The Factory of the Future is here
The Factory of the Future isn’t some futuristic fantasy. It’s quickly becoming the new reality. And tech-savvy manufacturers are either on board or preparing for change.
Consider the facts...

40% of manufacturers believe that smart manufacturing and its foundational technology—the Internet of Things (IoT)—are within reach and that it’s the right time to invest.1

The projections for IoT impact are staggering. Analysts say the global economic impact may reach $19 trillion by 2030.2

And as many as 50 billion devices will be connected collecting and communicating data, causing automated responses.3

According to IDC’s 2015 Vertical IT and Communications Survey of 602 United States-based manufacturers, cloud services are at the top of manufacturers’ IT initiatives, and just over 43% of manufacturers are using public clouds and 56% are using private clouds in pilot, proof of concept, or in production.4

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1 O’Marah, Kevin, The Internet of Things Will Make Manufacturing Smarter, Industry Week, August 14, 2015.
3 Cybersecurity and The Internet of Things, EY, March, 2015.
Did you know...

The last several years have seen an increasing number of industrial robots produced and deployed, with the current volume tripling the figures from just 6 years ago. In fact, the global robotic systems market is estimated to reach $41 billion by 2020.5

Amazon announced plans to roll out 10,000 robots into a network of warehouses—a move which it says will create up to $900 million in fulfillment cost savings—or up to 40% savings on cost per order.6

Two-thirds of manufacturers are already adopting 3D printing, and it is estimated that the global 3D printer market will reach $6 billion by 2017.7

Ford reported that traditional engine cover production takes 4 months and $500,000, but with 3D printing, it takes just 4 days and $3,000.8

McKinsey Global Institute estimates suggest that by fully implementing social technologies, companies have an opportunity to raise the productivity of interaction workers—high-skill knowledge workers, including managers and professionals—by 20 to 25%.10

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7 Bono, Bobby, Manufacturers are Increasingly Leveraging the Power of Tech—Are You in that Number?, Industry Week, March 17, 2015.
8 Gilpin, Lyndsey, 3D Printing: 10 Companies Using it in Ground-Breaking Ways, Tech Republic, March 26, 2014.
There’s no question—manufacturing is facing an exciting time of disruptive technology in IT systems as well as operations. This convergence of forces is creating a new type of manufacturing: 

The Factory of the Future.
The Factory of the Future is highly productive and efficient. In this model, there are no silos of data or obstacles to visibility.

Plant managers, front-line personnel, and back-office staff share the same view of real-time data and the same goal of making customer satisfaction their top priority.

Every step in the product lifecycle, every resource, every analytical report, every transaction stored in the cloud supports the ultimate strategy to be relevant, resourceful, and customer-centric.
The Factory of the Future takes advantage of the latest innovations in IT solutions, as well as refined best practices for shop floor operations.

The Factory of the Future is one where interconnected machines and systems communicate, sharing data, and responding to input from customers, supply chain partners, and subcontractors across the globe.
Leaders who are forward-thinking and confident in adopting innovative operational models will be able to seize early opportunities and define new standards. They will pave the way, leading to the next Industrial Revolution.

But, laggards who wait to embrace digital change are likely to fall far behind their competitors and ultimately flounder. They will be unable to meet customer expectations and struggle to compete in today’s global economy.

Early adopters of modern solutions that have at least partially implemented smart manufacturing initiatives have documented measurable results: 11

- 82% reported increased efficiency
- 49% reported lower product defects
- 45% reported customer satisfaction gains

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Moving to the forefront of innovation doesn’t happen overnight. An interconnected web of data and automation requires an underlying digital strategy of interoperability.

Research shows that 35% of manufacturers are working on an IoT strategy and putting tactics in place to implement that strategy.12
Seize the opportunity

In order to seize the new opportunities of the Factory of the Future, you need to start now.

First, build a company culture that:

• Places the customer first
• Stresses being agile and proactive
• Strives to anticipate customer needs

Then, put safeguards in place to ensure you’re meeting your goals for product quality, on-time delivery, and as-promised value.
Use tools that give you an added advantage, including:

• Mobile solutions, so personnel can remain connected from any location, any time
• Social tools, so colleagues and partners can more easily collaborate
• Configuration tools, so you can more easily manage product personalization
• Cloud deployment options, so you can quickly and cost-effectively expand into new markets and untapped regions
As you make strides toward becoming a Factory of the Future, you’ll need to differentiate yourself from the competition. This means being innovative, willing to collaborate with customers and supply chain partners, and able to embrace disruptive technologies like 3D printing, IoT, Big Data, and robotics.

Above all, you must have a strategy.
To build a successful strategy and deploy tools effectively, it’s essential to work with a solution provider that:

- Understands the complexities of your market
- Has a proven record and expertise in manufacturing applications—from ERP solutions to cloud deployment and factory floor operations
- Has an understanding of unfolding trends and knows how modern IT solutions can help you reach your goals
The Factory of the Future is here. Are you ready to get started?

Let Infor’s Value Engineering team help you take the first steps. They can help you identify, quantify, and realize the tangible business benefits of embracing the next Industrial Revolution.

Contact us today
About Infor

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