

Manufacturers Map Out Technology Strategy to Meet Industry 4.0 Priorities

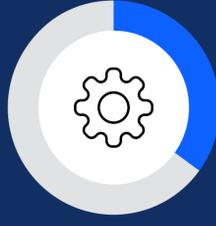
IT executives in manufacturing companies are focused on business priorities that will push them up the Industry 4.0 ladder and better position them to meet the requirements of increasingly more aggressive digital transformation journeys. Those priorities include improving operational efficiencies, optimizing supply chains, ensuring timely communications and supporting remote work capabilities.

They also include a heavy use of data, to improve business analytics for decision-making, along with implementation of technologies including Internet of Things, robotics and automation, artificial intelligence and machine learning.

These are just a few of the findings from a survey of more than 200 manufacturing company IT executives by DemandScience in collaboration with Comcast Business. The results of that survey paint a picture of manufacturers looking to shore up their technology footings to drive growth.

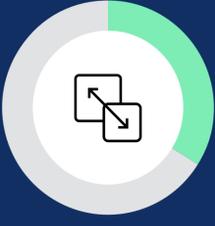


Survey respondents mapped out a list of top business priorities, many of which will take a heavy dose of technology to achieve:



31%

Operational efficiencies



31%

Optimizing supply chain



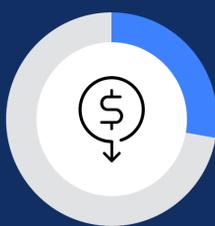
28%

Improving use of business analytics for decision-making



28%

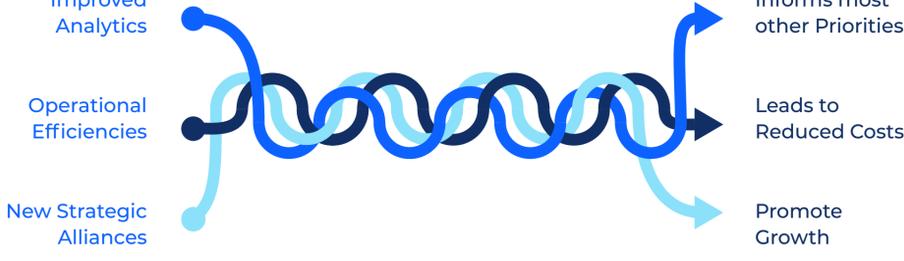
Organic growth



27%

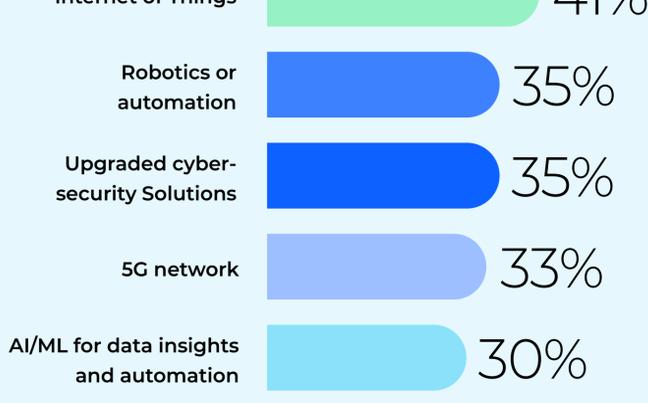
Reducing costs

Several of these Priorities are Intertwined

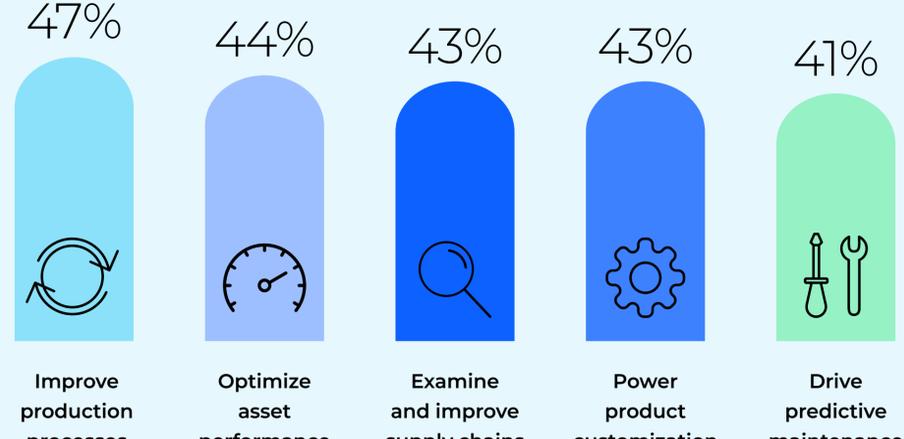


Manufacturing Technology Priorities

Manufacturing IT execs do indeed have plans to continue implementing numerous leading-edge technologies in the coming months:



Data will likewise play a crucial role in manufacturers' journey to an Industry 4.0 future. Survey respondents report they are most often using data to:



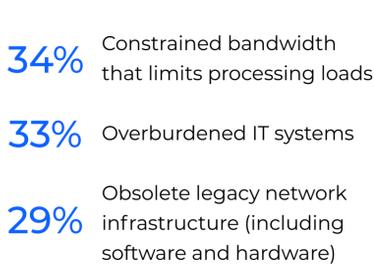
Challenges and Solutions

Respondents are under no illusions that the path to Industry 4.0 will be free of challenges, however.

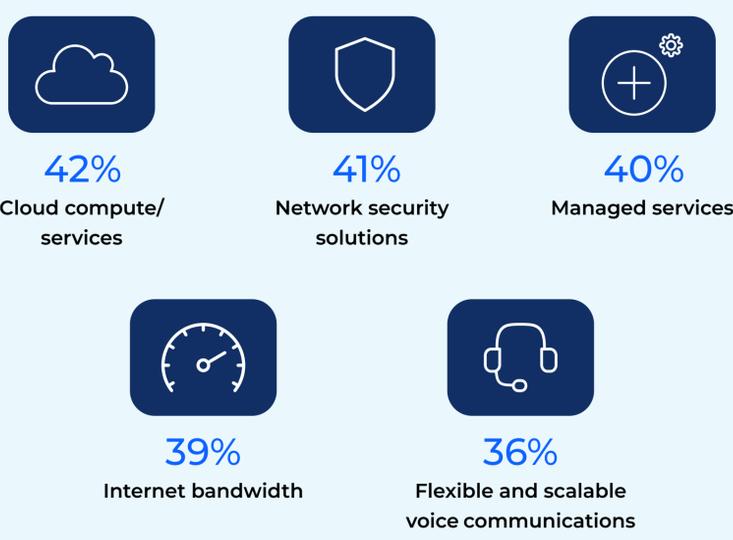
Some challenge will require savvy change management strategies to execute:



While other challenges are decidedly technical in nature:



But IT decision-makers recognize numerous technologies are available to help them overcome those obstacles, including:



Services such as cloud computing and managed services covering both the network infrastructure and security can help address some of the management challenges as well, including overworked IT teams and lack of agility.

Manufacturers need a fast and reliable network to help their facilities maintain daily production flows and smooth supply chain operations. Comcast Business can deliver scalable network solutions. Learn more at <https://business.comcast.com/manufacturing/>