FlightGlobal

Aerospace Big Data Europe

Using "big data" to forecast what maintenance an aircraft will need and when is set to be a rapidly growing trend in the industry. According to a FlightGlobal poll of industry professionals, a large gap exists between those who recognise the value of so-called predictive analytics, and those whose organisations are actually using it.

The poll of 380 individuals – conducted ahead of the Aerospace Big Data Europe conference in London on 28-29 November – finds that 89% believe making use of data in this way is important, but only 43% say their organisations are doing it. Of that 43%, our survey suggests that airlines and business services organisations are least likely to have adopted the practice, while MRO businesses and OEMs are more inclined to be converts.
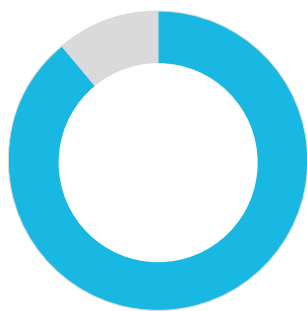
Do you see the value in predictive analytics?

- Yes
- No

On a similar question, 27% report that their organisation believes predictive maintenance tools are "rapidly becoming core decision making tools", and a further 33% that they are "steadily being integrated". However, 16% of respondents say their employer is "not yet ready to invest", and 24% are unsure.
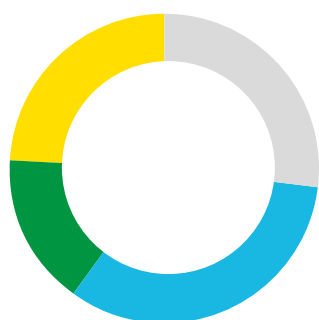
How fast are predictive analytics being implemented?

- ■ Rapidly
- ■ Steadily
- ■ Not ready to invest
- ■ Unsure

Just over seven in 10 of those polled are very or fairly confident that big data analytics can be successfully adopted in their organisation, although budget, business culture and lack of expertise in managing volumes of data are highlighted as the biggest constraints to a business's ability to scale these techniques.

When it comes to making a business case for investing in big data and predictive maintenance analytics, the desire to reduce maintenance costs is by far the most popular, with 47% citing this as the main driver. Improving the passenger experience by reducing delays and cancellations is seen as key by 21%.

Finally, the success of predictive analytics tools is generally acknowledged to depend on all sides of the industry sharing information. Asked whether airlines will engage more on sharing health monitoring data, 61% of respondents say such a move is inevitable, with those working for airlines the most enthusiastic. Twenty two per cent caution that OEMs and MROs will have to "rethink their value proposition", but only 4% say that airlines are better off not sharing data.

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