# USING THE CLOUD TO CO-ORDINATE OPERATIONS ACROSS YOUR SITES.

The manufacturing industry, depends on a web of suppliers, distributors, and planners. Each link in the supply chain can create inefficiencies and cost challenges that ripple throughout the logistics, warehousing and manufacturing process.

Making operations more efficient, especially when related to energy and labour costs, not only needs visibility into individual processes, but also interconnectivity and visibility across the entire business ecosystem, upstream and downstream.

The technology exists to let you do just that. The cloud, utilised via intelligent auto-identification solutions including barcoding, RFID and RTLS, can provide full, real-time visibility into your supply chain, product, people, assets and movements, opening up your processes for improvement and enabling you to streamline your supply chain and reduce costs.

What is it?
Where is it?
PHYSICAL
Where has it been?
What's its condition?
VIRTUAL
NEW VALUE
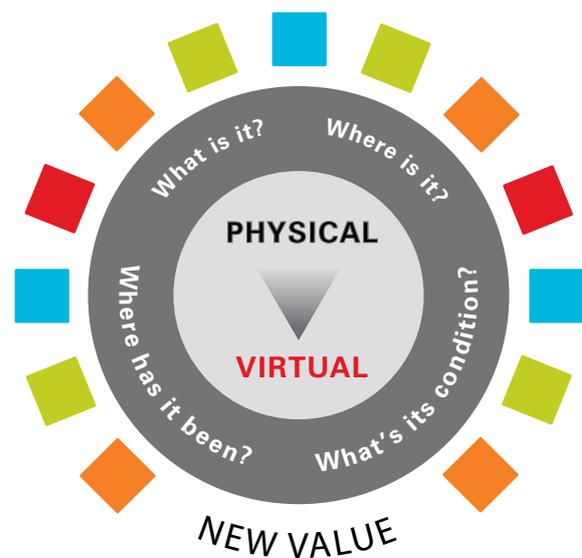
Auto-ID processes and network connectivity using the wide range of devices within an organisation generate data. This data can be transformed into actionable information to smooth the path of assets through the supply chain, to keep stakeholders and operators updated with asset information and to adapt when things go wrong. As a result, it enables you to increase efficiency, reduce waste and associated costs, and generate new value from your operation.

This kind of connectivity, effectively the 'internet of things' in action, enables you to monitor and co-ordinate your operations with those of other sites, suppliers or customers. Improvements you can expect to see include:

Increased operational efficiency
More streamlined and efficient processes resulting in improved throughput, resource utilisation and error-proofing, as well as significant reductions in operational costs including search time on task, rental item reduction and process error.

Improved and more informed decision-making
Faster, more efficient information distribution enables the most actionable employees to react quicker.

More effective maintenance and compliance
The ability to store information on the object is being used to support Maintenance, Repair and Operations (MRO) activities as well as ensure compliance. Complete records can be rapidly accessed to ensure proper handling.

New service opportunities
In many instances, the information and visibility provided by auto-ID solutions are being used by enterprises to develop new product or service offerings or to provide the levels of customisation required in today's marketplace.

Competitive advantage
More efficient operations, cost reductions, better decision-making and new dynamic offerings to customers ensure a competitive advantage to users.

Find out more on co-ordinating multi-site operations with our video here:
www.zebra.com/manufacturing-challenges