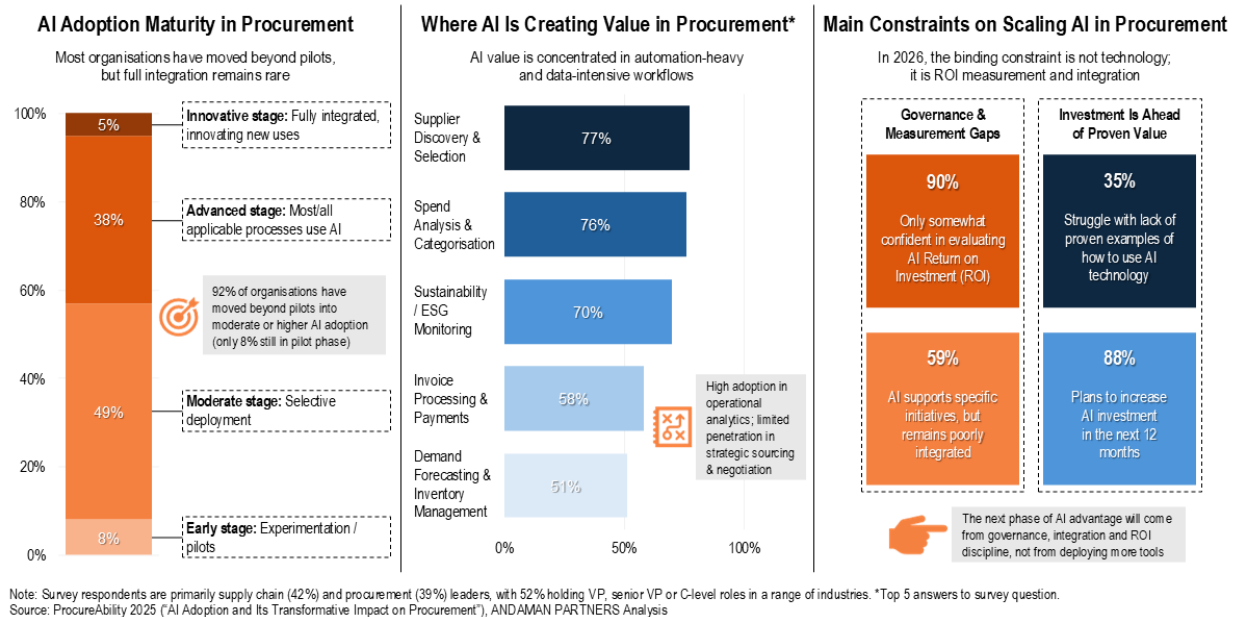


## AI in Procurement 2026: Adoption Is Widespread, But Scaling Remains Constrained

*Most large procurement functions have moved beyond pilots into moderate or advanced AI adoption, with value concentrated in invoice automation, spend analytics and supplier discovery, but weak ROI measurement and limited integration are the main constraints on scaling.*



In 2026, AI adoption in procurement is no longer the story. Scaling, integration and value discipline are.

Across large procurement functions, AI has moved decisively beyond pilots into mainstream deployment. The impact of AI remains concentrated, however, in a narrow set of operational workflows; weak return on investment (ROI) measurement and limited integration are now the binding constraints on further scaling.

The findings of the ProcureCon Insights/ProcureAbility survey published in 2025, *AI Adoption and Its Transformative Impact on Procurement*, provide a rare, practitioner-level view of how AI is actually being deployed inside procurement functions today. The survey primarily covers supply chain (42%) and procurement (39%) leaders, with more than half holding VP, senior VP or C-level roles across a broad range of industries and company sizes.

The AI maturity picture is already striking. Only 8% of organisations remain in pilot mode, while 92% have reached moderate adoption or higher. Nearly half are selectively deploying AI across core processes, and more than a third report advanced adoption across most applicable workflows. In other words, adoption is no longer the constraint.

Where AI is creating value, however, it is still highly concentrated. Usage is strongest in supplier discovery, spend categorisation, ESG monitoring, invoice processing and demand forecasting—all automation-heavy, data-intensive activities. By contrast, penetration remains limited in the strategic core of procurement, including sourcing, negotiation and RFX, underscoring that AI's impact is still operational rather than transformational.

The main bottleneck is now governance. A complete 90% of organisations remain only somewhat confident in evaluating AI ROI, 59% report that AI still supports isolated initiatives rather than being fully integrated and 35% cite the lack of proven examples as their biggest roadblock, even as 88% plan to increase AI investment in the next 12 months.

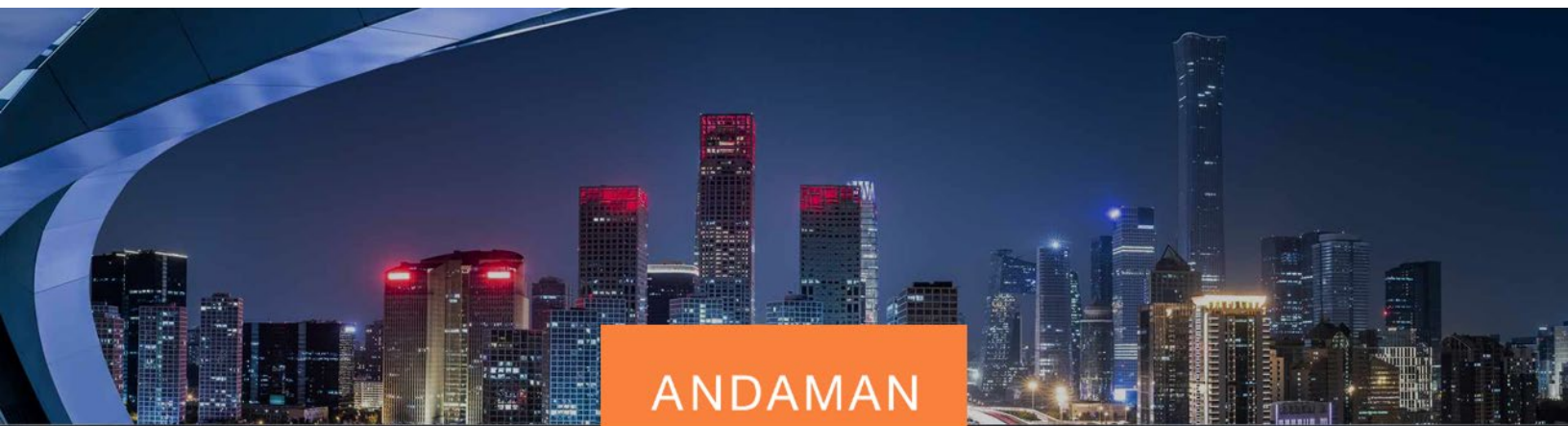


The implication is clear: the next phase of AI advantage in procurement will come not from deploying more tools, but from governance, integration and ROI discipline.

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