

CPARITY EVENT PRESENTS



GLOBAL

CONNECTED WORKER & MANUFACTURING EXCELLENCE SUMMIT

📅 5th - 6th March 2026
📍 Houston, Texas, USA



Luiz Alberto Barberini

External Manufacturing Organization -
Consumer Health LatAm

Bayer



Julie Thyne

Global Improvement Director

Dow



John Dyck

Chief Executive Officer

CESMII - The Smart
Manufacturing Institute



Praveen Singh

Vice President Information
Technology

Honeywell



Maria Rossana Ruiz

Manufacturing Engineer

Ford Motor Company



Simon Jacobson

VP, Analyst

Gartner





Simon Jacobson
VP, Analyst

Gartner



Shane A. Wentz, PhD
Certified Lean Six Sigma Master Black
Belt Chief Operating Officer
A Change in Latitude Consulting



Rohit Ugle Ph.D.
Technical Specialist - Data
Science and Machine
Caterpillar



Fabian Ochoa
Director Digital Factory Solutions
Emerson



Mikhail Filatov
Manufacturing Engineer, Paint
Tesla



Maria Rossana Ruiz
Manufacturing Engineer

Ford Motor Company



Darin Powell
Senior Business Architect

Boeing



Anthony Le Marre
Global Head of Manufacturing
Systems & Automation
Sanofi



Ravi Prasad Nimmalapudi
Senior Director, Sustainability

The Coca-Cola Company



Gary Dunbar, MBA LSSBB
Director of Digital Engineering
and IT, Customer Care
Engie North America Inc.



Travis Prior, MBA
Senior Manager, Mfg/Ops, Manufacturing
Execution Systems
Collins Aerospace



Jose Pires
Founder & President
Global Excellence & Innovation



Praveen Singh
Vice President Information
Technology
Honeywell



Parthiban Ravikumar
Manufacturing Engineer

Bray Controls



Alessandro Malucelli
Industrial Engineering
Sr. Manager
Whirlpool Corporation



Thiruvankadam Viswanathan
Senior Product Strategy Lead

Mars



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Maria Carolina Araujo
Former Vice President of Engineering

McCain Foods

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Welcome to Cparity Event Group's **Connected Worker & Manufacturing Excellence Summit**, taking place this March in Houston. It is a privilege to open this event at a time when the manufacturing sector is undergoing rapid digital transformation.

Over the past year, industrial leaders have faced extraordinary disruption and change—from global supply challenges to evolving workforce dynamics and accelerating digital adoption. These shifts are redefining the future of manufacturing and demanding a new balance between technology, people, and process.

As organizations embrace Industry 4.0, the connected worker has become central to achieving operational excellence. Digital tools, automation, and data intelligence are empowering workers to make faster, smarter decisions, while driving safety, efficiency, and sustainability across operations.

This summit unites global manufacturing executives, operational leaders, and technology innovators to explore how to build intelligent, agile, and people-centered factories. Across two days of keynote presentations, case studies, and panel discussions, we will uncover the strategies that enable digital transformation, workforce empowerment, and long-term excellence.

Our goal is simple: to equip you with the insights, tools, and connections needed to master the next era of connected manufacturing—where innovation meets resilience, and people and technology work together to deliver lasting success.

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- Speaking slots to share your experience with a senior audience
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8:20
am

REGISTRATION & WELCOME COFFEE

8:50
am

CHAIR'S OPENING ADDRESS

9:00
am

OPENING KEYNOTE

SUCCEEDING IN AN EVER-CHANGING MANUFACTURING LANDSCAPE: MASTERING THE ART OF EXCELLENCE

- Emphasizing functional excellence through a back-to-basics approach for sustained success.
- Building resilience and agility to react swiftly and achieve lasting stability in dynamic environments.
- Crafting a robust playbook: optimizing the "known knowns" and preparing for the known unknowns.

Simon Jacobson
VP, Analyst

Gartner



9:30
am

KEYNOTE

STRENGTHENING THE U.S.' COMPETITIVENESS THROUGH SMART MANUFACTURING

While momentum around Smart Manufacturing is real, investment remains constrained and is often still viewed as supplementary rather than essential, even amid growing attention on AI. This keynote will illustrate how interoperable digital infrastructure unifies people, process, and technology to enable scalable Smart Manufacturing, operationalized AI, and a new foundation for industrial competitiveness.

John Dyck
Chief Executive Officer

CESMII - The Smart
Manufacturing Institute



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10:00
am

CASE STUDY

AI-DRIVEN AUTOMATION: THE FUTURE OF SMART MANUFACTURING

- How AI is transforming traditional manufacturing processes into smart, adaptive systems.
- Integration of AI with Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) to enable predictive maintenance, supply chain optimization, and real-time decision-making.
- The role of AI in improving operational efficiency, product quality, and reducing waste.
- Key challenges such as system integration, data privacy, and workforce readiness.

Rohit Ugle Ph.D.

Technical Specialist - Data
Science and Machine



Caterpillar

10:40
am

COFFEE & NETWORKING BREAK

11:10
am

PANEL DISCUSSION

CRAFTING A FUTURE-READY DIGITAL STRATEGY FOR INDUSTRY 4.0 MANUFACTURING LANDSCAPE

The industry 4.0 journey is incredibly complex and greater in scope than many will have experienced before. This will require business model transformation across your entire operating system. This panel will explore the essential considerations that you will need to make as you develop your digital transformation strategy, and the business opportunities that will emerge if delivered successfully.

- Evaluating your digital maturity and setting clear targets for the short and long term
- Developing pilot projects to establish proof of concept
- Setting the tone from the top with clear leadership and vision for digital transformation projects
- Mapping out the capabilities you will need to deliver your vision

Jose Pires
Founder & President
Global Excellence
& Innovation



Julie Thyne
Global Improvement Director
Dow



Thiruvankadam Viswanathan
Senior Product Strategy Lead
Mars



Luiz Alberto Barberini
External Manufacturing Organization-
Consumer Health LatAm
Bayer



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11:50
am

KEYNOTE

GO FOR EXTRAORDINARY: CONNECTING WORKERS, TECHNOLOGIES AND CULTURE

A strategic benchmark of how high-performance organizations bridge the gap between artificial intelligence, manufacturing transformation, and human excellence to drive sustainable value creation.

Jose Pires
Founder & President

Global Excellence & Innovation



12:30
pm

LUNCH BREAK

1:30
pm

CASE STUDY

WORKFORCE TRANSFORMATION IN THE ERA OF DIGITAL FACTORIES

- Explore how digital tools are reshaping skill requirements and training for workers
- Discuss strategies to develop a digitally savvy workforce for connected factories
- Highlight successful approaches to managing the human side of digital transformation

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2:10
pm

CASE STUDY

CREATING A FULLY AUTOMATED SMART FACTORY MODEL: THE JOURNEY SO FAR, CURRENT BARRIERS AND NEXT STEPS

- Developing a comprehensive Industry 4.0 roadmap that aligns with the broader organizational strategy.
- How can we effectively scale successful smart technology initiatives?
- How can manufacturers organize their data effectively to leverage the full potential of smart technologies such as predictive analytics?
- Attracting, retaining, and upskilling a digitally minded workforce through integration of technologies, such as AI, Automation & XR
- Envisioning the future of smart manufacturing: Exploring how AI, Cobots, and other innovations can compliment and enhance the existing workforce

Mikhail Filatov

Manufacturing Engineer,
Paint

Tesla



2:50
pm

CASE STUDY

MAKING THE MOST OF THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE PROCESS

- The importance of bottom-up change and rethinking how change is implemented to align human and machine
- Involving your workers in your transformation from start to finish, to increase trust and user adoption
- Getting the right information to the right people and why communication is a critical skill in operations

Darin Powell

Senior Business Architect

Boeing



3:30
pm

COFFEE & NETWORKING BREAK

4:00
pm

CASE STUDY

SOLVE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION PROJECT DELIVERY CHALLENGES BY FOCUSING ON YOUR PEOPLE

- Align implementation plan with business objectives
- Consider user experience, system compatibility, and customization
- Develop a change management plan with communication and training strategies

Gary Dunbar, MBA LSSBB

Director of Digital Engineering
and IT, Customer Care

Engie North America Inc.



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04:40
pm

CLOSING KEYNOTE

VISION, DIRECTION AND MOTIVATION FOR COMPLEX TRANSFORMATION, CONNECTING THE WORKFORCE TRANSFORMATION PROJECTS

- Creating a narrative for change and inspiring the workforce to embrace digital transformation
- How to Identify and address potential roadblocks early to ensure smooth progress
- Building adaptability into your digital transformation plans to address an everchanging digital ecosystem
- Foster alignment among stakeholders to enable cohesive and collaborative decision-making
- Bridging the Gap in Goal Alignment: Aligning executive leadership's strategic vision with shop floor operators.

Travis Prior, MBA
Senior Manager, Mfg/Ops,
Manufacturing Execution
Systems
Collins Aerospace



05:10
pm

CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS

05:20
pm

END OF CONFERENCE DAY 1 & COCKTAIL RECEPTION

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8:30
am

REGISTRATION & WELCOME COFFEE

8:50
am

CHAIR'S OPENING ADDRESS

9:00
am

OPENING KEYNOTE

THE CONNECTED WORKER STARTS WITH CONNECTED LEADERSHIP

This keynote explores how the future of manufacturing excellence is driven not only by technology, but by leadership systems that empower people to think, adapt, and improve every day. While digital tools, automation, and data platforms continue to reshape Industry 4.0, sustainable results happen when leaders create clarity, trust, and alignment across teams. This keynote will share practical insights on how organizations can bridge the gap between technology investments and workforce engagement by fostering scientific thinking, strengthening problem-solving cultures, and building environments where frontline teams feel ownership of outcomes. Drawing from real-world transformation experience across manufacturing and operational environments, this session will challenge leaders to move beyond tools alone and focus on the leadership behaviors and systems that truly connect people, process, and performance.

Shane A. Wentz, PhD

Certified Lean Six Sigma Master
Black Belt Chief Operating Officer
A Change in Latitude Consulting



9:40
am

CASE STUDY

THE CONNECTED WORKFORCE: BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN PEOPLE AND TECHNOLOGY ON CMOs

- The role of the relationship management supporting technological changes in external manufacturing
- Overcoming resistance to change and fostering a culture of technology adoption.
- The role of leadership in bridging the gap between human expertise and digital tools.
- Practical steps for aligning human processes with emerging technologies.
- Real-world success stories of organizations enabling seamless collaboration between people and technology.

Luiz Alberto Barberini

External Manufacturing Organization
- Consumer Health LatAm
Bayer



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10:20
am

CASE STUDY

THE PERFECT BLEND: INTEGRATING PEOPLE, PROCESS, AND TECHNOLOGY FOR MANUFACTURING EXCELLENCE

- The importance of aligning people, processes, and technology to drive sustainable growth.
- Breaking down silos and fostering cross-functional collaboration in connected manufacturing.
- How digital tools can enhance human creativity and problem-solving.
- Addressing challenges such as organizational inertia and misalignment of priorities.

Romina Guevara

Former Chief Digital Officer - AMC

Michelin

10:50
am

COFFEE & NETWORKING BREAK

11:20
am

CASE STUDY

THE NEW LEAN: HARNESSING AI AND AUTOMATION FOR TRANSFORMATIONAL MANUFACTURING EXCELLENCE

This keynote will inspire attendees to embrace the next evolution of lean manufacturing, driven by the power of AI and automation. Explore how these transformative technologies are reshaping operational efficiency, decision-making, and innovation. Key discussion areas include:

- Embedding AI and automation into existing lean manufacturing strategies to unlock new efficiencies
- Leveraging data generated throughout the manufacturing process to drive actionable insights
- Seamlessly integrating AI tools and data systems across multiple sites and teams for enhanced collaboration
- Building the infrastructure and applications required to turn data into measurable outcomes
- Using AI to proactively identify risks, inefficiencies, and actionable solutions to stay ahead of challenges

Maria Carolina Araujo

Former Vice President of
Engineering

McCain Foods



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12:00
pm

CASE STUDY

CYBERSECURITY IN THE CONNECTED FACTORY: PROTECTING THE DIGITAL ECOSYSTEM

- Identifying key cybersecurity risks in connected manufacturing environments.
- Building a robust cybersecurity strategy to safeguard operational technology (OT) and IT networks.
- The impact of ransomware and cyberattacks on connected workers and production processes.
- Proactive vs. reactive approaches: Leveraging AI for threat detection and prevention.
- Investing in a cyber security program that extends across IT/OT Infrastructure

Praveen Singh
Vice President Information
Technology

Honeywell

Honeywell

12:30
pm

LUNCH BREAK

1:30
pm

CASE STUDY

EMPOWERING PEOPLE TO DRIVE PROCESS TRANSFORMATION

This session focuses on leveraging the human element to maximize the impact of operational transformation, with insights on:

- Driving change from the ground up to align workforce and technology
- Engaging frontline workers throughout the transformation journey to build trust and drive adoption
- Delivering timely and relevant information to empower decision-making and improve communication across operations

Parthiban Ravikumar
Manufacturing Engineer

Bray

Bray Controls

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02:10
pm

CASE STUDY

BLUEPRINTS FOR SMART MANUFACTURING EXCELLENCE: DEFINING THE NEW STANDARD

This session delves into how digital work instructions and real-time information empower plant workers to achieve peak performance. Key discussion areas include:

- An overview of the core pillars of smart manufacturing: connectivity, intelligence, and agility.
- How to align manufacturing processes with Industry 4.0 best practices to achieve excellence.
- Key metrics and benchmarks for measuring success in smart manufacturing transformation.

Alessandro Malucelli
Industrial Engineering
Sr. Manager

Whirlpool Corporation



02:40
pm

CLOSING TALK

FROM VISION TO REALITY: SCALING SMART MANUFACTURING ACROSS ENTERPRISES

- Lessons learned from deploying smart factory solutions on a global scale
- Addressing challenges of scalability, regional adaptation, and workforce alignment
- Key success factors for building consistent and adaptable manufacturing operations

RESERVED

03:10
pm

CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS

03:20
pm

END OF CONFERENCE

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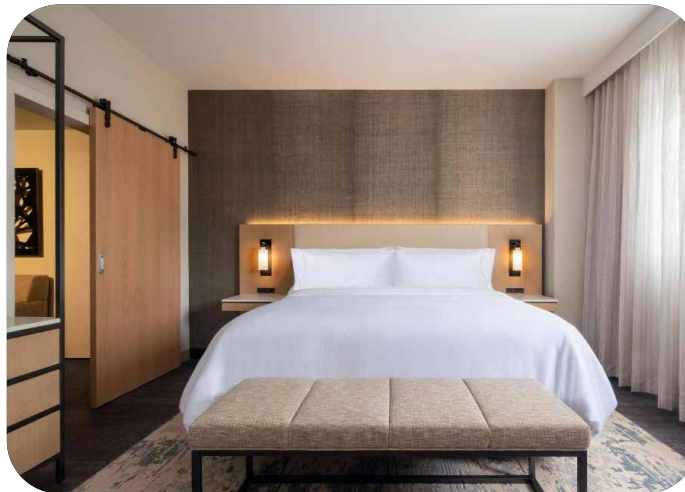
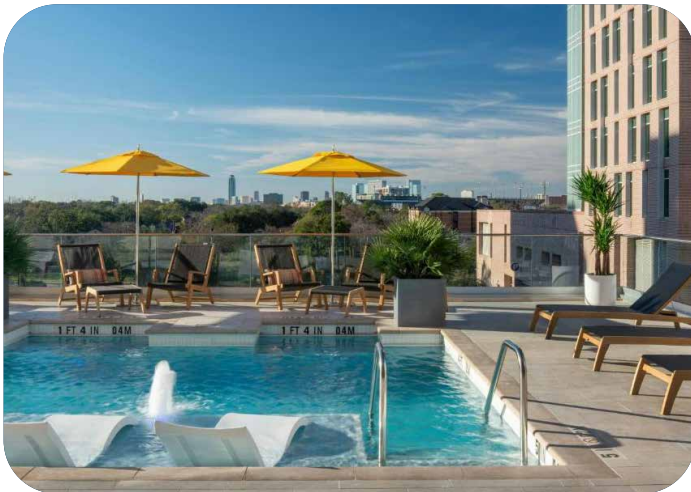
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5th-6th March 2026
Houston, Texas, USA

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BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Tel.: +44 20 3129 1774

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