Connected Industry (Industrie 4.0 @ Bosch)

Whether Industry 4.0, Industrial Internet or Connected industry – the Internet of Things and Services is making its arrival in our production facility and vice versa.

Industrial production has already undergone three fundamental, revolutionary changes over the last centuries and we are now witnessing and taking part in its fourth revolution.

Existing requirements, like: volatile markets, shortened delivery times, shortened product life cycles, 24/7 worldwide service, changing social behavior, new cooperation and disruptive business models driven by the networking via internet, are challenging our plants but also open up unimagined vistas.

There are many forecasts about the impacts of the digitalization and industry 4.0. All of them promise considerable growth potential, efficiency and a higher flexibility.

We have developed a dual strategy in an early stage, and we have become lead operator and lead provider.

As lead operator, we not only optimize our own worldwide product base, we are actively seeking to build cooperation with our partners to digitize and improve the whole value network. The connected production can only function if it overcomes the physical and mental orders of the factory fence.

As lead provider, we see ourselves as a technology and solution supplier for mechanical engineers and operators. Bosch Rexroth delivers production resources or rather components engineering.

In connected industry, people are the key players and hence the ultimate decision makers. Real-time big data won't take away people's power to make decisions or their responsibility, but it will help people arrive at those decisions. Increasing people's freedom to decide and participate leads to better, more valid decisions. We will see technology coming to our aid in physical tasks and in learning. Human-machine interactions will increase- but machines will continue to play a subordinate role.

Connected industry, the fourth industrial revolution, will become a reality and a success only if all the actors involved open up and work together to implement it. All the individual actors in industry need to come together to form a giant orchestra.