



**EVERYONE'S TALKING
ABOUT AI SAFETY.
ALMOST NOBODY IS
ENGINEERING IT.**

AI has moved faster than any technology in history and governance hasn't come close to keeping pace. Across critical infrastructures and consumer products, organizations are deploying systems that affect millions of people while still treating quality as an operational detail to be resolved after the fact. Entire business models are being rebuilt around AI outputs that have never been stress-tested in the environments where they'll actually be used. Decisions affecting credit, healthcare, employment, and public safety are being delegated to systems whose failure modes are poorly understood by the people deploying them.

The question isn't whether AI will transform business. It already has. The question is whether we can trust it to – and right now, the honest answer is: not reliably enough.

Consider what is happening at the development layer. AI-native companies are shipping code faster than at any point in the history of software. Across the broader enterprise, AI is compressing release timelines, automating test cycles, and accelerating the pace at which new capabilities reach production. That velocity is genuinely impressive. It is also genuinely dangerous when the quality function isn't scaling alongside it. Faster development without proportionally stronger quality engineering doesn't reduce risk – it concentrates it. And concentrated risk, in systems embedded in critical decisions, is where the trust deficit begins.



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We are at an inflection point where the speed of AI deployment has outpaced our collective ability to ensure it works safely and reliably. That gap isn't a technical footnote – it is the defining business risk of this decade.

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Andrew Duncan
CEO
QualityAI



WE'VE SEEN THIS BEFORE

Twenty years ago, the software industry faced its own reckoning. Systems failed in production. Organizations were paralyzed by bugs they couldn't trace, deadlines they couldn't meet, and reputations that took years to rebuild. Enterprises discovered – at significant cost – that speed without discipline is just expensive chaos. The field of quality engineering emerged from that moment. It codified what good looks like: designing quality in from the start, defining what failure means before a system is built, and validating performance in the environments where it matters.

AI is at the same inflection point, but with two critical differences. The stakes are categorically higher. A poorly governed software system produces wrong outputs. A poorly

governed AI system embedded in clinical decision-making or financial risk assessment can cause harm at scale, quietly, with a confidence that makes it harder to detect than a traditional software failure ever was. And the window to establish good practice is narrowing fast. Deployment cycles are shorter, regulatory environments are hardening across every major market, and organizations that wait until governance becomes mandatory will find themselves rebuilding under pressure.

There is a temptation to treat AI quality as a problem requiring entirely new thinking from first principles. It doesn't. What it requires is the institutional knowledge that quality engineering has spent two decades accumulating – applied with urgency and at scale.

The industry has already learned this lesson once. The question is whether it has the discipline to apply it before the next wave of failures forces the point.





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AI systems fail differently from traditional software – they don't just break, they drift. A model that was accurate at launch can degrade silently as the real-world changes around it, and no one notices until the damage is done. The engineering discipline required to prevent that is fundamentally different from anything the industry has applied before. It's exactly the problem we've spent two decades building the tools and instincts to solve.

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Vikul Gupta
Chief Technology Officer
QualityAI



QUALITY IS THE NEW SAFETY

Most leaders in this industry understand, at least in principle, that quality and safety are connected. The problem isn't the understanding – it's the practice. Quality engineering has long been treated as a downstream function: something that happens after the real work is done, a cost to be minimized rather than a capability to be invested in. AI makes that gap between principle and practice untenable.

The analogy is worth pressing on. You wouldn't respond to faster cars by cutting the braking engineers. You wouldn't accelerate a commercial flight schedule by reducing maintenance crews. In every domain where operational pace has increased, the quality and safety function has scaled proportionally – because the risk surface grows with velocity. AI-driven software development is no different.

The faster systems evolve, the more critical the quality function becomes. Not as a constraint on speed, but as the precondition for it.

The prevailing market narrative runs something like this: AI will let you do the same with less. Automate your tests, reduce your QA headcount, extract the efficiency. That framing is not only wrong – it is precisely backwards. AI doesn't shrink the quality function. It expands what quality can protect. The efficiency gains AI delivers in quality engineering are most powerfully reinvested – turning up the volume on coverage, complexity, and ambition rather than harvested as headcount reductions. Used well, AI gives quality engineers the ability to test more thoroughly, more rapidly, and across a wider surface area than was previously possible. It is a force multiplier for rigour, not a replacement for it.

This has become a board-level conversation – not because quality has become fashionable, but because the cost of getting it wrong has become board-level material. Reputational exposure from a failed AI deployment, regulatory liability from a biased or inaccurate system, the erosion of workforce confidence that stalls transformation programs – these are enterprise risks that belong on the agenda alongside cybersecurity and financial controls.





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The trust deficit shows up in transformation programs before it shows up anywhere else. When a high-profile AI pilot fails, it doesn't just set back that project – it makes the next initiative harder to fund, harder to staff, and harder for people inside the organization to believe in. Recovering that internal confidence is far harder than fixing the technical problem that caused the failure.

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Aviram Shotten
Chief Transformation Officer, QualityAI

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Moving fast without a quality framework isn't bold – it's expensive. We've seen organizations spend more remediating a failed AI deployment than they would have spent engineering it properly from the outset. Rework, rollbacks, reputational exposure, regulatory scrutiny – these aren't theoretical risks. And the financial case for getting ahead of this is clear: the cost of designing quality in is a fraction of the cost of rebuilding trust after it's been broken.

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Oscar Perez
COO & CFO, QualityAI





WHAT THE INDUSTRY IS MISSING

Most organizations are asking the wrong question. "How do we deploy AI faster?" treats speed as the binding constraint. But across the enterprise AI failures we've studied, speed was rarely the problem - governance was. The question that matters is different: how do we deploy AI we can stand behind? Answering it well starts with the data.

Sophisticated model architecture cannot compensate for training data that is narrow, unrepresentative, or historically biased. Responsible AI demands deliberate investment in data diversity across demographics, geographies, edge cases, and the messy real-world conditions that controlled datasets routinely exclude. Beyond data, it requires real-environment testing rather than controlled benchmarks, because systems that score well in a lab routinely behave differently under the

conditions where they actually get used. And it requires governance structures with the rigour applied to any other enterprise-critical risk: clear ownership, audit trails, escalation paths, and the authority to slow down or stop a deployment when the evidence for safety isn't there.

Critically, it also requires quality functions that can keep pace with AI-driven development. AI is compressing timelines and raising complexity simultaneously. Quality engineering designed for a slower, more sequential model cannot simply be stretched to cover the new reality - it has to be rebuilt with AI at its core. The organizations closing the gap between development velocity and quality coverage are building that infrastructure now. Those that aren't will be building it reactively, after an incident that made the case for them.



Governance and independent quality oversight, in this context, are not compliance exercises. As AI capability concentrates rapidly, the organizations that will earn lasting trust are those that can demonstrate rigorous, independent assurance – not because they were told to, but because they understand that trust is a strategic asset worth engineering deliberately.



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There is a direct line between how an organization approaches AI safety and its ability to attract and retain the best people. Talented engineers and leaders want to work on AI they can be proud of – systems that work, that are fair, and that they would be comfortable explaining to anyone affected by them. The rebrand to QualityAI isn't just an external signal. It's a statement to our own people about the kind of company we are committed to being.

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Anna Garnham
Chief People Officer
QualityAI



WHAT THIS LOOKS LIKE ON THE GROUND

AI safety isn't an abstract boardroom concern. It plays out differently across geographies, regulatory environments, and industry verticals – and what enterprise clients are asking for reflects a market maturing faster than many anticipated.

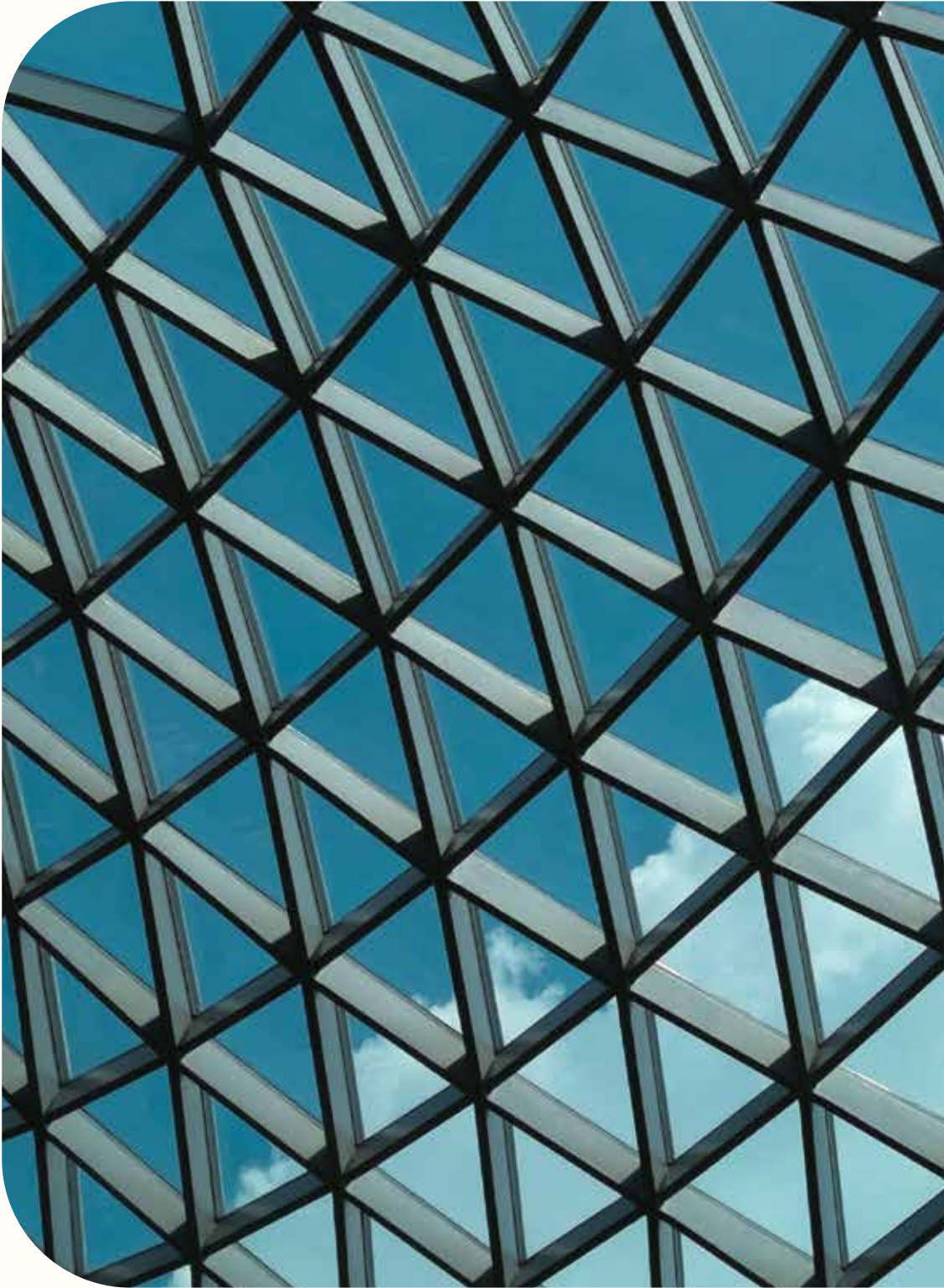


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In North America, the conversation has shifted decisively. Enterprise clients are no longer asking whether to invest in AI – they've made that decision. What they're asking now is: how do we make it work at scale, reliably, without the failures that have undermined confidence elsewhere? The gap between ambition and execution is most visible here, and most costly. Organizations that moved without a quality framework are coming back to fix the foundations. That's where QualityAI's institutional knowledge becomes a genuine competitive differentiator.

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Mike Shaklik
Managing Director – North America
QualityAI





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In Europe, the regulatory environment is accelerating a conversation that should have happened years ago. The EU AI Act, GDPR, sector-specific compliance requirements – these aren't burdens for our clients, they're forcing functions. Regulated industries don't have the option of moving fast and fixing later. The organizations that invested in governance frameworks early are now significantly better positioned to move with confidence. QualityAI's approach – designing quality in rather than auditing it out – is exactly what this environment rewards.

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**Shai Liberman,
Managing Director – Europe
QualityAI**





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In the UK, we are seeing a market that is simultaneously more demanding and more ready than anywhere else. Regulated sectors – financial services, public sector, healthcare – have always held quality to a higher standard, and AI hasn't changed that expectation, it's intensified it. What's new is the speed at which AI is being embedded into mission-critical systems, and the pressure that creates on quality functions that weren't designed for this pace. Clients aren't just asking whether their AI works – they're asking whether it can be independently assured. That's a question QualityAI has been answering for two decades.

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Simon Pickersgill
Managing Director, QualityAI

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India is one of the world's most dynamic AI adoption markets – the pressure to scale fast is intense and the appetite for innovation is genuine. But the consequences of getting quality wrong at that speed are equally significant. What the most sophisticated enterprises here are learning is that speed and safety aren't in tension – they're complementary. You move faster when you don't have to stop and rebuild. QualityAI's opportunity in this market is to demonstrate that the global gold standard of AI-first quality engineering is accessible here, not just in established western markets.

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Palaniselvan Sababathy
Managing Director – India, QualityAI



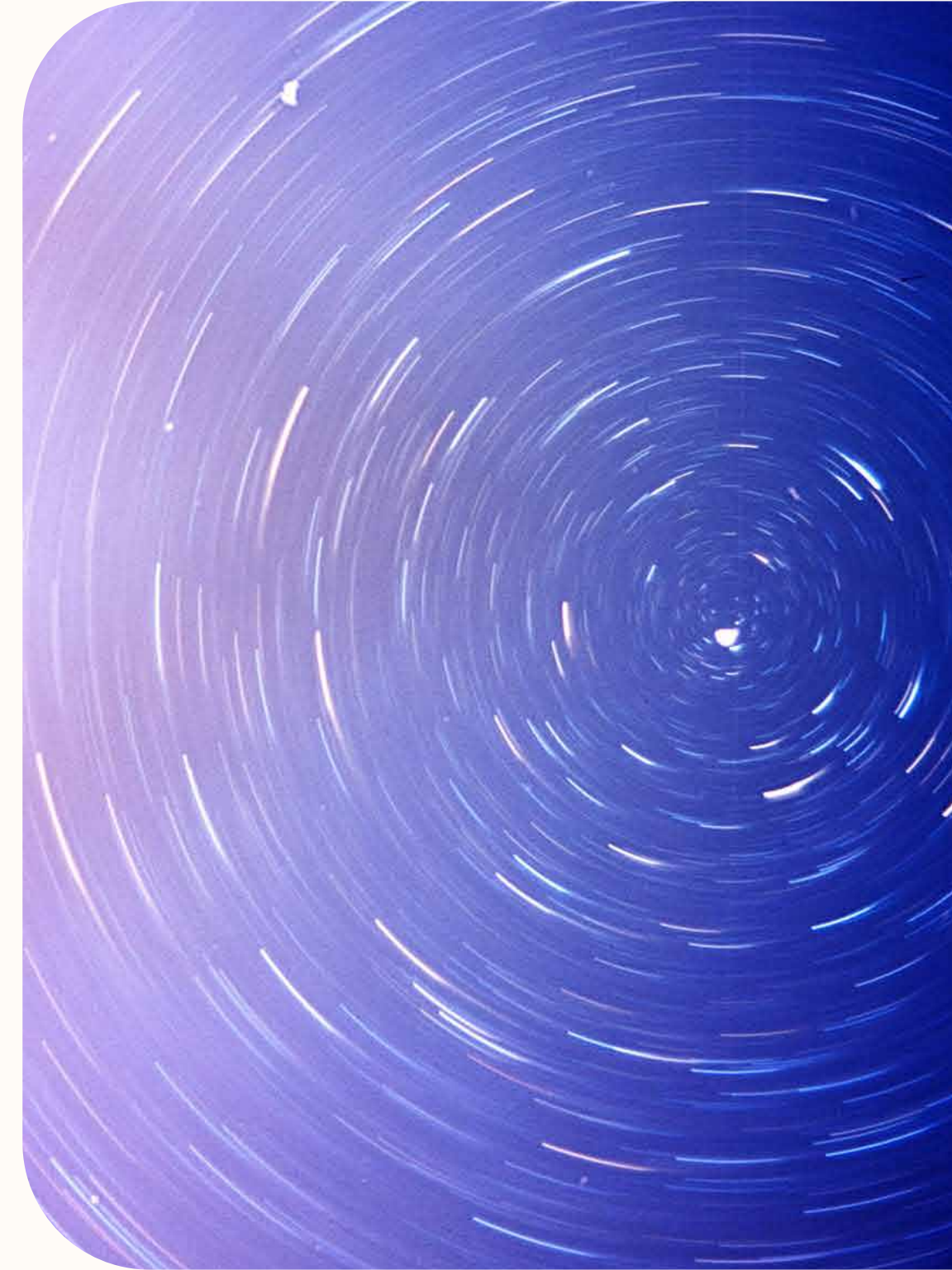
WHY THIS MOMENT DEMANDS QUALITYAI

This is why we have chosen this moment to reintroduce ourselves. The name QualityAI is not cosmetic. It reflects a fundamental repositioning – from a company that tests software to a company that engineers (confidence) certainty. "Designing quality" means building trustworthiness into AI systems from the first line of architecture, not the last round of checks before go-live. It means anticipating how a system will behave in a noisy retail environment, a high-stakes clinical setting, or a financial services context with millions of edge cases – before a single model reaches production.

Today, QualityAI operates at both ends of the AI value chain. We work alongside model builders pushing the frontier of what AI can do – and alongside enterprises embedding AI into their products and operations at scale.

That dual vantage point gives us a perspective on AI quality that is broader than any single layer of the stack. We see where the risks originate and where they materialize. We see the gap between what AI promises in a controlled environment and what it delivers under real-world conditions. And we have built the capabilities – across data assurance, adversarial testing, real-environment validation, and post-deployment monitoring – to close that gap systematically.

In practice, this means organizations working with QualityAI get quality engineering embedded from the first day of an engagement, not handed a report at the end of one. It means data assurance before a model is trained, adversarial testing before it is deployed, and continuous monitoring after it goes live.



It means an independent accountability layer that sits outside the delivery team, with the authority and the institutional knowledge to flag problems before they become incidents. For engineering directors navigating AI adoption at pace, that is the difference between a deployment you can defend and one you spend months explaining.

"Certainty at go-live" is not a marketing promise. It is an operational standard - one that requires quality engineering to be present from the first conversation about what a system is being built to do, through every stage of data sourcing, model design, environment testing, and post-deployment monitoring. It is the standard the enterprise world needs and is not reliably getting anywhere else. QualityAI carries 20 years of institutional knowledge about what failure looks like - and what prevents it.

The rebrand is not a change of direction. It is the clearest statement we have ever made about the direction we have always been heading.





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What 'certainty at go-live' means in practice is that quality engineering shapes every stage of an engagement - how data is sourced, how systems are architected, how edge cases are anticipated - not parachuted in at the end to validate what's already been built. That shift in how we engage with clients is what the rebrand represents. It reflects a maturity in how the best organizations now think about AI deployment - and our commitment to meeting them there.

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Ed Hunt

Delivery Leader - North America, QualityAI

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What's changed in client conversations over the last 18 months is telling. Enterprise buyers used to lead with speed and cost. Increasingly, they're leading with safety, governance, and reliability - asking us to demonstrate how we ensure AI works in their specific environment before it goes live, not after. The market has caught up to what QualityAI has always stood for. The rebrand makes that legible in a way that opens doors.

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Craig Susen

SVP - Growth & Strategic Sales, QualityAI





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QualityAI isn't just a new name. It's a statement of intent - that quality and AI are inseparable, and that we are the company that proves it every day. We have spent 20 years making software trustworthy. We are now applying that same discipline, the same rigour, the same institutional knowledge, to the most consequential technology deployment in a generation. That is not a pivot. That is exactly what we were built for.

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Andrew Duncan
CEO
QualityAI





THE ROAD AHEAD

The organizations that will define the next decade of enterprise AI are not the ones that moved fastest in this one. They are the ones that built AI they could genuinely stand behind – systems that performed in production, earned user trust, and held up under regulatory scrutiny. That combination of ambition and discipline is not a constraint on innovation. It is what makes innovation durable.

The industry has the capability. What it has lacked is the institutional infrastructure to make that capability trustworthy at scale. That infrastructure – the governance frameworks, the engineering rigour, the real-environment validation disciplines – is what QualityAI has spent two decades building.

And it is what we are bringing to the AI challenge with greater focus, greater urgency, and a name that says exactly what we stand for.

Visions need engineering. The companies that understand that will be the ones still standing when the dust settles. QualityAI is here to make sure you are one of them.



AUTHOR



Andrew Duncan
CEO, QualityAI

Andrew Duncan is Chief Executive Officer of QualityAI and an accomplished business leader with more than 30 years of international experience across consulting, technology, and professional services.

Before joining QualityAI, he served as CEO of Infosys Consulting, where he led the firm through record revenue growth, introduced a new operating model, expanded its service portfolio, strengthened its leadership team, and positioned it among the fastest-growing and most profitable business units within the Infosys group.

Earlier, Andrew held senior leadership roles at A.T. Kearney, AlixPartners, and Galphay, and co-founded a successful professional services firm. He has led large-scale strategy, digital transformation, and organisational change initiatives across industries worldwide. Named a Global Leader in Consulting by Consulting Magazine in 2022, Andrew is also a Forbes Technology Council contributor and a recognized thought leader on AI, leadership, and digital innovation.

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