

## Accenture commits \$3bn over three years to bolster Al practice

Accenture has announced a \$3bn investment over three years in its data and AI practice to help clients across all industries rapidly and responsibly advance and use AI to achieve greater growth, efficiency and resilience.



Source: Pexels

"There is unprecedented interest in all areas of AI, and the substantial investment we are making in our data and AI practice will help our clients move from interest to action to value, and in a responsible way with clear business cases," said Julie Sweet, chair and chief executive officer of Accenture.

"Companies that build a strong foundation of AI by adopting and scaling it now, where the technology is mature and delivers clear value, will be better positioned to reinvent, compete and achieve new levels of performance.

"Our clients have complex environments, and at a time when the technology is changing rapidly, our deep understanding of ecosystem solutions allows us to help them navigate quickly and cost-effectively to make smart decisions."

The investment builds on Accenture's decade-plus leadership in AI. The company's AI expertise spans more than 1,450 patents and pending patent applications worldwide and hundreds of client solutions at scale, ranging from marketing to retail and security to manufacturing.

Accenture has embedded AI across its service-delivery approach, driving efficiency, insights, and accelerating value for thousands of clients through its market-leading platforms such as myWizard, SynOps, and MyNav.

Six years ago, Accenture pioneered its responsible AI framework, which is now part of how Accenture delivers its work for clients, is included in the company's code of ethics and underlies its rigorous responsible AI compliance programme.

Accenture is currently working with many clients on generative AI projects, such as helping a hotel group manage customer queries or a judicial system synthesise judicial process information across hundreds of thousands of complex documents.

## Supporting strategic development

Accenture's announcement includes a range of investments that it is making to help companies develop the new strategies, operating models, business cases and digital core architecture they will need to capitalise on AI innovation.

Accenture will invest in assets, industry solutions, ventures, acquisitions, talent and ecosystem partnerships, which will deepen and develop new skills and capabilities across diagnostic, predictive and generative AI.



New artificial intelligence industry body launches in South Africa

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The data and AI practice will double its AI talent to 80,000 professionals through a mix of hiring, acquisitions and training.

The new Al Navigator for Enterprise is a generative Al-based platform that will help clients define business cases, make decisions, navigate Al journeys, choose architectures and understand algorithms and models to drive value responsibly.

Building on Accenture's own efforts, the platform will include assets designed to accelerate responsible AI practices and compliance programs.

## Data and Al readiness accelerators

Accenture will create accelerators for data and AI readiness across 19 distinct industries as well as pre-built industry and functional models that take advantage of new generative AI capabilities.

To advance the uses of generative AI, its Center for Advanced AI is dedicated to maximising the value of this technology across clients and within Accenture. This includes extensive R&D and investments to reimagine service delivery using generative and other emerging AI capabilities.

Accenture will invest in new and existing relationships across its industry-leading cloud, data and AI ecosystems to reinvent the type of work being delivered to clients. For example: developers using pre-built models to enhance prototyping or creators building dynamic virtual environments that can adapt with real-world changes.

"Over the next decade, AI will be a mega-trend, transforming industries, companies, and the way we live and work, as generative AI transforms 40% of all working hours," said Paul Daugherty, group chief executive of Accenture Technology.

"Our expanded data and AI practice brings together the full power and breadth of Accenture in creating industry-specific solutions that will help our clients harness AI's full potential to reshape their strategy, technology, and ways of working, driving innovation and value responsibly and faster than ever before."

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