



REDUCING AI INVESTMENT RISK

Many organisations approaching a significant AI investment are already well-led and well-intentioned. They have capable Product Managers, informed leadership and a good sense of what they want to achieve. What they may benefit from is an independent, experienced voice - someone who has navigated this territory before and can provide structured assurance that the key questions have been asked and the key risks considered, before capital is committed. AI Investment Assurance provides that voice. It is not a rescue service. It is a confidence-building intervention for leaders who want to invest with clarity.

The goal is not to find problems. It is to give leadership the structured assurance they need to make a confident, well-evidenced investment decision.

ASSURANCE OUTCOMES

The output is designed to be immediately useful to the people who will present to the board, own the execution, and live with the decisions. It is structured, concise and written for senior audiences - not a technical audit report.

AI Portfolio Governance Review An assessment of whether existing investment governance is equipped for AI portfolios — testing for PoC attrition, assumption fragility and the distinction between experimentation spend and capital commitment.	Assumption Register A structured view of the critical assumptions underpinning the roadmap, ranked by investment exposure - so the team knows which ones to validate first.
Governance Posture Assessment A structured review of current AI governance posture against your own stated intent, your regulatory obligations and the findings of the engagement - honest about what is in place, what is partial, and what requires attention.	Prioritised Next Steps Practical, sequenced actions oriented around what the team can actually do and designed to equip Product Managers with the confidence to own and iterate the roadmap going forward.

Each of these outputs is designed to be used immediately - in board presentations, investment committee submissions, and internal governance reporting. They are written for senior audiences, not technical teams

WHAT INDEPENDENT ASSURANCE ADDS

An independent senior advisor brings three things that internal teams find genuinely difficult to generate: the pattern recognition that comes from seeing multiple roadmaps across different organisations; the objective challenge that is socially harder from inside; and the investment-grade evidence that boards and investment committees increasingly expect before committing capital.





Reframing “Failed” PoCs

Testing before significant capital allocation

Major consultancies report that 65-95% of AI proof of concepts (PoCs) do not reach production. In traditional IT delivery, that would indicate a systemic problem. In AI experimentation, it often means the opposite - a well-run PoC that surfaces a fundamental misalignment has done exactly what it was designed to do. Stopping at £50k is not failure. It is avoiding a £2m implementation that would have failed later, at far greater cost.

The distinction that matters is whether a PoC was designed to answer a specific business question - or simply to build momentum toward a spend. The former is disciplined experimentation. The latter is where investment assurance adds the most value.

The Old Scorecard

*Did it go into production?
How fast did we build it?
Is the model 100% accurate?*

The New Scorecard

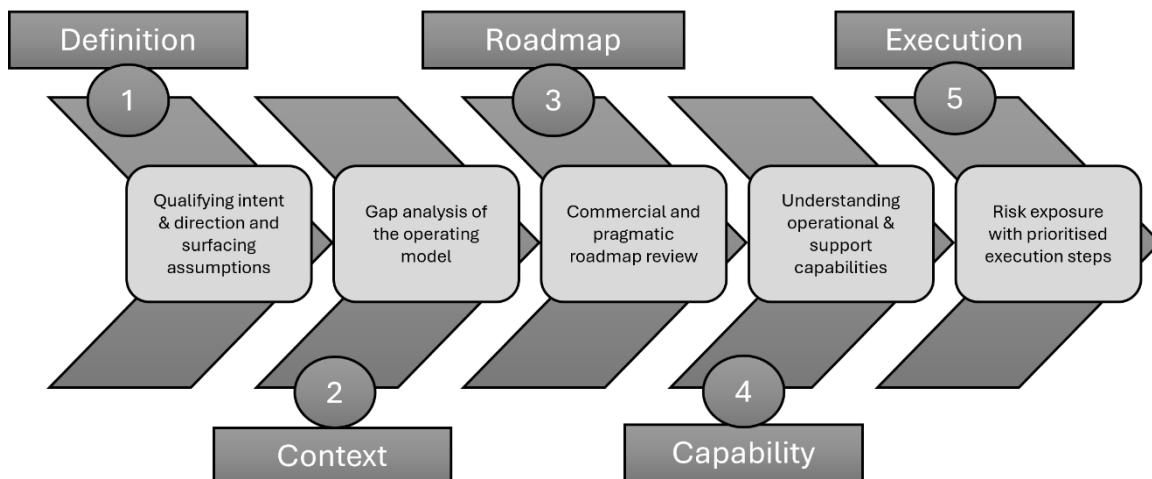
Did it answer the specific business question we needed answered?
Did it identify technical or commercial barriers before we scaled?
Did the team build AI literacy and judgment that compounds across future initiatives?

Shifting to the new scorecard is not a lowering of ambition. It is a more rigorous standard — one that measures whether capital is being deployed intelligently, not just whether a project reached production.

THE ENGAGEMENT

The assurance engagement is structured across five phases. The emphasis throughout is collaborative - working with the people who own the roadmap to strengthen it, not to audit it from the outside.

Each phase builds on the last. The engagement moves from intent through context and commercial logic, into capability and delivery readiness, before producing a structured, actionable summary.





AI Investment Assurance	Outcome
1. Definition	Understanding what the AI roadmap is genuinely trying to achieve. Surfacing the implicit assumptions, success metrics and time horizons that shape every downstream decision, and ensuring they are explicit before investment follows.
2. Context	Reviewing the governance, funding and ownership structures around the roadmap. Understanding whether the current operating model is positioned to support what is being proposed, and where practical strengthening would help.
3. Roadmap	Assessing the coherence, sequencing and commercial logic of the planned initiatives. Reviewing PoC design, scaling assumptions, adoption considerations and ROI foundations, providing rigorous but constructive external challenge.
4. Capability	An honest assessment of the implementation and operational support capacity available. Not to identify shortfalls, but to ensure that resourcing expectations are realistic and that the people who will own execution feel equipped and supported.
5. Execution	A structured, accessible summary of findings - with explicit risk exposure, governance posture assessed against your own stated intent and regulatory obligations and prioritised next steps that the team can act on with confidence.

The engagement is typically completed within a defined timeframe, producing outputs that are ready to take directly into investment committee or board review.

ORGANISATIONAL VALUE

Beyond the specific deliverables, the engagement produces a shift in how the organisation thinks and talks about AI investment - one that compounds across every initiative that follows.

A different conversation about experimentation. Organisations that have been through the engagement can explain, with evidence, why a PoC that didn't proceed to production was a sign of governance maturity rather than programme failure. That changes how experimentation is funded, reported and defended internally and with external stakeholders.

Capital that follows evidence, not momentum. Defining proceed, pause or pivot criteria before a programme builds political weight is the difference between disciplined portfolio management and sunk cost decision-making. The engagement instils that discipline as a habit, not just a one-time output.

Leadership that owns the reasoning. Product Managers and programme leads leave the engagement with clearer ownership of the roadmap - not just a document, but the thinking behind every decision in it. That confidence carries forward into every subsequent iteration and reduces dependence on external support over time.

A stronger position at the investment committee. Boards and investment committees are increasingly distinguishing between AI proposals backed by independent, structured assurance and those backed by internal advocacy alone. Organisations that have been through this engagement arrive at that conversation differently.

These shifts in thinking, culture and capability are the lasting return on the engagement - long after the specific deliverables have been absorbed into the programme.



Independent Confidence Ahead of an AI Investment Decision

AI Investment Assurance



ABOUT ADVANTAGE AI

ADVANTAGE AI was formed in 2024 to provide AI consultancy, delivery and training services. We have led the introduction and built the internal training for the use of AI for 10,500 users located in over 50 countries. Leveraging this experience and recognising the support organisations now need, the company now specialises in AI Strategy, AI Investment Assurance, AI Risk Management and AI Adoption services. We have delivered complex, global projects for the Bank of England, the Financial Conduct Authority, the London Stock Exchange Group, Royal Bank of Scotland, Deutsche Bank, AXA XL, MS Amlin and many other clients across the Aviation, Telecoms, Health and Government sectors.

INDEPENDENT ASSURANCE FOR LEADERS WHO WANT TO INVEST IN AI WITH CONFIDENCE.

ADVANTAGE AI provide independent AI Investment Assurance for high stakes organisations. The reviews are conducted as 'off net' activities, enabling confident capital allocation within days.

Speak to us about your AI investment requirements. The initial conversation is free and without obligation.

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ADVANTAGE AI don't sell AI systems.

We assure them.

Independently.

" Confidence is not the absence of risk. It is the knowledge that the right questions have been asked."

AI Investment Assurance – have confidence before capital is committed.

