CPA

Practice **Advisor**

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organizations are also grappling with newfound risks and unchartered challenges.

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As technological innovation continues to revolutionize the business landscape,

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appropriate risk-reward balance as they lean into innovation. More than half (60 percent) of those polled manage innovation risk very effectively or somewhat effectively – a cohort of the survey population which the study labels as "Adapters."

Adapters outperform their less effective peers in several areas including their level of influence over decision-making about innovation such as implementing new technologies to develop new products (57 percent versus 18 percent of Non-adapters) and the value they say their risk management function brings (58 percent versus 18 percent, respectively note significant value). Notably, Adapters are also two-to-three times more likely to express confidence in their risk management program's ability to effectively manage risk from new technologies including artificial intelligence and the Internet of Things than their less effective peers — and more likely to expect revenue growth.

"Organizations are embracing the potential of emerging technologies like big data, AI and IoT," said Jason Pett, leader of PwC's U.S. Risk Assurance practice. "But risk management is often overlooked during periods of innovation. The Adapters are the exception. They are tackling risk differently, and are three times as likely to say their function contributes significant value, better positioning their organization to succeed in today's quickly evolving business environment."

Given the many benefits of embracing innovation in a risk-conscious manner, PwC's survey outlines five distinctions that separate Adapters and Non-Adapters.

- 1. They engage early and often across the innovation cycle. Adapters are twice as likely as Non-Adapters to advise on innovative activities before the planning stage.
- 2. They use multiple actions to address their risk exposure from new initiatives. Adapters more often use four or more actions ranging from revisiting objectives and strategy to sharing the risk than their less effective peers.

3. They adjust risk appetite and tolerances with frequency. Adapters adjusts the

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management capabilities, while only 27 percent of Non-Adapters are monitoring their effectiveness in this manner.

"Organizations must understand that risk management and innovation go hand-in-hand. Innovation brings great opportunity. A keen awareness of the necessary actions to address both known and unanticipated risks that accompany innovation, can equip risk executives to succeed in this fast-changing environment," added Brian Schwartz, U.S. Governance, Risk and Compliance Enablement Solutions Leader at PwC. "Risk executives should be engaged throughout the innovation lifecycle to effectively identify, assess, and manage innovation risk."

A full copy of the report, along with additional related content, is available at www.pwc.com/riskinreview.

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