

AI Introduction Strategy

Is Your Organization Ready to Deploy AI?

A model-based assessment and roadmap service for AI adoption — from readiness diagnosis to governed, scalable deployment.

Service

AI Maturity Assessment & Roadmap

Format

Sprint · Interim · Fractional

Contact

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1 The Problem with AI Adoption

Most organizations do not fail with AI because they lack ambition. They fail because they invest in AI systems that are not technically feasible, not governable, not certifiable, or not aligned with their operational constraints. By the time these problems become visible, significant capital and engineering effort have already been committed.

The root cause is rarely the model itself. It is organizational and architectural immaturity: missing data foundations, undefined accountability, unclear integration paths, absent governance, and teams without the competencies to operate AI reliably in production.

The standard responses — vendor evaluations, model benchmarks, AI readiness checklists — do not address this. A checklist tells you what is missing. It does not tell you which missing conditions block everything else, or which investments will unlock the most capability in the shortest time.

Core Question

Before asking which AI tools or models to adopt, an organization must answer: which capabilities does it already have, which are missing, and which missing capabilities are prerequisites for everything else? A high score in one area does not compensate for absent foundations in another.

2 The Approach: Model-Based AI Maturity Assessment

This service applies a structured, model-based assessment framework to AI adoption — methodologically rooted in Focus Area Maturity Model research and field-validated in complex engineering environments. Rather than a linear checklist, it treats AI readiness as a system of dependent conditions.

Each organizational capability required for AI adoption is defined precisely, assigned to a maturity level, and linked to the capabilities that must precede it. This dependency structure is the core of the approach: it reveals not just what is missing, but what must be addressed first, and which investments will compound.

2.1 Why This Approach Is Different

Standard AI Readiness Checklist**Model-Based Maturity Assessment**

Scores capabilities in isolation	Maps dependencies between capabilities
No sequencing of what to fix first	Dependency-aware roadmap: what unlocks what
Same template for every organization	Situationally adapted to your objectives and context
Output: list of gaps	Output: current profile, target profile, prioritized roadmap
Cannot identify prerequisite blockers	Identifies which gaps block multiple downstream capabilities
No connection to regulatory requirements	Structured against EU AI Act risk classes and governance needs

2.2 What the Assessment Covers

The AI Maturity Matrix structures organizational AI readiness across five Engineering Functions, each divided into three Focus Areas. Together they cover the complete operational lifecycle of AI — from strategic intent to trustworthy deployment.

Strategy & Governance	AI Vision & Objectives, Governance & Compliance, Risk Management. Ensures AI initiatives are strategically anchored and meet regulatory requirements including the EU AI Act risk classification scheme.
Data & Infrastructure	Data Management, Technical Infrastructure, Data Quality & Security. Without accessible, high-quality data and appropriate infrastructure, AI systems cannot be reliably built or operated.
Process & Organisation	Process Integration, Roles & Competencies, Change Management. AI generates value only when embedded in operating processes and accepted by the people who use and depend on its outputs.
AI Development & Ops	Model Development, MLOps & Deployment, Quality & Testing. Covers the full technical lifecycle of AI models from development through production operation, monitoring and lifecycle management.
Ethics & Trust	Fairness & Transparency, Explainability (XAI), Sustainability. Trustworthy AI is a prerequisite for regulatory acceptance, public legitimacy and long-term operational viability — not an optional add-on.

3 AI Maturity Matrix

The Maturity Matrix is the central instrument of the assessment. Each row represents a Focus Area within its Engineering Function. Each column represents a Maturity Level from 0 (not initiated) to 10 (fully optimized). Filled cells indicate which Capabilities belong to each level. Color intensity reflects the depth of maturity — from foundational (light) to advanced (dark).

The matrix is situationally adapted: Focus Areas and Capabilities irrelevant to your specific context or AI use cases are excluded. The result is a profile that reflects your actual objectives — not a generic benchmark.

AI Maturity Matrix — Five Engineering Functions, Fifteen Focus Areas, Maturity Levels 0–10

Engineering Function	Focus Area	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Strategy & Governance	AI Vision & Objectives		•		•		•			•		
	Governance & Compliance		•	•		•		•			•	
	Risk Management			•		•		•		•		•
Data & Infrastructure	Data Management		•		•		•		•		•	
	Technical Infrastructure			•		•		•		•		•
	Data Quality & Security				•		•		•		•	
Process & Organisation	Process Integration		•		•		•		•		•	
	Roles & Competencies			•		•		•		•		
	Change Management		•			•		•		•		•
AI Development & Ops	Model Development			•		•		•		•		•
	MLOps & Deployment				•		•		•		•	
	Quality & Testing			•		•		•		•		•
Ethics & Trust	Fairness & Transparency			•		•		•		•		
	Explainability (XAI)				•		•		•		•	
	Sustainability					•		•		•		•

▪ Capability present at this Maturity Level Column shading indicates progression from foundational to advanced

4 Illustrative Capabilities

Each Focus Area is decomposed into a sequence of Capabilities — specific, verifiable organizational abilities. Each Capability has a precise description, an explicit prerequisite, and a Maturity Level assignment. The following examples illustrate the depth of definition applied across the model.

4.1 Data Management

Cap.	Name	Description & Prerequisite	ML
DM-A	Data Source Inventory	A complete, current inventory of all relevant data sources is maintained: what data exists, where it resides, who is responsible. Prereq: —	1
DM-B	Data Access & Governance	Controlled access processes are defined. Privacy rights and usage permissions are legally clarified and documented. Prereq: DM-A	3
DM-C	Data Pipelines & Integration	Automated pipelines for AI training and inference are implemented and operated. Data flows are documented and reproducible. Prereq: DM-B	5
DM-D	Data Quality Management	Systematic monitoring and improvement of data quality across completeness, timeliness and correctness. Quality metrics are tracked. Prereq: DM-C	7
DM-E	Feature Engineering & DataOps	Enterprise-wide feature store. Continuous automated quality measurement. Version-controlled pipeline management. Prereq: DM-D	9

4.2 Governance & Compliance

Cap.	Name	Description & Prerequisite	ML
GC-A	AI Policy Definition	Foundational policies for AI use are defined and communicated: what AI may and may not do, accountability structures, escalation paths. Prereq: —	1
GC-B	EU AI Act Classification	All AI systems in scope are classified by EU AI Act risk category and documented with required conformity evidence. Prereq: GC-A	2
GC-C	AI Audit Processes	Regular audits of AI systems for compliance, fairness and performance are established. Audit trails are maintained. Prereq: GC-B	4
GC-D	Continuous Compliance Monitoring	High-risk AI systems are certified. Automated compliance monitoring is implemented across the AI portfolio. Prereq: GC-C	6

4.3 Explainability (XAI)

Cap.	Name	Description & Prerequisite	ML
XAI-A	Explainability Requirements	Explainability requirements are defined per use case: which decisions must be explainable, to whom, and at what level of detail. Prereq: GC-A	3
XAI-B	Local Explanation Methods	Post-hoc local explanation methods (e.g. SHAP, LIME) are applied to AI outputs for audit and user-facing justification. Prereq: XAI-A	5
XAI-C	Interpretable Model Design	Where feasible, inherently interpretable architectures are preferred over black-box alternatives for high-stakes decisions. Prereq: XAI-A	7
XAI-D	Explanation Validation	Explanations are tested for faithfulness, stability and user comprehensibility. Validation evidence is recorded and auditable. Prereq: XAI-B or XAI-C	9

5 Engagement and Deliverables

The AI Maturity Assessment is available across three engagement formats, matched to the organization's starting point and decision horizon.

Format	Scope	Typical Output
Assessment Sprint	3–5 days	Baseline maturity profile · dependency map · use-case feasibility ranking · executive decision memo
Interim Mandate	4–8 weeks	Full maturity assessment · target profile definition · prioritised roadmap · governance scaffolding · stakeholder alignment
Fractional Support	Ongoing	Roadmap execution oversight · maturity re-assessment · architecture governance · certification readiness

5.1 Standard Deliverables

- ▶ AI maturity profile: current state across all relevant Focus Areas

- ▶ Dependency map: which gaps are blocking downstream capabilities and where investment compounds
- ▶ Maturity Matrix with current and target state visualized
- ▶ Prioritized improvement roadmap with sequencing rationale
- ▶ AI use-case feasibility ranking based on current organizational readiness
- ▶ Build-vs-buy and vendor risk recommendations where applicable
- ▶ Executive summary for leadership, board or investor-facing communication

6 Who This Is For

The AI Maturity Assessment is most valuable for organizations at an inflection point: considering a significant AI investment, evaluating an AI vendor or acquisition target, or trying to understand why existing AI initiatives are not delivering.

Organisations building AI strategy	You need to know what is realistic now, what is blocked, and where to invest first — before committing engineering resources or budget.
Investors evaluating AI companies	You need an independent view of whether technical claims are credible, which dependencies are missing, and what the real roadmap risk is.
ADAS / AV / safety-critical teams	You operate under ISO 26262 or ISO 21448 / SOTIF constraints and need AI readiness assessed against certification and evidence requirements.
Regulated sector deployments	Healthcare, financial services, public sector and critical infrastructure require governance, auditability and compliance readiness before deployment.
Consulting firms	You need independent technical depth for client engagements involving AI feasibility, architecture or due diligence.

Principle	AI strategy should not begin with model selection. It should begin with maturity. The goal is not to adopt AI. The goal is to build AI systems that can be trusted, governed and deployed.
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AI Strategy, Safety and Technical Due Diligence

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