

### IoT+Al in Retail

# Brick & mortar retailers are strapping on the "tech" gloves

Dramatic declines in consumer foot traffic and rising operational costs have punched brick & mortar retailers straight to the gut, leading to the increase in "Going Out of Business" signs in store windows across America. Who can blame consumers for opting for the "smiling" boxes speedily delivered 'same day' to their doorsteps over the all-to-common brick & mortar experience filled with inventory shortages and painfully-long price checks called in by fewer and fewer overworked cashiers. It's also hard to blame any retailer for turning off the lights when trying to keep employees from chasing the next dollar in a hyper competitive labor market while dealing with disruptive supply chain issues and seemingly uncontrollable shrinkage.

Smart brick & mortar retailers are fighting back and driving traffic back into re-invented stores outfitted with IoT+AI solutions. These technologies are fundamentally altering retail operations in ways that dramatically increase store efficiency, drive more productive, happier store staff, and create a better, more personalized shopping experience for customers. From cloud-based planogram management and spot inventories completed by computer-vision shelve scanning to cashier-less checkouts to the metaverse melding the online and instore shopping experiences, the excitement around IoT+AI is driving significant investor interest back into physical retail.





### IoT+AI is Rapidly Transforming Retail

Retail technology is moving from working in silos with limited cross function to automating end-to-end retail operations and altering the customer experience. Retailers are implementing Al-enabled IoT technology to collect data on customer consumption habits, manage inventory levels, enhance product placement, and dramatically alter the customer experience. As brick & mortar retailers make the shift to integrated IoT and Al technologies, a whole new shopping experience is becoming available to consumers.





### Retail Before Implementing IoT+Al

Brick & mortar retailers have seen decreased foot traffic and customer loyalty in recent years as the in-store shopping experience has fallen behind online shopping in important ways. Combine this with spiking increases in labor costs and supply chain challenges, many retailers are coming to the realization that the traditional retailing operating model and customer experience has to change.



#### **Faulty Planogram:**

The misplacement of products on store shelving leads to confused shoppers



#### **Long Checkout Lines:**

Poor operational efficiency leads to longer wait times for customers



### Unfriendly and Overworked Staff: Staff are everybolmed and do not

Staff are overwhelmed and do not provide a quality customer experience





#### **Incorrect Pricing:**

Shoppers are irritated with the mispricing of products due to human error



#### **High Labor Costs:**

Required staffing levels result in high operating costs, pay levels for hourly employees skyrocket



#### Shrinkage:

Shoplifters impact retailers by reducing inventory, decreasing revenue, and increasing prices to deter shoplifting



### Retail IoT+Al in Action

Emerging IoT+AI technologies are poised to reinvent the in-store retail world by streamlining operations and redefining the customer experience. From deeper visibility into supply chains and inventory management, to more efficient deployment of smaller in-store employee teams, retail operations are being transformed. The customer is the ultimate beneficiary of this revolution in retail technology. Not only will recent pain points be eliminated but the in-store experience will be smoother, personalized, and faster.

Automated In-Store Operations



Computer vision and cloudbased image recognition solutions allow retailers to monitor store inventory and adhere to the planogram



Robots automate audits, avoid under or overstocking, analyze price accuracy and planogram compliance, and optimize staff utilization



Self-checkout or frictionless retail automates billing processes, enabling store managers to optimize staff utilization



Enhanced In-Store Customer Experiences



RF sensors placed throughout the store provide realtime consumer behavior pattern analysis, helping store managers optimize product placement and provide customized offerings to individual customer preferences



Smartphone-based applications and automated POS systems enable customers to learn more about products, receive special offers, and pay for goods



### Select Technology Use Cases in the Retail Space

Technology providers are continuously upgrading their portfolios to capitalize on growing demand for technology in retail. These providers are just a few of the innovative companies focusing on further developing the smart retail market. IoT and AI providers are focusing on implementing solutions to further drive efficiency within brick & mortar stores that will reduce operational costs while positively increasing the customer experience.



### Intelligent Automation Solution

#### **Zebra's SmartSight**

Intelligent robotic solution that enables retailers to automate store operations

## Integrated Technologies: IoT, computer vision, AI, and ML

#### Benefits:

- Automates shelf audit
- Avoids under or overstocking of products
- Analyzes price accuracy and planogram issues
- Optimizes staff utilization



#### Self/Cashier-Less Checkout

#### Vision Group's InstaGnG

Transforms coolers and kiosks into an automated vending solution using edge AI based image recognition and its IoT platform

Integrated Technologies: IoT, computer vision, and Al

#### Benefits:

- Reduces shrinkage and staffing costs
- Improves customer experience
- Increases sales opportunities



#### **Smart Cart**

#### **A2Z's Smart Retail Cart**

Enables self-checkout with on-cart payment systems and offers customized promotions catered towards customer buying behavior

Integrated Technologies: Al, edge computing, and computer vision

#### Benefits:

- Helps customers avoid long checkouts
- Customizes offers and advertisements to individual customer behaviors
- Anti-fraud system that controls shoplifting



#### **Smart Dressing Room**

#### **MySizeID's Smart Mirror**

Interactive, mirror-like touch displays that provide size recommendations and offers contactless checkout

**Integrated Technologies:** Al and IoT

#### Benefits:

- Improves the customer experience
- Integrated with third-party POS systems
- Offers style and size recommendations based on inventory availability and shopper preferences



### IoT+AI in Retail Landscape

KPMG CF is in regular dialog with leading global IoT and AI providers as well as emerging companies bringing new technologies and introducing unique business models. For a deeper discussion on these spaces and the companies participating, let's schedule a call.





### Recent IoT+AI in Retail M&A Activity

The M&A market has been flourishing as retail giants and private equity firms strategically invest in technology providers implementing IoT and AI solutions that streamline the operational efficiency of neighborhood brick & mortar stores.

#### **BeMyEye**

#### **Acquired**

#### Metaliquid

Provides Al-enabled video and audio analysis and data discovery SaaS for the retail sector

- May-22
- Deal metrics not disclosed

"Leveraging Metaliquid's real-time Computer Vision capabilities will take our clients' in-store execution to the next level, significantly boosting their market share."

Luca Pagano, CEO, BeMyEye

#### **Digital Alpha Advisors**

#### **Acquired**

#### **DTiQ Technologies**

Provides Al-based video intelligence, analytics, and surveillance and loss prevention SaaS

- Dec-21
- Total Deal Amount: \$200M

"The use cases of IoT solutions and intelligence to help DTiQ customers are unparalleled. Digital Alpha brings key expertise and supportive capital and we are pleased to support DTiQ and its customers."

Rick Shrotri, Founder, Digital Alpha

#### Instacart

#### **Acquired**

#### Caper Al

Offers Al-based autonomous integrated retail systems

- Oct-21
- Deal metrics not disclosed

"We're excited to bring Caper's leading smart carts and smart checkout platform to more retailers around the globe, as we all reimagine the future of grocery together."

Fidji Simo, CEO, Instacart

#### **Cuadrilla Capital**

#### **Acquired**

#### **Agilence**

Provides Al-based retail data management and analytics SaaS

- Oct-21
- Deal metrics not disclosed

"Retailers continue to be faced with lower asset turnover, higher costs and more competition than ever before, and are accelerating digital adoption to navigate this challenging operating environment."

Eric Hinkle, Operating Advisor, Cuadrilla



### Recent IoT+AI in Retail M&A Activity

Retail giants are racing to implement IoT+AI technologies to develop a unique shopping experience for their customers and build brand loyalty. Strategic private equity investors are contributing to the growth of the IoT retail market and are looking forward to the societal adoption of a shopping experience that efficiently implements AI, IoT, and ML.

#### **Nordic Capital**

#### **Acquired**

#### **ProGlove**

Provides IoT-based wearable and wireless barcode and RFID scanners for retail and e-commerce

- Apr-22
- Deal metrics not disclosed

"ProGlove is a technology leader with strong competitive differentiation and a unique customer value proposition to enable smooth human-machine collaboration."

Andreas Nasvik, Partner, Nordic Capital Advisors

#### **Zebra Technologies**

#### **Acquired**

#### **Antuit**

Provides Al-based merchandising and planning SaaS for retailers

- Aug-21
- Deal metrics not disclosed

"Through its synergies with our retail store execution portfolio, the acquisition of antuit.ai will further drive our ability to bring the power of Al to our customers."

Anders Gustafsson, CEO, Zebra Technologies

#### Walmart

#### **Acquired**

#### Zeekit

Provides virtual fitting rooms that allow shoppers to virtually try clothes

- May-21
- Deal metrics not disclosed

"With the team's expertise in bringing real-time image technologies, computer vision and artificial intelligence to the world of fashion, we'll identify even more ways to innovate for our customers."

Denise Incandela, EVP of Apparel and Private Brands, Walmart U.S.

#### **Humai Technologies**

#### **Acquired**

#### **Slyce**

Provides white-label product image recognition and related applications

- Nov-20
- Deal metrics not disclosed

"ROI is immediate and measurable for the automotive and home improvement retailers that Slyce has a history of working with. We have formed a team that can achieve anything."

Philipp Descovich, CEO, Humai



### We are one of the Most Active M&A Advisors in IoT+Al

The IoT sector team at KPMG Corporate Finance has become one of the most prolific M&A advisors in IoT+AI, having closed more than 20 M&A transactions. Through deep IoT+AI domain experience and global reach, our team has become a preferred advisor to industry leaders, financial sponsors, and emerging innovators alike.

### Representative Transactions\*































<sup>\*</sup>Represents the global Corporate Finance practices of KPMG International's network of independent member firms.



### Let's Connect



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