

Osaka Gas accelerates AI adoption with Google Cloud training



Almost [two-thirds](#) of enterprises who have adopted AI report that the technology is enabling their companies to get ahead of their competition and global spending on AI technology is projected to more than double over the next three years, surpassing [\\$79 billion](#) by 2022. However, [68%](#) of executives have found a moderate-to-extreme AI skills gap in their organizations.

[Osaka Gas](#), one of the four major gas companies in Japan with projects throughout Asia, Australia, and North America, recognized the potential of AI to transform their business. Realizing they didn't have the skills needed to successfully implement the technology, Osaka Gas attended an immersive AI and machine learning (ML) training at Google Cloud's [Advanced Solutions Lab \(ASL\)](#). Through virtual or onsite education, ASL helps customers make better use of AI and ML technologies and helps employees build the skills they need to increase their business impact.

“We lacked the skill and knowledge of system design and development to pull off AI and ML on a large scale, and we feared that our company would greatly fall behind in the IT field,” said Shutaro Kunimasa, a data scientist at Osaka Gas. “So, we asked several employees in various fields who wanted to use AI technology to improve their work efficiency to attend ASL and grow their data science skills.”

Using ASL to accelerate AI adoption across the organization

For a month, individuals from across departments at Osaka Gas received comprehensive training through ASL on AI fundamentals and the many ways AI can be applied. The program helped employees learn how to implement AI for initiatives from failure prediction and power demand forecasting to marketing support.

For Takahiro Yano, a software engineer at OGIS-RI Co. (subsidiary of Osaka Gas), ASL was particularly useful because it helped him learn how to scope and begin an AI project using practical implementation techniques that consider final continuous operations goals early during the model training phase.

Yosuke Kawamura, a researcher from the energy technology laboratory, is now using his training to see how AI can be used for failure symptom detection, status prediction, and property diagnosis through image processing.

“At ASL, I was able to study the theory, run experiments, and implementation aspects of AI and ML at an advanced level, and I feel like I can now effectively incorporate this into my work,” said Kawamura.

As an IT infrastructure engineer in the information communications department, Kosuke Tanabe has been using AI to improve the work efficiency with Endpoint Detection and Response (EDR), which analyzes logs to find suspicious behavior, and Robotic Process Automation (RPA).

“As the use of cloud services and AI continues to grow rapidly both inside and outside the company, a deep understanding of how AI can be used to manage internal information systems is allowing me to help determine the future of Osaka Gas’ information infrastructure,” said Tanabe.

For more information on the Advanced Solutions Lab, visit cloud.google.com/asl.