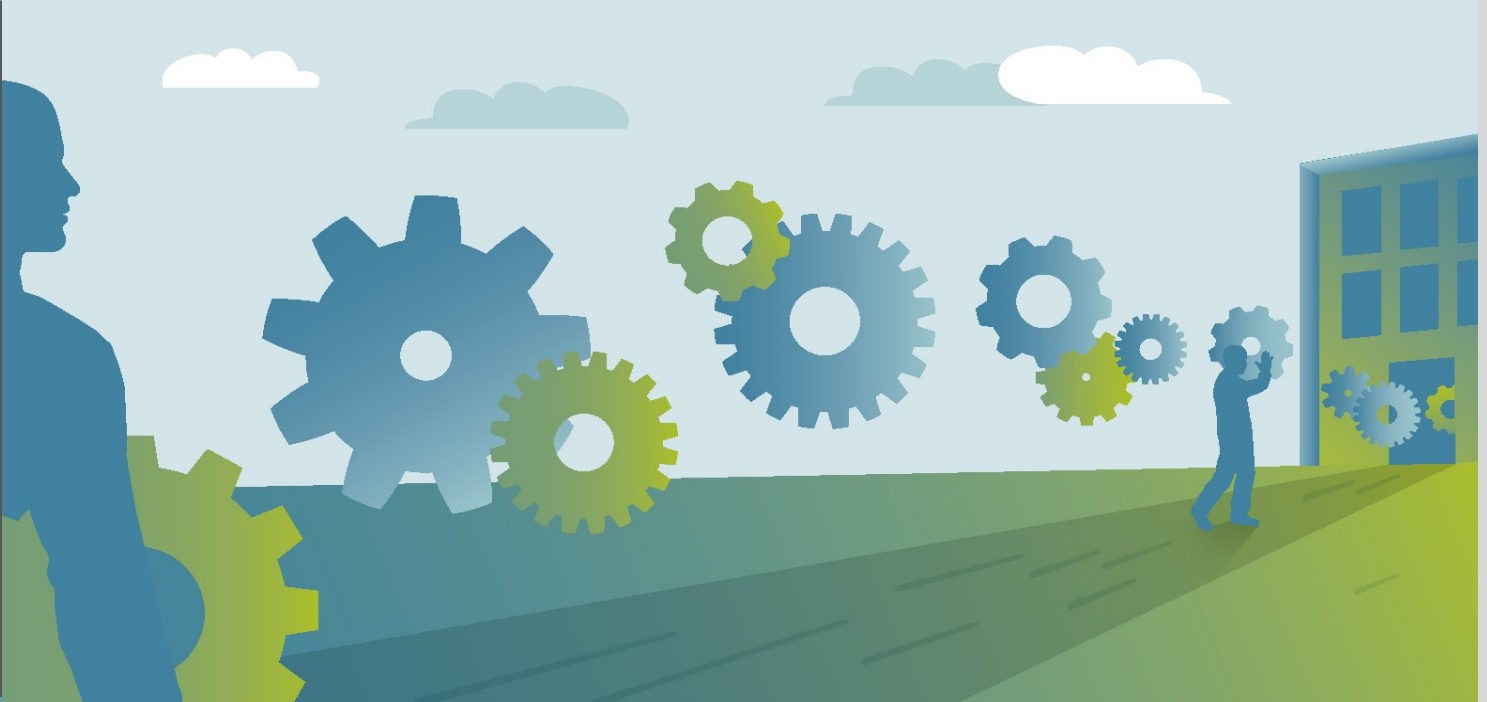


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Drug Industry Adopting Outsourcing Practices En Masse

Pharmaceutical companies worldwide are expected to increase investments in outsourcing this year, as spending reached a 10-year high in 2010 and outpaced other industry verticals, according to a report released this week by Everest Group.

Last year's outsourcing deals marked 81 percent of growth over 2009, compared to the industry average expansion pace of 13 percent, Everest reports. The pharmaceutical industry's investment in outsourcing currently averages 3-5 percent of the market's total annual spend, but analysts anticipate that figure may rise to 10-15 percent.

IT outsourcing has and continues to lead the overall industry, but adoption of business process outsourcing has risen steadily since 2007, as firms have begun outsourcing drug development processes, as well as finance and accounting, human resources and procurement.

"The pharma industry is a nascent adopter of outsourcing as compared to some other industries," said Amneet Singh, vice president of global sourcing at Everest. "The spike we saw in 2010 was largely the result of pent up demand from the recessionary economy; however, the business drivers for outsourcing adoption remain and continue to evolve."

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