

WELCOME TO THE AI SPACE RACE

With open LLMs taking the stage in early 2025, and geopolitical tensions, tariffs and controls around technology and innovation on the rise, we now find ourselves in the midst of **fierce global competition for AI dominance**.

Who is leading now, and who is best positioned to lead in the future?

To find out, NetApp surveyed 400 CEOs and 400 IT Executives across the US, China, UK, and India in May 2025.

TWICE AS MANY CEOs AND IT EXECUTIVES SEE THE US AS WINNING IN AI

When asked which country is most likely to lead in AI over the next five years, 43% of CEOs and IT Executives ranked the US as the top contender



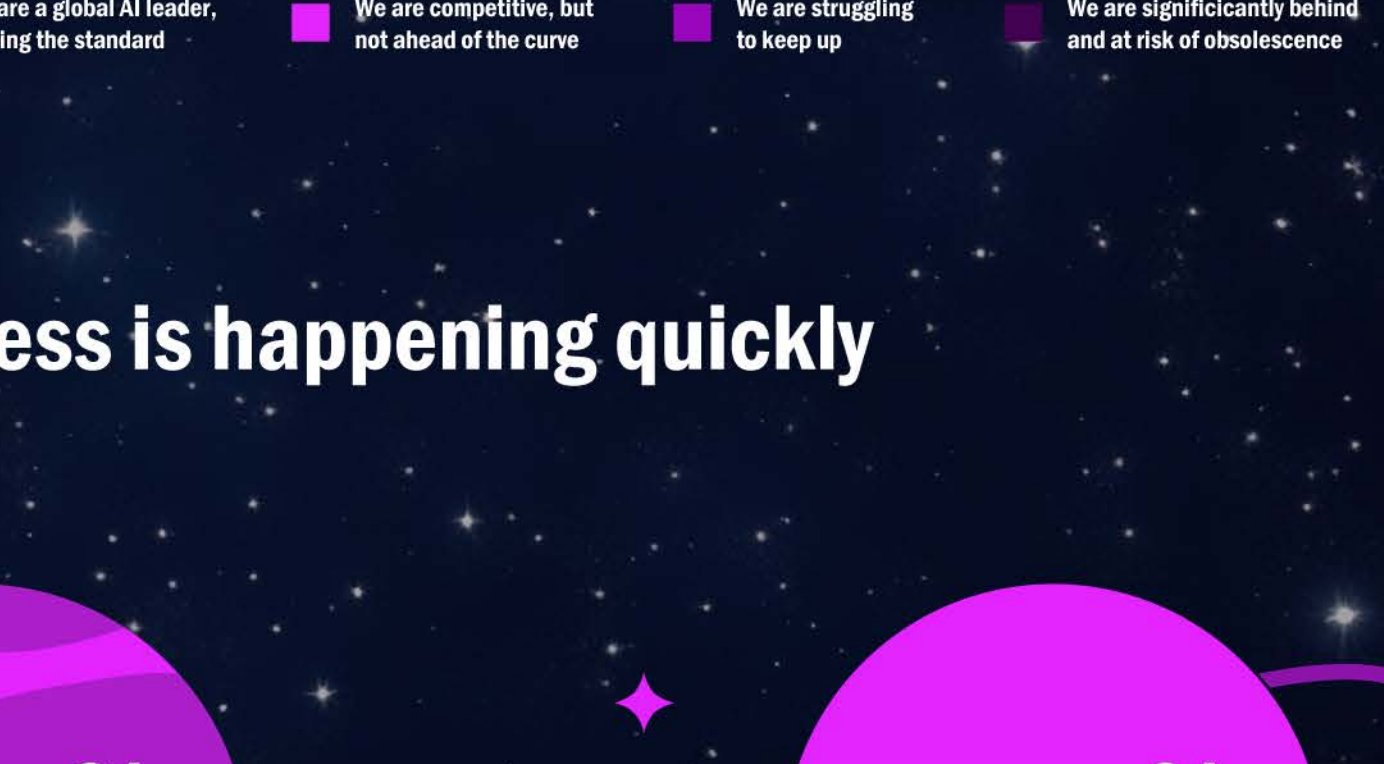
That same margin applied when only looking at responses from the US and China

Which region is best positioned to lead AI innovation over the next five years?



THE AI SPACE RACE IS STILL ANYONE'S GAME

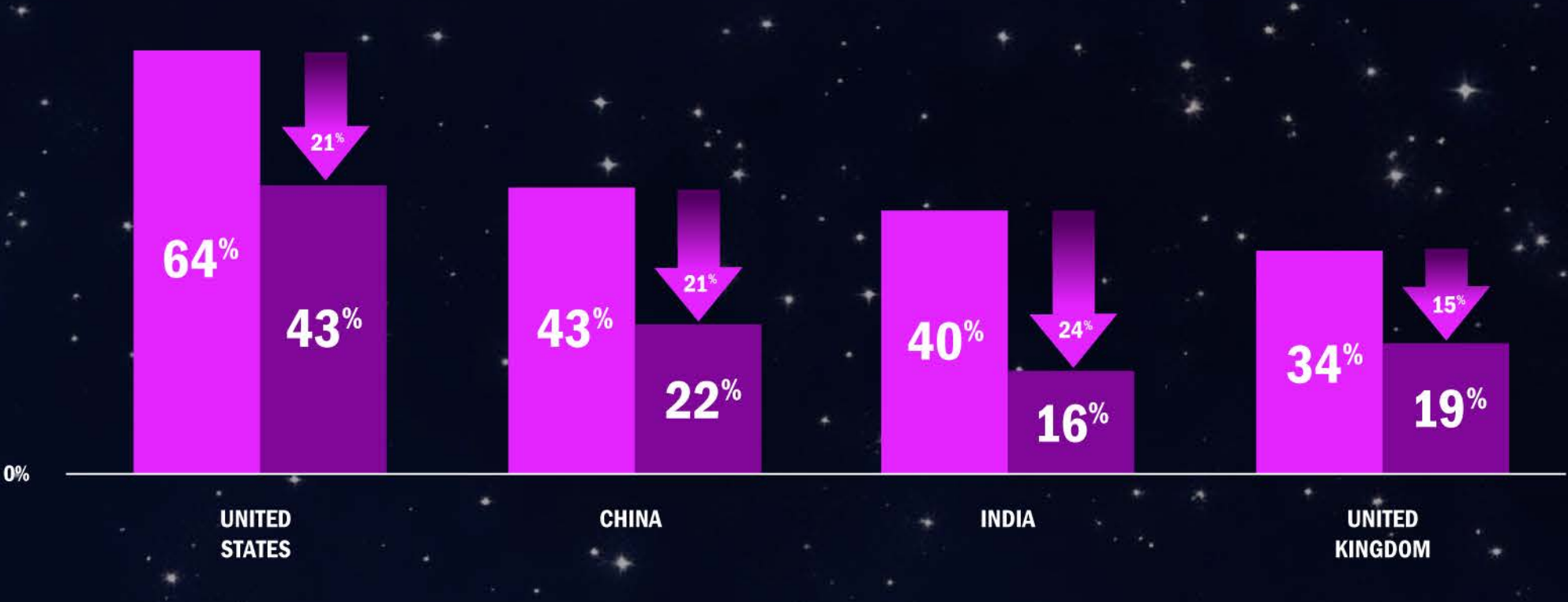
More than half of all global respondents see their organizations as competitive in AI, but none see themselves as the current leader



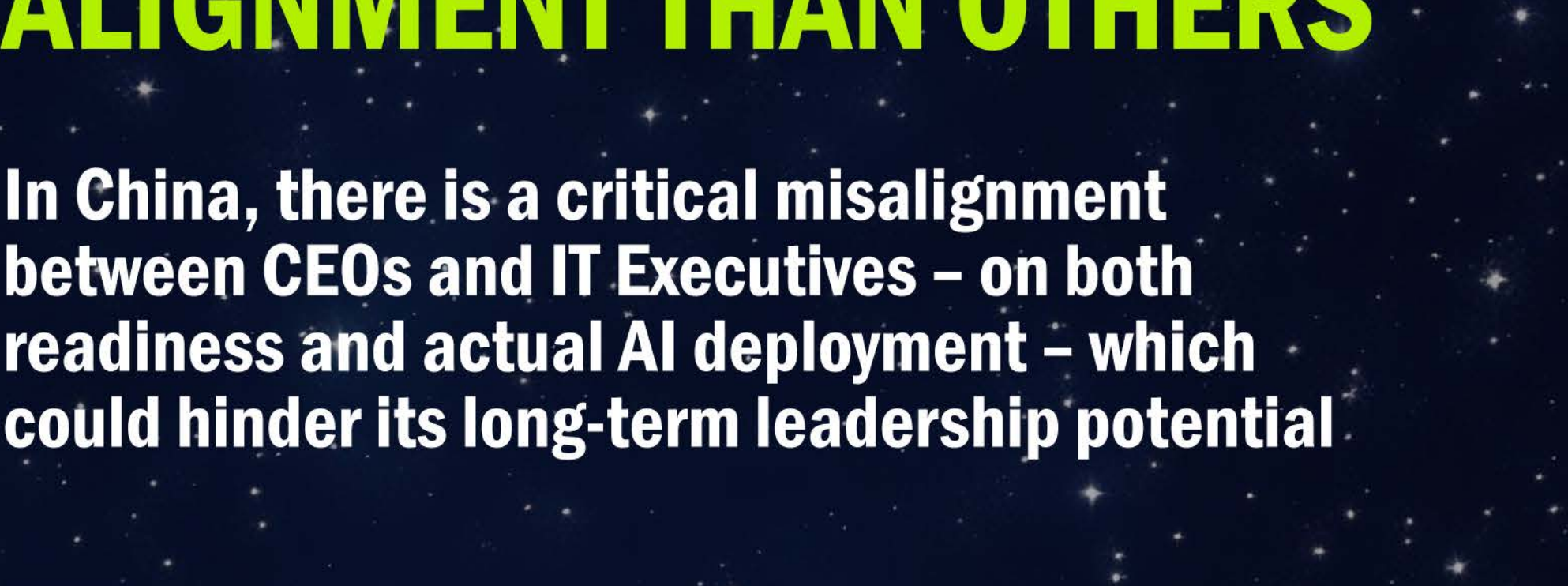
Where does your organization currently stand in the global AI innovation race?



But progress is happening quickly



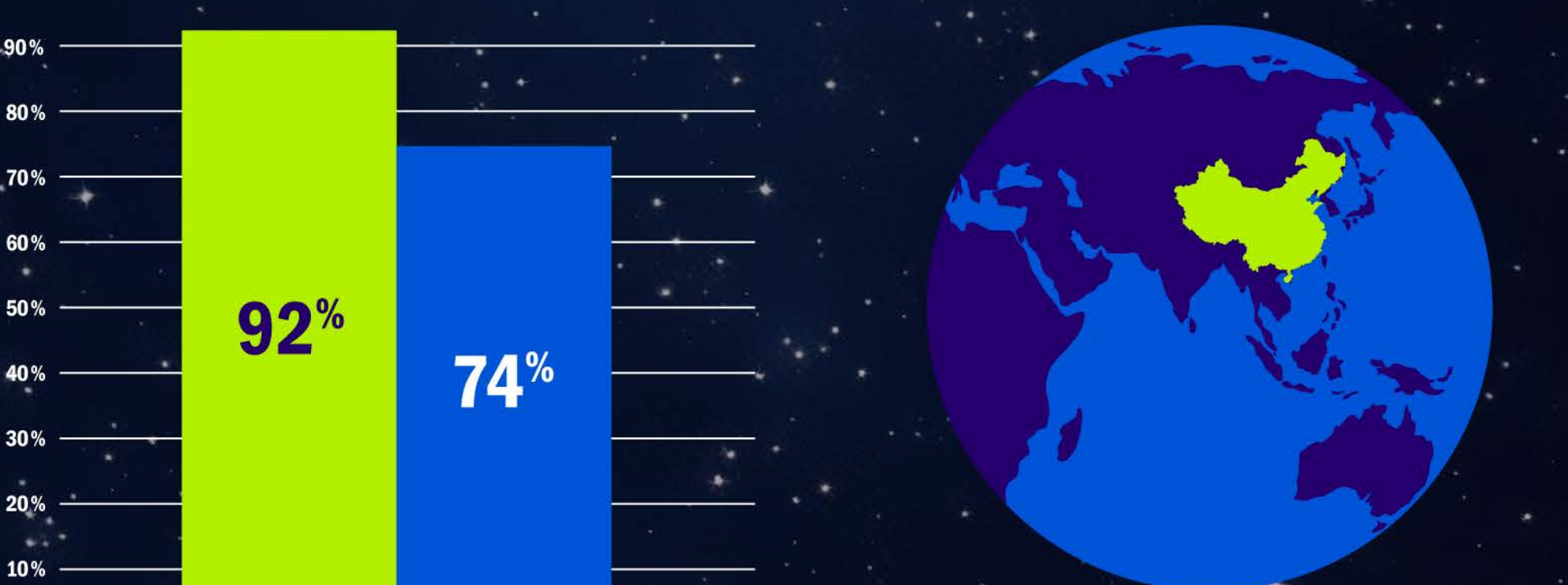
Everyone sees themselves as AI ready, and every region views themselves as competitive in the global AI innovation race



SOME COUNTRIES HAVE BETTER INTERNAL ALIGNMENT THAN OTHERS

In China, there is a critical misalignment between CEOs and IT Executives – on both readiness and actual AI deployment – which could hinder its long-term leadership potential

How ready is your IT and data infrastructure to sustain AI-driven transformation?



Ninety-two percent of CEOs in China report active AI projects, yet only 74% of Chinese IT Executives say the same



In the United States, CEO and IT readiness is more closely aligned, suggesting that internal alignment – not just ambition – may ultimately shape how AI strategies are executed across global regions and roles



One of the single biggest success factors in the AI Space Race will be data infrastructure and data management, supported by cloud solutions that are agile, secure and scalable. Winning organizations need an intelligent data infrastructure in place to ensure unfettered AI innovation. This is critical no matter the company size, industry or geography.

Success in the AI Space Race won't be driven by hype, but by resilient, scalable data infrastructure built to fuel real innovation.

MEDIA CONTACT

Kenya Hayes
NetApp
kenya.hayes@netapp.com

LEARN MORE

- Watch the [LinkedIn Live Session](#)
- Explore the [AI Space Race Insights](#)
- Discover [NetApp's AI Solutions](#)