

- Quarterly Summary of Key Trends & Challenges (Q1 CY25)
- **02** Financial Performance of Manufacturers
- **03** Manufacturing macro KPIs (USA)
- Manufacturing macro KPIs (Germany)
- Topic Highlight: Balancing Innovation with Fundamentals: Why Industry 5.0 Shouldn't Distract from Core Operational Practices
- Of AlixPartners' Manufacturing experience

QUARTERLY SUMMARY OF KEY TRENDS & CHALLENGES

Manufacturers reported higher revenues this quarter, with a 4% increase in the USA and a 1% rise in Germany compared to the previous year. This growth likely stems from many customers advancing their purchases to adapt to changes in tariff policies. Consequently, inventory levels have also risen across different sectors.

Uncertainties around tariffs emphasize the importance for manufacturers to focus on operational excellence. Alongside strategies to address tariff effects, manufacturers should continue prioritizing productivity improvements and optimizing operational footprints, which often can be executed independently to tariff considerations.

SUSTAINABILITY OF GROWTH

Sustainability of new order growth trends in US and Germany is unclear and may likely be due to tariff driven short term actions in the marketplace.

LABOR PRODUCTIVITY

Manufacturing have seen a significant increase in wages over the past year (+5% in USA and +4% in Germany). And in the case of Germany, manufactures were not able recoup this through hourly productivity improvements (-1.2% compared to the previous year's quarter). Thus, to remain relevant, factories in the US and Germany need to boost their productivity through investments in smart automation and drivers of operational excellence.

LEVERAGING INDUSTRY 5.0

Balancing innovation without losing sight of operational fundamentals is essential. Fundamentals such as process optimization, training & development, robust systems and procedures drive efficiency and are critical to harvest the benefits of Industry 5.0 to the fullest.

CONTINUED TARIFF MITIGATION

While some companies have pre-emptively planned for tariff changes, leading to a production uplift in Germany & the United States, tariff policies are still dynamic. Thus, manufacturers need to continue prioritization of tariff taskforces and mitigating activities.



FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE OF MANUFACTURERS

REVENUE GROWTH REBOUNDS IN Q1 LIKELY DRIVEN BY SHORT-TERM TARRIFF MITIGATION ACTIONS

	% OF COMPANIES THAT BEAT MARKET EBITDA ESTIMATES								
INDUSTRY ¹	Q2 '24	Q3 '24	Q4 '24	Q1 '25					
Aerospace & Defense	68%	74%	71%	78%					
Automotive	57%	50%	64%	65%					
Chemicals	52%	50%	46%	81%					
Consumer Electronics	62%	52%	42%	52%					
Energy & Utilities	62%	57%	71%	63%					
Food & Beverage	76%	65%	55%	63%					
Health & Beauty	69%	55%	61%	73%					
Household Durables	63%	54%	54%	43%					
Industrial & Building Products	67%	50%	53%	61%					
Metal & Mining	63%	85%	60%	82%					
Paper & Pulp Products	53%	41%	50%	61%					

QoQ Change	Positive	Negative or flat
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		REVEN	UE TTM		(ROSS MA	ARGIN TTI	M	IN	VENTORY	TURNOV	ER
INDUSTRY ²	Q2 '24	Q3 '24	Q4 '24	Q1 '25	Q2 '24	Q3 '24	Q4 '24	Q1 '25	Q2 '24	Q3 '24	Q4 '24	Q1 '25
Aerospace & Defense	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	-
Automotive	-	++		+	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	-
Chemicals	-	+		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-
Consumer Electronics	+	++	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+
Energy & Utilities	+	-		-	+		-	-	+	-	+	-
Food & Beverage	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	-
Health & Beauty	-	++		+	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	-
Household Durables	-	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	-
Industrial & Building Products	-	+		+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-
Metal & Mining	-	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	-
Paper & Pulp Products	-	+		+	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	-

QoQ Trend Legend

"++" OR "--" "+" OR "-" Change in Revenue & Gross Margin exceed +/-5% | Change in Inventory Turn exceeds +/- 0.5 Change in Revenue & Gross Margin within +/-5% | Change in Inventory Turn within +/- 0.5



COMMENTS

- General revenues growth across industries likely driven by short-term tariff mitigation actions by industry players
- Mixed trends in gross margin & decreased inventory turns suggest possible in-take of raw materials and/or positioning of finish goods in supply chain to avoid incremental tariffs

Note: Companies within Industries include Top 40 global public companies by Revenue; based on data available at time of publication

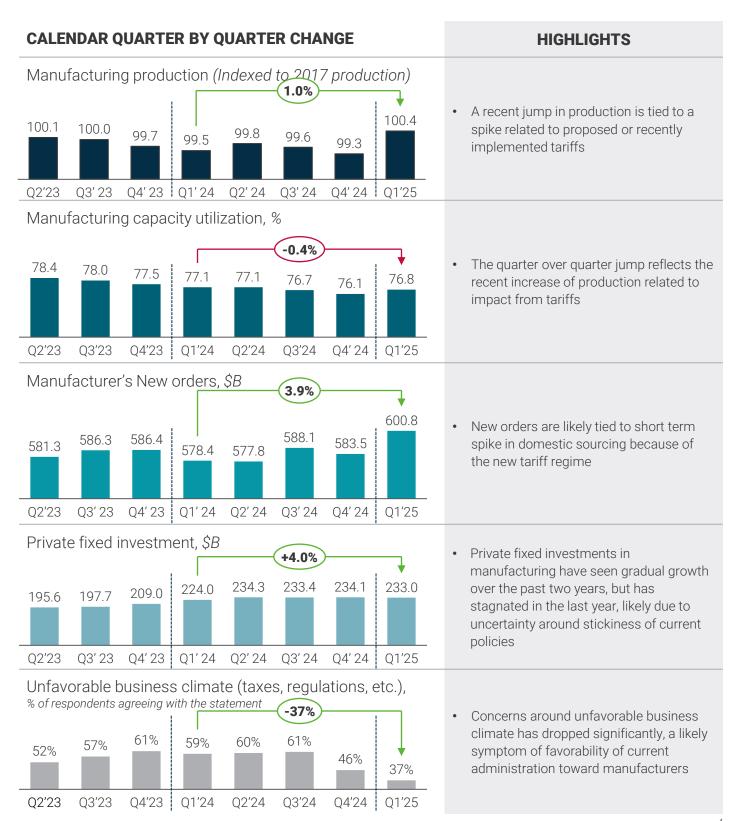
(1) based on market consensus on EBITDA estimates vs actuals, calculation based on companies with available data only

(2) metric trend based on median in industry group

Manufacturing Overview: CY2025 - Q1

MACRO KPI (USA) - PRODUCTION AND CAPACITY

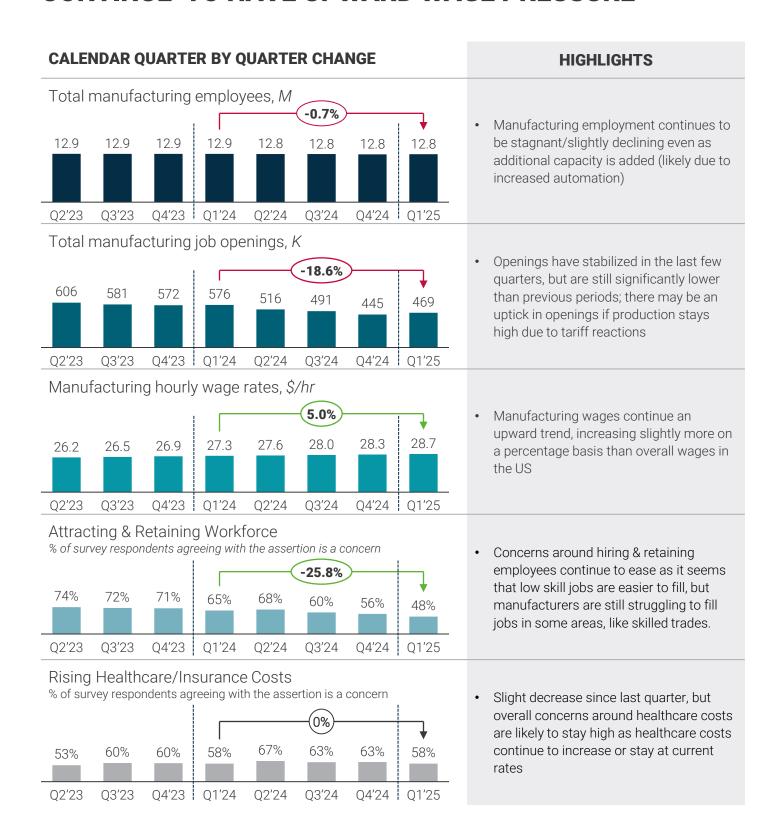
US PRODUCTION OUTPUT HAS INCREASED IN THE LAST QUARTER, REVERSING THE RECENT DOWNWARD TREND



Manufacturing Overview: CY2025 - Q1

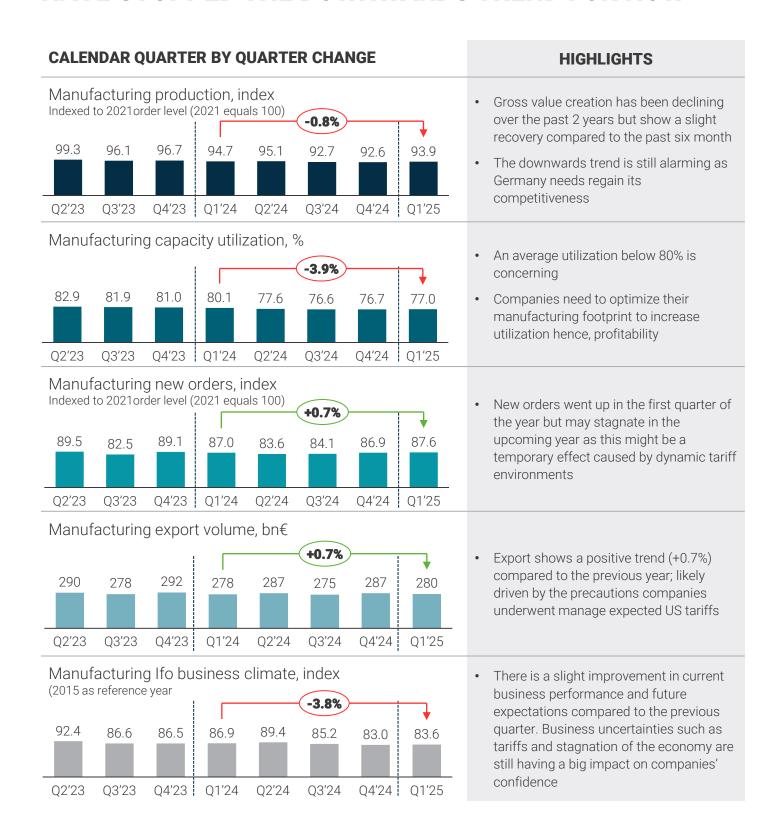
MACRO KPI (USA) - LABOR

US MANUFACTURING LABOR MARKET IMPROVING BUT CONTINUE TO HAVE UPWARD WAGE PRESSURE



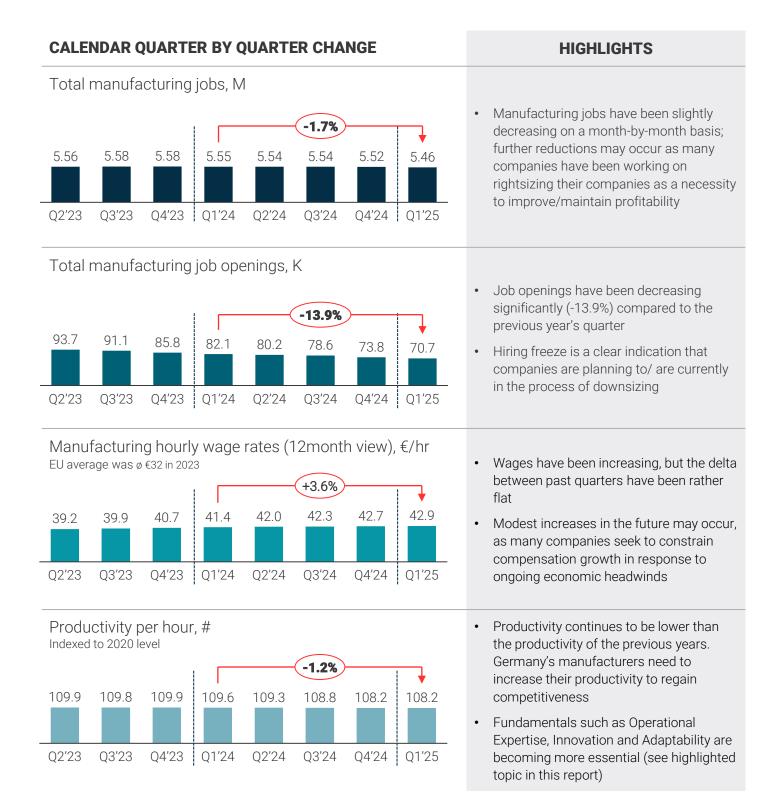
MACRO KPI (GERMANY) - PRODUCTION AND CAPACITY

GERMANY'S MANUFACTURING COMPANIES SEEM TO HAVE STOPPED THE DOWNWARDS TREND FOR NOW

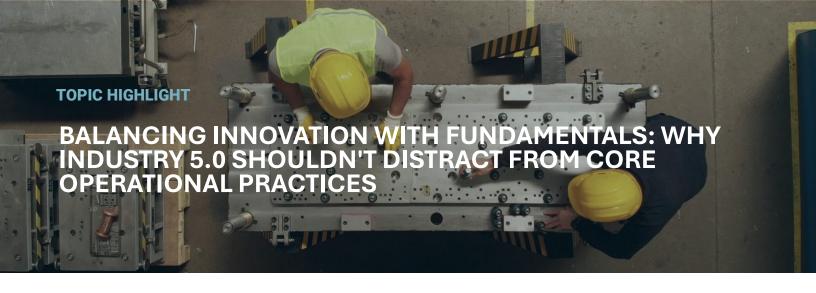


MACRO KPI (GERMANY) - LABOR

GERMAN COMPANIES NEED TO INVEST IN PRODUCTIVITY TO REGAIN COMPETITIVENESS



Manufacturing Overview: CY2025 - Q1



In the fast-changing industrial landscape, Industry 5.0 introduces advanced, human-centric and AI enabled manufacturing. While these innovations offer exciting possibilities, there's a danger in becoming too focused on technology at the cost of fundamental operations. As Elon Musk famously stated after missing production targets for the Tesla Model 3, "Yes, excessive automation at Tesla was a mistake. To be precise, my mistake. Humans are underrated."

It's crucial for organizations to embrace Industry 5.0 while also maintaining attention on the core principles vital for effective operations. This approach emphasizes collaboration between humans and machines, using technologies like Al and IIoT to foster adaptability and resilience. However, companies must balance the integration of new technologies with the preservation of existing practices and skills, ensuring solid foundations

before pursuing advancements. For long-term success, organizations (high or low-tech) should focus on:

- **Process Optimization:** Constantly improving processes for better efficiency and quality.
- Training and Development: Investing in employee skills to maintain high standards
- Robust Systems and Procedures: Creating dependable systems for effective operations

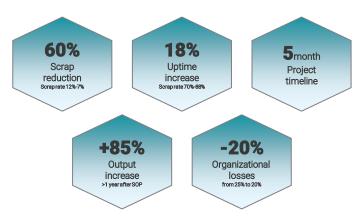
Even with the rise of Industry 5.0, core operational skills are crucial for effective industrial operations. The following 8 core skills enable high standards, process improvement, and adaptability to technological changes. By upholding these practices, organizations can effectively leverage new technologies while ensuring operational excellence.

Read more in depth at AlixPartners Insights.



CASE STUDY ON DATA-DRIVEN OEE IMPROVEMENT SUPPORTED BY STRUCTURED PROBLEM SOLVING

RESULTS



SELECT FOCUS AREAS

De-coupling of buffer stocks between bottleneck sections

Optimization of shift handovers

Optimization of part positioning

Improvement of dispensing material mass (leaning cycles)

SITUATION

- · Severe supply backlogs towards OEM
- High scrap rates
- Maximum production output falling short of OEM targets

ACTIONS

- Established a taskforce of process and data analytics experts
- Developed a robust data architecture to identify loss drivers
- Derived effective improvement measures using data analytics and process understanding
- Implemented and refined improvement measures
- Transferred problem-solving skills to local process owners

Read more in depth at Berylls Insights



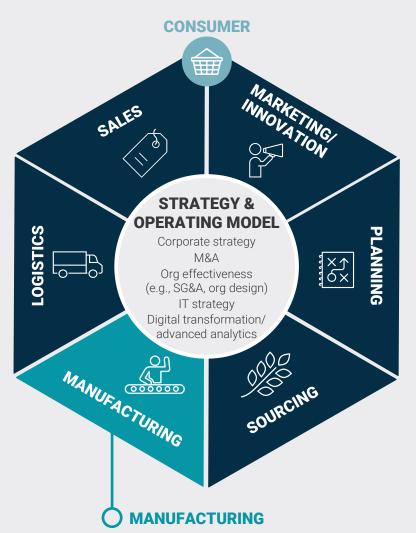








Sample areas of AlixPartners capabilities across industries



- Digitalization
- Shop floor productivity improvement (e.g., OEE, CI)
- Automation/Smart Factory
- Manufacturing footprint optimization
- Plant closure/(re)open
- Co-pack/co-man cost optimization
- Manufacturing strategy, make/buy

- · Marketing mix, effectiveness
- Digital, B2B, DTC, eComm
- New Product Development/innovation
- Portfolio management/SKU rationalization
- Category management
- Customer and product profitability optimization
- Trade spend optimization
- Brand management
- Design to value
- S&OP/IBP
- Demand planning/forecasting
- Supply planning
- Digital strategy
- Order management
- SC operating model
- Strategic sourcing (direct/indirect)
- Procurement excellence
- Supply risk management and resilience
- Supplier relationship
- Commodity price management
- Tariff Mitigation/Task Force
- New market entry, route-to-market model
- Omni-channel strategy
- Sales force effectiveness (own, distributor)
- Commercial excellence
- Pricing effectiveness
- Customer service
- Transportation management (inbound, middle/last mile, load efficiency, fleet)
- Warehouse & fulfillment improvement (e.g., DC productivity, load optimization, service level improvement)
- Distribution network planning/footprint optimization
- Supply chain sourcing (e.g., 3PL eval, contracting, cost assessment)
- Inventory optimization

MARKETING/ INNOVATION

PLANNING

SOURCING

SALES

LOGISTICS

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DATA SOURCES GLOBAL & USA

KPI	Source
% of Companies that beat market EBITDA estimates	Publicly available Financial filings of Top 40 Companies via S&P Capital IQ Calculation: Quarterly results taken
Revenue	Publicly available Financial filings of Top 40 Companies via S&P Capital IQ Calculation: Quarterly results taken
Gross Margin	Publicly available Financial filings of Top 40 Companies via S&P Capital IQ Calculation: Quarterly results taken
Inventory Turnover	Publicly available Financial filings of Top 40 Companies via S&P Capital IQ Calculation: Quarterly results taken
Manufacturing production, index	Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis Calculation: Quarterly results taken
Manufacturing capacity utilization, %	Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis Calculation: Quarterly results taken
Manufacturer's New orders, \$B	United States Census Bureau Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders, Seasonally Adjusted Calculation: Quarterly results taken
Private fixed investment, \$B	Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis Calculation: Quarterly results taken
Unfavorable business climate, % concerned	National Association of Manufacturers – NAM Manufacturers' Outlook Survey Calculation: Quarterly results taken
Total manufacturing employees, <i>M</i>	Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis Calculation: Quarterly results taken
Total manufacturing job openings, <i>K</i>	Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis Calculation: Quarterly results taken
Manufacturing hourly wage rates, \$/hr	Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis Calculation: Quarterly results taken
Attracting & Retaining Workforce, % concerned	National Association of Manufacturers – NAM Manufacturers' Outlook Survey Calculation: Quarterly results taken
Rising Healthcare/Insurance Costs, % concerned	National Association of Manufacturers – NAM Manufacturers' Outlook Survey Calculation: Quarterly results taken

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DATA SOURCES GERMANY

KPI	Source
Manufacturing production, index	Statistisches Bundesamt: Code: 42153-0001 Produktionsindex für das Verarbeitende Gewerbe: Deutschland, Monate, Original- und bereinigte Daten, Wirtschaftszweige (Hauptgruppen und Aggregate) Calculation: Average over the three month in the quarter
Manufacturing capacity utilization, %	ifo Institut: Ifo Konjunkturperspectiven x/202x Calculation: Quarterly results taken
Manufacturing new orders, index	Statistisches Bundesamt: Code: 42151-0004 Auftragseingang im Verarbeitenden Gewerbe (Volumenindex): Deutschland, Monate, Original- und bereinigte Daten, Absatzrichtung, Wirtschaftszweige (Hauptgr. und Aggregate) Calculation: Average over the three month in the quarter
Manufacturing Ifo business climate, index	Ifo Institute: Verarbeitendes Gewerbe Calculation: Geschäftsklima = ((Lage+200)(Erwartungen+200))^0.5-200 Calculation: Index= (Saldo im Berichtsmonat +200)/(Durschnittlicher Saldo im Basisjahr +200)*100 (Reference year is 2015)
Manufacturing export volume, bn€	Statistisches Bundesamt: Code: 42111-0002 Beschäftigte und Umsatz der Betriebe im Verarbeitenden Gewerbe: Deutschland, Monate, Wirtschaftszweige (WZ2008 Hauptgruppen und Aggregate) Calculation: Sum over the three month in the quarter
Total manufacturing jobs, M	Statistisches Bundesamt: Code: 42111-0002 Beschäftigte und Umsatz der Betriebe im Verarbeitenden Gewerbe: Deutschland, Monate, Wirtschaftszweige (WZ2008 Hauptgruppen und Aggregate) Calculation: Average over the three month in the quarter
Total manufacturing job openings, K	Bundesagentur für Arbeit: Gemeldete Arbeitsstellen nach Wirtschaftszweigen - Deutschland, West/Ost und Länder (Monatszahlen) Calculation: Average over the three month in the quarter
Manufacturing hourly wage rates, €/hr	Statistisches Bundesamt: Code: 81000-0018 VGR des Bundes - Produktivität, Arbeitnehmerentgelt, Brutto- löhne ugehälter, Lohnstückkosten: Deutschland, Quartale, Original- und bereinigte Daten, Wirtschaftsbereiche Calculation: For each quarter, the average of the past 12 months was calculated
Average number of sick days per quarter, days	Institut für Arbeitsmarkt- und Berufsforschung: Durchschnittliche Arbeitszeit und ihre Komponenten in Deutschland Calculation: Quarterly results taken
Productivity per hour, #	Statistisches Bundesamt: Code: 81000-0018 VGR des Bundes - Produktivität, Arbeitnehmerentgelt, Brutto- löhne ugehälter, Lohnstückkosten: Deutschland, Quartale, Original- und bereinigte Daten, Wirtschaftsbereiche Calculation: For each quarter, the average of the past 12 months was calculated

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ABOUT US:

For more than 40 years, AlixPartners has helped businesses around the world respond quickly and decisively to their most critical challenges – circumstances as diverse as urgent performance improvement, accelerated transformation, complex restructuring and risk mitigation.

These are the moments when everything is on the line – a sudden shift in the market, an unexpected performance decline, a time-sensitive deal, a fork in-the-road decision. But it's not what we do that makes a difference, it's how we do it.

Tackling situations when time is of the essence is part of our DNA – so we adopt an action-oriented approach at all times. We work in small, highly qualified teams with specific industry and functional expertise, and we operate at pace, moving quickly from analysis to implementation. We stand shoulder to shoulder with our clients until the job is done, and only measure our success in terms of the results we deliver.

Our approach enables us to help our clients confront and overcome truly future-defining challenges. We partner with you to make the right decisions and take the right actions. And we are right by your side. When it really matters.

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