency, resilience, and sustainability across CPG supply chains, with success stories at every maturity stage. From demand forecasting and cleanroom optimization to predictive maintenance and energy savings, the case today is stronger than ever.

So why the stall? It's not the tech. It's managing change across people, process, and culture. Many CPG leaders identify the same blockers: low trust, internal resistance, fragmented teams, and uncertainty around where to start.

Leadership alignment is another hurdle. When innovation teams and the C-level are not in synch, strategy splinters. Even when pilots succeed, scaling across plants remains difficult.

"When AI is not visible, it works very well. People shouldn't have to worry if there's AI or not. They should only see the software solving problems."

**Guillaume Schoebel**  
Country President Community SVP,  
Schneider Electric

"Success won't come from simply layering next-generation technology onto outdated processes. True transformation requires rethinking the foundations of how we design and operate."

**Vicki Pearson**  
Strategy Lead, Life Sciences,  
Schneider Electric

Trust is pivotal, especially in regulated environments where decisions carry real-world consequences. Workforces need to understand, trust, and see value in Industrial AI and energy technology. With the right adoption plan, the results speak for themselves.

AI success is about people as much as technology. The leaders who win start small, bring teams along, and build trust as they scale.

“AI success must be non-threatening to the workforce. It’s about using AI to augment operations and people’s potential, not replace them.”

**Neil Smith,**  
CPG Segment President  
Schneider Electric

## Industrial AI That Empowers People: Human-in-the-Loop and Agentic AI

As we move deeper into the **World Economic Forum’s vision of the Intelligent Age**, where humans, machines, and intelligence blend seamlessly, the story of industrial automation and artificial intelligence is changing. Schneider Electric is pioneering this shift with its human-in-the-loop and agentic AI vision, bringing AI, automation, energy technology, and digital intelligence together. This unique integration supports workers, strengthens their capabilities, and improves creativity and decision-making.

At the heart of this is a clear commitment to empowering human workers. Industrial AI is not about automation alone, but about meaningful augmentation that uses technology to strengthen human capability, support safety, and improve job satisfaction. The vision is straightforward. AI should act as decision support, keeping strategic oversight and all ethical considerations fully in human hands

In highly regulated environments like pharmaceuticals or food safety, trust and explainability are essential. AI models cannot be black boxes; they must be transparent, auditable, and understandable. Schneider Electric embeds these principles in all its AI applications, ensuring that workers and decision-makers not only trust the insights AI provides, but fully understand them.

Agentic AI, which refers to systems capable of proactively aligning actions with real-time environmental data and organizational objectives, creates a new form of collaboration between humans and tech. By handling complexity and routine decision-making, these intelligent agents free up human workers to focus on strategic and creative tasks to improve productivity and innovation.

## Industrial AI Readiness and Organizational Foundations

Many companies understand how powerful industrial AI can be—but scaling it across the business is another story. The issue isn’t usually the technology; it’s about being ready as an organization. That means tackling messy data, siloed teams, and unclear objectives head-on.

Getting AI-ready is about more than plugging in new tools. It’s about laying the right foundations—reliable data, aligned teams, and a culture that’s open to change. Here are three key areas where readiness really matters:

### 1 Data integrity and accessibility

AI needs quality data. But many companies are working with unstructured, siloed, or incomplete data sets. For AI to work, data must be clean, consistent, and easy to access across systems.

### 2 Change readiness

Industrial AI isn’t just an IT project. It succeeds when teams work together, leaders provide clear support, and people understand that AI is there to assist them, not replace them. Change management is crucial to bringing people along the journey.

### 3 Partnerships that go the distance

Schneider Electric and AVEVA don’t just deliver the tech; they work alongside customers, technology partners, and system integrators to build lasting capabilities.

### 4

AVEVA’s platforms like **Historian, Manufacturing Execution System (MES), and PI System** provide the data backbone. Schneider brings consulting and strategy, as well as delivers EcoStruxure Automation Expert, an open software-defined automation platform, helping organizations set up the right foundational structures and skills for long-term industrial AI success.

## AI-Driven Unified Engineering

“With generative, predictive, and agentic design AI embedded into **AVEVA Unified Engineering**, the foundations of an intelligent, autonomous engineering and design ecosystem are now in place. What was once manual, complex, and time-intensive is becoming instant, predictive, and conversational.”

**Dr. Moresh Wankhede**  
Senior AI Product Manager  
AVEVA

## AI Readiness Checklist

Before scaling AI across your operations, it pays to take stock. Use this checklist to assess whether your organization is primed to turn industrial AI from potential into performance:

- Clear Objectives:**  
 Do you have specific, measurable goals for your AI projects?
- Data Quality:**  
 Is your industrial data clean, accurate, accessible, and contextualized?
- Cross-team Alignment:**  
 Are your IT, OT, and business strategy teams aligned around AI goals?
- Leadership buy-in:**  
 Do senior leaders actively support your AI initiatives?
- Change management plan:**  
 Have you planned how to help teams on the shop floor integrate AI into their daily workflows, and successfully manage tech change?
- Skills and training:**  
 Are employees trained to copilot alongside AI?
- Governance:**  
 Do you have guidelines for AI transparency and ethical use, ensuring compliance?
- Tech infrastructure:**  
 Is your current tech stack robust, secure, and scalable?
- Scalable pilots:**  
 Can your pilot projects be easily scaled across your organization?
- Partnership support with deep domain expertise:**  
 Have you identified trusted and experienced partners to guide your AI transformation? Are they experienced not just on the software and IT side, but also industrial transformation, end-to-end energy management technology, and deep sector expertise?
- The ROI:**  
 Is your AI deployment designed to be financially sustainable and operationally effective? Can the gains from AI support future phases of industrial innovation?

“Successful digital transformation in complex multi-location brownfield environments requires disciplined planning, a clear roadmap, and evidence-based validation before scaling. By testing use cases through pilots and applying digital twin-based modeling, we ensure every deployment is proven, repeatable, and ready for scale.”

**Cecile Vercellino**  
 SVP IA Services and Advisory  
 Schneider Electric

# Modular, Scalable, AI-Ready Infrastructure

Getting your organization ready for AI is only half the picture. The other half is about making sure your infrastructure is flexible, scalable, and built to evolve.

Soon to be gone are the days of rigid, hardwired systems, and while plug-and-play might sound appealing, without strong foundations, it's just another short-term fix. What's needed now is architecture that grows with your business, something that's open, modular, and AI-ready from the get-go.

That's where platforms like Schneider Electric's **EcoStruxure Automation Expert (EAE)** and **AVEVA's consumer products software solutions** make a difference. Together, they offer a future-proof foundation that's designed not just to support digital transformation, but to accelerate it. EAE creates an agile and resilient AI-ready foundation through:

## ► Open, Modular System

EcoStruxure Automation Expert is built on open standards, making it easier to integrate new tools, scale applications across sites, orchestrate production process modifications, and adapt quickly when market conditions shift. No more vendor lock-in. No more long lead times for upgrades. Just systems that are ready when you are.

## ► Scalable by Design

Whether you're starting with one pilot site or planning a multi-plant rollout, open software-defined automation gives you the flexibility to grow at your own pace. This modular approach doesn't just reduce costs and complexity—it speeds up time to value.

## ► AI at the Edge—And Everywhere Else

With AVEVA's capabilities for edge computing, cloud integration and real-time analytics, businesses can deploy industrial AI where it adds the most value, whether that's on the factory floor for predictive maintenance, in the control room for yield optimization, or across the enterprise (e.g. **AVEVA Unified Operations Center**) for smarter decision-making.

## ► Built for Vendor-Neutral Collaboration

These platforms don't just connect machines—they connect people and processes, too. With a unified data layer and full visibility from sensor to boardroom, they help teams collaborate more effectively and act on insights faster, connecting best-of-bread solutions.

This is the kind of infrastructure industrial AI needs to thrive: open, flexible, and built for the long haul.

## The Bottom Line

If your infrastructure can't scale, adapt, or play well with others, your AI ambitions won't get far. Think long term, choose modular solutions, and rely on agile platforms that make it easier to grow when and how you need to.



EAE Showcase Video



AVEVA UOC Showcase Video

"AI is only as powerful as the foundation beneath it. That means embedding technology in genuine domain expertise: understanding your customers' actual challenges, local conditions, and what it really takes to win in each market."

**Ilda Metani**  
Head of Industry AI Consulting  
Schneider Electric

# Market View: How Much ROI is in Industrial AI Right Now?

Despite ongoing market and manufacturing volatility, CPG manufacturers are signalling unprecedented confidence in the potential of industrial AI. The **2026 Industrial AI in CPG Survey**<sup>1</sup>, conducted by Schneider Electric and Censuswide, reveals a clear and widening gap between the maturity of AI deployments today and the scale of returns manufacturers expect by 2030; a gap that underscores both urgency and opportunity.

## The ROI Today: Early but Uneven

For most organizations, industrial AI remains in the early stages of maturity. Only 13% of CPG manufacturers report that AI is fully embedded across core operations end-to-end today, while the majority remain in partial deployments or pilots. Correspondingly, 70.1% of respondents report current AI-driven ROI levels below 20%, and almost one-third (28.4%) see ROI at 5% or less.

## Expected ROI Tomorrow: Rising Sharply by 2030

While today's returns on already deployed AI are modest, expectations for the years ahead are far higher. Manufacturers anticipate a sharp increase in AI-driven value within the decade. By 2030: 37% expect AI to be fully core to their operations (nearly triple today's levels). Another 32.7% expect AI deployments to generate 50–74% ROI, and 7.9% expect over 100% ROI, indicating that some projects could pay for themselves in under a year.

These projected ROI levels are today only observed in highly mature digital operations, such as WEF Lighthouse or autonomous factory environments, illustrating the ambition of CPG leaders to close the performance gap rapidly.

## The barrier is not AI technology, it's foundational readiness

While CPG manufacturers express confidence in industrial AI's potential, the study reveals that the biggest implementation obstacles are structural:

- ▶ Skills gaps in AI or data science (43.0%)
- ▶ Legacy automation systems and infrastructure (37.5%)
- ▶ Lack of contextualized operational data (36.3%)
- ▶ Workforce resistance (25.7%)

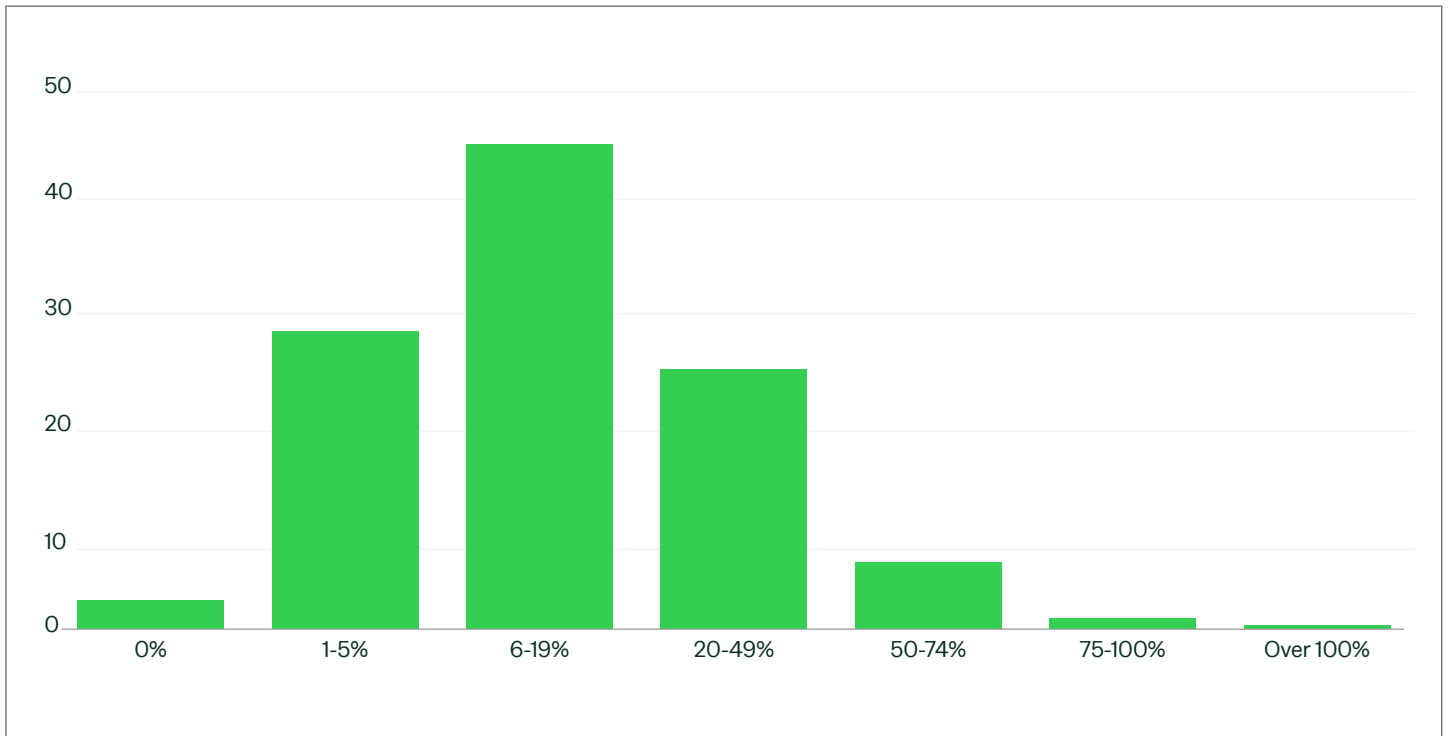
All ahead of cybersecurity or compliance concerns (21.7%).

“Manufacturers are projecting a tripling of the end-to-end AI adoption by 2030, alongside a step change in the returns they expect to see, matching the levels only the most advanced Lighthouse and autonomous factories achieve today. This expectation gap is the strongest signal of urgency we’ve seen in years. AI can only be transformative when it delivers true industrial intelligence: the ability to turn real-time operational data, modern automation and AI into synchronized decisions that improve efficiency at scale. Many organizations are still operating brownfield sites with fragmented data and legacy systems that limit AI’s value and adoption. Closing this readiness gap is now one of the most important competitiveness priorities for the CPG sector.”

**Neil Smith,**  
CPG Segment President  
Schneider Electric

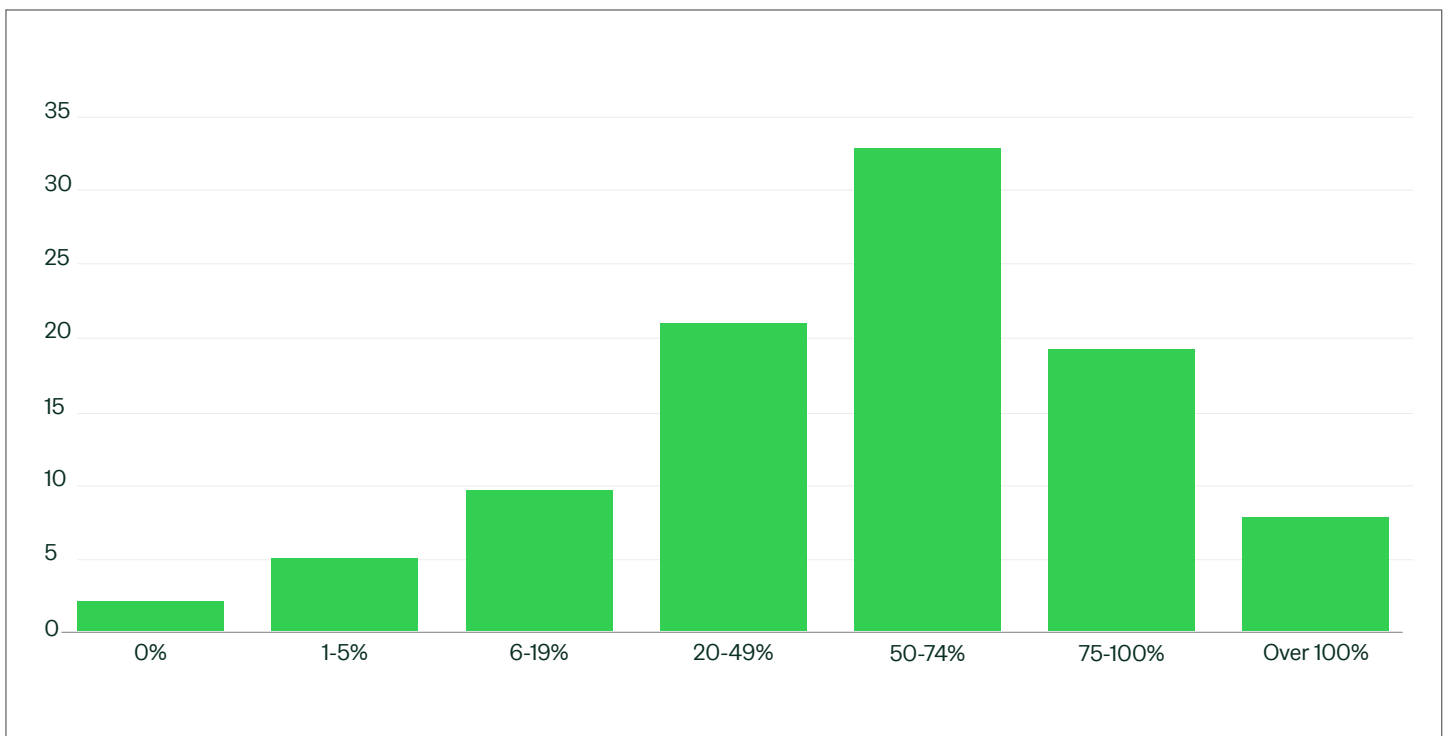
<sup>1</sup> The statistically representative research was conducted by Censuswide, among a sample of 1,453 C-Suite (25% of the sample) and senior manufacturing decision-makers across the Life Sciences and Food & Beverage sectors in the UK, US, Italy, Germany, Sweden, Norway, Finland, France, Denmark, KSA, Austria, Ireland, Switzerland, and Egypt. The data was collected from February to March 2026.

Approximately what ROI (Return on Investment) from already deployed Artificial Intelligence (AI) have you observed today?



Production inefficiencies today.

Approximately what ROI (Return on Investment) from already deployed Artificial Intelligence (AI) you'd expect by 2030?



Expected ROI from deployed AI projects by 2030

# Outcomes Before Hype: AI Solving Real-World Problems

AI in industry doesn't need to make headlines, it needs to make a difference. While GenAI might dominate the public realm with hype, the true value for manufacturers lies in a much different world, with smaller, more focused applications solving specific pain points.

Schneider Electric's mission to be the energy technology partner for industry means identifying where AI can drive measurable impact right now. That impact grows when AI is combined with automation, electrification, and digital intelligence. It rarely comes from giant, general-purpose models. It comes from models trained on the domain-specific data, for the right task, deployed in the right part of the operation.

Whether it's optimizing energy use on a specific production line, automating routine quality checks, or forecasting machine failures with greater accuracy, problem-first industrial AI is engineered to deliver fast, meaningful wins. These focused models also require less data, and produce clear ROI, often in a matter of weeks, not years.

From experimental pilots to embedded intelligence, Schneider Electric is helping manufacturers build confidence by starting small and scaling smart, delivering practical results, not proof-of-concepts.



Schneider Electric's smart factory in Le Vaudreuil, Normandy, France.  
Julien Lutt / Schneider Electric

Schneider Electric deploys and refines industrial AI inside its own award-winning smart factories, using deep technical expertise and domain-specific data. The company has multiple **WEF Global Lighthouse** recognitions across Advanced, End to End, Sustainability, and Talent categories.

## The Path Forward

The path forward is simple: start with real problems. Well-designed AI doesn't need to be showy. It just needs to work. By tackling specific challenges with the right partners and tools, you can get real results, quickly. It's not about hype; it's about making things better where it counts.

# Responsible, Secure AI You Can Trust

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As AI moves further into industrial settings, trust isn't optional. It's not just about what AI does, but how it does it. Manufacturers need to be confident that any AI running their operation is secure, traceable, explainable, and ready to meet regulatory demands.

That's where Schneider Electric and AVEVA's experience in highly regulated sectors, including life sciences, food, and beverage, comes in. These aren't industries where you can test ideas and see what sticks. They need strong security, full audit trails, and clear accountability for every decision AI makes.

Schneider Electric builds this into its systems from the start. Our critical infrastructure-grade cybersecurity approach, combined with standards-based interoperability, is designed to protect both the tech and the data behind it. This becomes even more important as AI spreads across edge, cloud, and increasingly complex systems.

Traceability and explainability are just as crucial. If an AI flags a defect, tweaks a process, or schedules maintenance, users need to know why. **AVEVA's platforms** support this with visibility into both the outcomes and the logic behind them, so industrial AI becomes a trusted assistant, not a "black box."

For regulated industries, who are under pressure to prove compliance and manage risk, this is paramount. But even in less tightly governed sectors, explainability helps build trust on the ground and speeds up adoption across teams.

To scale industrial AI, it needs to be safe, transparent, and trustworthy from day one. That's what gives it staying power: not just smart ideas, but systems that stand up to scrutiny.

"Cybersecurity isn't just about AI. It's about digitalization more broadly, with data flowing everywhere. AI adds some new elements, like access to private data, but really it just magnifies an issue that's already top, top, top of the agenda. At least for us."

**Guillaume Schoebel,**  
Country President Community SVP  
Schneider Electric

# Energy-Efficient Industrial AI

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When it comes to AI, not all models are created equal, especially when it comes to sustainability. While large language models dominating headlines today consume considerable amounts of energy and water, that kind of footprint simply doesn't work for manufacturers trying to run lean, efficient operations.

Industrial AI is different. Built for purpose, it's designed to be targeted, efficient, and embedded where it can deliver the most value, from the power edge to the production line, and into the cloud. Smaller models trained on operational data, not internet-scale content, are helping manufacturers reduce energy waste, cut downtime, and deliver sustainable efficiency.

This shift is about more than emissions. It's about smarter use of energy across the board. Whether that's optimizing when machines run, predicting energy-intensive process peaks, or spotting inefficiencies in real time, industrial AI helps businesses cut both carbon and cost.

Schneider Electric and AVEVA are embedding this intelligence across industrial platforms, bringing AI to where it's most effective, with edge computing enabling fast, local decisions. This reduces latency, improves reliability, and avoids unnecessary data movement, making the whole system lighter and more sustainable.

For manufacturers looking to meet sustainable efficiency targets and stay competitive, this kind of energy-smart AI isn't just nice to have; it's a strategic advantage.

"Our AI-driven solutions bring incredible value to our customers. There is a hard saving on energy consumption from our tools leveraging AI. That cost-savings is just impressive."

**Guillaume Schoebel,**  
Country President Community SVP  
Schneider Electric

# Turn Readiness into Results

There's never been a better time to turn plans into action. The business case for AI in CPG is no longer in doubt, but the impact depends on what you do next.

That starts with mindset: Be ambitious but start small. Focus on real problems, earn trust from your teams, and scale what works. Remember: AI implementation isn't a one-time rollout, it's a continuous journey of learning, adapting, and improving.

And you don't have to do it alone. The right energy technology partner will help you choose the right use cases and build the foundations to support them, from data to culture to tech. Look for one who knows your industry and operations, and can bring together automation, electrification, and digital intelligence. You want a partner who can offer strategy and support, not just software.

Scaling AI isn't about doing everything at once. It's about taking the next best step, with confidence and the right guidance. To help, here's a quick checklist to make sure your next move - and your next partner - is the right one.

## AI-Driven Unified Engineering

"With generative, predictive, and agentic design AI embedded into AVEVA Unified Engineering, the foundations of an intelligent, autonomous engineering and design ecosystem are now in place. What was once manual, complex, and time-intensive is becoming instant, predictive, and conversational."

**Dr. Moresh Wankhede**  
Senior AI Product Manager  
AVEVA

"When it comes to the application of AI for specific industrial problems such as manufacturing or CPG, you don't go with a lightweight proof of concept. You have to go there with solutions that are mature and robust, that are going to work just like our products today."

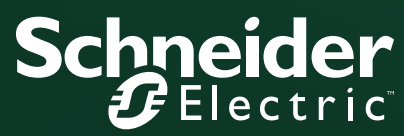
**Sreedhar Sistu,**  
AI Hub Lead  
Schneider Electric

## How to Select the Best Partner

Here are ten quick questions to help you assess who's ready to help you scale AI with impact:

- 1 Do they understand your industry and operations, not just the tech/software side of automation?
- 2 Can they help you identify and prioritize the right use cases?
- 3 Do they offer support across the full lifecycle, from readiness to ROI?
- 4 Is their technology open, modular, and scalable, and built to integrate automation, electrification, and digital intelligence.
- 5 Can they work with your existing infrastructure and data systems?
- 6 How do they support change management and workforce engagement?
- 7 Can they demonstrate explainable, traceable industrial AI outputs?
- 8 What cybersecurity and compliance measures are in place?
- 9 Do they have a track record in regulated or high-stakes environments?
- 10 Will they act as your long-term partner, not just a vendor?

If the answer is "no" to any of these, it might be time to talk to Schneider Electric. The right energy technology partner won't just give you tools, we'll help you build trust, scale fast, and get real results that stick.



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