

Industry 4.0 explained

Industry 4.0, the fourth industrial revolution – or whichever title you prefer is currently extremely topical for the manufacturing sector.

It can bring many benefits to a business such as increased outputs, improved efficiencies, accuracy and quality – but what does it actually mean for the industry?

What is Industry 4.0?

Industry 4.0 is a vision of a change in technology and an emergence of operational technologies and informational technologies meeting i.e, it's the process whereby our digital world and physical world are met.

Industry 4.0 brings a number of benefits from two different perspectives; macro and micro.

It has a macro level which focuses on a huge change in the way everything is manufactured, bringing in elements such as education and culture, with the larger blue-chip companies and PLCs driving these innovations and smarter technologies into manufacturing.

We can also look at Industry 4.0 from a micro perspective and the idea of merging traditional manufacturing processes with smarter manufacturing processes.

Data is becoming more important than ever.

There is a huge focus on data in the manufacturing world and there is much more of a data footprint in manufacturing than there ever has been previously. This digitalisation of manufacturing is allowing manufacturers to become smarter, not only with their products, but their process and also their production.

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Where can I go for help and guidance?

For manufacturers wanting to engage with Industry 4.0 there are many places to go for assistance and guidance, European Funding can be particularly useful.

For businesses based in Lancashire, assistance is also provided by organisations such as Boost, Lancashire Growth Fund and the DigitMe programme at the University of Central Lancashire.

If you would like to discuss Industry 4.0 and what it means for your business in more detail, contact MHA Moore and Smalley to speak to a member of our Manufacturing and Engineering team.



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