

# Abrasives Market Outlook Series: Automation & AI

*As the demand for precision and efficiency grows, the abrasives industry is seeing a rapid shift toward integrating AI and automation into production processes.*

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Dedalus Consulting

([www.dedalusconsulting.com](http://www.dedalusconsulting.com)) has  
recently updated Abrasives,  
Superabrasives & Abrasive

Products–Global Markets, End-Users,

Applications & Competitors: Analysis & Forecasts, the 10th edition of Dedalus' in-depth research on the global abrasives industry, covering the market over the next five years.



According to Dedalus Consulting, the global abrasives market will surpass \$21.0 billion in 2024 across all markets.

In this series, we look at the latest trends, technological advancements, and strategic growth opportunities shaping the abrasives market through 2029. This installment focuses on current trends, in particular the technological advances in AI and automation.

As the demand for precision and efficiency grows, the abrasives industry is seeing a rapid shift toward integrating AI and automation into production processes. Companies are turning to these advanced technologies to tackle everything from optimizing production lines to improving quality control.

These innovations are not just improving efficiency—they're delivering real cost savings. Automation reduces the need for manual labor, streamlines operations, and ensures consistent, high-quality output. At the same time, AI-driven systems are helping manufacturers avoid costly unplanned downtime by predicting maintenance needs and optimizing machine performance in real time.

As we look ahead, AI promises to unlock even greater opportunities, including smarter production networks, mass customization, and more sustainable manufacturing processes.

## How AI and Automation Are Revolutionizing Production

- **Automated Production Lines:** Robotics and automated systems now handle repetitive tasks like material handling, assembly, and quality checks. Companies such as Saint-Gobain (with its Norton Quantum Prime grinding wheels, for example) are utilizing fully automated lines, increasing output, reducing human error, and enabling continuous, 24/7 operation.
- **AI-Driven Process Optimization:** AI monitors and adjusts machinery in real-time to maintain optimal efficiency. Predictive maintenance, as used in 3M's Cubitron II grinding wheels and belts, minimizes downtime and extends tool life, cutting costs and improving production uptime.
- **AI-Powered Quality Control:** Vision systems powered by AI inspect products for defects that human eyes might miss, reducing waste and rework. Tyrolit's MIRA Ultra grinding wheels are produced with the help of AI-powered vision systems that ensure strict quality control standards in high-volume production.

## Cost Benefits of AI and Automation

- **Labor Savings:** Automation reduces the need for manual labor, leading to significant labor cost reductions. Smaller, more skilled teams are required to manage and oversee operations.
- **Increased Productivity:** Continuous operation and efficiency gains through automation result in higher output and consistent quality, offering substantial long-term savings despite initial setup costs.
- **Predictive Maintenance:** AI-enabled predictive maintenance schedules reduce costly unplanned downtime, ensuring machinery operates smoothly and extends equipment lifespan.

## Future Outlook

Looking ahead, AI will enable smarter production networks and mass customization, allowing manufacturers to meet specific customer demands with minimal downtime. Sustainability will also benefit from AI, as it helps reduce energy consumption and waste, supporting environmentally friendly manufacturing processes.

AI and automation are redefining the abrasives industry, offering improved efficiency, lower costs, and higher precision. With the potential for long-term gains in labor savings, production efficiency, and sustainability, adopting these technologies is crucial for staying competitive.

In our next newsletter, we'll investigate how the development of eco-friendly products and practices that align with global environmental goals is impacting the industry.

More Information & How to Order

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\* send us a [Research Enquiry](#);

\* email us at [info@dedalusconsulting.com](mailto:info@dedalusconsulting.com); or

\* call us at (212) 709-8352.

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Our research focuses on both emerging and mature markets in high-technology sectors, including tooling and machining, advanced materials, frequency control and timing, surge and circuit protection, energy and renewables, life sciences, and next generation computing. Research is continually updated through a methodology that is based on primary interviews with market participants, including manufacturers, end-users, research institutions, distribution channel representatives and service providers.

Our clients range from Fortune 500 companies to private equity and investment banking institutions to academic research organizations engaged in the research, development and manufacturing of advanced technology products and services.

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