



The Future of Manufacturing in High-Wage Countries

Focus group for continual exchange on digital technologies in manufacturing

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*“From insight
to impact”* 

Motivation for the Focus Group

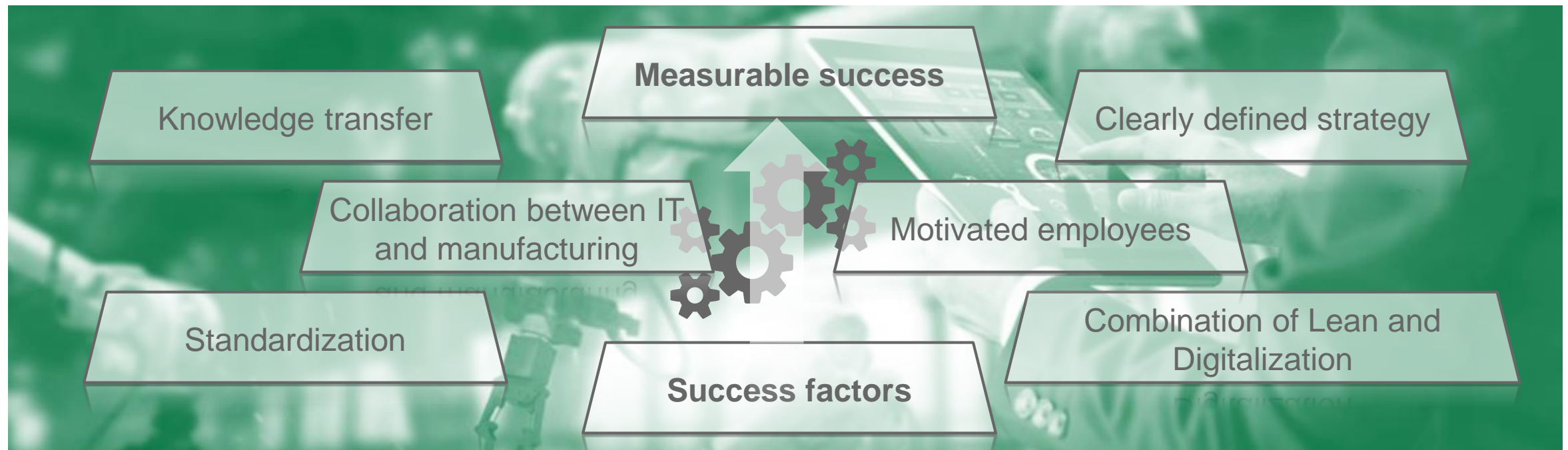
Understand the success factors for implementations of digital technologies in manufacturing

For the participants of our 2018 benchmarkings “Digital Technologies” and “Lean2020”, digitalization of manufacturing and Lean management go hand in hand:

*“If we do not **apply Lean principles**, we will digitalize waste.”*

*“The digital model brings the value stream to a **new level of transparency**. It extends system limits for a continuous improvement.”*

*“The combination of **Lean and Industry 4.0** creates a previously unrealized transparency and opens **significant potential** for improvement in expenses, quality and agility.”*

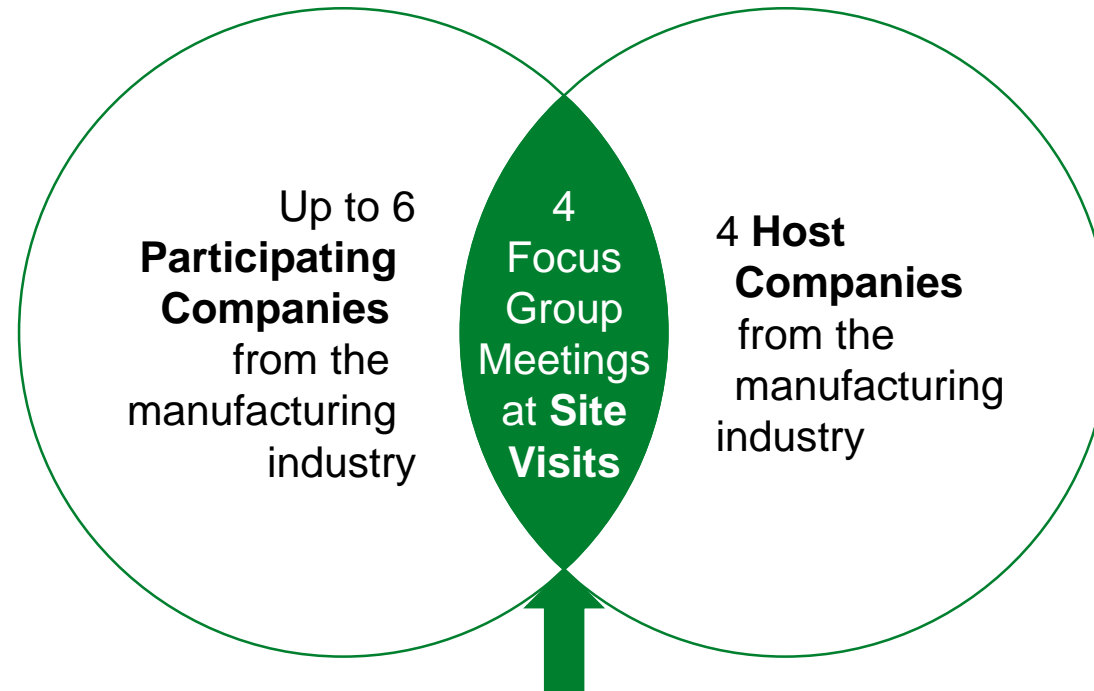


Sources: ITEM-HSG: “Benchmarking: Digital Technologies – Evolution of production in high-wage countries”, 2018

Roles within the Focus Group

We bring host and participating companies together – for their mutual benefit and learning

- Contribute to the exchange of knowledge and ideas with their own experience
- Join discussions proactively with own original insights
- Give feedback to the host companies and their digitalization activities







- Present insights into their current challenges, approaches, solutions and success factors regarding digitalization of manufacturing at their site(s)
- Get valuable feedback and input for new ideas from other participants and ITEM-HSG

Institute of Technology Management at the University of St.Gallen (ITEM-HSG)

- Organize, moderate and document the site visits and focus group discussions
- Provide keynote speakers from industry or research with latest input on topics like **Lean and Digitalization**, **AI in production** or **MES in manufacturing networks**

Objectives and Benefits for Participants

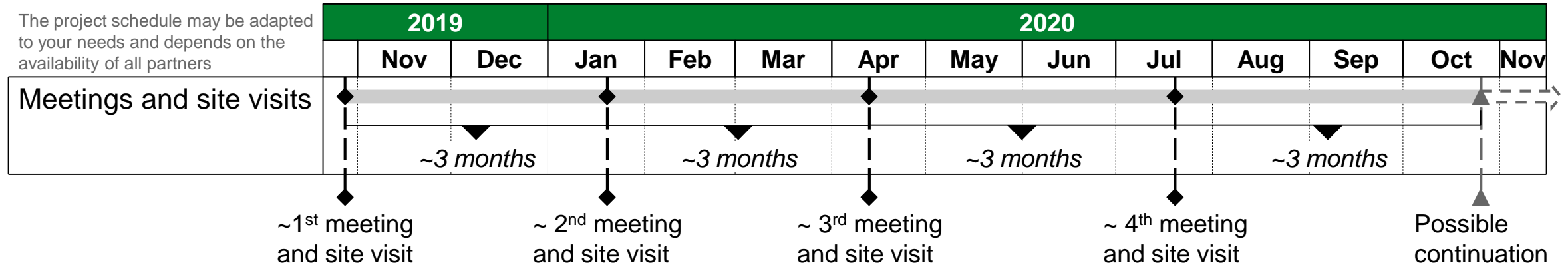
Share ideas and use cases to position your high-wage sites successfully in the digital world

	Objectives	Benefits
 Exchange	Establish a structured exchange platform on the topic of digitalization and Lean management manufacturing	Generate new ideas and solutions for your company
 Knowledge	Get access to use cases, successful practices, domain experts and latest research findings	Stay up-to-date about the latest trends
 Reflection	Challenge and discuss your approaches regarding Lean and digitalization and thereby identify new opportunities	Define thematic focal points for the focus group meetings
 Cooperation	Collaborate confidentially with other participants cross-industry and get to know their challenges and solutions	Network with your peers from other companies
 Site Visits	Go and see real use case implementations on the shop floor level of the host companies	Learn about new approaches directly on site

Cross-industry means that the participating companies should not directly compete with each other

Project Overview and Preliminary Time Schedule

Regular and structured one-day meetings ensure an efficient exchange and invaluable insights



Typical focus group meeting and site visit agenda

- Welcome and introduction
- Insights into the host company
 - Presentation of current activities in the area of digitalization
 - Demonstration of use cases and shop floor tour
- Input into a related topic like, e.g., AI in production
 - Keynote speech by ITEM-HSG and/or an external expert
 - Guided discussion round and workshop for exchange of experiences among the participating companies
- Q&A sessions

Terms and conditions

- For **9'000 CHF*** per company and year...
 - up to three employees participate in each meeting
 - ITEM-HSG organizes and documents each meeting
 - you get up-to-date insights from industry and research
 - you discuss your own challenges regarding digitalization
 - you participate in a network for continual exchange about the future of manufacturing in high-wage countries
 - Host companies get a discount of 25%, i.e. pay 6'750 CHF*
- **Confidentiality** among the participants and anonymous publication by ITEM-HSG, if any

* The fee includes participation and snacks/meals during the meetings. Travelling and other expenses as well as VAT are not included.

References

Current focus groups organized by the ITEM-HSG division of production management



Topics and Content

Contact Details

Managing Service Innovation

Align product and service innovation processes to derive a formalized innovation process for smart services at manufacturing companies



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Handling Complexity in the Process Industry

Identify the potential of digital technologies to lower the impact of complexity on manufacturing companies



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Operational Excellence in the Pharmaceutical Industry

Exchange platform in the pharmaceutical industry, based on one of the largest operational excellence benchmarking databases in this industry (proprietary)



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Operational Excellence in Quality Control Labs

Exchange platform focused on industry priority topics in the field of Operational Excellence in pharmaceutical quality control labs

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Management Summary

Exchange with managers & experts from research & practice to gain new insights for your company

Motivation Increasing **competition** for sites in **high-wage countries** requires the use of **digital technologies** in manufacturing. During the **transition** towards a smart factory, many companies ask themselves, if they are on the **right track** and what **other companies** do **similarly** or **differently**.

- Objective**
- Examine how other **companies** pursue **manufacturing** in the **digital** era
 - Discuss digitalization **success factors** with **practitioners & researchers**
 - Get involved in a **structured exchange** and learn from **real use cases**

Benefits As part of the focus group, you **directly influence** the meeting topics and derive new ideas for you company from the ITEM-HSG-guided knowledge exchange and company site visits.

Approach We apply our **proven focus group approach** to bring **managers** and **experts** from different companies and industries (no direct competitors) as well as from **research** together so that they get **inspired** by new **ideas** for **digitalization** at their **manufacturing** sites in **high-wage countries**.



Project Overview

Time Frame:

- ca. 12 months
- Planned kick-off: Q4 2019

Time Expenditures:

- 4 focus group meetings at site visits (1 day each)
- Up to 3 participants per company

Costs:

- 9'000* CHF per company
- Discount for organizing a site visit

* The fee includes participation and snacks/meals during the meetings. Travelling and other expenses as well as VAT are not included.

Contact Details

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions



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