

## Industrial Cybersecurity Consulting & Managed Services 2025

**EY**



# Introduction

Operational Technology (OT) environments are foundational to critical infrastructure and industrial operations. These systems control physical processes essential to energy, transport, manufacturing, and public services. As connectivity increases, so does exposure to cyber, physical, and operational risks. Yet, despite the criticality of these processes, cyber maturity remains relatively low, with significant obstacles to accelerating improvements in cyber resilience.

Growing investment in digitalisation and tightening regulation - combined with complex operations and distributed assets and resources - all contribute to the challenge faced by Risk Leaders.

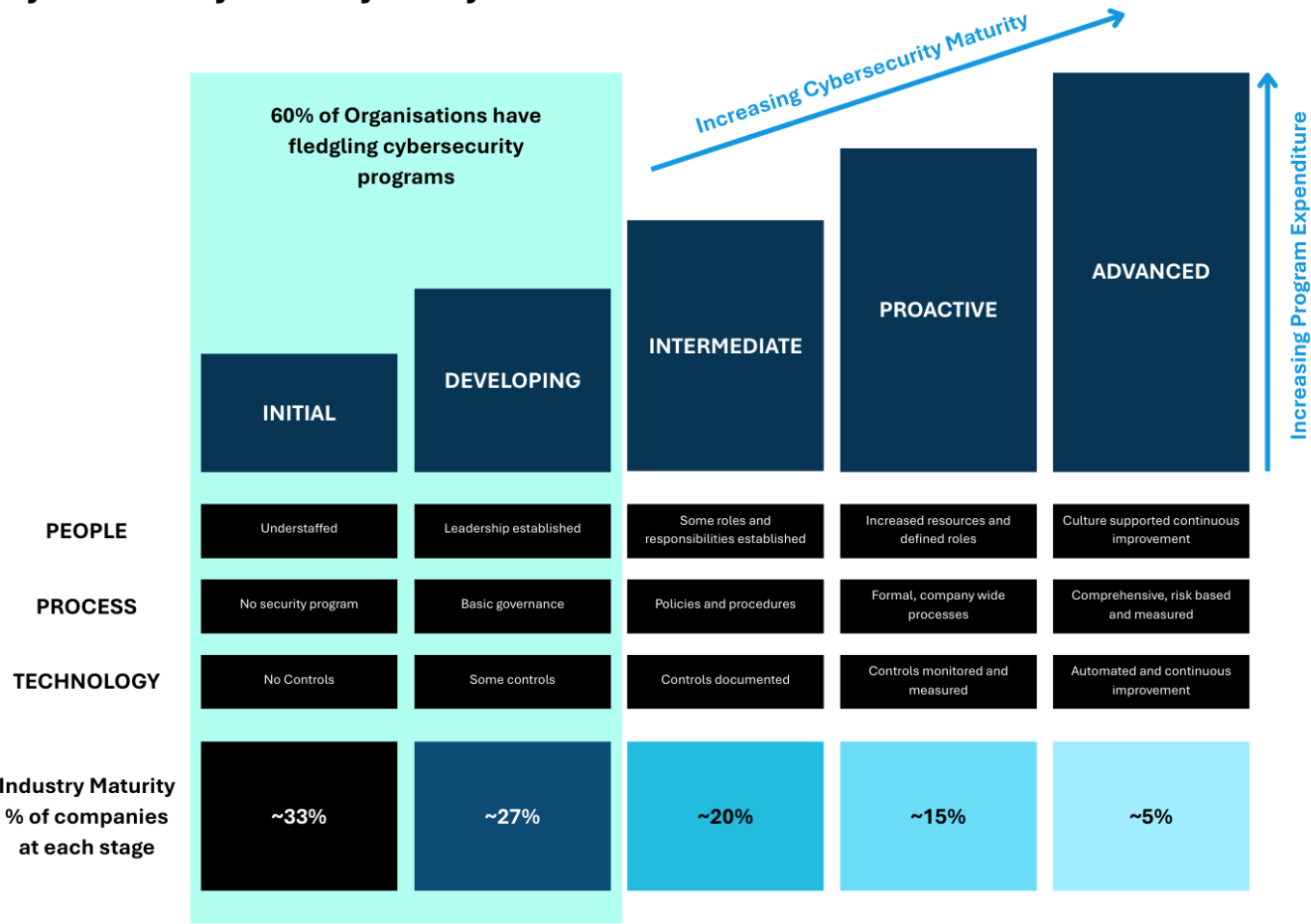
Change takes time and requires the alignment of people, processes, and technology. As a result, asset owners increasingly need the expertise that security consulting and managed services organisations can offer, bringing the technical knowledge, understanding of operational risk, and transformation skills needed to help move towards a more resilient operating model. This has resulted in a significant increase in expenditure on OT cybersecurity services with Westlands Advisory's (WA) latest market forecast projecting average growth of 18% per year to 2031.

Security consulting companies come in different shapes and sizes, and their effectiveness can vary widely depending on the requirement. Depth of knowledge and service quality often differ significantly by industry, region, and capability area. Understanding this variation - and matching the right service partner to the right context - is essential for Risk Leaders seeking to improve OT resilience.

## Market Context

Many asset owners are still at the early stages of the cybersecurity lifecycle. WA estimates that 60% of organisations have no or fledgling security programs with basic governance and controls. Many of these organisations are small to medium sized business with no regulatory drivers. Moving along the maturity pathway industries organisations tend to be international with stronger regulatory requirements related to cybersecurity and operational safety.

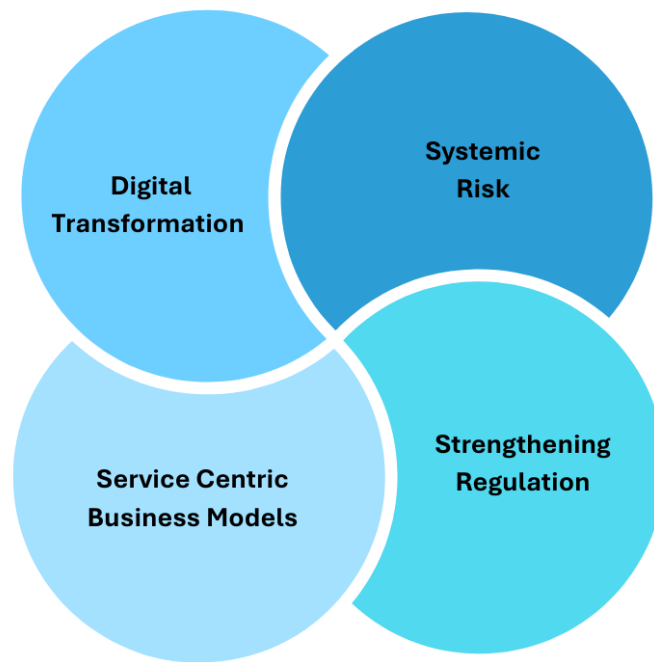
# Cybersecurity Maturity Lifecycle



The three main market forces - digitalisation, risk, and regulation - continue to shape how asset owners approach cybersecurity and what they need from service partners. In addition to these forces, Westlands Advisory has added a 4th driver of investment which is the increasing service-centric transformation of OT cybersecurity, the shift from buying cybersecurity products or point-in-time projects to consuming ongoing, integrated cybersecurity capabilities as services. In the OT context, it means that asset owners are increasingly turning to external partners to deliver, manage, and maintain security outcomes.

Investment in OT cybersecurity has been consistently strong over the last 5 years, with investment doubling between 2020 and 2024. This reflects the relatively low level of cybersecurity maturity with organisations investing in tools to discover assets and manage vulnerabilities. However, the market has moved considerably. Whilst cataloguing assets, vulnerability management and threat detection remain imperatives, leading OT Risk Leaders have moved beyond these processes to build scalable and resilient operations aligned to business objectives. This growing maturity has been driven by the four market forces.

## Market Forces Driving OT Cybersecurity Investment



### 1. Digital Transformation

OT environments are undergoing a significant shift. Once air-gapped and standalone, they now sit at the centre of complex, connected digital ecosystems. The adoption of cloud, remote operations, and edge computing is transforming how organisations design, run, and optimise industrial operations.

In this environment, traditional perimeters no longer apply. Instead, resilience depends on being able to enforce trust at the point of interaction: identity-based access, real-time monitoring, and strict segmentation across both north-south (IT to OT) and east-west (within OT) traffic flows.

Service providers must be capable of securing distributed environments at scale. This includes architecture for edge visibility, governance for connected assets, and controls that extend to endpoints, 5G infrastructure, and vendor-access portals.

### 2. Systemic Risk

Industrial operations face multiple risks to their availability and safety, stemming from both intentional and unintentional actions. While sophisticated nation-state attacks are relatively rare, the more common threat comes from criminal networks targeting IT systems or IT-connected assets within OT environments, often through ransomware. In addition, supply chain compromises and physical attacks also pose significant risks.

OT cybersecurity services must go beyond network security or device hardening. They must support multi-layer threat modelling, coordinated response between digital and physical domains, and rapid containment strategies that prioritise operational continuity and safety.

### **3. Strengthening Regulation**

As critical infrastructure has become a focus of national security, governments and regulators have strengthened existing regulations and introduced new ones, shifting from broad guidance to specific, enforceable obligations.

In the US TSA directions demand formal incident response planning, detection capabilities, and board-level accountability for transport operators, whilst CIRCIA mandates that critical infrastructure reports significant incidents to CISA within 72 hours.

In Europe, NIS2 expands the scope of early regulation, sets maturity baselines, and introduces penalties for non-compliance across a wide range of industry segments. The EU Cyber Resilience Act (CRA) places new requirements on manufacturers and software providers to embed security into design and lifecycle management. The UK's Cyber Security & Resilience Bill is expected to pass through Parliament in 2025, expanding the scope and regulatory powers of its predecessor.

In the Middle East, Saudi Arabia and UAE have introduced local regulation related to critical national infrastructure protection and data sovereignty, whilst across Asia countries continue to strengthen policy, regulation and align to international standards (e.g. Australia, Japan, and Singapore).

Compliance is no longer separate from security. It must be embedded into service delivery with providers offering risk documentation, playbooks, reporting support, and roadmap planning tied to regulatory timelines.

### **4. Service Centric Business Models**

One of the most significant shifts in the OT cybersecurity market is the growth of service-centric business models. Rather than purchasing standalone tools or commissioning periodic consulting engagements, asset owners are increasingly consuming cybersecurity as an ongoing service that is structured, measurable, and aligned to resilience outcomes.

In practice, this means organisations are not just outsourcing tasks like vulnerability scanning or remote access management but are engaging providers to deliver end-to-end capabilities, including maintaining response readiness, managing third-party access across industrial estates, embedding security into engineering projects, and correlating

threats across IT and OT. These services are increasingly delivered with defined service-levels and measurable outputs.

This model is being accelerated by the evolution of underlying tools and platforms. Cloud-based landing zones offer pre-integrated, policy-compliant environments that reduce deployment time and complexity across distributed OT estates. Generative AI and automation are helping providers scale expertise, supporting faster incident analysis, alert summarisation, policy creation, and executive reporting. Orchestration platforms are making it easier to consolidate fragmented telemetry into meaningful, actionable workflows.

These forces — digital transformation, risk, regulation, and security services — have changed the OT security mandate. Organisations can no longer rely on perimeter thinking or reactive practices. Leading asset owners are focussed on resilience by design, supported by capabilities that span detection, protection, governance, and recovery.

## **Aiming for Business Resilience**

As industrial systems become more connected, more complex, and more critical to business continuity, the concept of resilience has become central to cybersecurity strategy.

Resilience in this context is not about preventing every incident. It is about being able to anticipate, absorb, and recover from disruption without losing control of operations, compromising safety, or undermining customer and stakeholder trust.

The World Economic Forum's Unpacking Cyber Resilience report (November 2024) frames this well:

"Cyber resilience is an organization's ability to minimize the impact of significant cyber incidents on its primary goals and objectives."

For OT environments, these goals are uniquely operational. The priority is not just protecting data or devices, but maintaining safe, stable, and available physical processes whether that is running a turbine, managing a power grid, or keeping a production line online. Whilst traditional cybersecurity programs often focus on preventing incidents and meeting compliance requirements, resilience asks more strategic questions.

- Can we detect disruption early enough to take action?
- Can we contain an incident before it becomes a systemic failure?

- Can we recover operations quickly, safely, and in a coordinated way?

In this sense, resilience is not just a technical goal but a business capability. It requires risk-aligned governance, cross-functional ownership, contingency planning, and operational ability to respond under pressure.

It also recognises that threats do not respect organisational boundaries. A cyber incident in IT can cascade into OT. A compromise at a supplier or contractor can create ripple effects across the supply chain. A power outage, network failure, or system misconfiguration can be just as disruptive as a malware infection.

Resilience reframes cybersecurity as a continuous business risk management process that is comprised of five core capabilities. Leading OT Security Service firms should be able to help asset owners address all of these.

## Achieving Cybersecurity Resilience



**1. Visibility and prioritisation:** Clear understanding of assets, dependencies, and risks — especially for the most critical systems.

**2. Layered protection:** Segmentation, remote access controls, endpoint hardening, and perimeter enforcement to limit exposure and contain spread.

**3. Integrated governance and decision-making:** Defined roles, shared policies, and cross-functional coordination and collaboration between engineering, security,

operations, and executive leadership.

**4. Managed Security Operations:** SOC delivery models based on ongoing monitoring, management, and threat containment with a focus on maintaining safe and continuous operations.

**5. Incident response and recovery readiness:** Playbooks, tested procedures, offline backups, and clear escalation pathways that reflect the realities of industrial operations.

**6. Sustained maturity through lifecycle integration:** Security embedded into procurement, engineering design, transformation initiatives, and ongoing risk management.

These elements are not delivered by technology alone. They require expertise, operational awareness, and cultural change. This is why OT cybersecurity services are becoming an essential part of how organisations deliver resilience at scale.

## OT Resilience Challenges Faced by Asset Owners

While the case for improving OT cybersecurity is increasingly well understood, execution remains difficult. Asset owners face persistent challenges that the right services can help overcome. This includes helping asset owners to understand the challenge, communicate the problem, deliver the business case, pilot the solution, deliver the program, and manage the security operation. Security consulting organisations have evolved to provide expert support throughout the security lifecycle, addressing ten key challenges .

**1. Measuring Resilience and Proving Value:** Many organisations still struggle to define what good OT cybersecurity looks like. Resilience is often treated as an aspiration, not a measurable objective. Metrics for uptime, recovery readiness, and risk reduction are not always in place making it difficult to set priorities or secure long-term investment. Many asset owners struggle to move beyond compliance checklists to performance-based metrics. Questions like “Are we resilient to ransomware?” or “How long would recovery take?” remain hard to answer. This makes it difficult to set priorities, build confidence, or justify budget.

**2. Business Case and Return on Investment:** Unlike traditional IT programs, OT cybersecurity investments are often preventative, with no immediate cost savings or productivity gains. This can make it difficult to secure funding. Business leaders may struggle to understand the risk-reduction benefits or to justify spend against other

operational priorities. Linking cyber investments to resilience outcomes — such as downtime prevention or regulatory assurance — is critical but not always well articulated.

**3. Ownership & Organisational Alignment:** OT cybersecurity cuts across multiple departments from engineering and operations to IT, procurement, legal, and executive leadership. Without clear ownership and structured collaboration, initiatives stall or become fragmented. Internal misalignment on roles, funding, and priorities often creates confusion and inaction.

**4. Legacy Environments:** Many OT systems were never designed with cybersecurity in mind. Equipment may run on outdated operating systems, lack patching capability, or use proprietary protocols with no visibility. Even understanding what is in the environment can be a significant task.

**5. Governance & Regulatory Compliance:** Compliance obligations are increasing across sectors and jurisdictions, from NIS2 to NERC CIP and TSA directives. For many organisations, staying ahead of shifting regulatory demands while maintaining operational performance is a significant burden. Governance models must evolve to integrate cybersecurity into broader enterprise risk and control frameworks.

**6. Talent Shortages and Skill Mismatches:** There is a shortage of professionals with both cybersecurity expertise and operational experience. Asset owners often rely on small internal teams who cannot keep pace with the growing scope of threats, regulatory requirements, and technical complexity.

**7. Fragmented Tools and Telemetry:** Most OT environments accumulate a patchwork of tools over time — firewalls from one vendor, anomaly detection from another, with separate asset inventories and alerting platforms. This is multiplied in complex, heterogenous sites where multiple control systems using different security tools and policies exist. Without integration, the result is noise, duplication, and blind spots. The complexity of managing these tools undermines visibility and incident response.

**8. Balancing Security with Operational Needs:** Operations teams are rightly focused on uptime and safety. Changes that introduce latency, risk downtime, or interfere with automation are often resisted. Security initiatives must be tailored to fit operational requirements. This can delay or dilute security measures unless cross-functional governance is in place.

**9. Aligning with Business Priorities and Digital Transformation:** Many asset owners are accelerating digital transformation and connectivity between IT and OT systems. This brings opportunities for efficiency, data-driven optimisation, and remote operations but it also introduces significant security and scalability concerns. As more enterprise

applications and analytics platforms connect to OT data sources, organisations must manage increasing IT connectivity within traditionally isolated environments.

Security teams must work closely with business units and engineering teams to align priorities, avoid disrupting core processes, and ensure that cybersecurity does not become a barrier to innovation. This requires scalable architectures, consistent governance, and services that balance control with operational agility.

**10. Managing Remote Access and Third-Party Risk:** Industrial systems often rely on external vendors and OEMs for maintenance. Remote access solutions are essential but also bring risk. Without strong control over who has access, when, and how, organisations expose themselves to unmanaged entry points and monitoring blind spots.

Many of these challenges are not new but they are intensifying as connectivity and cyber risk grow. They explain why many asset owners turn to external services: not just for technology, but for strategy, implementation, and resilience. Effective services must be context-aware, flexible, and delivered by teams who understand industrial realities.

## **OT Cybersecurity Services**

Delivering resilience in OT environments requires a range of specialised services that align with how industrial systems are built, maintained, and operated. These services extend far beyond compliance or intrusion detection, helping asset owners implement layered protection, reduce exposure, prepare for incidents, and continuously adapt to change. Services are sequential, helping organisations to build the governance model, assess risk and then implement the technology and processes to improve resilience. Leading firms also guide partners of product security, ensuring security is built into products and systems prior to commissioning. Managed Security Services and Incident Response provide ongoing operational support to asset owners.

## OT Cybersecurity Professional Services



### 1. OT Governance and Risk Advisory

Governance is the foundation for any OT security program. It provides clarity on roles, responsibilities, and acceptable risk levels. In OT, effective governance means more than adopting IT frameworks, it requires adapting risk models to account for physical processes, legacy systems, and safety constraints. Strong governance prevents ambiguity in a crisis and builds the foundation for secure decision-making. It becomes especially critical in multinational operations, where different sites face different regulatory expectations. Services that help harmonise governance across countries and regimes are increasingly valuable.

Services typically include development of OT-specific security policies, creation of cross-functional governance models spanning IT, OT, physical security, and compliance, and regulatory mapping.

### 2. Risk Assessment and Gap Analysis

Before anything can be secured, it must be understood. OT environments often contain undocumented assets, outdated systems, and hidden interdependencies. Risk assessments are the diagnostic service, providing visibility into these realities and helping organisations prioritise investment. They should build an asset inventory, uncover where protective controls are missing and where recovery time objectives are unrealistic,

enabling asset owners to prioritise activities and invest in the appropriate people, processes, and technology.

Key service elements include both passive and active asset discovery, vulnerability assessments tailored to OT system constraints, and threat modelling and risk quantification.

### **3. Architecture, Design, and Implementation**

Well-structured OT networks are the first line of protection. Architecture services support the design and implementation of security controls that reduce exposure and limit the spread of threats. Architecture and design services do not just reduce the risk of a breach, they reduce the likelihood that an incident becomes a crisis. Effective segmentation and remote access controls are among the most impactful, yet under-implemented, protective measures in industrial environments.

Core considerations include:

- Network segmentation: Both north-south (IT/OT separation) and east-west (between zones of the OT environment). This minimises lateral movement and isolates critical functions.
- Perimeter defences: Firewalls, demilitarised zones (DMZs), and intrusion prevention tuned to industrial protocols.
- Remote access security: Time-bounded access, MFA, jump servers, session logging, and least privilege access — especially important for OEMs and integrators.
- 5G integration: For operations using private 5G networks or edge-connected devices, architecture must address SIM provisioning, MEC security, and identity-based access at scale.

### **4. Secure-by-Design / Product Security**

Secure-by-design integrates protection into the entire lifecycle of OT systems from engineering concept to commissioning, ensuring that new assets do not introduce new vulnerabilities. It also includes product security, a fast-growing consulting segment focused on the design, testing and lifecycle management of internet connected products. This in part is being driven by the EU's Cyber Resilience Act that, although focussed on Europe, requires all imported products to be secure-by-design and with software support provided throughout its lifecycle. Services include design reviews and security validations and hardening procedures for controllers, sensors, and HMIs.

### **5. People Consulting & Workplace Transformation**

People and workplace transformation services focus on building shared understanding, clear roles, and operational readiness across all levels of the organisation. This goes beyond basic awareness training to cultural transformation and change management. Services range from executive and board education, to upskilling OT engineers, integrated awareness campaigns, scenario-based testing and training, and stakeholder alignment.

These services help organisations build a culture of accountability. They enable fast response in a crisis, reduce miscommunication between IT and OT, and ensure that security is viewed as a shared responsibility.

## **6. OT Security Management Services**

Ongoing security operations in OT differ from IT. These services manage controls, detect anomalies, and support remediation — all with industrial constraints in mind. These services also help rationalise alert noise, integrate fragmented tools, and bridge gaps between IT and OT telemetry. As environments grow more complex, the ability to consolidate and contextualise data will become essential.

## **7. Incident Response, Recovery, and Exercising**

Effective incident response in OT must account for physical processes, safety systems, and interdependent assets. These services prepare organisations to respond, contain, and recover. Services include playbook development and OT-specific runbooks and digital forensics with industrial context. It also includes backup and recovery strategies for OT assets.

Exercising is important for testing readiness and continuous improvement. These services help organisations learn from past incidents, stress-test assumptions and can reveal flaws in governance, tooling, and assumptions. Key activities include tabletop and live-fire exercises, lessons-learned programs following real-world events, and scenario modelling for future-state risks.

# **Evaluating and Selecting OT Cybersecurity Partners**

Selecting the right cybersecurity partner is not a one-size-fits-all decision. Asset owners have unique needs based on their size, operation, regulatory exposure, maturity level, and internal capacity. Evaluating partners effectively means understanding what kind of

support is needed and what capabilities a provider must bring to deliver meaningful results.

## **Different Buyers, Different Needs**

The most successful relationships are based on a clear understanding of context. Buyers should assess not just who can do the work, but who can do it in their environment. A well-matched partner accelerates maturity. A mismatch drains time, budget, and credibility. Storytelling, case studies, and scenario-based proposals can help both sides understand how the partnership will work in real conditions. This is where many relationships start, testing concepts in OT Lab environments to help align around needs and requirements.

For organisations at the start of the cybersecurity maturity process, the focus should be on visibility, basic segmentation, governance setup, and secure remote access. Partners must bring empathy, explain complexity, and avoid overengineering. For those that have run pilot projects and are advancing the program, help is required to integrate tools, formalising response capabilities, and operationalising risk frameworks. Finally, those that require support scaling across business units, benchmarking controls, enhancing recovery readiness, and embedding security-by-design in every new investment will require partners with specialist skills. Depending on size, scale and maturity of the asset owner, different services are required.

Multinational Operators face complexity at scale. They often must coordinate across sites, jurisdictions, and business units, each with different infrastructure and risk profiles. A global energy company, for instance, may need a partner who can harmonise governance across EU and U.S. regulations while delivering localised SOC services in multiple languages. Projects often start as pilots before scaling across global sites. Key needs include cross-border regulatory alignment, scalable monitoring, integration with global IT and engineering teams and preferred partners include mature MSSPs, global integrators with strong OT capabilities, and regional specialists who can support local delivery.

Sovereign or State-Regulated Entities such as national grid operators, water utilities, or public transport providers often prioritise local compliance, trust, and assurance. They may face political or public accountability that global players do not. Key requirements include national data residency, sovereign service delivery and audit readiness. Preferred partners are generally trusted national providers, organisations active in public-sector resilience programs, or government-certified vendors.

Mid-Sized Manufacturers or Industrial Operators may be earlier in their cyber maturity journey. Often lacking internal teams or budgets to run complex programs, they benefit most from partners who can offer pragmatic, stepwise support. This includes risk assessment, prioritised roadmap, foundational governance, and turnkey services and is

generally serviced by niche OT security firms and regional MSSPs with experience in brownfield environments.

## **Different Service Providers, Different Strengths**

Just as OT asset owners vary in maturity, industry, and complexity, so too do the service providers that support them. The OT cybersecurity market is not homogenous — it draws on a diverse ecosystem of players, each shaped by their heritage, core competencies, and go-to-market models.

Understanding what type of partner to engage with and where they excel helps Risk Leaders set realistic expectations and assemble complementary capabilities when needed.

Few service providers can meet every OT cybersecurity need. Asset owners must look beyond branding and assess how a supplier's strengths align with their own maturity, risk profile, and operating model. Sometimes the right answer is a mix of service partners — with roles clearly defined and managed under a cohesive strategy.

- **Global Professional Services Firms** bring depth in governance, regulatory alignment, program design, and cross-sector benchmarking. They often lead major transformation programs and help build board-level engagement. Strengths include strategic advisory and transformation roadmaps, multi-national compliance and enterprise integration, and CISO-level engagement and stakeholder alignment. In addition to traditional advisory services, leaders have built teams with deep OT technical expertise and engineering experience, developed OT specific playbooks, and introduced technology to accelerate and scale OT cybersecurity deployments. They have the infrastructure, people, and processes to lead complex end-to-end engagements.
- **Original Equipment Manufacturers** have deep technical knowledge of the systems they provide and are increasingly investing in embedded cybersecurity capabilities and services. Strengths include engineering-level knowledge of specific control systems and strong lifecycle support. Two camps have emerged. One group who has acquired and built technology solutions and provide vendor agnostic services (e.g. Honeywell, Rockwell Automation, Siemens), and the second group who exclusively services its own systems (e.g. Emerson Electric and ABB).
- **Global IT Services and Infrastructure Providers.** These firms offer strong capabilities in managed services, cloud integration, and SOC operations, often extending existing enterprise IT relationships into the OT domain. Strengths include SOC/SIEM maturity and platform integration, Identity and Access Management capabilities and large-scale managed detection and response offerings.
- **Engineering Services Firms and Systems Integrators.** Rooted in plant design, control systems engineering, and infrastructure buildout, these firms are increasingly building

cybersecurity into their industrial project offerings. Strengths include process control and automation experience, ability to integrate security into capital projects, and trusted relationships with plant and maintenance teams.

- **Cybersecurity Services Specialists.** Pure-play security firms focus exclusively on cybersecurity. Some specialise in OT/ICS environments, bringing field-experienced professionals, advanced threat modelling, niche forensics, and rapid incident response. Others have a significant IT consulting and managed service background with a strategic focus on growing OT capabilities and capacity. These providers often offer deep technical insight and may work alongside larger contractors. They are best suited for country/regional specific knowledge, high-assurance environments, regulated sectors, or organisations looking for specialist capabilities.
- **Mobile Network Operators** bring large-scale MSSP capabilities and deep insight into network-level threats — including lateral movement, remote access abuse, and edge vulnerabilities. Their value proposition lies in stopping threats at the network level before they reach OT systems, leveraging strong visibility, analytics, and response infrastructure. Asset owners prioritising secure remote access, 5G-enabled operations, or who require strong perimeter defence integrated with telco infrastructure may consider working with MNOs who can also demonstrate strong understanding of OT networks.

## Evaluating partners

Asset owners often work with a range of partners. This may be driven by OEM agreements, preferred supplier contracts, or a need for specialist skills. The ideal partner understands that OT cybersecurity is not about selling software but is about building trust, adapting to industrial realities, and helping the organisation build durable capabilities. Buyers should look for partners who can demonstrate outcomes, not just offer services. Long-term resilience comes from relationships rooted in shared understanding and ongoing support.

There are however some key considerations that asset owners should consider based on their specific requirement.

### 1. Service Capability and Lifecycle Coverage

Can the provider support the full OT cybersecurity lifecycle — from assessment and architecture to managed operations, response, and recovery? Do they offer tailored pathways for organisations at different maturity levels, and do they have the necessary accreditations?

### 2. OT Experience and Field Expertise

Security strategies that ignore the realities of the plant floor often fail in implementation. From interviews with CISOs and engineering leaders it is clear that security consulting firms with strong OT credibility build trust amongst the engineering teams and accelerate program delivery. Does the team include professionals with real-world OT experience — plant-side engineers, ICS specialists, safety managers? Certifications like IEC 62443 or GICSP are good signals, but experience is equally important.

### **3. Tools, IP, and Resources**

Repeatable delivery, innovation, and efficiency come from having structured, proven resources. This includes OT labs and testing environments, cloud landing zones, unique tools (e.g. GenAI for governance or risk scoring), and proprietary processes, frameworks, or benchmarking methods.

### **4. Integration and Technology Flexibility**

Can the provider integrate with legacy systems, cloud telemetry, and diverse industrial protocols? Are they vendor-agnostic? Can they consolidate alerts across environments to deliver meaningful context?

### **5. Ecosystem and Partner Collaboration**

Do they have relevant partnerships — with OEMs, cybersecurity vendors, cloud providers, and national CERTs or ISACs? Can they coordinate effectively across a complex vendor landscape?

### **6. Geographic Reach and Regulatory Responsiveness**

Multinational operators need global capability — but local fluency. And regulated entities need partners aligned with state and sector expectations. Can they provide localised support, data residency assurance, and respond to national requirements across multiple jurisdictions? Are they active in regulated or sovereign sectors?

### **7. Sector-Specific Knowledge and Understanding of Operational Risk**

Sector familiarity leads to faster risk prioritisation, better playbooks, and stronger response. Have they worked in the relevant sector? Do they understand its business drivers, operating models, and unique threats? Are they active in relevant knowledge-sharing communities?

# Concluding

Digital convergence, systemic risk, and strengthening regulation necessitates that OT cybersecurity evolves beyond technical protection toward true operational resilience. Asset owners face a future where cyber threats, physical disruptions, and business pressures are inseparable and where resilience is the foundation for value protection, service continuity, and trust.

The security services landscape is growing in sophistication, but challenges remain. Asset owners must seek consulting partners who understand operational realities, who can integrate cybersecurity into enterprise risk governance, and who can continuously adapt security capabilities as technologies, risks, and regulations evolve.

The future demands more than detection and compliance. It requires services that:

- Align cybersecurity directly with business value and operational risk.
- Integrate cyber, physical, and operational resilience into a unified model.
- Enable dynamic adaptation, not just static protection.
- Build governance frameworks that scale across jurisdictions, suppliers, and sites.
- Augment human decision-making with AI and automation, accelerating recovery as much as detection.

Resilience should be viewed as an organisational capability, not a standalone product or project. It requires leadership, a unified vision, and continuous evolution and testing and a trusted consulting partner with deep expertise in OT, cybersecurity and delivering complex solutions.

# Profile: EY



## EY Review

### Introduction

EY has been recognised for the third consecutive time as a leader in Industrial Cybersecurity Consulting and Managed Services Navigator (2025). Its OT Cybersecurity practice outperformed the market in FY2024 and continues to evolve in line with shifting customer requirements and tightening regulatory expectations. This success reflects EY Cyber's disciplined focus on priority industrial sectors, underpinned by sustained investment in people, technology, and capabilities that reduce clients' operational risk. By reframing cybersecurity as a driver of business continuity and revenue protection, not merely a defensive function, EY aligns its services directly with the operational and financial outcomes that matter most to industrial organisations.

The business enjoys strong visibility and sponsorship at senior leadership levels, supported by a clear commitment to continued investment in industry talent, targeted acquisitions, and the digitisation of cyber services through EY's AI platform. Cyber capabilities are increasingly embedded across EY's broader portfolio, ensuring customers benefit from consistent, intelligence-driven protection across their environments. The company delivers a comprehensive suite of services spanning the entire cybersecurity maturity lifecycle from OT Governance & Risk through to Architecture & Design, Security-by-Design, and global OT Cybersecurity Managed Services.

Looking ahead, EY's priorities include deepening its focus on key verticals, accelerating AI-enabled service delivery, scaling its managed services footprint across global markets, and expanding its Product Security (Security-by-Design) capabilities. These strategic investments position EY to continue leading the market and supporting clients as they strengthen resilience, modernise operations, and adapt to the next wave of industrial cyber risks.

### Positioning & Strategy

EY brings together an experienced leadership team with deep OT expertise, supported by a broad set of accreditations and strong engagement with global institutes and regulatory bodies. This commitment to excellence is mirrored across the organisation, where practitioners pursue OT-specific certifications and participate in structured internal

training programmes including a dedicated OT Cybersecurity badge, ensuring skills development remains a core strength.

Underpinning this capability is EY's focus on robust internal processes designed to ensure its global competencies can be consistently applied at a local level, aligned to the company's "All In" strategy. From a security perspective, EY continually evolves and simplifies its services to help customers strengthen OT cyber resilience and enhance operational performance.

The company leverages leading OT cybersecurity technologies through a well-established partner ecosystem and operates a global network of OT Labs. Innovation is embedded into the business, with advanced use of AI to automate and optimise OT cybersecurity processes such as firewall tuning, policy generation, and the deployment of AI-driven assistants.

With a strong global presence, EY is supported by a distributed network of Security Operations Centres, 10 specialist OT Cybersecurity Labs, innovation hubs, and strategic technology alliances. This global footprint, combined with a proven track record across APAC, Europe, and North America, enables the company to deliver at scale.

EY also places significant emphasis on developing deep vertical market insights, allowing it to provide sector-specific guidance and support. Its experience in delivering long-duration, complex programmes, often under challenging operational conditions, has earned consistently positive customer feedback.

Collaborating closely with technology and alliance partners such as ServiceNow and Microsoft, EY executes joint go-to-market initiatives that amplify value for customers. The company has received multiple industry accolades, including Nozomi Networks' Global GSI Partner of the Year in 2024. A diverse range of OT partner solutions, spanning CrowdStrike, AttackIQ, Hexagon and others, are actively deployed and validated within EY's innovation hubs and labs.

## **Capabilities**

EY provides comprehensive OT Governance and Risk services built on an established framework for designing effective governance models, including its OT Security Governance and Target Operating Model methodology. With deep expertise in IEC 62443 and other leading standards, EY conducts rigorous risk assessments to identify gaps, prioritise remediation activities, and build actionable risk plans. These assessments are supported by proprietary tools such as the EY Cyber Program Accelerator Framework, enabling structured analysis, efficient knowledge transfer, and measurable improvements in OT security posture.

EY also brings extensive experience in architecture, design, and implementation across complex OT environments. The company has a proven track record of establishing governance structures, deploying new technical solutions, and embedding operational processes that enhance security and resilience. Security-by-design is a core principle, supported by dedicated product security services covering IoT and OT devices and assisting clients in defining and operationalising robust product security processes. Complementing this, EY provides people-focused consulting and workplace transformation services, equipping employees, contractors, and operational stakeholders with the awareness, skills, and confidence required to operate securely in industrial environments.

To sustain OT security over the long term, EY provides a mature Operational Technology Cyber Managed Services program covering threat detection and response, supply chain assurance, cyber hygiene, digital identity, and threat exposure management, supported by a global network of integrated SOCs. Its incident response and recovery capabilities are fully globalised, enabling rapid support during security events. EY also offers tailored training programmes to help client teams understand threats, execute remediation plans, and embed best practice aligned to their operational requirements and budgets.

## **Market Perception**

EY is widely recognised as a high value service provider that delivers transformational OT cybersecurity projects at scale. Customer and ecosystem partners frequently cited the following as key strengths and differentiators.

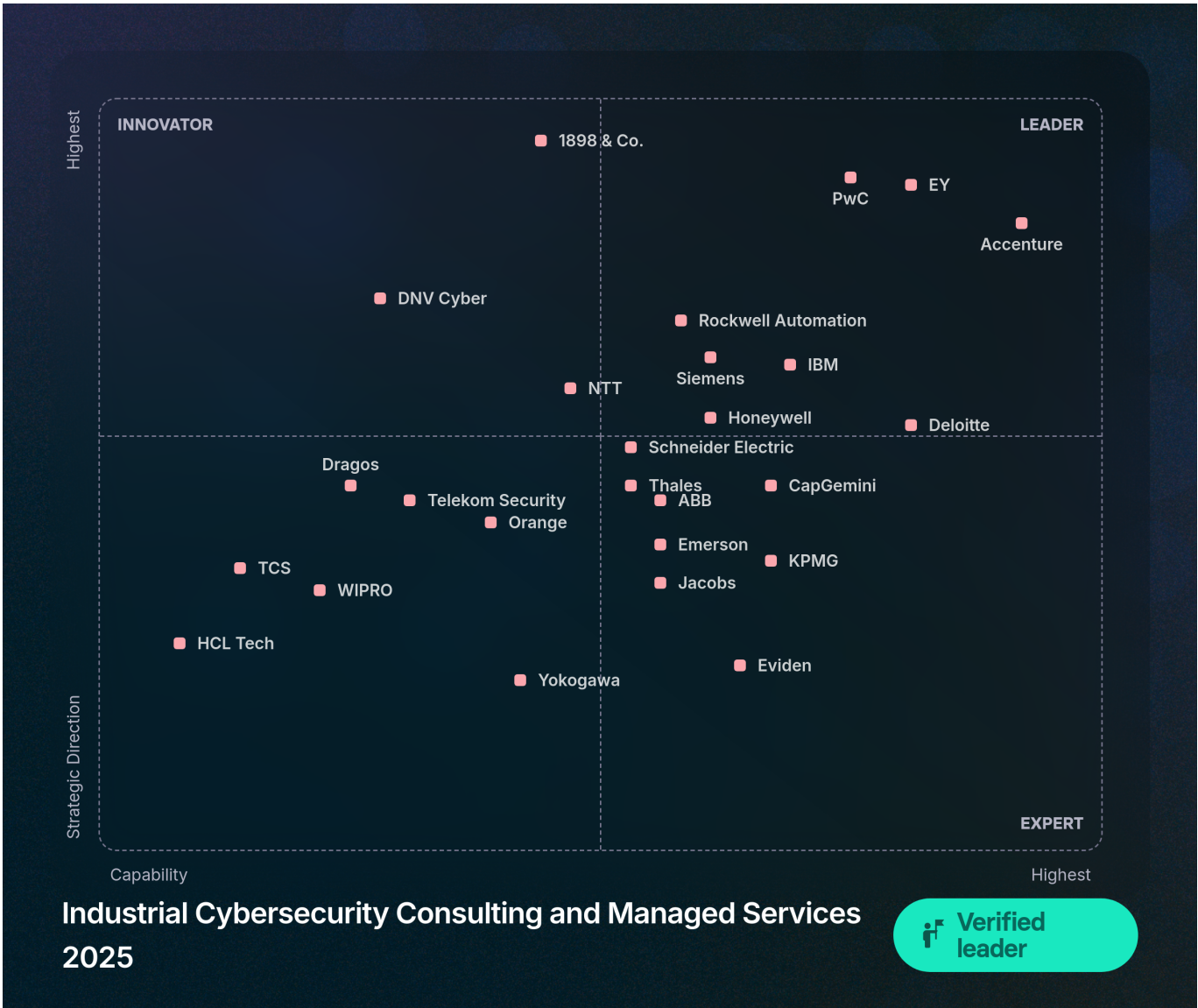
**Vertical Market Expertise.** EY maintains a strong focus on priority vertical markets and continues to invest in sector-specific frameworks, tools, and methodologies to enhance the relevance and impact of its services. This depth of expertise is consistently recognised by customers. For example, a major EU utilities provider highlighted EY's contextual understanding of operational risk and regulatory obligations as a core differentiator. EY's recent "All In" strategy reinforces this strength by enabling greater global-to-local integration, ensuring customers can access consultants with the right expertise regardless of geography. This combination of talent, vertical insight, and delivery flexibility has contributed to consistently high customer satisfaction.

**Innovation.** Customers also recognise EY's commitment to continuous innovation. One long-term client noted the steady introduction of new capabilities, such as generative AI and advanced analytics, to enhance security operations over a four-year partnership. EY is actively developing a new NIS2 compliance solution and planning to expand its OT portfolio with offerings in product security, AI security for OT, and IAM for industrial environments. The company is further investing in quantum technologies, advancing solutions such as its Quantum Readiness Assessment and Quantum-Resistant Network to future-proof industrial and cyber operations.

Thought Leadership. EY plays an influential role in shaping the industrial cybersecurity landscape through active participation in global conferences, industry forums, and regulatory working groups. The company regularly contributes to the development of policies, frameworks, and standards that strengthen industrial resilience, reinforcing its position as both a market leader and a trusted advisor to the OT community.

## Industrial Cybersecurity Consulting and Managed Services 2025

The Industrial OT Cybersecurity Consulting and Managed Services Navigator is an evaluation of organisations with both significant experience and expertise of working with Asset Owners to improve OT cybersecurity resilience. Organisations are positioned as Leaders, Experts and Innovators. There is significant variation between organisations capabilities and ability to deliver, with organisations having different sector, regional, or service strengths. Asset Owners should consider partners that are most aligned to their unique requirement.



# Appendix

## Definition

OT (Operational Technology) Cybersecurity Consulting and Managed Services refer to a set of expert-driven offerings designed to protect industrial systems and critical infrastructure from cyber threats and to ensure operational resilience.

This includes **OT Cybersecurity Consulting**, professional advisory services focused on identifying risks, improving security posture, and guiding the secure design, implementation, and governance of operational technology environments. This includes assessing the cybersecurity maturity of systems like SCADA, DCS, and PLCs; aligning with industry standards (e.g., IEC 62443, NIS2, NERC CIP); and developing strategies for segmentation, secure remote access, asset visibility, and incident preparedness. This also includes ensuring OT governance maps to business requirements and IT operations, workplace transformation, and a growing focus on secure-by-design.

**OT Cybersecurity Managed Services** is the operational support provided by a third party to monitor, detect, and respond to cybersecurity threats targeting OT environments. These services often include 24/7 security operations (e.g., SOC), managed detection and response (MDR), patch and vulnerability management, secure remote access management, threat intelligence integration, and compliance monitoring, and incident response.

## Evaluation

Service Vendors are assessed according to Competencies and Strategic Direction.

**Competencies** consists of the maturity of the services offered across (OT Governance & Risk, Risk Assessments, Architecture Design & Implementation, Secure-by-Design/Product Security Advisory Services, People Consulting & Workplace Transformation, OT Security Managed Services, and Incident Response, Recovery & Training). This assessment totals 50% of the Competencies assessment. The remaining score is against 9 core competencies including People, Internal Operations, Security Operations, Technology, Market Reach, Execution, Partners, Customers and Business Performance.

**Strategic Direction** is an assessment of the company plans and strategy related to Vision, People, Investment, Internal Operations, Security Operations, Innovation, Market Reach, Partners, and Customers.

## Methodology

The following information and insight contributes towards the Navigator research and conclusions. Westlands Advisory directly interviewed over 70 organisations - a mix of Service Vendors, Platform Vendors, CISOs, and Engineering Leaders.

- **Open Source:** Collection of all relevant open-source information on vendors including company documentation and information, reviews and 3rd party websites.
- **Questionnaire:** The Industry OT Cybersecurity Navigator 2025 vendor questionnaire is an important source of information. The survey is issued at the start of the process and is confidential, only being used for evaluating vendor performance.
- **Vendor Briefings:** Vendor briefings offer industry the opportunity to provide Westlands Advisory with insights into current capabilities, strengths and strategic direction. The purpose of the Vendor Briefing is to ensure that Westlands Advisory has the facts and insight required to evaluate the companies' Capability Positioning and Strategic Direction.
- **CISO and Engineering Leaders:** Interviews with CISOs and Engineering Leaders to gain further insight into Service Vendor performance, strengths and weaknesses and views on the wider ecosystem.
- **Community Briefings:** Westlands Advisory gains insights from Platform Vendors and other channel partners into the relative strengths and weaknesses of different Service Vendors. Westlands Advisory also consults with industry experts on the market and services and has an independent consultation process to ensure that the process is fair and representative.

## Qualification

Qualification for the Industrial OT Cybersecurity Services Navigator 2025 are outlined below.

- The organisation should have a minimum of 15 OT cybersecurity engagements in 2024 or revenues in excess of \$10 million globally.
- The engagements are in at least 2 geographical regions and delivered by local teams.
- The organisation must have at least 1 OT cybersecurity SOC with OT security analysts.
- The organisation needs to demonstrate extensive knowledge and experience of working in OT environments.