



Manufacturers are beginning to realise the possibility of using IIoT technologies to mitigate the immediate threat of COVID-19 transmission on the factory floor.

As social distancing is an essential component for stopping the spread of the virus, employees can use wearable trackers when on the factory floor – enabling real-time tracking of staff movement and interactions during their shift. Should the worst happen and a COVID-19 outbreak occur, these records can assist with contact tracing.

Wearable trackers can also be used to alert employees when they are coming within 1.8 metres of one another and alert the monitoring system that a possible breach may have occurred. This feature can also be used to capture the employee and time records when certain materials are handled, with the data then checked against the system to flag any possible cross contamination between employees during material handling.

Manufacturers can take IIoT material monitoring a step further by identifying the most frequently used assets on the factory floor, such as tools or machinery, and flag these for extra sanitation processes in between use to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

From ensuring business continuation, to allowing for better remote monitoring and using the technologies to reduce the risks of COVID-19 outbreaks, there are many advantages for manufacturers who choose to integrate IIoT into their operations during this period of disruption and uncertainty.

We look forward to seeing the new and innovative ways that these technologies can be used to improve both the manufacturing operations and the working conditions of those behind the machines.



Listen to Open IIoT on the PKN Podcast

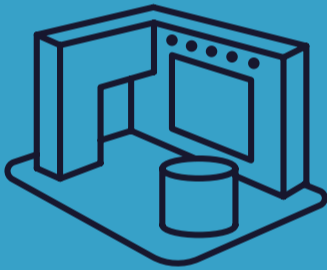
Have you heard? We're on a podcast! The PKN Packaging News Podcast to be exact.

PKN Editor Lindy Hughson sat down with our members to discuss the move towards Industry 4.0 in Australia, what trends we're observing in this space and how the disruption of COVID-19 has changed how manufacturers operate.

You won't want to miss this

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Open IIoT to exhibit at AUSPACK 2022



Catch Open IIoT at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre in May next year for AUSPACK 2022. We look forward to bringing the Industry 4.0 agenda to the forefront once again at this exciting and innovative expo.

[Learn more about AUSPACK 2022](#)

The Cloud Is The Connective Tissue of Industry 4.0

Industry 4.0 is revolutionising the way that manufacturers operate. The integration of technologies onto the factory floor via IIoT has upgraded many plants into 'Smart Factories' – able to collect and analyse valuable data.

"But if this data is only stored in local servers, manufacturers will have a hard time using the data to scale and integrate together with other operations. However, with Cloud Deployment data can be stored, retrieved, and shared safely and seamlessly." Richard Roberts, National Industry 4.0 Operations Manager at ZI-ARGUS Australia and Open IIoT Member.

What unites all the different use cases of IIoT is the need to have data accessible, available and integrated to deliver new processes and applications – something that the Cloud is perfectly positioned for.

[Read More](#)



Ask an Open IIoT member



ASK AN OPEN IIOT MEMBER:

What is your main takeaway from lockdown?

"Lockdown and disruptions to global supply chains highlighted the fragility of sourcing the lowest cost components and commodities offshore and the value of secure local supply chains. Adoption of IIoT concepts in local supply chains increases our competitiveness as a nation by allowing us to manufacture more efficiently and flexibly, with smaller production volumes to maintain quality."

"In this time of crisis we've drawn together as 'Team Australia' to support each other and overcome adversity. While this is a positive outcome of lockdowns, it also can be seen as a starting point for increased Industry 4.0 adoption - where collaboration and team work is key to a successful implementation."

- Jim Wallace, National Sales Manager at Balluff Australia.



Stay in touch or join us!

If you are a manufacturer, service provider or integrator and feel that you can offer value to the group and would like to join Open IIoT, please contact us at positiv@openiiot.com.au

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