Key Technology Trends to watch for in 2021

As we all know, 2020 has been a difficult and painful year. Last year at this time, we talked about the technology trends that you should watch for in 2020. At that time we mentioned the following technologies to watch for:

- **Embedment and Expansion of 5G Technology** - The increased bandwidth and speed to enable IoT services and products
- **Robotic Process Automation (RPA)** - The use of software to automate business processes
- **3D Printing** –The expansion into metals, increased volume capacity and improved speed of execution
- **The Replacement of the current User Interface** –This is centered around implementing an AR/VR environment as a driving force for user interaction between the information and the environment

2020 has come and thankfully will be gone shortly. From March till now, the focus of the world has been on how to fight an invisible enemy while adapting our lives and businesses to a new "virtual and distant" world. When we step back and think about what trends to watch for in 2021, we believe that the 2020 predictions, based on their technology advancements and implementations in 2020 are still up and coming technologies that will help advance industry in 2021.

With our changing work and living environments in 2021, the prominence of being able to work and interact with our work environments and people will help industries embrace new technologies such as:

Enhanced Virtual Meeting Rooms

The work environment in 2020 has transitioned from physical meeting rooms to virtual rooms. The need to enhance the capabilities and enrich the "togetherness" of meeting members will be a focus of software providers such as Zoom, Microsoft, etc. in 2021.

Industry 4.0 Expansion and Implementation

We see a push in 2021 by industry in these 3 areas of focus:

- **Machine Connectivity** to release real-time data to "Everyone - Anywhere". This trend will help industry in terms of enabling visibility and enhancing the interactions between the shop floor in a virtual environment.
- **Incorporation of Edge Artificial Intelligence -** Edge computing will enable connectivity performance needed to deliver the performance to "obtain data => analyze data => resolution enhanced by Artificial Intelligence".
- **Enhanced Cybersecurity Footprint and Monitoring**—Everyday we hear of new security and data breaches. As we get our manufacturing footprints connected and sending information, this becomes a large opportunity for cyberhackers. Based on the differing ages of these manufacturing environments, the ability to secure and harden the environment will be very unique from environment to environment.

Technology enablement and expectations will be front and center in how businesses will be transforming in 2021. If you'd like to discuss this further give us a call!

Happy New Year and all the best in 2021!

Next Month: Moving from a Drawing Centric to a Model Centric Approach

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