



AMDR AUTOMATE AI

CASE STUDY · FOR BUSINESS OWNERS

From Ten Hours to Fifteen Minutes.

How one organization replaced a ten-hour weekly research grind with an autonomous AI workflow — and the exact anatomy you can copy to find the same win inside your own business.

A skilled person, doing robot work

The AMDR Foundation needed a continuous view of grant opportunities across dozens of funder databases. A capable team member spent roughly **ten hours every week** searching, copying, comparing, and tracking — and deadlines still slipped through.

This pattern shows up in almost every business we audit. The work is essential, repetitive, and rule-driven — which is exactly the profile of work that should never be done by hand.

10 hrs

of skilled labor consumed every single week

Dozens

of funder databases, each searched separately

Missed

deadlines — despite all of that effort

THE TELL

If a task follows the same steps every time, touches multiple systems, and ends in a document, a spreadsheet, or an email — it is an automation candidate. The more painful it feels, the better the candidate.

Three questions that find this workflow in your business

- ☐ **What do we re-do every week?** Recurring research, reporting, data entry, follow-ups, reconciliation.
- ☐ **Where do things fall through the cracks?** Missed deadlines and dropped leads usually mean a human is the pipeline.
- ☐ **What does our best person do that isn't judgment?** Protect their judgment; automate their gathering.

An autonomous discovery engine in n8n

We built a Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) pipeline in n8n: a coordinated set of AI agents that do the searching, judging, and ranking — then hand a human a short, scored list.

1 Discover

Agents sweep funder databases, federal registries, 990 filings, and news sources on a schedule — no one presses a button.

2 Evaluate

Each opportunity is scored against the foundation's real eligibility profile: mission fit, geography, entity type, award size, and hard deadline gates.

3 Rank & deliver

Qualified opportunities are sorted by fit and urgency, then delivered as a scored weekly digest with application deadlines — straight to the inbox.

4 Learn

Human decisions (applied, skipped, won) feed back into the scoring, so the system gets sharper every cycle.

WHY "ORCHESTRATION," NOT "A CHATBOT"

A chatbot answers when asked. An orchestrated system **acts on its own schedule**, moves data between your real tools, applies your real rules, and only involves a human where judgment matters. That difference is where the ten hours went.

The stack

n8n orchestration · Claude for reasoning and scoring · retrieval over funder data · Gmail + Sheets delivery. Every tool the client already understood.

The guardrails

Hard eligibility gates before any AI scoring, atomic claims so nothing is double-processed, and a human review step before any application goes out.

The receipts

24/7

autonomous operation — it works while the team sleeps

100+

qualified opportunities surfaced and scored

15 min

weekly review — down from ten hours of searching

The team member who used to run searches now spends fifteen minutes reviewing a ranked digest and the rest of the week on work that actually needs a human: relationships, applications, and strategy.

What this is worth — the honest math

LINE ITEM	BEFORE	AFTER
Skilled hours on discovery	~10 hrs / week	~0.25 hrs / week
Hours returned per year	—	~500 hours
Coverage	As far as one person can click	Every source, every cycle
Deadline risk	Memory and sticky notes	Tracked automatically in every digest

TRANSLATE IT TO YOUR BUSINESS

Take one recurring workflow. Multiply the weekly hours by 50, then by the loaded hourly cost of the person doing it. That number — before you count missed opportunities — is what manual process is quietly costing you each year.

Where this pattern fits in an operating business

The Discover → Evaluate → Rank → Deliver shape is not a nonprofit trick. The same skeleton, pointed at different data, becomes:

IF YOU RUN...	THE SAME SYSTEM BECOMES...
A services firm	Lead discovery that watches directories and news, scores prospects against your ideal client profile, and delivers a ranked call list.
A retail or food business	Supplier and price monitoring that flags margin threats and reorder points before they bite.
A real estate operation	Listing and market surveillance scored against your acquisition criteria, delivered daily.
A professional practice	Intake that reads, classifies, and summarizes new-client documents before the first meeting.

A 30-minute exercise before you talk to anyone

- ☐ List the three most repetitive weekly tasks in your business and who does them.
- ☐ For each: write the trigger (when it starts), the sources it touches, the rules applied, and what "done" looks like.
- ☐ Circle the one where a missed step costs real money. That is your first build.

Want the fifteen-minute version of your ten-hour problem?

Book a free automation audit — we will map your first workflow together, no buzzwords.

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