© MAY 2026 | IRE Journals | Volume 9 Issue 11 | ISSN: 2456-8880
DOI: https://doi.org/10.64388/IREV9I11-1717344

Artificial Intelligence System Design Automation for Equipment Maintenance Decision-Making in Oil And Gas Industry

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Abstract- This paper has investigated how automation of artificial intelligence system design takes place in equipment's maintenance decisions within the oil and gas sector. In the oil and gas industry, pumps, compressors, turbines, pipelines, drilling machines, storage tanks and refinery systems are necessary equipment that is vital. When these systems fail, it may cause a halt in production, losses and damages to the environment, safety risks, and decreased operational efficiency. Meanwhile traditional maintenance strategies like corrective and preventive maintenance are frequently not sufficient, since they are based on equivalence and predetermined maintenance programs, manual inspection, and actions taken after failures have already taken place. The research design was of qualitative research examining an organization of the literature on a systematic review of the scholarly works. Peer-reviewed journal articles, conference papers, books, and industrial reports on the topics of artificial intelligence, predictive maintenance, Internet of Things, digital twins, and oil and gas maintenance systems provided secondary data. The results have demonstrated that the most valuable technologies utilized in maintenance decision-making are machine learning, deep learning, predictive analytics, IoT, digital twins, and explainable AI since those enhance fault detection, equipment monitoring, predictive maintenance, and maintenance scheduling. The research also found that AI-based maintenance solutions are very common in the drilling process, pipeline inspection, refinery, offshore platforms, and gas processing plant. These technologies assist organizations to reduce downtimes, enhance equipment's reliability, cut down on maintenance expenses, enhance safety, and enable real-time decisions. Nonetheless, the paper also established some obstacles to the implementation of AI technologies in the oil and gas maintenance systems, such as poor maintenance data, high implementation cost, security concerns (cyber), insufficient infrastructure, unskilled human resources, and resistance to change were also identified. In the study, it was concluded that there is a great potential in terms of automation in the design of artificial intelligence system that is applicable in the oil and gas industry with respect to maintenance decision making of equipment. It suggested more funding in predictive maintenance systems, digital monitoring, explainable AI, IoT infrastructure, and employee training to enhance the collaboration and efficiency of AI-enhanced maintenance systems in the industry.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Predictive Maintenance, Oil And Gas Industry, Machine Learning, Deep Learning.

I. INTRODUCTION

The oil and gas industry is a capital intensive and technologically demanding industry in the world. Its operations rely significantly on the successful operation of vital machinery like the drilling machines, compressors, pumps, pipelines, turbines, valves, storage tanks, offshore platforms and refinery systems. These assets work in harsh environments, hot weather, corrosive conditions, and constant loads which are also susceptible to wear, fatigue, corrosion, leakage and other unplanned failures (Mardanov et al., 2025; Kang et al., 2025).

The failure of equipment in oil and gas industry can have devastating effects including loss of production, loss of money, environmental pollution and accidents in the workplace and loss of efficiency. Electric submersible pump failures, turbines, compressors, and pipeline system failures can interfere with production, as well as raise maintenance expenses. Common methods based on traditional approaches to maintenance that include corrective or preventive maintenance are ubiquitous, yet tend to be inefficient due to their reliance on pre-planned maintenance schedules or some form of reaction to the already happened failure of the equipment (Khalili et al., 2026; Azodo et al., 2025).

Corrective maintenance involves maintenance being done once a fault or a breakdown has happened whereas preventive maintenance is done at specified times, without regard to the reality of the state the equipment is in. Preventive maintenance minimizes the risk of unexpected breakdown, but can also cause unneeded maintenance, changing parts that are in good condition, and increasing election costs. By contrast, predictive maintenance takes real-time data on equipment and artificial intelligence models to decide when equipment is likely to break down, so that maintenance can be carried out at the most optimal moment (Adebayo, 2025; Adebayo, 2025b).

The latest wave of innovations of artificial intelligence, machine learning, deep learning, predictive analytics, Internet of Things (IoT), and digital twin technologies has opened new possibilities in the field of intelligent equipment maintenance decision-making in the oil and gas industry. The oil and gas facilities produce masses of operational data in the form of sensors and vibration systems, control systems, temperature, pressure, inspection reports and production records. With AI technologies, one can examine these large datasets, discover some hidden patterns, and notice abnormalities and forecast equipment failures before they happen (Meza et al., 2024; Rahman et al., 2025).

Decision trees, support vectors machine, random forests, and neural networks are machine learning techniques that are increasingly being applied in the oil and gas industry to detect faults, condition-based maintenance, predictive maintenance, and to schedule maintenance. The techniques have the potential to utilize past equipment data and enhance maintenance decisions overtime. Another area of services of deep learning methods is the analysis of sophisticated sensor signals, vibration data, thermal images, and acoustic equipment signals since these technologies can reveal latent connections in big and unstructured data (Ayeni, 2025; Abdelhafid et al., 2026).

IoT technologies are also significant in maintenance of equipment since sensors and intelligent devices can monitor equipment in real-time and provide feedback on equipment status. The IoT-enabled systems will follow-up constant monitoring in temperatures, pressure, vibration, fluid flow, equipment use and alert the engineers about any abnormalities, and lessen the chances of equipment breakdown. The digital twin technology is also gaining prominence since it develops virtual copies of the real equipment that can be simulated to behave like equipment, monitor performance and test maintenance approaches without having to interfere with real equipment (Veerappan, 2025; Limon et al., 2025).

Recent advances in explainable AI and edge computing, cloud computing and federated learning have continued to enhance AI-driven maintenance systems. Explainable AI is significant since the maintenance engineer will be expected to comprehend how AI systems make the recommendations on fault diagnosis and maintenance scheduling. This lowers the time lag in processing data in the cloud because the data analysis can be performed near the equipment origin, or in edge computing. Secure and decentralized data sharing between oil and gas facilities with sharing sensitive operational information through Federated learning is also possible (Zemmouchi-Ghomaria, 2025; Khan et al., 2026).

Although there is an increasing trend of using AI in oil and gas maintenance systems, there are still a number of challenges. They are large implementation process, ineffective maintenance data, cybersecurity risks, technical skill deficit, inadequate digital infrastructure, and the general issues in integrating AI-based solutions with the existing maintenance systems. Furthermore, there are no standard datasets and regulatory frameworks to measure AI-based maintenance systems in every organization. Thus, it is necessary to conduct a thorough study that will analyze automation in the design of artificial intelligence systems to decide on the maintenance of equipment in the oil and gas industry.

1.1 Statement of the Problem

The oil and gas sector relies a lot on proper functionality of very crucial equipment like compressors, pumps, turbines, pipelines, drilling machineries and storage units. Nonetheless, such systems are in most cases subjected to extreme work environments, pressures, corrosions, vibrations and constant workload, which heighten the chances of machinery breakdown. A failure of equipment may lead to delays in production and high maintenance expenses, risk of accidents, environmental harm, and massive losses incurred by oil and gas enterprises (Mardanov et al., 2025; Kang et al., 2025).

Although there are many modern approaches to maintenance like preventive maintenance and corrective maintenance, these two maintenance approaches are still prevalent in most oil and gas refineries. Corrective maintenance is done only after a failure has occurred whereas preventive maintenance is done as per predetermined schedules but does not look at the actual situation of equipment.

Such strategies are usually unproductive as they can result in unwarranted maintenance procedures, overservice of the equipment, unforeseen breakdowns, and increased operation expenses (Khalili et al., 2026; Azodo et al., 2025).

The use of artificial intelligence technologies, including machine learning, deep learning, Internet of Things, digital twins, and predictive analytics, has demonstrated the potential to influence the maintenance decision-making process, yet, despite the tremendous opportunities, not all oil and gas companies currently use the technologies. Other organizations have issues with bad data quality, unskilled staff, cybersecurity risks, insufficient facilities, and problems with the integration of AI systems into a current maintenance procedure (Rahman et al., 2025; Zemmouchi-Ghomaria, 2025).

One also lacks sufficient knowledge about how the integration of various AI technologies can be used to assist in intelligent decision-making in maintenance in the oil and gas sector. The existing research is often dedicated to one of the particular technologies, i.e., predictive maintenance, IoT monitoring, or machine learning without a systematic overview of the automation of the design of AI systems in maintenance operations. Thus, additional studies are required to analyze the manner in which automation of equipment maintenance systems usage facilitated by AI can enhance performance in oil and gas industry by decreasing downtime and increasing level of safety and efficiency in the industry (Adebayo, 2025a; Abdelhafid et al., 2026).

1.2 Aim and Objectives of the Study

The aim of this study is to examine the role of artificial intelligence system design automation in equipment maintenance decision-making in the oil and gas industry.

The specific objectives of the study are to:

1. Examine the limitations of traditional equipment maintenance methods in the oil and gas industry.
2. Analyze the role of artificial intelligence technologies such as machine learning, deep learning, Internet of Things, predictive analytics, and digital twins in equipment maintenance decision-making.
3. Evaluate the benefits and applications of AI-driven maintenance systems in reducing downtime, improving equipment reliability, increasing safety, and lowering maintenance costs in the oil and gas industry.
4. Identify the major challenges affecting the adoption of AI technologies in oil and gas equipment maintenance and recommend strategies for improving their implementation.

1.3 Scope of the Study

This paper is dedicated to artificial intelligence system design automation to make decisions related to equipment maintenance in the oil and gas industry. The research investigates the significant maintenance issues encountered in the industry, mechanical breakdowns, unavailability, corrosion, leakages, and wear, and security threats posed by key assets such as pumps, compressors, turbines, pipelines, drilling apparatus, storage tanks and refinery systems.

The research paper has a particular focus on the use of artificial intelligence machinery (e.g., machine learning, deep learning, predictive analytics, Internet of Things, digital twins, explainable AI, and cloud-based monitoring systems) in maintenance functions. It also explores the potential of these technologies in the areas of fault detection, condition monitoring, predictive maintenance, maintenance planning, and decision-making at oil and gas plants (Meza et al., 2024; Veerappan, 2025).

Only scholarly articles, books, conference papers, and industry reports published in the period 2021-2025 will be included in the study. It dwells primarily on the recent events, trends, applications, advantages, and challenges related to AI-based maintenance systems in the oil and gas industry. This is because other industries, like manufacturing, transportation, healthcare, or agriculture are not addressed in the study unless an example is needed to conduct comparisons (Rahman et al., 2025; Abdelhafid et al., 2026).

1.4 Study Importance.
The importance of the study is that it offers an idea of how artificial intelligence can enhance the decision-making process of avoiding equipment maintenance failures in the oil and gas sector. The study will provide oil and gas companies with an understanding of the need to be efficient by implementing AI-driven maintenance systems to lessen equipment failure, reduce downtime, decreases maintenance costs, and enhance operational efficiency (Mardanov et al., 2025; Azodo et al., 2025).

Maintenance engineers, plant operators, and other technical staff will also find the study useful since it shows how technologies, including machine learning, deep learning, Internet of Things, digital twins, predictive analytics and explainable AI, can be utilized in maintenance operations. These technologies can assist in fault detection, monitoring equipment conditions, predictive maintenance, and maintenance scheduling, thus assist the organizations in making superior decisions regarding maintenance (Adebayo, 2025a; Rahman et al., 2025).

To the researcher and students, the study will add to the existing literature on the applications of artificial intelligence in oil and gas industry. It will serve as a foundation of future research on AI-based maintenance systems, digital transformation, automation of industries, and smart decision-making within the energy industry (Kang et al., 2025; Abdelhafid et al., 2026).

It will also create value to the policymakers, regulatory agencies, and industry players by gaining understanding of the issues plaguing the adoption of AI in the oil and gas sector such as cybersecurity, bad data, lack of skilled workforce and insufficient infrastructure. Knowing of these challenges would enable the decision-makers to make policies, training programs, and investment strategies that assist in the successful introduction of AI technologies in maintenance systems (Zemmouchi-Ghomaria, 2025; Khan et al., 2026).

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Due to the capacity to work with the extensive amounts of operational data, detect any latent tendencies, and assist in making informed decisions, artificial intelligence has turned out to be one of the most significant technologies applied in industrial maintenance systems in the modern world. Artificial intelligence technologies are becoming more popular in the oil and gas sector to enhance the efficiency of maintenance, limit the number of equipment downtimes and inform predictive maintenance policies. The conventional forms of maintenance like corrective and preventive maintenance are sometimes said to be ineffective as these are not able to forecast the failure of equipment or utilize the maintenance schedules effectively. Consequently, the oil and gas industries are becoming more and more inclined towards AI-based maintenance solutions that could enhance the maintenance stability and performance of equipment (Mardanov et al., 2025; Azodo et al., 2025).

The modes of traditional maintenance in oil and gas industry majorly involve corrective maintenance, preventive maintenance and condition-based maintenance. When there has been a fault, corrective maintenance is implemented whereas preventive maintenance is implemented at regular intervals. Condition-based maintenance is based on sensor measurements and monitoring equipment to gauge when maintenance is required. Despite the usefulness of these methods, they are normally constrained by the delay in detecting faults, unnecessary maintenance procedures, and high maintenance expenses. This has led to predictive maintenance being a more sophisticated procedure since it is based on historical data, sensor rates and the application of machine learning models to predict failure of equipments before they happen (Adebayo, 2025a; Khalili et al., 2026).

One of the most popular AI technologies in predictive maintenance systems is machine learning. Equipment fault detection, classification, anomaly detection, and failure prediction are most frequently performed by machine learning algorithms, which may include decision trees, random forests, support machines, neural networks, and k-nearest neighbors. Such algorithms are trained using both past records of maintenance and operational data with the aim of harnessing trends of degradation and failures of equipment. Machine learning models have started to be used in the oil and gas industry to track pumps, compressors, turbines, drilling, and pipeline infrastructure (Ayeni, 2025; Adebayo, 2025).

Algorithms in the Studies that were reviewed.
The literature examined relied on a number of artificial intelligence and machine learning-based algorithms to aid predictive maintenance, fault diagnosis, anomaly detection, condition monitoring, and maintenance scheduling in the oil and gas sector. Decision Tree, Random Forest, Support Vector Machine (SVM), Artificial Neural Network (ANN), Convolutional Neural Network (CNN), Recurrent Neural Network (RNN), Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM), and K-Nearest Neighbor (KNN) were the most popular algorithms.

Equipment classification and decision-making maintenance were performed with decision tree algorithms as the algorithm offers a list of easy and interpretable decision rules. Random Forest algorithms became commonly used to identify faults and predict failures since they use numerous decision trees to enhance the prediction accuracy and minimize overfitting.

In predictive maintenance literature, the Support Vector Machine (SVM) algorithms have been employed to predict the condition of equipment as normal or faulty based on vibration, temperature, pressure, and sensor data. The K-Nearest Neighbor (KNN) algorithms were employed to classify equipment conditions based on the comparison between present behavior of equipments and past maintenance records.

The identification of intricate correlations between the state of operation and the maintenance results of equipment was carried out using Artificial Neural Networks (ANNs). These models proved to be helpful in the prediction of equipment failure and simultaneous analysis of several operating variables.

The reviewed studies also commonly used deep learning algorithms like Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs), and Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks. The applications of CNNs were primarily in vibration signal analysis, sound signal analysis, thermal analysis, visual inspection data of industrial equipment. Time-series forecasting was implemented using RNNs and LSTM networks since they are capable of processing chronological sensor readings and making forecasts on the future regarding equipment failures based on past operational factors.

The studies also provided evidence on the use of explainable artificial intelligence methods like SHAP (Shapley Additive Explanations) and LIME (Local Interpretable Model-Agnostic Explanations) to enhance the usability and understandability of predictive maintenance models. Moreover, machine learning algorithms were combined with Digital Twin technology to simulate the behavior of equipment and track its degradation and assessing maintenance plans, before they were put into practice.

Another significant aspect of AI that has drawn attention in maintenance systems due to its capacity to handle unstructured and complex data is known as deep learning. Convolutional neural networks, recurrent neural networks, and long short-term memory networks are deep learning models that can prove to be especially helpful in the analysis of vibration signals, thermal images, acoustic data, and sensor readings in industrial equipment. These models are able to automatically extract complex features out of raw data and enhance the accuracy of equipment fault and predictive maintenance systems. Showing potential applications in oil and gas facilities is due to the vast quantity of sensor and monitoring data produced by industrial equipment, which is being trained via deep learning (Abdelhafid et al., 2026; Kang et al., 2025).

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DOI: https://doi.org/10.64388/IREV9I11-1717344

The Internet of Things has also gained relevance as an essential technology in maintenance systems of oil and gas as it enables the constant monitoring of equipment with the help of connected sensors and smart gadgets. IoT-based maintenance systems have the ability to gather real-time pressure and temperature data, vibration data, humidity and flow rate data and equipment usage data. Ai models can then be used to analyze this information and determine abnormal conditions and future equipment failures. The combination of IoT and AI enhances robust maintenance engineers in making prompt decisions and minimize the probability of expensive machine breakdowns (Rahman et al., 2025; Khan et al., 2026).

Another significant development of AI-based maintenance systems is the digital twin technology. Digital twin A digital twin is a virtual model of a tangible asset that is employed to model the operation of equipment and track the condition of the equipment and to make tests and experiments regarding the maintenance approaches. Digital twins are becoming popular in the oil and gas sector to model drilling equipment, turbines, pipelines, pumps, and offshore platforms. Digital twin systems may enhance predictive maintenance as they enable engineers to consider the future state of equipment and detect faults before they develop a critical nature (Meza et al., 2024; Veerappan, 2025).

Recently, the use of explainable artificial intelligence in maintenance decision-making has also been highlighted in studies. Explainable AI makes engineers and maintenance professionals comprehend the way AI systems reach particular maintenance recommendations. This is significant as numerous AI systems are functioning as black boxes that include predictions without articulating them. Explainable AI facilitates more trust, transparency, and accountability in predictive maintenance systems, especially in sectors like oil and gas where predictive maintenance decisions can potentially lead to severe safety and financial outcomes (Zemmouchi-Ghomaria, 2025; Khan et al., 2026).

Although the advantages of AI-based maintenance systems are obvious, they are not the only problems that plague adopting these mechanisms in the oil and gas sector. These barriers involve high implementation expenses, untrained staff, low quality of maintenance data, cyber threats, data confidentiality issues, and challenges with connecting AI systems to the current maintenance systems.

Moreover, automation of maintenance recommendations remains an additional barrier to change in many oil and gas organizations due to the uncertainty inherent among the employees. These issues display a necessity of conducting further studies on the successful AI systems design automation to assist in making maintenance decisions in the oil and gas industry (Limon et al., 2025; Shamim and Ruddro, 2025).

Meta-Analysis Table of Reviewed Studies

Author/Year	Objective of the Study	Methodology	Findings/Results	Strengths	Weaknesses
Mardanov, Mavlutova, & Sloka (2025)	To examine how AI-driven predictive maintenance and digital twin technology can optimize maintenance in oil and gas operations	Literature review and case-based conceptual analysis	Found that AI and digital twins improve fault prediction, maintenance planning, and cost efficiency in oil and gas equipment management	Strong focus on oil and gas context; links predictive maintenance with digital twin systems	Limited empirical validation and small practical case scope

Mardanov, Mavlutova, & Sloka (2025)	To analyze the role of AI-powered predictive maintenance in maximizing efficiency and profitability in oil and gas	Bibliometric and literature-based review using recent publications	Reported that predictive maintenance, digital twins, and machine learning are major emerging themes in oil and gas maintenance research	Good trend analysis and strong relevance to industrial maintenance	More focused on trends than detailed technical performance comparison
Alabbad & Altınkaya (2026)	To validate an intelligent predictive maintenance architecture using digital twin and AI in the Badra Oil Field project	Real-world validation study and architecture design	Found that combining digital twin, AI, and automation improves maintenance prediction accuracy and operational coordination	Provides practical field-based validation in oil-related infrastructure	Focused on a specific project environment, limiting broader generalization
Khalili, Ahmadi, & Keshavarz Moraveji (2026)	To review predictive maintenance for electric submersible pumps in oil and gas	Structured review	Found that IoT, edge computing, digital twins, and AI improve reliability, sustainability, and maintenance efficiency for ESP systems	Strong relevance to oil and gas lifting equipment; current and practical	Narrow focus on ESP systems rather than the whole industry
Meza, Souza, Copetti, Sobral, et al. (2024)	To analyze tools, technologies, and frameworks for digital twins in the oil and gas industry	In-depth review	Found that digital twins, AI, and analytics play critical roles in predictive maintenance, simulation, and asset management	Comprehensive technology coverage; strong discussion of frameworks	Broader digital twin focus, not exclusively maintenance decision-making
Rahman, Shahrior, Iqbal, & Abushaiba (2025)	To review machine learning applications with digital twin and edge AI integration in intelligent industrial automation	Review study	Found that predictive maintenance is one of the strongest application areas of ML when integrated with digital twins and edge AI	Strong explanation of integration among AI, digital twin, and edge systems	Not limited specifically to oil and gas operations
Zemmouchi-Ghomaria (2025)	To review explainable AI for predictive maintenance and	Review and framework development	Found that explainable AI improves trust, transparency, and	Important for maintenance decision support and human trust	General predictive maintenance focus rather

	propose a standardized evaluation framework		interpretability in maintenance systems		than oil and gas only
Abdelhafid, Anwar, & Mustapha (2026)	To systematically review AI-driven predictive maintenance models, methods, and challenges in Industry 4.0	Systematic literature review	Found that deep learning, digital twins, explainable AI, and prescriptive maintenance are major emerging directions	Strong methodological coverage and challenge identification	Broader industrial scope beyond oil and gas
Khan, Khan, Moser, & Rafique (2026)	To provide a comprehensive survey of AI-driven predictive maintenance in Industrial IoTs	Comprehensive survey	Reported that AI, IoT, explainability, and adaptive systems improve industrial fault prediction and maintenance automation	Good theoretical depth on AI-IoT integration	Not specific to oil and gas industry
Kang, Zhao, & Zhang (2025)	To review research progress on oilfield equipment condition monitoring and fault prediction based on big data and AI	Methods review and prospects analysis	Found that AI-based fault prediction improves monitoring intelligence and supports preventive maintenance in oilfield equipment	Direct relevance to oilfield equipment; strong sector focus	More review-oriented with limited empirical performance testing
Adebayo (2025a)	To review predictive maintenance in the age of machine learning across industrial applications	Review of industrial applications	Found that machine learning enhances predictive maintenance through better failure detection, digital twin integration, and maintenance optimization	Useful for explaining industrial adoption patterns	Not specific to oil and gas sector
Adebayo (2025b)	To review machine learning practices and applications for predictive maintenance	Comprehensive review	Found that ML methods improve classification, diagnostics, and maintenance forecasting across equipment-intensive industries	Broad overview of ML techniques in maintenance	Limited sector-specific detail for oil and gas
Ayeni (2025)	To examine the integration of AI	Review paper	Found that AI, deep learning, and digital	Good explanation of AI	General engineering

	in predictive maintenance for mechanical and industrial engineering		twins improve equipment monitoring and maintenance planning	techniques and maintenance functions	perspective rather than oil and gas specific
Shamim & Ruddro (2025)	To systematically review AI-enabled predictive maintenance tools and condition monitoring techniques	Systematic review	Found that machine learning-based predictive maintenance tools improve condition monitoring and maintenance automation	Strong review of tools and condition monitoring methods	Limited direct focus on oil and gas facilities

Taken together, the studies reviewed demonstrate that it is the automation of the design of artificial intelligence systems that is developing into a significant contributor to equipment maintenance decisions in the oil and gas industry. Predictive maintenance, machine learning, digital twins, IoT-based monitoring, and explainable AI became the most significant maintenance technologies due to their capability to advance failure predict, maintenance planning, reliability of a system, and efficiency of its operation. Nevertheless, the literature shows that there remain significant challenges associated with data quality, cost of implementation, cybersecurity, and interrelation with the current systems of maintenance.

III. CURRENT TRENDS, APPLICATION AREAS, AND GAP ANALYSIS

There is a growing trend of use of artificial intelligence technologies in oil and gas industries to alter equipment maintenance practice. The significant trend is the increased usage of predictive maintenance tools based on machine learning and sensor data to detect early machine failure. The use of predictive maintenance is measured against the conventional reactive and schedule-based maintenance due to their enhanced reliability, downtime and cost of maintenance. Almost every oil and gas company currently deploys AI-powered predictive cameras to assess pumps, compressors, turbines, pipeline, drilling machines, and refinery machinery online (Adebayo, 2025; Ayeni, 2025).

The second significant trend is the introduction of the Internet of Things technologies into the maintenance systems. The IoT sensors are also utilized to measure temperature, pressure, vibration, flow rate, corrosion, and performance of equipment. These sensors produce unending streams of real-time data that could be broken down with the help of AI models to react to abnormal conduct and forecast future breakdowns. The convergence of the IoT and AI is enhancing faster and more precise decision-making by the maintenance engineers in the oil and gas plants (Rahman et al., 2025; Khan et al., 2026).

Another area where digital twin technology is gaining significance is in the maintenance activities in the oil and gas industry. Digital twins are simulation models of physical assets that can simulate equipment behavior, wear and tear, and assess maintenance plans. Applications of digital twins by oil and gas companies are applied to pipelines, offshore platforms, drilling systems, turbines, and refinery equipment. These systems enable the engineers to simulate various maintenance conditions with no adherence to actual operation, thus lessening risks and enhancing maintenance planning (Meza et al., 2024; Veerappan, 2025).

Recent achievements of explainable AI and edge computing have also impacted the decision-making process in maintenance. Explainable AI becomes popular due to the fact that, as a maintenance engineer, one has to know how AI systems come up with the predictions and recommendations. This is especially significant in oil and gas settings where safety, productivity and environmental protection might be influenced by maintenance decision-making. The trend of edge computing is also becoming common as it enables data processing to be performed in juxtaposition to the equipment origin, and reduces delays and enhances real-time monitoring performance (Zemmouchi-Ghomaria, 2025; Limon et al., 2025).

The oil and gas industry has numerous applications of artificial intelligence. AI is also deployed in drilling activities to monitor drilling equipment, anticipate failures and optimization of drilling. In pipeline systems AI aids the process of leak detection, monitoring corrosion, and integrity management of pipelines. Other areas of AI application in refinery include pumps, valves, compressors, and heat exchangers. AI is commonly used in offshore oil and gas platforms as well as gas processing plants and storage facilities where the success of operations heavily depends on the reliability of equipment (Kang et al., 2025; Abdelhafid et al., 2026).

In spite of these advances, there are still a number of gaps in the literature and reality of implementing AI-based maintenance systems in the oil and gas industry. To begin with, numerous publications also concentrate on machine learning and predictive maintenance without exploring the combination of many AI technologies like IoT, digital twins, explainable AI, and federated learning. Second, there is still limited research on the use of explainable AI in oil and gas maintenance systems despite its importance for trust and transparency. Third, the barriers that restrict the implementation of AI technologies in maintenance operations in many developing countries include poor digital infrastructure, lack of technical knowledge and expertise and exorbitant implementation costs (Shamim and Ruddro, 2025; Khalili et al., 2026).

The other gap that matters is that there is no standardized dataset and structure of the evaluation of maintenance systems that are based on AI in the oil and gas sector. It is challenging to compare AI models in various studies and in different industrial settings since many organizations continue to use proprietary data on maintenance. That is why it is necessary to conduct further studies on the concept of integrated AI maintenance, data-sharing strategies, cybersecurity, and the performance of AI-based maintenance systems on the long-term oil and gas operations (Mardanov et al., 2025; Azodo et al., 2025).

IV. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research design in this study was qualitative, with a systematic review of the literature. The qualitative method was deemed suitable since the research aimed at investigating, contrasting, and generalizing the currently available knowledge on the automation of the artificial intelligence system to support the decision-making process about equipment maintenance in the oil and gas sector instead of gathering primary quantitative data (Shamim and Ruddro, 2025; Khalili et al., 2026).

The research was based on secondary data of peer-reviewed journal articles, conference papers, books, industry reports, and academic publications about artificial intelligence, predictive maintenance, machine learning, Internet of Things, digital twins, and oil and gas equipment maintenance. The selection of studies was restricted to those published within the past two years (2021-2025) to reflect the latest developments and trends in AI-based maintenance systems (Meza et al., 2024; Rahman et al., 2025).

In the study, several scholarly databases were consulted to get pertinent literature. These were Google scholar, scopus, science direct, IEEE Xplore, SpringerLink, Web of science, and researchgate. The databases were chosen as they hold credible and current scholarly sources of information about artificial intelligence, industrial maintenance, predictive analytics, and oil and gas technologies (Adebayo, 2025a; Veerappan, 2025).

Specific inclusion and exclusion criteria were used during the selection of the reviewed studies. The studies included needed to be directly related to the applications of artificial intelligence in oil and gas maintenance systems, predictive maintenance, fault diagnosis, equipment monitoring, digital twins, IoT, or similar technologies. The material has gone through the review process of the existing studies published prior to 2021, research that is not directly related to the oil and gas industry, and unpeer-reviewed literature were excluded (Ayeni, 2025; Abdelhafid et al., 2026).

The thematic analysis was employed to analyze the collected literature. Key themes identified in the process of review were traditional maintenance processes, predictive maintenance, machine learning, deep learning, and IoT-based monitoring, digital twins, explainable AI, barriers to implementation, and future trends. The strengths and limitations of various AI technologies along with their applications in maintenance decision-making were also analyzed comparatively in the oil and gas sector (Kang et al., 2025; Zemmouchi-Ghomaria, 2025).

The approach used as research in this study offered a systematic manner of determining present trends, key discoveries, research gaps, and actual uses of AI system design automation in oil and gas equipment maintenance. It also assisted in gaining the overall picture of how AI technologies may be utilized in increasing the maintenance efficiency, speeding down the downtime and enhancing the decision-making in the industrial setting.

V. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The results of this paper have shown that the technologies of artificial intelligence have gained importance in the oil and gas companies to make decisions regarding the maintenance of equipment. The literature revealed that machine learning, deep learning, predictive analytics, the Internet of Things, and digital twins technologies are currently common AI solutions to enhancing the efficiency of the maintenance process and preventing equipment failures. Such technologies can help organizations to transition beyond reactive and schedule-based maintenance methods to more intelligent predictive maintenance systems (Adebayo, 2025; Ayeni, 2025).

The study found that predictive maintenance is one of the most important applications of AI in the oil and gas industry. Predictive maintenance systems take historical data of the equipment, sensor readings, vibration, pressure, data, and records of the equipment operations to do future predictions of equipment failure. The method assists maintenance engineers to detect defects before they are critical hence cutting down the downtime, minimizing their maintenance expenses and enhancing equipment reliability. Predictive maintenance was identified as especially helpful due to the pumps, compressors, turbines, as well as pipes and drills (Khalili et al., 2026; Meza et al., 2024).

The obtained results also revealed that decision trees, support vectors machine, neural networks, random forests and k-nearest neighbors are highly popular machine learning algorithms used in fault detection, anomaly detection, equipment classification and failure prediction. These algorithms are capable of processing large amounts of maintenance data and finding patterns related to equipment wear, degradation and failure. It was discovered that deep learning models were particularly helpful to analyze more complex and unstructure data, e.g., thermal images, vibration signals, acoustic signals, and video footage of industrial equipment (Abdelhafid et al., 2026; Kang et al., 25).

It also emerged that IoT technologies are transforming into necessary parts of maintenance systems in the oil and gas sector. The IoT sensors have the ability to continuously record real-time data about the temperature, pressure, vibration, humidity, corrosion, and performance of the equipment. This information may then be combined with the AI models to assist with real-time monitoring, fault detection, and maintenance decision making. The results indicate that IoT and AI together enhance capabilities of the organizations to increase their responsiveness to equipment issues and mitigate the risks of system failures (Rahman et al., 2025; Khan et al., 2026).

One more area of digital twin that could play a crucial role in equipment maintenance decision-making was identified. Digital twins develop online models of real devices which can be applied to emulate equipment performance, observe the conditions of its functioning and analyze the maintenance plans. This is because these systems enable the engineers to tell how equipment is likely to perform in various circumstances and pin point potential failure before it takes place. It was discovered that the application of digital twins led to the enhancement of maintenance planning and optimization of equipment work and minimized the risk associated with maintenance in oil and gas processes (Veerappan, 2025; Limon et al., 2025).

Although AI technologies have certain advantages, the research has found some challenges influencing their application in the oil and gas sector. These factors are low quality maintenance data, expensive implementations, lack of skilled workforce, cybersecurity risks, insufficient digital facilities and employee resistance to change. A variety of organizations continue to struggle to merge AI systems with the current maintenance procedures and technologies in use. Moreover, the fact that not all AI models can be explained is also a key issue since without awareness of how they are calculated, maintenance workers may not fully rely on the automated maintenance proposals (Zemmouchi-Ghomaria, 2025; Shamim and Ruddro, 2025).

VI. PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

The design of the artificial intelligence system automation may have multiple applications in the oil and gas industry, as AI simplifies monitoring of the equipment, maintenance scheduling, and diagnostics of the equipment bugs, as well as operations optimization. A significant field of application is predictive maintenance, where AI models are utilized to approximate the remaining useful life for the equipment and when failures are likely to happen before they occur. The application of predictive maintenance systems is more often related to the facility of pumps, compressors, turbines, drilling machines, pipelines, and refinery equipment to shorten the duration of failure and eliminate expensive failures (Adebayo, 2025a; Khalili et al., 2026).

AI technologies have been applied in the drilling processes in monitoring the drilling equipment, recognize the abnormal conditions, optimization of the drilling parameters and enhance the efficiency of the drilling process. Machine learning algorithms can process the information on the drilling sensors and identify equipment issues, wear of drill bits, and minimize the possibility of a failure in the working process. These systems do assist the oil and gas companies in enhancing drilling performance and cutting down on costs of maintenance (Kang et al., 2025; Ayeni, 2025).

Pipeline monitoring and integrity management are also some of the applications of artificial intelligence. AI systems are able to examine the pressure data, vibration patterns, flow rates, and corrosion rates with the aim of identifying leaks, detected the weak points in the pipeline, and foretell the loss of a pipeline. It is especially essential since the breakage of pipelines may lead to the pollution of nature, economic losses, and even threats to people. AI in pipeline surveillance enhances earlier faults detection, thus making more efficient maintenance planning (Meza et al., 2024; Rahman et al., 2025).

AI technologies are applied in refinery operations to observe the operation of pumps, compressors, valves, turbines as well as heat exchangers. IoT-based systems of monitoring constantly gather data about equipment status and update maintenance engineers with real-time information. This data can then be analyzed with machine learning and deep learning models to identify abnormal behavior, suggest actions of equipment failure, and prescribe maintenance. The technologies enhance the reliability of equipment and make the refinery operations less prone to unplanned shutdown (Abdelhafid et al., 2026; Limon et al., 2025).

Another significant practical use of digital twin technology is related to its role in oil and gas maintenance systems. Digital twins enable companies to build virtual models of physical devices like pipelines, turbines, compressors, and offshore platforms. They can be utilized as virtual models to simulate how equipment responds, and how maintenance strategies work, as well as predicting how equipment will behave in varied operating environments. Digital twins thus assist the maintenance engineers to decide more wisely without disrupting the real practices (Veerappan, 2025; Zemmouchi-Ghomaria, 2025).

Artificial intelligence is also practical in offshore oil and gas facilities where a malfunction of equipment may have severe safety and environmental repercussions. The equipment involved in offshore drilling, subsea pipelines, pumps, compressors, and safety systems are monitored using AI-based systems. These systems enhance the process of maintaining decisions by alerting in real time, detecting early faults, as well as emergency responses planning. Smart maintenance systems also contribute to the enhancement of the safety of workers and the prevention of accidents among offshore settings (Mardanov et al., 2025; Shamim and Ruddro, 2025).

VII. SUMMARY, CONCLUSION, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary

This paper has discussed how the automation of artificial intelligence systems design can be utilized in the oil and gas industry in making equipment maintenance decisions. The researchers concluded that conventional methods of maintenance, including corrective maintenance and preventive maintenance are not frequently effective due to their strong inability to predict breaksage or optimize the maintenance schedule. Due to this fact, oil and gas companies are turning towards using artificial intelligence technologies like machine learning, deep learning, Internet of Things, predictive analytics, digital twins, and explainable AI to enhance performance in the field of maintenance.

The research concluded that AI technologies are commonly applied in predictive maintenance, fault detection, monitoring pipeline, drilling business, refinery management, offshore platforms, and equipment health. The technologies assist organizations to cut back downtimes, enhance equipment reliability, reduce maintenance expenses, maximize safety, and enhance operational efficiency. Nevertheless, the research discovered numerous obstacles impacting AI adoption, such as low-quality data, high costs to implement, insufficient skilled staff, cybersecurity threats, and inadequate infrastructure (Khalili et al., 2026; Rahman et al., 2025).

Conclusion

The research concluded that in the oil and gas industry, the design automation systems of artificial intelligence systems can make a great transformation in the decision-making process in the maintenance of oil and gas equipment. Compared to other services, AI-based maintenance systems are more accurate, efficient and proactive in terms of maintenance solutions as they can analyze bulk and large amounts of equipment data, predictive maintenance failures, and aid in the real-time decision-making process.

The paper also found that machine learning, deep learning, IoT, digital twins, and explainable AI are becoming significant technologies necessary to enhance the reliability and minimize operational risks in oil and gas facilities. Although the implementation comes with its challenges, the advantages of AI technologies in maintenance operations are more than the limitations. Thus, the oil and gas companies are advised to invest in smart maintenance systems to enhance productivity, safety, and equipment efficiency.

Recommendations

1. Oil and gas companies could invest more in predictive maintenance systems that may rely on the application of artificial intelligence to forecast equipment malfunctions and generate better maintenance schedules.
2. Organizations must step up utilization of IoT sensors and digital surveillance to gather real-time data on equipment status and aid quicker decisions to maintain equipment.
3. Engineers, technicians, and maintenance workers should be further trained and capacity built on using AI technologies in their maintenance processes.
4. Cybersecurity measures within oil and gas companies need to be enhanced to prevent any cyber threat and unauthorized access to AI-based maintenance systems.
5. Explainable AI systems should be given more focus in order to make maintenance engineers aware of how AI models are used to make predictions and recommendations.
6. Government and industry regulators ought to facilitate the formulation of standards, policies and infrastructure to adopt AI in the oil and gas industry.

VIII. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The effective achievement of this research was enabled by the support and input of some people and organizations. To start with, it is only through the strength, wisdom and opportunity proffered by God Almighty that this work has been finished successfully.

Special thanks are given to lecturers, supervisors and academic mentors whose guidance, suggestions and constructive criticism helped in the formulation of this study. The support, as well as professional counseling, proved invaluable during the procedure of the research.

Researchers, authors and publishers whose scholarly works supplied information and literature utilized in this research are also appreciated. The book, journal articles, conference papers and industry reports have been used as the source in order to appreciate the automation of the design of artificial intelligence systems to make decisions on equipment maintenance in the oil and gas industry.

Lastly, it is important to mention that it would not be possible to prepare this study without the support, encouragement, and motivation of relatives, friends, and colleagues.

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DOI: https://doi.org/10.64388/IREV9I11-1717344

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