HOW-TO GUIDE

How to get started with Industry 4.0

MANUFACTURING

Quickly optimize manufacturing operations

Manufacturers that are willing to embrace Industry 4.0 connectivity and modern automation opportunities stand to see significant improvements in productivity—not only on the shop floor, but also across the enterprise. According to a **joint survey on smart factories from PwC and the Manufacturing Institute**, productivity gains, reduced labor costs, and uncovering new revenue streams are among the top benefits for manufacturers that have deployed Industry 4.0 technologies.[1]

While many manufacturers are still in the research and pilot stages, the survey reports that 73% of them are planning to increase their technology investments over the next year. But, where exactly should manufacturers start investing? Read on for some key recommendations on steps to take and specific Infor® software solutions that can help manufactures get started with Industry 4.0.

1. Shop-floor optimization

Manufacturers can use Industry 4.0-ready technologies to help digitize shop floor processes that are still largely paper-based. Today, many manufacturers still use paper trails to monitor the progress of work orders, the location of parts, and sometimes even the assembly sequence and steps for a specific order. Modern software provides ways to automate and streamline steps as new functionality anticipates the needs of the user, based on roles and custom-defined workflows. Modern software empowers faster decision-making with easy-to-read dashboards, workbenches, and consumable reporting.

Software shopping list

- Industry-specific Infor CloudSuite™ ERP solutions
- Infor Coleman® AI Platform
- Infor Birst® cloud business intelligence and analytics

2. Transparent supply chain

Efficiently filling customer orders is top of mind for manufacturers. According to a survey from industry advisory firm BDO, **23% of midmarket manufacturers** are looking to supply chain technologies to help speed up order cycle times.[2] Manufacturers need end-to-end supply chain technologies that give them a network-wide view of inventory on order, so they can see where potential bottlenecks may be—whether it's from the supplier during transport, or once it makes it to the manufacturing facility.

Software shopping list

- Industry-specific Infor CloudSuite ERP solutions
- Infor Nexus™ multi-enterprise supply chain network
- Infor CloudSuite SCM supply chain management solution
- Infor Supplier Exchange online collaboration tool for automotive manufacturers and suppliers
- Infor CloudSuite WMS warehouse management solution
- Infor Coleman AI Platform
- Infor Birst cloud BI and Analytics

3. Workforce augmentation

Collaborative robots, or "cobots," aren't here to replace human workers, but to **work side-by-side** with them to help handle the heavy work or repetitive tasks that can be hard on employees' bodies over time.[3] With cobots taking on some of the more monotonous tasks, human employees can focus on activities that require more dexterity, creativity, reasoning, and critical thinking.

Just as robots can help on the shop floor, workforce management and human capital management systems can help a manufacturer's employees succeed as the roles and responsibilities within the workplace shift. These software tools can provide ease of use, automation, and analytics that help managers plan the use of resources and control labor costs, while also enhancing the employee experience.

Software shopping list

- Industry-specific Infor CloudSuite ERP solutions
- Infor CloudSuite Workforce Management (WFM) solution
- CloudSuite HCM human capital management solution
- Infor Coleman AI Platform
- Infor Birst cloud BI and analytics

4. Predictive asset maintenance

It's mission-critical for shop floor equipment and assets to keep running—even when the machinery is past its prime and needs frequent repairs or even replacement. With minimal resources and numerous demands for their time, maintenance teams need to develop and follow optimal strategies. Reactive maintenance isn't an acceptable strategy—fixing broken equipment, one emergency after another, is an inefficient use of resources and can even result in entire production lines shutting down. A predictive maintenance strategy, however, can catch issues before they become expensive and time-consuming problems.

Modern enterprise asset management software systems contain powerful predictive capabilities combined with innovative business intelligence and artificial intelligence that uses algorithms and data science to identify patterns in data points and project next-likely outcomes. Users can explore "what if" scenarios and obtain forecasts of likely costs and probable demands to help drive decision-making.

Software shopping list

- Industry-specific Infor CloudSuite ERP solutions
- Infor CloudSuite EAM enterprise asset management solution
- Infor Coleman AI Platform
- Infor Birst cloud BI and Analytics

[1] PwC and the Manufacturing Institute, Navigating the fourth industrial revolution to the bottom line, September 2019, p. 2.
[2] BDO, Industry 4.0: Redefining how mid-market manufacturers derive and deliver value, March 2019, p. 10.
[3] "What cobots can do for your Business," National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), May 2019.

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