



AI Readiness 2027:

Is your IT infrastructure ready for AI?

AI Strategy

Infrastructure & Budget

Technology lifecycle

AI Readiness Check

“More budget flexibility is needed to capitalise on digital opportunities that drive long-term growth and innovation.”¹

Generative AI has moved from pilot projects to business-critical core technology in less than two years.

62% of organisations still rely on outdated software environments, creating barriers for AI adoption.²

The gap between innovation pressure and financial capacity is hitting procurement teams especially hard.

The AI boom is accelerating refresh cycles and shifting costs toward energy- and capital-intensive infrastructure. Five-year procurement cycles can no longer keep pace.

The challenge

State-of-the-art GPU/NPU hardware is expensive, ties up CapEx, and can become obsolete faster than it can be depreciated. At the same time, rising energy prices and ESG requirements are increasing pressure on IT and procurement.

The answer

Circular IT usage models offer an alternative to traditional procurement and investment models: They reduce tied-up capital, shorten hardware cycles, and integrate ESG requirements from the start. CHG-MERIDIAN provides flexible financing and lifecycle management for AI-ready IT infrastructure.

When infrastructure and budgets reach their limits

What really holds companies back in AI implementation

More data. Higher compute loads. Faster technology cycles. Many IT infrastructures are not designed for AI: outdated hardware, rigid investment models, and inadequate technical capabilities slow innovation. At the same time, cost pressures are increasing, supply chains remain volatile, and investment needs are becoming harder to predict.

On the following pages, we show why IT strategies need to be rethought today – technologically, financially, and organisationally.

Infrastructure under pressure: Energy and technology in conflict

Numbers that should be a wake-up call

Power consumption

Around **1.5%** of global electricity use currently comes from data centers.³

Investment momentum

+34% growth in global data center hardware and software spending – to £221 billion in 2024.⁴

Outdated servers

40% of servers installed worldwide are more than five years old. They consume 66% of total data center energy but deliver only 7% of compute performance.⁵

Takeaway

Cost-effective AI requires energy-efficient hardware and flexible technology refresh cycles.



Clients & architecture: The underestimated AI bottleneck

Modern AI applications demand more than just software.

- **AI-ready computing:** AI workloads increasingly require a combination of modern CPUs, GPUs and dedicated NPUs – depending on whether workloads run on-device, at the edge or in the cloud.
- **Data & security:** On-device and edge AI can reduce reliance on centralized cloud processing for selected workloads, while supporting data privacy, lower latency and potentially lower recurring compute costs.
- **Hardware requirements:** AI-enabled applications increasingly require modern processors, sufficient memory, compatible operating systems and reliable connectivity. Microsoft's Copilot+ PCs, for example, use dedicated NPUs to enable local AI experiences.
- **The compatibility gap:** Only 33% of organisations have AI-ready infrastructure.⁶ Legacy hardware, fragmented device fleets and different technology generations can make it difficult to deploy and scale AI consistently across the organization.

Takeaway

AI starts at the endpoint—and doesn't end in the data center.

Financing as a bottleneck: CapEx blocks agility

Typical weaknesses of traditional investment models

- **Tied-up capital:** A large share of the hardware value is often tied up on the balance sheet in the first year.
- **Residual value risk:** Rapid technological advances accelerate hardware depreciation with consequences for budgets and the balance sheet.
- **Balance-sheet pressure:** High levels of fixed assets can negatively affect metrics such as Return on Capital Employed (ROCE) and restrict financial agility.
- **Limited flexibility:** Traditional CapEx models lock companies into long investment and replacement cycles, limiting their ability to adapt quickly to evolving AI requirements and changing market conditions.

Takeaway

Future-ready IT requires flexible procurement beyond rigid CapEx structures.



From purchase to flexible technology management.

Technology lifecycle management for AI-ready IT

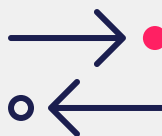
Rethinking IT procurement: Flexible, scalable, sustainable

CHG-MERIDIAN helps businesses access and manage AI-ready technology through flexible financing, tailored refresh cycles and scalable solutions. Instead of large upfront investments, businesses can benefit from predictable costs, access to current hardware and the flexibility to adapt as their needs evolve.

Combined with responsible take-back, reuse and refurbishment processes, our technology lifecycle approach helps organisations maximise asset value and reduce IT waste throughout the lifecycle.



Make IT spending more flexible through usage-based payments.



Manage refresh cycles and hit the economic sweet spot for useful life.



Scale IT capacity flexibly based on demand and growth.



Enable full lifecycle transparency and sustainability reporting.

AI readiness self-assessment

Answer each question with Yes or No.

AI & technology

1. Can you refresh your IT hardware within 36 months when technology or business requirements change?
☐ Yes ☐ No
2. Do the devices intended for AI workloads have dedicated AI acceleration capabilities, such as GPUs or NPUs?
☐ Yes ☐ No
3. Is your client infrastructure compatible with current operating systems and AI applications, e.g. Copilot?
☐ Yes ☐ No
4. Can your IT infrastructure support increasingly compute-intensive AI workloads, including the required power, cooling and connectivity?
☐ Yes ☐ No
5. Can you scale IT capacity up or down quickly as AI workloads and business requirements change?
☐ Yes ☐ No

Financing

6. Can you finance IT flexibly through OpEx-based, usage-based, or other variable payment models?
☐ Yes ☐ No
7. Can you accurately forecast your IT costs throughout the technology lifecycle?
☐ Yes ☐ No

8. Can you adjust your IT investment and refresh plans quickly when budgets, technology or market conditions change?
☐ Yes ☐ No

Supply chain & lifecycle

9. Can you respond quickly to hardware shortages, price fluctuations or changes in technology availability?
☐ Yes ☐ No
10. Do you have a structured take-back, reuse, refurbishment and end-of-life process for IT assets?
☐ Yes ☐ No

What your answers say about your AI readiness

Starter (0–4 Yes responses)

High CapEx burden, outdated hardware, ESG gaps.

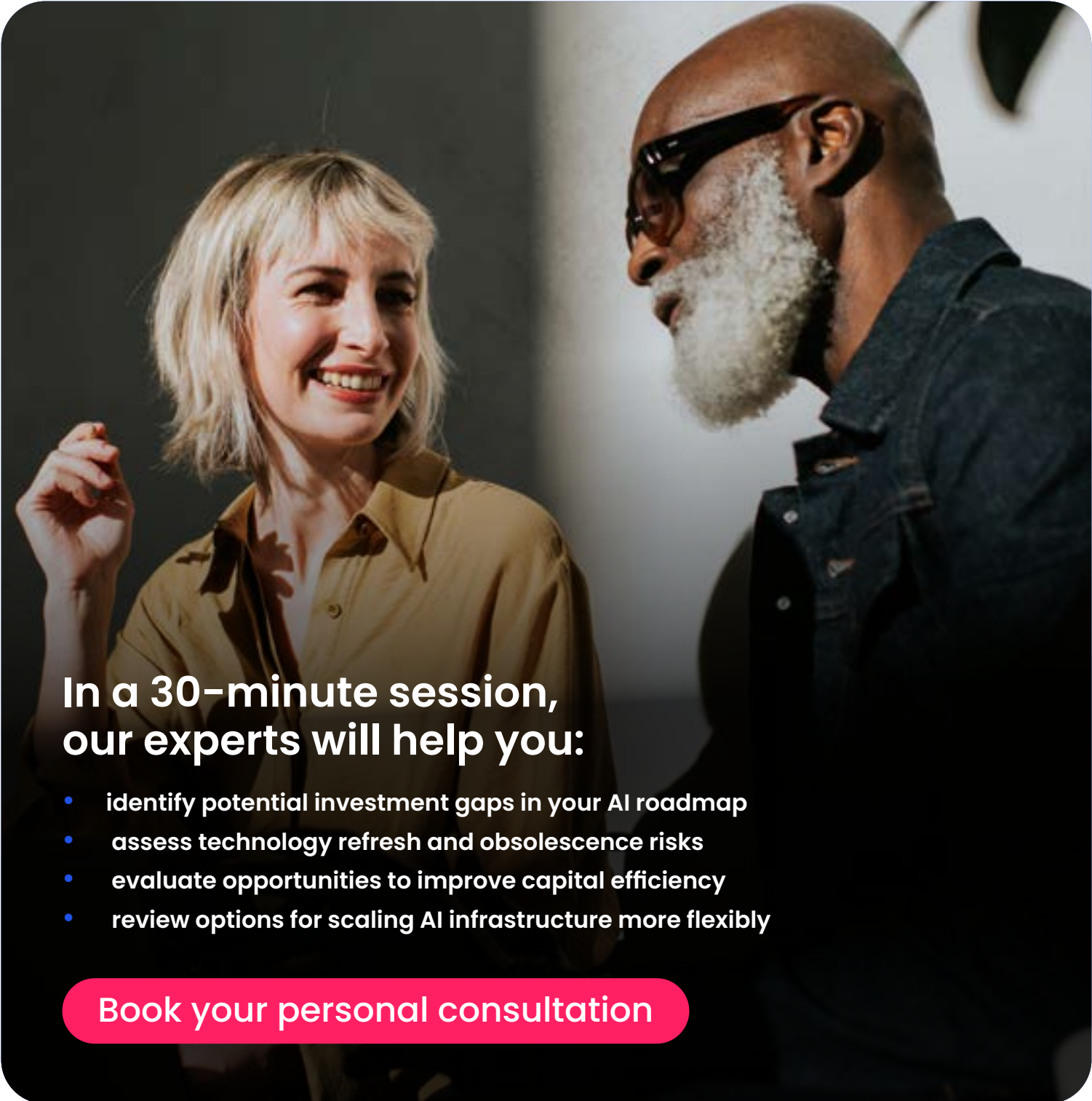
Scaler (5–7 Yes responses)

Initial GPU workloads, partial balance-sheet relief, ESG tracking in place.

Leader (8–10 Yes responses)

Flexible refresh cycles, efficient asset management, circular IT practices.

AI won't wait. Is your IT ready?



In a 30-minute session,
our experts will help you:

- identify potential investment gaps in your AI roadmap
- assess technology refresh and obsolescence risks
- evaluate opportunities to improve capital efficiency
- review options for scaling AI infrastructure more flexibly

[Book your personal consultation](#)