



Executive summary

**AI in manufacturing starts with
connected operations and IFS Cloud**

Why connected operations are becoming the foundation for AI success

AI is everywhere in manufacturing conversations.

From predictive maintenance and intelligent scheduling to automated reporting and demand forecasting, manufacturers are under increasing pressure to understand how AI can improve performance and create competitive advantage.

Yet many organisations are finding that AI alone is not the answer.

The manufacturers achieving the greatest value from AI are not necessarily investing more in technology. They are creating connected operations that provide the visibility, control and trusted information needed to support better decision-making.

Before AI can deliver meaningful business outcomes, manufacturers need a strong operational foundation.



This is where IFS Cloud is helping organisations connect their operations, reduce complexity and prepare for the future.

The challenge facing manufacturers

Manufacturing has become increasingly complex.

Customer expectations continue to rise. Supply chains remain unpredictable. Skilled resources are difficult to find. At the same time, organisations are expected to improve productivity, reduce costs and respond faster to change.

Many businesses are trying to achieve these goals while relying on disconnected systems and manual processes.

Production teams often use different information from supply chain teams.

Maintenance data may sit in a separate system. Finance teams frequently rely on spreadsheets and manually generated reports.

The result is familiar:

- Limited visibility across the business.
- Delayed decision-making.
- Increased manual effort.
- Difficulty responding to operational issues.
- Challenges adopting new technologies such as AI.

The problem is rarely a lack of data. The problem is that the data exists in different places and is difficult to access, trust and use.

AI cannot solve disconnected operations.

In fact, disconnected operations often prevent AI from delivering value in the first place.

Why connected operations matter

Connected operations bring together people, processes and information across the organisation. Instead of departments working in isolation, teams operate from a shared source of information and a common view of the business. This creates immediate benefits.



Better visibility

Manufacturing leaders gain access to real-time information across production, inventory, maintenance, projects and finance. Instead of waiting for reports, they can see what is happening as it happens.



Faster decisions

When information is available and trusted, teams can make decisions more quickly and with greater confidence. This helps organisations respond faster to customer demands, operational challenges and market changes.



Reduced manual work

Employees spend less time gathering information, updating spreadsheets and producing reports. More time can be focused on improvement activities that add value to the business.



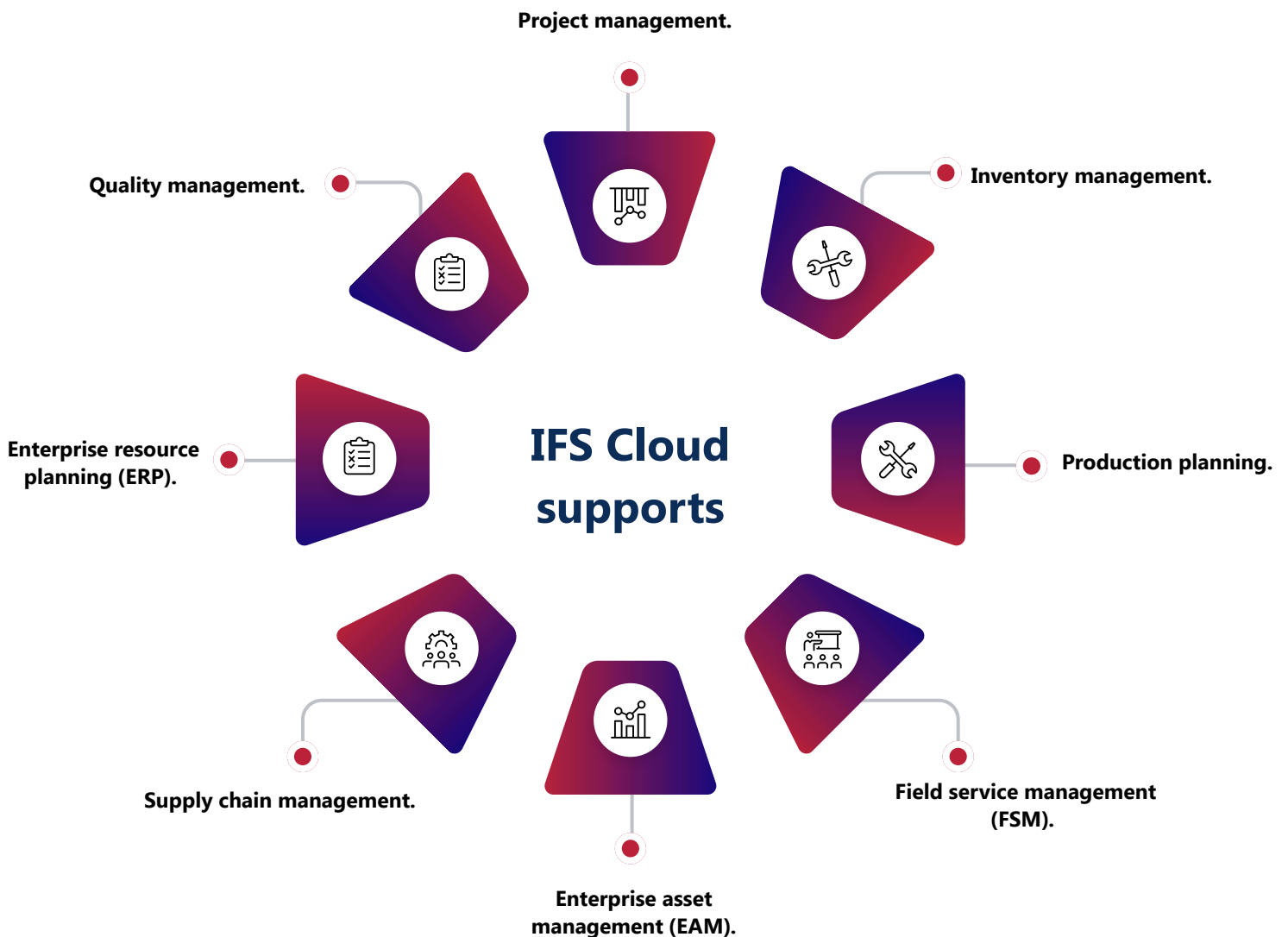
Greater operational control

Connected operations help organisations identify issues earlier, monitor performance more effectively and improve collaboration across departments. Most importantly, connected operations create the trusted foundation required for successful AI initiatives.

How IFS Cloud helps manufacturers connect operations

IFS Cloud is designed to help manufacturers bring together critical business functions within a single platform. Rather than managing multiple disconnected systems, organisations can gain a connected view of their operations and make better decisions using real-time information.

IFS Cloud supports:



By connecting these areas, manufacturers can reduce complexity while improving visibility and control.

Real-time operational insight

IFS Cloud provides access to current operational information across the organisation, helping leaders make informed decisions based on what is happening today rather than what happened yesterday.

Built for manufacturing

IFS Cloud is designed specifically for organisations that manufacture, maintain and service complex products and assets.

Its manufacturing-focused capabilities help businesses support operational excellence without relying on extensive customisation.

Flexible and future-ready

Manufacturers can modernise at a pace that suits their organisation while creating a platform capable of supporting future innovation, including AI, automation and advanced analytics.



Where AI is delivering practical value

When manufacturers have connected operations and trusted data, AI becomes a practical business tool rather than a technology experiment. Several areas are already delivering measurable value.

Predictive maintenance

AI can identify patterns that indicate potential equipment failures before downtime occurs. This helps maintenance teams improve asset reliability, reduce disruption and lower maintenance costs.

Production planning and scheduling

AI can analyse production schedules, resource availability and operational constraints to support better planning decisions. This improves efficiency and helps organisations respond more effectively to changing demand.

Demand forecasting

AI can identify trends and patterns that improve forecasting accuracy, helping manufacturers optimise inventory levels and improve customer service.

Quality management

AI can detect anomalies and identify emerging quality issues earlier, helping reduce waste and improve consistency.

Operational reporting

AI can simplify access to information, helping teams spend less time creating reports and more time acting on insights.

The most successful organisations focus on practical AI use cases that solve real operational challenges and deliver measurable business outcomes.



Questions every manufacturing leader should ask

For CIOs

Are our systems connected?
Can we trust our data?
Are we creating the right foundation for AI?

For COOs

Do we have visibility across operations?
How quickly can we identify and respond to issues?
Are our systems helping improve performance?

For CFOs

What is the cost of disconnected processes?
How much time is spent on manual reporting?
Are we maximising value from our technology investments?

These questions often reveal where opportunities for improvement exist and where connected operations can deliver the greatest impact.



What manufacturers are achieving with connected operations

Manufacturers are already seeing measurable benefits from connecting operations and modernising with IFS Cloud.

IFS customer outcomes include:



37%

more efficient
capital assets
teams.



50%

faster equipment
and site outage
resolution.



\$2.5

million average
annual staff
efficiency benefits.



414%

return on
investment over
three years.



11

month payback
period, including
deployment time.

These results demonstrate that modernisation is not simply about upgrading technology. It is about creating a connected operational foundation that helps organisations improve performance, increase efficiency and prepare for future AI initiatives.

Organisations such as GED Integrated Solutions and Cheer Pack have used IFS Cloud to improve operational visibility, efficiency and business performance.

Building a foundation for the future

The conversation about AI in manufacturing will continue to grow. However, the organisations that benefit most will be those that focus on building strong foundations before pursuing advanced technology initiatives. Connected operations provide the visibility, control and trusted information needed to improve decision-making and support long-term growth.

IFS Cloud helps manufacturers create that foundation by bringing together critical business functions within a single platform.

Platned helps organisations maximise the value of IFS Cloud through implementation, upgrades, optimisation and AI readiness services. With experience supporting more than 100 manufacturing organisations, we understand the operational challenges manufacturers face and how to translate technology investments into measurable business outcomes.

Because successful AI initiatives do not start with AI. They start with connected operations.

**Connected operations. Practical AI.
Powered by IFS Cloud.**

