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Where Manufacturing Meets IT

How "Smart" Are We in Manufacturing Today?

BY LUIGI DE BERNARDINI | THU SEP 1 2016

In a recent blog post Conrad Leiva, MESA International Board Member and chair of MESA's Smart Manufacturing Working Group, discussed the reality of adoption of integration standards in manufacturing based on a recent [MESA and IDC Manufacturing Insights survey](#). The survey was sent to both manufacturers and vendors that provide equipment and software to manufacturing. There are four dimensions of connectivity in Smart Manufacturing explored in this survey:

#1. Machine Automation Connectivity – Adoption of machine-to-machine (M2M) and machine-to-application (M2A) communication standards;

#2. Production Systems Connectivity – These include application-to-application (A2A) messaging standards that link business applications dedicated to managing the shop floor and support functions including Production Control, Scheduling, Inventory, Quality, Tooling, Workforce Management, and Plant Maintenance.

#3. Digital Thread Connectivity – Data messaging standards that create a digital thread of communications from product definition in engineering systems to manufacturing and inspection processes.

4. Value Chain Connectivity – Adoption of business-to-business (B2B) integration standards with open integration platforms to the internet for value chain collaboration. .

The results are shared and analyzed in the post creating an interesting perspective on the impact of standards on the Smart Manufacturing journey many companies are taking.

Read the full post [here](#).