Top R&D Priorities for 2023

Across 2022, R&D Leaders invested significant time addressing economic headwinds, a tight labor market and concerns about sustained growth, due to shifts in demand and critical customer needs. See where R&D leaders plan to focus their efforts in 2023.
Top Management Priorities for R&D Leaders in 2023

- **Attracting and retaining critical technical talent**: 90% critical, 51% confident
- **Understanding critical customer needs**: 86%, 71%
- **Reducing product development cycle times**: 84%, 50%
- **Optimizing R&D project resourcing**: 83%, 70%
- **Balancing investment between long-term and short-term opportunities**: 82%, 55%
- **Selecting technologies for investment for long-term growth**: 81%, 56%
- **Accelerating speed to maturity for technologies in the R&D portfolio**: 80%, 45%

Source: Gartner
Planned Increases in Technology Investment in 2023

- **Data Analysis**: 64%
- **Prototyping and Testing**: 58%
- **Automation**: 57%
- **Data Sensing/Collection**: 49%
- **Security Technologies**: 35%
- **Power Technologies**: 17%

*Source: Gartner*
Change in Budgetary Scrutiny in 2022

Q: Compared to one year ago, how has the scrutiny of R&D budgets by senior leaders and the board changed, if at all?

- Increase: 39%
- About the same: 56%
- Decrease: 2%
- Don't Know: 3%

n = 121. Source: Gartner 2023 Agenda Poll for R&D Leaders.

Expected Change in Ability to Fill Roles

Q: How would you characterize the ease or difficulty of filling open roles in the R&D organization?

- Difficult: 81%
- Easy: 7%
- Neither: 7%
- Don't Know: 4%

n = 121. Source: Gartner 2023 Agenda Poll for R&D Leaders.
Key Findings

• Understanding customer needs, attracting and retaining technical talent, and speeding cycle times are the top challenges facing R&D leaders as they enter 2023.

• Data analysis, prototyping and automation technologies top the list of planned technology investment increases for R&D leaders.

• Most R&D leaders anticipate a challenging hiring environment and continued budget scrutiny as they look forward to 2023.
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Research: Explore Gartner’s Library of Actionable Insights

Events: Expert-led deep dive on Top Priorities for R&D Leaders in 2023

How We Help: Gartner for R&D Leaders