

NFPA Business Intelligence

Artificial Intelligence Series - Survey #1
Status of the Industry and NFPA Role

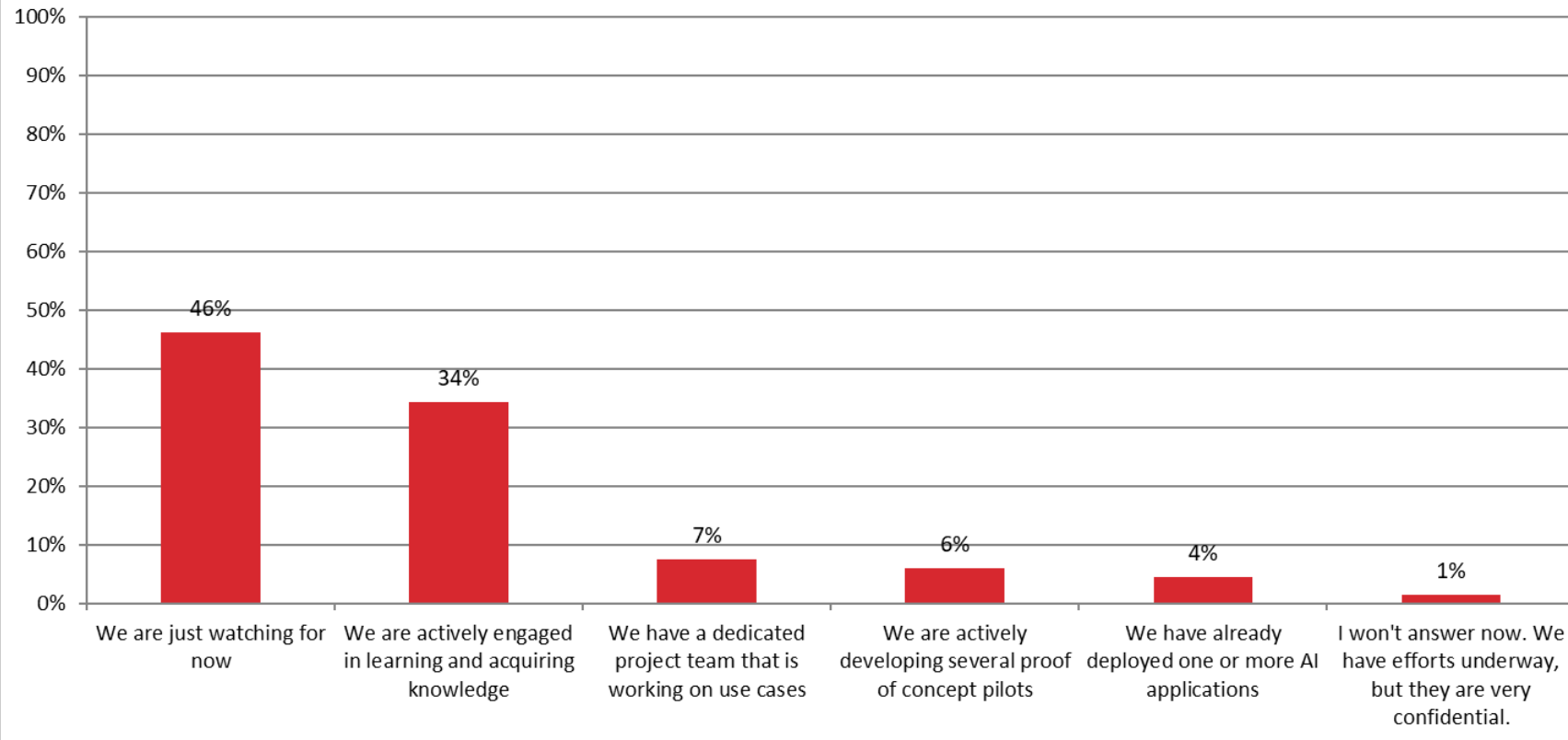
Conducted May 2024. 67 respondents.



Current Status of AI Among NFPA Members



What best describes the current status of your company with respect to artificial intelligence?

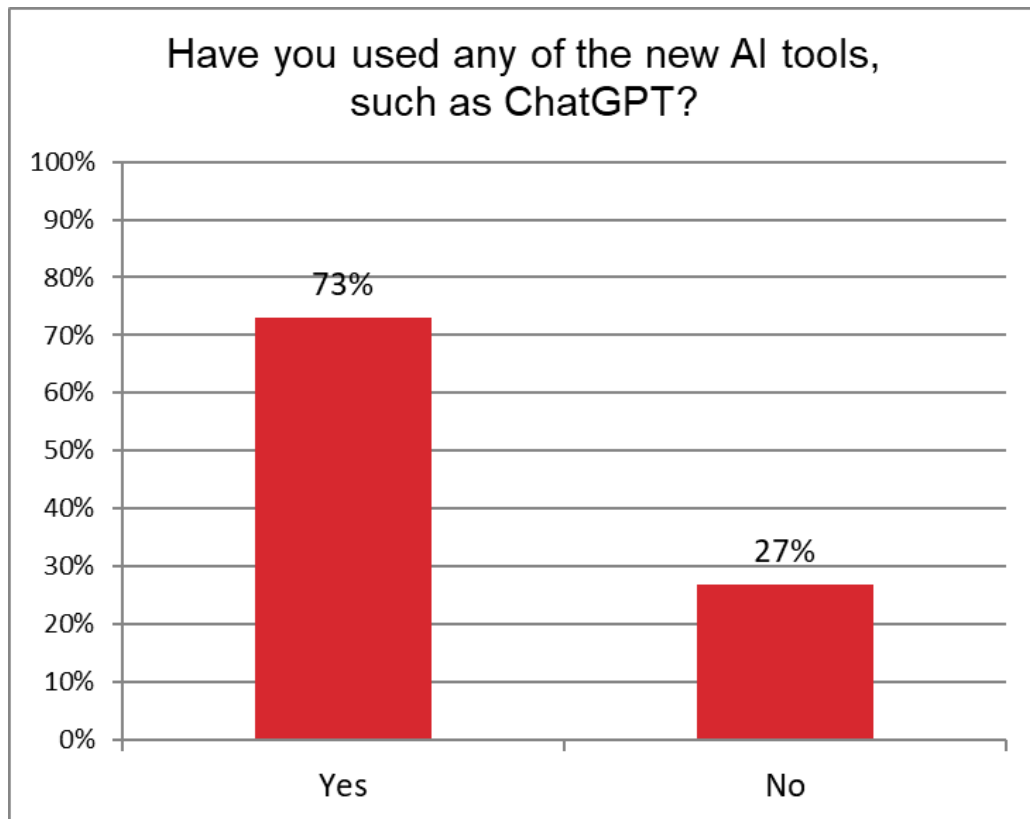


Almost half of respondents indicate their companies are just watching for now.

About 1/3 are actively engaged in learning and acquiring knowledge.

About 10 percent are actively developing and deploying.

Current Status of AI Among NFPA Members



In addition to ChatGPT, other tools mentioned by respondents include:

[Perplexity](#), [Microsoft CoPilot](#), [Google Gemini](#), [Meta's Prophet](#) algorithm, [Scikit-learn](#) models

Also, Robotic Process Automation:

<https://www.hyperscience.com/>;

<https://www.keyence.com/products/software/rpa/>;

<https://www.pega.com/products/platform/robotic-process-automation>

Additional comments:

AI is built into our automated AP software

Evaluating tools for collections, inventory management, etc...

Limited to basic documents, report summaries

Moving to more secure setup for company

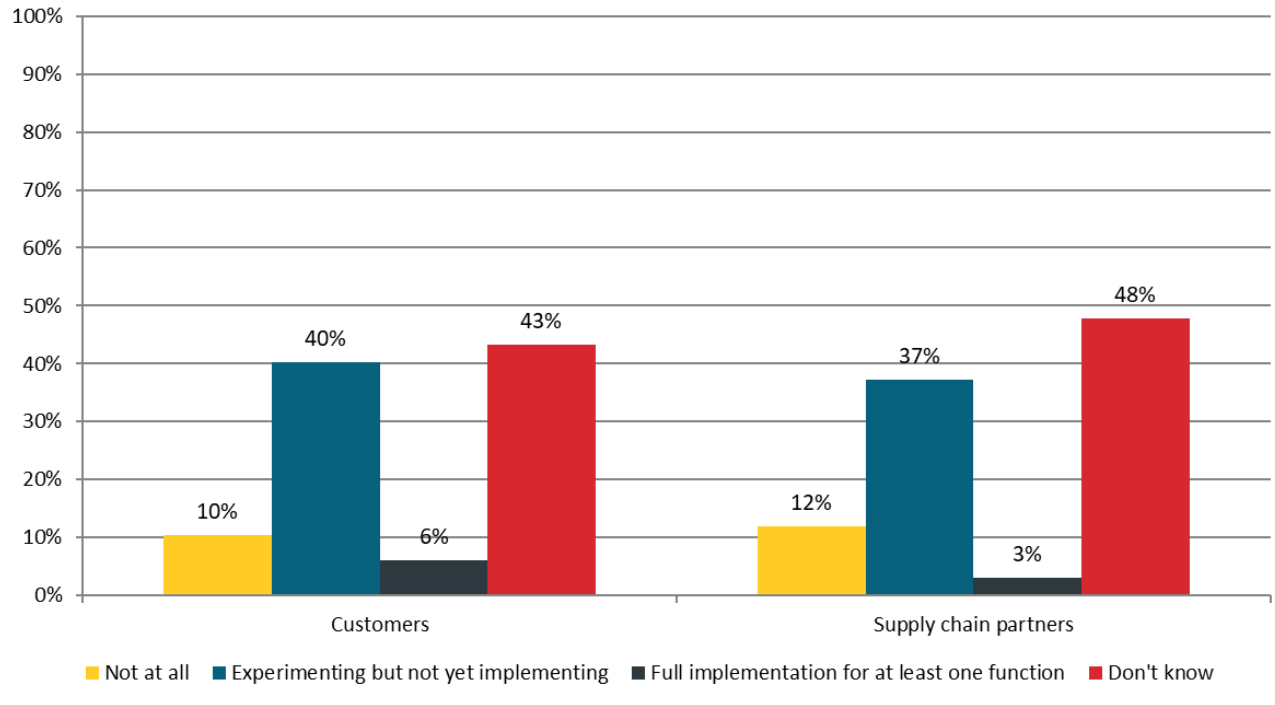
Chat GPT good for ideas and as a starter tool, not refined for use as output

Very interested, but not sure how to start

Current Status – Customers and Supply Chain Partners



In general, to what extent are your customers and supply chain partners making use of artificial intelligence?



Half or nearly half don't know what their customers and supply chain partners are doing with regard to artificial intelligence.

Others largely see their customers and supply chain partners as experimenting and not yet implementing.

Comments:

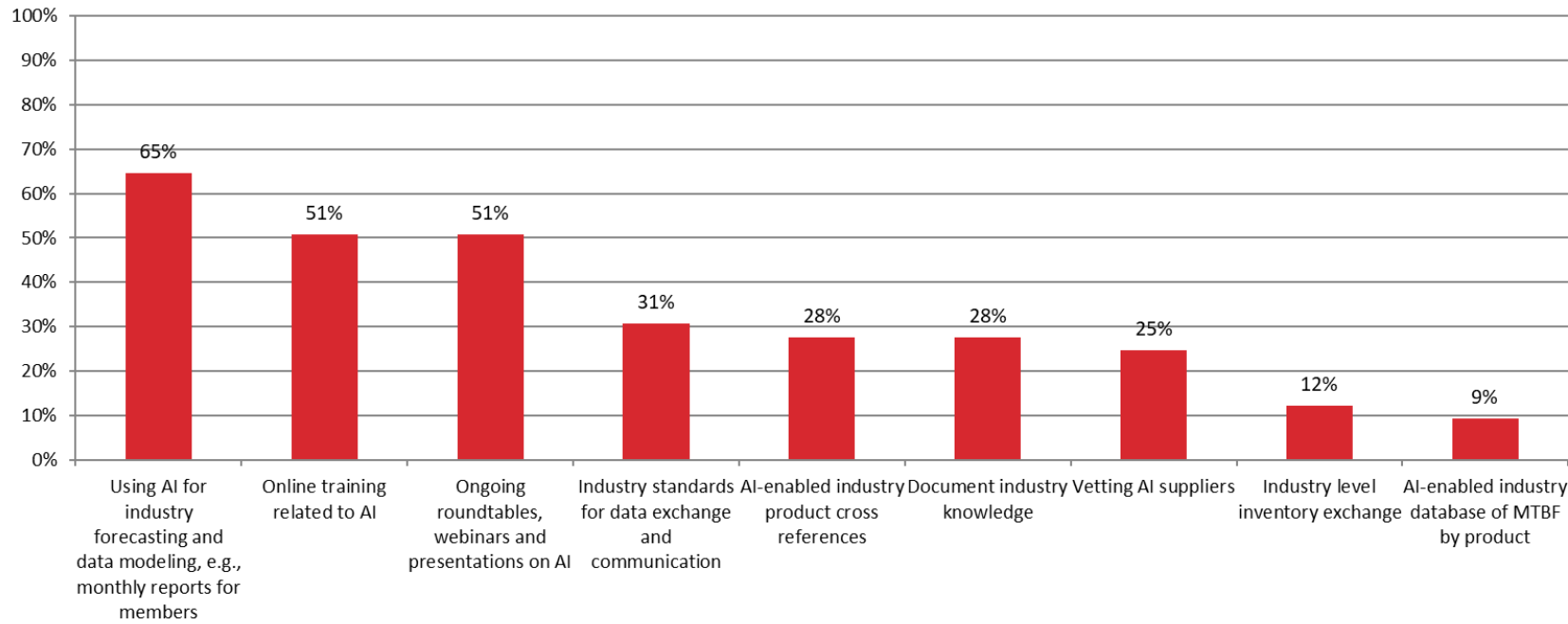
it is all over the map and some customers or vendors are not sharing information.

Reliability and certainty that output will be as expected including reaction to unexpected inputs are a fundamental concern. The functions of our own products and business processes as well as functions of our customers' products are simply too critical. For business processes, everyone is still recovering from supply chain chaos and we don't want to introduce new problems with early stage technologies that have not been vetted by a long period of in-market commercial usage with associated major upgrade revisions. For usage within actual products (eg: Master Control System software on a machine) or in development of our products (eg: writing microcontroller firmware for a component's onboard electronics which may be thousands of code lines), there is the natural concern of including elements that are not fully understood (and not recognizing what might be suspect). Impact on product liability and insurance is an open question.

Industrywide Efforts and Role of NFPA



At the NFPA Annual Conference, participants identified a list of areas where NFPA support may be helpful to members, as an industry-wide initiative or as assistance to specific members. Place a check by the items below that are highest priority...check no



High level priority for 2/3 of respondents...AI for forecasting and data modeling (NFPA staff is exploring tools and security issues currently)

Roundtables, webinars, presentations, and training also a high priority (interactive session planned for Industry & Economic Outlook Conference in August)

Comments:

AI consultants are over-hyped. I want to see actual examples from members of true AI tools and how they are used.

Specific to Vetting AI suppliers, it would be great to have a list of AI suppliers categorized by their areas of expertise/product they offer, and also a list of third party AI experts that can be utilized to build or design “home grown” AI tools specific to our business needs.

Other Comments



I find it interesting that AI is such a big buzz - but there are no formal standards in place for how to use it, and no regulations for what it can be used for. At this point, customers and manufacturers alike seem to be interested only because they are afraid they will be behind if their competition is using it. I cannot deny the benefits, but I am worried with the lack of support and structure around how to use it.

IP security and nondisclosure agreements

Like so many other new trends, I think the term AI is overused. The dominance of new tech is always slower than the hype. AI just accelerates what was already happening.

Improving general awareness on use cases and 3rd party enablers to get started

IP security and nondisclosure agreements

Must have to operate efficiently going forward.

I think there will be concerns about AI wiping out the market advantages that some companies have developed through the years.

Scary - But then I thought emails were scary when we lost our fax machine.

NFPA Business Intelligence

Thank you to those who responded to this survey.

Questions about this survey, or suggestions for future survey topics...
contact Pete Alles at 414-778-3350 or palles@nfpa.com

Contents of this report are intended for use by NFPA members only.

© 2024, National Fluid Power Association (NFPA) Not for reproduction or dissemination without prior consent of NFPA

