In an ongoing effort to support and advance Michigan manufacturers in the increasingly technology-focused landscape, the Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center (The Center) has developed a fully functional Industry 4.0 Technology Lab. Complete with a variety of modern innovations and equipment, this lab serves The Center’s overall purpose of introducing clients to advanced manufacturing while giving them the tools needed to improve areas such as productivity, quality, efficiency and workforce training.

Manufacturers can learn more about Industry 4.0 innovations in a personalized environment from on-site experts before deciding which investments would make the most sense for their business. The Center’s Industry 4.0 Technology Lab provides manufacturers with the knowledge and insight necessary to continue to thrive in the new era of advanced manufacturing. Manufacturers throughout Michigan will benefit from The Center’s technology expertise, as additional Industry 4.0 labs are being developed at two of The Center’s regional offices around the state.

REAL FACTORY 4.0: COMMITTED TO INNOVATION, INDUSTRY 4.0 & THE USE OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES IN OPERATIONS.

AUGMENTED REALITY

Light Guide Systems Technology

BUZZ 4.0 has launched in The Center’s Real Factory. It utilizes Light Guide Technology and closely represents a higher mix/lower volume work environment to demonstrate Standard Work, Quality and Lean process improvements.

Interactive programming identifies out-of-process actions and notifies the operator. The same technology has been used to implement standard work for the startup of the extrusion machine.

Retrofitting of Existing Equipment
The Center’s Real Factory 4.0 was retrofitted with sensor technology to allow for:

- Data Collection
- Analysis
- Improvement Activities

By retrofitting existing technology, we are able to mirror the activities which can drive improvements at client facilities. Once the sensor data is analyzed, the information will be used to assist in the teaching of improvement skills such as Root Cause Analysis, Hypothesis Testing and Design of Experiment.

INDUSTRY 4.0 IN ACTION

INSPIRING MANUFACTURERS WITH ADVANCED ON-SITE TECHNOLOGY
At The Center, we are constantly evolving our services to cater to the changing needs of manufacturers. As part of this initiative, we have developed the Industry 4.0 Technology Lab within our Plymouth, Mich., facility. Featuring the nine technologies of Industry 4.0, including innovations such as 3D printing, cobots and augmented reality, this lab offers manufacturers a hands-on opportunity to learn how to modernize and optimize equipment, as well as effectively train and prepare their workforce for advanced manufacturing.

To learn more about The Center’s Industry 4.0 Technology Lab, adoption implementation strategies or equipment featured, contact us at inquiry@the-center.org or call 888.414.6682.