

WHITEPAPER



**TOP 5 REASONS  
TO AUTOMATE  
MANUFACTURING**



**GREYCON**

*Experts in Planning, Scheduling, Trim & MES*

*There has been a considerable buzz surrounding automation in manufacturing over the last decade, and with good reason. Automation promises a great number of rewards, ultimately allowing manufacturing companies to lower their costs while increasing speed and quality at the same time. But what are the benefits for manufacturing companies on the ground? Let's take a look.*



## Reducing Labour Costs

It should come as no surprise that labour is one of the most significant expenses any manufacturing business needs to manage. Workers need a salary, the equipment necessary to do the job, and regular training - all of which comes at a cost. Additionally, many manufacturers today are struggling to find skilled workers to fill vacant manufacturing roles. A few generations ago, the manufacturing sector was seen as an attractive career choice for school leavers because it could be a stable job for life. However, the employment landscape has changed dramatically since then. More people today pursue higher education and office jobs, and moving from employer to employer is common.

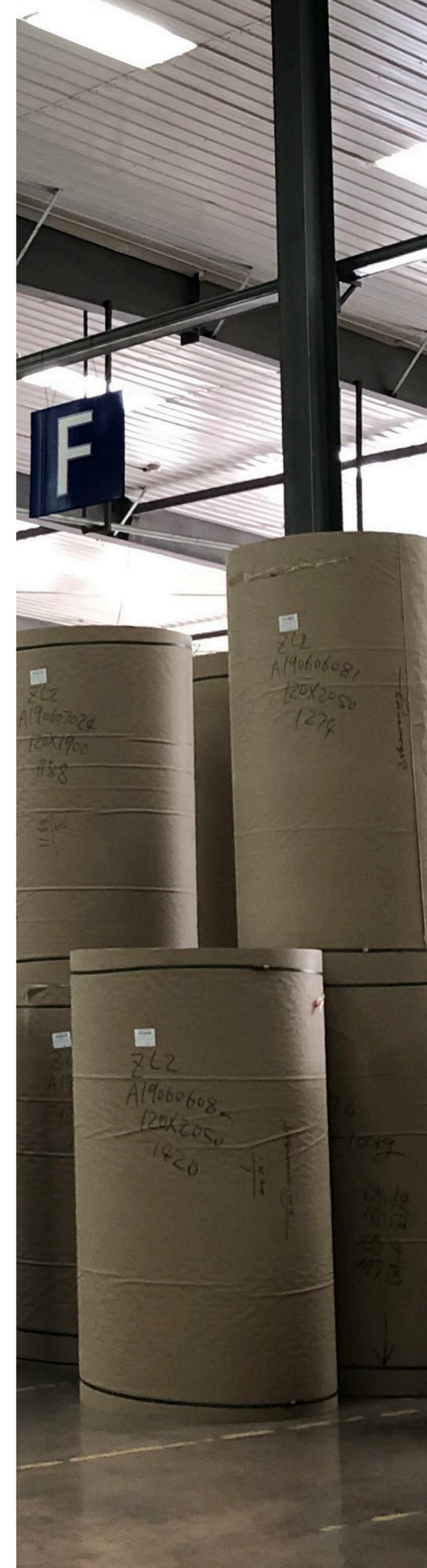
Automation offers a robust solution to this problem. With robots and manufacturing execution systems (MES), fewer bodies are needed on the factory floor. Software can eliminate the need for manual tasks and offer improved speed and reliability at the same time. Automation also promotes a high return on investment because robots and software can work around the clock; they don't need to take breaks, and they will perform just as skillfully at the end of the day as the beginning.

## Eliminating Waste

Waste harms productivity and causes costs to mount. When you automate manufacturing, you can reduce and even eliminate waste in several ways. Optimisation algorithms find the most cost-effective and productive ways to cut waste through monitoring business performance, highlighting bottlenecks or idle times, and increasing asset utilisation. Automation can also allow you to stretch your production hours and achieve lights out manufacturing. If your manufacturing plant is left unused after dark because scheduling in additional shifts is too costly, then automation is the answer.

Another key benefit of automated systems is their ability to produce precise and repeatable results every time, something that even the most highly skilled operator can't do. This vastly reduces the number of products that need to be scrapped or reworked.

Lastly, automated systems can handle several tasks simultaneously, reducing the need for additional workers to move materials between locations or fill out paper documents.



## Improving Turnaround Times

Slow turnaround times can impact your reputation, and ultimately, your bottom line. We live in a fast-paced world where customers now expect to receive their products in just a few days. Not only do lengthy turnaround times cause frustration for customers, but they put more pressure on the customer services teams.

With automation, you can improve turnaround times by processing orders faster and reducing production times. For example, website integration allows the customer to place an order and that order is sent instantly to the ERP system. Automated inventory systems can optimise materials utilisation to ensure you're never left stuck without the materials you need.

## Improving Quality and Safety

While safety is a top priority for manufacturing companies, accidents do happen. Statistically, manufacturing is one of the highest risk sectors to work in, with more than 3000 major injuries occurring in the UK every year. Automation helps reduce the chance of injury by replacing humans with robots in dangerous areas and providing real-time industrial equipment monitoring that can catch issues before they result in machine failure.

Improving quality while reducing costs is also a top priority for manufacturing companies. With automated systems, you can roll out new engineering changes quickly and with high accuracy - there's no teething period where operators get to grips with the new process. Automation also simplifies the process of reworking poor-quality products and processing rejects and scraps.

## Future-Proofing Your Business

Automation is rapidly becoming the new normal, and companies that fail to adapt risk being left behind. The world is changing fast, and that includes customer expectations. By using automated software, you can use real-time data to identify current trends, develop better products, and make better decisions.

### When Is the Right Time To Automate Your Manufacturing Operation?

*With any new technology, people struggle with when is the best time to adopt. Fuelled by a desire to reduce manpower, scrap, and make fewer mistakes, the manufacturing industry is investing more in automation today than ever before. This trend shows no signs of slowing down.*

*The best time to invest in automated manufacturing software is today. If you want to learn more about how you can improve efficiency and cut costs with MES, Trim Optimisation, and Planning and Scheduling software, get in touch with Greycon today.*

**Want to learn more?** Contact us today



**Daniel Carter**  
Marketing Manager  
[dac@greycon.com](mailto:dac@greycon.com)

**Headquarters**  
7 Calico House, Plantation  
Wharf, York Road  
London SW11 3TN

**Offices located in:**  
Athens, Greece  
Alabama, United States  
Montevideo, Uruguay  
Shandong, China

[www.greycon.com](http://www.greycon.com)

