

# THE DIGITAL TRANSITION JOURNEY FOR AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE SMEs

DMTC Limited's 'Factory in a Box' project seeks to realise benefits of Industry 4.0 adoption for Australian SMEs and to equip those companies to contribute to defence sector supply chains.

A key element of DMTC's solution is the ability to retrofit the Factory in a Box to legacy equipment within an SME's manufacturing facilities, overcoming perceptions that digitalisation is a high-cost, or green-field activity. The concept is to offer a low-cost entry point for SMEs, helping SMEs to take vital early steps on the digital transition journey.

# Industry 4.0 is:

- a concept waiting to be fully realised, particularly for SMEs
- reliant on some level of digitisation (computerisation and connectivity)
- driven by data, not hardware or software
- An enabler of truly Lean manufacturing.

### At a glance

#### The Factory in a Box:

- applies a lightweight sensor network to legacy systems
- feeds data into a factory-wide visualisation system that is 'smart enough'
- leaves control and action to the experts the operators & managers of the systems.

DMTC's involvement ensures that specific needs of defence manufacturers are prioritised and that there is a strong focus on technology transfer.

The deployment of the Factory in a Box will assist SMEs to develop a Digital Strategy, supported by a comprehensive training package. Use of smart sensors to create a real-time view of end-to-end processes (sometimes referred to as a digital twin) helps to ensure data-driven decision making and is a critical step towards realising Industry 4.0's benefits.



# **NEXT STEPS**

Future phases of the project are already envisaged, including work with federal and state government agencies to broaden the reach of the program to more SMEs and the possible deployment of Factory in a Box training through DMTC's Industry Capability Development program.



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