IDC

June 2026
Infographic
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Is Your Network Ready for the AI Era?



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Companies are preparing for an AI future

Today, innovation is the leading approach to business growth, stated by **59%** of companies.

AI is central to innovation-led growth:

It is the **#2** technology priority overall, and companies using AI extensively expect higher growth.



AI is delivering significant benefits:

90%
of companies report improvements to productivity

84%
to quality

78%
to customer experience

Enterprise networks are not ready for AI

38% of companies' networks are not ready to support future needs such as AI. Only 5% are fully ready for the future.

Future-ready networks enable advanced use cases:

74% of companies using AI transformatively have fully ready networks.



High-performing networks are the **#3** reason for AI projects exceeding expectations, named by **46%** of such companies. In contrast, **26%** of companies whose AI has underperformed point to low-performing networks as a major factor.

Enterprises acknowledge this:

Networking is the **#3** overall technology investment priority named by **48%** of companies, behind only security and AI. All three must work together simultaneously to safely deliver innovation and growth.



How do networks need to improve?

The following network features are important now but are absolutely critical to enable and support enterprise AI as it grows and evolves:

Flexibility
54%
Of companies acknowledge they need to improve flexibility/scalability to bring their networks into line with an AI-driven business environment.

Resilience
51%
Need to improve resilience/reliability to minimize downtime and secure against cyberattacks. This is increasingly critical as AI and agents handle sensitive business processes in real time.

Bandwidth
42%
Need to increase network capacity to support high data volumes, enable AI at scale, and remove bottlenecks. Predictable controlled connectivity is needed to optimize AI deployments.

Cloud connectivity
42%
Need to enhance cloud and multicloud connectivity to access training platforms in the cloud and distributed locations for inferencing; provide performance, manageability, and observability; and reduce egress costs.

What should enterprises do next?

1. Innovate to grow, but understand that innovations such as AI quickly create new demands and new risks.
2. Reframe networks as strategic assets that enable every aspect of a business, from communications and collaboration to innovation and transformation.
3. Assess how ready their networks are to support their future technology and business needs.
4. Identify areas for improvement. In particular, they should look at flexibility, resilience, performance, and cloud connectivity.
5. Look for a partner with a track record of providing and managing networks that deliver these capabilities.

Read the full InfoBrief

Source: IDC's *Tech Leaders' Priorities Survey, Expereo*, Jan 2026.

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June 2026 | #EMEA154170 | Sponsored by Expereo

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Message from the sponsor

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faster to the future



Ben Elms
CEO of Expereo

Our latest research makes one thing clear: While business priorities have shifted over the past 12 months, the stakes have never been higher, and AI is no longer experimental.

However, ambition is outstripping readiness. As organizations move from AI pilots to scaled deployment, they are encountering very real challenges around data sovereignty, infrastructure resilience, security risks, and critical skills shortages.

From a technology business leader's perspective, it is clear the network sits at the center of everything. Whether enabling AI, security, or sustainability goals, success depends on an agile, resilient, and globally consistent network foundation.

Over the next 12 months, the organizations that succeed will be those that address capability gaps through the right partnerships, while building infrastructure that is secure, scalable, and aligned with growing sustainability expectations.

Expereo enables enterprise businesses' long-term growth with secure global managed network-as-a-service solutions that deliver connectivity, resilience, and visibility.

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