



How to maximise **utilisation** and **productivity** in a changing environment.

The manufacturing industry is enjoying a welcome return to the economic spotlight, with political and economic leaders recognising that a healthy manufacturing sector drives wider prosperity. At the same time, innovations in machinery design, and in digital technologies and their capabilities, mean that many manufacturers are reviewing the way they manage and monitor the supply chain and production operations. By understanding the relationship dependencies and interactions across the entire value chain, decision making to improve performance and productivity can be radically enhanced.

In terms of the technology of production, there are four areas where innovation and investment can lead you towards best practice and operational excellence:



Strategic big data

New technologies have the potential to gather and assimilate unprecedented levels of production data. This helps you to identify connections within information and make intelligent use of it.

Actionable analytics

In real-time, you now have the ability to assess information not just to pinpoint trends, but also to act on them and improve performance as a consequence.

Integrated ecosystems

Where, historically, an amalgam of fixed and mobile systems and devices have operated in disparate silos, you can now bring together corporate and personal technology into a manageable whole that creates new efficiencies and delivers more value.

The Internet of Things (IoT)

Thinking of (IoT) the assets passing through the value chain, as smart, interconnected devices, generating insights that can be turned to corporate advantage.

Data visibility business-wide

Where supply chains span geographical regions and involve a network of suppliers, distributors, and planners, each link can create inefficiencies and cost challenges. Making use of the concepts outlined above gives visibility not only into plant-specific processes and asset management strategies, but across the entire business ecosystem.

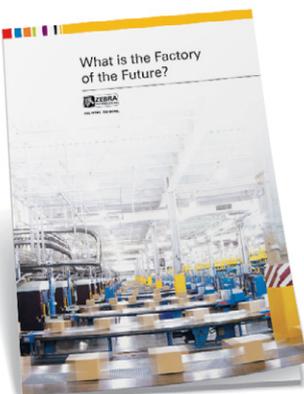
To realise the potential benefits of data visibility in full, solutions need to reduce IT complexities, connect legacy devices and deliver real-time, enterprise-wide information.



Devices incorporating IoT principles are becoming key to providing instantaneous visibility into supply chains, distribution centres and manufacturing operations. These devices are also invaluable in very tight process-driven tasks where real-time visibility and control are essential.

Enabling this greater level of connectedness is a platform of auto-ID technologies. For example, RFID and RTLS tags allow organisations to quickly track and locate high value items such as tools, large assemblies, and vehicles to ensure that the right processes are happening in the right place at the right time. Tighter processes and improved asset tracking can boost product quality while reducing operational and capital expenditure.

Using the technologies available gives you insight into the real-time location, condition, timing and status of materials, equipment and events throughout your value chain. Once you can have access to this information in real-time, you have the opportunity to create new value and reach new standards in business performance and productivity.



Find out more about the Factory of the Future. Download our guide at www.zebra.com/manufacturing-future



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