

Expana launches Expana IQ Connect to bring trusted agrifood intelligence into enterprise AI

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New MCP server connects Claude, ChatGPT, Copilot and Gemini with Expana's benchmark prices, forecasts and market intelligence for procurement and commodity decision-making



The next battleground for enterprise AI may not be the model itself, but the quality of the data feeding it. Expana is moving to address that gap with the launch of Expana IQ Connect, an enterprise-grade Model Context Protocol (MCP) server designed to connect AI agents directly with its agrifood commodity benchmarks, forecasts, news and expert insights.

Announced at Digital Procurement World in Amsterdam, Expana IQ Connect is designed to work with AI platforms already used by enterprises, including Claude, ChatGPT, Copilot and Gemini. The company said the product gives AI agents access to its IOSCO-assured benchmark prices alongside its market forecasts and intelligence.

The proposition is aimed squarely at procurement teams dealing with volatile commodity markets, where the usefulness of an AI-generated recommendation depends heavily on the reliability and traceability of the underlying market data.

"Enterprises are moving fast to put AI to work and the winners will be those whose AI is grounded in trusted, reliable data," said Julie Harris, CEO of Expana. "Expana IQ Connect seamlessly delivers our market leading intelligence directly to work inside the tools teams already rely on."

For commodity buyers, category managers and supply-chain executives, the intended use cases extend from sourcing and negotiation preparation to cost forecasting. By bringing Expana's market intelligence into existing AI workflows, the company is seeking to reduce the distance between commodity data and the decisions that depend on it.

The distinction Expana is emphasising is the provenance of the information. Its benchmark prices carry published sourcing and methodology, allowing users to understand where the numbers originate and how they are produced.

"We built Expana IQ Connect as a real MCP, not a repackaged chatbot; a direct line from Expana's benchmarks and forecasts into the enterprise-grade AI our customers have already standardized on," said Vinay Kapoor, Chief Product Officer at Expana. "Every Expana benchmark number carries published sourcing and methodology, so it's independent, verified and auditable, not a black box."

That emphasis on traceability addresses one of the central challenges facing enterprises deploying generative AI for commercial decisions: a model can process information rapidly, but the value of its output is constrained by the quality, currency and provenance of the information it receives.

For agrifood procurement, the stakes are particularly high. Commodity prices feed directly into purchasing strategies, product costs, supplier negotiations and forward planning. Connecting an AI system to structured and independently assured market intelligence could therefore shift AI from a general-purpose productivity tool towards a more specialised decision-support layer.

Expana IQ Connect is the latest component of the company's broader strategy to make its commodity intelligence available wherever customers work. The company is also developing Expana IQ Agents, a portfolio of specialist AI agents designed to operate alongside procurement teams.

The first of these, a cost model agent, is already live, with additional specialist agents planned.

The combination of IQ Connect and IQ Agents points to a broader change in enterprise procurement technology. Instead of asking employees to move between separate databases, market-intelligence platforms and AI assistants, Expana is positioning commodity intelligence as a data layer that can feed directly into the AI systems enterprises have already adopted.

The commercial test will be whether that connectivity translates into better sourcing decisions, more accurate cost models and faster responses to commodity-market movements. If it does, the value proposition for enterprise AI could increasingly shift from the sophistication of the model to the quality and auditability of the data behind it.