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A building kit for the smart factory Comprehensive solution system for medium and large companies

Wiesbaden, May 9, 2018 - Suppliers must adapt to a "wave of demands" from leading OEMs in the context of smart factory and logistics. The Smart Factory is supposed to become a production environment in which production plants and logistics systems organize themselves as far as possible. However, only 6% of the companies concerned have, according to their own statements, completed the transformation to the Smart Factory. The clear majority (over 70%) is still at the very beginning of the topic of Industry 4.0. This is where the INDUSTRYMAKER comes in, a modular system for the smart factory and related IIoT solutions, the "Industrial Internet of Things".

Dr. Martin Schössler, Managing Partner of CAUSA: "How can the implementation gap be closed? We know that there is no lack of interest and willingness, but that the question of the right entry and the concern about technical predetermination brakes the start of suitable measures." Obviously, companies that act as suppliers have to adapt to a new wave of demands on the part of the OEM: data transparency, the right interfaces and proof of their own Smart Production programs are part of the new compulsory program. Equally important are appropriate modernization measures, but also for medium and large companies, who want to gain new skills in terms of increasing competitiveness, efficiency and attractiveness for partners and employees.

Prof. Dr. Gerald Ebel, Senior Counsel Smart Factory, is confident: "We are actively involved in analysis, planning and implementation in the field of digitally based added value (Manufactures 2.0, Future Urban Industries) since 2012, even before the term *Industrie 4.0* was introduced. Companies who do not want to start immediately with technical measures can start with scenario-based planning measures following the definition of capabilities that they want to include in their portfolio. "Modern production in the smart factory will depend more than ever on efficient collaboration between competent employees and complex technical systems. To enable the production site as a smart factory, therefore, a holistic approach is necessary." Changes in the IT and technology used must be accompanied by adjustments in the organizational structure and expansion of professional and personal competencies on the part of the employees in the sense of a training plan.

Prof. Dr. Gerald Ebel: "The entire corporate culture is influenced by the implementation of a smart factory. But how can we keep track of this process? This is where our Smart Factory Framework comes in. In a first step, we create scenarios for the vision of a smart factory in-house together with the customer. Then we will create an evaluation of the current performance level at the location or in the company. In a top-down approach, we evaluate the areas of organization, IT, technology, logistics and employees in a process that we have developed. Once the bottle neck has been identified, detailed analyses of the respective systems and stations allow us to present the actual situation. The practice partner then receives a multi-dimensional evaluation of his competencies for all fields of action. "

INDUSTRYMAKER as a practical tool: The modular approach generates concrete recommendations for implementation: By comparing them with the scenarios of the Smart Factory Framework, the deviations can be used to develop suitable recommendations for implementation. On the basis of a sound decision-making basis, the customer decides which roadmap he wants to pursue. Scalability across the entire supply chain: The scope of the investigation can be adapted to the desired focus, from a single production site through the entire production process at the plant. This takes into account the level of the building (link IIoT with BIM), the environment (for example, neighbourhood or city) and country-specific features. Thus, the scalability of the method across the entire supply chain from the raw material supplier to the customer is possible.

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About CAUSA: Founded in 2012, CAUSA is headquartered in Wiesbaden and offers analysis-based and implementation-oriented consulting at the interface of politics and business, with a focus on IT & high tech, mobility, urban space and new production. Clients include global acting large companies as well as SME, governmental agencies and NGO.

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