



BLUE NET KEEPS INFORMATION FLOWING THROUGH YOUR PLANT



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Technology is a business discussion

These are the conversations we are having with manufacturing owners and leaders every day:

How do we keep the plant running?

How protected are we?

How aligned is leadership?

Who's responsible for what?

What could stop production?

What's our plan when something fails?

Who is haunting your Ghost Network?

**There are machines
controlling your shopfloor.
How are they connected?
Who's responsible for it?**

**We are finding that most folks
can't name who is responsible for
operational technology.**

Business risk exists for these systems that
nobody is watching.

You need to know what you have, understand
those risks and build a plan to minimize those
risks.



What is getting fixed?

**Your machines
are maintained.
What about your
technology?**



*Is your technology posing
downtime risk to your
operations?*



Thank You

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Kaizen Events With AI



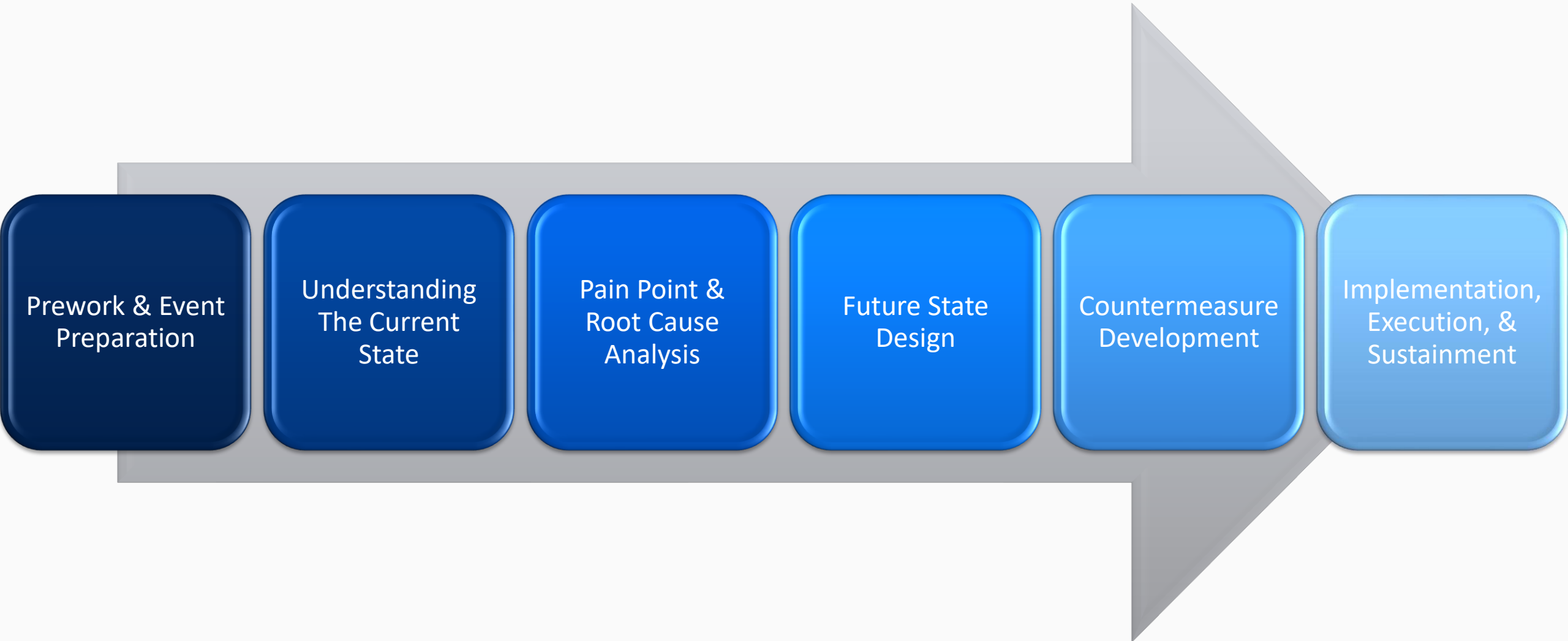
**Enhancing Traditional Continuous
Improvement Through Artificial Intelligence**

Eugene Arrington | *Sr. Lean Process Specialist*



How much time during a Kaizen event is spent improving the process versus collecting, organizing, and analyzing information?

Exploring AI Usage in the Traditional Kaizen Lifestyle



Today's Learning Objectives

Understand
where AI fits
within the
Kaizen process

Learn Practical
AI use cases
for each
Kaizen phase

Identify
opportunities
to
immediately
apply AI in
your
organization
today

AI's Place in Kaizen Events

AI Can Accelerate:

- Preparation
- Analysis
- Documentation
- Future State Design
- Sustainment

AI Should NOT Replace:

- Gemba Walks
- Team Collaboration
- Root Cause Thinking
- Leadership Engagement
- Human Decision-Making

AI will not replace Kaizen teams! It will make Kaizen teams faster, better prepared, and more effective.

Prework & Event Preparation

Phase 1



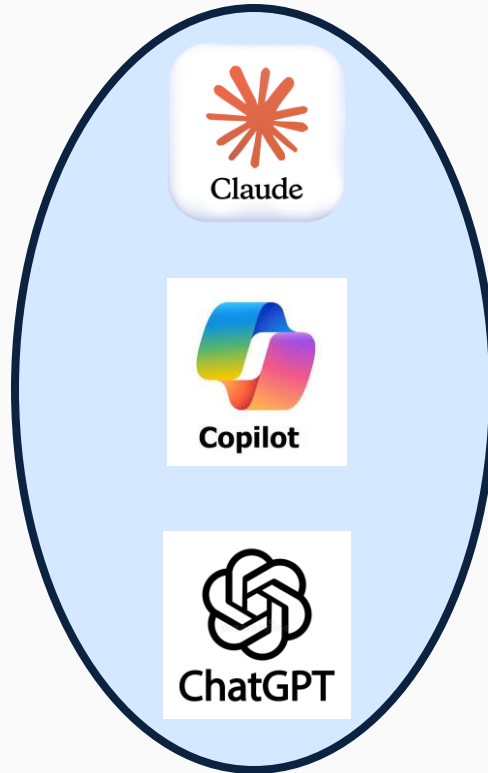
Traditional Kaizen Challenges

- Gathering data can sometimes take weeks
- Historical data can be scattered across multiple systems
- Sometimes teams spend the first day of the event collecting data
- Limited visibility to trends and reoccurring issues
- Lessons learned are buried in documents and emails
- Large number of documents to be reviewed manually

AI for Kaizen Preparation

You Can Upload:

- SOPs
- Audit Findings
- NCRs
- Customer Complaints
- Quality Reports



AI Can:

- ✓ Summarize Trends
- ✓ Identify Recurring Issues
- ✓ Highlight Common Themes

Voice of the Customer Analysis

AI can also analyze survey comments, service calls and complaint logs to identify common pain points.

AI Generated Event Charter Support

AI Can Help Create:

- Problem Statements
- Scope Definitions
- Baseline Metrics
- SIPOCs
- Stakeholder Lists
- Suggested Cross-Functional Team

The image displays two overlapping VSM Charter forms, which are structured documents used for process improvement. The top form is titled 'Custom & Standard Repair VSM Charter' and the bottom form is titled 'Custom NW & RM VSM Charter'. Both forms include sections for 'Problem Statement', 'Why is this VSM necessary?', 'What is the VSM scope?', 'What is the VSM team?', and 'What is the VSM timeline?'. The forms are filled out with specific data, including dates, names, and metrics, and are presented in a professional, clean layout.

Custom & Standard Repair VSM Charter	
KICK-OFF DATE:	22-Sep-25
VSM TITLE:	Facility/Production
GEBA:	MPU
PROBLEM STATEMENT:	MPU RP-4354 / MPU BR-945
WHY IS THIS VSM NECESSARY:	MPU RP-4354 / MPU BR-945
WHAT IS THE VSM SCOPE:	MPU RP-4354 / MPU BR-945
WHAT IS THE VSM TEAM:	MPU RP-4354 / MPU BR-945
WHAT IS THE VSM TIMELINE:	MPU RP-4354 / MPU BR-945

Custom NW & RM VSM Charter	
KICK-OFF DATE:	22-Sep-25
VSM TITLE:	Facility/Production
GEBA:	On Time Delivery
PROBLEM STATEMENT:	On Time Delivery
WHY IS THIS VSM NECESSARY:	On Time Delivery
WHAT IS THE VSM SCOPE:	On Time Delivery
WHAT IS THE VSM TEAM:	On Time Delivery
WHAT IS THE VSM TIMELINE:	On Time Delivery

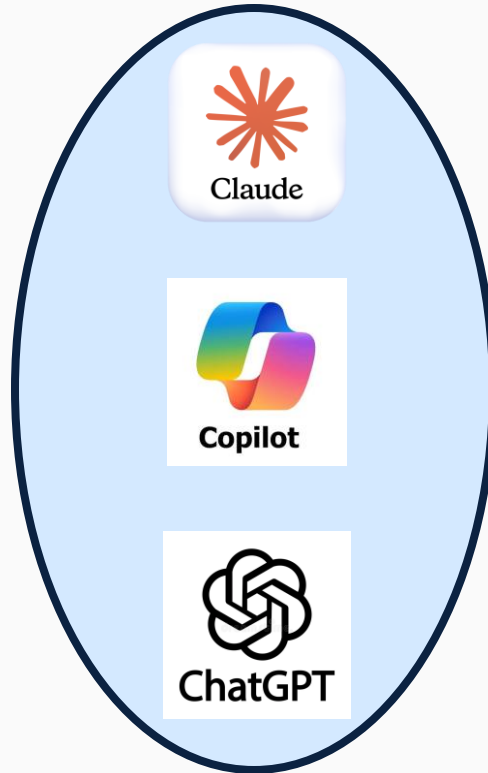
Understanding the Current State

Phase 2

Process Mapping Assistance

You Can Upload:

- Process Descriptions
- Interview Notes
- SOPs



AI Can Draft:

- ✓ Swimlane Maps
- ✓ Process Flow Maps
- ✓ SIPOCs
- ✓ Value Stream Maps

Teams Validate at Gemba

In other words, AI drafts the request and humans verify and refine the output.

AI and Data Analysis

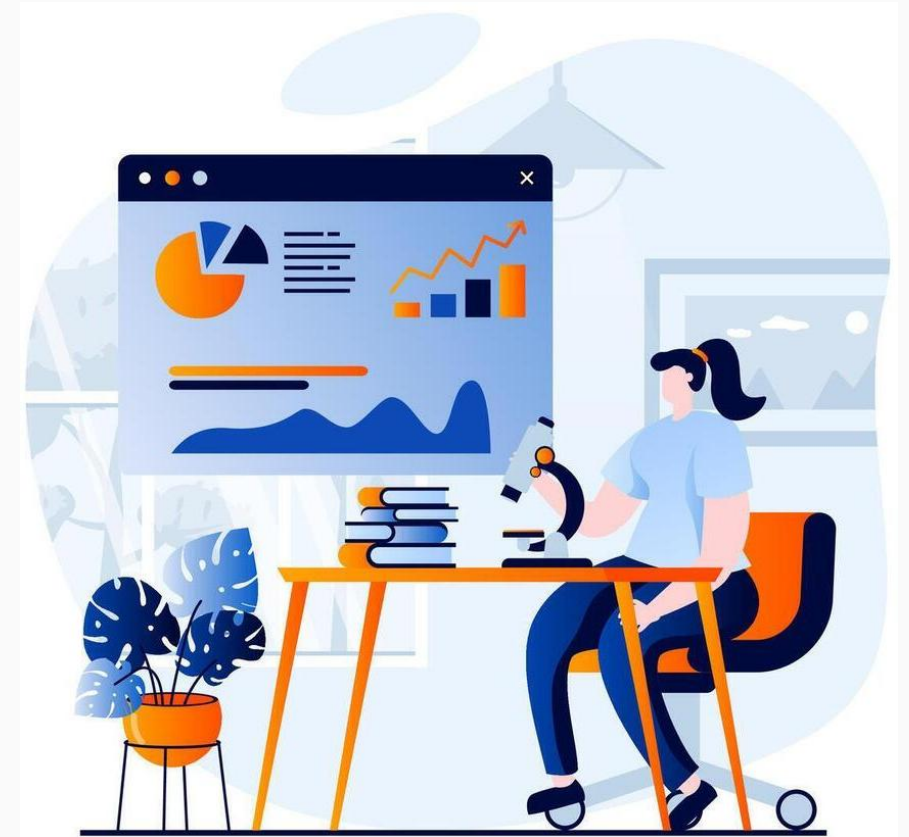
AI Can Rapidly Analyze:

- Cycle Times
- Downtime Logs
- Quality Defects
- Rework Records
- Production Volumes



You Can Ask AI:

- What are the biggest contributors to delay?
- Which stations create the most bottlenecks?
- What trends exist by shift?
- Which product families generate the most rework?



Pain Point & Root Cause Analysis

Phase 3

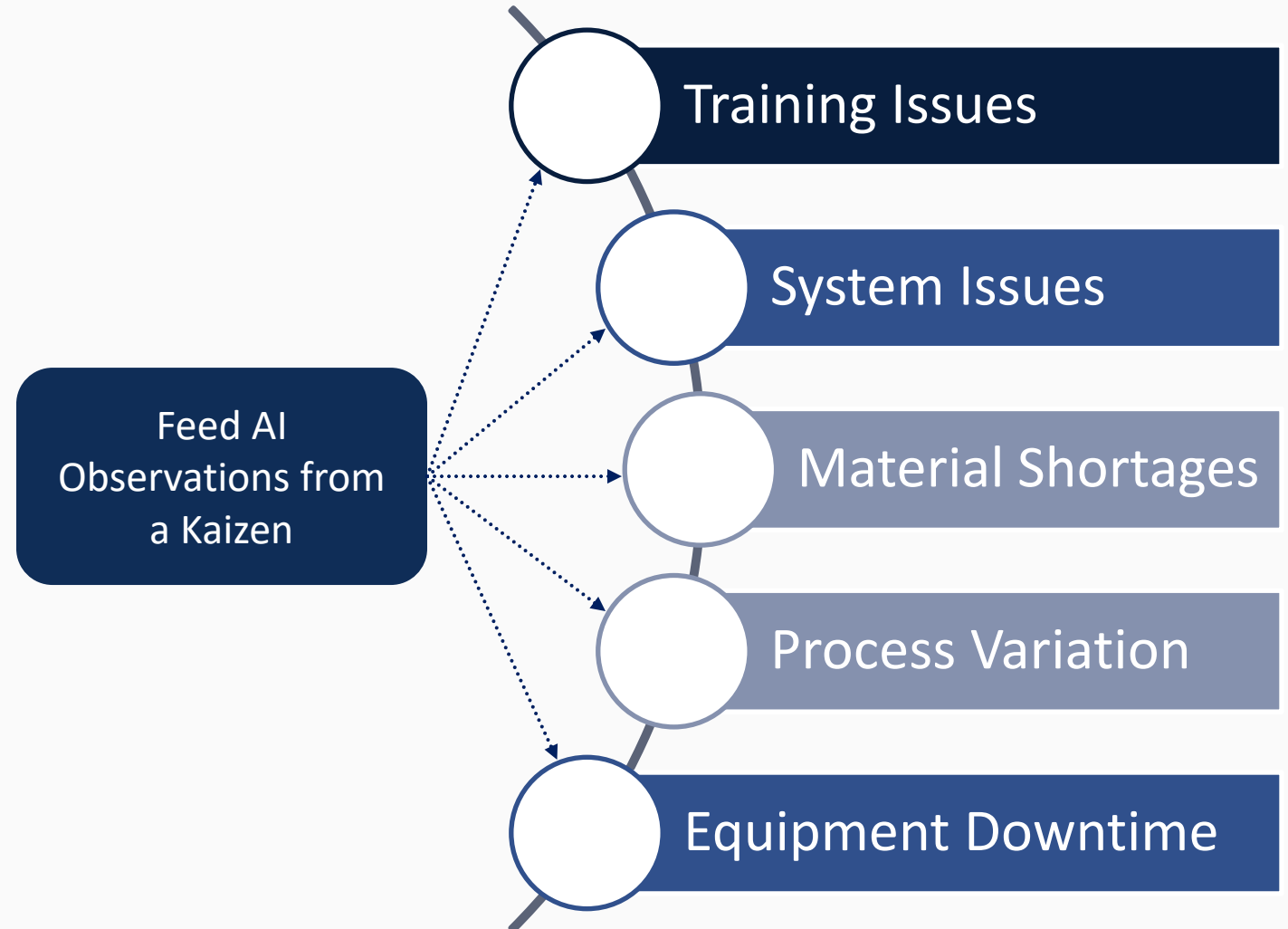
AI Assisted Problem Identification

Instead of:

- Building affinity diagrams
- Leading brainstorming sessions
- Manual theme grouping

AI can now:

- Cluster comments/ complaints
- Quickly identify recurring themes
- Group observations automatically



AI For Root Cause Investigations

IMPORTANT NOTE: *AI cannot determine true root cause by itself! The Kaizen team still owns root cause validation.*



AI generates possible cause analysis tools that teams validate.

Future State Design

Phase 4

Future State Brainstorming

Traditional Challenge:

- Teams often generate incremental ideas and are limited to the minds in the room

AI Helps Expand Team Thinking

- Ask “Generate 25 ways to reduce setup time.”
- Ask “Suggest automation opportunities for this process.”

Benefits:

- Generating more viable ideas
- Broader perspectives
- Faster ideation



Brainstorming

Mocking Up Future States

AI Can Create:

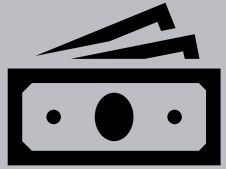
- Visual Process Concepts
- Layout Ideas
- Workflow Mockups
- Staffing Scenarios

Instead of explaining ideas verbally, AI shows visual concepts immediately.



Scenario Simulation

AI helps to Compare:



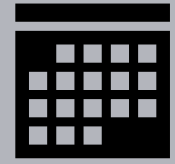
Cost



Impact



Risks



Time to
Implement

AI provides great support for decision making!

Countermeasure Development

Phase 5

AI For Action Planning

AI helps to create SMART actions to eliminate vague action items:

Specific

Measurable

Achievable

Relevant

Time-Bound

Prompt Example:

Instead of:

“Improve Training”

AI suggests:

“Develop standardized certification process for new operators by November 15.”



Risk Analysis

During Kaizen events, teams often struggle to:

- Identify all potential failure modes
- Consider risks across the entire process
- Develop comprehensive control plans
- Predict unintended consequences of proposed changes
- Evaluate implementation risks before launch

Prompt Example:

“Review this proposed manufacturing assembly process and identify potential failure modes, causes, and impacts.”

AI can analyze the following inputs for applications such as FMEA support, control plan creation, and risk identification:

- Process Documentation
- Change Proposals
- Historical Quality Data
- Project Plans

AI does not replace risk assessment expertise, but it dramatically improves the speed and thoroughness of identifying and mitigating risk.

Implementation, Execution, & Sustainment

Phase 6

AI During Implementation

In the implementation phase, AI can help generate:

- Communications
- SOP Drafts
- Work Instructions
- Training Materials
- Change Management Plans

Utilizing AI during this phase of a Kaizen can dramatically reduce the administrative effort needed during implementation.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

1

DEFINE YOUR GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Start by clarifying what you want to achieve

2

IDENTIFY KEY TASKS AND ACTIVITIES

Break down the work into specific tasks

3

ASSIGN ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Decide who will be responsible for each task

4

SET A TIMELINE AND MILESTONES

Establish deadlines and key progress points

5

PREPARE FOR RISKS AND TRACK PROGRESS

Anticipate challenges and monitor project's status

AI For Sustainment

Many Kaizen efforts and gains disappear after 90 days.

AI Can Help Strengthen Sustainment By Tracking:

- Lead Time
- Throughput
- Quality Metrics
- Inventory
- Service Levels

Benefits to Automated Monitoring:

- Identifying abnormal trends early before they become quality, deliver, or cost issues
- Helping to sustain standard work by comparing actual performance against documented standards
- Improves management visibility through dashboards and executive summaries

Intelligent KPI Review

Instead of AI only generating charts, you can ask:

Performance Trends

- Which KPIs are improving, declining, or remaining stable?
- Which KPI is most concerning and why?
- What changed this month compared to historical performance?

Correlation Analysis

- Which KPIs appear to impact one another?
- What factors correlate most strongly with customer complaints?
- Which upstream metrics predict downstream performance?

Generating Next Steps

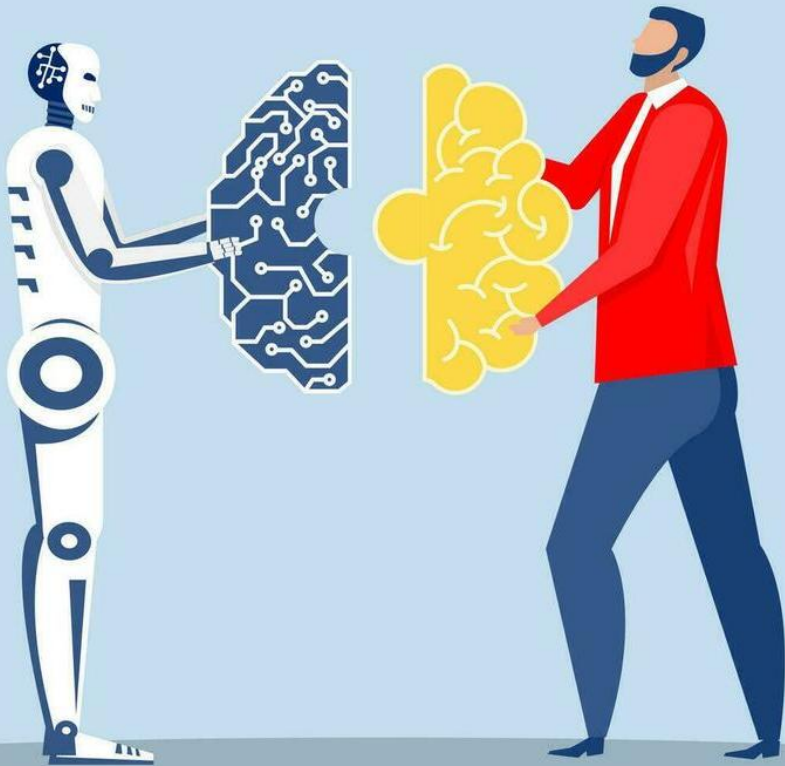
- What actions are most likely to improve this KPI?
- What should the team investigate next?
- What recommendations can be made based on the current data?

In Conclusion

The Vision of AI as an Improvement Assistant

Imagine every process owner has access to:

- Performance Summaries
- Root Cause Suggestions
- Action Recommendations
- Trend Analysis
- Audit Support



Considerations

AI Cannot Replace:

- ✗ Gemba Walks
- ✗ Observations
- ✗ Team Engagement
- ✗ Leadership Support
- ✗ Lean Thinking
- ✗ Human Judgment

AI Works Best When:

- ✓ Data Exists
- ✓ Teams Validate Outputs
- ✓ Lean Principles Drive Decisions
- ✓ People Remain Accountable

AI will not replace Kaizen teams! It will make Kaizen teams faster, better prepared, and more effective.

In Conclusion

1.

AI Accelerates Kaizen Preparation

2.

AI Improves Analysis and Idea Generation

3.

AI Helps Teams Evaluate Future-State Options Faster

4.

AI Strengthens Implementation and Sustainment

The Future is Not
Lean vs. AI

The Future is Lean
Enhanced by AI



Thank You