

Automation Alley: Collaboration Key to Unlocking Potential of Industry 4.0

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The rapid convergence of digital and physical technologies currently disrupting the manufacturing space has created a great need for knowledge transfer, as manufacturers attempt to keep pace with new technological advancements in a constantly evolving industry. The fourth industrial revolution, known as Industry 4.0, is upon us.

Industry 4.0—the collection of technologies including the Industrial Internet of Things, robotics, cloud computing, cybersecurity, big data, artificial intelligence, advanced materials and additive manufacturing, and modeling, simulation, visualization and immersion—will forever change the way manufacturers do business. Manufacturers around the globe are aware of the magnitude of change involved with Industry 4.0. Consequently, there is great uncertainty, but also great opportunity.

As Michigan's Industry 4.0 knowledge center, Automation Alley is convinced that the key to our state's success is dependent on knowledge, not only for business owners, but also for a workforce that will need to be upskilled as jobs are replaced by automation. And the key to unlocking that knowledge is through collaboration.

That is why Automation Alley has assembled a collaborative team of academic and corporate partners to create an in-depth research report on Industry 4.0 to be released April 30 in Detroit. Automation Alley's 2018 Technology in Industry Report will showcase technological applications and provide a glimpse into the breadth of academic opportunity available to employers in Southeast Michigan. Researchers are digging into data to ensure that readers understand what has been done, what needs to be done and the industry implications. This is being created to help manufacturers keep pace with rapid technological changes.

Our hope is that this report will be of great value to manufacturers both at home and abroad, one that will serve as a roadmap to help companies large and small navigate this massive industry shift. Now, more than ever, industry, government and academia must collaborate.

We have seen firsthand traditional manufacturers innovating internally and deploying Industry 4.0 technologies, learning as they go. But these companies need help navigating this uncharted territory, and that's where Automation Alley can help. Through this report, Automation Alley is connecting industry, academia and government to create knowledge that will help accelerate innovation.

We are stronger together. And together, we can ensure Southeast Michigan is the leading applied technology and innovation region in the world.