# 2025 Financial Planning: What You Need to Do Differently This Year



Michelle Valentine Co-founder and CEO anrok

#### What we'll cover

- 1. What a great AOP process looks like
- 2. Practical tips for each department
- 3. What is different about planning for 2025

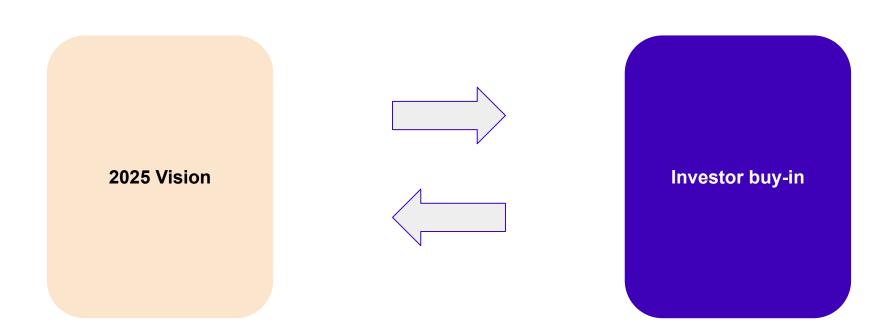
## What is the purpose of an Annual Operating Plan (AOP)?

- 1. Align the team and investors towards a shared goal
- 2. Propose a strategic allocation of resources
- **†** Operational excellence

## Inputs into the AOP Process



## Get investor buy-in on the annual goal direction early

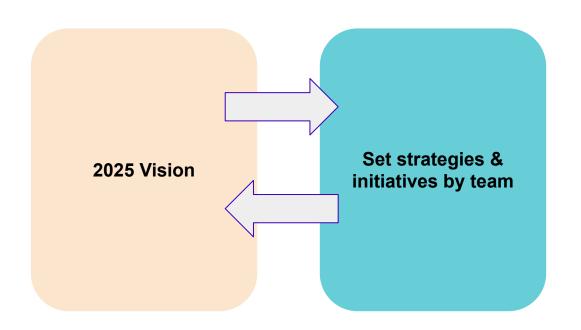


#### Develop bottoms up view

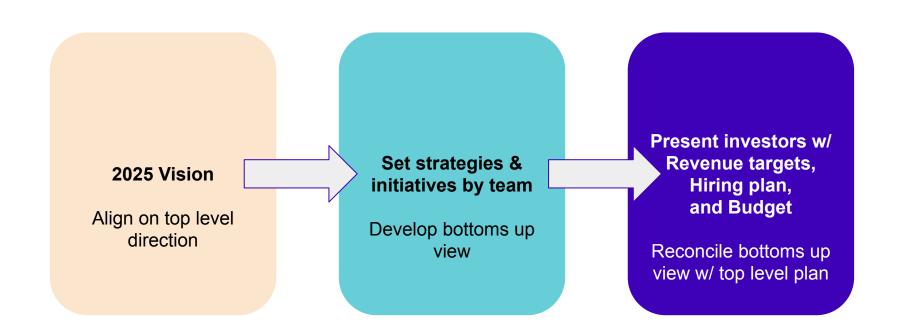
2025 Vision

Set strategies & initiatives by team

#### Reconcile bottoms up view with top level plan



#### Present plan to Board and exec team for finalization



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Sales Marketing Engineering

#### Rules of thumb for three departments

#### Sales

- Start with ARR goals from management
- Use market comps and benchmarks
   What did other similar companies do on their walk up to IPO?
- Roll up: Enterprise vs PLG
   Enterprise sales: ideally 70% of reps hit 100% quota or more
- What net new ARR you can hit w/ existing team?

  Back into how many new reps you need to make up for the gap to your ARR goals

#### Rules of thumb for three departments



- Start with Pipeline creation required for ARR goals Divide your ARR goals by your close rate % to get pipeline creation target
- Define initiatives over headcount
   Understand and align on the rationale
- Know when you are hitting diminishing returns to spend

#### Rules of thumb for three departments



- Start with how new products help hit ARR goals
- What resources are needed from engineering, product, design to deliver on new products

Manage margin early
Look at cloud cost growth in relation to actual revenue growth

#### What we'll cover

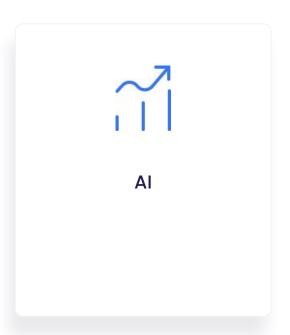
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"I believe it's hard to predict the future. It's not that hard to predict the present."

- HOWARD MARKS

## Two sea change developments in tech 🔑





## Four implications for 2025





Define your place in the ecosystem



#### **LLM economics**

Compute heavy companies vs companies that utilize LLMs



#### Churn

Revise baselines in a cooling market



## Productivity paradox

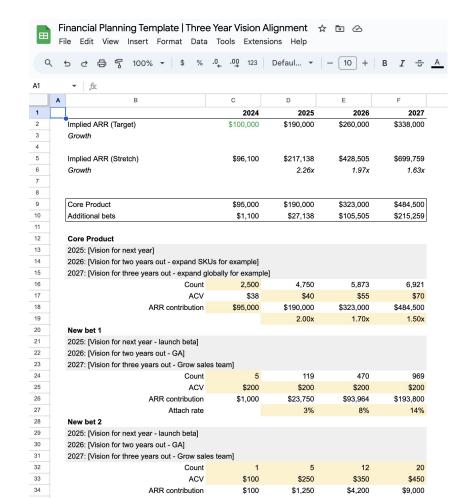
Avoid unrealistic expectations

#### **SUMMARY**

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- What is different about planning for 2025

#### anrok



## Thank you

← Email <a href="mailto:hello@anrok.com">hello@anrok.com</a> if we can help quantifying tax liabilities ahead of 2025 planning

Yes, Anrok covers US & Global VAT

