

AI-Driven Bank Project Management Lessons From Artemis II

**10 Best Practices for Bank Project Leaders We
Learned from NASA - Updated for the AI Era**



A best-practice guide for senior bankers, rising executives, and seasoned project managers.

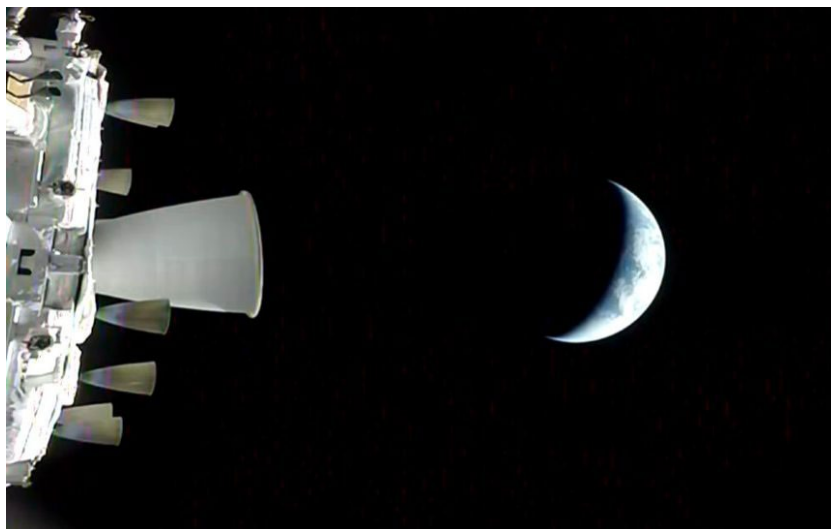
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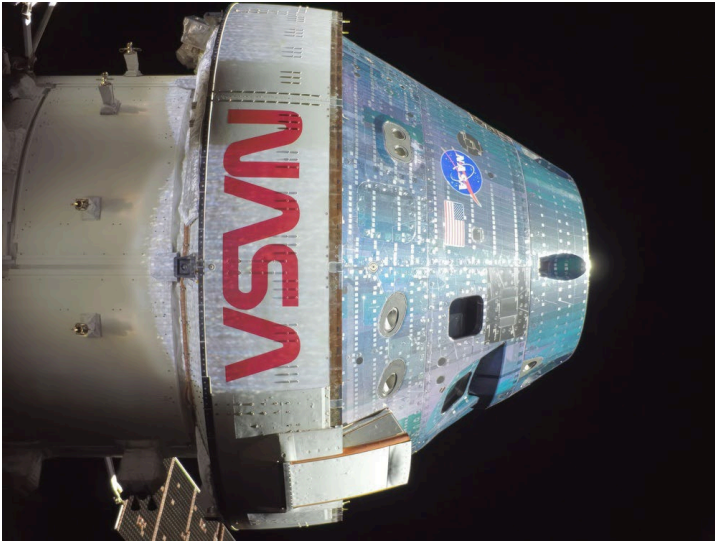
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Introduction

Artemis II is the kind of mission that reminds leaders what real project complexity looks like. NASA launched the first crewed Artemis flight on April 1, 2026, sent four astronauts beyond Earth's orbit for the first time since Apollo 17, and returned Orion safely to the Pacific on April 10 after a 9-day, 1-hour, 32-minute lunar flyby. It was not merely a launch. It was a tightly integrated orchestration of spacecraft, rocket, ground systems, recovery operations, science, and decision-making under conditions where the cost of ambiguity was unacceptably high.



That is why NASA remains such a useful reference point for banks. The modern bank is not sending astronauts around the moon, but it is managing initiatives that are increasingly multi-disciplinary, compliance-sensitive, vendor-dependent, data-heavy, and time-critical. A tokenized deposit launch touches product, treasury, legal, compliance, technology, and operations. A new account-opening platform can reshape onboarding, fraud, identity, branch workflows, call center scripts, and digital servicing. A loan origination system conversion can affect credit, sales, workflow design, data quality, servicing, and customer experience all at once.



Several years ago, we sent some bankers to a NASA class on project management. We have taken those durable lessons and combined them with the latest project management practices from the Artemis mission for the age of generative AI and agentic AI. Used well, AI can compress administrative work, improve synthesis, surface risks earlier, accelerate scenario analysis, and help project leaders spend more time on judgment and stakeholder alignment. Used poorly, it can magnify confusion, create false confidence, and automate weak process design. The point is not to replace the project manager. The point is to make

the project manager faster, sharper, and more scalable.

NASA's Project Management Competency Model is especially helpful here because it treats project management as a professional discipline rather than a banking skill. Stakeholder management, risk management, budget and resource management, requirements development, project planning, vendor acquisition, project control, earned value, and review discipline are not optional. They are the operating system for banks to accomplish ever more complex initiatives in a faster time. The ten best practices in this guide translate that mindset for senior bankers, rising executives, and experienced project managers responsible for getting hard things done within the context of a bank.

Executive implication

The age of AI does not reduce the need for project leadership. It increases the premium on leaders who can translate strategy into clear decisions, manage risk continuously, and keep multi-functional teams aligned under pressure. Bank executives now need to hire and train for generative and agentic AI skills.

A Competency Lens for Bank Project Leadership

As a starting framework, we use NASA's Project Management Competency Model, which organizes project leadership into concrete disciplines rather than vague expectations. NASA excels at breaking down the concept of returning to the Moon into concrete disciplines, giving each manager their own swim lane and accountability. For banks, that is a useful reminder that successful delivery depends on more than charisma, persistence, or a good weekly status deck.

The table below translates the model into a banking and AI context.

Competency area	What it means in a bank	AI-enabled support
Stakeholder management	Translates actions and expected actions for the audience	AI drafts tailored updates and action logs
Risk management	Separate risks by source and monitor continuously	AI clusters issues and highlights drift
Budget/resource management	Link money, talent, and time to initiative	AI summarizes variance and scenario options
Requirements and planning	Define the objective before the build	AI maps dependencies and checks scope logic
Project control and review	Use gates, evidence, and lessons learned	AI agents gather artifacts, review meeting transcripts, and prep presentation decks.



Best Practice #1: Practice Good Communication Techniques

The project manager provides information in an unambiguous manner. In banking, that means clear goals, clear owners, clear dates, and clear implications for risk, revenue, operations, and customers. If there is one area where bank management goes wrong, it's here. All too often, bank project managers don't spend enough time with the business owner to understand the objectives.

Often, the objective isn't to install a new loan origination system but to do so with the goal of reducing the collective time-on-task for customers and employees while reducing fraud risk. When Artemis II crossed the threshold beyond Earth's orbit, not every team received the same message at the same level of detail. NASA succeeded because the right people received the right information in the right format at the right moment.



What strong project leaders do

- **Do your homework before every project meeting, design session, and vendor meeting.** Executives should never have to work to discover the decision that is actually being requested. Before every meeting, make sure there are clear sections detailing the past, present, and future; required resources; and key decisions to be made. Each section head should provide a status update on what has been done in the last meeting, what is currently in flight, what the next operational period holds, what resources are required to meet the next operational period, and clear decisions that need to be made to accomplish future project objectives.
- **Be proactive about the level of detail.** A seasoned project leader knows the difference between transparency and data dumping. Share what data advances a decision.
- **Provide context, not just questions.** In a bank, asking for a policy interpretation, financial objectives, control design, or funding approval without context slows everyone down.
- **Tailor the message to the audience.** A board update, a weekly workstream review, a compliance checkpoint, and a vendor escalation should not sound the same.

Bank example

For a new account-opening platform, the executive summary may focus on conversion risk, fraud controls, and revenue timing, while the project team needs detailed cutover tasks, defect ownership, and fallback triggers.

AI in practice

Use generative AI to turn meeting notes into audience-specific readouts, draft decision memos, or summarize open issues by workstream. While most banks are doing this now, the integration of these notes into a larger, updated project plan is being lost. This can now happen automatically, so AI is keeping a running list of tasks, contingencies, complete with accountability logs. Use generative AI to improve clarity, not to create noise. Every AI-generated summary should be reviewed by the project lead before distribution.

Executive oversight questions

- Is the decision request explicit?
- Are risks, assumptions, and unresolved issues visible? Does the team know which upcoming decisions need to be made and what data is required to make them?
- Can the audience understand the implications of resource requests and the decisions to be made in under two minutes?

Best Practice #2: Understand Your Project Complexity to Understand Your Risk

Senior management, risk officers, and the project manager need a clear view of the project risk profile. NASA's competency model treats risk as a continuous management discipline tied to technical, cost, and schedule performance. Banks should do the same. Complexity is not just how much work exists. It is how many dependencies, unknowns, stakeholders, control points, vendors, and policy interpretations have to move together.

Every project should have an overall “risk health” metric that quantifies whether it is becoming riskier or less risky. As a project progresses and decisions are made to limit options, the risk often decreases. In these cases, data requests and staffing can be reduced to align with the project's risk management needs. This is another area where banks can do a better job, as bankers often believe a project’s resource allocation and team are static rather than dynamic. One sign of health for a project management team is that it expands and contracts to both accomplish its objectives AND to manage risk.

Rating Project Complexity

Technical	Organizational	Strategic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number and type of interface • Number of required new technology development • Exactness of interdependency between systems • Core banking system integration depth • Legacy system replacement requirements • Security architecture design and validation • Data migration scale and sensitivity • Real-time transaction processing complexity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of different departments participating • Number and location of virtual teams • Intensiveness of learning needs • Time required • Level of uncertainty/ambiguity • Experience, adaptability and competency of project team • Schedule • Inter-affiliate data sharing permissions • Compliance with disparate international regulations • Training scale for new platform adoption • Management and governance structure layered-ness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost of project • Number of stakeholders • Number of funding sources required and number of times for approval • Clarity of goals • Number of project objectives • Impact on critical financial services and up-time • Competitor strategy counter-measures • Regulatory examination exposure • Customer data privacy and trust implications • Future scalability and business-line flexibility

What strong project leaders do

- **Separate risk into technical, organizational, regulatory, and strategic layers.** A tokenized deposit launch can be simple in user experience yet complex in legal structure, ledger treatment, liquidity policy, and customer disclosures.

- **Identify sub-risks early.** Core integration, data conversion, model validation, identity verification, and vendor delivery are not a single risk; they are distinct risks that require different mitigants.
- **Increase check-in frequency where uncertainty is highest.** More governance is not always better, but faster feedback loops in the highest-risk areas usually are.
- **Move the vision, toughest integrations, and compliance decisions forward in the schedule.** Do not leave the hardest questions for late-stage decision making or testing.

Bank example

In a loan origination system implementation, data mapping, your data model, document workflows, decision rules, pricing logic, and exception handling often create more risk than the contract signature itself. Banks need to view the project as an enterprise solution and ensure it is sized to enable other initiatives, such as deposit account opening, to speed up. Every project should be reviewed through the lens of what assets within the project are reusable and composable.

AI in practice

Generative AI can help cluster issues into risk themes, draft a risk register from workshop notes, produce Monte Carlo models of outcomes, or produce scenario trees. Agentic AI can monitor issue logs, test results, and dependency trackers for signals of schedule stress. Human judgment still decides risk tolerance and mitigation strategy but AI can handle the administration and data.

Executive oversight questions

- Do we have a current top 10 risk view, not just an issue list? Every executive should know which risks will hurt the bank, based on impact and potential frequency.
- Are high-risk dependencies receiving more frequent executive attention?
- Have we translated project complexity into explicit risk appetite and fallback plans?



Best Practice #3: Work The Budget Like You Work Your Time

Good project managers understand the balance between funding and a timeline. NASA's budget and resource management discipline links resource availability to project needs across the life cycle. In banks, budget conversations often happen separately from delivery conversations. That separation is costly. Time, money, talent, and management attention are one system. Every executive should know when money can solve a problem. Project managers, using AI, should always help the team understand where the project could be sped up or risk reduced with more (or different) resources.

What strong project leaders do

- **Build contingency into both the budget and the schedule.** If the timeline is aggressive, reserves should be higher, not lower.
- **Treat staffing as a first-class budget decision.** Many bank initiatives fail because key subject matter experts (SMEs) are assumed to be available while still carrying full line responsibilities. This is another reason why bank executives should ensure that staff are at 80% capacity or less. Being able to pull resources in can help flex the project.
- **Use budget to “buy down” risk selectively.** Extra QA support, parallel testing, temporary vendor help, or dedicated conversion staffing can be cheaper than a delayed launch. Project managers should constantly highlight this tradeoff.
- **Know when time is more valuable than money and when the reverse is true.** The answer varies by initiative, the sprint's objectives, and future contingencies. The more critical the sprint, the better ROI on an expanded investment.

Bank example

For a new enterprise AI tool rollout, the bank may choose to stage deployment by user group rather than fund a risky enterprise-wide launch. For a revenue-critical product launch, it may choose to spend more upfront to protect timing and controls.

AI in practice

Use AI to generate budget variance commentary, compare resource scenarios, or draft trade-off options for leadership. It can help summarize what changed. It should not approve scope or budget shifts on its own.

Executive oversight questions

- Do our resource assumptions match actual availability?
- What reserve exists for testing, remediation, and change management?
- What would we spend to recover time if we slipped six weeks?

Best Practice #4: Promote a Clear Vision



A good project manager clearly connects project goals to organizational goals. That sounds obvious, but most scope creep begins when teams remember the activity and forget the outcome. Artemis II mattered because it was a critical step toward long-term lunar return and future missions to Mars. The mission was more than a launch; it was part of a larger strategic architecture. Bank projects also need that line of sight. The objective might not be a new account-opening system, but an enterprise onboarding platform that will make customer acquisition AND maintenance

easier for both customers and employees. Get the vision plus framing right, and all else will follow.

What strong project leaders do

- **Define the key driver.** Is the primary goal balance sheet growth, profitability, credit efficiency, fraud reduction, digital sales, regulatory readiness, or operating leverage? Know what matters and what levers impact the outcomes.
- **Rank metrics and trade-offs before conflict emerges.** If speed, control, customer experience, and cost cannot all be maximized, leadership should declare the order. Post and repeat this list for all to frequently see, and decision speed and quality will improve.
- **Protect the team from distractions and side quests.** New ideas should be logged and assessed, not casually inserted into the build. Conversely, not understanding the vision and future project builds or initiatives can lead to suboptimal decision-making.
- **Make minor corrections often.** Small course corrections are cheaper than heroic recoveries.

Bank example

A tokenized deposit initiative may look like a technology project on the surface, but the strategic objective could be something else entirely: attracting operating balances, reducing payment friction, providing the bank with core capabilities, or positioning the bank with commercial innovators. The team should know which outcome matters most by rank.

AI in practice

Generative AI is useful for converting strategy language into workstream-level objectives, milestone definitions, and KPI ladders. It can also surface mismatches between stated goals, priorities, and actual task lists. That is especially valuable when multiple executives sponsor the same initiative for different reasons.

Executive oversight questions

- Can every workstream leader explain the business objective in one sentence?
- Have we ranked the top success metrics and non-negotiables?
- Are we protecting the team from attractive but off-strategy additions?



Best Practice #5: Be Operationally Flexible

The difference between a good project manager and a great one is the ability to handle curveballs. Every meaningful bank project gets hit by them: a vendor slips, a policy interpretation changes, a regulator asks a new question, a pilot outcome surprises the team, a data source fails, a merger reprioritizes the roadmap. Great project managers do not confuse discipline with rigidity.

What strong project leaders do

- **Know your plan deeply enough to move around it.** Flexibility without structural understanding is improvisation, not leadership.
- **Separate requirements from preferred implementation paths.** Teams often defend a familiar solution as if it were a requirement. The past may not be prologue to the future.
- **Maintain a flexible mindset.** There should almost always be a primary path, a constrained fallback, and a pause-and-reset trigger.
- **Know how to suspend cleanly.** Sometimes the right decision is not to push harder but to stop, preserve learning, and restart with better information.

Bank example

If a new account-opening platform cannot achieve the desired digital identity workflow on day one, a disciplined team may narrow initial launch segments, add manual review for defined exceptions, or stage functionality without abandoning the strategic objective. Projects may often include a “minimal viable product” (MVP) and a pilot program. The faster you can get to market, the faster you can learn. Iteration is critical for true project learning and needs to be built into any project plan where applicable. The more a system faces a customer, the more unknowns there will be, and the more of a need to build more iterations into the project plan.

AI in practice

Generative AI can help compare implementation alternatives, summarize vendor change requests, and draft consequence analyses. Gen AI is excellent for helping project managers battle-test a sprint and compare alternatives. Agentic AI can monitor dependencies and alert the PM when a path assumption no longer holds. Banks now create agents that review every update of the project plan, specifically checking for resource requirements and dependencies. Using agentic AI improves responsiveness, but only if governance makes clear who can decide, who can recommend, and who must be consulted.

Executive oversight questions

- Do we know which elements of the plan are fixed and which are flexible?
- What fallback path preserves the objective with lower risk?
- What event would trigger a pause, redesign, or narrowed launch?



Top 20 Common Bank Project Plan Components

Strategic Alignment	Board Approval	Regulatory Approval	Architecture Review	Network Access, SIT & UAT Environments
Fraud Falidation	OFAC/BSA/A ML Validation	Core System Integration	Banking Platform Integration	CRM, CIF & Data Integration
Profitability	Credit Approval	AI Integration	API Integration	Risk Review & Approval
Liquidity Impact	Usability Testing	Focus Group & Testing	Marketing & Sales Support	Reporting

Best Practice #6: Practice Effective Decision Making

During a project, the manager must make a long series of decisions, many with far-reaching consequences. Great project managers do not simply make decisions quickly; they make them on a known basis and with the right people. NASA's risk-informed decision-making mindset is helpful here: assumptions, probabilities, and consequences should be sufficiently visible to support timely action.



What strong project leaders do

- **Agree on how to disagree.** Define decision rights (unanimous, majority, super-majority, etc.) before conflict appears.
- **Remove emotion from the discussion by forcing competing options into comparable frames:** assumptions, benefits, risks, cost, timing, and reversibility. All else being equal, choose the path that gives the project the most future options.
- **Build consensus, when possible, but do not confuse endless alignment with leadership.** Hold the leader accountable for making touch calls when a unanimous decision, or even a consensus, isn't possible.
- **Explain, and document, the decision after it is made.** Good decisions lose value when the logic is opaque. Documenting the logic allows it to be revisited in the future, either to validate the decision or to improve it during an after-action review.
- **Recant with confidence when evidence changes.** Reversal is not weakness when new facts warrant it.

Bank example

When fraud leaders want tighter controls on digital onboarding and product leaders want lower abandonment, the project manager should not stage an unproductive tug-of-war. The right move is to define the decision in terms of target fraud loss, conversion tolerance, operational review cost, and implementation timeline. Great bank project managers know how to frame and then re-frame decision points to drive to the optimal outcome.

AI in practice













Use generative AI to build structured decision packs: option tables, upside/downside summaries, assumptions logs, and recommendation drafts. A carefully designed agent can gather supporting artifacts from issue logs, testing results, and prior steering materials. Oftentimes, upstream decisions impact downstream decisions. AI is ideal for pointing out this linkage. That said, final decisions should remain human and accountable. Let AI INFORM decisions, not make them.

Executive oversight questions

- Is there a documented decision owner?
- Are assumptions and trade-offs explicit in each decision?
- How will the team know if the decision should be revisited?

TOP 10 WAYS TO USE AI, GENERATIVE AI & AGENTIC AI FOR BANK PROJECT MANAGEMENT



 CORE PROJECT AI (Predictive & Process)	 GENERATIVE AI (Content & Insight)	AGENTIC AI (Autonomous & Proactive)
<p> 1. Automated Schedule Optimization: Real-time adjustments to project timelines based on team availability and historical task duration.</p> <p> 2. Predictive Cost & Resource Forecasting: Machine learning analysis of past projects to predict spending patterns and allocate resources effectively.</p> <p> 3. Automated Risk Identification: AI systems scan historical data, news, and internal reports to flag potential project risks and bottlenecks.</p> <p> 4. Project Reporting Automation: Real-time generation of project status reports with deep data analysis.</p>	<p> 5. AI-Powered Insight Extraction: Natural language processing summarizing complex documents, stakeholder feedback, and changes for easy understanding.</p> <p> 6. Automated Documentation Drafting: Creating project plans, requirement documents, and even user test scripts using generative models.</p> <p> 7. Context-Aware Code & Query Creation: Helping developers with database queries, API database queries, API integration code, and security protocol checks.</p> <p> 8. Simulating Business & Testing Scenarios: Generating diverse synthetic data for testing banking interfaces and business rules.</p>	<p> 9. Autonomous Risk Mitigation Agents: AI agents that can proactively initiate remediation plans (e.g., re-assigning a task, notifying the security team) when a risk is detected.</p> <p> 10. Negotiation and Vendor Management Agents: Intelligent agents that can handle initial vendor communication, SLA checks, and re-negotiation based on project needs.</p>

Best Practice #7: Good Leadership Is Critical

Leadership skills are often the difference between a new and an experienced bank project manager. Management keeps the machinery moving; leadership keeps people committed when the work becomes difficult, ambiguous, or politically charged. NASA's high-performing teams emphasized commitment, shared interest, role clarity, and reality-based optimism. Those same qualities matter in banks where transformation work competes with day jobs and quarterly pressure.

10 Behaviors Measured in Teams and Individual Project Leaders

1. Ability to express authentic appreciation
2. Transparency in decisions
3. Frequency of addressing common ground & consensus building
4. Creativity in insight
5. Courage to make tough decisions
6. Ability to generate inclusiveness and diversity of thought
7. Expression of reality-based optimism
8. Execution of focused commitment
9. Ability to take accountability
10. Frequency to support clear roles and authority

Source: Charles Pellerin, How NASA Builds Teams

What strong project leaders do

- **Set the tone.** Detail orientation, composure, professionalism, and follow-through are contagious.
- **Provide confidence without pretending everything is fine.** Teams can handle bad news; they struggle with hidden bad news.
- **Be optimistic in a reality-based way.** Project teams need energy, not spin.
- **Clarify roles, accountability, and authority.** Confusion here drains momentum faster than most technical problems.

Bank example

A bank-wide AI enablement program will usually create cultural tension: some leaders worry about risk, others about irrelevance, and others about unproven ROI. The project leader's job is to translate concern into managed action, not let the conversation split into camps.

AI in practice

AI can help leaders by synthesizing team feedback, identifying recurring blockers in retrospective notes, and drafting more consistent, empathetic communication. AI should not be used as a substitute for visible leadership, difficult conversations, or personal accountability.

Executive oversight questions

- Do teams know who owns outcomes versus who advises?
- Are we communicating setbacks fast enough to preserve trust?
- Is the project climate disciplined, candid, and forward moving?



Best Practice #8: Good Management Is Critical

Leadership matters, but a good project manager must also have strong management discipline. NASA's competency model is explicit here: formulation, requirements, planning, lifecycle gates, control systems, reviews, and closeout are part of the work. In banks, projects frequently stumble because teams jump from idea to build without enough discovery, architecture, or control design.

What strong project leaders do

- **Respect phases.** Discovery, requirements, implementation, validation, and closeout each deserve their own discipline.
- **Define decision gates.** Teams should know what must be true before moving forward.
- **Stay close to the work.** Project managers cannot manage entirely through decks and secondhand summaries.
- **Institutionalize after-action review and documentation.** Scale and quality come from captured learning.

Bank example

Loan origination system implementations are classic examples. If the bank rushes from contract to configuration without clarifying workflow ownership, credit policy interpretation, exception handling, and integration responsibilities, the project pays for it later in testing and remediation.

AI in practice

Generative AI can turn scattered project materials into coherent control packs, test-readiness summaries, and review decks. Generative AI can also be used to test and then document decisions. Agentic AI can assemble evidence before a gate review and flag missing artifacts. AI is a force multiplier when the underlying process is sound; it is an accelerant of confusion when the process is not. Have a good process before you add AI into the mix.

Executive oversight questions

- Do we have clear phase-exit criteria?
- Are gate reviews tied to evidence rather than optimism?
- What lessons are we capturing for the next initiative?

Best Practice #9: Be a Problem Solver

Once a project gets started, the project manager's job is to resolve conflicts and solve problems. This takes more than intelligence. It requires structure, candor, and the ability to move from symptoms to root causes without making the room defensive. Empathy is a critical emotion for the experienced bank project manager.

What strong project leaders do

- **Know what aspects of the project to cut.** Simplicity is a project advantage. Features, reports, controls, or integrations that do not create enough value should not survive by inertia.
- **Use disciplined root-cause methods.** Separate conditions, triggers, and contributing factors before locking onto a fix. Train project teams and business leaders in root-cause analysis, as it should form the foundation of any high-performing team.
- **Stimulate creativity when the obvious answer is not working.** Complex problems often need reframing, not brute force. Bankers are fantastic at logic, but out-of-the-box thinking often requires concerted effort and reinforcement.
- **Sell the solution once it is identified.** A technically correct answer that no stakeholder supports is still a project failure.

Bank example

If KYC false-positive rates spike after a new payment platform launch, the right response is not to blame the vendor or the fraud team first. It is to map where the process actually broke down: data capture, identity-matching logic, rule tuning, manual review capacity, disclosures, customer flow, or training.

AI in practice

Generative AI is highly effective for organizing evidence, clustering defect themes, drafting five-whys style analyses, and turning raw notes into hypotheses. It can also help surface similar incidents from past projects. Human leaders still need to validate facts, challenge assumptions, and decide what to cut, fix, or redesign.

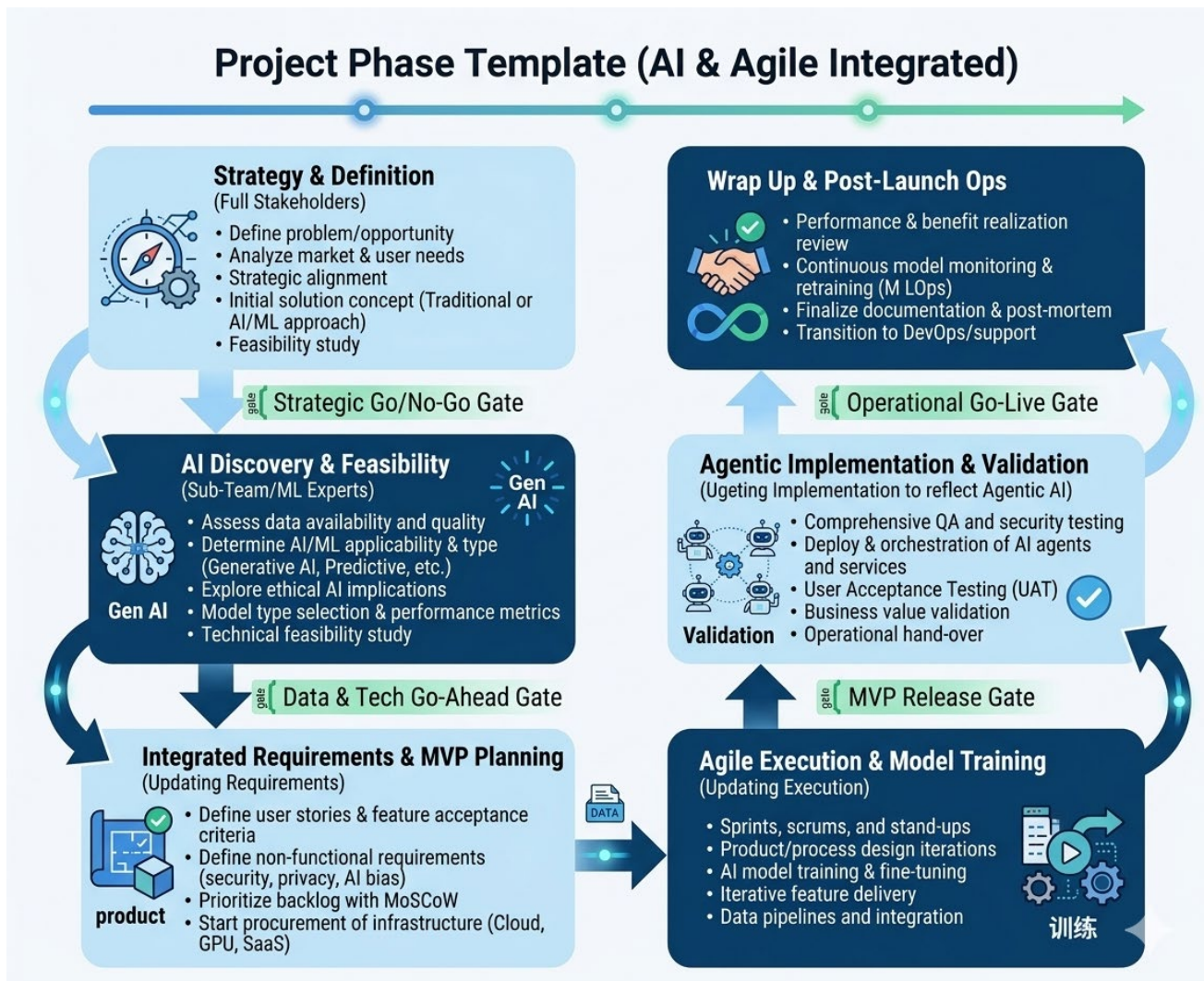
Executive oversight questions

- Have we defined the problem in observable terms?
- What are the few causes driving most of the damage?
- Is there a process change that can help solve a variety of problems? Are you missing a vendor or a process?
- What can we remove or simplify to reduce failure modes?

Best Practice #10: Project Management Is a Distinct Skill

Banks invest in credit training, leadership development, sales effectiveness, and technical skills. Project management should be treated with the same seriousness. The bank that consistently executes complex change has a strategic advantage over the bank that merely discusses strategy well. Project management training should be given to more than project managers. Line management that often participates in project initiatives such as treasury management, retail, or lending should understand the tools, processes, and nomenclature of project management.

Artemis II did not work because NASA had smart people in the room. Smart people alone mean little. When it comes to project management, orchestration, and teamwork rule the day. Artemis was successful because NASA built, trained, and continuously improved a project and mission discipline capable of integrating complexity under pressure.



What strong project leaders do

- **Build project management as a capability, not a title.** Not every initiative needs a large PMO, but every significant initiative needs real project leadership.
- **Train teams on multiple methods.** Agile, waterfall, Lean, Six Sigma, stage-gate, and control discipline each have a place.
- **Create a budget and training for PM development, mentoring, and shadowing.** Experience transfer matters.
- **Limit scope creep with disciplined scope statements and change control.**
- **Spread project-management literacy to executives and line leaders so smaller initiatives also benefit from better planning and control.**
- **Insist on after-action review.** Great project managers know how to debrief without bruising egos while still extracting truth.

Bank example

Treat PM capability as part of a competitive strategy. If the bank wants to launch new products faster, implement new systems more cleanly, adopt AI responsibly, and integrate acquisitions more effectively, it should invest in the people, methods, and tools that enable repeatable execution.

AI in practice

Generative AI can accelerate capability building by helping create playbooks, templates, training scenarios, and searchable lessons learned. Tools like Claude or Notebook LM are ideal for helping teach both business line participants and project leads the discipline of project management. Agentic AI can support PMO knowledge management, remind teams of required artifacts, and route routine follow-ups. What it cannot do is substitute for judgment, trust, sponsor management, or courage.

Executive oversight questions

- Where is project management treated as a true capability versus an administrative function? How much have we invested in training the project management discipline?
- What development path exists for newer project leaders?
- How consistently do we capture and reuse lessons learned?



Selected Sources

- NASA, Artemis II mission overview and mission status (launch April 1, 2026; splashdown April 10, 2026; duration 9 days, 1 hour, 32 minutes).
- NASA, Artemis II mission updates and re-entry coverage, including safe splashdown and crew recovery timeline.
- NASA APPEL Knowledge Services, Project Management Competency Model.
- SouthState update source document: '10 Best Practices of Effective Bank Project Managers That We Learned from NASA' (legacy internal ebook provided for revision).
- Microsoft Work Trend Index 2025 and Microsoft reporting on AI agents and agentic workflows.

Our Mentors

The bulk of the above lessons come from NASA and in particular, the following current and former expert project managers:

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This document is intended as a practical management guide. It is not legal, regulatory, accounting, or model-risk advice. All tools should be used in accordance with your bank's governance, information-security requirements, privacy standards, model-risk policy, and vendor-management expectations.



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