From Risk to Resilience: Supercharging Procurement with Agentic AI

How the UK's top procurement teams are unlocking AI's potential and leaving competitors behind

We live in a world of rapid change. Complex global supply chains face higher risk from shifting geopolitics and fast-changing trade policies that can cause costs to rise dramatically overnight.

As a result, procurement has had to evolve to become the organisation's strategic powerhouse – essential for managing risk, ensuring resilience, and protecting the bottom line:

72%
of supply chain and procurement decision makers say procurement now drives risk management and value creation

70%
say procurement leaders are gaining greater boardroom influence as supply chain disruptions increase

66%
say procurement leaders are gaining greater boardroom influence as trade policy uncertainty increases

65%
say C-suite leaders are recognising procurement as an enabler of success

AI advancement will increasingly separate the leaders from laggards

Procurement has a once-in-a-generation opportunity to become a driving force in the organisation. Those who embrace digital transformation will lead the way, unlocking AI's full potential to boost insight, speed and strategic impact.

70% believe organisations that use digital procurement tools are outperforming those relying on traditional methods
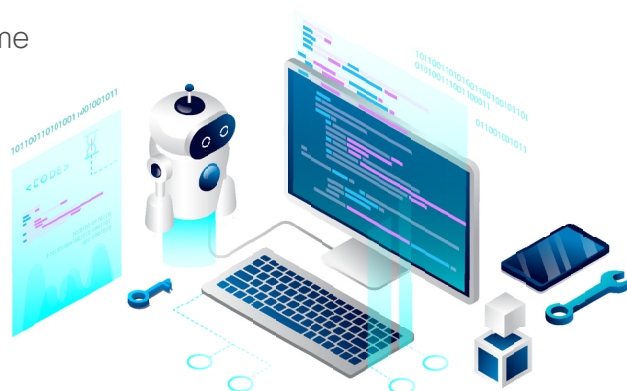
For example, agentic AI is designed to handle complex tasks with minimal human intervention. It uses advanced Large Language Models (LLMs) to access and analyse data, evaluate options, make informed decisions, and take action.
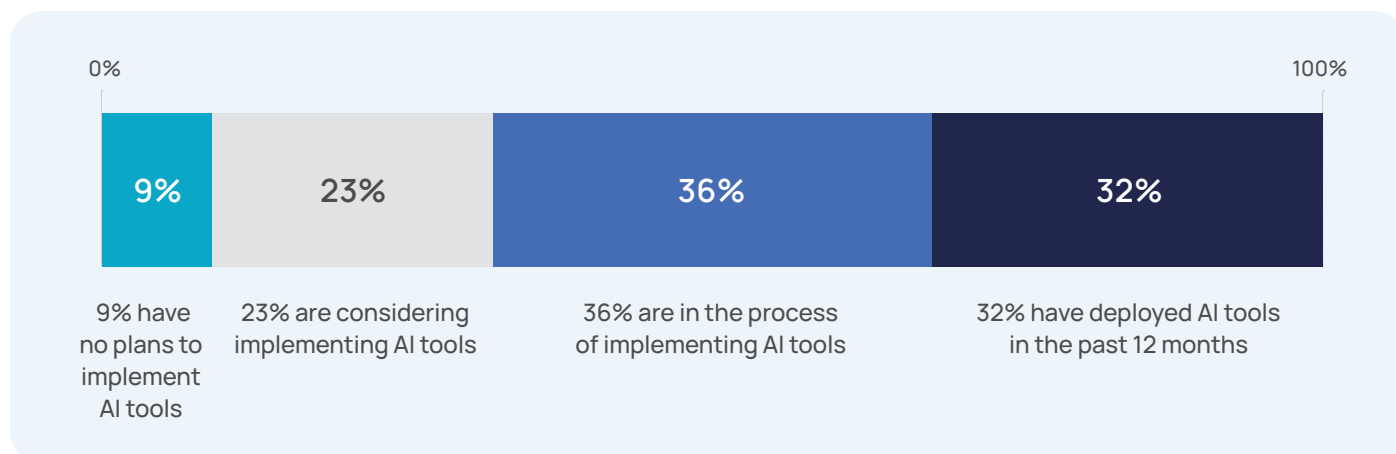
73% believe agentic AI will transform procurement and supply chains

71% are excited about the potential of agentic AI to help be more efficient and deliver better results

The race to AI adoption

The technology has arrived, and so the race to implement AI across procurement and supplier management functions is underway. In fact, 68% of organisations are implementing, or have already implemented, AI tools in the procurement and supplier management function.

0%			100%
9%	23%	36%	32%
9% have no plans to implement AI tools	23% are considering implementing AI tools	36% are in the process of implementing AI tools	32% have deployed AI tools in the past 12 months

Leaders in this race are gaining access to a raft of benefits, from instant insights to efficiency gains, helping them to leave the competition behind.

The following procurement and supplier management tasks have benefited from AI the most:
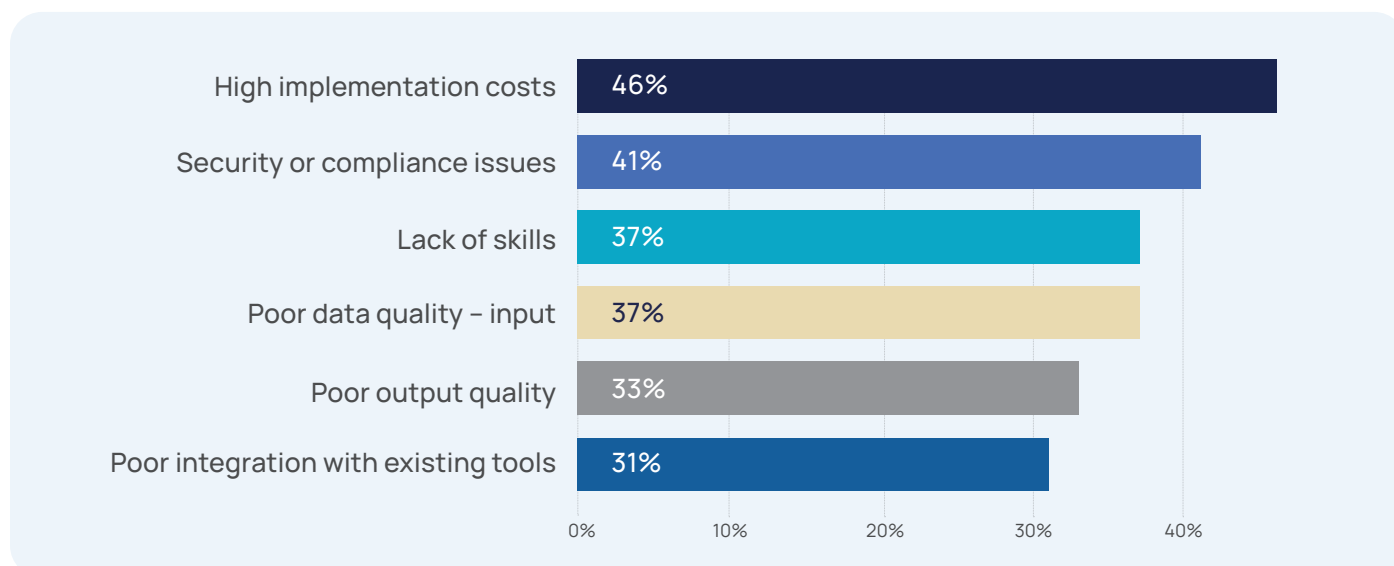
Task	% of organisations who have seen benefits from AI	% of organisations who have seen significant benefits from AI
Data analysis for decision-making	85%	38%
Task automation	83%	39%
Spend analysis	79%	37%
Demand forecasting	79%	29%
Sourcing	79%	26%
Automated data retrieval	77%	38%
Internet research	74%	36%
Content creation	72%	30%

With most organisations that have deployed AI reaping significant rewards, three-quarters (74%) of organisations plan to increase their budget for AI-powered procurement and supplier management tools in the next 12 months. 23% will keep their budget flat, while just 3% plan to reduce budgets.

Cost, compliance, and skills remain AI adoption challenges

Despite widespread attempts to adopt, many organisations still face challenges implementing AI across the procurement and supplier management function.

When using AI in procurement and supplier management, organisations have faced the following challenges:

Challenge	%
High implementation costs	46%
Security or compliance issues	41%
Lack of skills	37%
Poor data quality – input	37%
Poor output quality	33%
Poor integration with existing tools	31%

There are also some concerns around the accuracy of AI outputs, which still need to be addressed. 63% say their organisation has the necessary skills to work effectively with agentic AI. More than half (52%) of respondents wouldn't trust agentic AI to make critical decisions during a supply chain crisis. Trust is especially important when leveraging agentic AI, where workflows can actually be executed by agents. For sensitive areas, ensuring the process designed includes human validation can greatly mitigate any risk.

Close the AI innovation gap or get left behind

Every organisation stands to benefit from Agentic AI – and many understand their competitors will be leveraging it to pull ahead. **55% say their organisation's procurement and supplier management function is at a competitive disadvantage due to sluggish AI adoption.**

> So, how can procurement leaders overcome deployment challenges and harness Agentic AI fast?

To unlock Agentic AI's potential, procurement teams must be able to orchestrate their data and processes through a **central platform** across the entire source-to-pay function, laying a strong foundation that allows for:

- Data consistency and accuracy
- Cross-functional visibility
- Centralised policy enforcement
- Audit trails and accountability

With the groundwork in place, teams can focus on driving adoption, optimising output quality, and staying agile while mitigating security and compliance risks. With a successful AI programme in place, organisations can reap the rewards of AI in procurement, enhancing their ability to gain insights, drive efficiency, and identify risks and opportunities.

Learn more in our Practical Guide to Agentic AI in Procurement.

Methodology
This survey was conducted by Sapio Research on behalf of Ivalua between March and April 2025. It is based on a survey of 300 supply chain and procurement decision-makers in the UK.

About Ivalua

Ivalua is a leading provider of cloud-based, Spend Management software powered by AI agents. Our unified Source-to-Pay platform enables businesses to better manage all categories of spend and all suppliers, increasing profitability, improving sustainability, lowering risk and boosting employee productivity. We are trusted by hundreds of the world's most admired brands and recognized as a leader by Gartner and other analysts. Learn more at www.ivalua.com.

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