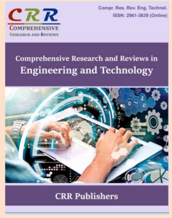
CRR COMPREHENSIVE RESEARCH AND REVIEWS

Comprehensive Research and Reviews in
Engineering and Technology
Journal homepage: https://crrjournals.com/crret/
ISSN: 2961-3639 (Online)



(REVIEW ARTICLE)

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AI-enabled predictive safeguards for offshore oil facilities: Enhancing safety and operational efficiency

Adeoye Taofik Aderamo [1, *], Henry Chukwuemeka Olisakwe [2], Yetunde Adenike Adebayo [3] and Andrew Emuobosa Esiri [4]

[1] *Independent Researcher; Lagos Nigeria.*
[2] *Department of Mechanical Engineering, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka Nigeria.*
[3] *Independent Researcher, United Kingdom.*
[4] *Independent Researcher, Houston Texas, USA.*

Comprehensive Research and Reviews in Engineering and Technology, 2024, 02(01), 023–043

Publication history: Received on 08 July 2024; revised on 17 August 2024; accepted on 20 August 2024

Article DOI: https://doi.org/10.57219/crret.2024.2.1.0060

Abstract

Offshore oil facilities operate in some of the most challenging environments, facing complex safety risks that can lead to catastrophic incidents if not properly managed. Traditional safety systems, while effective, often rely on reactive measures rather than proactive risk mitigation strategies. This paper explores the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into predictive safety safeguards for offshore oil platforms, aiming to enhance both safety and operational efficiency. The proposed model focuses on the real-time monitoring of key operational parameters, data analytics, and machine learning algorithms to predict potential hazards before they escalate into critical incidents. By leveraging AI, operators can predict failures in equipment, detect anomalies in operational conditions, and optimize response strategies, thus minimizing downtime and preventing costly accidents. The paper presents a comprehensive framework for operationalizing AI-driven safety systems, highlighting the key components necessary for successful implementation, including data acquisition, sensor integration, and algorithm development. Machine learning models are trained on historical data from previous offshore operations, enabling predictive maintenance and early warning systems for critical equipment such as blowout preventers and pipelines. The model also incorporates a risk-based decision-making process that assesses real-time threats to inform the prioritization of safety actions. In addition to enhancing safety, the AI-enabled system promotes operational efficiency by reducing false alarms and enabling more precise resource allocation. The predictive nature of the system leads to reduced maintenance costs and extended asset life. The paper emphasizes the need for continuous data updating and human oversight to ensure that AI systems adapt to evolving operational conditions. The research concludes by outlining key challenges and future directions, such as improving the accuracy of AI models, addressing cybersecurity risks, and integrating AI with existing regulatory frameworks in the offshore oil sector. This study contributes to the growing body of knowledge on AI applications in industrial safety, providing a roadmap for the adoption of predictive safeguards in high-risk environments.

Keywords: Offshore oil platforms; Artificial Intelligence; Predictive safety; Operational efficiency; Machine learning; Risk management; Safety systems; Data analytics; Predictive maintenance

1 Introduction

Offshore oil facilities operate in high-risk environments where safety is a paramount concern. These operations are exposed to extreme weather conditions, complex machinery, and hazardous materials, making them vulnerable to accidents, equipment failures, and environmental disasters. Traditional safety management systems in the oil and gas industry often rely on reactive measures that address incidents after they occur (Ajiga, et al., 2024, Eyieyien, et al. 2024,

* Corresponding author: Adeoye Taofik Aderamo

Kwakye, Ekechukwu & Ogbu, 2023, Olanrewaju, Daramola & Babayeju, 2024). However, in such high-risk settings, the consequences of delayed responses can be catastrophic, leading to significant human, environmental, and financial losses. The challenge lies in adopting more effective approaches to prevent incidents before they happen.

Proactive safety management systems are essential to mitigate risks in offshore oil facilities. These systems emphasize the identification, assessment, and management of potential hazards before they escalate into critical incidents. By prioritizing hazard prevention and operational efficiency, proactive safety systems enhance decision-making and ensure the seamless coordination of processes in high-risk environments (Bassey, 2022, Ezeafulukwe, et al., 2024, Kwakye, Ekechukwu & Ogbu, 2024, Onita, Ebeh & Iriogbe, 2023). However, traditional approaches to proactive safety management can be limited by human error, information gaps, and the complexity of offshore operations. There is a need for more advanced systems that can predict risks with greater accuracy and timeliness.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rapidly emerging as a transformative technology in enhancing both safety and operational efficiency in offshore oil platforms. AI's ability to process vast amounts of data, identify patterns, and make real-time predictions positions it as a powerful tool for improving safety safeguards. AI can analyze data from sensors, equipment, and environmental factors to predict equipment failures, detect anomalies, and provide early warnings of potential hazards (Daramola, 2024, Ezeafulukwe, et al., 2024, Manuel, et al., 2024, Onita & Ochulor, 2024). By integrating AI into safety management systems, offshore oil facilities can shift from reactive to predictive safety models, reducing the likelihood of incidents and improving operational outcomes.

This paper proposes an AI-enabled model for predictive safety safeguards in offshore oil facilities. It explores how AI can be operationalized to manage safety risks, enhance decision-making, and foster a culture of continuous safety improvement. The paper aims to conceptualize a new framework that integrates AI-driven predictive analytics into the core of safety management systems, ultimately improving both safety and efficiency in offshore operations (Akinsulire, et al., 2024, Ezeafulukwe, et al., 2024, Moones, et al., 2023, Porlles, et al., 2023).

2 Background and Literature Review

The offshore oil and gas industry is one of the most hazardous industrial sectors due to the complex, remote, and extreme conditions under which operations are conducted. Ensuring safety in such an environment has always been a top priority, but the challenges are multifaceted. Safety management in offshore facilities involves addressing a wide range of potential risks, including equipment failure, human error, extreme weather conditions, and environmental hazards (Agupugo, Kehinde & Manuel, 2024, Ezeh, Ogbu & Heavens, 2023, Nwaimo, Adegbola & Adegbola, 2024). The existing safety management practices typically revolve around both preventive measures and reactive responses to incidents, with a strong emphasis on compliance with industry regulations and safety standards. These practices, while necessary, have limitations, especially when relying heavily on reactive measures that may only address risks after they have already escalated.

Traditionally, offshore oil facilities employ safety management systems (SMS) that incorporate hazard identification, risk assessments, safety inspections, and incident reporting. The emphasis is on ensuring that processes and equipment meet safety standards, conducting regular maintenance, and training employees on emergency response protocols. While these practices are crucial, they often depend on human intervention, which leaves room for error and oversight (Ebeh, et al., 2024, Ezeh, et al., 2024, Nwaimo, Adegbola & Adegbola, 2024, Sofoluwe, et al., 2024). For example, manual inspections or the reliance on human observation to detect anomalies may miss subtle indicators of equipment wear or early-stage faults that could lead to catastrophic failure. Additionally, offshore operations are often highly automated, and the increasing reliance on technology demands an advanced safety framework that goes beyond human capacity to monitor and manage potential risks effectively.

The limitations of traditional reactive safety systems become evident when accidents occur due to unforeseen factors or when safety measures fail to prevent escalating incidents. Reactive systems focus on responding to events after they have happened, which is inherently flawed in high-risk environments like offshore oil facilities. A significant limitation is the time lag between identifying an issue and implementing corrective actions (Adedapo, et al., 2023, Ezeh, et al., 2024, Nwaimo, Adegbola & Adegbola, 2024, Tuboalabo, et al., 2024). This delay can be fatal in situations where seconds can determine the outcome of an emergency. Reactive systems also tend to focus on learning from past incidents to prevent future occurrences, which is a retrospective approach. While it is important to learn from mistakes, the high-risk nature of offshore operations demands a more forward-looking, predictive approach to safety that can prevent incidents before they arise.

The evolution of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its application in industrial safety and risk management has the potential to revolutionize safety practices in offshore oil facilities. AI, with its ability to process large volumes of data in real-time and detect patterns, offers a way to overcome many of the limitations of traditional safety systems (Bassey, Aigbovbiosa & Agupugo, 2024, Ezeh, et al., 2024, Nwaimo, Adegbola & Adegbola, 2024). AI can analyze data from various sources—such as sensors, equipment, and environmental monitoring systems—to identify potential risks before they manifest as incidents. By predicting potential equipment failures, identifying anomalies in operations, and providing early warnings of hazards, AI enables offshore facilities to transition from reactive to predictive safety models.

The integration of AI into industrial safety is not entirely new, but its application in offshore oil platforms is still in its developmental stages. Initially, AI was applied in industries such as manufacturing, aviation, and power generation, where predictive maintenance and anomaly detection became critical to improving operational efficiency and safety. Predictive maintenance, a key application of AI, involves using machine learning algorithms to analyze data collected from equipment sensors to predict when a machine is likely to fail (Anaba, Kess-Momoh & Ayodeji, 2024, Ezeh, et al., 2024, Nwaimo, et al., 2024, Ukato, et al., 2024). This allows operators to perform maintenance before a failure occurs, thus preventing costly downtime and reducing the risk of safety incidents caused by equipment malfunction.

The oil and gas industry has gradually adopted AI technologies in areas such as predictive maintenance and operational optimization. AI systems can process data from various sensors installed on offshore platforms, analyzing parameters such as pressure, temperature, vibration, and corrosion levels to predict when equipment needs maintenance. In this way, AI is used to extend the lifespan of machinery and reduce the risk of equipment failure, which is one of the leading causes of safety incidents in offshore operations (Ajiga, et al., 2024, Eziamaka, Odonkor & Akinsulire, 2024, Nwaimo, et al., 2024). For example, Shell and ExxonMobil are among the companies that have integrated AI-driven predictive maintenance systems to enhance the operational efficiency of their offshore platforms.

However, the application of AI to safety management goes beyond predictive maintenance. AI can be integrated into safety systems to monitor environmental conditions, such as weather patterns, ocean currents, and seismic activity, that can pose risks to offshore operations. By analyzing data from multiple sources, AI systems can provide real-time insights into the likelihood of adverse events, allowing operators to take proactive measures to mitigate risks (Bassey, 2022, Eziamaka, Odonkor & Akinsulire, 2024, Nwankwo, et al., 2024, Solanke, et al., 2024). This is particularly important in offshore oil facilities, where environmental factors can change rapidly, and traditional monitoring systems may not provide sufficient warning of an impending hazard.

Several key studies have highlighted the potential of AI and machine learning in enhancing safety across various industries. In the manufacturing sector, AI-driven safety systems have been employed to detect unsafe behaviors in workers, such as failing to wear protective gear or entering hazardous zones (Ebeh, et al., 2024, Eziamaka, Odonkor & Akinsulire, 2024, Nwobodo, Nwaimo & Adegbola, 2024). AI systems equipped with computer vision technology can monitor workers in real-time, identifying unsafe actions and issuing alerts to prevent accidents. This type of behavior-based safety monitoring is highly applicable to offshore oil platforms, where human error remains a leading cause of safety incidents.

Another area where AI has shown promise is in the field of risk management. AI algorithms can analyze historical data on safety incidents and operational conditions to identify patterns that may not be evident through manual analysis. For example, machine learning models can be trained to predict the likelihood of a safety incident occurring based on factors such as equipment age, maintenance history, and operational conditions (Daramola, et al., 2024, Eziamaka, Odonkor & Akinsulire, 2024, Nwobodo, Nwaimo & Adegbola, 2024). These models can provide risk assessments that help operators prioritize safety interventions and allocate resources more effectively.

A notable study on AI in predictive safety management was conducted in the aviation industry, where safety is paramount. The study explored the use of AI to predict potential safety hazards during flight operations by analyzing data from flight sensors, weather reports, and pilot behavior. The results demonstrated that AI could accurately predict potential safety issues, allowing pilots and ground crews to take preventive measures (Akinsulire, et al., 2024, Gil-Ozoudeh, et al., 2022, Nwosu, 2024, Onita & Ochulor, 2024). The findings of this study are relevant to offshore oil operations, as both industries operate in high-risk environments where real-time monitoring and predictive capabilities are critical to preventing incidents.

In the energy sector, AI has also been applied to improve safety in nuclear power plants. A study conducted by researchers in the nuclear industry explored the use of AI to monitor reactor performance and predict equipment failures that could lead to safety incidents. The study found that AI could provide early warnings of potential risks, allowing operators to address issues before they escalated (Eleogu, et al., 2024, Gil-Ozoudeh, et al., 2024, Nwosu & Ilori, 2024, Sofoluwe, et al., 2024). The application of AI in this context highlights its potential to enhance safety in other energy sectors, including offshore oil and gas.

The literature on AI-enabled predictive safety systems across industries underscores the transformative potential of AI in reducing incidents and improving operational efficiency. However, the adoption of AI in offshore oil facilities presents unique challenges, such as the need to integrate AI systems with existing safety protocols, the harsh environmental conditions that can affect sensor accuracy, and the requirement for real-time decision-making in high-stakes situations (Afeku-Amenyo, 2015, Gil-Ozoudeh, et al., 2023, Nwosu, Babatunde & Ijomah, 2024). Despite these challenges, the potential benefits of AI in enhancing safety on offshore platforms are substantial, offering a path toward more resilient and proactive safety management systems.

This paper builds on these insights by proposing a new model for integrating AI into safety management systems on offshore oil facilities. The model will outline how AI-driven predictive safeguards can be operationalized to monitor equipment, environmental conditions, and worker behavior, ultimately enhancing both safety and operational efficiency (Bassey, et al., 2024, Gil-Ozoudeh, et al., 2024, Ochulor, et al., 2024). By leveraging AI's capabilities, offshore oil platforms can reduce the likelihood of incidents, minimize downtime, and create a safer working environment for all personnel involved in high-risk operations.

3 Key Components of AI-Enabled Predictive Safeguards

AI-enabled predictive safeguards for offshore oil facilities represent a major advancement in safety management and operational efficiency. These systems are built on the foundation of data acquisition, machine learning, and real-time decision-making, providing a proactive approach to identifying and mitigating risks before they escalate into critical incidents (Agupugo, 2023, Gil-Ozoudeh, et al., 2022, Ochulor, et al., 2024, Onita, et al., 2023). Offshore oil platforms operate in complex, high-risk environments where multiple variables, such as equipment performance and environmental conditions, must be constantly monitored. The integration of AI technologies with existing safety protocols has the potential to revolutionize how offshore operations are managed, allowing operators to anticipate and prevent equipment failures, improve risk assessments, and enhance overall safety performance.

At the heart of AI-enabled predictive safeguards is data acquisition and monitoring. Offshore oil facilities generate vast amounts of data from various sources, including sensor data, equipment performance metrics, and environmental conditions. Sensor data is collected from critical components such as pipelines, blowout preventers, pumps, and drilling rigs, providing real-time insights into the operational status of these systems (Ebeh, et al., 2024, Gyimah, et al., 2023, Ochulor, et al., 2024, Popo-Olaniyan, et al., 2022). This data can include pressure, temperature, vibration, and flow rates, which are vital indicators of equipment health. In addition, environmental data, such as wave height, wind speed, and seismic activity, is crucial for assessing external threats to offshore platforms. Collecting and analyzing this wide range of data requires the use of advanced sensor networks and the Internet of Things (IoT) technology, which allows sensors to be integrated across multiple systems and devices on the platform.

IoT applications play a key role in the integration of sensors across offshore platforms, enabling real-time data collection and transmission. These systems connect various equipment and monitoring devices, providing a comprehensive view of the platform's operational status. For instance, IoT sensors can monitor the integrity of pipelines, detecting corrosion, pressure fluctuations, or potential leaks (Akinsulire, et al., 2024, Ikevuje, Anaba & Iheanyichukwu, 2024, Ochulor, et al., 2024). When paired with AI systems, these sensors allow for continuous monitoring and rapid analysis, creating an intelligent safety network that can detect anomalies early and trigger preventive actions. By capturing data in real-time and relaying it to central monitoring systems, IoT-based sensors enhance the platform's ability to respond swiftly to potential hazards, significantly reducing the chances of major incidents.

Machine learning and predictive analytics form the backbone of AI-enabled safety systems, enabling the detection of patterns that indicate potential failures. Machine learning algorithms are designed to process the vast amounts of data collected from offshore operations, identifying trends and anomalies that may indicate underlying issues (Bassey, 2023, Ikevuje, Anaba & Iheanyichukwu, 2024, Ochulor, et al., 2024,Solanke, et al., 2014). By training these algorithms with both historical and real-time data, AI systems can predict when equipment is likely to fail, allowing for preemptive maintenance and reducing downtime. Historical data from past equipment failures and operational conditions help train AI models to recognize the early signs of similar issues in the future, while real-time data ensures that predictions remain accurate and timely.

An essential aspect of machine learning in offshore safety is anomaly detection, which involves identifying deviations from normal operational patterns. For critical equipment such as blowout preventers, which are designed to seal wellbores in the event of a blowout, the ability to detect anomalies is crucial. A malfunction in a blowout preventer could lead to catastrophic consequences, including uncontrolled oil spills and explosions (Anaba, Kess-Momoh & Ayodeji, 2024, Ikevuje, Anaba & Iheanyichukwu, 2024, Ochulor, et al., 2024). By analyzing sensor data from the blowout preventer, AI systems can detect irregularities in pressure or temperature that could indicate an impending failure, enabling operators to take corrective action before the situation escalates. Similarly, pipelines carrying oil and gas are continuously monitored for signs of corrosion, pressure drops, or blockages. Machine learning models can identify subtle patterns that may not be visible to the human eye, offering a critical layer of protection against pipeline failures.

AI-enabled predictive safeguards also provide real-time risk assessment and decision support, enhancing the platform's ability to respond quickly to emerging threats. AI-based risk assessment models are designed to evaluate potential risks in real time, using data from sensors, equipment performance, and environmental factors (Daramola, et al., 2024, Ikevuje, Anaba & Iheanyichukwu, 2024, Ochulor, et al., 2024). These models can identify threats such as equipment malfunctions, structural weaknesses, or adverse weather conditions, and prioritize them based on the severity of the risk. For example, if a sensor detects a drop in pressure in a pipeline, the AI system can assess whether the drop is due to a minor fluctuation or a more serious issue such as a leak. Based on the assessment, the system can either issue a low-level alert or trigger an emergency shutdown to prevent a larger incident.

AI-driven automated decision-making systems play a critical role in enhancing operational efficiency by automating certain safety actions. These systems can prioritize safety measures based on the level of risk identified by the AI models, allowing for immediate responses to high-risk situations. For example, in the case of a potential equipment failure, the AI system may recommend preventive maintenance actions, such as shutting down a particular component or scheduling repairs, based on the predicted likelihood of failure (Ajiga, et al., 2024, Ikevuje, Anaba & Iheanyichukwu, 2024, Odonkor, Eziamaka & Akinsulire, 2024). In high-risk scenarios, such as when multiple sensors detect a potential blowout or structural failure, the system can trigger automated safety protocols, including shutting down drilling operations or activating emergency evacuation procedures. This rapid decision-making capability is crucial in offshore operations, where delays in response can lead to catastrophic outcomes.

Despite the benefits of automation, human oversight remains a vital component of AI-enabled predictive safeguards. While AI systems can process data and make recommendations in real time, human operators must remain involved in decision-making processes to validate the AI's predictions and ensure that safety measures align with operational realities (Ebeh, et al., 2024, Ikevuje, Anaba & Iheanyichukwu, 2024, Odonkor, Eziamaka & Akinsulire, 2024). AI systems are designed to complement human expertise, providing valuable insights and recommendations that enhance the ability of operators to manage complex offshore environments. For instance, an AI system may predict a potential equipment failure based on sensor data, but a human operator can use their knowledge of the equipment's performance history and current operational conditions to determine the most appropriate response.

The integration of predictive models with human oversight ensures that AI systems are used to their full potential while minimizing the risk of false positives or unnecessary interventions. AI can rapidly process and analyze data, flagging potential issues for human operators to review. This combination of AI-driven insights and human decision-making creates a more resilient safety framework, where predictive analytics guide safety interventions, but final decisions are made by experienced personnel who can account for contextual factors that AI may not fully capture.

In conclusion, the key components of AI-enabled predictive safeguards in offshore oil facilities include advanced data acquisition and monitoring systems, machine learning algorithms for predictive analytics, and AI-based risk assessment and decision support systems. By integrating IoT technology and sensor networks, offshore platforms can collect vast amounts of data on equipment performance and environmental conditions (Afeku-Amenyo, 2021, Ikevuje, Anaba & Iheanyichukwu, 2024, Odulaja, et al., 2023, Ukato, et al., 2024). Machine learning algorithms analyze this data, identifying patterns and predicting potential failures, while AI-driven risk assessment models provide real-time insights into emerging threats. Automated decision-making systems prioritize safety actions based on the level of risk, and human operators provide oversight, ensuring that AI's predictions and recommendations align with operational needs. Together, these components form a comprehensive, proactive safety management system that enhances both safety and operational efficiency in offshore oil facilities.

4 Proposed Model for AI-Driven Safety Safeguards

The proposed model for AI-driven safety safeguards in offshore oil facilities aims to enhance safety and operational efficiency through a structured framework that operationalizes predictive safety systems. This model integrates advanced technologies, including data collection mechanisms, machine learning algorithms, and risk-based decision-making processes, to create a comprehensive safety management system (Bassey, Juliet & Stephen, 2024, Ilori, Nwosu

& Naiho, 2024, Ogbu, et al., 2023, Solanke, et al., 2024). By leveraging the capabilities of artificial intelligence, the model addresses the unique challenges faced by offshore operations, providing a proactive approach to incident prevention and risk management.

At the core of the proposed model is a robust framework designed to operationalize AI-driven predictive safety systems. This framework encompasses several key components: data acquisition, predictive analytics, and safety management protocols. Data acquisition begins with the deployment of a network of IoT-enabled sensors across the offshore platform. These sensors continuously monitor critical equipment, environmental conditions, and operational parameters, gathering real-time data on various factors such as pressure, temperature, vibration, and external weather conditions (Agupugo, et al., 2022, Ilori, Nwosu & Naiho, 2024, Ogbu, et al., 2024, Solanke, 2017). The integration of these sensors creates a comprehensive data ecosystem that serves as the foundation for predictive analytics.

Once data is collected, the model employs machine learning algorithms to analyze the information and identify patterns that may indicate potential risks. Predictive analytics involves training AI models using historical and real-time data, enabling the system to recognize early warning signs of equipment failure or safety hazards (Daramola, et al., 2024, Ilori, Nwosu & Naiho, 2024, Ogbu, et al., 2024, Popo-Olaniyan, et al., 2022). This analytical process not only improves the accuracy of predictions but also enhances the model's ability to learn from new data, allowing it to adapt to changing operational conditions. The output of this predictive analytics phase feeds directly into the risk-based decision-making process, where AI systems assess the level of threat posed by identified risks and prioritize safety actions accordingly.

A critical aspect of the model is its workflow, which seamlessly connects data collection to predictive analytics and decision-making. This workflow begins with the real-time monitoring of offshore operations through the network of IoT sensors. As data is collected, it is transmitted to a centralized AI platform that processes the information using machine learning algorithms (Akinsulire, et al., 2024, Ilori, Nwosu & Naiho, 2024, Ogbu, et al., 2024, Tuboalabo, et al., 2024). The AI system analyzes the data to detect anomalies and potential safety concerns, generating predictive insights that inform operators of any risks that may require immediate attention. For example, if a sensor indicates an unusual increase in temperature within a critical component, the AI system will flag this anomaly and assess the likelihood of equipment failure. Based on historical data patterns and real-time sensor information, the system may predict that a maintenance intervention is necessary to prevent a potential incident. This predictive insight is then communicated to human operators, who can evaluate the situation and take appropriate actions, such as scheduling maintenance or shutting down affected equipment.

The model integrates several key safety safeguards, including predictive maintenance and early warning systems, which enhance the overall effectiveness of the safety management system. Predictive maintenance utilizes AI-driven insights to optimize equipment upkeep, allowing operators to address issues before they escalate into significant failures (Ekemezie, et al., 2024, Ilori, Nwosu & Naiho, 2024, Ogbu, et al., 2024.Ozowe, Daramola & Ekemezie, 2024). By analyzing historical performance data, the system can determine the optimal times for maintenance, ensuring that equipment is serviced at the right intervals to minimize the risk of unexpected breakdowns. This proactive approach not only enhances equipment reliability but also reduces operational downtime, ultimately leading to increased efficiency and safety.

Early warning systems form another critical component of the proposed model. These systems are designed to monitor external environmental conditions that may pose risks to offshore operations, such as severe weather events or seismic activity (Ebeh, et al., 2024, Iriogbe, et al., 2024, Ogbu, et al., 2024, Onita & Ochulor, 2024). By integrating data from various sources, including weather forecasts, oceanographic models, and seismic sensors, the AI system can provide timely alerts about potential hazards. For instance, if the model detects an approaching storm, it can automatically notify operators to implement safety measures, such as securing equipment or evacuating personnel. This early warning capability enables offshore facilities to respond quickly to emerging threats, significantly reducing the risk of incidents.

Scalability and adaptability are essential features of the proposed model, ensuring that it can be applied across a range of offshore operations, from small platforms to large production facilities. The modular design of the framework allows for easy customization, enabling operators to tailor the AI-driven predictive safety systems to their specific needs (Bassey, 2023, Iriogbe, Ebeh & Onita, 2024, Ogbu, et al., 2023, Olanrewaju, Daramola & Ekechukwu, 2024). This adaptability is crucial in the offshore oil industry, where operational conditions can vary significantly based on factors such as geographical location, water depth, and facility size. Furthermore, the model can be scaled up or down depending on the complexity of the operations. For smaller platforms with fewer resources, a simplified version of the model may be implemented, focusing on the most critical safety safeguards and essential data collection. Conversely, larger facilities with extensive operations can deploy the full suite of AI-driven predictive safety systems, leveraging the comprehensive capabilities of the model to enhance safety across multiple areas. This flexibility ensures that all offshore facilities can benefit from the advancements in AI technology, regardless of their size or operational scope.

Another aspect of scalability is the ability to integrate with existing safety management systems. The proposed model is designed to complement and enhance current safety protocols rather than replace them. By integrating AI-driven predictive systems with traditional safety management frameworks, operators can create a hybrid approach that combines the strengths of both methodologies (Ajiga, et al., 2024, Iriogbe, Ebeh & Onita, 2024, Ogbu, Ozowe & Ikevuje, 2024). This integration facilitates a smoother transition to AI-enabled safety practices, allowing organizations to build on their existing safety culture while embracing new technologies. Training and continuous improvement are also integral to the successful implementation of the proposed model. As AI systems learn from new data, it is essential to provide ongoing training for both the AI algorithms and the personnel operating the systems. This dual focus on training ensures that the AI models remain accurate and effective, while also empowering human operators with the knowledge and skills necessary to leverage AI insights in their decision-making processes.

In conclusion, the proposed model for AI-driven safety safeguards in offshore oil facilities offers a comprehensive framework for operationalizing predictive safety systems. By integrating data acquisition, machine learning, and risk-based decision-making, the model provides a proactive approach to incident prevention and risk management. Key safety safeguards, such as predictive maintenance and early warning systems, enhance the effectiveness of the safety management system, while the model's scalability and adaptability ensure it can be applied across a range of offshore operations (Afeku-Amenyo, 2022, Iriogbe, Ebeh & Onita, 2024, Ogbu, Ozowe & Ikevuje, 2024, Solanke, et al., 2024). This approach not only enhances safety and operational efficiency but also positions offshore oil facilities at the forefront of technological advancements in safety management. By embracing AI-driven predictive safeguards, the industry can significantly reduce the likelihood of incidents, protect personnel and the environment, and improve overall operational performance.

5 Enhancing Operational Efficiency through AI-Driven Systems

Enhancing operational efficiency in offshore oil facilities through AI-driven systems is a transformative approach that addresses both safety and productivity. As the offshore oil industry grapples with increasing operational demands and a heightened focus on safety, the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) into predictive safeguards represents a significant advancement. AI-driven systems provide the means to enhance decision-making, reduce risks, and ultimately improve overall efficiency.

One of the primary benefits of AI-driven systems is the reduction of false alarms and the improvement of response accuracy. Traditional safety management systems often rely on fixed thresholds for alarms, leading to a high frequency of false positives. These false alarms can desensitize personnel, resulting in delayed responses to genuine threats. In contrast, AI systems leverage machine learning algorithms to analyze real-time data from multiple sensors, allowing for a more nuanced understanding of operational conditions (Bassey, et al., 2024, Iriogbe, Ebeh & Onita, 2024, Ogbu, Ozowe & Ikevuje, 2024). By recognizing patterns and correlations in data, AI can differentiate between normal operational fluctuations and indicators of potential failures. For instance, if a sensor monitoring pressure levels on a blowout preventer shows a slight increase, an AI system can analyze historical data and contextual factors to determine whether this change warrants an alarm. This capability significantly reduces the occurrence of unnecessary alerts, enabling operators to focus their attention on legitimate risks. As a result, response times improve, ensuring that safety measures are implemented swiftly and effectively when needed. This enhanced accuracy not only mitigates safety risks but also contributes to smoother operations, as personnel are not distracted by irrelevant alerts.

Cost savings from predictive maintenance and resource optimization are additional advantages of implementing AI-driven systems in offshore oil facilities. Predictive maintenance utilizes AI algorithms to analyze data collected from equipment sensors, identifying patterns that indicate when maintenance should be performed. This approach contrasts with traditional maintenance strategies, which often rely on fixed schedules or reactive measures. By predicting potential equipment failures before they occur, operators can schedule maintenance interventions at the optimal time, thus preventing unexpected breakdowns and costly downtime.

This proactive maintenance strategy translates into significant cost savings for offshore operations. For example, the cost of unplanned equipment failures can be substantial, leading to not only repair costs but also lost production and the need for emergency interventions. AI-driven predictive maintenance helps to minimize these incidents, enabling facilities to operate more efficiently. Additionally, resource optimization occurs as maintenance activities are planned in conjunction with other operational tasks, ensuring that downtime is minimized and resources are utilized effectively (Ebeh, et al., 2024, Iriogbe, Ebeh & Onita, 2024, Ogedengbe, et al., 2023, Ozowe, Daramola & Ekemezie, 2024). The impact of AI-driven systems extends beyond immediate cost savings to asset life extension and downtime minimization. By monitoring the health of critical equipment and identifying potential issues early, AI can help extend the operational life of assets. Offshore facilities often rely on expensive and complex machinery, and the longevity of these assets is crucial for maintaining profitability. Predictive analytics enable operators to take action before equipment degradation leads to significant failures, thus preserving the integrity of high-value assets.

Furthermore, minimizing downtime is a key focus of AI-driven systems. In the offshore oil industry, even a few hours of downtime can lead to significant financial losses. AI algorithms continuously monitor equipment performance, assessing the likelihood of failure and recommending interventions before issues escalate. This continuous oversight allows operators to keep facilities running smoothly, maximizing production while ensuring safety. The ability to predict and mitigate downtime not only enhances operational efficiency but also contributes to a more stable production environment.

AI also serves as a powerful tool for continuous safety improvement within offshore operations. The integration of AI-driven predictive safeguards fosters a culture of proactive safety management, encouraging organizations to adopt a mindset of continuous improvement. As AI systems learn from historical data and ongoing operations, they refine their predictive capabilities over time (Anaba, Kess-Momoh & Ayodeji, 2024, Iriogbe, Ebeh & Onita, 2024, Ogedengbe, et al., 2024). This iterative learning process enables facilities to enhance their safety protocols based on real-world insights and data-driven analytics. For example, AI can analyze incident reports and near-miss data to identify trends and root causes of safety issues. By understanding the underlying factors contributing to incidents, operators can implement targeted interventions to address specific risks. This data-driven approach allows for the continuous refinement of safety practices, leading to a more robust safety culture within offshore facilities. As personnel become accustomed to working within a proactive safety framework, they are more likely to prioritize safety measures and engage in behaviors that enhance overall operational efficiency.

The implementation of AI-driven systems also enhances collaboration and communication among teams, contributing to improved operational efficiency. Real-time data sharing and insights generated by AI systems enable operators, engineers, and safety personnel to work together more effectively (Agupugo & Tochukwu, 2021, Iriogbe, Ebeh & Onita, 2024, Ogedengbe, et al., 2024). This collaborative approach ensures that all stakeholders are informed of potential risks and can coordinate their responses accordingly. Enhanced communication fosters a culture of safety awareness, where everyone understands the importance of timely interventions and the role they play in maintaining operational efficiency. Moreover, the scalability of AI-driven systems allows offshore facilities to tailor solutions to their specific operational contexts. Different facilities may face unique challenges based on factors such as geographical location, environmental conditions, and operational complexity. AI systems can be customized to address these specific needs, ensuring that predictive safeguards are relevant and effective. This adaptability enhances the overall efficiency of operations, as facilities can implement solutions that are best suited to their circumstances.

In conclusion, enhancing operational efficiency through AI-driven systems in offshore oil facilities represents a significant advancement in safety and productivity. The reduction of false alarms and improved response accuracy allows personnel to focus on genuine risks, leading to quicker and more effective interventions (Daramola, et al., 2024, Iriogbe, et al., 2024, Ogunleye, 2024, Onyekwelu, et l., 2024). Cost savings from predictive maintenance and resource optimization contribute to a more efficient operational model, while the extension of asset life and minimization of downtime enhance overall profitability. AI serves as a catalyst for continuous safety improvement, fostering a proactive safety culture and encouraging collaboration among teams. By embracing AI-driven predictive safeguards, offshore oil facilities can position themselves at the forefront of technological innovation, ensuring that they remain competitive while prioritizing safety and operational efficiency.

6 Challenges and Considerations

The implementation of AI-enabled predictive safeguards for offshore oil facilities presents numerous opportunities for enhancing safety and operational efficiency. However, several challenges and considerations must be addressed to ensure the successful integration of these advanced technologies into existing operations. Understanding these challenges is critical for stakeholders aiming to optimize the potential benefits while mitigating risks associated with AI applications (Akinsulire, et al., 2024, Iriogbe, et al., 2024, Ogunleye, 2024, Osundare & Ige, 2024). One of the foremost challenges in deploying AI-driven systems in offshore environments is ensuring data quality and effective integration. Offshore operations generate vast amounts of data from various sources, including sensors, equipment monitoring systems, and environmental conditions. However, this data often varies in format, accuracy, and relevance. Inconsistent data can lead to erroneous predictions and ultimately compromise the safety and efficiency of operations.

Moreover, integrating data from disparate sources poses a significant challenge. For AI models to function effectively, they require a cohesive dataset that encompasses historical and real-time information. However, offshore facilities often utilize legacy systems that may not be compatible with modern AI technologies (Ekechukwu, Daramola & Kehinde, 2024, Iriogbe, et al., 2024, Okatta, Ajayi & Olawale, 2024). This lack of interoperability can hinder the seamless flow of information necessary for accurate predictive analytics. Additionally, factors such as harsh environmental conditions and equipment failures can disrupt data collection, further complicating efforts to maintain high-quality datasets. Overcoming these data-related challenges necessitates robust data governance strategies and the development of standardized protocols for data collection and integration across the facility.

Cybersecurity risks are another critical consideration when implementing AI-enabled predictive safeguards. The increasing reliance on digital technologies and interconnected systems exposes offshore operations to a range of cyber threats. AI systems, while offering advanced capabilities, can also serve as potential targets for cyberattacks. Malicious actors may exploit vulnerabilities in automated systems to gain unauthorized access, disrupt operations, or manipulate data for nefarious purposes.

The consequences of a cybersecurity breach in an offshore environment can be catastrophic, potentially leading to safety incidents, environmental disasters, and significant financial losses. Therefore, it is imperative to incorporate robust cybersecurity measures into the design and implementation of AI-driven systems (Bassey, 2023, Iriogbe, et al., 2024, Okatta, Ajayi & Olawale, 2024, Ozowe, Daramola & Ekemezie, 2023). This includes conducting thorough risk assessments, employing encryption and access controls, and ensuring continuous monitoring for potential threats. Additionally, fostering a culture of cybersecurity awareness among personnel is essential to minimize human-related vulnerabilities, as social engineering tactics often target employees to gain access to secure systems.

Balancing AI-driven automation with human oversight represents another significant challenge. While AI systems can enhance operational efficiency and decision-making, it is crucial to recognize the irreplaceable value of human judgment in safety-critical environments. Automation can lead to a potential reduction in human intervention, which may result in complacency among personnel (Ajiga, et al., 2024, Iriogbe, et al., 2024, Okatta, Ajayi & Olawale, 2024, Solanke, et al., 2024). Over-reliance on AI can create situations where human operators may defer critical decision-making to automated systems without adequately assessing the underlying context or potential risks. To address this challenge, organizations must strive to establish a complementary relationship between AI and human oversight. Human operators should remain engaged in the decision-making process, especially when it comes to interpreting AI-generated insights and making final judgments regarding safety actions. Training programs that focus on enhancing the collaboration between AI systems and human operators can empower personnel to understand the capabilities and limitations of AI technologies, allowing for informed decision-making that prioritizes safety while optimizing operational efficiency.

Regulatory compliance and the integration of AI-enabled predictive safeguards with existing safety frameworks also pose challenges for offshore oil facilities. The oil and gas industry is subject to stringent regulations designed to protect workers, the environment, and infrastructure. Introducing AI technologies into these frameworks requires careful consideration of regulatory requirements, as well as the potential impact on existing safety practices (Afeku-Amenyo, 2024, Iwuanyanwu, et al., 2024, Okatta, Ajayi & Olawale, 2024). One key concern is that regulatory bodies may not have fully established guidelines for the use of AI technologies in offshore operations. This uncertainty can create hesitance among operators to adopt AI solutions, fearing potential non-compliance with evolving regulations. Furthermore, integrating AI-driven systems into existing safety frameworks may necessitate significant modifications to established processes, requiring extensive retraining and reskilling of personnel.

To navigate these challenges, organizations should engage with regulatory bodies and industry stakeholders to contribute to the development of clear guidelines surrounding AI use in offshore environments. This proactive approach can facilitate the smooth integration of AI technologies into existing safety frameworks while ensuring compliance with regulatory standards (Ebeh, et al., 2024, Iriogbe, et al., 2024, Ogbu, et al., 2024, Onita & Ochulor, 2024). In addition to these challenges, organizations must consider the broader cultural and organizational changes that come with implementing AI-enabled predictive safeguards. Shifting to an AI-driven safety culture requires not only technological investment but also a commitment to fostering a mindset of continuous improvement and adaptability. Employees may have varying levels of familiarity with AI technologies, and overcoming resistance to change will be essential for successful implementation.

Leadership plays a vital role in promoting an organizational culture that embraces innovation and values the contributions of AI in enhancing safety and efficiency. This involves transparent communication about the benefits and implications of AI technologies, as well as providing adequate training and support to help personnel adapt to new systems (Datta, et al., 2023, Iwuanyanwu, et al., 2024, Okatta, Ajayi & Olawale, 2024). Engaging employees in the development and implementation of AI solutions can also cultivate a sense of ownership and involvement, leading to increased buy-in and support for these initiatives. Another consideration is the potential for bias in AI algorithms, which can arise from the data used to train predictive models. If historical data reflects biases or inaccuracies, AI systems may perpetuate these issues in their predictions and recommendations. This can lead to unjust safety prioritization or resource allocation, ultimately undermining the intended benefits of implementing AI-driven safeguards.

To mitigate bias, organizations must employ rigorous validation and testing procedures to ensure that AI models are trained on diverse and representative datasets. Continuous monitoring of AI system performance is essential to identify and address any discrepancies or biases that may emerge over time. By promoting fairness and equity in AI applications, offshore facilities can enhance the reliability of predictive safeguards and foster a more inclusive safety culture. Finally, the cost of implementing AI-driven predictive safeguards can be a significant barrier for some offshore operations (Ekechukwu, Daramola & Olanrewaju, 2024, Iwuanyanwu, et al., 2024, Okeleke, et al., 2024). The initial investment in technology, data infrastructure, and personnel training can be substantial, and smaller operators may struggle to allocate sufficient resources to adopt these advanced systems. However, the long-term benefits of enhanced safety and operational efficiency can outweigh the upfront costs, making a compelling case for investment.

In conclusion, while the integration of AI-enabled predictive safeguards in offshore oil facilities offers significant potential for enhancing safety and operational efficiency, several challenges and considerations must be addressed. Data quality and integration challenges, cybersecurity risks, the balance between automation and human oversight, and regulatory compliance all play critical roles in the successful implementation of these technologies (Akinsulire, et al., 2024, Iwuanyanwu, et al., 20242, Okeleke, et al., 2023, Udeh, et al., 2024). Organizations must also focus on fostering a culture that embraces innovation, addressing potential biases in AI algorithms, and evaluating the long-term benefits of investment in AI systems. By proactively tackling these challenges, offshore facilities can position themselves to fully leverage the advantages of AI-driven predictive safeguards, ultimately leading to safer and more efficient operations.

7 Future Directions and Research Opportunities

The future of AI-enabled predictive safeguards for offshore oil facilities is poised for transformative growth, driven by advances in technology and an increasing focus on safety and operational efficiency. As the industry evolves, several promising directions and research opportunities will enhance the capabilities of AI systems, ultimately improving safety outcomes and optimizing operational processes (Bassey & Ibegbulam, 2023, Jambol, et al., 2024, Olaleye, et al., 2024, Popo-Olaniyan, et al., 2022). One significant area of focus is enhancing the accuracy of AI models through advanced algorithms and the development of more robust datasets. Current AI applications rely heavily on the quality and diversity of the data used to train predictive models. Enhancing model accuracy requires the adoption of sophisticated algorithms, such as deep learning and ensemble methods, which can better capture complex patterns within large datasets. These advanced techniques can improve the precision of predictions regarding equipment failures, safety incidents, and environmental risks.

Additionally, gathering more comprehensive and high-quality datasets is crucial. In offshore environments, the availability of real-time data from various sources—such as sensors, weather monitoring systems, and operational logs—can significantly enhance model performance. Research opportunities exist in the integration of data from multiple platforms, including historical records and operational simulations, to create richer datasets that can drive more accurate predictive analytics (Ebeh, et al., 2024, Iriogbe, et al., 2024, Ogbu, et al., 2024, Onita & Ochulor, 2024). By focusing on data augmentation and the use of synthetic data generated through simulations, researchers can train models that generalize better across different operational scenarios.

The integration of AI with other emerging technologies presents another avenue for innovation. One notable opportunity lies in the use of digital twins—virtual representations of physical assets that simulate their performance in real time. By combining AI with digital twin technology, offshore facilities can gain deeper insights into equipment behavior and operational dynamics (Agupugo, et al., 2022, Jambol, et al., 2024, Olaniyi, et al., 2024,. Ozowe, et al., 2024). This synergy can facilitate predictive maintenance, allowing operators to anticipate and mitigate failures before they occur. Moreover, the use of robotics in offshore operations, particularly for inspections and maintenance tasks, can complement AI-driven predictive safeguards. Autonomous drones or robotic systems equipped with AI capabilities can perform real-time data collection and analysis, providing a continuous flow of information that enhances predictive models. Research into the seamless integration of AI with robotics could lead to innovative solutions that improve safety, reduce human exposure to hazardous environments, and optimize operational workflows.

AI's role in shaping regulatory evolution and offshore safety standards is another critical area for future exploration. As AI technologies become more prevalent in the oil and gas industry, regulatory bodies will need to adapt their frameworks to address new challenges and opportunities (Ekechukwu, Daramola & Kehinde, 2024, Iriogbe, et al., 2024, Okatta, Ajayi & Olawale, 2024). Research into the implications of AI on safety regulations can provide valuable insights into how regulatory practices can evolve to ensure the safe implementation of these technologies. Moreover, establishing standardized guidelines for the use of AI in offshore operations is essential for promoting best practices and ensuring compliance with safety standards. Engaging industry stakeholders, including operators, technology providers, and regulatory agencies, in collaborative discussions can lead to the development of robust frameworks that address the ethical, legal, and safety implications of AI applications. Research into these regulatory dynamics can help create an environment that fosters innovation while prioritizing safety and compliance.

Case studies and pilot implementations of AI-enabled safety systems in offshore operations present practical research opportunities. Analyzing successful implementations can yield valuable lessons learned and best practices that can be disseminated across the industry (Afeku-Amenyo, 2024, Kwakye, Ekechukwu & Ogbu, 2019, Olanrewaju, Daramola & Babayeju, 2024). Researching specific case studies allows for the identification of factors contributing to the success or failure of AI applications in real-world settings, enabling the refinement of strategies and methodologies. For instance, examining how early adopters have integrated AI-driven predictive safeguards into their safety management systems can provide insights into effective implementation strategies. Understanding the challenges faced during these initiatives, such as data integration issues, workforce training needs, and cultural shifts, can inform future projects and help organizations navigate potential pitfalls.

Additionally, the exploration of pilot projects focused on specific aspects of AI-enabled safety, such as predictive maintenance for critical equipment or real-time risk assessment systems, can provide empirical evidence of the efficacy of these technologies. This research can facilitate the scaling of successful initiatives across the industry, ultimately leading to widespread adoption of AI-driven predictive safeguards. Another vital area of research inolves the ethical implications of deploying AI technologies in offshore operations (Ekechukwu, Daramola & Kehinde, 2024, Iriogbe, et al., 2024, Okatta, Ajayi & Olawale, 2024). As AI systems make decisions that impact safety and operational practices, understanding the ethical considerations surrounding algorithmic transparency, bias, and accountability becomes essential. Investigating how AI systems can be designed to prioritize ethical considerations while still achieving operational objectives will be crucial for fostering trust among stakeholders. Furthermore, understanding the impact of human factors in AI implementation is essential. Researching how personnel interact with AI systems, including their perceptions, biases, and decision-making processes, can inform the design of user-friendly interfaces and training programs that enhance collaboration between humans and AI. Fostering a culture of safety that embraces AI as a tool for support, rather than as a replacement for human expertise, will be crucial for successful implementation.

Finally, exploring the environmental implications of AI-enabled predictive safeguards can provide a holistic view of their impact on offshore operations. As the industry faces increasing scrutiny regarding its environmental footprint, research opportunities exist in assessing how AI technologies can contribute to sustainability goals. For example, AI systems that optimize resource utilization and reduce waste can enhance operational efficiency while minimizing environmental harm (Ekechukwu, Daramola & Kehinde, 2024, Iriogbe, et al., 2024, Okatta, Ajayi & Olawale, 2024). By examining the intersection of AI technologies with environmental management practices, researchers can contribute to the development of strategies that not only enhance safety and efficiency but also align with broader sustainability initiatives.

In conclusion, the future directions and research opportunities for AI-enabled predictive safeguards in offshore oil facilities are vast and varied (Afeku-Amenyo, 2024, Kwakye, Ekechukwu & Ogbu, 2019, Olanrewaju, Daramola & Babayeju, 2024). By focusing on enhancing AI model accuracy, integrating emerging technologies, adapting regulatory frameworks, and exploring practical case studies, the industry can unlock the full potential of AI to enhance safety and operational efficiency. Addressing ethical considerations, human factors, and environmental impacts will further enrich the research landscape and ensure that AI technologies are implemented responsibly and effectively. As the offshore oil industry continues to evolve, embracing these research opportunities will be essential for fostering innovation, safety, and sustainability in the face of increasing challenges.

8 Conclusion

The implementation of AI-enabled predictive safeguards in offshore oil facilities presents a transformative opportunity to enhance safety and operational efficiency within one of the industry's most high-risk environments. By leveraging advanced technologies, these systems can significantly reduce the likelihood of safety incidents, optimize resource management, and improve overall operational performance. The integration of AI-driven predictive analytics allows for real-time monitoring and analysis of equipment performance, facilitating proactive maintenance and timely interventions that can prevent failures and mitigate risks.

The benefits of these AI systems extend beyond mere compliance with safety regulations; they foster a culture of continuous improvement in safety practices. By enabling a shift from reactive to proactive safety management, organizations can enhance their ability to identify and address potential hazards before they escalate into serious incidents. This proactive approach not only safeguards personnel and the environment but also protects valuable assets, ultimately contributing to the long-term sustainability and profitability of offshore operations.

Moreover, the integration of AI technologies enhances operational efficiency by streamlining processes and reducing downtime. Predictive maintenance models can accurately forecast equipment needs, allowing for optimized scheduling of maintenance activities. This not only minimizes disruptions to production but also extends the lifespan of critical assets, leading to significant cost savings. As operational efficiencies increase, companies can redirect resources toward innovation and other value-added activities, further strengthening their competitive position in the industry. For successful adoption of AI-enabled predictive safeguards, industry stakeholders must prioritize investment in technology and training while fostering a culture that embraces change and innovation. Collaboration among operators, technology providers, and regulatory bodies is essential to establish best practices and create an environment conducive to the safe implementation of AI solutions. Ensuring robust cybersecurity measures and addressing data quality challenges will also be crucial to the efficacy of these systems.

Finally, future research should focus on advancing the algorithms that drive AI systems, exploring the integration of AI with other emerging technologies, and examining the ethical implications of AI deployment. Case studies of successful implementations can provide invaluable insights, helping to refine strategies and enhance understanding of the complexities involved. By committing to ongoing research and development, the offshore oil industry can harness the full potential of AI-enabled predictive safeguards, ensuring that safety and efficiency are at the forefront of operational excellence. The journey toward an AI-enhanced future in offshore operations holds promise for a safer, more efficient, and sustainable industry.

Compliance with ethical standards

Disclosure of conflict of interest

No conflict of interest to be disclosed.

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