

# The Investment Industry's Technological Transformation

## **Featuring:**

**Jigar Thakkar**, Chief Technology Officer and Head of Engineering, MSCI

My name is Jigar Thakkar. I am the Chief Technology Officer and Head of Engineering at MSCI, responsible for overseeing the company's engineering technology development, services, and data science operations.

Before MSCI, I served as Corporate Vice President at Microsoft for 19 years. Just before coming to MSCI, in my last role I was the founding leader for Microsoft Teams Engineering. I have a deep passion for revolutionizing businesses and industries through technology.

## **Q:**

What is the current state of the investment industry and why is it in need of a technology and data revolution?

## **Jigar Thakkar:**

The global investment challenge of synthesizing large amounts of data to balance performance, risk, sustainability, climate impact and amidst evolving governance regulations is becoming exponentially more complicated.

For the investment industry, the only way to solve these complex challenges will be and being at the bleeding edge of innovations in Technology and Data. The industry is evolving its entire stack from product, distribution, consumption of its data, content and applications. The investment industry needs a technology and data revolution to match these growing demands. Those who recognize and embrace the coming technology and data revolution will be better positioned to capitalize on it rather than falling behind in the evolution curve.

## **Q:**

How is MSCI responding to these industry shifts?

**Jigar Thakkar:**

MSCI's response to the ongoing evolution of client needs and the technology landscape is our vision for a new open-architecture platform – MSCI Investment Solutions as a Service (ISaaS).

Looking ahead, ISaaS will transform the investment process and client experience. We will fully leverage critical components of the products we've built over decades and combine them with modern user applications, APIs, and data distribution technologies.

All of this will be hosted in the cloud, serving investor demand for next generation technologies, big data, and sophisticated quantitative investment content.

**Q:**

How will MSCI Investment Solutions as a Service advance this revolution?

**Jigar Thakkar:**

MSCI will offer a range of new experiences through the integration of existing and planned ISaaS services, providing clients with the data, content, analytics, and tools they need to power better investment decisions for a better world.

We will empower our clients to focus on generating Alpha, by reducing the complexity they need to handle in managing large amounts of data across various asset classes.

We will play to MSCI's strengths by delivering next generation capabilities in quantitative investment research in a modern architecture and experience.

We will be delivering the core capabilities to support investment processes, including portfolio construction and risk management while keeping sustainability and climate commitments in sight.

**Q:**

What is MSCI's larger technology and data vision?

**Jigar Thakkar:**

With Investment Solutions as a Service, MSCI is democratizing investment data and revolutionizing the investment industry.

Let me share just a few examples. We are combining our decades of experience in creating high quality data with the most modern technologies to dramatically expand the scope of our data operations and bring even more relevant, high-quality data to market.

We are providing our clients greater transparency by exposing the building blocks of industry leading data.

We are improving the data consumption user experience, enabling clients to quickly assess whether a particular piece of data is relevant and actionable.

We are partnering deeply with Microsoft, accelerating adoption of cutting-edge innovations in cloud, natural language processing, data lake, data warehousing and the end-to-end user experience.

The pace of Technology is relentless. Our clients need open and agile architectures to take advantage of new breakthroughs and benefit from the latest technologies.

This also helps clients integrate our solutions into their world in the way that suits them. So whether clients need our data, research models, APIs, or user applications, ISaaS empowers them to pick and choose their approach in a very open architecture manner across MSCI's entire portfolio of products and solutions.

**Q:**

What are MSCI's first four Investment Solutions as a Service?

**Jigar Thakkar:**

MSCI Climate Lab, MSCI Data Explorer, MSCI Developer Community, and MSCI Index Builder are the first four of many ISaaS services from MSCI.

All ISaaS services are built in Microsoft Azure, with a modern user interface and client-centric features, designed in collaboration with clients.

MSCI Climate Lab provides a set of tools and dashboards that enable enhanced visualization capabilities to explore the breadth and depth of MSCI ESG Research's climate data and scenario analysis.

MSCI Data Explorer enables data discovery and exploration by clients and prospects, allowing users to view MSCI's catalogue of 40+ products and 200+ datasets.

MSCI Developer Community provides information on our APIs to clients', 3rd-party partners' and internal developers.

MSCI Index Builder will enable speed-to-market, flexibility and control at clients' fingertips, through the ability to design, simulate, analyze and license custom indexes.

The moment is right for an investment technology revolution.

As a leader in financial services, MSCI has the capabilities to deliver. We're already moving, launching four initial services, with many more to follow.

We hope you'll join us on this exciting journey! Thank you.

## About MSCI

MSCI is a leading provider of critical decision support tools and services for the global investment community. With over 50 years of expertise in research, data and technology, we power better investment decisions by enabling clients to understand and analyze key drivers of risk and return and confidently build more effective portfolios. We create industry-leading research-enhanced solutions that clients use to gain insight into and improve transparency across the investment process. To learn more, please visit [www.msci.com](http://www.msci.com).

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