MANUFACTURING LEADERSHIP COUNCIL
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MANUFACTURERS

2019 MLC Decision Compass Group Topic Agendas

Digital M4.0 Technologies DC Group

- **Industrial IoT Best Practices: From Test Beds to Results:** Key lessons on how to maximize your Industrial IoT networks on the front line.

- **AI In Action on the Plant Floor:** Use cases on the impact of manufacturing AI and machine learning in action today and the promise of new AI-enabled ecosystems for the future.

- **Digital Threads Meet Digital Twins:** Will the combination of Digital Threads and Digital Twins make design and manufacturing an increasingly virtual process?

- **What's Next for Additive Manufacturing?** Where will 3D printing have its most industrial impact– as a standalone approach to mainstream production, or by integrating additive technologies into hybrid machines?

- **Harnessing Augmented and Virtual Realities:** Where are they most effective in manufacturing operations and how do you manage an increasingly visual production environment?

- **Can Collaborative Robots Change Tomorrow's Production Models?** What are the implications of increasingly automated, collaborative machines and processes for the way manufacturers, and their workforces, approach more customized manufacturing models?

- **Managing Cyber Risk in the Factories of the Future:** How can manufacturers best protect their increasingly digital production environments from cyber threats and digital disruption?

- **Will 5G Networks Be a Manufacturing Game-Changer?** Will the promise of ultra-fast, high-bandwidth 5G networks transform the industry's adoption and deployment of IoT Edge Networks and Fog Computing?

Supply Networks DC Group

- **Supply Chain Trends to Watch in 2019:** Expert insights highlighting the key manufacturing supply chain trends for the year ahead.

- **The Impact of Global Trade Deals & Tariffs on Manufacturing Supply Chains:** How can manufacturers keep supply chains resilient despite continuing uncertainty and disruption in global trade agreements?

- **The Rise of AI & Machine Learning in Manufacturing Supply Networks:** How will manufacturers harness artificial intelligence platforms to drive digital transformation across the supply chain?

- **Filling the Digital Supply Chain Skills Gap:** How do you develop/attract/retain the M4.0 supply chain skills & talent you'll need to run the digital supply chains of the future?

- **The Challenges of M4.0 Supply Network Integration:** How to extend digital enterprise M4.0 platforms across multiple partners, geographies, and cultures, in an increasingly networked supply chain ecosystem.

- **Blockchains In Action in Today's Supply Chains:** From pilot projects to live operation – are supply network Blockchains finally beginning to deliver real results?

- **Can Supply Chain Control Towers Help Drive Transformation?** How do high-tech centralized control towers help improve and accelerate supply chain visibility, flexibility, and transformation?

Operational Excellence DC Group

- **Continuous Improvement: How do you make changes stick?** A company operating on "program du jour" can lead to a frustrated workforce, a stagnant product portfolio, and no clear path for moving forward. How can you implement meaningful operational change so it sticks around for the long haul?

- **Seven steps to problem-solving, and other methods:** Identifying the root cause of a problem is important for determining the right solution as quickly as possible. The seven-step "root cause" problem-solving method is a proven way to resolve problems, logically and with common sense. Other problem-solving methods have also proven useful in determining the best way to identify and solve problems.

- **Creating a net-zero energy manufacturing operation:** Reduced energy usage also means reduced costs. How can you develop better energy efficiency for quick ROI?

- **Using M4.0 Technologies to Automate Lean:** Has the rise of automation and digital technologies changed how Lean practices are implemented? What is the future of Lean in an M4.0 world?

- **Benchmarking: A proven way to measure progress:** Whether you measure against your own performance or that of your competitors, benchmarking is an important tool for continuous improvement. Benchmarking can identify performance gaps and create a standardized set of processes and metrics.

- **Best Practices for Sharing Best Practices:** So you've run a successful pilot at one of your manufacturing facilities or implemented other operational improvements. Now you'd like to take those gains to the rest of your facilities. What are the best ways to scale operational excellence across your manufacturing footprint?

- **Improving safety and productivity through an engaged, accountable workforce:** A tiered accountability system for continuous communication and displaying daily performance metrics can improve asset performance, employee engagement, and overall company performance.

Next-Generation Leadership and the Changing Workforce DC Group

- **Broadening your company's appeal to a diverse talent pool:** As manufacturers look for ways to fill their open positions, they seek to recruit more non-traditional workers like women, veterans, and retired workers. How can a company make itself appealing to these types of groups?

- **Best practices for upskilling your current workforce:** How can you keep your employees current on the skills they need, especially when time and budgets are tight?

- **Improving leadership soft skills for better employee engagement:** "Think more machine, act more human" – how can leaders improve soft skills like collaboration, communication, a positive attitude, and the ability to constructively give and receive criticism? How does that impact employee engagement for their teams?

- **Identifying your company's future digital roles:** As the demands shift for building a data-driven business, how can you determine what roles your company will need, and how to recruit the right talent?

- **Creating a technology-aware leadership team:** In the MLC's recent Factories of the Future survey, 75% of respondents said their leadership team needed to improve their technology awareness. How can a team educate itself on how to identify and utilize the latest M4.0 technologies?

- **Leading an M4.0 transition, while still minding the shop:** M4.0 transition requires more than just capital investment. Leadership is also faced with defining a roadmap, strategizing on implementation, identifying workforce and technology needs, and overseeing the rollout, all while continuing with day-to-day operations. How can leaders carve out the time they need and balance it with their ongoing duties?

- **Identifying "hidden gems" for future M4.0 leadership roles:** How do you identify the high potential employees among your staff to consider for future leadership roles? What types of opportunities do you provide for employees to demonstrate or improve their leadership skills?

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