

AI at BSI

A Century-Old Company Brings AI Models to Production in One-Third of the Time

The recently formed Data Science and AI (DSAI) innovation team at BSI turned to DataRobot to deliver value quickly, helping clients and colleagues across the organization to identify and enable data-driven digital transformation opportunities in a trusted way.

Challenge

As BSI built its data science team from the ground up, the company wanted to deliver value to the organization quickly. They saw machine learning (ML) as a key driver but needed a unified software platform that provided consistent and transparent ML processes.

Solution

The DataRobot AI Platform provides value end-to-end, from data ingestion to data quality checks to automated modeling—helping them find the best-fit models faster.

Result

The data science team brings models to production in one-third of the time. Moreover, model insights allow clients and auditors to focus precious resources on key areas of risk identified by data-driven evidence and sophisticated algorithms.

Building an Innovation Team

Around the world, more than 75,000 organizations partner with BSI to improve the quality, safety, and integrity of their products, services, and systems. At more than 100 years old, the Royal-Chartered organization publishes around 2,700 industry standards annually in areas including environmental sustainability, digital trust, health and safety, quality management, and the eradication of modern slavery.

When Craig Civil joined the organization as Director of Data Science and Artificial Intelligence, his role was clear: build an AI-focused innovation team that helps BSI accelerate progress and deliver on its purpose. Aptly, he would do so at one of the world's hubs of thought leadership, the Cambridge University Science Park.

As he created his team, Civil knew their software toolkit was key.

"We needed to transform the way we're working and the products and services we offer to clients in order to build digital trust, and I knew that data science and AI were core components of that transformation," Civil said.

Deploying an End-to-End AI Platform with DataRobot

In previous organizations, Civil often juggled multiple systems to get his job done. Data processing, quality checks, graphs and reports, stats and algorithms, and visualization and output each took place in separate applications.

With a budget to resource a new data science team and procure new software tools, Civil applied his experience from previous roles and identified the need for a unifying and transparent ML platform as a critical early requirement. Reaching out to several potential vendors, they contacted DataRobot.

The [DataRobot AI Platform](#) is the only open, complete AI lifecycle platform leveraging machine learning with end-to-end capabilities for both ML Experimentation and ML Production.

"The first draw for me to DataRobot was having a platform that brings together all of the components to create a successful, robust model," he said. "From data ingestion to quality checks to automated algorithms, it's an end-to-end solution."

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INDUSTRY

Consulting Services

PRODUCTS

DataRobot AI Platform, ML Production, ML Experimentation

COUNTRY

EMEA

SUMMARY

BSI is appointed by the UK Government as the National Standards Body and represents UK interests at the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) and the European Standards Organizations (CEN, CENELEC and ETSI). BSI traces its origins to 1901 and became the world's first National Standards Body. Its role is to help improve the quality, safety and integrity of products, services, and systems by facilitating the creation and maintenance of consensus-based, market-led standards and encouraging their use. BSI publishes over 2,700 standards annually and withdraws over 1,500 old or superseded standards using a collaborative approach, engaging with industry experts, government bodies, trade associations, businesses of all sizes and consumers to develop standards that reflect good practice. To learn more about standards, please visit: www.bsigroup.com/standards and for the National Standards Body: www.bsigroup.com/nsb

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Finding the Most Impactful Models Fast

From the start, Civil saw the value in the DataRobot Success Package, which gave them guidance from DataRobot [data scientists](#) through every step.

“It was as if the DataRobot team was part of my team,” he said. “They filled a temporary technical gap and supported me in succeeding as I recruited into my new team.”

As data scientists joined, they ramped up quickly on the platform via [DataRobot University](#).

Leading a growing data science team, Civil indeed finds having a single platform invaluable in optimizing the effectiveness and efficiency of their work. It brings the full flexibility to integrate with the company’s current ecosystem or use the API in the future. On the front end, DataRobot pulls data directly from Microsoft Azure, saving time and reducing the risk of errors in data transfer. They then view insights in Microsoft Power BI.

When creating models, automation helps them choose the most impactful models faster. Plus, they can quickly see why one model performs better than another and offer documentation on those decisions if a client or BSI colleague asks.

“Automation in DataRobot saves huge amounts of time,” Civil said. “Not only that, but the platform recommends models that we might not have considered.”

Uncovering Insights that Benefit Clients, Auditors, and Patient Safety

In BSI’s Assurance business, clients suggested that the more they know about their standards’ compliance performance relative to others in their industry, the happier they were. To help, BSI created a model to provide a predictive view into the likely outcome of their next audit and how that benchmarks across various indicators.

“DataRobot lets us give clients insight that helps them decide where to focus their scarce resources to prepare for the next audit,” Civil said.

Auditors also use those findings to understand where a client is relative to others in the industry and possible areas where the organization could focus resources to better mitigate business risk.

Additionally, the team is creating an ML solution to improve medical device safety. BSI receives reports of incidents related to medical devices from around the world. As data comes in, DataRobot helps make sense of it. If anything looks unusual, the model can trigger an alert to investigate it further.

“Proactively analyzing medical device data has the potential to help reduce failures and improve patient safety down the line,” Civil said.

Extending AI across BSI

Civil credits DataRobot for enabling his DSAI team to deliver trusted model predictions rapidly to internal and external clients.

“Having a single platform that pulls everything together can’t be underestimated,” he said.

“Then there’s the combination of the technology and the collaborative DataRobot team. If either one of those wasn’t there, I would have looked elsewhere.”

At BSI, now colleagues across the business are taking notice of the impact of AI, leading them to reach out to the DSAI team.

“People are coming to us with their ideas and opportunities for applications of data science and AI,” Civil said. “With DataRobot, we have a framework to help them and ultimately help build digital trust.”

As BSI applies AI to its modern challenges, this century-old company is proving that age is no barrier to innovation.



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Craig Civil

Director of Data Science and Artificial Intelligence

Contact Us

225 Franklin Street, 13th Floor, Boston, MA 02110, USA

datarobot.com info@datarobot.com