

COVID-19 and the future of biometrics

s COVID-19 creates a new reality, 59 percent of global technology company leaders believe their business model will significantly or entirely change over the next three years. This is according to respondents to the KPMG 2020 Technology Industry Innovation survey. At the same time, they are optimistic about leveraging innovative technologies in this effort, with 77 percent saying their organizations are very or extremely effective in implementing innovative technologies to achieve their goals.

Technology company leaders are becoming more optimistic about biometrics and ranked it on par with 5G, robotics, and blockchain, and higher than virtual reality and edge computing in terms of technologies they expect to be using to transform their business three years from now. Biometrics are defined as a person's unique, measurable physical characteristics like fingerprints, facial structure, and retinal map that can be used for automated identification, access control, and facility/system security.

There will almost certainly be new data privacy and usage issues that arise whenever new personally identifiable information is utilized. However, in the new reality being created by COVID-19, companies may leverage biometrics to:

- Ensure that employees and customers are following safety, security, social distancing, and occupancy limit protocols — Restrict facility access to prevent spread of COVID-19
- Further authenticate employee identities beyond passwords and ID badges
- Enable contactless ordering and payment systems, possibly in conjunction with digital assistants

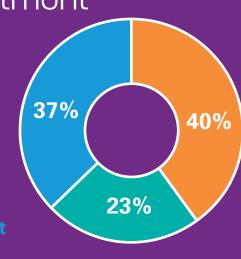
The following are other key findings on biometrics from the KPMG 2020 Technology Industry Innovation survey.



Time horizon for biometrics to have significant return on investment*

Within 2 years of initial investment

More than 3 years from initial investment





Key takeaway: Biometrics are largely expected to have a quick return on investment.

Change in investment in biometrics compared to last year*

2%





Decrease in investment

as evidenced by significantly increased investment.

Top benefit in adopting biometrics*

23% Improved business efficiencies Increased market share Accelerated time to market Key takeaway: Improved, automated security should allow businesses



to operate faster and smoother with fewer incidents and breaches.

Biggest challenge in adopting biometrics* The time/cost to reskill/upskill

23% the workforce

Technology complexity

Lack of capital/resources due to

Unproven business case

competing priorities Key takeaway: Implementing new technologies presents incremental

time, cost, and training challenges to both the IT organization and end users.

being shown.

The source for all data is the KPMG 2020 Technology Industry Innovation survey. It included responses from more than 800 global leaders in the technology industry across twelve countries. Some totals do not sum to 100% due to rounding and/or only a partial list of responses

*Based on survey responses from 42 global technology company leaders who ranked biometrics as the top technology they expect to be