

From Insight to Autopilot: AI-First Procurement Strategies for 2030 Supply Readiness

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
Received: 10 May 2025	<p>Global procurement systems have entered a more complex phase due to changes in supply, geopolitics and also rise in sustainability requirements. The traditional procurement patterns, based on manual opinion and disjointed data are quickly not adequate to deliver resilience or vision in this environment. As indicated in this paper, AI-first can be regarded as a game changer approach that can be employed to achieve supply preparedness by 2030. It is a comprehensive conceptual architectural system that mounts predictive analytics, generative AI, autonomous decision engines, and cyber-resilient infrastructures and continuous quality feedback systems. The results of the intrusion-detection-based research using deep-learning technologies show that the adaptive process of identifying zero-day threats is the solution to optimizing supplier-risk measurements and procurement security. Similarly, the advancement of AI-driven design optimization gives an illustration of how constraint-dependent learning and refinement can be used to assist autonomous sourcing and architecture development. Resting on these assumptions, the article identifies the key AI-friendly functions, including autonomous sourcing, ESG-informed decision-making, digital quality management and cyber-risk scoring, which will define the future of the procurement systems. A simulation implementation program also illustrates the way organizations can migrate through insight-based operations to full autonomous procurement systems. The conclusion of the paper is that AI-first procurement is the resolution of achieving resilience, sustainability, and competitiveness in the evolving global supply landscape.</p>
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Introduction

Global procurement is undergoing a faster disruption rate as organizations face unprecedented volatility in supply, geopolitical unrest and increasing sustainability and ESG transparency pressures. The traditional highly manual procurement models, which silo the information streams and the linear decision process, are unable to provide the agility and vision needed in this dynamic setting. The heritage approaches are more likely to ignore the arising threats, do not optimize the multi-criteria trade-offs or respond effectively to the volatile market conditions, leaving the businesses vulnerable to disruptions and regulatory violations. The AI-first orientation is a capability paradigm change because it provides the capability to operate procurement systems via predictive intelligence, generative reasoning, and autonomous decision support.

Recent advances to Deep Learning have demonstrated greater adaptability and trend forecast in complex systems such as cybersecurity. Research shows that the Deep Learning-based intrusion

detection systems can recognize zero-day malfunctions, reduce false positives and dynamically react to the emerging threats; capabilities that align the needs of robust supplier-risk detection in procurement networks [1]. Correspondingly, the fact of the application of Machine Learning and optimization models to constraint-based model-driven decision making and refinement with minimal input of human input is evidenced by recent AI-based design automation in engineering [2]. These are core values that form part of autonomous procurement architecture.

The paper aims at arguing how AI-first approach to procurement can help organizations to prepare by the year 2030. It proposes a conceptual architecture, offers the vision of future AI enabled capabilities, and a roadmap of transitioning to insight-driven operations to fully autonomous procurement ecosystems to enhance resilience, sustainability, and quality of decisions.

Literature Review

Procurement Digitalization and Tech Evolution

Enterprise resource planning (ERP) systems, e-sourcing, and robotic process automation (RPA) have also leaped great strides in the environment of procurement digitalization. The technologies have simplified transactions and also improved visibility of the spend and improved compliance in procurement operations [3]. However, as the present procurement systems are, though with these additions, are not autonomous. Neither can they learn operationally, react to changes in the supply markets, or actively pursue new risks. Human know-how remains vital in decision-making, and it causes discontinuous and gradual responses to disruption.

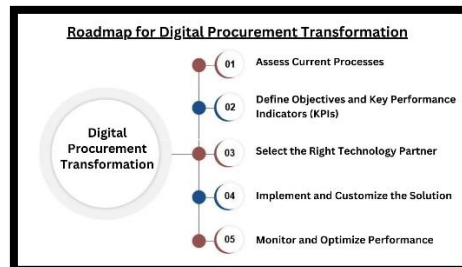


Figure 1: Roadmap for Digital Procurement Transformation

(Source: tyasuite.com, 2025)

ESG reporting, supplier risk analysis and cost optimization procedures are tedious and lopsided. These restrictions have grown more acute as global supply chains are getting more complex and vulnerable to geopolitical, environmental, and cybersecurity threats. The gap between digital enablement and real intelligence underscores the importance of procurement systems being able to offer predictive, adaptive and automated decision-based behavior.

AI in Enterprise Decision Systems

The Artificial Intelligence (AI) evolution is reconfiguring how decisions in the enterprise are made since they enable systems to learn trends, develop insights, and make autonomous choices. Machine learning (ML) models can forecast demand changes, anomalous expenses, supplier subcategorization, and risk evaluation more accurately than the traditional statistical models. Natural language processing (NLP) assists in expanding the analysis opportunities of contracts, exposing obligations, and detecting

noncompliance deviations. Generative AI suggests writing negotiation scripts, reaching out to suppliers, category strategies, and suggestions in situations [4]. The reinforcement learning helps autonomous agents to refine their sourcing and allocation decisions with continuous feedback. The mental load of these AI-based decision systems is reduced, the reaction time is shortened, and the analysis of trade-offs with numerous dimensions-prerequisites of the modern procurement environment is possible.

Cybersecurity & Anomaly Detection in Supply Networks

Cybersecurity is becoming a significant concern in procurement as organizations rely increasingly on digital operations and third-party suppliers. The enterprises are being exposed to fraud, data breaches, and disruptions in operations due to supplier network weaknesses. The research on intrusion detection with deep-learning informs about how procurement systems may be capable of facilitating resilience [5]. It has been shown that models, such as Convolutional neural networks (CNNs), Recurrent neural networks (RNNs), and autoencoders are able to detect zero-day attacks, acquire knowledge of new threat vectors, and can significantly reduce false positives during the learning process using complex traffic patterns.

The article under consideration shows how deep learning can enhance the precision and versatility of real-time detection within a cybersecurity context (IEEE, 2024). These capabilities match the procurement demands in which it is the adaptive intelligence that allows detection of anomalous supplier behavior, fraud or hidden exposure to cyber threats. The procurement systems can apply deep-learning-based anomaly models to improve the scoring of risks, compliance monitoring, and early-warning of supplier instability.

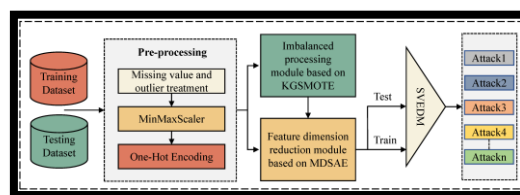


Figure 2: Machine Learning-based Intrusion Detection for Rare-Class Network Attacks

(Source: mdpi.com, 2025)

AI-Driven Design, Optimization & Automation

The use of smart systems to address complex problems with constraints that are bound and require minimal human intervention can be exemplified in the areas of AI-generative design, optimization, and automation in engineering. Mechanical and structural engineering Machine learning models rely on massive collections of previous designs to uncover patterns on geometry, tolerances, material behavior and performance relations. These hints allow automatic optimization of design concepts; informed by learned rules, as opposed to hunch. Even more effective are surrogate modelling techniques such as Gaussian process regression, which explore thousands of possible design options in fractions of a second and reduce the computational cost by many orders, which would otherwise require many computationally expensive high-fidelity simulations to explore [6]. The above study on mechanical design automation indicates that AI can be useful in real-time optimization, detecting designs that are performance limiting, and generating alternative designs that meet the established constraints.

These procurement engineering innovations offer direct counterparts. Like engineered systems must satisfy requirements to do with structural integrity, or weight, procurement decisions must target the

cost, lead time, quality, ESG compliance, supplier capacity, and risk exposure. The AI can evaluate the options of sourcing in bulk, identifying the most optimal combinations, and simulating the potential results of bargaining and contracting under various market circumstances. The demonstrated efficiency of AI-based constraint satisfaction in engineering justifies the viability of the development of the autonomy-based procurement strategy, therefore, making it possible to maintain an improvement cycle and more robust decisions in supply chains.

Conceptual Model: AI-First Procurement Architecture

The proposed AI-first procurement architecture is an integrated and autonomous architecture that is set to assist organizations in getting prepared to supply by 2030. It unites intelligent data management, generative strategy creation, autonomous optimization, cybersecurity, and its resilience, and continual quality enhancement into one operational model. Each layer plays its part in ensuring that procurement systems are no longer reactive, human-centered, but active and self-enhancing decision ecosystems.

Data Fusion & Procurement Intelligence Layer

This architecture is centralized around a data fusion layer which collects all the procurement information related into a networked intelligence space. This includes supplier master data, transactions, contract history, logistics, quality inspection and ESG performance data. Cloud-supplier data lake is the central point where the procurement systems can retrieve both structured data, such as price, delivery tendencies and other data, and unstructured data, such as emails, contracts, and regulatory documents.

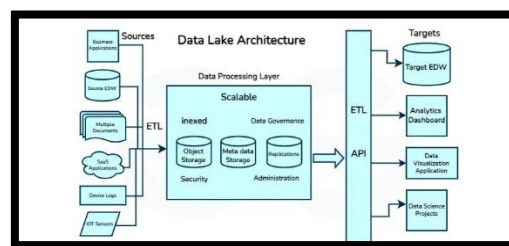


Figure 3: Data Lake Architecture

(Source: geeksforgeeks.org, 2025)

The Machine learning algorithms process this data to identify patterns and classify supplier behaviors along with emerging risks. As an example, a declining level of timely delivery, unsteady patterns in the interactions with suppliers, or ESG non-adherence tendencies can be named. Natural language processing also facilitates interpretation of contractual text and enables automatic access to the contractual terms, duties, and penalties and the terms of the renewal [7]. Real-time outside feeds of commodity indices and geopolitical and climate alerts create the impression that the intelligence layer positions the procurement decisions within a broader contextual environment. This provides the analytical foundation of higher AI capability such as generative strategy modelling and autonomous optimization.

Generative AI for Strategy, Negotiation & Knowledge Work

Generative AI brings procurement out of analytical insight into knowledge creation in automation. Large language models trained on procurement-specific corpora can be used to produce categorical

strategy, negotiation briefs, supplier scorecards and compliance summaries to fit organizational priorities. These systems merge past performance, market trends and risk information to propose strategic options, otherwise it would require much human experience.

The process of risk assessment can be automated with references to market volatility, supplier stability, and contract exposures trends. Generative models can present to us alternative sourcing, like cost reduction, supplier sustainability and diversification, projected outcomes and sensitivities [8].

Contract drafting Generative AI can be applied in the analysis of business requirements and produce initial statements of work, terms and commercial terms. These drafts include the regulatory principles, the results of the past discussions, and the best-practice traditions. It can be compared with AI-based optimization in the engineering design background, where AI optimizes constraint-based choices and optimizes solutions depending on performance objectives (IJCRT, 2025). These abilities significantly reduce the time of the procurement cycle and improve quality in decision making.

Autonomous Decision Engines

The autonomous decision engines take over the AI-first model of procurement. The systems are based on reinforcement learning and multi-objective optimization to take context-based decisions in large procurement processes. The engines are not just offering insights, but doing or recommending actions such as choosing a supplier, evaluating a bid or making allocations.

The performance of suppliers, quality results and the market conditions are the feedback that these engines constantly optimize their strategies. They trade-off cost-risk-sustainability on the basis of multidimensional scoring models and can change the decisions when the conditions change [9]. An example is when a large supplier loses production power or ESG infractions, the engine automatically redirects the demand to other alternative suppliers in a less disruptive manner.

Decision engines also enable dynamical negotiation, and simulate potential counter-offers and predict the supplier willingness to compromise on specified terms. This capability reduces factors in hand negotiation establishments and enhances consistency in negotiating outcomes. These are independent decisions that are rendered transparent through explainable AI approaches through which the decision logic can be audited and understood by the procurement leaders.

Cyber-Resilient Procurement Infrastructure

Increasingly digital procurement ecosystems are in need of cybersecurity. Deep-learning threat detection models applied in the procurement procedures facilitate resilience to a great extent. The experience of the state-of-the-art intrusion detection systems has demonstrated that Deep learning, in particular, CNNs, RNNs, and autoencoders, can detect zero-day threats and learn to adjust to the dynamic nature of the attacks and reduce false positives [10]. The same principles improve the capabilities of procurement to trace supplier networks, locate fraudulent transactions, and identify unusual responses of the system.

An autonomous system evaluates the access logs, supplier portal activity, document exchange trends and third-party integrations in real-time. The system blocks or blocks transactions whilst checked until confirmed on an occurrence of anomalies (e.g., change in supplier banking information or suspicious change in contract). The scoring of cyber-risks is dynamically revised based on the patterns and external threat intelligence identified. This ensures that procurement judgment does not only examine financial and operational risk but also the risk of digital security, which creates a more holistic case of supplier stability.

Digital Twins & Continuous Quality Feedback

Digital twins are digital analogs of procurement and supply chain processes. They simulate sourcing terms, supplier capacity, logistic interruptions, and cost changes in such a way that the procurement teams will test the strategies. AI uses these simulations with actual performance data of the world to keep sourcing and logistics models optimized continuously.

Continuous quality feedback loops also promote system intelligence. Depending on the same principles like AI-based design optimization, where performance is measured by optimizing it over time (IJCRT, 2025), the quality measures are inspections, returns and defect reports, fed back into the system. The AI models define the tendencies of worsening suppliers, frailty in the procedure, or a threat to quality in the future. This is the guidance of automated corrective actions or reevaluation processes of suppliers [11].

The combination of Digital twins and quality feedback will create a self-enhancing ecosystem, where procurement strategies will be constantly provided and updated with the current operation outcomes.

AI-Driven Procurement Capabilities for 2030

The procurement in its future perspective of 2030 is a radical transformation as a human-driven activity to independent, intelligence-based ecosystem. The combination of predictive analytics, generative AI, reinforcement learning, cybersecurity intelligence, and digital quality systems will enable the procurement operations to be significantly less manual and more resilient, sustainable, and cost-effective. The future of AI-driven procurement will include a few main capabilities at the end of the decade.

Autonomous Sourcing and Supplier Selection

The procurement systems can autonomously screen supplier offers, review technical and financial compliance, propose or enforce award decisions by 2030. The long-term sourcing will be modeled by the reinforcement learning models with the variables including forecasting demand, reliability of lead-time, supplier capacity, ESG performance and geopolitical exposure [12]. The simulations will enable the system to identify sourcing combinations that maximize the total value, rather than focusing on cost. The autonomous sourcing engines will automatically repackage the orders to maintain continuity and delivery of services in case of any disruption such as an unplanned supplier going offline or transportation restrictions.

ESG-Integrated and Responsible Supply Automation

The notion of sustainability will not be a secondary enhancement but rather a requirement. The AI will rate and rank suppliers based on carbon emissions, labour practices, diversity systems, regulatory practices, and circularity practices automatically. The generated ESG-weighted algorithms will be utilized in deciding sourcing, and they ensure sustainability is directly considered in the process of procurement [13]. The system will also perform sustained sustainability audits of outside data and computer audits to alert procurement teams when the ethical situation of a supplier changes, or when inappropriate with organizational commitments.

Generative AI for Negotiation, Strategy, and Contracting

Generative AI will transform knowledge-intensive procurement processes by automating development of strategic and contractual content. The AI models will generate scripts of negotiation, structure alternatives, and multi-scenario concession, based on historical contracts, market benchmarks, and

internal policy. These systems will also generate massive category plans, supplier scorecards, and compliance reports in minutes as compared to weeks. Contracting will involve the use of generative models to develop structured contracts that incorporate desirable terms, regulatory principles and risk-defining mechanisms, shorter cycles and superior contracts [14]. They will be the digital procurement solutions, with natural-language interfaces, so that the procurement professionals address each other with words and the system translates them into strategic outputs that must be put into action.

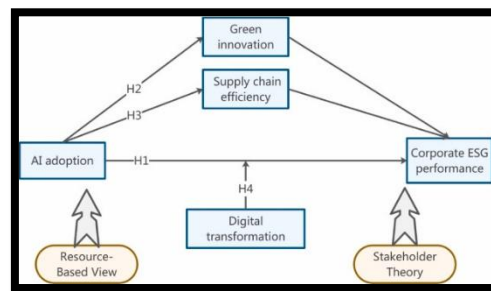


Figure 4: Artificial Intelligence Applications and Corporate ESG Performance

(Source: sciencedirect.com, 2025)

Predictive Digital Quality and Continuous Supplier Improvement

The predictive models will be AI-based and will detect the emergence of quality deterioration, supplier fatigue, or process failure. Real-time inspection data, customer returns, defect logs and equipment sensor outputs will be fed to continuous monitoring systems. The models will identify commonalities, estimate the probability of future defects and initiate automatic corrective actions [15]. The system may recommend new suppliers or quality re-engineering options in case signs of structural supplier issues are detected by pattern. To create self-optimizing supply quality ecosystems, large loops of continuous learning will optimize quality thresholds, inspection priorities, supplier control plans.

Integrated Cyber-Risk Scoring and Threat-Aware Procurement Operations

The scoring of cyber-risks will be automated and standardized as additional procurement ecosystems are established on digital interactions. The AI will monitor supplier maturity on cybersecurity, detect abnormal online activity and reprice the risk profiles in real-time. Deep-learning-based anomaly detection will reduce the exposure to fraudulent transactions, compromised supplier systems, and untested data exchanges [16]. These cyber-risk insights will directly be factors in sourcing and contracting decisions, with high-digital vulnerability suppliers therefore identified or blocked. Procurement will thereby become more a commercial decision-making process but will also become a harbinger of enterprise cyber resilience.

Implementation Roadmap to 2030

A change journey reflexive and gradual must create an AI-first procurement ecosystem by 2030 balancing technological advancement, organizational capacity building and governance building. The roadmap below is a step-by-step approach to organizations wishing to transition to insight-driven procurement to autonomous, self-optimizing operations.

Phase 1 (2025–2026): Establishing the Insight Layer

The first stage is devoted to the development of a powerful database in order to facilitate advanced analytics and AI models. The organizations should combine supplier, contract, logistics, quality and ESG data in one architecture such as Cloud-based procurement data lake. Data governance systems are offered to ensure internal and external data accuracy, lineage, and consistency.

The analytical tools used at this stage are largely descriptive and diagnostic. Spend analysis, supplier segmentation, risk dashboards, and early predictive models assist procurement teams to know the baseline performance trends [17]. The texts of the contracts are digitized using NLP techniques to extract the clauses, obligations and risk indicators. It is also a phase when the first elements of smart automation are introduced, through workflow optimization and decision support rules, on which higher-level AI integration is built.

Phase 2 (2026–2028): Developing the Intelligence Layer

The second level is not the descriptive ability but rather predictive and generative intelligence. The application of Machine learning models is used to forecast demand volatility, supplier behavior, price trend, and supply risk. Generative AI systems are implemented on the category planning, preparation of negotiations, as well as drafting contracts, which saves a significant amount of manual work and improves the degree of analysis.

Digital twins are also beginning to simulate sourcing situations, which enables simulating capacity constraints, logistics disturbances, and cost variations. Cybersecurity, in its turn, grows up with the emergence of deep-learning-based anomaly detection systems to monitor supplier interactions and identify new threats [18]. Procurement departments learn to read AI outputs and begin to adopt responsible models of AI implementation governance.

Phase 3 (2028–2030): Transitioning to Autopilot Procurement

The final step will incorporate autonomous decision engine which can perform sourcing analysis, award proposals, and real-time reassignments with minimal human intervention. Reinforcement learning models are multi-criteria decision maximization between costs, risks, sustainability, and service levels. The engines are able to optimize their own decisions with quality system feedback loops, supplier performance, and digital twins.

Human control remains required but this control shifts to governance and not execution, exception management and strategic alignment. The application of AI in scoring ESG and cyber-risk analytics will be used to uphold ethical and security standards in autonomy [19]. The operations of procurement will be smart ecosystems with flexibility, openness, and resilience at the end of this period – the 2030 vision of supply preparedness through AI is put into practice.

Discussion

The transition to an AI-first procurement comes with tremendous strategic, technological, and ethical concerns that organizations must approach carefully. The procurement functions become more service-oriented, analytical, and value-filled, strategically and managerially. The human expertise is unnecessary in a greater sense since autonomous systems are slowly handling routine sourcing, evaluation, and risk-screening tasks, giving human-based interpretations of complex decision-advice, and ensuring that autonomous actions align with corporate objectives and regulatory conditions. This transformation requires critical capacity building in procurement units, in which the priorities are data literacy, digital fluency, AI governance, and ethics.

The challenge of transparency, explainability, and trust concerning high-level AI models can be seen technically. Deep-learning models though highly precise, are not always transparent and the way some decisions are taken may not be readily apparent. The issue resembles the debate around intrusion research, where the ability to explain and scale is the answer to a valid work. This underscores the need to fit explainable AI systems, stringent validation principles, and continuous monitoring measures in the case of procurement to ensure accountability [20]. Cybersecurity is a necessity because procurement is becoming more digital and interconnected. Supplier networks, Cloud systems, API connections are more vulnerable to cyber-attacks, and AI-driven threat detection and cyber-risk score must be integrated.

The opportunities and threats of AI use in procurement may be ethical and sustainable in the future. The performance of ESG can be enhanced by AI through effectively incorporating the environment, social, and governance concerns in the sourcing process. Automated sustainability and real-time monitoring of ESG can help manage responsible supply. However, AI systems may prefer small suppliers, underserved populations, and it will reproduce the biases at the training data.

The discussion describes that despite the transformative potential of AI-first procurement, such as increased resilience, efficiency, and sustainability, high governance, ethical protection, and transparency should be pursued to obtain trustful and equitable outcomes.

I.

Conclusion

The shift towards AI-first procurement model is a necessary alteration of how organizations interact with suppliers, risk mitigation, and long-term supply preparedness. Generative intelligence, predictive analytics, autonomous decision engines and deep-learning cybersecurity systems will assist in transforming procurement into a self-optimizing, proactive ecosystem rather than a manual, reactive one. The insights gained with AI-assisted intrusion detection and engineering design automation justify the viability of the application of adaptive learning, optimization and constraint-based reasoning in the procurement process. The more the further organizations progress in data consolidation processes, intelligence development and autonomous execution, the more the procurement will lean towards an autopilot with human governance, ethics, and strategic alignment. Lastly, AI-first procurement is a point of entry to increased resilience, sustainability and competitive advantage that will situate enterprises in a position to manage the complexities of the 2030 supply environment.

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