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DEPARTEMENT OF BUSINESS SCIENCE, MANAGEMENT
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Ph.D. Course in Big Data Management – XXXIII Cycle

SCATTERED MANUFACTURING DEVELOPING A CLOUD
MANUFACTURING FRAMEWORK BASED ON
AUTONOMOUS RESOURCES

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Abstract

Cloud Manufacturing is a resource-sharing paradigm that provides on-demand access to a pool of manufacturing resources and capabilities to utilize geographically scattered resources in a service-oriented model. These services are rapidly provisioned and released with minimal management effort via the Industrial Internet of Things and its underlying IT infrastructure, architecture models, and data and information exchange protocols and standards. In this context, the tradeoff between resources' autonomy and independence exigencies and platform needs for centralized control and coordination is a crucial enabler factor for implementing such vertically or horizontally integrated cyber-physical systems for intelligent manufacturing. The introduction of resources autonomy and network independence in a distributed cloud manufacturing system enables platforms with equal and open access to shared resources in a more sustainable way and potentially with higher scalability of manufacturing resources and capabilities.

This work aims to develop a framework to manage distributed operations in cloud manufacturing based on autonomous resources. This research investigates network architectures in the context of distributed Cloud Manufacturing systems with autonomous and independent resources to identify critical parameters that determine whether an efficient deployment is viable for a given scenario.

The framework includes: (i) a network architecture for a distributed Cloud Manufacturing platform based on autonomous nodes; (ii) a Multi-agent Systems architecture for managing communications and coordination issues in distributed operations; (iii) an implementation of the proposed network architecture in the context of large Additive Manufacturing networks; (iv) a unique optimization algorithm that combines scheduling and logistics issues inside such network. Additionally, an implementation of the Multi-Agent Systems architecture has been developed to offer practical guidance for implementing the framework into context closer to the industry and real life.

A literature review was conducted to analyze the research area to accomplish the goal and objectives of this work. Next, a framework was outlined to identify, assess, and control dynamics and issues inside the network. Two well-known and established approaches were used to implement the communication and coordination system and the optimization of the platform in this research: Multi-agent Systems to tackle the dynamic task arrival, the downtime of machines, the identification of the anomalous tasks; and Operation Research techniques to tackle

logistics and to schedule global optimization for a job order.

Results from this work are beneficial for both academia and industry in understanding aspects involving new varieties of cloud manufacturing networks. The principal contribution is a framework that offers new insights and outlines new issues on how to deal with autonomous and independent resources inside a Cloud Manufacturing platform and how to manage global optimization and long-term sustainability of such networks. Finally, this study also introduced a novel cloud manufacturing taxonomy, including a list of actors, a list of platform services and functionalities.

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List of Publications & Awards

1. Journal Articles

- (a) D’Aniello, Giuseppe, Massimo De Falco, and Nicola Mastrandrea. “Designing a Multi-Agent System Architecture for Managing Distributed Operations within Cloud Manufacturing.” *Evolutionary Intelligence*, April 1, 2020. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12065-020-00390-z>

2. Book Chapters

- (a) de Falco, Massimo, Nicola Mastrandrea, Wathiq Mansoor, and Luigi Rarità. “Situation Awareness and Environmental Factors: The EVO Oil Production.” In *New Trends in Emerging Complex Real Life Problems*, edited by Patrizia Daniele and Laura Scrimali, 1:209–17. AIRO Springer Series. Cham: Springer International Publishing, 2018. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-00473-6_23

3. Conference Papers

- (a) de Falco, Massimo, Nicola Mastrandrea, and Luigi Rarità. “Integrating Capacity and Logistics of Large Additive Manufacturing Networks.” *Procedia Manufacturing* 39 (2019): 1421–27. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.promfg.2020.01.310>
- (b) de Falco, Massimo, Nicola Mastrandrea, and Luigi Rarità. “A Queuing Networks-Based Model for Supply Systems.” In *Optimization and Decision Science: Methodologies and Applications*, edited by Antonio Sforza and Claudio Sterle, 217:375–83. *Springer Proceedings in Mathematics & Statistics*. Cham: Springer International Publishing, 2017. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-67308-0_38
- (c) Best Paper Award Winner: De Falco, Massimo, Luigi Rarità, and Abdallah Asan Alalawin. “Negotiating and Sharing Capacities of Large Additive Manufacturing Networks.” *International Conference on Advances in Business, Management and Law (ICABML) 2017 1*,

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Introduction

0.1 Research Background

Decentralization and sustainable resource sharing are key drivers for success in today's globalized economy. From craftsmanship to Agile and Intelligent Manufacturing, production has become increasingly complex, depending upon new technological developments and advances in Information and Communication Technologies in response to changes in local and global markets [1]. Moreover, this context and market trends such as mass customization pose new challenges to industries and researchers. The process of sharing resources and assets efficiently on a global scale requires high interoperability, flexibility, and agility in manufacturing systems to respond to rapid changes. Therefore, the rapid evolution of markets and advances in key enabling technologies have introduced the distributed manufacturing paradigm. This paradigm aims to share geographically scattered manufacturing resources and capabilities and already profoundly impact current systems.

While the introduction of state-of-the-art technologies presents positive benefits for manufacturing enterprises over competitors, new issues in implementing these network technologies that affect production occur within the manufacturing industry. Most of these issues involve sharing manufacturing resources, where these resources, centralized into a central network, are not distributed efficiently through the platform due to a lack of global coordination in manufacturing services management in the network. And, secondly, the inability to access the independent manufacturing complex resources (equipment) in the manufacturing network due to complications in transferring hardware resources into the network [2][3].

Much of the shift towards new paradigms, indeed, is driven by the emergence of Big Data, and the issues connected to the ways by which industrial operations collect, manage and interpret their data remain prevalent[4]. Considerations about Big Data and the treatment of large datasets are an intrinsic challenge of each system operating in an Industry 4.0 scenario. Traditional statistical processing methods are often useless due to the complexity and the sheer size of large datasets. Current implementations have demonstrated adaptive scheduling, real-time modelling of processes, and Decision Support Systems used to refine processes and component design[5]. For the optimization of issues within

the context of production and logistics, a typical aim is gaining quantitative improvements, which also correspond to an increase in resource efficiency[6]. Sometimes new manufacturing models arise as such a situation leads to increasing adoption of new production technologies. The challenge with distributed production is to implement communication and integration technologies that reduce the coordination effort and provide a focused platform[7].

Building innovative models around the notion of being “globally virtual, locally physical” calls for a service-dominant logic of distributed resources in which reusable services models, shaped according to the concept of Manufacturing as a Service, represent homogeneous production processes [8]. Therefore, the ongoing servitization process in the manufacturing industry is progressively shifting the view of traditional resources as a set of services and solutions that supplement companies’ traditional offerings consumed on an ad-hoc basis[9]. As a result, enterprises increase their capability to provide manufacturing services and offer more extensive and more complex jobs. Moreover, Cloud Manufacturing, with the proper implementation, presents the capability to transform and restructure manufacturing systems and move the entire industry from production-oriented manufacturing to service-oriented manufacturing[3]. Cloud Manufacturing can also be a significant factor to reduce costs, maximize productivity, reduce time to market, and increase business agility and innovation[10], as well as facilitating the whole life cycle of manufacturing, providing safe, reliable, high-quality, cheap, and on-demand manufacturing services[11].

Other potential benefits from the introduction of Cloud Manufacturing are the following [10]:

1. Virtual access to homogenous and interoperable manufacturing services over the cloud, reducing the need to invest, develop, maintain, and manage hardware and software manufacturing resources.
2. Higher utilization rates of manufacturing resources through the promotion of shared pools of resources.
3. Higher Scalability, encouraging Cloud Manufacturing users to control production capacity to balance the current demand dynamically.
4. The introduction of novel utility-based cost schemes that assigns costs based on user/provider resources consumptions.
5. An on-demand approach that endorses users to have ubiquitous access and natural human-computer interaction to manufacturing resources.

Main issues for enabling the transition to cloud manufacturing, as recent research efforts have summarized the main challenges for cloud manufacturing as follows:

1. Unclear principles for the protection of the end-user investment. The new business model that comes with cloud manufacturing requires fresh perspectives on the protection of rights.

2. Difficulty in communication and interaction between departments within the enterprise and among the stakeholders within the supply chain due to different systems with different focuses.
3. Limited collaboration and interaction between business partners within cloud manufacturing.
4. Absence of a readily available implementation framework for cloud manufacturing services. Each company has to implement this as a new system.
5. Difficulty in the deployment of physical resources, such as machines, monitors, and facilities. These issues are mainly due to the unpreparedness of a large portion of resources for the required connectivity.

This research attempts to answer some of these issues. In particular, an attempt to formalize the main founding principles that a Cloud Manufacturing platform should obey (see Chapter III Section 2). Moreover, a Multi-Agent Systems architecture for distributed operations is provided to identify the key process parameters for selecting communication approaches within service providers and service demanders. Finally, an implementation framework is depicted in the context of a large Additive Manufacturing Network scenario. The architectural model is used to simulate communications and operations in the scenario, while the implementation model is used to define an optimization algorithm to manage both scheduling and logistics problems using one cycle of negotiation.

0.2 Thesis Outline

This Thesis is divided into five chapters, as shown in Figure 1. Chapter I provides a background and general overview of the research project, followed by an introduction of the research motivation, research scope, research aim, and objectives. The first chapter also outlines the remaining chapters of the Thesis. Chapter II provides reviews of the literature on two main concepts: Cloud Manufacturing and Cloud Manufacturing Architecture. In phase one of the literature review, the focus was on cloud manufacturing and its types, characteristics, and attributes. In phase 2, the focus was on understanding architectures and exploring the role of autonomy and independence of resources in distributed manufacturing systems and their effects in the cloud environment. Phase 2 also identifies the research gap. Chapter III develops a framework to manage autonomous resources in cloud manufacturing. This chapter begins by introducing and explaining the phases of development of the framework. It then explores the process of identifying differences with frameworks available from literature in a detailed comparison. Then, it outlines in-depth platform actors, roles, functionalities, and service management systems through an analysis of main platform factors, dynamics, and governance. Chapter IV presents two implementing models of the proposed architecture. In model 1, the focus was on developing a Multi-Agent Systems architecture for distributed operations in presence of autonomous service providers. In model 2, the focus was

on developing an optimization model that combines localization, fragmentation, assignment, and picking issues for a specific job order in a large Additive Manufacturing Network. Chapter V summarizes the results, draws conclusions, and makes recommendations for future work. This chapter presents outcomes, including the research contribution to knowledge, research limitations, and future work. Also, it reveals answers to the research aim and objectives and presents the overall research conclusion.

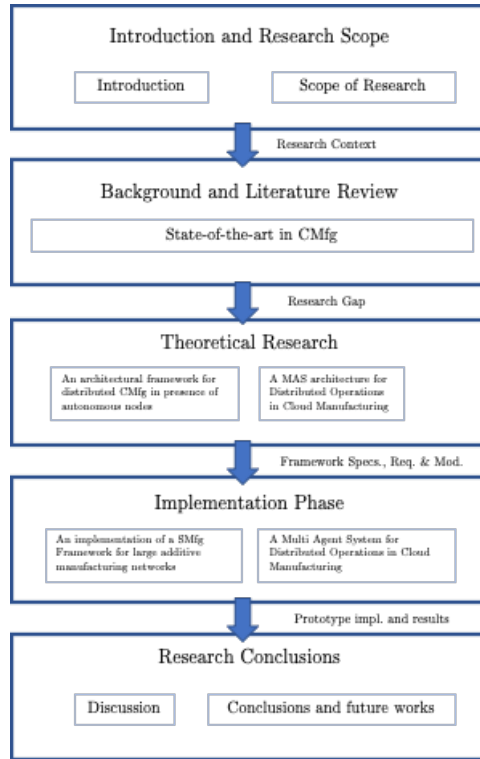


Figure 1: Thesis Outline

Chapter 1

The Scope of Research

This chapter outlines the aim of the research within its objectives and boundaries. The following sections define the boundaries of Cloud Manufacturing systems and explain the scope of research to identify the Author's perspective on applying distributed Cloud Manufacturing systems within an autonomous resources scenario.

1.1 Research Motivation and Gaps

This work is motivated by the need for practicable and applicable Cloud Manufacturing systems that can be temporary and dynamically created ad hoc to satisfy specific market demand in a sustainable way.

The transformation of existing manufacturing systems to new advanced and complex systems, such as Cloud Manufacturing, can be seen as a big challenge for any enterprise. This transformation poses new uncertainties in the new system that can impact every aspect of the operations lifecycle from design and engineering to the implementation final operations of the new manufacturing model. So, there is a need to understand and tackle uncertainties in cloud manufacturing networks derived from the introduction of resource autonomy and resource independence from a specific platform. To address these issues, steps needed to be followed, including understand and define key factors, main actors, and dynamics inside such networks; identify main issues that arise from the trade-off between decentralized governance and the need for centralized control in global scheduling, load balance and logistics optimization to provide long-term sustainability of the network; and develop a framework to implement such networks in a Cloud Manufacturing environment.

1.2 Aims and objectives of the research

The research aim is to develop a framework to manage operations in cloud manufacturing for autonomous resources. The framework comprises a taxonomy of the proposed architecture; a Multi-Agent System model to tackle coordination and communication issues; a detailed list of platform services, agents, and functionalities; a unique algorithm to determine local optimization in a job order combining logistics and distributed multi-task scheduling optimization; and the implementation process of a prototype with basic functionalities of the Multi-Agent System model.

Previous research has shown that most Cloud Manufacturing architectures require central governance and high investment for increasing efficiencies and capabilities across the product life cycle. This research aims to investigate the possibility for a Cloud Manufacturing platform constituted by independent and autonomous service providers and a set of clear founding principles to be deployable and viable for a homogenous manufacturing scenario.

The following objectives have been identified to track the progress of the research and ensure that the aim is achieved:

1. Identification and analysis of existing research gaps in the context of Cloud Manufacturing Architectures.
2. Development of a framework for a sustainable Cloud Manufacturing platform constituted by autonomous service providers
3. Realization of implementation models for critical areas inside the framework
4. Validation of the proposed models

1.3 Research Methodology

The following steps, as shown in Figure 1.1, will be undertaken to verify the validity of the proposed framework and achieve the research aim:

1. Review of the relevant literature on industry 4.0, cloud computing, cloud manufacturing, and smart manufacturing
 - (a) Studies of Cloud Manufacturing: The state-of-the-art of Cloud Manufacturing will be reviewed to identify and demonstrate its impact.
 - (b) Review of cloud manufacturing frameworks regarding governance, architecture layouts, scheduling methods, virtualization of manufacturing resources and capabilities.
2. Selecting a cloud manufacturing approach

- (a) In this section, a review of cloud manufacturing frameworks will be conducted, and the results are analyzed based on functional requirements, business constraints, and technology constraints to adopt a suitable approach for system deployment.
3. Designing of a Cloud Manufacturing framework
 - (a) Based on research gaps identified in the previous steps and the outcomes of the last research step, a theoretical framework will be formulated to address cloud manufacturing system requirements. Additionally, a Cloud Manufacturing network will be implemented to form the baseline for analyzing the optimization problem and identifying critical parameters for a deploying approach.
 4. Implementation and validation of the proposed architecture
 - (a) Development of implementation models of the proposed architecture focusing on specific critical areas.
 - (b) Validation through Multi Agents System simulation and numerical examples of the analytical optimization model.

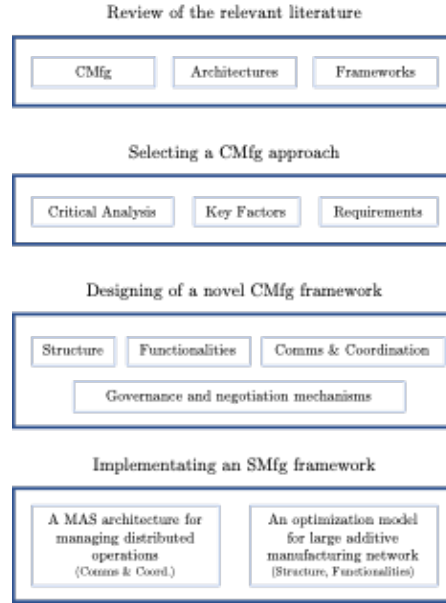


Figure 1.1: Research Steps

1.4 Scope of the Thesis

This research work focuses on identifying Cloud Manufacturing networks and their characteristics. It involved detecting and evaluating key factors at the architectural level and the implementation level within an autonomous manufacturing resources scenario. Due to the novel nature of the research that concerns a relatively new research field such as Cloud Manufacturing, the Author's approach was to apply well-known methods and theory inside this new context. Moreover, this research concentrated mainly on the architectural level and the related issues identified.

The overall research objectives are the following:

1. Identification and analysis of existing models and gaps presented in the literature.
2. Formulation of the operational context in the given scenario and its types, characteristics, and attributes.
3. Development of a novel architectural model based on autonomous resources.
4. Focusing on critical areas of the framework to implement the model.

Chapter 2

State of the art in Distributed Cloud Manufacturing: a Review

2.1 Introduction

This chapter presents a review of the state-of-the-art in Cloud Manufacturing and its related approaches and enabling key technologies. Techniques used for Cloud Manufacturing design are investigated, followed by a review of Cloud Manufacturing service management aspects. Furthermore, a review of Cloud Manufacturing architectures is provided. The result of this analysis is then used to identify gaps in the research field. This chapter aims to present, in a clear view, a unified picture regarding Cloud Manufacturing, its architectures, and applications. Hence, to provide a holistic view of the phenomena, prior research and frameworks presented in the field relevant to the research question have been analyzed. Therefore, the literature review focuses on two main concepts: cloud manufacturing and cloud manufacturing architectures. The search in academic database engines was limited to keywords related to the research topics.

Previous publications, research, and knowledge have been investigated to identify the need for the research and rationalize the research path. An alignment between the research goal and issues that have not been covered satisfyingly has been addressed during the process.

The search strings used in the research process are the following:

1. TITLE-ABS-KEY("Cloud Manufacturing")
2. (TITLE-ABS-KEY("Cloud Manufacturing") AND
TITLE-ABS-KEY(Architecture) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY(Framework))

To define the inclusion criteria, mentioned search terms were considered, and

Options	Delimitation
Field	Title, Abstract, Keywords
Time	2010-2020
Document Type	Article or Review
Language	English

Table 2.1: Database search delimitations

Screening Stage	Stage Name	Description
1	Title Screening	Inclusion of search terms in title, abstract or keywords
2	Abstract Reading	Direct mention of cloud manufacturing context, aspects, implications, concept, algorithms, paradigms methods and/or models in the abstract
3	Full Text Screening	Relevance and contribution to the aim of the research and the research questions

Table 2.2: Publications selection process after each screening stage

based on them, a set of search terms were included in the search process. The database search was conducted from 2010 to 2020 since Cloud Manufacturing is an emerging and trending topic. Furthermore, only papers in the English language have been included. Table 1 represents the delimitations, inclusion, and exclusion criteria designed for the first screening stage.

The mentioned search terms were used for finding literature based on the inclusion of the search terms in the title, abstract, or keywords section of publications for the first screening stage. For the second screening stage, abstracts of all the selected literature were read to identify publications that might be used in the third stage that included reading through the publications. Table 2 represents the designed guideline for selecting publications after each screening stage in this literature review.

In the first part of the literature review, the focus was on Cloud Manufacturing and its types, characteristics, and attributes. The results from this phase are the following:

- Understand the cloud manufacturing concept by exploring various definitions of Cloud Manufacturing.

- Show latest Cloud Manufacturing frameworks.
- Identify Cloud Manufacturing key architectural factors.
- Detect Cloud Manufacturing research challenges and gaps.

Chapter 3

Cloud Manufacturing

The development of new advanced manufacturing modes with the flexibility to suit the market is becoming one of the main trends of the manufacturing industry nowadays. A number of advanced manufacturing models, such as Agile Manufacturing [12], Virtual Manufacturing [13], and Networked Manufacturing, are flourishing in this context. Cloud Manufacturing was introduced in 2010 to overcome the impediments to applying Networked Manufacturing and solve more complex manufacturing problems and perform larger-scale collaborative manufacturing [9].

The evolution of key enabling technologies brought a growing unpredictability of the markets, and with increased competition, manufacturing systems boundaries are extended from a factory towards new kinds of network relationships. As a result, enterprises' mission and business strategy have also changed, e.g., from product competitive advantage towards collaborative added value, and the way enterprises perform business have been transformed [14]. Consequently, a wide range of different paradigms emerged, such as Lean Manufacturing, Agile Manufacturing, Flexible Manufacturing, reconfigurable manufacturing systems, distributed virtual manufacturing systems.

Agile Manufacturing systems are designed to respond to customer and market changes quickly. Although lean and agile manufacturing concepts sound similar, they have different approaches to manufacturing engineering systems. While Lean Manufacturing responds to competitive pressure with limited resources, agile Manufacturing represents the response to complexity brought about by constant change. Flexible manufacturing systems are manufacturing systems designed to rapidly adjust their production capacity and functionality in response to new circumstances by rearranging or changing their components. Networked Manufacturing systems combine advanced manufacturing technologies with network technology to introduce Distributed Manufacturing systems through the Internet. Networked Manufacturing models provide information and resource sharing among enterprises but lack direct access to physical resources, nor does it achieve the dynamic intelligent sharing and distribution of manufacturing resources. Intelligent manufacturing systems bring those features. These are

	Flexible manufacturing	Distributed (Network) manufacturing	Cloud manufacturing
System functions	Cooperation	Resource sharing/cooperation	Resource sharing/resource efficiency/cooperation
System openness	Many constraints, poor openness	Better openness	Highly open
Resource type	Organization, human, technology	Equipment, people, materials, network, information	Materials, equipment, software, hardware, logistics, human, knowledge
Resource usage	Customization	Dynamic configuration	On-demand dynamic configuration
Collaboration scope	Several companies	Companies in several industries	Companies in almost every industry

Table 3.1: Comparison of characteristics of three advanced manufacturing models, author’s elaboration from [16]

manufacturing systems enhanced with human-like capabilities [14]. Cloud manufacturing is emerging as a manufacturing paradigm that combines most of the development from previous models and attempts to solve most of their drawbacks, attracting experts, scholars, and enterprises. Cloud Manufacturing is promising in transforming today’s manufacturing industry towards service-oriented, highly collaborative, and innovative Manufacturing in the future [10]. Cloud Manufacturing is the result of adopting key enabling technologies (such as Industrial Internet of Things, Cloud Computing, Digital Twins, Big Data) by manufacturing enterprises to share resources and capabilities to enhance their response to market requirements and increase cost effectiveness[15]. The advantages of Cloud Manufacturing make it a new field of research.

In conclusion, the analysis of the state-of-the-art has highlighted three key trends in the evolution of manufacturing systems: (i) reconfigurability; (ii) lowering complexity; (iii) increase the need for autonomy. In addition, from the latest Smart Manufacturing techniques that mimic human-like capabilities, four interesting key factors are commonly presented in manufacturing systems:

- self-configuration: from low level (machine) to high level (plant), the system needs to be able to drastically adapt and change
- self-optimization: automated optimization methods to increase overall utilization

- self-protection: being able to anticipate possible threats and provide counteractions for the short and long term

3.1 Towards a common definition

The concept of Cloud Manufacturing was first proposed by Li Bo-Hu in China [9] and it is defined as a new networked manufacturing model that is able to solve more complex manufacturing problems and perform larger-scale collaborative manufacturing through the introduction of key enabling technologies (such as cloud computing, cloud security, high-performance computing, Internet of things) in a new service-oriented model. In this model, scattered online manufacturing resources are structured in a platform where users can access eligible manufacturing services. While Cloud Manufacturing is a relatively new concept, a variety of definitions are present in the literature from scholars that have modified and enhanced it; a selection is listed below:

- “A customer-centric manufacturing model that exploits on-demand access to a shared collection of diversified and distributed manufacturing resources to form temporary, reconfigurable production lines which enhance efficiency, reduce product lifecycle costs and allow for optimal resource loading in response to variable-demand customer-generated tasking” [17].
- “A model for enabling ubiquitous, convenient, and on-demand network access to a shared pool of configurable manufacturing resources (e.g., manufacturing software tools, manufacturing equipment, and manufacturing capabilities) that can be rapidly provisioned and released with minimal management effort or service provider interactions” [3].
- “A new-generation service-oriented approach to supporting multiple companies to deploy and manage services for manufacturing operations over the Internet” [18].
- “A new networked manufacturing model which aims at achieving low-cost resource sharing and efficient coordination. It transforms all kinds of manufacturing, simulation, and computing resources and abilities into manufacturing services to form a huge manufacturing cloud and distributes them to users on-demand” [2].

Xu [3] expanded the original scope of “online manufacturing resources” from Li Bo-Hu [9] including manufacturing capabilities along with manufacturing resources. In order to access such manufacturing resources, [19] and [11] emphasized the importance of key enabling technologies in the definition of Cloud Manufacturing from ICT (such as Machine Learning, Big Data, 5G) and manufacturing technologies (such as Additive Manufacturing, Intelligent Robots, and Intelligent Manufacturing techniques). From an organizational point of view, an interesting addition to the Cloud Manufacturing definition is brought by Wu

[17] where on-demand services are seen as a trigger to create instant, reconfigurable networks to respond to complex and variable task requirements from the market. Another important addition that widens the definition of Cloud Manufacturing comes from the work of Fisher [20] where the authors, after a detailed comparison of Cloud Manufacturing key characteristics and a deep analysis of the future of manufacturing systems, identify Cloud Manufacturing as a route to Sustainable Manufacturing. Finally, Tao [19] clarified the origin of Cloud Manufacturing. While this is a new service-oriented model, Cloud Manufacturing is an evolution from existing advanced manufacturing models presented in the previous paragraphs (such as agile manufacturing, networked manufacturing, manufacturing grid). In other words, other research on this topic exists but presents slightly different viewpoints. Cloud Manufacturing can promote collaborative design techniques by sharing design information. Cloud Manufacturing, if correctly implemented, can also enhance resource sharing, rapid production of prototypes, and reduce costs. Distributed manufacturing can be developed as a result, although resource autonomy and system governance have not been addressed. Cloud Manufacturing can potentially reduce time-to-market, improve service, and enhance user experience, which advantageously impacts customer co-creation area [21]. While Adamson et al. [22] outlined that Cloud Manufacturing is not always a feasible solution for enterprises, mainly due to lack of competencies for its implementation, Wu et al. [23] identified the key economic benefits required for a comparative study that supports organizations in determining when traditional in-house design and manufacturing versus CBDM is most appropriate. The study explored key factors of a cost-benefit analysis through a cost breakdown and a price comparison with cloud computing pricing plans on different levels (e.g., IaaS, Paas, SaaS). Wu et al. [21], in another study, showed three sectors that could be affected by cloud manufacturing on long and short terms: (i) the engineering and design sector; (ii) the manufacturing sector; and (iii) the marketing and service sector. Explicitly, In the short term, Cloud Manufacturing can offer ubiquitous access to design information, improve efficiency, adequate computing resources for the engineering and design sector, thus producing a collaborative design approach in the long term. In the manufacturing sector, the Cloud Manufacturing environment can potentially improve resource sharing, rapid prototyping, and reduction in costs, hence improving distributed manufacturing in the long term. As for the marketing and service sector, time to market can be reduced, service quality can be improved, and customer needs elicitation can potentially be enhanced. Consequently, cloud manufacturing can possibly provide a customer co-creation environment[24]. Throughout these insights, cloud manufacturing would thus play a significant role in the development and execution of product lifecycle processes, as in cloud manufacturing; product life cycle activities and functions can be supported by virtualized manufacturing resources and the manufacturing capabilities layer allocated within the cloud manufacturing system. Thus, this can allow more users to access these services, delegating the manufacturing enterprises (service provider) to carry out all activities (processes) involved in the entire life cycle of the product and to focus only on their core business and services [19].

3.2 Cloud Manufacturing Architectures

The architecture of Cloud Manufacturing is the system design planning for Cloud Manufacturing implementation and the basis for the development and application of a Cloud Manufacturing actual system; the supporting technologies of Cloud Manufacturing are the foundation for realizing the Cloud Manufacturing architectures and supporting the completion of Cloud Manufacturing business; the phased application status analysis of the Cloud Manufacturing is the reference for finding the problems and deficiencies in the development of Cloud Manufacturing. Therefore, an effective exploration of the current research status in terms of architecture, supporting technologies, application status of Cloud Manufacturing plays a vital role in the innovation of its theory, technology, and application development [25]. Various models are used to describe the architecture of a Cloud Manufacturing platform. The most commonly used is based on a multi-layered architecture with a modular approach from He and Xu [26], where each layer presents a specific role that accomplishes the required functions. In this paragraph, a variety of Cloud Manufacturing architectures are depicted to embrace the similarities and contrast between them and further to be a baseline for the development of this research.

Ding [27] proposed a layered framework of collaborative manufacturing resources shared based on cloud services. The study designs an architecture with three main layers: (i) Cloud service demand layer; (ii) Cloud service center; (iii) Cloud service provider layer. Each layer is composed of more specific sub-layers. The cloud service demand layer is based on the Cloud user interface. Layer (i) is connected to layer (ii) through an application interface. Layer (ii) provides a variety of core services and function and is divided into two sub-layers: (a) Cloud service management, responsible for user management, task management (publication, aggregation, scheduling), service search; (b) Cloud service integration, provides integration and semantic interoperability of a wide range of manufacturing resources through a global and a local service integration model. A Cloud access interface is a gateway that allows multiple manufacturing resources from the Cloud service provider layer (iii) to work with the layer (ii).