A Connected Industrial Workforce promises to transform manufacturing. But are manufacturers ready to embrace it?

Respondents from Germany expect a Connected Industrial Workforce to drive significant new value.

60% expect it to increase productivity
42% expect it to improve operational efficiency
14% expect it to enhance safety and risk management

They are investing in the Connected Industrial Workforce—though not yet implementing it with confidence.

15% of their R&D budget is already spent on the Connected Industrial Workforce
In 2020 that will rise to 20%

71% are still piloting solutions
Only 10% have implemented them
Only 10% say they are digital leaders

They consider IT security to be their greatest challenge—closely followed by a shortage of skilled workers—in adopting a Connected Industrial Workforce.

69% are concerned about data vulnerability
68% are concerned about system vulnerability
67% are concerned about a shortage of skilled workers

By envisioning the full promise of the Connected Industrial Workforce, as well as the benefits they expect it to deliver, more German manufacturers could identify what’s holding them back, and begin to define their journey and who owns it. The findings suggest that the time to start raising their game—identifying new job profiles, and dedicating higher proportions of their R&D budget to the Connected Industrial Workforce—is now.

Accenture research shows that most German companies feel they lag in implementing the human-machine-centric environments of the Connected Industrial Workforce. Based on the self-perceptions of the German manufacturing executives, below are the key findings.

Accenture surveyed more than 500 senior executives and managers in the world’s leading automotive, industrial and construction markets in December 2015.

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