

PRESS RELEASE

Do you have one foot in the future?

2019-01-30

For Immediate Use



Smart factories: the future is already here

Just as Industry 4.0 is talked of as an almost mystical phenomenon still some way down the road for manufacturers, the same can be said when it comes to the Factory of the Future. In reality, the future has already arrived, and manufacturers need to act now if they are to remain competitive in the digitized global marketplace.

We first started talking about Industry 4.0 in 2010, and since that time, our factories have become smarter and more agile as new innovations have been realized. Therefore, while it's true that many elements of Industry 4.0 are still conceptual, many have already arrived, making the smart factory the facility of the here and now.

One of the greatest challenges for manufacturers in adopting Industry 4.0 is cost. For small facilities especially, making significant investments in new equipment can be difficult, particularly if gaining internal buy-in is a time-consuming process.

While the benefits of a smart future are becoming increasingly well-known, this has left some manufacturers feeling a sense of panic and urgency as they believe the answer is a complete digital overhaul. It's important to remember, though, that creating your Factory of the Future isn't an overnight

Contact for Journalists:
Bosch Rexroth Canada
David Lopes
3426 Mainway Drive
Burlington, ON
Telephone (905) 315-6043
Fax (905)335-4184
david.lopez2@boschrexroth.ca

Bosch Rexroth Canada
Karen Maiden
3426 Mainway Drive
Burlington, ON
Telephone (905) 315-6044
Fax (905)335-4184
karen.maiden@boschrexroth.ca

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job – a task which would be near impossible for even the most well-resourced business.

Instead, taking a considered and incremental approach is one that will deliver the most value, particularly for small manufacturers.

Balancing outlay and value

Where the cost of implementation needs to be balanced with the value of digital upgrades, Bosch Rexroth's digital twin can help. A key element in smart manufacturing, the digital twin creates a virtual replica of your entire physical factory that can be used for test and development.

Precisely reflecting its counterpart in the real world, manufacturers can measure performance just as they would in reality. Therefore, instead of purchasing and installing new equipment before seeing its value to the production line, manufacturers can set it up virtually. That way, once it is switched to the physical twin, there will be no changes, no surprises, no false starts. That means the first physical product will be right every time – and in today's increasingly flexible and customized environment, it will need to be.

Therefore, for small business, the price and quality of any changes can be accurately gauged before a penny is invested.

Stepping into the future today

Another way for facilities to realize their vision of the Factory of the Future is through readily available distributed intelligence. This enables production machines to assess themselves, share information with other equipment, and make their own consensus-based decisions.

With the IoT Gateway rack from Bosch Rexroth, you could step into the digital future today. Complete with sensor inputs, discrete inputs, USB, HDMI & ethernet ports to attach to existing machines, the kit allows you to collect data from the factory floor and stream it to the cloud for real-time analysis. Better yet, the entire system can be fitted and activated in a single morning, so you can see the possibilities of a connected future almost immediately.

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Discover more about the Factory of the Future [here](#)

About Bosch Rexroth

As one of the world's leading suppliers of drive and control technologies, Bosch Rexroth ensures efficient, powerful and safe movement in machines and systems of any size. The company bundles global application experience in the market segments of Mobile Applications, Machinery Applications and Engineering, and Factory Automation. With its intelligent components, customized system solutions and services, Bosch Rexroth is creating the necessary environment for fully connected applications. Bosch Rexroth offers its customers hydraulics, electric drive and control technology, gear technology and linear motion and assembly technology, including software and interfaces to the Internet of Things. With locations in over 80 countries, more than 30,500 associates generated sales revenue of 5.5 billion euros in 2017.

To learn more, please visit www.boschrexroth.ca

About Bosch

Having established a regional presence in 1906 in North America, the Bosch Group employs nearly 34,500 associates in more than 100 locations, as of December 31, 2017. In 2017 Bosch generated consolidated sales of \$13.7 billion in the U.S., Canada and Mexico. For more information, visit www.bosch.ca

The Bosch Group is a leading global supplier of technology and services. It employs roughly 402,000 associates worldwide (as of December 31, 2017). The company generated sales of 78.1 billion euros (\$88.2 billion) in 2017. Its operations are divided into four business sectors: Mobility Solutions, Industrial Technology, Consumer Goods, and Energy and Building

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Burlington, ON
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david.lobes2@boschrexroth.ca

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Technology. As a leading IoT company, Bosch offers innovative solutions for smart homes, smart cities, connected mobility, and connected manufacturing. It uses its expertise in sensor technology, software, and services, as well as its own IoT cloud, to offer its customers connected, cross-domain solutions from a single source. The Bosch Group's strategic objective is to deliver innovations for a connected life. Bosch improves quality of life worldwide with products and services that are innovative and spark enthusiasm. In short, Bosch creates technology that is "Invented for life." The Bosch Group comprises Robert Bosch GmbH and its roughly 440 subsidiary and regional companies in 60 countries. Including sales and service partners, Bosch's global manufacturing, engineering, and sales network covers nearly every country in the world. The basis for the company's future growth is its innovative strength. At 125 locations across the globe, Bosch employs some 64,500 associates in research and development.

Additional information is available online at www.bosch.com, www.iot.bosch.com, www.bosch-press.com, www.twitter.com/BoschPresse.

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