2025 Executive Summary

A message from the Conference Chair

We are experiencing a time when geopolitical tensions, rising costs, and heightened uncertainty are shaping our industry in unprecedented ways. As a leader, you face these challenges head-on. You must be willing to fearlessly transform today's challenges into tomorrow's successes and craft your own transformative value. We hope to see you at Gartner Supply Chain Planning Summit 2026!

Sincerely,

Noha Samara
Conference Chair and Sr Director Analyst, Gartner

Top Takeaways

1 Fearlessly embrace AI

For your pilots, set clear, measurable goals aligned with business objectives, and track progress with relevant KPIs. Maximize existing resources before investing in new technologies, and start with low-risk, simple use cases to build confidence. Develop an upskilling strategy to empower employees and proactively address AI-related anxieties through personalized communication and formal feedback channels.

> "Start with a structured approach to make it easier to scale successful pilots across your organization."
>
> Eva Dawkins,
> Director Analyst,
> Gartner

2 Prioritize and perfect process excellence

Start by securing quick wins: clarify your meeting purposes, set escalation thresholds, assign explicit ownership, and align with executives before the next cycle. Next, strengthen your foundation with mid-term actions: prioritize agendas, ensure stakeholder alignment, categorize decision types, and implement readiness checklists. For sustained success, institutionalize best practices: build a library of key decisions, map decision flows, and invest in ongoing team training.

> "Prioritize, perfect, and continuously optimize for lasting impact."
>
> Tessa Mahon,
> Director Analyst,
> Gartner

3 Drive transformation to build resilience and spark innovation

Demystify innovation by determining how your organization defines and values innovation, and by identifying potential roadblocks. Manage uncertainty by calculating the probability of common plan disruption drivers, investing in simulation capabilities, aligning on thresholds for replanning and decision rights, and identifying real-time data feeds. Sustain transformation gains by mastering the art of governance, motivating your teams to succeed, and becoming more agile in how you respond to disruptions.

> "The time to start is now. The future will not wait."
>
> Cristina Carvallo,
> Sr Director Analyst, KI Leader,
> Gartner

4 Elevate your planning performance

Elevate your planning performance by reorganizing teams to maximize technology value, building broader, skills-based roles. Re-engage planners with a robust talent strategy - map evolving roles, establish competency models, and create clear career paths. Finally, drive lasting change by forming a center of excellence, defining change roles, and using a structured approach to cultural transformation. Act now to build a future-ready planning organization.

> "Successful planning reorganizations balance integrated and differentiated activities, continuously adapting to stay fit for purpose."
>
> Alan O'Keeffe,
> VP Analyst,
> Gartner

5 Craft your transformative value

Develop a clear human-machine strategy, prioritizing accountability and explainability in your AI initiatives. Challenge the status quo by actively seeking ways to streamline, simplify, and remove barriers to progress. Strengthen your organization by making integration a true priority - dedicate resources and focused effort to turn collaboration into a competitive advantage.

> "Real transformation happens when human insight meets AI intelligence."
>
> Marko Pukkila,
> VP, Team Manager,
> Gartner

Save the date!

Join us November 2 – 3, 2026 in Denver, CO for Gartner Supply Chain Planning Summit!