



Intelligent Manufacturing Systems

IMS began as a concept of the top industrialized nations in the late 1980s to find a way for manufacturers to cooperate in the emerging global paradigm where design, subassembly, assembly, and consumers are highly distributed. The need for research and cooperation in the area of standards, sustainable manufacturing, and production systems was evident. By 1995 the charter members formed the Intelligent Manufacturing Systems (IMS) program to bring researchers together in advanced technologies and networking activities. Today, IMS is still addressing manufacturing challenges through its services listed below.

- Manuvation 4.0 & Project Clustering
- Coaching Services
- Workshops
- Guidebook Series
- Innovation Hubs
- Global Skills Matchmaking
- World Manufacturing Forum

** All IMS services, except Innovation Hub access, are available FREE to IMS Member Regions.*



30 YEARS OF INNOVATION

Intelligent Manufacturing Systems (IMS) International is an industry-led, international business innovation and research and development (R&D) program established to develop the next generation of manufacturing and processing technologies through multi-lateral collaboration. For over 30 years, IMS has helped to shape the future manufacturing paradigm and provide unparalleled opportunities to industry stakeholders. IMS is an international program that facilitates manufacturing collaboration and cooperation to develop advanced technologies. Our projects help manufacturers adapt to rapidly advancing technologies. Our organization offers workshops, project coaching services, Industry 4.0 guides, and participation in regional World Manufacturing Forum events. The IMS program provides the framework and support for conducting international research among large business enterprises, small-to-medium enterprises, universities, and research institutions. The organization offers an international collaborative environment for a robust exchange of ideas and synergy creation.

IMS SERVICES

■ ManuVation 4.0 & Project Clustering

Launched by IMS, the Aerospace States Association, and PDES Inc. in 2018, ManuVation 4.0 is a collaborative manufacturing project that focuses on growth and sustainability through Industry 4.0 technologies for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). The project conducts workshops and publishes customized guidebooks for each Industry 4.0 topic including regional resources for local manufacturers.

The IMS Project Clustering Platform facilitates collaboration under ManuVation 4.0 topics to share knowledge, provide broader solutions in less time, reduce research costs, and expand networks. As a result of a pre-survey, our ManuVation regional workshops are focused on industry requirements and projects or communities of common interest emerge. Projects are placed in our “fast track” method to form consortia and are supported by our coaching services as well as free project management software.

■ Coaching Services

IMS coaches are industry experts experienced within the IMS framework. They facilitate our workshops, project formation and assist in partner search activities. They can also be helpful in introducing existing project opportunities to potential partners and can thread running projects together. This is particularly helpful in expanding knowledge networks and spreading costs.

■ Workshops

We hold workshops based on request and provide customized project workshops. We conduct a pre-survey of participants and tailor each workshop based on participant survey responses. These workshops are particularly helpful in assisting SMEs to understand advanced technologies and how to integrate them into their own manufacturing processes. The workshops also promote formation of new projects as well as an opportunity to review ongoing research and disseminate results of research conducted.

■ Guidebook Series

The ManuVation guidebook series is based on the Boston Consulting Group's identified Industry 4.0 topics and Quad Cities Chamber initiative. The series explains each technology, its use in the manufacturing process, how to build a business case for adoption, and references for more help. The guidebooks are especially helpful for SMEs, and are available in print or may be downloaded at www.ims.org to members.

■ Innovation Hubs

Working in conjunction with leading educators, Innovation Hubs help SMEs find practical low-cost solutions to improve processes using advanced technologies. With open-source solutions that can mix and match equipment, SMEs do not need to be bound to specific vendors. Access to the Innovation Hubs are through IMS ManuVation workshops as a follow-on activity so that participants have a focused view of their requirements. Due to operating expenses, fees are applied for access based on level of help needed.

■ Global Skills Matchmaking

IMS offers skills matchmaking through its partner STEM Premier™. STEM Premier assists all levels of talent in identifying career pathways, educators in recruiting top talent to their schools, and employers in developing a stable, continuous talent pipeline.

■ World Manufacturing Forum™

In 2011 IMS initiated the World Manufacturing Forum to bring policy makers and industry leaders together to discuss and find solutions to cross-border challenges in manufacturing. Topics are selected by a board of industry leaders and renowned speakers are selected to challenge the audience with new perspectives. The WMF produces an annual report on the state of manufacturing and future trends. The annual meeting is held at the Villa Erba in Cernobbio, Italy, and Regional WMF events are held around the world.

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