Press Information

Industrie 4.0 Maturity Index: acatech Provides a Practical Guide for Companies

Hannover, April 25, 2017. Many companies hesitate to begin the Industrie 4.0 journey because they lack clear guidelines for implementation. For this reason, the German Academy of Science and Engineering, acatech, will present its Industrie 4.0 Maturity Index on April 25, 2017, at the Hannover Trade Show (HMI). The Index provides guidance for companies seeking to develop a tailor-made roadmap for the Industrie 4.0 journey. Additionally, the Industrie 4.0 Maturity Center is being established to support companies in applying the approach.

The Industrie 4.0 Maturity Index is based on a multi-dimensional maturity model that enables companies to analyze the status quo and derive their own Industrie 4.0 strategy. The Industrie 4.0 Maturity Index was created within an interdisciplinary consortium comprised of research institutes and companies working under the acatech umbrella. Project partners, including the lead organization, FIR of the RWTH University, Aachen are:

- German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI)
- Data Processing in Design (DiK)
- Fraunhofer Institute for Software Design Mechatronic (IEM)
- Fraunhofer Institute for Material Transfer and Logistic (IML)
- Fraunhofer Institute for Software and System Technology (ISST)
- Heinz Nixdorf Institute, University of Paderborn
- Cluster Intelligent Technology Systems OstWestfalenLippe (it’s OWL)
- Infosys - Technology Services and Consultancy Provider
- PTC – Industrie 4.0 Solutions Provider
- TÜV SÜD, Technical Services Company for Manufacturing, Mobility and Certification

In addition, the Industrie 4.0 Maturity Center is currently being established in Aachen, Germany, to serve as an open, neutral platform to advise companies in applying the Industrie 4.0 Maturity Index and to support follow-on activities.

“A pioneering spirit is prevalent today; the potential of Industrie 4.0 is widely recognized and we are seeing strong demand internationally. Companies are seeking to develop their own individual implementation strategies. Our Industrie 4.0 Maturity Index provides neutral, freely accessible analysis instruments. And the Industrie 4.0 Maturity Center, currently being established in Aachen, will serve as the hub for those who want to benefit from these guidelines,” said acatech president Henning Kagermann.

Günther Schuh, the director of FIR at RWTH Aachen University, confirms the need for action: “Small to medium-sized companies are right to demand tangible, hands-on offerings. They want to know how to concretely put Industrie 4.0 into practice, how much it costs, and what the benefits are. Although there are no blanket answers, our maturity model and the Industrie 4.0 Maturity Center will help facilitate the transformation.”

Guidelines and Case Studies

The Industrie 4.0 Maturity Index analyzes companies from technological, organizational, and cultural perspectives. Six stages of development show how data can be collected, analyzed, and utilized within a company. The approach takes the multi-dimensionality of Industrie 4.0 into account as well as its interaction with IT systems, resources, business organizations, and corporate culture.
Practical case studies show how the Industrie 4.0 Maturity Index supports the transformation to an Industrie 4.0 company: a company reduces machine downtime by connecting its equipment, thus enabling preventative maintenance; a technology corporation saves time and money by using a digital control center to connect digital processes in product development; a comprehensive case study of the HARTING Technology Group demonstrates how the Industrie 4.0 Maturity Index can be applied.

The acatech Industrie 4.0 Maturity Index is available free of charge in both German and English.

Further Information

www.acatech.de/hmi17

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About acatech, the German Academy of Science and Engineering

acatech advises policymakers as well as the general public; supports decision processes in innovation policy making; and represents technical sciences internationally. The academy fulfils its mandate from the German federal and state governments by providing independent, science-based advisory services for the public good. acatech highlights the opportunities and risks of new technological developments and works toward turning ideas into innovation and innovation into prosperity, social welfare, and a high quality of life. acatech brings together the best minds from science and business. The academy’s members are outstanding researchers from the fields of engineering, natural sciences, medical sciences, social sciences, and humanities. Its senate committee members are leaders from technology enterprises and associations as well as major scientific organizations. In addition to acatech FORUM, its headquarters in Munich, acatech also has offices in Berlin and Brussels.