

The age of innovation

Five predictions shaping construction and engineering in 2026

Prediction 01

Industrial AI becomes standard



91% of organisations will invest in industrial AI, automation and robotics.

Industrial AI is designed for mission-critical environments. It is embedded into core systems to improve forecasting, detect anomalies, reduce risk and increase project predictability.

Prediction 02

Digital workers reshape the workforce



71% will transform their workforce using agentic AI and digital workers.

Digital workers act like virtual colleagues. They analyse data, support decisions and take action across systems, improving efficiency by **30% or more**.

Prediction 03

Data foundations become non-negotiable



60% of IT leaders will prioritise data consolidation and analysis.

AI depends on trusted data. Organisations are simplifying fragmented systems and building a single source of truth across ERP, finance, projects and supply chains.

Prediction 04

Diversification accelerates growth



65% of CEOs will prioritise business diversification as a growth strategy.

Firms are expanding into services, asset operations, modular construction and new geographies. Success depends on platforms that support multiple business models in one environment.

Prediction 05

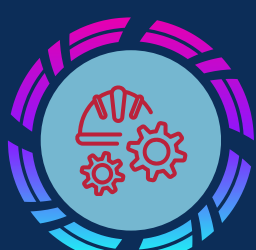
Sustainability becomes operational



75% of firms will commit to decarbonisation targets.

Sustainability is no longer optional. Environmental performance is becoming a measurable, regulated and commercially critical part of project delivery.

What this means for 2026



Construction and engineering organisations that succeed will embed AI into core systems, build strong data foundations, support diversification without fragmentation, and treat sustainability as a controlled operational process.

Platned helps organisations apply these capabilities using IFS Cloud as the digital foundation.



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