

AI in Supply Chain: Your Checklist to Get Started

The fusion of AI, Big Data and other emerging technologies promises not just efficiency, but a complete reimagining of supply chain dynamics. But where do you start? How do you move beyond the buzzwords to identify the real-world implications for your business? What challenges and opportunities await?

Follow this checklist to advance — or begin — your connected supply chain journey, powered by AI:

Invest in the right talent.

“When it comes to AI and Big Data, it means nothing unless you have people who can write the code, retrieve the data and simplify it into useful insights.” – **Lori Ann LaRocco, Senior Editor, CNBC**



Collaborate to set your strategy and get executive buy-in.

“AI is a tool to serve a strategy — its purpose and responsibilities must be defined by management. To set that strategy, determine what data you do and do not have, define the desired ROI and get executive buy-in.” – **Philippe Gilbert, Managing Director, Arco Consulting International**



Create accountability and alignment, and encourage experimentation.

“Make sure everyone understands how they are connected to your company’s overarching goals and the criteria for success. Create a safe environment that allows experimentation and progress while you’re figuring out the early phases of your strategy. Most importantly, don’t wait for everything to be perfect to get started. Incremental success can unlock new value streams” – **Joe Wildes, Chief Innovation Officer, ARMADA**



Work backward from your desired outcomes.

“Brainstorm across functions as to what operational performance improvements would have the biggest impact on your business. Those improvements are likely to be tied to enabling better prediction or forecasting for your workforce, assets or inventory. Then consider how you can work through your data so that you can apply AI to automate the decision process that will result in better accuracy and forecasting.” – **Tom Bianculli, Chief Technology Officer, Zebra Technologies**



Learn. Be an enabler of digital transformation.

“There’s no such thing as a data strategy that’s separate from corporate strategy anymore. This is not tech that can be kept at arm’s length. All supply chain leaders need to get involved, start using the technology, embrace it and ask questions about what it can do for their teams. Willingness to engage is the first step.” – **Priya Rajagopalan, Chief Product Officer, FourKites**

