

Richard van Hooijdonk

KEYNOTE

AI & the future of logistics

AI forecasts demand and already turns the plan into trips and bookings. Soon the supply chain could largely steer itself, with AI agents, robots and driverless lorries. How much stronger that makes it depends on the people who run it.

Ordered today, delivered tomorrow. AI, robots and autonomous transport are clearing the way for a supply chain that looks ahead, coordinates itself and corrects its own course.

A supply chain that increasingly runs itself: futurist and trend watcher Richard van Hooijdonk shows how that works. This keynote looks at what it delivers today and what it asks of the people who work in it. Logistics already uses AI for a long list of tasks. It spots the peak in the distribution centre weeks in advance and sends robots to bring the shelving to the order picker. In ports it predicts when a ship will really arrive, while AI agents book transport and process the freight paperwork. Looking further ahead, a different kind of chain comes into view: networks of driverless lorries linking the hubs, robots that learn to pick almost any product, AI agents negotiating with other companies' agents, and goods moving through an open network like packets of data. Meanwhile criminals look for the weak link, and drivers and warehouse staff stay hard to find. All of this changes how people work together, who makes the plan and who directs the robots. Retaining experienced staff needs attention too. The keynote shows what pays off now and sketches scenarios for the next five to fifteen years. Soon, the least prepared link will set the pace for the whole chain.



RICHARD VAN HOOIJDONK

Richard van Hooijdonk is a trend watcher, futurist and international keynote speaker. Many trend watchers and futurists look at the future from a distance. Richard van Hooijdonk lives in it. His team consists of people and AI agents, and he has several chips implanted in his body. He speaks about AI and new technology, the organisation of the future and leadership in the AI era. He takes you into a future you can barely picture today, and shows how you can steer it yourself.

3,000+	650,000+	30+	Bestselling
keynotes	participants	countries	author

What the keynote covers

NOW AI in logistics

What AI already does today in planning, the warehouse, transport, the port and delivery.



01 The supply chain's twin

A digital model of your network shows what a closed route, a supplier dropping out or a new warehouse could mean.



02 Supply chain planning and forecasting

AI forecasts volumes and bottlenecks. Next: AI agents that book lorries and people themselves as soon as a peak looks likely.



03 The control tower

One view of shipments, stock and suppliers, further down the chain too. AI spots looming delays and looks for alternatives.



04 AI agents in logistics

AI agents book transport, process consignment notes and customs papers and tell customers where their shipment is. People handle the exceptions.



05 Robots in the warehouse

Robots bring the shelving to the order picker, and AI decides where each product is stored. Pickers walk far less.



06 Freight platforms and empty runs

Shippers book capacity through platforms. AI matches loads to lorries and sets the price. Lorries run full more often and come back empty less often.



07 The smart port

AI predicts when a ship will really arrive and plans berths, cranes, tugs and lorries around it. Less waiting at sea and at the gate.



08 Autonomous delivery

Delivery robots travel along the pavement and drones fly urgent parcels to remote places. AI finds the way and picks the moment.

COMING NEXT The future of logistics

Where the supply chain could be in five to fifteen years, with AI as the engine.



09 The chain that steers itself

FUTURE SCENARIO

AI agents of shippers, carriers and terminals will negotiate with each other. People set the goals; the chain plans and repairs itself.



10 The motorway without drivers

FUTURE SCENARIO

By 2040 autonomous lorries could form one shared network. AI agents spread trips and charging stops across the fleet, day and night.



11 The robot that keeps learning

FUTURE SCENARIO

Robots that learn from examples could eventually pick almost any product. That brings the lights-out warehouse within reach.



12 The physical internet

FUTURE SCENARIO

Goods will travel the way data does: in standard modules, through open hubs that everyone shares. AI picks the route for each module.



13 Ships without crews

FUTURE SCENARIO

Ships that sail themselves, first on short fixed routes and inland waterways. In time, the captain watches over a fleet from the shore.



14 The sky as a freight route

FUTURE SCENARIO

Uncrewed cargo aircraft link hubs, islands and remote areas. AI flies; a pilot on the ground watches over a whole fleet.



15 When the customer is an AI agent

FUTURE SCENARIO

Personal AI agents will do part of the buying. The supply chain responds to their predictions of what will be needed.



16 The digital inventory

FUTURE SCENARIO

By 2040 a machine could have its own replacement part printed before it fails. Inventory shifts towards production capacity.



17 The port of 2040

FUTURE SCENARIO

By 2040 the AI agents of ships, terminals and energy firms will coordinate handling and energy. The port plans cargo and power together.

PEOPLE & ORGANISATION

The logistics organisation of the future

What changes for roles, teams, leadership and culture when AI joins the work.



18 The AI-first organisation

In the warehouse and in planning, AI and robots do the repetitive and predictive work. Planners and warehouse staff focus on customers and exceptions.



19 The planner as orchestrator

Alongside planners, new roles appear: remote fleet supervisors, designers of the rules AI agents follow, and robot trainers.



20 The team in the DC

Order pickers, robots and a planning system share the work. People handle the exceptions and know when to step in.



21 Leading a 24-hour supply chain

In logistics, leaders take the initiative on AI, robots and AI agents, and get their people building the supply chain of tomorrow with them.



22 Trusting the plan

An experienced planner who lets the system decide: that takes trust, an explanation of why, and room to step in.



23 The future academy

Organisations are not waiting for education to catch up. Their future academy prepares staff and newcomers for AI and new technology.



24 The future as an ecosystem

What one link learns makes the whole chain stronger. Start-ups, scientists, partners and governments worldwide innovate faster together.

THE OTHER SIDE

The other side: responsibility and risk

Data, reliability and the criminals who know the supply chain too.



25 Data as the foundation

AI works when data from every part of the organisation is available, reliable and connected. That is the foundation of a logistics company that runs on AI.



26 When the plan gets it wrong

An error in a central system hits many trips at once. The more AI books and plans by itself, the faster a mistake repeats.



27 Cargo crime

Criminals use AI for fake freight orders, phishing with cloned voices and ransomware. That is how they get to cargo and systems.

DURATION
30, 45, 60 minutes or longer, with time for questions

LANGUAGE
Dutch or English

FORMAT
On location or online

FEE
On request

PLUS

"Richard succeeded excellently in waking up our leaders and setting them on the path to the future: after the lecture, discussions took place across various parts of the organisation about the topics covered, and initiatives have been set in motion."

Aart van Haren Managing director, PLUS

Deloitte.

"A dazzling journey through new technology. The enthusiasm and energy during his presentation, combined with the visuals, provided a successful kick-off to our event."

Patrick Steemers Partner, Deloitte

Interested in a keynote for your logistics event?

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