

# Unleashing the Power of the Industrial Metaverse

Redefining the Boundaries of Innovation and Industry

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# Foreword

#### The Industrial Metaverse: A Year of Remarkable Progress

In the past year, the Industrial Metaverse has witnessed an astounding transformation. Companies have developed immersive, high-fidelity, and collaborative virtual worlds that have pushed the boundaries of technological progress.

This has been going on amidst the disillusionment with the consumer-focused Metaverse. But across Industry, a whole different narrative has unfolded—the success of the Industrial Metaverse has surpassed short-term expectations from 18 months ago.

To highlight this, consider these four developments;

- Accelerated Digitalization of Industry: Industry 4.0 continues to advance, driven by technology such as 5G, AI, edge computing, and improved compute & graphics, Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) capabilities etc. This convergence empowers unprecedented connectivity, data processing, and automation, with 'Digital Twins' at the forefront. These modern Digital Twins offer advanced physics-based simulations, enhanced interoperability, and real-time data integration we have not had access to before.
- 2 The Industrial Metaverse as a Strategic Imperative: Governments, international corporations, and industry associations now recognize the Industrial Metaverse as a strategic imperative. Manufacturing in the 21st century is no longer driven by access to cheap labour. It's being driven by resiliency, efficiency, sustainability; all enabled by the Industrial Metaverse.

Lowered Barriers to Entry: Cloud and SaaS based models have democratized industrial software tools, making them accessible to all. From startups, SMEs, and industry leaders, lowering the barrier to entry, driving innovation across industries, creating new opportunities for all.

A New Workforce Paradigm: Demand for skills in 3D modelling, physics simulation, and virtual environment creation is on the rise. Younger generations, adept at immersive simulations through platforms like Minecraft, EPIC's Fortnite Editor, Blender, and Unity, are bringing fresh talent and innovative perspectives.

Now you may or may not agree with my 4 points above, but remember that we often overestimate short-term impacts and underestimate the far-reaching consequences of emerging technologies. As you read this report, form your own conclusions. But do not ignore the Industrial Metaverse. *And remember, we're just getting started.* 

**Kevin ODonovan** Technology Evangelist. Co-Chair of VRARA Digital Twin & Industrial Metaverse Committee

# **Executive Summary:**

### The Emergence and Impact of the Industrial Metaverse

This comprehensive report, developed in collaboration with some of the world's largest Industrial players, provides an in-depth analysis of the Industrial Metaverse. Including it's future projections, realworld applications, and tangible benefits through case studies of pioneering companies.

By delving into the Metaverse's potential, we aim to offer valuable insights, predictions, and growth forecasts while envisioning the transformative possibilities that lie ahead for the industry.

The Industrial Metaverse plays a pivotal role in addressing the pressing issue of skilled labor shortages in industries and manufacturing facilities. By reducing the dependence on human personnel, this advanced digital landscape offers innovative solutions to enhance operational efficiency and productivity. That not only improves outcomes but sustainability opportunities in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development

Goals: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure (#9), Responsible Consumption and Production (#12), and Climate Action (#13).

To address the prevalent misconception and lack of understanding surrounding the Metaverse, we introduced, The Metaverse Insider's: Whateververse Diagram in our previous Metaverse marketing report.

Now we've gone one step further to present the Metaverse Insider's Metaverse Nexus that elucidates the distinct but interconnected domains of the Social Metaverse, Enterprise Metaverse, and Industrial Metaverse, enabling a deeper understanding of their overlapping aspects.

The Metaverse Nexus categorizes the Metaverse into three distinct sections: the Social Metaverse, the Enterprise Metaverse, and the Industrial Metaverse. While each section represents a unique domain, they exhibit intricate overlaps, showcasing the complexity of their interactions. The Enterprise Metaverse focuses on how Metaverse technologies impact businesses from within, primarily concerning the internal structures and operations of organizations. It aims to improve core operational efficiency by leveraging digital workspaces, virtual collaboration, and other advancements offered by the Metaverse.

On the other hand, the Industrial Metaverse explores how Metaverse technologies impact external business functions, with a primary focus on enhancing efficiency in areas such as manufacturing, supply chain management, and logistics. By utilizing the Metaverse, industries can optimize processes, simulate real-life infrastructure through Digital Twins, and create innovative solutions for external operations.

In contrast, the Social Metaverse revolves around the gamified use of Metaverse technologies for entertainment purposes. It encompasses virtual worlds, online gaming environments, and immersive experiences that allow users to interact, socialize, and engage in various activities within a digital realm.

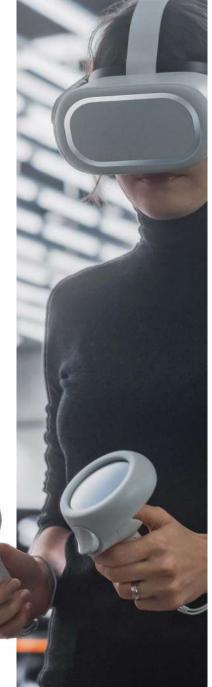
Although these three Metaverse domains possess distinct characteristics, they often intertwine and overlap, depending on the specific use cases and applications.

For instance, a digital workspace within the Enterprise Metaverse may be built in virtual reality and incorporate gamified elements from the Social Metaverse to increase employee engagement. Likewise, this digital environment may facilitate the need for simulating Digital Twins of reallife infrastructure during meetings, falling under the purview of the Industrial Metaverse.

The Nexus serves as a visual representation of these overlapping interactions, emphasizing that the boundaries between the Social Metaverse, the Enterprise Metaverse, and the Industrial Metaverse are fluid and interconnected. The intricate interplay between these domains highlights the multidimensional nature of the Metaverse and its potential to revolutionize various aspects of society, economy, and entertainment.

In short, the Industrial Metaverse stands as a catalyst for revolutionizing industries, driving enhanced efficiency, cost savings, and heightened competitiveness. Its transformative potential aligns with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, specifically Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure (#9), Responsible Consumption and Production (#12), and Climate Action (#13).

By embracing the Industrial Metaverse, industries can navigate the challenges of resource scarcity, environmental struggles, and growing population demands while ushering in a more sustainable and prosperous future.



# **Defining the Industrial Metaverse:** A New Era of Industrial Digitization

The Industrial Metaverse is a sprawling tapestry of virtual assembly lines, weaving the threads of innovation and technology into a fabric of endless productive possibilities. Just as skilled and synchronized artisans weave colored strands into a final tapestry, the machines, software, and humans of the Industrial Metaverse collaborate and innovate, combining their unique skills and expertise to shape the digital landscape of manufacturing and logistics. The possibilities are endless, and just like a tapestry, the Industrial Metaverse tells the story of a dynamic and everevolving digital and physical world woven together by the collective efforts of its machines, algorithms, and people.

To define the Industrial Metaverse, we need to

explain two umbrella terms comprising it: Industry 4.0, acting as the backend, and Immersive Technologies, as the front end.

As a general rule of thumb, and as outlined by our Nexus diagram, the Industrial Metaverse is the use of Metaverse-enabling technologies outside a business's core internal operations that improve operational efficiency.

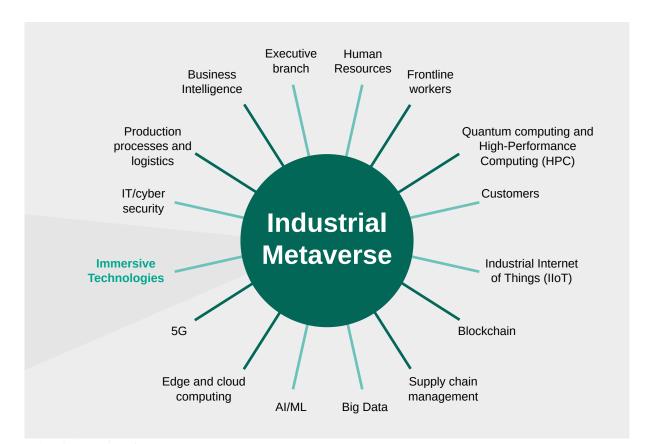


Figure 1: Industrial Metaverse Enabling Technologies

# An interconnected industry

Historically, Industry 1.0 was ushered by the steam engine's pure horsepower and consistency, propelling the industrialization of England in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

About one hundred years later, the second revolution of Industry 2.0 increased efficiency and reliability with electrical technology, enabling workers to churn away without the need for sunlight, illuminated instead by the lightbulb.

Like clockwork, about one hundred years later once more, the digital revolution spurred Industry 3.0 and automated systems, transforming production lines from analog to mechanical. Machines still needed human oversight but became less 'handson'.

In many ways, Industry 4.0 is a continuation and advancement of the third industrial revolution. Thus, one aspect that permeates Industry 4.0 is 'interconnectedness'. Every processing node



Organization-wide control and integration of processes for improved knowledge-sharing and decision-making.



Access to decentralized experts with irreplicable tacit knowledge.



General cost-saving through the automation of activities and optimized in- and outgoing SKUs (Stock Keeping Units). For example, 55% to 65% of the total cost of warehousing operations stems from frontline workers picking and moving items.<sup>1</sup>



Improved testing and evaluation through machine learning and Artificial Intelligence accessed by a broader and higher fidelity Big Data aggregation from an interconnected tapestry of devices called the Industrial Internet of Things.

of a manufacturing floor, warehouse pallet, packaging infrastructure, and energy rig is networked, digitally automated, and complexly coordinated.

Once again, Industry 4.0 further removed human intervention in production to automated and autonomous machines. With this interconnectedness, numerous improvements were enabled, some being: In one sentence, the fourth industrial revolution produces faster processes that deliver more consistent and reliable results from fewer raw materials.

But where Industry 4.0 is conceptualized as the backend in the communication and network between numerous entities and production nodes. The front end - the interactive layer - is composed of enabling factors. Defining the Industrial Metaverse: A New Era of Industrial Digitization

#### **The Human-Machine**

Interface for Industries Immersive Technologies, and in particular Industrial Assisted Reality (aR), acts as the frontline platform where workers interact with the complex systems of Industry 4.0.

aR provides a more intuitive and natural interface for operators to complete tasks, navigate interconnected production systems, perform contextaware assistance, enable superior quality assurance and troubleshooting, and access dynamic data and information visualization.

In other words, Assisted Reality is the touchpoint between the worker and industries, acting as the ideal Human-Machine Interface.

#### 2D screens

Practically, this humanmachine interactivity can be accessed in numerous ways. For example, 2D screens in the form of a tablet can provide the needed digital interactive layer on top of the physical processes and machinery.

#### Assisted Reality (aR)

Assisted Reality smartglasses continually

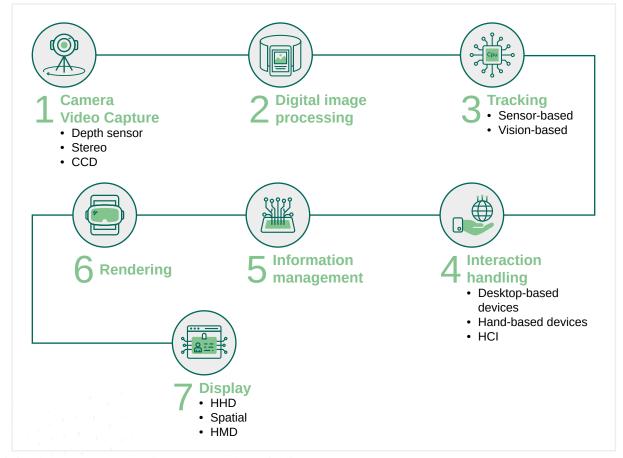


Figure 2: Mixed Reality Technology Stacks

display a digital static layer of information for the frontline worker at eye level for increased efficiency and safety.

#### Augmented Reality (AR)

Augmented Reality can be utilized in the same manner but with higher tracking precision and interactivity of this digital embedded information. In many ways, AR is used more commonly in advanced Design & Development tasks that are further integrated with Industry 4.0's smart factories.

For example, the Japanese car design company, Phiaro, and Volvo are two of many car designers using Varjo Augmented and Virtual Reality headsets to optimize their design process, workflow, and testing of their prototypes in simulated environments and weather conditions.

#### Virtual Reality (VR)

Finally, Virtual Reality and its fully immersive qualities can be used to onboard new employees or upskill and reskill existing ones. Namely, in combination with Digital Twins, virtual replicas of real-world production machines or entire facilities can act as the advanced simulation of production processes to teach new personnel. We will circle back to this in detail.

But it is in the combination of 2D screens, Assisted Reality (aR), Augmented Reality (AR), and Virtual Reality (VR), that the superior interactive layer for Industry 4.0 emerges at the Industrial Metaverse.

Thus, Immersive Technologies bring clarity to the complexity of Industry 4.0, making it practical and manageable through human oversight, taking advantage of the consistency and communication speed between machines and the creativity and adaptive thinking of humans.



### Implementing the Industrial Metaverse

When implementing the Industrial Metaverse, three factors must be considered: technological, environmental, and organizational.

However, when Tariq Masood and Johannes Eggerout found of these three, the organization was found to play the most crucial role as a stopgap for taking advantage of the benefits the Industrial Metaverse provides.<sup>2</sup>

The reason is that technological complications can be remedied by capital or advanced with time as the technologies mature. Likewise, environmental factors are less controllable and more reactionary for an organization, such as the health of the economy or higher education's emphasis on teaching systems such as framework thinking and computer science.

Namely, the organizational challenges to avoid when integrating the Industrial Metaverse are considerable.<sup>3</sup>

#### Here are seven crucial challenges to consider:

# **1** Big Data

Mishandling of data management, its integration, and use in evaluations due to the exponential amount of Big Data the Industrial Metaverse provides from the increasing number of integrated Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) is a significant hurdle for an enterprise to overcome.

# 2 Educate the workforce

A lack of digital knowledge, namely from frontline workers, can pose a barrier to the connection and operational safety with the Industrial Metaverse, as wasted time cannot be accepted in a hyper-optimized Industry 4.0 ecosystem comprising complex production machines.<sup>4</sup>

# **3** Address technical barriers

The technical barriers of Industrial Immersive Technologies such as light sensitivity impacting the tracking of the Industrial XR gear or visual impairment of Industrial smartglasses in outdoor settings. Namely, this translates to safety concerns if the Industrial XR hardware is not beneficial to the frontline worker while operating or repairing dangerous machinery.

# **4** Cyber-Security

In the implementation of the Industrial Metaverse, increased IT security is paramount as the number of devices that will be internet-connected will increase and thus pose vulnerable to malicious cyberattacks.

# **5** Industrial Metaverse is capital intensive

The novelty and advanced hardware and software needed to support the infrastructure of the Industrial Metaverse means it requires substantial and continuous capital investments.



# 6 Change Management

The Industrial Metaverse introduces entirely new work processes and flows while moving many of these into a digital realm. Consequently, workforce coercion and pushback against the new digital and immersive processes are to be expected.

# **7** Complete organizational interconnectivity

In the full integration of the Industrial Metaverse, the entire organization's processes must be linked and coordinated with automated and intentional communication channels. For example, automating business analytics insights to directly feed into the production processes despite the geographical distance is one of the key parts of the Industrial Metaverse. As a note, this challenge grows exponentially as the Industrial Metaverse begins to interconnect with external entities such as supply chain bottlenecks, geopolitical changes, or customers' needs and demands.

Substantial change and improvements always present newfound challenges, as experienced in prior historical industrial revolutions. Yet, as the Industrial Metaverse hasn't been implemented, we haven't experienced the entirety of the transformations it will have on organizations, workers, and economies.

We can emphasize key projects that serve as shining examples, showcasing the evolving synergy between the Industrial Metaverse and real-world applications.

### From Theory to Immersive Reality

#### **Digital Twins**

The most elaborate and capital-intensive category of the Industrial Metaverse is Digital Twins. A Digital Twin is a virtually simulated replica of a real-world counterpart. However, it is not a video game that plays with physics or worlds with unique art styles: an Industrial Digital Twin is a 1:1 replica of the physical part, constructed with pitch-perfect precision, realistic physics, geometry, and live interaction with

other constituent parts of the entire production network. And a realized industrial Digital Twin is first a programming challenge and second a difficult implementation of a tightly interconnected network of Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) feeding a central Big Data nexus.

Thus, when executed correctly, Industrial Digital Twins can be conceptualized into three categories: mirroring, shadowing, and threading.<sup>5</sup>

- 1. **Mirroring** is when the virtual replica reflects the state of its physical counterpart in realtime, used for remote management and optimization.
- 2. **Shadowing** is when the virtual replica simulates the physical counterpart in real-time used for testing and evaluation.
- 3. **Threading** is when the virtual replica simulates multiple physical counterparts interacting and adapting to each other in real time, used for advanced testing and evaluation.

As you can see, the complexity increases from one to three.

Digital Twins can take numerous forms and advancement levels. Consequently, we usually see single production machines, production lines, and systems. However, recently, entire manufacturing facilities have been remade and mirrored into industrial Digital Twins.

When executed successfully, Digital Twins enable the ability to monitor realtime activity, simulate any changes, and optimize the real-world counterpart based on the data and results from the Digital Twins' outputs. Namely, manufacturing, logistical infrastructure, supply chains, and product life cycles are commonly seen in the Industrial Metaverse as Digital Twins.

Additionally, with the introduction of AI and machine learning, complex Digital Twins of manufacturing facilities can be integrated with Big Data and adaptive analytics to continually change manufacturing output and flows based on real-time data. This recent installment has prompted the name to change from Digital Twins to 'Intelligent Twins', but the base definition remains the same.



Practical applications are plentiful, but as a rule of thumb, they can be segmented into four phases: design, manufacturing, retired, and service, across all aspects of the supply chain.<sup>6</sup>

### Design:

#### **Iterative Optimization:** A

Digital Twin can simulate, based on historical changes, different designs of products using alternating materials. Uniquely, this can be done continuously and iteratively to assist designers and engineers in optimizing product flows and material costs. An example of this is Varjo's collaboration with Volvo. By utilizing Varjo's immersive technology, Volvo has improved its design processes, testing capabilities, service quality, and research endeavors.

#### Centralize Information: A

Digital Twin in a connected network will be able to link multiple departments and stakeholders, turning the design process from a siloed endeavor to a collaborative approach that encourages better decision-making.

**Design Evaluation:** Using Digital Twins, designers can test and evaluate not the expected but the actual performance of their designs, identifying Predicted Desirables and Undesirables.

### Manufacturing:

#### **Real-Time Monitoring:**

Digital Twins can visualize manufacturing activities and output in 3D models with the integration of historical,

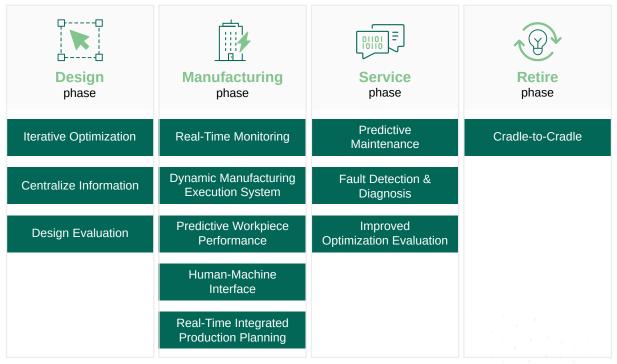


Figure 3: The Industrial Process From Design to Retire.

real-time, and predicted data to improve the control of production facilities and encourage better decisions.

Dynamic Manufacturing Execution System: With the speed and computation of virtual replicas and their complex systems interacting, Digital Twins can be used to perform intelligent and automated control in realtime of manufacturing activities and interactions.

**Predictive Workpiece** Performance: Digital Twins enable the manufacturing facility to predict and estimate changes to individual workpieces and assets, such as degradation, configuration/reconfiguration, commissioning/ decommissioning, required servicing and inspection, changes in raw material supply, and more, while Machine Learning enables this process to improve over time in accuracy and speed.

#### **Human-Machine Interface:**

Using Immersive Tech, frontline workers can simulate changes to their work processes in a virtual closed-loop to test the outcome, such as workstation layout, human

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ergonomics, machine interaction with frontline workers, and more.

Real-Time Integrated Production Planning: Digital Twins, when paired with physical counterparts, can adapt and manage production planning based on global and partner supply chain data, sensor and simulation data, and the broader Enterprise Information System (EIS).

In effect, suggesting material flow changes, real-time modifications, and more. Also, the scale of complexity with the integration of external data sources (demand fluctuations, raw material supply, and its cost, trade barriers, etc.) will increase and become hyperoptimized over time.

### Service:

#### **Predictive Maintenance:**

Before Industry 4.0, maintenance and inspections were conducted statically based on the design and engineering predictions and estimations, resulting in high cost and low product performance. Thus, Digital Twins can, through high-fidelity and broad data monitoring in performance, output, historical degradation, material science, and more, better predict when maintenance and inspections are needed for safety and optimal performance.

#### Fault Detection &

Diagnosis: Similarly, Digital Twins are optimized to detect any minor or major faults occurring in the complex manufacturing processes of Industry 4.0. alerting the frontline worker and relevant other stakeholders across the entire organization and beyond, such as suppliers and customers. Hence, resulting in less downtime and aiding the diagnosis during the maintenance and repair.

Improved Optimization

**Evaluation:** Digital Twins enable the smart factory to compare, test, and contrast the entire product lifecycle from "as-designed" to "asmanufactured" to "as-used". In this case, optimizing the complex interplays from the design to service phases while integrating the complex manufacturing processes.

### Retire:

**Cradle-to-Cradle:** Digital Twins will be able to more comprehensively enable the reusing, recycling, and looping of retired products and production processes by identifying functioning parts and raw materials compliant with the international standard WEEE, or Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment. Effectively saving costs and decreasing environmental footprint.

All in all, McKinsey & Company's predictive models of Industrial Digital Twins' performance suggest an improved output of 10 to 25 percent while reducing the likelihood of unplanned maintenance by 80 percent and increasing the quality of output by up to 25 percent.<sup>7</sup>

#### Industrial Training by Using Immersive Learning

Immersive Learning used in training and onboarding is one of the primary categories of the Industrial Metaverse, showing numerous practical use cases with direct benefits.

Immersive Learning is growing in use for good reason. In the United States and the United Kingdom, during the 1960s and 1970s, new industrial hires boomed while the advancement of skills increased in tandem. Today, these seasoned frontline

275% more confident to act on what they learned after training

**4X** faster than classroom training on average

 $4 \chi$  more focused than e-learners

**3.75X** more emotionally connected to the content than classroom learners

workers are entering retirement, leaving a gap of expertise that is difficult to teach by conventional training to younger new hires. One of the solutions industries have found is the use of Immersive Learning for onboarding, upskilling, and reskilling.<sup>8</sup>

Immersive Learning uses Virtual Reality's fully immersive qualities and sense of presence to simulate real-world scenarios that train employees safely, adaptively, repeatedly, and cost-efficiently. And while Immersive Learning is still in its infancy, it has been found to increase attention span and engagement in the topics learned while improving memory retention and reflective thinking of what has been taught.9,10

Notably, PwC found, in a significant study from 2020 by testing VR learning against traditional methods, four significant differences.<sup>11</sup>

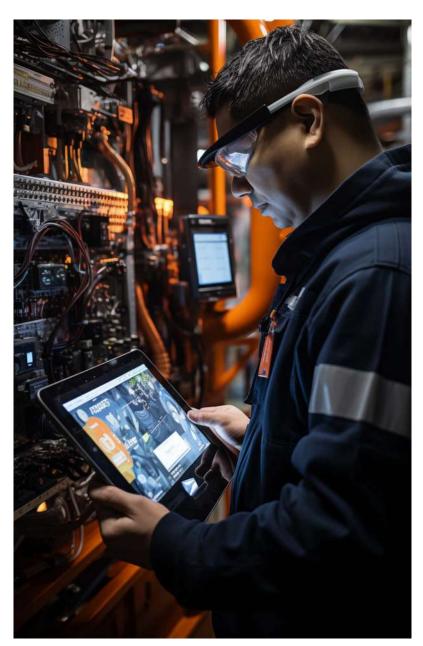
But it is not only for the benefit of the learner. Operationally, Immersive Learning also benefits the organization. UpTale, a successful French Immersive Learning platform for industries and enterprises, found Immersive Learning saves up to **1.5 hours per site induction**, up to **10 days saved** in onboarding per employee, and up to **2 days and up to 1,000 Euros per employee saved** in pivotal safety training.<sup>12</sup>

#### Remote Maintenance, Repair & Inspections

On the rise of usage for industries ranging from isolated energy rigs to hazardous manufacturing plants to expert repair consultancies, Remote Maintenance, Repair & Inspections continue to gain significant ground for their practical benefits and straightforward implementation.

Remote Maintenance, Repair & Inspections use either 2D screens such as a tablet or Assisted Reality smartglasses to establish an interactive and direct connection between people.

A frontline worker wearing smartglasses can gain expert assistance and stepby-step instructions from a



decentralized professional who sees what the frontline worker sees and is thus equipped to guide the worker in the repair. Similarly, an inspector can certify and inspect production facilities quicker to lessen the downtime when being inspected.

### Several benefits come with performing Remote Maintenance, Repair & Inspections in the Industrial Metaverse:

- 1 Decreased downtime from malfunctioning machinery.
- 2 Faster and more detailed troubleshooting and post-repair documentation.
- 3 Better knowledge transfer and onboarding in using Remote Maintenance, Inspections & Repair recorded sessions as part of Immersive Learning.
- 4 Reduced personnel requirements.
- 5 Lesser geographical constraints for experts, inspectors, and production facilities.

#### Remote management through Assisted Reality Visualization

As mentioned, the driving cost factor for warehouses and logistics is the locating, picking, and moving of parts and products by the frontline worker. Therefore, any method to optimize or automate this process is consistently investigated by enterprises.

Within the Industrial Metaverse, warehouses and stock centers use Assisted Reality (aR) to assist the frontline worker in step-bystep navigation through a digital overlay.

Further, the frontline worker wearing aR smartglasses can scan bar and QR codes or radio-frequency identification (RFID) to identify the correct items to be collected and moved. A technology called markerbased Augmented Reality.

Subsequently, these two use cases optimize movement flow and significantly lowers human error rates.

Namely, the Microsoft Assisted

and Augmented Reality platform Dynamics 365 Connected Spaces are used for this, while also utilized to optimize the warehouse space for lower travel times, space efficiency, and increased frontline worker safety.

As a note, bar and QR codes and RFIDs can also be used in identifying production nodes in the manufacturing process for the same benefits as mentioned above. While also adding digital guides and machine manuals with each code for extra assistance for the frontline worker.

Improved repairs for longer-lasting uptime and lower error rates.

7 Ongoing improvements of processes in evaluations from recorded repair and maintenance sessions.

- Environmentally friendlier in saving the CO2 footprint related to flying the expert or inspector to the malfunctioning machinery.
- 9 Enabled international scaling from remote deployment.
- 10 Increased customer engagement, loyalty, and lifetime value from remote inclusion in repair and post-repair processes.

### **KIT-AR**

KIT-AR, the Augmented quality assurance platform, has been redefining manufacturing production lines since 2018. What started out as a spin-off from SINTEF, one of the largest R&D centers in Norway, and University College of London is now a highly regarded organization backed by toptier brands like Boeing or Sony Startup Acceleration Program Europe.

What sets KIT-AR apart is its ability to prevent human-made errors on the shopfloor, by enhancing the workforce, making human workers more productive and efficient and allowing them to prevent errors through the combined power of Artificial Intelligence and Augmented Reality.

Also, by digitizing the production process, KIT-AR makes sure there are no more physical paper trails back and forth on the shop floor while easily accessing supporting material such as manuals specifically related to the machinery digitally at hand.



Source: Kit-AR

Furthermore, KIT-AR standardizes the entire production process, taking advantage of the numerous benefits listed earlier in the report. Effectively, KIT-AR removes the pain of non-value time and saves costs by optimizing frontline worker movement and minimizing human errors. Augmented Reality (AR) instructions quide the operators step-by-step throughout a process and clearly show how, when, where, and what they need to do.

KIT-AR also uses Artificial Intelligence (AI) algorithms and enables the operator to perform automatic quality checks throughout the production cycle and if errors are detected, workers obtain immediate instructions on how to fix them, which results in a virtual elimination of human errors in the shopfloor and in production lines.

In the unlikely event that a mistake does occur during production, KIT-AR allows engineers to trace it back to its origin and identify productivity bottlenecks, effectively leading a continuous improvement process. KIT-ARs' focus on quality control empowers human workers, so they can feel much safer and appreciated performing their tasks while increasing their productivity.

### Masters of Pie

Masters of Pie is a UK software company that delivers XR collaboration solutions for Enterprise and Defence. The company's proprietary software development kit (Radical SDK) is a modular framework which is customisable for its clients, allowing for tailored applications to fit their specific use cases. Radical SDK provides award-winning industry-grade collaboration across Immersive Technologies compliant with any supporting enterprise application.

Masters of Pie's uniqueness is in its data handling; Firstly, Radical prioritises data security and privacy, crucial for data-sensitive industries such as Defence, Engineering, and Manufacturing; Secondly, Masters of Pie's integrated approach allows teams to work together using dynamic and live data feeds including complex 3D visualisation, IoT feeds and GeoSpatial data.

By leveraging existing systems and extending them into the Spatial realm, Masters of Pie's technology can improve existing



workflows and improve common understanding of complex dynamic data.

The Masters of Pie software is licensed by over 300 leading global companies and organisations, including Siemens Digital Industries, Rolls-Royce, Nasa and the British Army. Radical SDK is used to create novel ways of bringing people and data together in spatial contexts, solving, through innovation, Industrial Metaverse use cases, including immersive design reviews, remote expert assistance, maintenance and repair. robotic simulation and a wide variety of Defence use

Source: Masters of Pie

cases.

Radical is integrated into CAD (Computer Aided Design) applications, enabling design engineers to seamlessly visualise their 3D models in Virtual Reality (VR) whilst being able to collaborate with other stakeholders to accelerate design review and time-tomarket.

By enabling the review of complex models beyond 1:1 scale using the client's application tools, Radical provides teams a level of granularity and insight that reduces inefficiencies and improves the handover

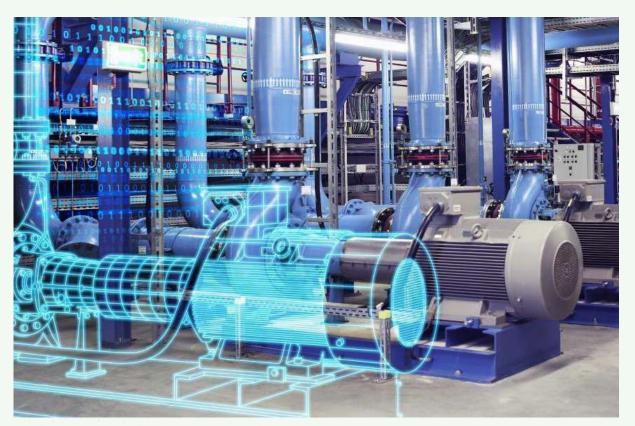
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between design and manufacturing, as this stage plays a critical role in the overall profitability of products.

In Defence, Masters of Pie is working to improve mission planning processes for clients including the British Army, where applications such as the Digital Bird Table solution are developed using the Radical SDK, combining the benefits of digital maps and real-time intelligence feeds, complex geospatial data, with the enhanced understanding and collaboration capabilities of Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR) to enable better and more timely decision making.

These solutions have been deployed and tested in

'live' exercises and are already proving to provide multiple benefits to the security conscious defence sector, including everything from dramatically reduced set up/tear down time for improved mobility, to reduced risk in the field by enabling a truly distributed headquarters and secure collaboration between allies and partners.



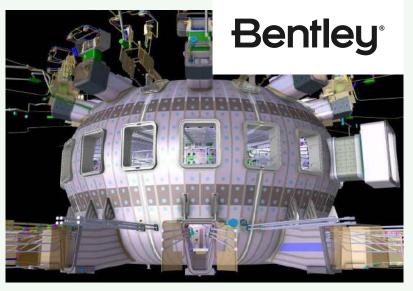
Source: Masters of Pie

### **Bentley Systems**

Bentley Systems provides innovative software to advance the world's infrastructure, sustaining both the global economy and environment.

Bentley's industry-leading software solutions are used by professionals, and organizations of every size, for the design, construction, and operations of roads and bridges, rail and transit, water and wastewater, public works and utilities, buildings and campuses, mining, and industrial facilities.

Infrastructure Digital Twins are the building blocks of the Metaverse and virtual worlds that will allow groups to interact and collaborate to solve problems such as making infrastructure greener, more sustainable, and more resilient. Bentley is advancing infrastructure **Digital Twins powered** by its iTwin Platform by pairing infrastructure Digital Twins with advanced 3D visualization and simulation technology—such as Epic Games' Unreal Engine that powers the ever-popular online interactive game,



Pictured here is a 3D rendering of a ITER's Tokamak, a device that uses powerful magnetic fields to produce thermonuclear fusion power. Image courtesy of ITER.

Fortnite, as well as leading platforms from Unity and NVIDIA. Bentley's LumenRT for NVIDIA Omniverse enables users to create compelling visualizations and project deliverables with unprecedented speed and quality allowing for better-informed decisions.

"From the start, we created services in the iTwin Platform that allow software developers to align and federate infrastructure data from different sources. We are now opening the doors of the Metaverse for those Digital Twins, enabling new use cases and immersive experiences. Our interoperability with game engines via USD, gITF, DataSmith, and 3DFT unlocks a whole new world of possibilities for application developers. We are excited to see what our users can achieve by combining such technologies,"

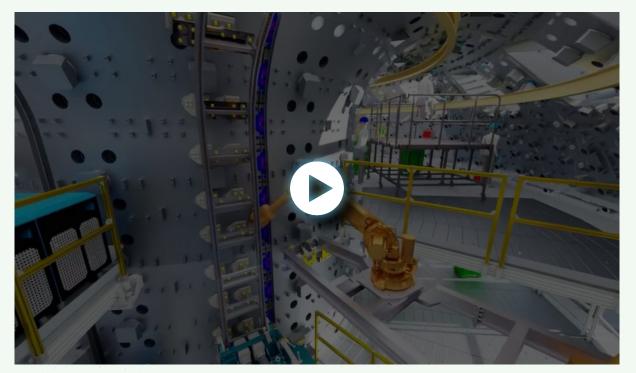
said Julien Moutte, Chief Technical Officer Bentley Systems.

Some examples of how users are utilizing Bentley software include WSP who find LumenRT for NVIDIA Omniverse and the iTwin

Platform instrumental for winning new projects and maintaining stakeholder engagement.

WSP is utilizing LumenRT for NVIDIA Omniverse to produce compelling visualizations for the multibillion-dollar I-5 Interstate Bridge Replacement (IBR) Project between Oregon and Washington in the United States. Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) are supporting the use of a digital twin developed on the iTwin Platform throughout the full program cycle, from public outreach with conceptual design, through detailed design, into construction, and eventually for continuous operations and asset management.

One of the many advantages to this approach is that it enables WSP to sync change sets and seamlessly and rapidly generate updated visualizations without time-consuming imports and exports. In addition, Brigantium Engineering used LumenRT for NVIDIA Omniverse on the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor in France, with Oculus VR headsets to view federated models from 35 countries.



Source: The International Thermonuclear Reactor.

### Siemens

Siemens is pioneering the Industrial Metaverse, leveraging AI, Machine Learning, and Edge Computing. At the heart of this transformation is their mastery in Digital Twin technology, which is influencing areas from urban planning and infrastructure to manufacturing.

"The Industrial Metaverse is not a oneshot deal, but a game changer for businesses. It optimizes processes and speeds up innovations in industry – and will change substantially how companies collaborate and grow."

**Peter Körte**; CSO of Siemens, articulates this change:

Digital Twins have shown their worth in numerous innovative ventures. A case in point is the Siemensstadt Square project in Berlin and Expo 2020 in Dubai. Through



Source: Siemens

these initiatives, Siemens deployed Digital Twins to convert complex real-world environments into dynamic digital models, enhancing urban planning and sustainability. In the realm of infrastructure, Siemens successfully used Digital Twins in the development of Egypts high-speed railway, leading to improvements in project management and execution.

In manufacturing, Digital Twins have proven invaluable, as evident in the Siemens' Nanjing factory and a Unilever production line in the Middle East. By incorporating Digital Twins, the Nanjing factory achieved a 20% boost in productivity, a 30% increased manufacturing volume flexibility, and a 40% improvement in space efficiency.

Meanwhile, Unilever, capitalizing on Digital Twins and 3D printing, reduced product launch time by nearly half and slashed capital expenditures by an astounding 70%. An excellent example of the Industrial Metaverse's potential is the collaboration between Siemens, Nvidia, AWS, and other partners working with Freyr, a clean battery solutions provider.

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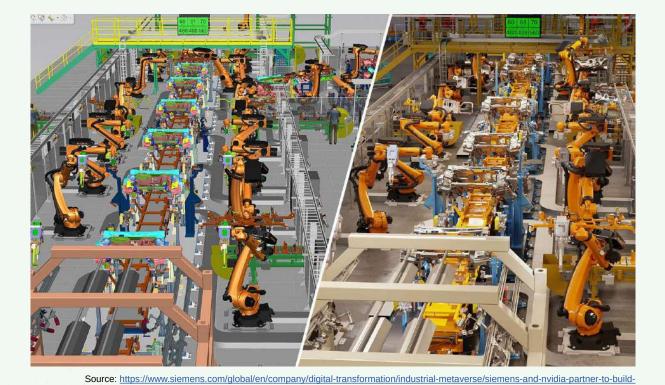
Leveraging the Siemens Xcelerator portfolio, Freyr will be able to model and optimize its battery plant operations even before breaking ground. By embracing the Industrial Metaverse, Freyr will be equipped to enhance the monitoring and optimization of its plants in the future, thereby ensuring optimal efficiency and energy usage.

Siemens further supports companies of

all sizes in enabling and cultivating the Industrial Metaverse through the Siemens Xcelerator, a comprehensive digital business platform. With the Siemens Xcelerator, customers gain access to a robust ecosystem of partners and foundational technologies such as Digital Twins, AI, and Edge Computing.

With its curated portfolio of software and IoT-enabled hardware, available as-

a-service, the Siemens Xcelerator will help tremendously to accelerate industrial digitalization and general transition into the Industrial Metaverse in particular.



the-industrial-metaverse.html

### RealWear

RealWear was founded with a mission to deliver practical and effective solutions for real people working in demanding industrial environments. With a focus on productivity, safety, and enhancing decision-making capabilities.

RealWear's pioneering technology has gained the trust of 41 of the top 100 Fortune 100 industrial companies. RealWear's flagship product, the RealWear Navigator® 520, exemplifies its commitment to bridging the skills gap and preparing workers for the evolving digital landscape.

RealWear recognizes the potential of the Industrial Metaverse as an integral part of the AI narrative in solving real-world problems. Rather than envisioning a world dominated by legless avatars, RealWear sees the Industrial Metaverse as a mixed-use space that seamlessly integrates digital and real-world information.

RealWear's technology, particularly the Navigator® 520, acts as an essential data-capturing instrument



Source: <a href="https://realmore.net/en/realwear-hmt-1">https://realmore.net/en/realwear-hmt-1</a>

that feeds into the development of this interconnected reality. Augmented Reality (AR) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) play crucial roles in this intertwined environment, working synergistically to enhance productivity, safety, and decision-making.

RealWear's immediate focus lies in integrating tangible technology into daily operations within the modern industrial environment. While the concept of a fully immersive, all-digital realm replacing physical interactions is thought-provoking, RealWear believes a more practical and gradual shift is likely to occur. RealWear's concept of "assisted reality" aligns with this vision.

Assisted reality overlays digital information onto the physical world, providing real-time data in a non-intrusive manner, augmenting workers' decision-making capabilities, productivity, and safety.

RealWear Navigator® 520, with its front-facing camera, thermal camera accessory, voice-controlled interface, and seamless integration

with enterprise systems, exemplifies RealWear's commitment to delivering critical information and tools to workers while preserving their awareness of their surroundings.

RealWear's technology has had a significant impact on the industrial workforce. By providing immediate access to information and expertise in a hands-free manner, RealWear has enhanced worker productivity and efficiency. Additionally, the integration of AR and AI technologies has improved decisionmaking capabilities and ensured a safer work environment for frontline workers. RealWear's solutions have proven instrumental in bridging the skills gap and equipping the workforce with the necessary tools to thrive in the evolving digital landscape.



Source: https://www.realwear.com/in-the-news/honeywell-realwear-ruggedized-wearables-industrial-field-workers/

### NavVis

The NavVis Reality Capture technology is a cornerstone for the industrial Metaverse.

An industrial Metaverse offers enormous added value for the manufacturing and automotive industry, especially in planning, simulation, and process monitoring. Automobile manufacturers can create virtual production lines, digitally simulate entire manufacturing processes, test, and plan assembly processes, and optimize work procedures.

Digital twins of factories, a digital representation of the ever-changing reality. build the foundation for the industrial Metaverse. For companies to get the maximum benefit from their Digital Twins, it is crucial to collect comprehensive, detailed data from the production buildings and keep it up to date. Simulations, plans, and decisions based on incomplete or outdated information can lead to enormous delays and additional costs due to rework.



Source: https://www.navvis.com/blog/get-it-done-with-navvis-vlx-2nd-generation-mobile-mapping-system

To create Digital Twins of entire production facilities, more and more companies are now relying on reality capture technology to capture buildings and systems – be it for the first time or for a repeated time.

Mobile mapping systems such as NavVis VLX are used to quickly and precisely 3D laser scan and cost-effectively generate point cloud data and panoramic images of the environment. In contrast to conventional, static surveying or laser scanning methods, a factory environment can be recorded up to 10 times faster with NavVis VLX, enabling the comprehensive and repetitive capturing of real-world conditions efficiently. Immediately after the scan, the recorded data is available for processing via the cloud-based tool NavVis **IVION Processing and is** then made available to a broad group of stakeholders via the NavVis IVION platform in the form of immersive models. There, the 3D data can be enriched with additional assets or IoT information and can be called up at any time and from any location via a standard web browser. Without the need for training, the data can be shared and discussed with project participants and partners intuitively and build the foundation for informed decision-making.

### BMW and NVIDIA's Omniverse platform

The NVIDIA Omniverse™ is a platform for developing and deploying industrial Metaverse applications. NavVis technology supports NVIDIA in capturing and providing the necessary comprehensive and up-to-date spatial data: "With the connection of NavVis to the Omniverse, large reality capture data sets can be easily streamed directly into Omniverse simulations," says Richard Kerris from NVIDIA. The data collected with the NavVis VLX and made available in NavVis IVION for first conceptional planning can then be used in the Omniverse as a basis for precise modeling and simulations.

The BMW Group is also already using NavVis IVION and the NVIDIA Omniverse platform to remodel existing production processes and to plan new factories. The digital planning models should serve the engineers as a common virtual space and central source of information for location-independent, efficient cooperation and enable optimization of the planning processes.



Source: https://blogs.nvidia.com/blog/2021/04/13/nvidia-bmw-factory-future/



Source: https://blogs.nvidia.com/blog/2021/04/13/nvidia-bmw-factory-future/

### AVEVA

On initial inspection, the Industrial Metaverse may seem like pure-breed innovation, but with more study, it emerges as a complex jigsaw puzzle of existing technologies that need to correctly blend to deliver on the promise.

At AVEVA, this pathbreaking technology is defined as an interconnected, immersive, and persistent virtual universe where teams can interact with each other and digital objects in real time. Think of it as a collective virtual environment that blurs the line between the physical and digital realms in an increasingly interconnected world.

In the world of design and operating the world's industrial infrastructure, customers in this field often find themselves immersed in a variety of data sources, working across multiple platforms, and dealing with data quality that is sometimes uncertain. They face the challenge of making critical decisions on an hourly or minute-by-minute basis. If you were to speak with any of these customers,



Source: https://emag.directindustry.com/2023/04/17/at-hannover-messe-aveva-shows-itsplans-for-the-industrial-metaverse/

their primary concern would be the volume of data they handle and the level of trust they can place in it.

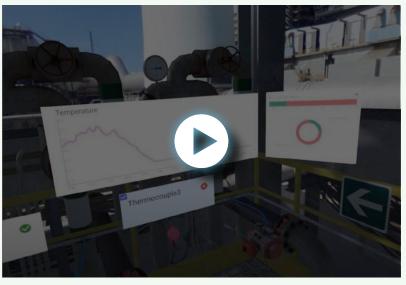
In a live industrial Metaverse setting, teams gather to discuss the scheduling and details of the next six months of production processing, which ultimately leads to a disastrous outcome. The significance of reliable data has been acknowledged for a while, and therefore, the initial component of the puzzle is a Digital Twin. In Gwinnett County, Georgia, USA, the Department of Water Resources is responsible for managing

the purification of drinking water, fresh and grey water services, and delivering over 70 million gallons of water per day to more than 1 million residents.

Gwinnett County collaborated with AVEVA and its partner to introduce a digital twin of operations at various locations, including water production plants, distribution and transmission networks, and numerous water collection points. Gwinnett creates a unified platform that streamlines efficiency and optimizes performance, boosting clean-water delivery by 20% against rigorous industry standards.

Having world-class data is the minimum entry point for an Industrial Metaverse, but equally important is how individuals interact with each other differently in a more immersive 3D environment compared to the 2D world of MS Teams and Zoom. The University of Milan took on the task of challenging the conventional approach to educating Industrial Chemist undergraduates. The professors at the university noticed the difficulty that students faced in linking the fundamental chemical concepts to the practical concepts employed in an actual operating plant.

As the expenses and regulations associated with industrial site visits continued to rise, it became increasingly challenging for students to participate in such visits. Professor Carlo Pirlo decided to offer evening classes using AR/ VR headsets in a full plant simulation. His study of two control groups indicated a +60% increase in academic performance among those



Source: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n7NvuMVNjsY

who attended the AR/VR sessions.

The ability to understand the world is deeply based on perceptions of the environment, and AR/ VR immersion is a great platform for the Industrial Metaverse to drive better collaboration between people and machines – including customers and supply chains. Powerful collaboration emerges as the second jigsaw piece.

However, this isn't a jigsaw made of only two pieces; there are many other factors to consider such as cyber security,

data dominion, cloud provision, network support for remote Metaverse attendees, UX design, the role of AI, protection of Intellectual Property, etc... The list is long, and the jigsaw is increasingly more complex. But of important note is that these are all existing technologies, there is no jigsaw piece that is unknown science or fundamental research. It all exists already. There is great potential for the Industrial Metaverse, and AVEVA is confident that with their customers and technology partners, they can complete this jigsaw together.

# By the Numbers: Measuring the Potential of the Industrial Metaverse

At Metaverse Insider, we see the Industrial Metaverse as the biggest growth area over the next decade. and for a good reason. For example, Siemens, the German multinational conglomerate residing over the largest industrial complex in Germany, has predicted that the Industrial Metaverse will generate \$100 billion in revenue by 2030. While this might seem like a lofty aspiration, based on The Metaverse Insider's detailed market data and subsequent forecast, this is very likely to happen and even exceed this number.

#### Our very own Metaverse Insider Intelligence platform

has shown that Discovery sub-sectors, such as Industrial Digital Twins and simulation, have grown

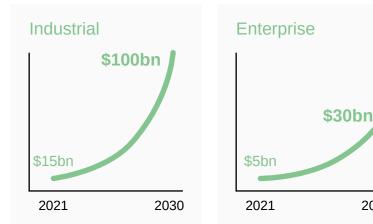
exponentially since 2012. This is evidenced by the sub-sector's \$2 billion worth in 2022, and with the Industrial Metaverse gaining momentum, this number is set to rise on a continual basis. For instance, McKinsey & Company found from accessing and enguiring its C-suite network that 70% explores or invests in Digital Twins.<sup>13</sup> Further, Markets & Markets predicts Digital Twin investments to reach more than \$73.5 billion by 2027 with a 60.6 percent compound annual growth rate.14 And Grand View Research forecasts that Digital Twins, due to its vast potential and capital intensive costs, will grow to more than \$155.8 billion in 2030.15

Investment in the Discovery classification has also

2030

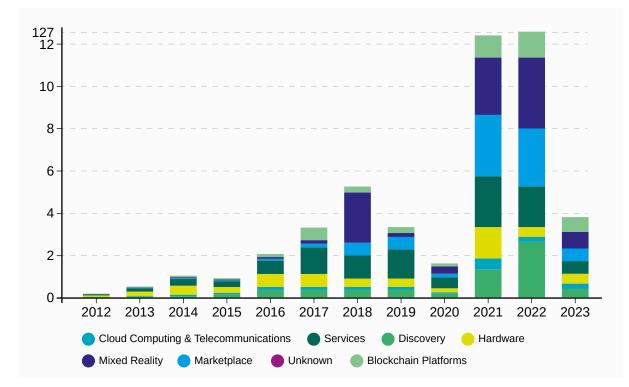
surged, with 133 funding rounds in 2022 alone. This trend is only set to continue along with the overall projected growth of the Industrial Metaverse. Our intelligence platform also reports remarkable growth in Extended Reality (XR), with over \$3.5 billion in investments and over 140 funding rounds dedicated over the past decade. providing yet another sign of the Industrial Metaverse's imminent growth. For example, McKinsey & Company forecasts the broader Metaverse category to grow to a value of \$5 trillion by 2030, with e-commerce being the largest driver.16

All of this emphasizes the Industrial Metaverse's potential worth and the



Consumer \$50bn \$6bn 2021 2030

Source: Siemens AG joined report with MIT Technology Review, compiled by MIT Technology Review Insights, including data from VentureBeat and ABI Research, 2022.



By the Numbers: Measuring the Potential of the Industrial Metaverse

Figure 5: Metaverse Funding By Year (Millions)

critical role that Digital Twins and Industrial XR will play in driving growth over the next ten years.

Additionally, there has been a substantial rise in the number of companies that are focusing on building Digital Twins and industrial Immersive Technologies across both sub-sectors. This trend is indicative of the growing adoption of these technologies in the industrial sector, as companies seek to optimize their operations and improve efficiency through the use of advanced digital tools. With a range of innovative applications, including predictive

Source: Metaverse Insider Intelligence Platform

maintenance and simulation models, Digital Twins and XR industrial technologies are set to continue their rapid growth in the years ahead.

Here are our forecasts on the future of the predicted value of the Industrial Metaverse.

Metaverse Insider predicts the Industrial Metaverse will reach

**\$300 billion** in revenue by 2035 Metaverse Insider forecasts the Metaverse as a whole to be worth \$900 billion by 2030.

**\$900 billion** Total Metaverse Market size

# **Industrial Metaverse Adoption:** Current Status and Future Prospects

# Industrial XR to aid frontline operations

Industrial XR hardware is impacted by technological limitations demanding a choice from enterprises.

On one end, you have lightweight and comfortable Assisted Reality (aR) smartglasses from manufacturers such as Vuzix and RealWear. These aR smartglasses have limited computational capabilities, lack of hand tracking for natural interaction, and limited precision tracking when operating on intricate machine parts. For example, standard industrial drilling requires a 1 mm precision. but current industrial smartglasses can only achieve a reliable precision of 3 mm.17

On the other end, you have Augmented Reality headsets from brands such as Microsoft HoloLens and Magic Leap. These are larger, heavier, and thus less comfortable to wear during full shifts. However, these premium AR headsets offer high-performance processing, reliable precision handling, and numerous tracking features for natural interaction and usability.

As the technology matures and breakthroughs in innovation are presented each year, the slimmer smartglasses become more powerful, and the premium AR headsets become lighter and smaller. One example is the recently released Magic Leap 2, which externalizes the processing to an add-on. Thus shedding numerous grams, addressing complicated thermal issues. and slimming down the headset altogether while not sacrificing high-performance functionalities.

So as time progresses, the girth between these two poles narrows and subsequently increases the broad viability for the Industrial Metaverse and its use cases.

# Industrial visualization and simulation

Where technological capability has emerged fully viable is in real-time navigation using what is called SLAM (simultaneous localization and mapping), enabling the frontline worker to be guided around manufacturing or warehouse floors without the need for bar or QR codes to be scanned.

Similarly, industrial Digital Twins are expanding in complexity and connectivity which will further advance as the solution improves and is adopted by more entities.

# The interoperability of the Industrial Metaverse

As predicted by Steven Niederer, Michael Sacks, Mark Girolami, and Karen Willcox published in





Industrial Metaverse Adoption: Current Status and Future Prospects

Nature<sup>18</sup>, Digital Twins and the Industrial Metaverse will expand in their connectivity. Similar to how a burgeoning Web 3.0 Social Metaverse will be interoperable, multiple smart factories, logistical infrastructures, transportation flows, and supply chain links will be able to share information seamlessly with each other and optimize processes dynamically.

And while many hurdles must be overcome, some being ill intent from entities, geopolitical tensions and reverting to regional trading Higher-technology industries are **far more resilient in crises** than their lower-tech counterparts

networks, and legal and accountability disputes, an interconnected Industrial Metaverse is undisputedly the future of industries.

So while the scaling and deployability are strenuous and capital-intensive to implement, businesses and policymakers must future-proof themselves by implementing, adapting, and linking Industrial Metaverses, or be left in the dust.

### States and National Governments Embrace the Industrial Metaverse

Governments worldwide are actively responding to the emergence of the Industrial

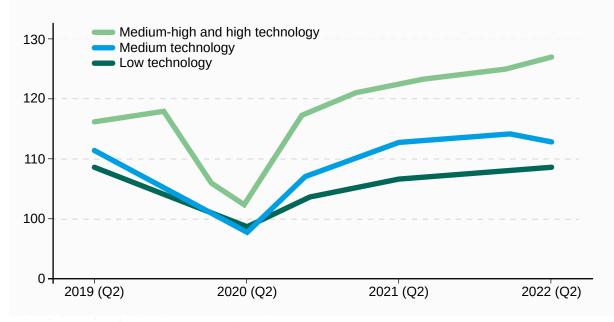


Figure 7: Low-High Technology Companies In Crises

Metaverse, recognizing its potential for economic growth, technological advancement and its ability to mitigate crises. For example, The United Nations recently reported, post pandemic, that industries that have more reliance on technology have greater resilience in crises than those that don't.

#### Germany

The German government, for instance, is keenly aware of the implications of the Industrial Metaverse, having the world's most advanced industrial complex, considering it a significant benefit for countries. By embracing the Industrial Metaverse, Germany aims to position itself as a global leader in this transformative technology.

The government is investing in Research & Development, supporting startups, and fostering public-private partnerships to leverage the Industrial Metaverse's potential in various sectors, including manufacturing and education. Germany sees the Industrial Metaverse as an opportunity to drive innovation, create new jobs, and enhance the competitiveness of its modern economy on a global scale.

#### China

Meanwhile, China has recognized the Industrial Metaverse as a key industry and is making substantial investments in its industrial application. The Chinese government understands the Metaverse's potential to revolutionize multiple sectors, including entertainment, e-commerce, education, and healthcare. It has been actively supporting the development of Metaverse technologies, platforms, and content creation. China's investment in the Metaverse industry includes infrastructure development, fostering domestic innovation, and encouraging international collaboration. The Chinese government's recognition of the Metaverse as a key

industry demonstrates its commitment to seizing the economic and technological opportunities presented by this emerging technology.

Both Germany and China's responses to the Industrial Metaverse exemplify governments' proactive approaches to harnessing its potential. By recognizing its benefits and making strategic investments, these governments are positioning themselves at the forefront of the industrial Metaverse revolution, aiming to drive economic growth, promote innovation, and secure their countries' positions as leaders in the digital economy. However, there is still much work to be done, with governments and industry stakeholders needing to work together on regulations and educational standards across government sectors.



# **Policy Implications of An Industrial Metaverse:** Insights by Access Partnership.

In the context of an industrial Metaverse, the policy priorities should center around fostering a framework that supports responsible and efficient data usage and storage. This involves establishing quidelines on data collection, access, and privacy to ensure the security and integrity of information within this expansive digital space. Interoperability stands as a crucial aspect, necessitating standards that enable seamless interaction and compatibility among various platforms and systems within the Metaverse.

Moreover, capacity building becomes imperative, focusing on training the existing workforce to effectively utilize Digital Twins—a key component in replicating physical assets digitally. This training empowers employees with the skills needed to harness the potential of Digital Twins, enabling them to optimize operations, troubleshoot, and innovate within the industrial Metaverse, Overall, a well-crafted policy for an industrial Metaverse should emphasize data

governance, interoperability, and comprehensive skill development to leverage the full potential of this digital landscape.

The integration of an industrial Metaverse strategy within a state's digital growth plan is increasingly essential for driving economic advancement and innovation. Nations like China and Germany have set precedents by acknowledging the importance of the Metaverse in their digital agendas. The industrial Metaverse strategy offers an unprecedented opportunity for states to revolutionize manufacturing, design, and operational processes, providing a competitive edge in the global market. With China's ambitious initiatives focusing on digital infrastructure and Germany's emphasis on Industry 4.0, incorporating a Metaverse strategy aligns with these countries' efforts in advancing technological capabilities.

This approach allows for the creation of virtual models—such as Digital



Twins—enabling enhanced product development, reduced time-to-market, and optimized operational efficiencies. Integrating the industrial Metaverse within digital growth strategies enables states to harness cutting-edge technologies, attract investment, foster innovation, and strengthen industrial sectors in a rapidly evolving digital landscape, ultimately positioning them at the forefront of the global economy.

# A New Dawn for Industry: Concluding Remarks and Final Thoughts

The Industrial Metaverse represents a new dawn for industry, a transformative era of digitization and interconnectedness that promises to reshape how we conceive and operate within industrial environments. Throughout this report, we have delved into the defining aspects, applications, benefits, use cases, and potential of the Industrial Metaverse.

Now, it is time to reflect on how this groundbreaking concept will shape the future of the industry. First and foremost, the Industrial Metaverse is the frontline, interactive layer of the fourth industrial revolution. It presents an unprecedented opportunity to revolutionize industrial processes and operations. Seamlessly blending the physical and digital realms enables enhanced collaboration, efficiency, and productivity across the entire industrial value chain. The Industrial Metaverse, through its enabling technologies, enables real-time data exchange, simulation, and analysis, from design and prototyping to manufacturing, distribution, maintenance,

supply chain management, logistics, and product retirement.

The benefits of embracing the Industrial Metaverse are vast and wideranging. Companies can achieve optimized resource utilization, reduced downtime, improved safety, resilient and adaptive production processes, increased customer relationships, and enhanced decision-making by harnessing Immersive Technologies such as AR and VR as well as the Internet of Things (IoT), 5G, Big Data, Edge Computing, and Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Quantifying the potential impact of the Industrial Metaverse is no small feat, but the numbers speak for themselves. Studies and projections indicate that adopting the Industrial Metaverse can result in considerable cost savings, increased productivity, risk-resilient production, and improved overall performance.

As we conclude this exploration of the Industrial Metaverse, it is important to acknowledge that this paradigm shift comes with its own challenges. Security and privacy concerns, the need for upskilling the workforce, and addressing potential ethical implications are among the key considerations. However, by actively addressing these challenges and leveraging the immense potential of the Metaverse, we can unlock a new era of industrial innovation, sustainability, and prosperity, meeting and exceeding the UN sustainable development goals.

In conclusion, the Industrial Metaverse represents a transformative force shaping the industry's future. It provides an unparalleled platform for digitization, connectivity, and collaboration, revolutionizing industrial processes and unlocking new levels of productivity and efficiency.

Embracing the Industrial Metaverse will require vision, adaptation, and cooperation, but the rewards are vast. Let us embark on this journey toward a new era of industrial excellence.

### **Endnotes**

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# **Special thanks**

We extend our gratitude to all contributing partners who have played a vital role in the creation of this report as listed under the case study section of this report.

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