

# **HORIZONS REPORT**

# Supply Chain Services, 2024

Analysis of the leading service providers in enterprise supply chain innovation

# **Authors:**

Ashish Chaturvedi, Practice Leader Saurabh Gupta, President, Research and Advisory Services Krupa KS, Senior Analyst

**Excerpt for Accenture** 



In today's rapidly evolving marketplace, transforming supply chains into more resilient, efficient, and sustainable networks is not just a competitive advantage but a business imperative. Organizations are leveraging advanced technologies such as advanced analytics, cloud, and artificial intelligence to simplify supply chain architectures, gain visibility, and become more responsive and adaptable to external market events. This shift toward deeper digital integration is a step forward in moving from linear human-dependent supply chains to low-human-touch collaborative supply networks.

"



Ashish Chaturvedi Practice Leader, HFS

# Contents

	Page
SECTION 01	
Introduction and the HFS supply chain services value chain	4
SECTION 02	
Research methodology	9
SECTION 03	
Executive summary and supply chain services market dynamics	13
SECTION 04	
Horizons results: Supply chain services, 2024	29
SECTION 05	
Accenture profile: Supply chain services, 2024	32
SECTION 06	
HFS Research authors	34

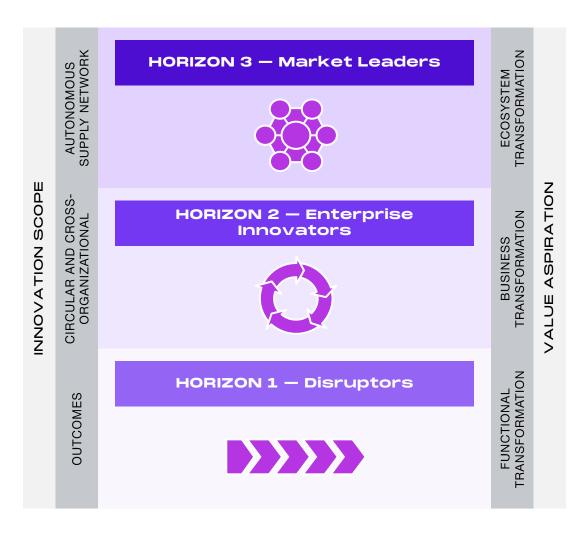


# Introduction and the HFS supply chain services value chain

# Introduction

- The core transformation in supply chains, revolves around the integration of advanced digital technologies, with a significant emphasis on E2E integration and customization to meet specific client needs. This transformation is primarily driven by the adoption of digital solutions such as generative AI, IoT, and advanced analytics, which enhance decision-making, improve operational efficiency, and foster real-time responsiveness. Companies are increasingly focusing on sustainability, integrating green practices such as carbon footprint reduction, ethical sourcing, and compliance with global environmental standards. This holistic approach not only aims to optimize supply chain operations but also align them more closely with the broader business goal of formulating autonomous and networked supply chains.
- HFS Horizons: Supply Chain Services, 2024 assesses how well service providers are helping their clients embrace innovation and realize value. The study evaluates providers' capabilities across the HFS definition of the supply chain, based on a range of dimensions to understand the Why, What, How, and So What of their service offerings.
  - Horizon 1: Ability to drive functional optimization outcomes within the supply chain services industry through cost reduction, speed, and efficiency.
  - Horizon 2: Horizon 1 + the enablement of the OneOffice™ model of end-to-end organizational alignment across the front, middle, and back offices to drive unmatched stakeholder experience.
  - Horizon 3: Horizon 2 + the ability to drive OneEcosystem™ synergy via collaboration across multiple organizations with common objectives around driving entirely new sources of value.
- This research highlights the **value-based positioning** for each participant across the three distinct Horizons. It also includes **detailed profiles** of each service provider, outlining their **provider facts**, **strengths**, **and development opportunities**.
- **Inclusion criteria:** We invited diversified providers of business process services with established business lines focused on supporting enterprise needs for supply chain services to participate in this study. Participation guidelines:
  - Annual supply chain services revenues (combined) of at least \$250 million or a 10% contribution to overall revenue
  - An existing portfolio of services spanning our supply chain services value chain

# HFS Horizons: Supply Chain Services, 2024 — Aligning enterprise objectives with service provider value



### Horizon 3—modern supply network

### Service providers demonstrate Horizon 2 capabilities, plus

- Networked, autonomous, and collaborative vision of supply chain "systems" driving new value
- Supply chain consulting, technology, and managed services at scale
- · Ability to influence systemic change across the global sustainability context
- Robust ecosystem of strategic and delivery partners integrated into offerings
- · Market-leading investments with differentiated IP, frameworks, and technology
- Driving co-creation with both the client and partner ecosystem
- Perceived as a thought leader with purpose-led relationships

### Horizon 2—circular and cross-organizational

### Service providers demonstrate Horizon 1 capabilities, plus

- Driving circular supply chains with strong sustainability narrative
- Ability to transform and support clients across end-to-end supply chains
- Bringing together all the capabilities of the provider and client organizations
- · Referenceable and satisfied clients for ability to innovate and execute
- Strategic clients and ecosystem partners with output and outcome-driven relationships
- The aim is to improve stakeholder experience throughout the supply chain

# **Horizon 1—optimization and outcomes**

# Service providers demonstrate

- · Can drive functional digital transformation via cost reduction, speed, and efficiency
- Established supply chain practice; client and partner-backed technical capability
- Clearly defined go-to-market strategy and value proposition
- Emerging sustainability narrative
- Emerging ecosystem of partners
- Primarily a vendor-client relationship with mainly effort and project-based engagements

# Key focus areas



1

How are you helping clients formulate a roadmap to low-touch collaborative supply networks?



2

How are you building resilient supply chains and embedding sustainability?



3

How are you ensuring end-to-end visibility along with reduced lead times?



4

How are you leveraging tech such as GenAl across key functions including demand forecasting, predictive maintenance?

# HFS view of supply chain services: a network, no longer a linear value chain

# Planning and design

- Strategic planning (demand, capacity, sales, and operations)
- Scenario simulation
- Network design
- MDM

Design

# **Order management**

- Order entry
- · Order maintenance
- Order reporting
- Forecasting
- Demand planning and promotion management

# **Transportation management**

- Shipping and freight requests
- Transportation strategy
- · Carrier management
- Operating a 4PL
- Transportation planning

E.g., Designing low-touch supply chains, defining sustainability roadmaps in supply chain

### Run



E.g., Optimizing business operations, data-driven optimization, deploying dynamic control tower solutions for enhanced visibility

**Supply chain services** 

# Change

E.g., Integrating GenAl with predictive analytics for improved and automated demand forecasting

# **Inventory management**

- · Inventory strategy and forecasting
- Inventory reporting
- Replenishment ordering
- Spare parts planning
- · CFPR across clients

# Supply chain sustainability

- · Carbon footprint management
- Traceability and transparency
- Ethical sourcing vs modern slavery
- · Reporting, legal, and compliance

### **Aftermarket services**

- · RMA management
- · Approving returns
- Customer service
- Warranty management
- Control tower services

# **Procurement and sourcing**

- Strategic sourcing
- · Category management
- Contract management
- Supplier management
- Transactional procurement



# Research methodology

# Service providers covered in this report



**BRISTLECONE** 

































Note: All service providers are listed alphabetically

# Sources of data

This Horizons research report relies on myriad data sources to support our methodology and help HFS obtain a well-rounded perspective on service capabilities of the participating organizations covered in our study. Sources are as follows:



# **Briefings and information gathering**

HFS conducted detailed **briefings** with customer experience leadership from each vendor.

Each participant submitted a specific set of **supporting information** aligned to the assessment methodology.



# Reference checks

We conducted reference checks with **29 active clients and 34 active partners** of the study participants via surveybased and telephone interviews.



# **HFS Pulse**

Each year, HFS fields multiple demand-side surveys in which we include detailed vendor rating questions. For this study, we leveraged our fresh-from-the-field HFS Pulse study data featuring 15 service provider ratings from CX decision-makers at enterprises.



# Other data sources

**Public information** such as news releases and websites.

Ongoing interactions, briefings, virtual events, etc., with in-scope vendors and their clients and partners.

# Horizons assessment methodology — Supply Chain Services

The "HFS Horizons — Supply Chain Services" research evaluates the capabilities of service providers across a range of dimensions to understand the Why, What, How, and So What of their service offerings supporting supply chains. Our assessment will be based on inputs from clients and partners, augmented with analyst perspectives. The following illustrates how we will assess your capabilities:

**Distinguishing provider characteristics** 

Assessment dimension (weightage)	Description	Horizon 1 service providers	Horizon 2 service providers	Horizon 3 service providers
Value proposition: The Why? (25%)	Strategy and vision for supply chain and supply chain services	Ability to drive Functional Digital transformation by driving cost reduction, speed, and efficiency		Horizon 2 +     Low-touch and collaborative vision of supply chain driving completely new sources of value with a "OneEcosystem" approach
	Supply chain offerings aligned to top problem statements for the sector			
	Competitive differentiators			
Execution and innovation capabilities: The What? (25%)	Breadth and depth of services across the end-to-end supply chain	Emerging ecosystem of partners     Adequate coverage across the supply chain	<ul><li>Well-defined sustainability offering</li><li>Global delivery presence</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Horizon 2+</li> <li>Supply chain strategy and execution capabilities at scale</li> <li>IT and business services capabilities with strong consulting skills</li> <li>Ability to influence systemic change across the global sustainability context</li> <li>Robust ecosystem of partners integrated into the offerings</li> <li>Differentiated IP, frameworks, and technology assets</li> </ul>
	New and differentiated offerings			
	Sustainability strategy, narrative, ambition, and % engagements involving sustainability goals/outcomes			
	<ul> <li>Strength of supply chain services ecosystem (depth and breadth of supply chain-oriented partnerships)</li> </ul>			
	Strength of talent pool (delivery centers, experience, certifications, training program)			
	Supply chain technology innovation (use cases and level adoption of emerging technology)			
	Intellectual property and proprietary frameworks			
Go-to-market strategy: The How?	Nature of investments (M&A, R&D, others)	Clearly defined go-to-market strategy	<ul> <li>Horizon 1 +</li> <li>Ability to bring together all capabilities of the organization in an easy-to-understand and simple-to-consume way</li> <li>Supply chain-specific investments</li> <li>Outcome-driven client relationships</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Horizon 2+</li> <li>Market-leading internal and external investments</li> <li>Driving co-creation with clients and partner ecosystem</li> <li>Purpose-led relationships driving growth and innovation for clients</li> </ul>
	Co-creation with customers and co-development with partners			
(25%)	Innovative commercial structures			
Market impact: The So What? (25%)	Scale and growth of supply chain services (customers, revenue)	Referenceable and satisfied clients     Strong execution credentials     Primarily a vendor-client relationship	<ul> <li>Horizon 1+</li> <li>Referenceable and satisfied clients for ability to innovate and execute</li> <li>Strategic partner</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Horizon 2 +</li> <li>Referenceable and satisfied clients driving new business models</li> <li>Perceived as a thought leader</li> </ul>
	Demonstrable client case studies (multi-industry, magnitude, nature of outcomes)			
	Voice of the Customer			



# Executive summary and supply chain services market dynamics

# Executive summary (1/2)

- 1 What's happening?
- Enterprises are increasingly focusing on resilience and agility, adapting their strategies to mitigate disruptions from global events such as pandemics and geopolitical tensions. There is a substantial push toward digitalization, with the integration of AI, IoT, and analytics technologies to enhance transparency, efficiency, and security across networks. Additionally, sustainability has become a critical component, as businesses strive to reduce environmental impact and ensure ethical practices throughout their supply chains. This shift not only reflects a response to regulatory pressures but also aligns with a growing consumer expectation for responsible and responsive business practices. Overall, these changes are reshaping supply chains into more dynamic, interconnected, and accountable systems, capable of supporting the complex demands of today's global market.
- 2 Key observations
- Increased Emphasis on Resilience: Enterprises are restructuring their supply chains to be more resilient against disruptions. This involves diversifying suppliers and logistics partners, incorporating more robust risk management frameworks, and enhancing visibility across the supply chain to respond quickly to unforeseen events.
- Adoption of sustainability: There's a clear shift toward integrating sustainability into supply chain strategies. Companies are focusing on reducing
  environmental impact by optimizing logistics, using sustainable materials, and enforcing compliance with environmental standards across their supply chain
  networks. However, enterprises believe providers can do a much better job of embedding sustainability into their engagements.
- **Technological integration:** Digital transformation is a major strategic focus, with companies integrating IoT, AI, and blockchain to enhance efficiency, transparency, and security. This includes using AI for predictive analytics in inventory management and blockchain for improved traceability and fraud prevention.
- Customer-centric supply chain: Strategies are increasingly designed around customer needs and demands. This includes faster delivery options, customization, and enhancing the customer experience through technology, such as real-time tracking of shipments and automated customer service interfaces.
- Collaborative ecosystems: There's a growing trend toward creating collaborative ecosystems that include suppliers, partners, and even competitors. This approach leverages shared technology platforms and data insights to drive efficiencies and innovate supply chain solutions collectively.
- Supply Chain service providers—the winners revealed
- The report reviews 18 supply chain service providers, with 15 distinctly analyzed. Seven providers are classified as leaders in Horizon 3, nine as innovators in Horizon 2, and two as disruptors in Horizon 1. Horizon 3 firms such as Accenture, Capgemini, EY, Genpact, IBM, TCS, and Tech Mahindra are recognized for their approach toward networked, autonomous models and comprehensive services in consulting and technology. Providers in Horizon 2, including Cognizant, Deloitte, GEP, HCLTech, Infosys, KPMG, and PwC excel in supporting clients across full supply chain operations. Bristlecone, Neo Tangent, WNS and Wipro positioned in Horizon 1, focus primarily on optimizing and achieving efficient outcomes.

# Executive summary (2/2)

# 4 Voice of the customer

- We surveyed 29 active clients as part of the study. Clients appreciate long-term, true, and transparent partnerships, strong industry and domain knowledge. Provider's customer-centric approach of generating customized solutions that enhance operational and financial outcomes is lauded by the clients. Commitment to customer satisfaction, ability to handle diverse engagements, and proactive digital integration strategies further distinguish the provider in the marketplace.
- While there's considerable buzz about outcome-based models, the majority of contracts are still finalized using the traditional full-time equivalent (FTE) pricing method.
- Although many enterprise leaders include sustainability in their strategic plans, they seem to be unaware of service providers' offerings and are yet to fully explore the sustainability services offered by their providers.
- Clients appear to be satisfied with the ability of their service providers to handle engagements related to digital transformation and modernization.

# Voice of the partners

- Partners value service providers for their domain expertise, the skill level of their employees, global reach, and the ability to meet clients at any stage of their digital transformation journey, with skills expanding into AI, asset management, and sustainability.
- The service providers' innovation, collaborative ethos, and alignment with clients' commercial interests are key distinguishing factors

# **Key trends**

# **New service offerings**



- Generative Al integration: There's a significant push toward integrating generative Al across various facets of supply chain management, from planning and logistics to customer interaction and compliance. This technology is expected to enhance automation, improve decision-making, and create more dynamic and responsive supply chain systems.
- Sustainability services: Providers are increasingly offering services to achieve sustainability goals, such as carbon footprint reduction, lifecycle assessments, and sustainable sourcing strategies. These services are crucial for companies aiming to meet regulatory requirements and consumer demands.
- Digital twins and advanced analytics:
   The use of digital twin technologies and advanced analytics is being expanded to offer more detailed insights into operations, enabling predictive maintenance, and optimizing supply chain resilience.

# **Buying patterns**



- Shift toward subscription and as-a-service models: There's a noticeable trend toward subscription-based and as-a-service purchasing models. These models provide flexibility, reduce upfront costs, and align with the increasing preference for OPEX vs. CAPEX expenditures in corporate budgeting.
- Increased demand for customized Solutions: Enterprises are looking for solutions they can tailor to their specific needs, reflecting a move away from one-size-fits-all offerings. This customization is particularly prevalent in areas such as Al implementations and data analytics services.

# **Scope of work**



- Global expansion: Organizations are increasingly designing supply chain solutions to support global operations, with a focus on integrating crossborder supply chains and managing international compliance and logistics challenges.
- Focus on resilience and agility:
   Services are being developed to
   enhance the resilience and agility of
   supply chains, enabling Enterprises to
   respond more swiftly to market
   changes and disruptions. This includes
   tools for better risk management and
   dynamic rerouting of logistics in
   response to external shocks.

# **Operating model**



- Collaboration across Sectors:
   There's an increasing emphasis on collaboration across different sectors and industries to optimize supply chain operations. This involves partnerships with tech companies, logistics firms, and even competitors to pool resources and capabilities.
- Leveraging big data and IoT: The scale of supply chain operations is expanding with the integration of IoT and big data. These technologies enable the handling of vast amounts of data across extensive networks, improving real-time decision-making and operational efficiency.

# A few noteworthy supply chain client examples

# Digital transformation and automation



- Automated End-to-End Supply Chain Planning: A global pharmaceutical company transformed from manual and fragmented planning to a fully integrated digital supply chain, resulting in significant reductions in global inventory costs and improvements in forecast accuracy.
- Warehouse Automation:
   Automating a cold-chain
   warehouse for a temperature-controlled logistics industry
   leader led to a 30% increase in average productivity and an 80% reduction in attrition, thereby increasing business margins.

# **Sustainability**



 Scope 3 Sustainability Reporting and Scope 1 Monitoring: Scope 3 KPIs were properly set and data models created to capture the right data from 27,000 suppliers. Analyzed the KPIs and designed a scalable data collection and data management approach to meet the needs of Scope 3 emissions reporting from both data quality and governance perspectives for a global pharma company.

# **Advanced analytics**



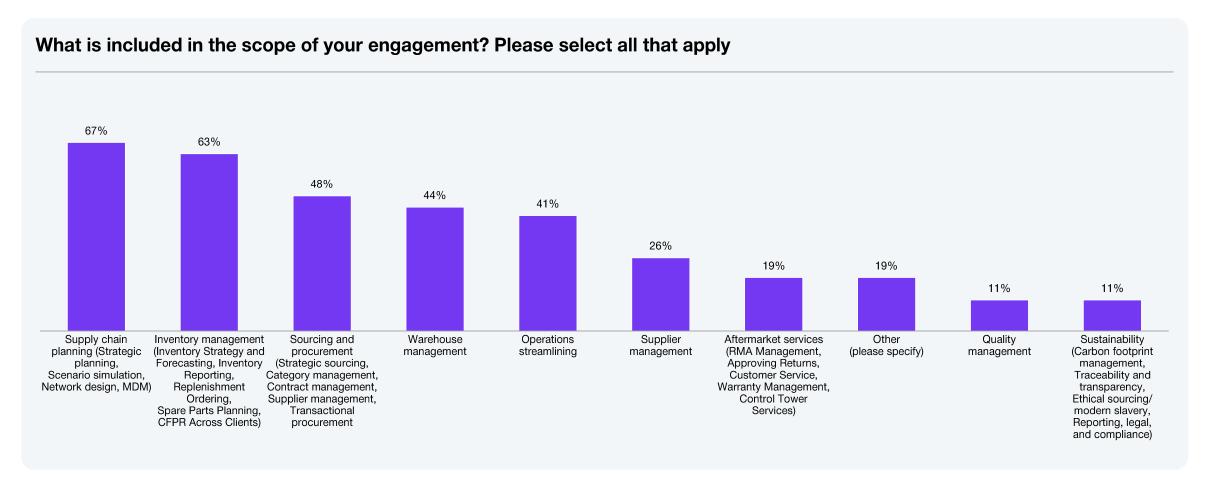
Al-Powered Demand
 Forecasting and Inventory
 Management: Utilizing Al to enhance demand forecasting and inventory management has led to better supply-demand balancing and more efficient use of resources. This was exemplified using Kinaxis
 RapidResponse for a global pharmaceutical major, achieving a 10% reduction in inventory costs and a 15% improvement in forecast accuracy.

# **Customized and integrated solutions**



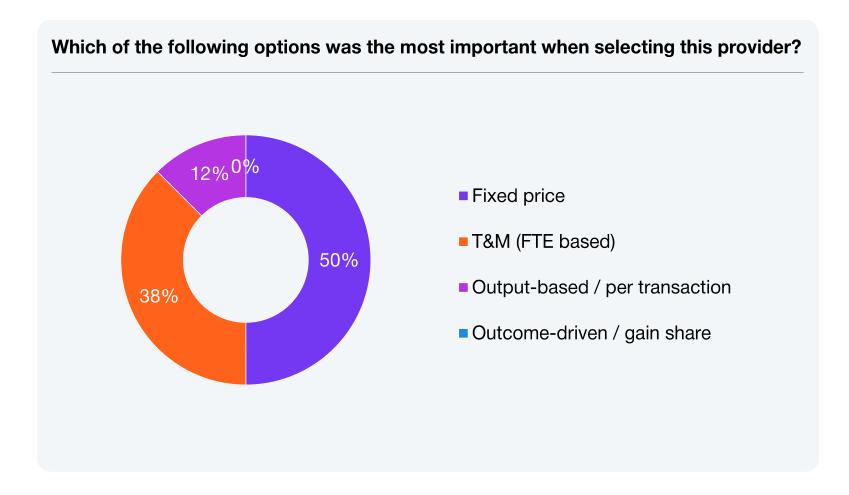
 Several companies have implemented tailored solutions that integrate various aspects of supply chain management. For example, setting up an end-toend supply chain for greenfield electric vehicle (EV) launches led to significant improvements in agility and cost-efficiency.

# Majority of supply chain clients are leveraging providers for supply chain planning and inventory management services; sustainability engagements are being awarded in a more centralized manner



Other (please specify) include artificial intelligence decision assisting, Billing, and payments Sample: HFS Horizons survey, Supply chain services, 29 client references Source: HFS Research. 2024

# Although both providers and clients want to move toward more purpose-led models, less than one-fifth of all engagements follow a hybrid or outcome-based pricing construct

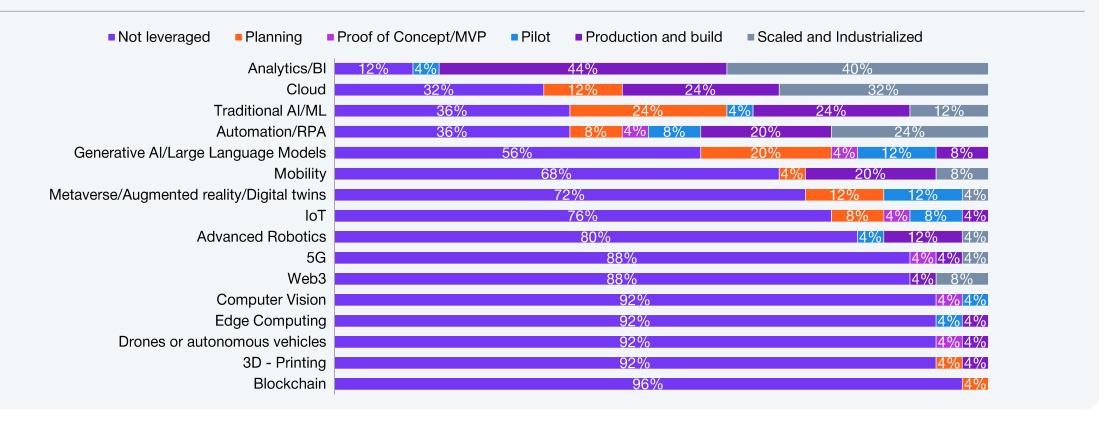


Most of the supply chains are dependent on multiple external factors, making it difficult and risky for clients and providers to commit to outcome-based commercials.

Sample: HFS Horizons survey, Supply chain services, 29 client references

While analytics and cloud are well leveraged, enterprises are yet to unlock the potential of emerging technologies such as edge computing, computer vision, autonomous vehicles, 3D printing, and blockchain

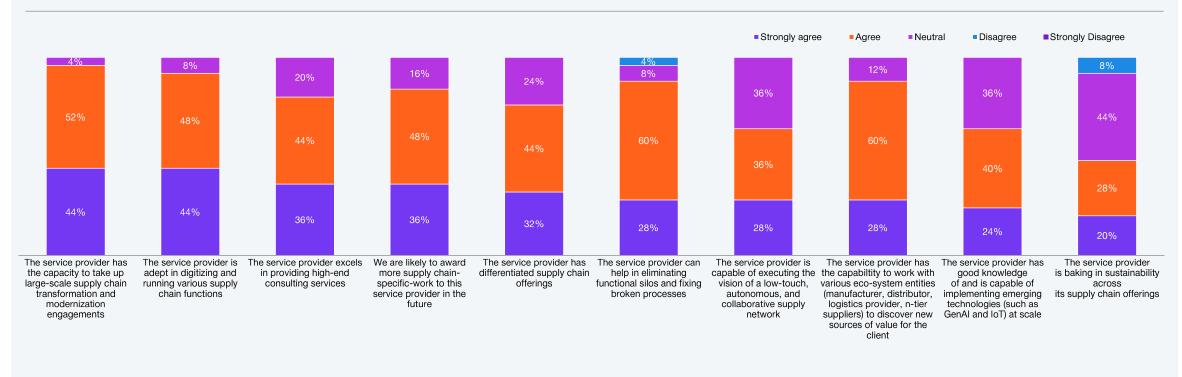




Sample: HFS Horizons survey, Supply chain services, 29 client references

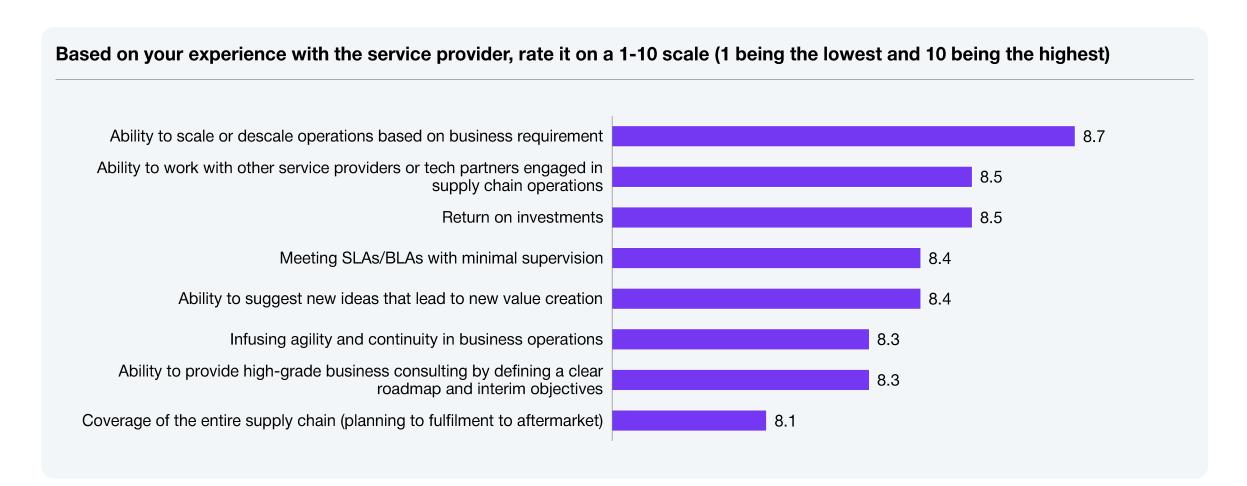
# Service providers should communicate their sustainability initiatives more effectively or progress in their efforts to meet or exceed industry benchmarks





Sample: HFS Horizons survey, Supply chain services, 29 client references

# Clients appear to be not fully informed about the extent of their service providers' supply chain offerings coverage and consulting capabilities

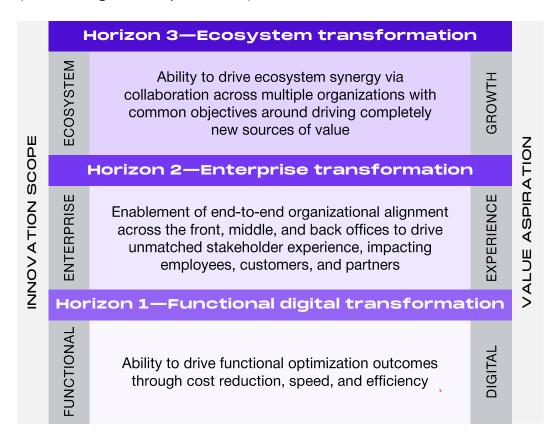


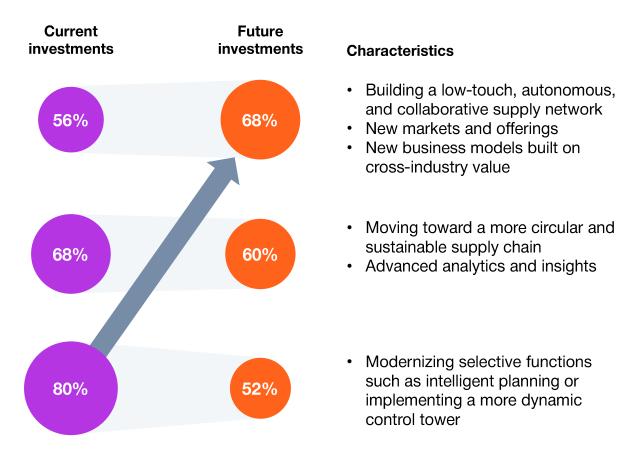
Sample: HFS Horizons survey, Supply chain services, 29 client references

# Businesses are moving their investment focus from optimizing operations through functional transformation to creating low-touch collaborative supply chains via ecosystem synergy

Given your current and future anticipated investments, can you please select the type of engagements you are current investing in, now v/s future? Select all the apply

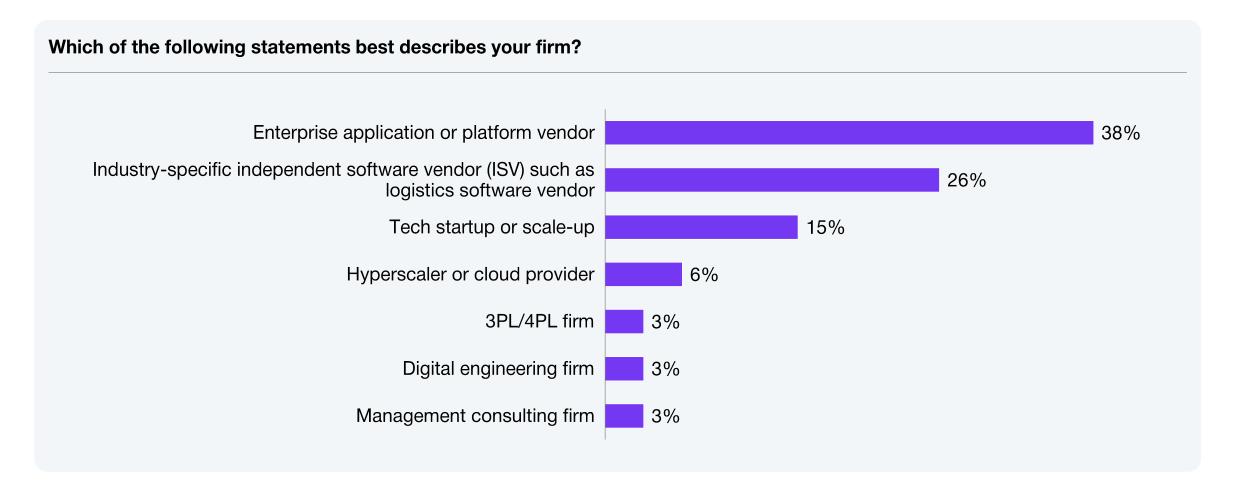
(Percentage of respondents)





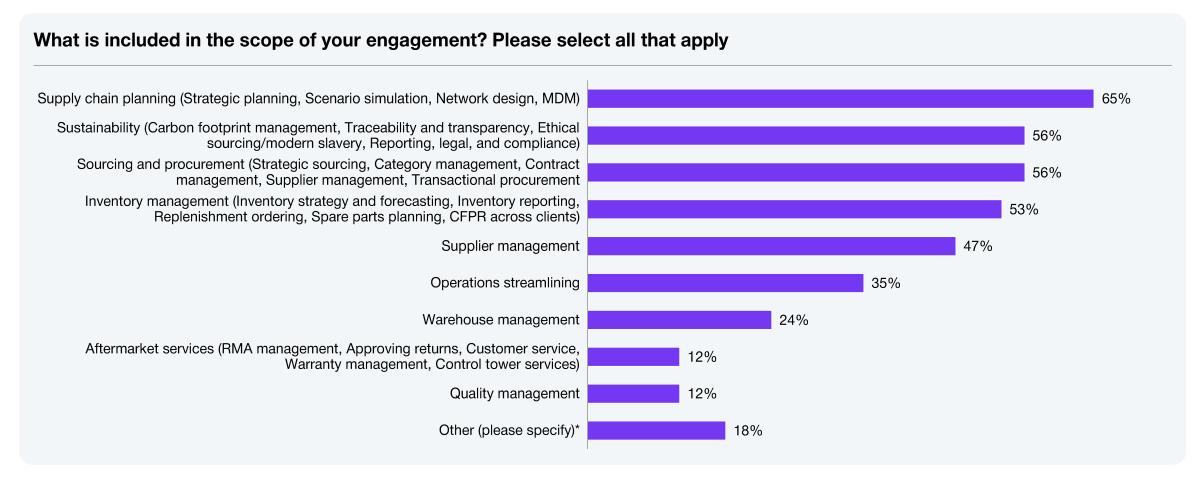
Sample: HFS Horizons survey, Supply chain services, 29 client references

# There is a growing network of tech startups that providers are leveraging in their supply chain pursuits



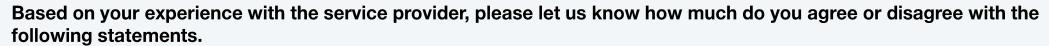
Sample: HFS Horizons survey, Supply chain services, 34 partner references

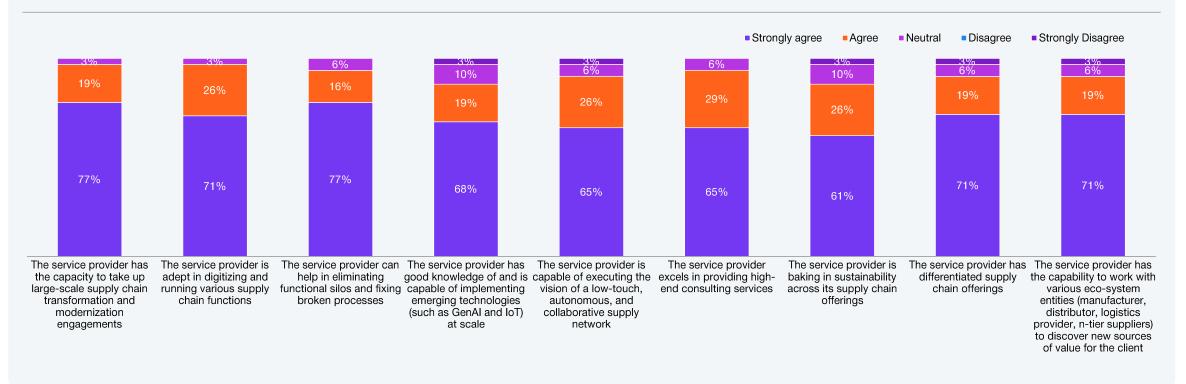
# Supply chain planning remains the top scope item for partners, akin to enterprise clients



Other (please specify)\* includes Document verification, Cross Border, and implementation of the Kinaxis RapidResponse and ServiceNow platform Sample: HFS Horizons survey, Supply chain services, 34 partner references Source: HFS Research, 2024

# Partners appreciate service providers' all-round capabilities in building modern (autonomous and networked) supply chains

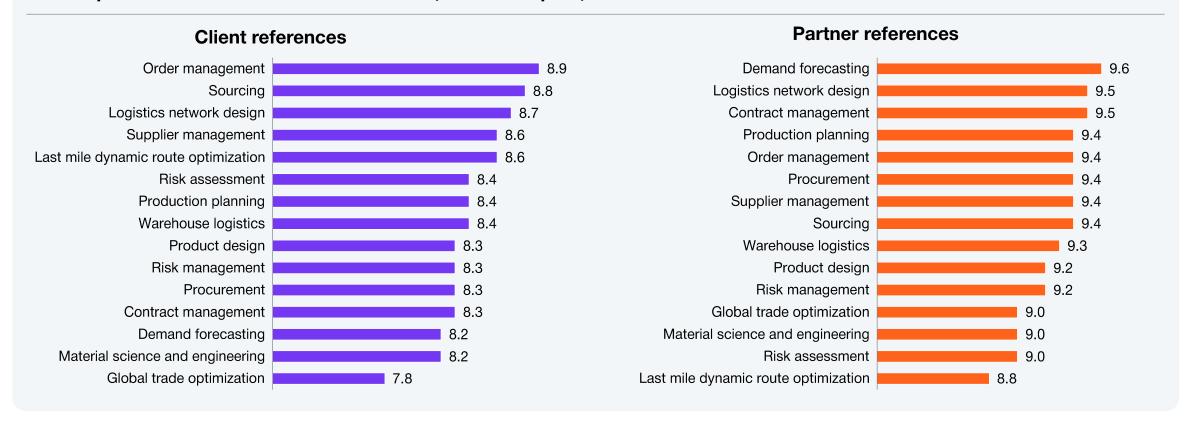




Sample: HFS Horizons survey, Supply chain services, 34 partner references

# Customers and partners believe providers have strong expertise across all supply chain functions

Rate the provider's expertise in executing the following supply chain activities. Attempt only those where you have first-hand experience. Please use a scale of 1 to 10, where 1 is poor, and 10 is excellent.



Sample: HFS Horizons survey, Supply chain services, 29 client references

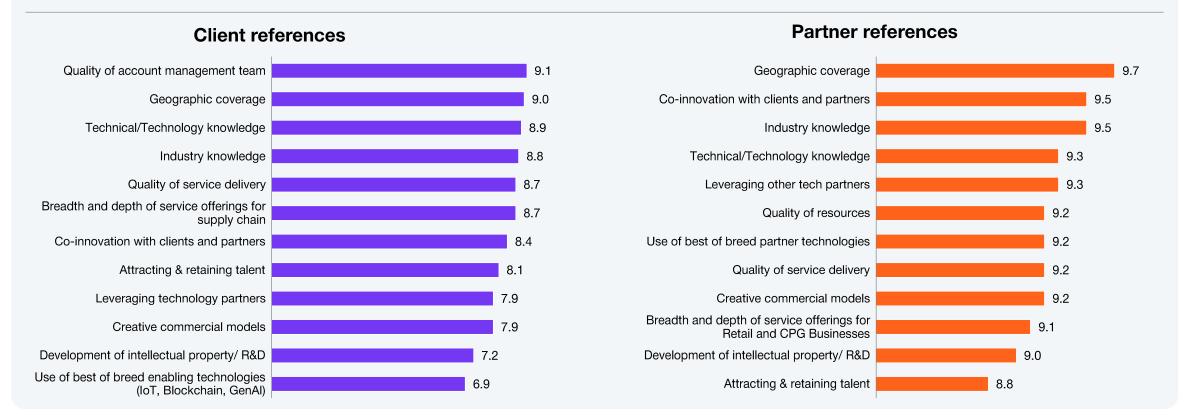
Source: HFS Research, 2024

Sample: HFS Horizons survey, Supply chain services, 34 partner references Source: HFS Research. 2024



# Clients believe providers have significant room for improvement in leveraging emerging technologies such as GenAI, IoT, and Blockchain in their supply chain engagements

# Based on your experience with the service provider, rate the following on a scale of 1-10 scale (1 being the lowest and 10 being the highest)



Sample: HFS Horizons survey, Supply chain services, 29 client references

Source: HFS Research, 2024

Sample: HFS Horizons survey, Supply chain services, 34 partner references Source: HFS Research, 2024



# Horizons results: Supply chain services, 2024

# HFS Horizons—a summary of supply chain service providers assessed in this report

Providers (alphabetical order)	HFS point of view
Accenture	Aiding supply chains with cutting-edge AI tech ecosystem
Bristlecone	Delivering supply chain resiliency, efficiency, and visibility through cutting-edge Al solutions
Capgemini	A supply chain orchestrator to develop future-ready autonomous supply chains
Cognizant	Supporting global supply chain operations with innovative technology and strategic partnerships
Deloitte	Leading supply chain transformation with consulting-led innovative and sustainable solutions
EY	Working toward global supply chain resilience and sustainability for the private and public sector
Genpact	Building sustainable supply chain excellence with advanced Al integration
GEP	Optimizing supply chains with Al-driven insights, cost efficiency, and sustainable practices
HCLTech	Delivering robust supply chain resilience through digitalization, data-driven insights, and sustainability-focused innovations

Providers (alphabetical order)	HFS point of view
IBM	Integrating supply chain management with AI and cloud integration
Infosys	Focused on improving supply chain efficiency with Next-Generation AI and global expertise
KPMG	Empowering businesses with strategic, technology-driven supply chain solutions for competitive advantage
Neo Tangent	Driving innovation and efficiency with end-to-end offerings, fostering resilient and sustainable supply chain solutions
PwC	Global business operations with consulting expertise, varied experience and technology focus
TCS	Driving supply chain excellence through digital transformation and global expertise
Tech Mahindra	Working toward creating smart and sustainable supply chain management
Wipro	Empowering enterprises with innovative, Al-driven supply chain strategies for enhanced resilience and optimized operational efficiency
WNS	Empowering resilient, agile supply chains through analytics- led solutions and sustainable practices

# HFS Horizons: Supply Chain Services, 2024



Note: All service providers within a Horizon are listed alphabetically. Source: HFS Research, 2024

### Horizon 3—modern supply network

### Service providers demonstrate Horizon 2 capabilities, plus

- Networked, autonomous and collaborative vision of supply chain "systems" driving new value
- Supply chain consulting, technology, and managed services at scale
- · Ability to influence systemic change across the global sustainability context
- Robust ecosystem of strategic and delivery partners integrated into offerings
- · Market-leading investments with differentiated IP, frameworks, and technology
- Driving co-creation with both the client and partner ecosystem
- Perceived as a thought leader with purpose-led relationships

### Horizon 2—circular and cross-organizational

### Service providers demonstrate Horizon 1 capabilities, plus

- Driving circular supply chains with strong sustainability narrative
- · Ability to transform and support clients across end-to-end supply chains
- Bringing together all the capabilities of the provider and client organizations
- · Referenceable and satisfied clients for ability to innovate and execute
- Strategic clients and ecosystem partners with output and outcome-driven relationships
- The aim is to improve stakeholder experience throughout the supply chain

### **Horizon 1—optimization and outcomes**

# Service providers demonstrate

- · Can drive functional digital transformation via cost reduction, speed, and efficiency
- Established supply chain practice; client and partner-backed technical capability
- Clearly defined go-to-market strategy and value proposition
- Emerging sustainability narrative
- · Emerging ecosystem of partners
- Primarily a vendor-client relationship with mainly effort and project-based engagements



# Accenture profile: Supply chain services, 2024

# Accenture: Aiding supply chains with cutting-edge AI tech ecosystem

### HORIZON 3 — Market Leader

# accenture

HORIZON 2 — Enterprise Innovator

> HORIZON 1 — Disruptor

# Strengths

- **Value proposition:** Empowering modern supply chains through Al-driven innovations with resilient, sustainable and efficient operations to power new business strategies.
- **Key differentiators:** Continuous improvement and adaptation of AI technologies in collaboration with major tech partners such as Microsoft and AWS. Development of generative AI tools that streamline complex supply chain operations such as sourcing, procurement, and logistics. Acquisitions in the field of sustainability have helped Accenture carve a niche in the supply chain space.
- **Technology innovation:** Accenture has made substantial investments in Generative AI with 25 GenAI studios across the globe. Implementation of AI in various sectors including biopharmaceuticals, where Accenture aids in small-molecule drug discovery.
- Client and partner reference kudos: Clients praise Accenture for its extensive global reach, utilization of top-tier partner technologies, and commitment to investing in enabling technologies.

### **Development opportunities**

- What we'd like to see more of: Accenture should continue fostering its robust ecosystem, partnerships, and leading the charge in responsible AI deployment.
- Opportunity in the next 12 months: Continue developing a complementary tech ecosystem of emerging technologies including IoT, blockchain, robotics, traditional AI, and GenAI to help clients move toward low-touch collaborative supply chains.
- Client and partner reference critiques: Clients expect Accenture to retain their talent to maintain service excellence.

# **Key offerings**

Kinaxis

Strategic planning; scenario simulation; strategic managed services; supply chain
resilience; process optimization; network design; MDM; forecasting; demand planning
and promotion management; inventory management; direct and indirect materials;
supplier management; carbon footprint management traceability and transparency;
control towers; transportation strategy and planning; reporting, legal, and compliance

### Mergers and acquisitions (2020-2024)

- Core Compete (2021): Al-powered supply chain, cloud and data science
- Akzente (2022): A recognized sustainability consultancy
- Zestgroup (2021): Specializes in energy transitions, net carbon-zero projects, and procurement of renewables
- Greenfish (2022): Sustainability engineering and advisory firm
- Avieco (2022): A leading U.K. sustainability consultancy
- OnProcess Technology (2023): Supply chain managed services

# Partnerships Microsoft, Salesforce, AWS, Google, SAP, Simio, Coupa, Nvidia, River Logic, Alibaba Cloud, Mujin, APICS, Blue Yonder, o9, Quality Mind,

# Key clients

# Number of supply chain clients: NA Key clients:

- Lion
- A global logistics firm operating in more than 80 countries across six regions
- One of the world's largest food and beverage companies
- · A global pharmaceutical company

# Global operations and resources

### Supply chain headcount: 45,200+ Delivery and innovation centers:

- 27 global SC&O innovation centers
- Chicago, Dublin, Barcelona, and Bangalore are key supply chain innovation hubs
- 55 countries served
- Supply chain offerings are focused across 19 key industries

# Flagship internal IP

- Center for Data & Insights develops AI solutions for each of the 19 industry verticals and 4 functions that Accenture supports.
- Value Xplorer is a process/value chain diagnostics tool that enables process transformations
- Intelligent Supply Chain Platform is a set of accelerators to enable the Al powered supply chain transformation journey
- Al Navigator is a sophisticated tool that consolidates a wealth of existing Al assets into a streamlined, modernized platform.





# HFS Research authors

# **HFS Research authors**



Ashish
Chaturvedi
Practice Leader
ashish.chaturvedi@hfsresearch.com

Ashish Chaturvedi is a Practice Leader at HFS covering supply chain, retail & CPG, and disruptive technologies. Ashish is an accomplished IT industry analyst and RetailWire BrainTrust and CIO.com member. With over 14 years of technology research experience, Ashish has authored more than 80 research reports spanning retail technologies, enterprise modernization, low-code/no-code development, digital benchmarking, platform economy, and IT sourcing.

Over the years, Ashish has advised several senior executives on digital strategy, product/service planning, next-gen technologies, and IT procurement. He has delivered several multidisciplinary research engagements, including provider and market intelligence reports, go-to-market workshops, white papers, podcasts, and research-based advisory.



Saurabh Gupta
President, Research and Advisory
Services

saurabh.gupta@hfsresearch.com

Saurabh Gupta is President, Research and Advisory Services at HFS. He sets the strategic research focus and agenda for HFS Research, understanding and predicting the needs of the industry and ensuring that HFS maintains its position as the strongest impact thought leader for business operations and services research. He oversees HFS' global research function, managing the global team of analysts and operations across the US, Europe, and Asia.

He is a recognized thought leader, and he's passionate about solving business problems and bringing big ideas to life. With more than two decades of experience across client, provider, advisory, and analyst roles, he brings a uniquely realistic and wide-ranging perspective to our industry's challenges and opportunities. He has authored more than 200 research reports; he is a frequent speaker and regularly quoted in industry publications. He is well-known for spotting disruptive technology trends like blockchain, Web3, metaverse, cloud, AI, and automation and predicting their implications for different stakeholders through frameworks like the OneOffice™ and OneEcosystem™.



**Krupa KS**Senior Analyst
<a href="mailto:krupa.ks@hfsresearch.com">krupa.ks@hfsresearch.com</a>

Krupa is a Senior Analyst at HFS Research, and she is part of data products. She is responsible for ITO-BPO outsourcing contracts, merger and acquisition data collection and analysis for different service lines. She also works with practice leads with the focus around Business process services and digital technologies

She has over four years of experience in business research and analysis in Excellence4U Research Services and Futurecorp Consulting. She was the part of the market research team, where her responsibilities were performing secondary research for company profiling, industry analysis and competitive analysis. At Excellence4U, she worked with technology mapping team that helped to know the clients, the products that were used which would help them to understand the need of customers.

# **HFS**

# **About HFS**

- INNOVATIVE
- INTREPID
- BOLD

HFS is a leading global research and analysis firm trusted at the highest levels of executive leadership. Our mission is to help our clients—major enterprises, tech firms, and service providers—tackle challenges, make bold moves, and bring big ideas to life by arming them with accurate, visionary, and thought-provoking insight into issues that impact their business.

Our analysts and strategists have deep, real-world experience in the subjects they cover. They're respected for their independent, nonnesense perspectives based on thorough research, demand-side data, and personal engagements with industry leaders.

We have one goal above all others: to propel you to success.



www.hfsresearch.com



hfsresearch



www.horsesforsources.com