

Infrastructure Assurance Program

Turning Supply Chain Volatility into Investment Certainty

Today's surge in AI infrastructure demand is placing sustained pressure on global supply chains for critical components. The result is constrained availability, continued price inflation, and increasingly unpredictable lead times.

In an environment where volatility is constantly present, organizations need more than reactive procurement; they need the supply chain assurance that AHEAD's Infrastructure Assurance Program can provide.



The first and most material risk for 2026 is simple access to inventory. Organizations that delay purchasing cannot be guaranteed access to inventory. AHEAD strongly recommends that organizations act now to secure product for certainty of execution for 2026 deployments.

For those that do manage to secure supply, the next challenge is price inflation. In a tight market, late buyers absorb the full impact of rising component costs, creating measurable risk to budgets, timelines, and project viability.

For example, industry forecasts are projecting significant price increases in 2026 across DDR5 and NAND components that are used in compute, storage, and networking platforms. These increases are expected to drive up overall infrastructure costs by more than 25 percent. This level of volatility introduces real risk to capital planning while increasing the likelihood of project delays and, in some cases, may force project scope reductions or cancellations.

What's Driving Enterprise Component Shortages (Pressure Share + YoY Demand Growth)

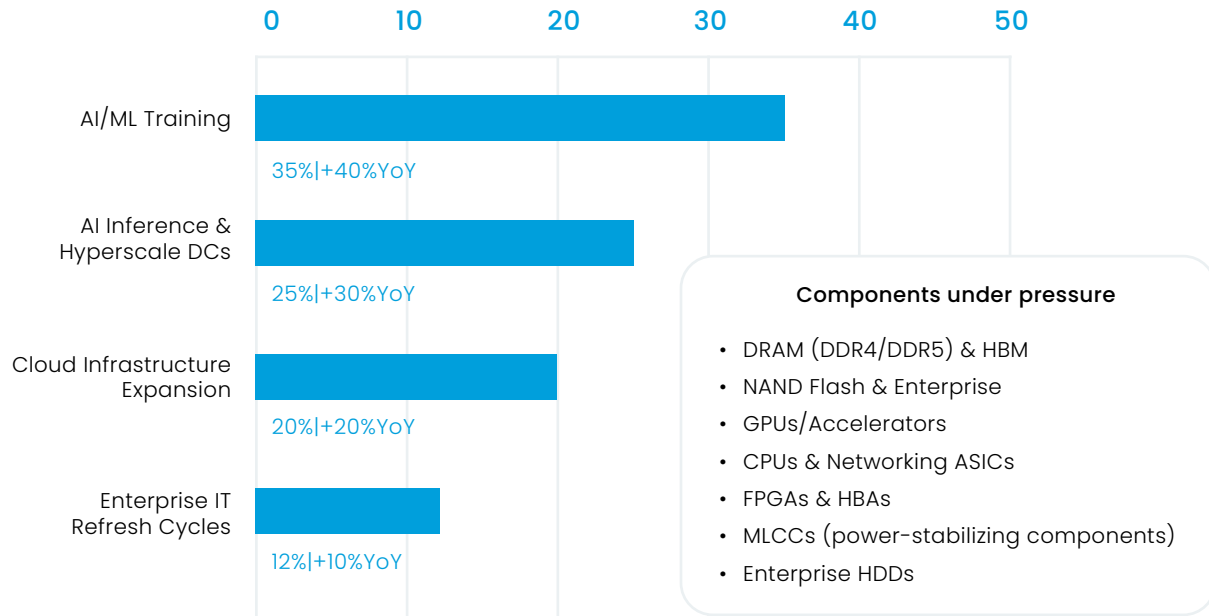


Figure 1: Indexed demand growth based on aggregated industry reporting and analyst consensus.

AHEAD Infrastructure Assurance Benefits by Level

The AHEAD Infrastructure Assurance Program provides a structured approach to managing supply chain risk. By securing inventory, protecting availability, and enabling flexibility, the program enables organizations to move forward with their infrastructure investment with confidence, regardless of market conditions.

Key Benefits	Foundation	Advantage
Inventory Control & Traceability	✓	✓
Secure Storage Space	✓	✓
Warranty Extension Management	✓	✓
On-Demand Fulfillment	✓	✓
Proof of Life		✓
Approved Component Alternatives		✓
Redeploy/Refresh Inventory		✓
Shared Buffer Inventory		✓

Foundation Service

Visibility, Security, and Control

The **Foundation Service** level establishes operational certainty. Organizations gain full transparency into the location of their infrastructure assets, confidence that inventory is securely stored in ISO-compliant and physically protected facilities, and the ability to request or deploy inventory on demand. This service reduces exposure to pricing swings, allocation constraints, and procurement delays, creating a stable baseline for capital investment decisions.

The result: Improved planning confidence, reduced sourcing risk, and protection against market disruption.

Advantage Service

Sustained Momentum in Uncertain Markets

The **Advantage Service** level is designed for organizations where disruption is not an option. Building on the Foundation Service, this level ensures infrastructure is deployment-ready. It introduces flexibility through approved alternate components for constrained parts, enables redeployment or refresh of unused assets, and provides access to a shared buffer inventory aligned to standard platforms.

The result: Uninterrupted progress, faster deployment, and competitive advantage when supply constraints slow others down.



In times of supply chain uncertainty, Infrastructure Assurance allows leaders to reduce risk, protect capital investments, and maintain operational momentum, turning supply chain volatility into a strategic advantage.

Cloud as your Alternative Path Forward

Unavailable or cost-prohibitive infrastructure doesn't have to stall your roadmap or project execution. AHEAD's cloud strategy and engineering experts work with clients to assess workload suitability, predict and plan which applications are better aligned to cloud, and manage performance and cost tradeoffs. They also design secure, scalable cloud environments with dynamic network connectivity, keeping critical initiatives moving forward even when on-prem options are constrained. This approach protects momentum, preserves intended business outcomes, and avoids forcing rushed infrastructure decisions in an inflated market. The goal is simple, maintain progress today while preserving the flexibility to defer long term infrastructure decisions and keep cloud and hardware options open for the future.

Protect Your Organization from Market Volatility with AHEAD

AHEAD helps organizations mitigate the risks of supply chain uncertainty through proactive infrastructure programs built for today's market volatility. By combining advance procurement with managed inventory, we can help you secure constrained components and gain more predictable pricing.

With operations and real-time order and inventory visibility, we give you a single partner to secure, stage, and deploy the capacity you need, when and where you need it.

Partner with AHEAD to keep your critical infrastructure on track.



Accelerate Your Impact

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