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The Most
INFLUENTIAL
LEADERS
in Technology

2025

Hassan Sawaf

Founder & CEO
aiXplain, Inc.

Hassan Sawaf

Pioneering Innovation, Leading Change.



```
mirror_mod = modifier_ob.  
#set mirror object to mirror  
mirror_mod.mirror_object
```

```
operation == "MIRROR_X":  
mirror_mod.use_x = True  
mirror_mod.use_y = False  
mirror_mod.use_z = False  
operation == "MIRROR_Y":  
mirror_mod.use_x = False  
mirror_mod.use_y = True  
mirror_mod.use_z = False  
operation == "MIRROR_Z":  
mirror_mod.use_x = False  
mirror_mod.use_y = False  
mirror_mod.use_z = True
```

```
#selection at the end -add  
mirror_ob.select= 1  
modifier_ob.select=1  
context.scene.objects.active  
("Selected" + str(modifier_ob.  
mirror_ob.select = 0  
= bpy.context.selected_object  
data.objects[one.name].select
```

```
print("please select exactly one")
```

--- OPERATOR CLASSES ---

```
types.Operator):  
X mirror to the selected  
object.mirror_mirror_x"  
mirror X"
```

```
context):  
context.active_object is not
```



Editor's Note

We are living through a pivotal era where technology no longer just supports progress—it defines it. From reshaping industries and rewriting economic models to reimagining how we communicate, learn, and heal, technology has become the nervous system of modern civilization.

In this edition—The Most Influential Leaders in Technology, 2025—we spotlight those at the forefront of this digital transformation. These are not simply inventors of the next big thing. They are architects of a smarter, more equitable future. With every code line, algorithm, and interface, they are solving real-world problems, expanding human potential, and placing purpose at the core of innovation.

But in a world of relentless advancement, influence is not measured solely by speed or scale. It is measured by impact. The leaders we feature in this issue are defined not just by what they build, but why they build—and for whom. They are proving that great technology is not about disruption for disruption's sake, but about direction, ethics, and inclusion.

As technology continues to blur the lines between physical and digital, intelligence and automation, personal and planetary—leadership grounded in integrity has never been more essential. This edition is a tribute to those setting the pace and setting the standard. Let their work remind us: innovation may shape the world—but purpose shapes innovation.

With Respect & Admiration,
- **Todd Staples**



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Client Name	Company Name	Brief
Hassan Sawaf	aiXplain	Hassan Sawaf is the founder and CEO of aiXplain, Inc., a company focused on delivering advanced AI and machine learning solutions across multiple industries, including e-commerce, healthcare, education, and entertainment. He holds a degree in computer science from RWTH Aachen University, a prestigious research institution in Europe. With a strong background in AI, Hassan has played a pivotal role in driving innovation and making AI more accessible and impactful across diverse domains.
Linda Caron	Parker Hannifin	Linda Caron is a seasoned Global Product Sales Manager with over 20 years of experience in marketing technical products, including industrial automation, robotics, and mechatronics. She specializes in turning customer needs into innovative solutions, commercializing new products, and driving profitable growth through a blend of analytical thinking and creativity.
Kence Anderson	Composabl	Kence Anderson is an expert in designing and deploying intelligent autonomous agents for manufacturing and logistics. Over the past seven years, he has created over 200 agents for major corporations and developed a machine teaching methodology, detailed in his book Designing Autonomous AI (O'Reilly, 2022). He is currently building a platform to orchestrate agents for high-impact decision-making in industrial environments.
Darcy Bachert	Prolucid Technologies Inc.	Darcy Bachert is the Founder and CEO of Prolucid, a software engineering firm specializing in custom software solutions for regulated industries like medical and nuclear. His team delivers end-to-end services—from requirements gathering to commercialization—across firmware, desktop, cloud, and mobile platforms. With a strong focus on data analytics, cybersecurity, and regulatory compliance, Darcy is passionate about leveraging technology to solve meaningful, complex problems.
Jim Barnes	enVista	Jim Barnes is a recognized expert in supply chain management and Unified Commerce. He co-founded enVista and Enspire Commerce to deliver integrated supply chain consulting and cloud-based commerce solutions. With over 25 years of experience, he has led successful deployments for Fortune 500 companies and top retailers, enhancing profitability and operational efficiency. His expertise spans global supply chain design, transportation management, retail planning, IT strategy, and e-commerce.

Hassan Sawaf

Hassan Sawaf: Building the Blueprint for the Next Generation of AI

In the rapidly shifting landscape of artificial intelligence, where trends often outpace meaningful impact, Hassan Sawaf stands out—not just as a technologist, but as a visionary leader with a mission. As the Founder and CEO of aiXplain, Inc., his work reflects a deeper philosophy: AI should not be confined to research labs or a privileged few—it must be made accessible, explainable, and capable of serving the world at scale.

From pioneering early government-backed conversational AI systems to leading enterprise-scale innovations at Amazon, eBay, and Meta, Hassan has quietly shaped many of the intelligent technologies that now power global commerce, communication, and discovery. His career is not just a collection of high-profile roles; it is a story of building systems that serve people—not just processes.

Foundations in Curiosity and Courage

The roots of Hassan's journey lie in the early 2010s, at a time when AI was still viewed as experimental by most mainstream industries. At SAIC (later Leidos), he led the development of advanced natural language processing systems designed to support U.S. government operations. These solutions didn't merely decode text—they helped break down linguistic barriers and interpret massive volumes of unstructured data. And they did it nearly a decade before such capabilities entered the commercial spotlight.

His involvement in a DARPA-funded project marked one of the earliest applications of what we now call agentic AI—building intelligent systems capable of reasoning, planning, and interacting with humans. “We were building proactive AI agents long before the term became fashionable,” he reflects. This forward-thinking mindset would define the rest of his career.

At eBay, Hassan founded and led the Cognitive Computing team, which evolved into the company's modern AI organization. The group developed scalable models that personalized shopping experiences for millions of users around the globe, processed trillions of tokens daily, and supported secure international trade—all while operating quietly behind the scenes. “We wanted AI that didn't just work—it scaled, adapted, and made a difference for users in real time.”

When Amazon recruited him to join AWS as Director of Applied Science, Hassan found an environment where scientific freedom met global scale. There, he led the creation of core AI services and innovative capabilities that continue to empower businesses across industries. “Seeing those early ideas grow into billion-dollar services was deeply fulfilling,” he says. “It proved that research could truly become reality at scale.”

His time at Meta AI offered yet another evolution—this time focusing on augmented reality and intelligent wearables. He worked on building “aware AI” systems that could support human memory and perception—AI not as a backend tool, but as a personal assistant integrated into daily life.

“
*Explainable AI builds trust, unlocks transparency,
and ensures we innovate with responsibility.*
”

Hassan Sawaf
Founder & CEO
aiXplain, Inc.



The Birth of aiXplain: A Paradigm Shift

With decades of innovation behind him, Hassan founded aiXplain in 2020 with a bold idea: AI doesn't need more complexity—it needs clarity. He saw that organizations were using AI in overly rigid, narrowly defined ways, often adding it as an afterthought or micromanaging its behavior.

“The real potential of AI isn't about adding more tools,” he explains. “It's about allowing systems to solve problems on their own, using the tools they already have. That's where agentic AI comes in.”

This idea of Agentic Solution Building—now the cornerstone of aiXplain's platform—focuses on developing intelligent agents that don't just complete tasks, but understand goals and find their own paths to execution. These systems plan, adapt, reason, and even self-correct, all within safe and defined parameters.

Instead of requiring developers to map every step of a process, agentic AI empowers users to define the outcome, and the AI determines the how. This unlocks a new level of adaptability—crucial for businesses operating in volatile or fast-changing environments.

“It's like giving AI the freedom to think creatively within the boundaries we define. That flexibility is powerful, especially when scale and speed matter,” Hassan says.

The Role of Explainability in High-Stakes AI

While many in the AI industry focus on speed and scale, Hassan believes that explainability is just as critical—especially in sectors like healthcare, finance, and public policy, where lives and livelihoods are impacted by algorithmic decisions.

“Trust in AI is built through understanding,” he explains. “If people can't see how decisions are made, they won't rely on them—nor should they.”

At aiXplain, transparency is built into the foundation. Models are designed with human-AI collaboration in mind, allowing non-technical users to understand how outcomes are generated, make adjustments, and provide feedback. It's not just about visibility—it's about empowerment.

“Explainability isn't a compliance issue—it's a design principle,” Hassan says. “It shapes how we build, deploy, and improve AI systems, and it's the only path toward ethical, scalable adoption.”

“
*I believe in making AI accessible, understandable,
and transformational for everyone.*
”





The Expanding Impact of Generative AI

Generative AI, often seen as a flashy trend, takes on a deeper meaning under Hassan's lens. To him, its true promise lies in how it unlocks creativity, personalization, and speed across sectors.

In healthcare, generative models can simulate treatments, accelerate drug discovery, and offer diagnostic support in ways never before possible. In education, AI becomes a tutor that adapts to each student's pace, turning lessons into engaging and meaningful experiences.

“Generative AI has the power to change not just how we work, but how we learn, build, and even heal,” he says.

It's also a game-changer for entrepreneurs. Startups that once needed massive funding and technical teams can now build sophisticated products with AI handling core infrastructure. “It reduces friction at every step—ideation, prototyping, iteration. This lowers the cost of innovation and raises the bar for impact.”

Leadership Through Adaptability and Purpose

Running a company on the cutting edge of AI innovation demands more than technical fluency—it requires emotional intelligence and a strong sense of purpose. For Hassan, the foundation of leadership is clear: stay customer-obsessed, stay adaptive, and stay human.

“Our pace is fast, but our vision is long-term,” he says. “We empower people, not just machines. That's how you create lasting change.”

Under his leadership, aiXplain has built a culture of openness and continuous learning. Teams are encouraged to experiment, listen, and iterate based on user needs. “The technology is just a tool. What matters is who we build it for—and how it improves their lives.”

“
*AI has the power
to uplift industries,
amplify human
creativity, and
make technology
truly intuitive.*
”

“
*Young innovators
should be fearless,
curious, and
always focused on
solving problems
that matter.*
”



Navigating Resistance and Shaping a Legacy

One of the biggest challenges Hassan has faced is overcoming skepticism from within the AI community itself—especially when proposing tools that simplify or democratize access to AI.

“There's a tendency among experts to guard complexity, to view accessibility as a threat to technical integrity,” he says. “But making AI usable by non-experts doesn't dilute its value—it multiplies it.”

By demonstrating how simplification leads to broader experimentation, faster iteration, and more inclusive impact, he has helped shift the conversation. At aiXplain, advanced AI is not hidden behind engineering jargon—it's placed in the hands of builders, educators, analysts, and creators from all walks of life.

Advice to the Next Generation of Innovators

To those stepping into the AI space today, Hassan offers deeply practical, grounded advice. He urges young innovators to stay curious, stay humble, and stay focused on real-world problems. Too often, he says, innovation becomes self-referential—driven by technology for its own sake. Instead, the most meaningful breakthroughs come from a deep understanding of people's needs and pain points.

He encourages upcoming leaders to listen more than they speak, to test early and often, and to view failure not as a setback but as a signal. Adaptability, empathy, and collaboration, he says, are just as important as technical skill.

“Technology alone isn't enough,” he explains. “What truly moves the world forward is solving the right problems—with integrity, empathy, and a commitment to leaving things better than you found them.”



The future of tech isn't just smart it's human, ethical, and built to serve.

Innovation alone no longer defines success in the tech industry. In 2025, the world is looking beyond the "what" and focusing more on the "why." Leaders in technology are recognized not just for disruptive ideas, but for meaningful, responsible execution. The most influential leaders today are those who create technologies rooted in purpose—solutions that prioritize people, ethics, and long-term impact.

The digital age has unlocked infinite possibilities. Artificial intelligence is transforming industries. The cloud connects global economies. Edge computing is redefining speed and access. Yet, the true question isn't what we can build—but should we?

Purpose-driven leadership is the compass in this fast-evolving landscape. Today's technology leaders are actively asking: How do we embed fairness in our algorithms? How do we build trust in our platforms? How do we ensure that innovation doesn't deepen inequality, but narrows it?

Artificial intelligence, one of the most powerful tools of our time, perfectly illustrates this shift. While it's revolutionizing everything from healthcare to logistics, it also poses critical ethical questions. Purposeful leaders ensure that AI systems are transparent, explainable, and free from bias. They're shaping regulation as much as they are shaping code.

Likewise, the role of data has changed. In a data-driven world, privacy is power—and responsibility. Trust is now a currency. Influential leaders are safeguarding consumer rights, championing data sovereignty, and fostering a culture of transparency over surveillance.





What also sets today's leaders apart is their commitment to inclusion. True innovation doesn't serve a select few—it scales equitably. This means designing technologies that are accessible, multilingual, gender-sensitive, and affordable. It means building bridges over digital divides, not walls around digital privilege.

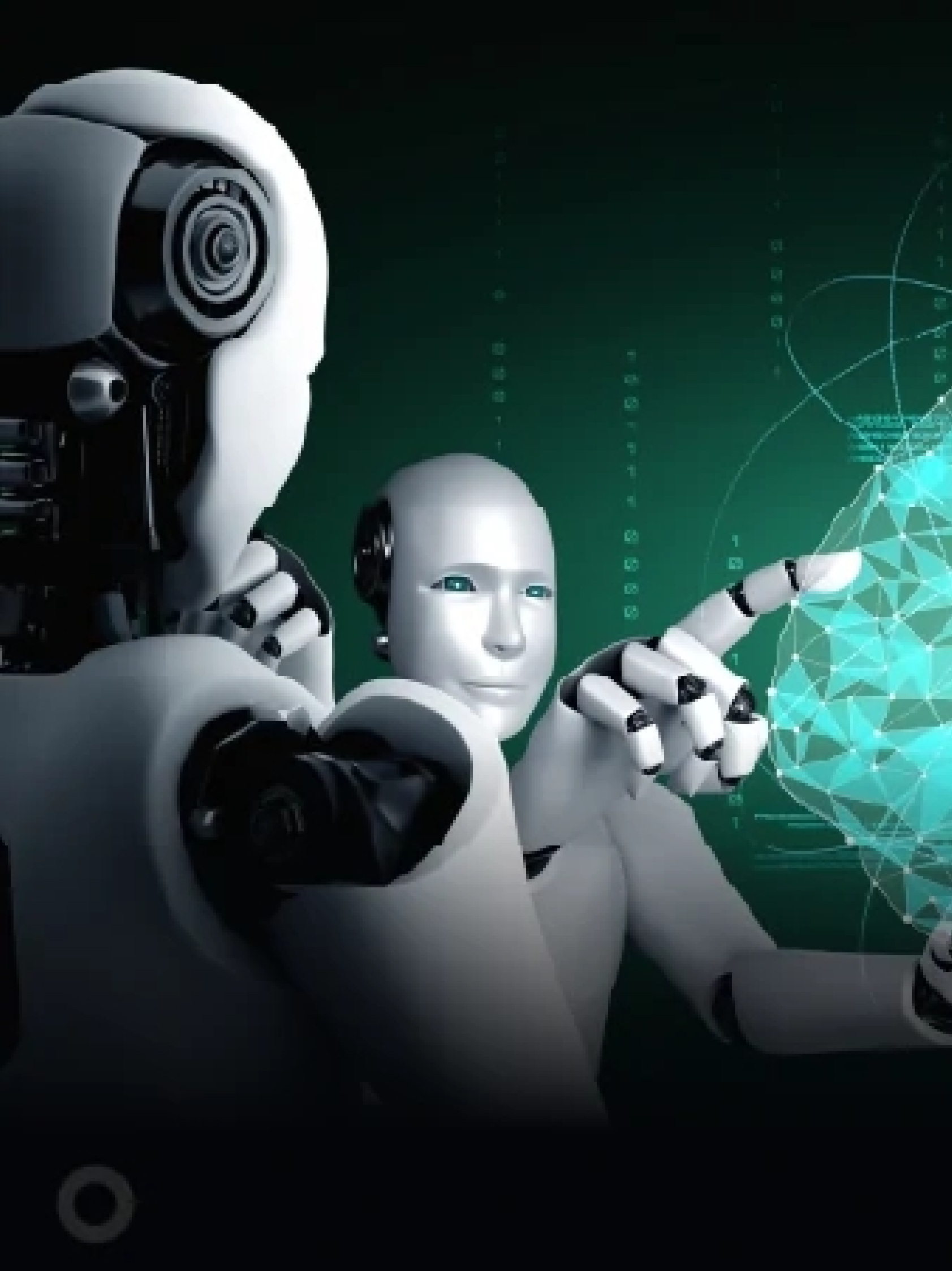
Sustainability is no longer a secondary concern. As digital infrastructure grows, so does its carbon footprint. Purposeful tech leaders are building greener data centers, exploring energy-efficient design, and using tech to address climate challenges—proving that technology and ecology can, and must, coexist.

Importantly, the most forward-thinking leaders are not going alone. They are leaning into collaboration—forming coalitions across sectors, industries, and borders to solve shared challenges. Public-private partnerships, open-source movements, and cross-sector alliances are now essential to scaling meaningful innovation.

The age of invention has matured into the age of intention. In this age, leadership is defined by vision, empathy, and stewardship. It is not just about leading companies, but about leading conversations, movements, and futures.

In a world shaped by algorithms and automation, it's our values that must lead. Because technology without purpose is power without direction—and the future deserves better.





In 2025, true leadership isn't about launching the next big thing it's about building the next better world.

The narrative of technology is evolving—and so is the definition of leadership. In the early decades of digital disruption, the race was to innovate fast, break things, and scale up. But in 2025, we are witnessing a profound recalibration. The most influential tech leaders are those who are turning innovation into sustainable, inclusive, and measurable impact.

Today's tech landscape is more connected—and more consequential—than ever before. Every digital product, every platform, every connected device now carries social, environmental, and ethical weight. The influence of technology has expanded from markets to entire societies. And with that expansion comes new responsibilities.

Impact is no longer a byproduct—it is the benchmark.

The most visionary tech leaders understand that technology must do more than function. It must empower. It must inform, include, and uplift. They're reimagining leadership through a new lens—one where progress is holistic and future-proof.

A key shift lies in redefining value creation. Success is no longer measured solely by revenue or users, but by outcomes: cleaner energy, smarter cities, healthier populations, better education, and more resilient economies. Technology is becoming a force for systems change.

This is especially evident in the rise of “tech for good.” Social innovation is being powered by AI, blockchain, and IoT—solving problems like poverty mapping, disease tracking, and disaster response. But what makes these solutions sustainable is the intent behind them—the leadership choices that prioritize people over platforms.

Inclusive innovation is another defining pillar. Diversity in leadership, design, and data sets ensures that tech solutions reflect real-world diversity. When inclusivity becomes part of the process—not just the messaging—technology becomes more ethical, scalable, and trusted.

Trust is, in fact, the currency of influence. In an age of misinformation, surveillance fears, and opaque algorithms, trust must be earned through transparency and accountability. Leaders who embrace open governance, ethical AI, and consumer-first data models are setting the tone for responsible growth.

What also marks today's leaders is their ability to integrate climate intelligence into their strategies. Tech's carbon impact—from e-waste to data center emissions—is under scrutiny. Climate-forward leaders are building cleaner infrastructures, leveraging tech to decarbonize other sectors, and aligning innovation with planetary health.

Perhaps most importantly, modern leadership is about shared progress. Influence is no longer about being the first—it's about enabling others to rise. Mentorship, ecosystem building, ethical scaling, and community empowerment are now embedded in the leadership playbook.

As exponential technologies continue to reshape every domain of human life, one thing is clear: how we lead with technology will determine how we live with it.

The leaders defining 2025 are showing us a new path—not just faster, but fairer. Not just smarter, but more sustainable. And not just for profit—but for purpose.





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