



# What we are expecting from this presentation:


**A** We want to inform you on the most important highlights from this topic




**B** We need you to take the time to explore the presentation carefully and with a critical mind




**C** We would like you to write down every comment or idea that emerges while reading this presentation



**D** We exhort you to share with us a constructive feedback for further improvements



**E** We invite you to dialog with us if you have any doubt or want to dive into some specific aspects



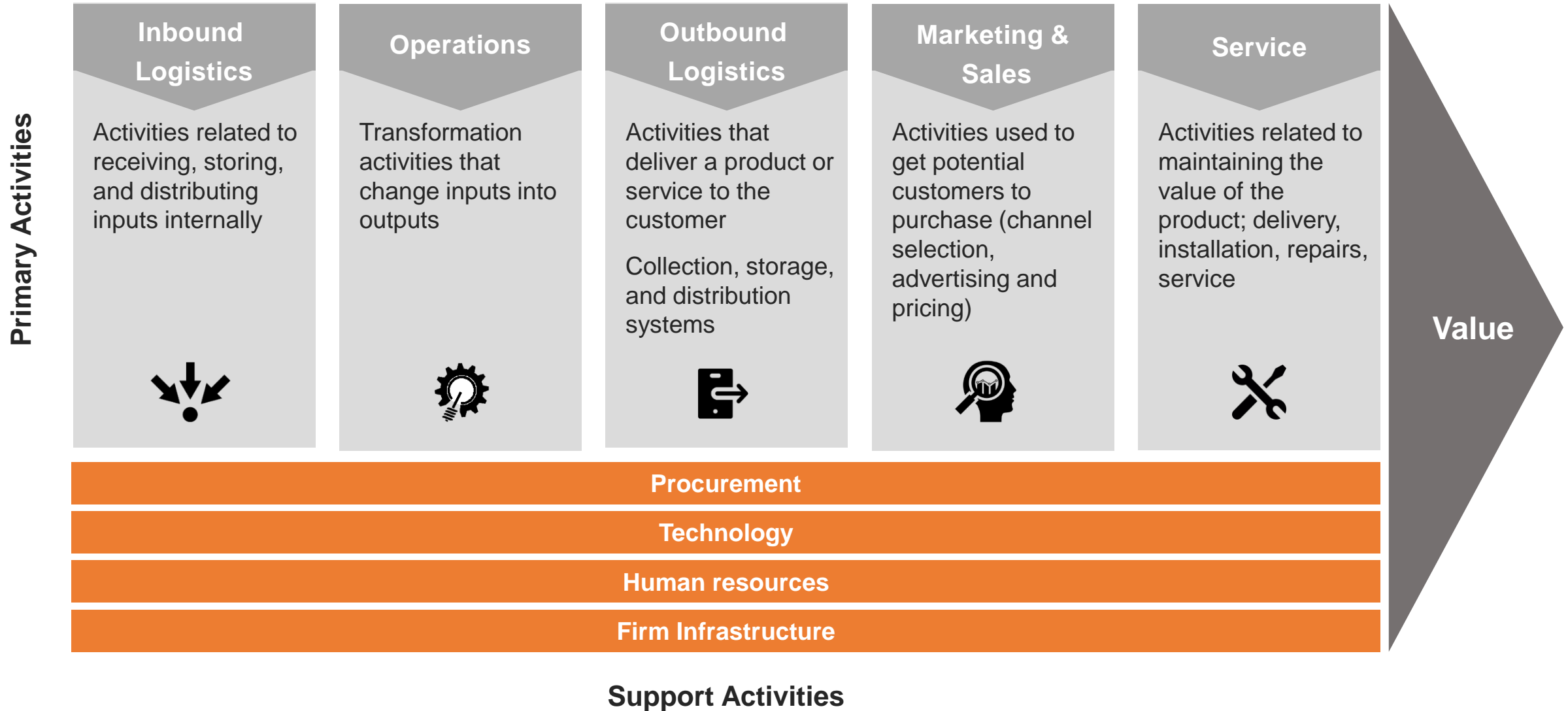
# Flexible Manufacturing



# Content

- What is a Value Chain?
- Flexible Manufacturing
  - Definition and Benefits
  - Factors and technologies
  - Applications
  - Players and Market
- Flexible Manufacturing in the Automotive Industry
- Flexible Manufacturing Challenges
- Takeaways & Main Conclusions

Value Chain refers to the activities performed by a company to add value to a product or service







One of the goals of a Value Chain analysis is to identify areas and activities that will benefit from the use of new technologies in order to improve profitability and efficiency

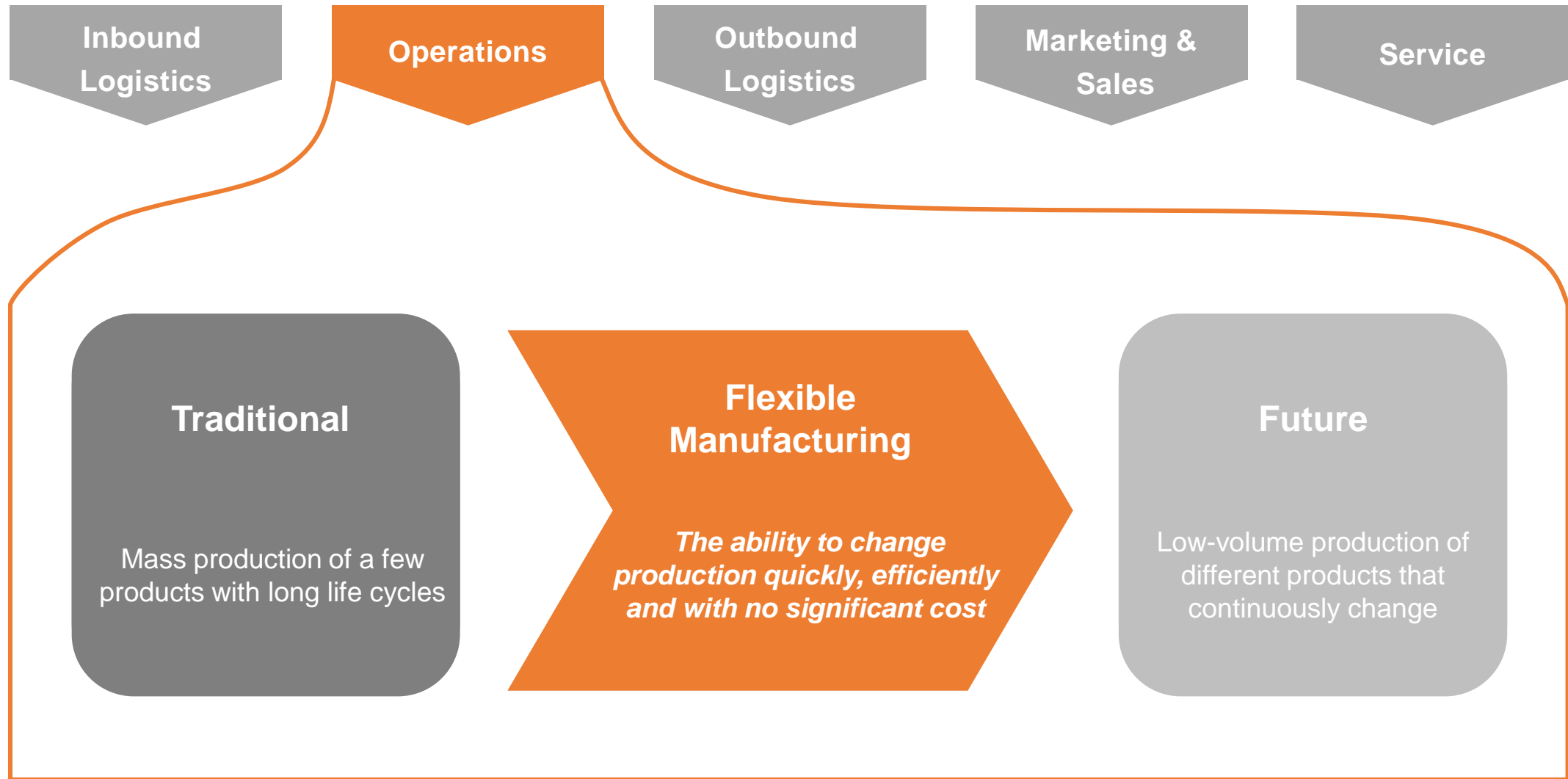
### Why is important to stay ahead in Value Chain trends?

- ✓ **More informed decision making**
- ✓ **Increased productivity**
- ✓ **Access to new technology & innovation**
- ✓ **Efficient times for manufacturers**
- ✓ **Better feedback from consumers and suppliers**
- ✓ **Be prepared for new markets**

### How to improve the Value Chain?

- Have good data and access to solid analytics tools 
- Move processes and information to the cloud 
- Stay current on technology trends that can improve efficiency 
- Logistics electronic tracking 

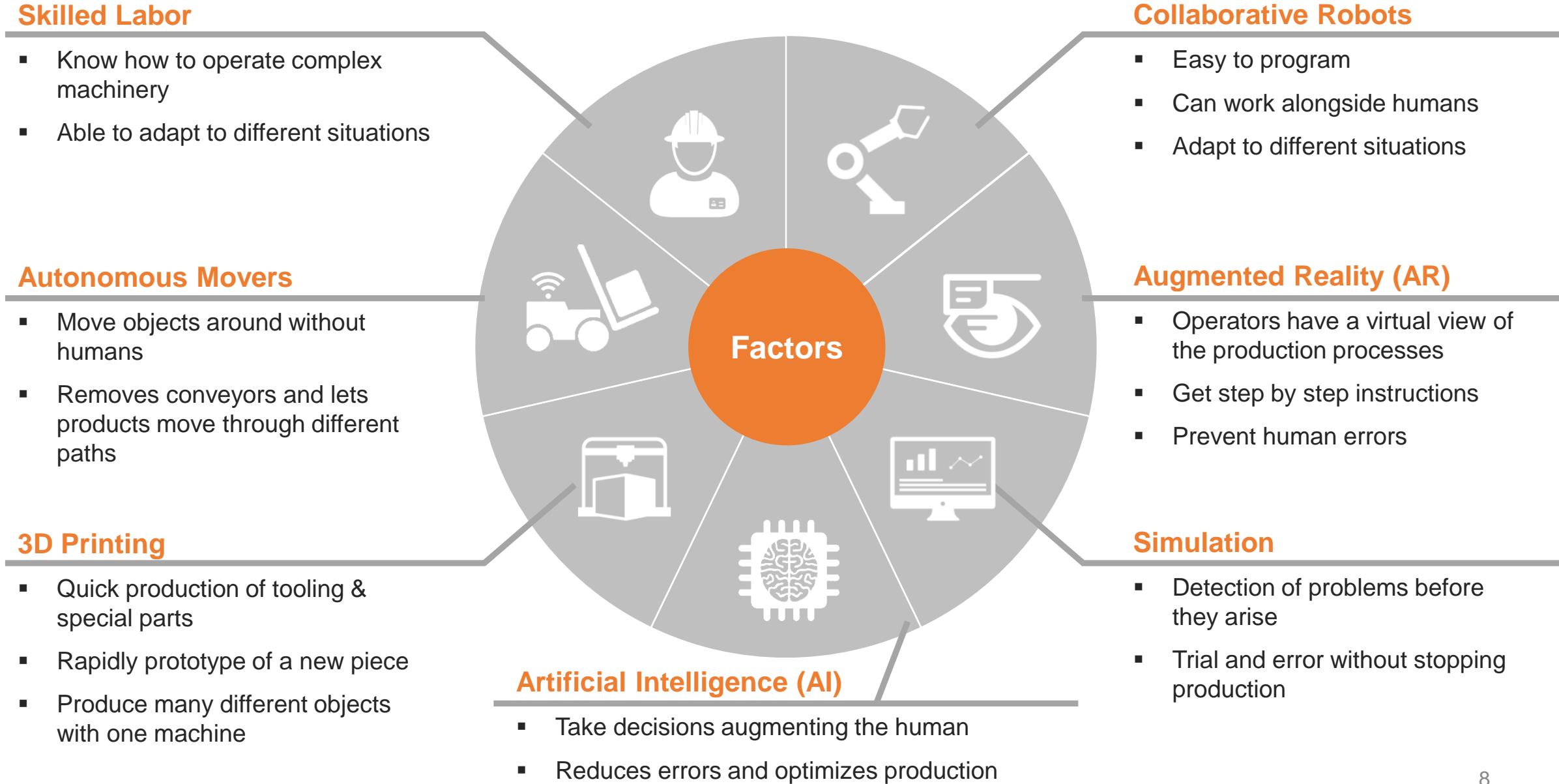
Flexible Manufacturing improves the value chain by closing the gap between the traditional and future needs of its Operations activity



# Flexible Manufacturing will have fundamental impacts on traditional operations; benefiting many players

	<b>Flexible Manufacturing</b>	<b>Main Beneficiary</b>
<b>Market Adaptability</b>	Improvements and modifications to products can be easily and quickly made	Consumers
<b>Lead Time</b>	Using flexible manufacturing, a new product can be made on an existing line, cutting lead times	Consumers
<b>Engineering Changes</b>	Since production is built in a flexible way, changes can occur without much trouble	Employees / Engineers
<b>Inventory</b>	Production can be adjusted to the needed volume, no need to have extra inventory	Company

# Several factors work together to give flexibility to a manufacturing plant

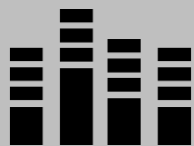




## There are six main applications of flexibility in manufacturing

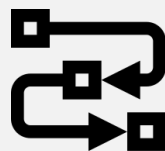
### Volume Flexibility

- Ability to produce significantly different volumes of output at a similar cost



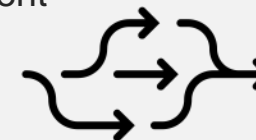
### Process Flexibility

- Capacity to manufacture a given set of product types in a variety of ways
- If an assembly line is faulty, a another one can take over production



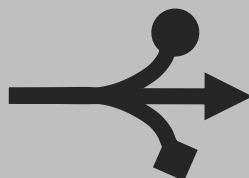
### Routing Flexibility

- Capacity to produce parts on alternate workstations
- Production can keep going in case of breakdown, by bypassing the faulty equipment



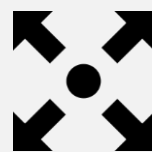
### Product Flexibility

- Ability to produce different products in the same manufacturing line without impacting operational efficiency



### Expansion Flexibility

- The ease with which the system can be expanded
- Factories can easily grow and scale without a big need to redesign



### Machine Flexibility

- The ability for a machine to work on different parts
- A small number of different machines can work with most product. There is no need for single function machines



## We see Volume and Product Flexibility as the starting point into Flexible Manufacturing

### Volume Flexibility

With this type of flexibility you can increase or decrease production without impacting production cost



#### Why use it

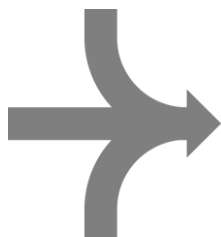
- Adapt to customer demand
- Last minute orders
- Unknown demand

#### How to achieve it

- Robotic line
- Flexible worker schedules
- Multi-skilled labor
- Flexible supply chain

### Product Flexibility

In one assembly line different products can be produced, either concurrently or individually with small change-over times



#### Why use it

- Production of different products
- Customization of products
- Low change-over time
- Lower cost

#### How to achieve it

- Automation
- Adaptable equipment
- Multi-skilled labor
- Plant designed for flexibility

## The future of manufacturing is flexible and the biggest companies know it

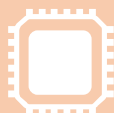
### Automotive



- First industry to implement flexible manufacturing
- Some are centered on producing different products on the same line, while others offer customization to clients



### Consumer Electronics



- Use flexible manufacturing to cut lead times and make product cycles shorter
- This practice gives the ability to quickly adapt to the changing market

**SONY SAMSUNG**



**TOSHIBA**

### Other Companies



- Many other businesses use this practice to cut lead times, produce several products seamlessly in the same line, customizations of parts, small volume runs, etc



**PEPSICO**



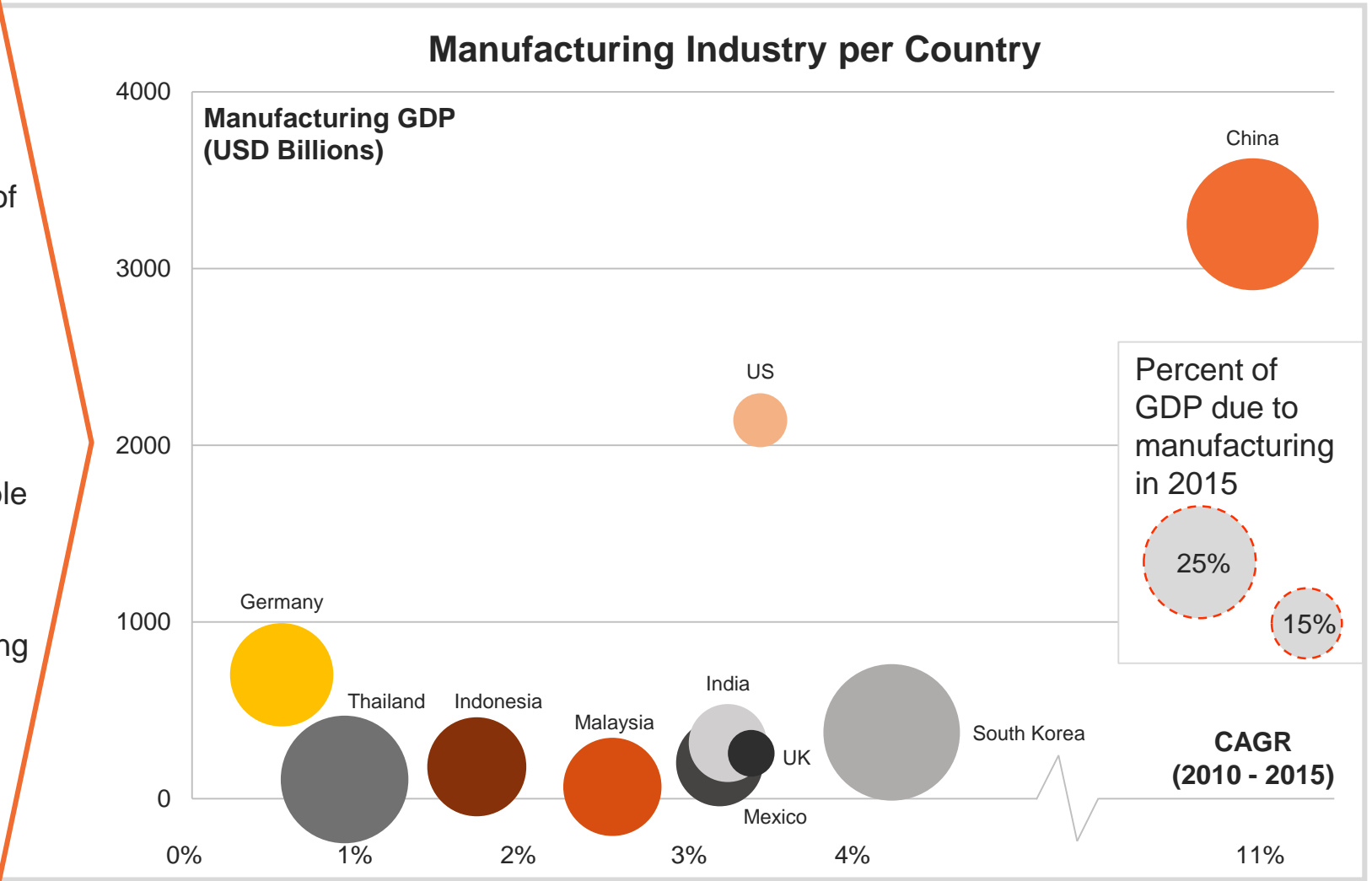
**BOEING**



# Manufacturing is an essential component of GDP and flexible manufacturing is becoming the evolution of this sector

## Manufacturing trends

- The global manufacturing GDP is **\$12.1T USD** with a **3.1% CAGR** (2010-2015) and accounts for **17%** of the global GDP
- About **35%** of the top manufacturers have already implemented flexible manufacturing and that number is expected to grow
- We see a market opportunity in flexible manufacturing of **\$5.7T USD** in 2025
- The US, UK and South Korea are using flexibility to grow and bring manufacturing back to developed countries
- The more a country is able to adapt, the more opportunities it will have



**Note:** It was considered that the flexible manufacturing sector was 35% of the manufacturing market

**Source:** World Bank (2015). Manufacturing

Several established companies and startups are helping manufacturing plants become flexible, either by providing engineering services or enabling automation

### Engineering companies

### Automation Enablers

Established Companies



Industrial, multi-material **3D printers**



**Simulation** software for industry



**Advanced robot** manufacturer



**Autonomous movers** solutions

Startups



**AR** hardware and software for industrial use



**AI** for manufacturing



**AI** based software for robots



**Autonomous movers** producer

# Some manufacturing startups are using technology to become flexible, while others are creating that technology



**Founded:** 2014  
**Headquarters:** Los Angeles  
**Total Funding:** USD \$88M



- Developed a platform for 3D printing of several structural car parts
- Designed and manufactured a supercar in order to prove that their platform works
- Their purpose is to enable small manufacturers to produce a small batch of vehicles
- They print several metal parts and connect them using carbon fiber tubes



**Founded:** 2008  
**Headquarters:** Boston  
**Total Funding:** USD \$150M



- Manufacture collaborative robots, the software and the tools necessary for them to work
- These robots use a computer vision system embedded in them to adapt to different situations
- Their robot training software is easy to use and allows for flexibility and quick deployment
- Rethink Robotics has a system of plug-and-play end effector, giving it more flexibility

# Trends in the auto industry will make flexible manufacturing more important for both OEMs and Tier 1 suppliers

<b>Customization</b>	OEMs will need to be able to customize their vehicles to each drivers demand	
<b>Product Flex</b>	Need to change production from one vehicle to another depending on the market	
<b>Plant Design</b>	Build plants from the ground up and cars around the manufacturing, not a plant around only one model	
<b>Lead Times</b>	Auto manufacturers will cut their lead time in order to more quickly meet customers demands	
<b>Inventory</b>	Instead of buying parts from suppliers in big bulks, OEMs will use many smaller orders that will need to be filled faster	
<b>Collaboration</b>	OEMs and suppliers will work with close collaboration to make the supply chain more efficient	

OEMs and Tier 1 suppliers are both using a combination of technologies and skilled manual labor to implement flexible manufacturing and enhance their production



- Uses Big Data, AI and machine learning to make their assembly lines flexible and adaptable
- The company is using autonomous forklifts to transport product parts from one cell to the other
- They are also using COBOTs along with their employees to increase flexibility
- For complicated manual labor, workers are guided with a screen and checked by computer vision system
- Audi also uses 3D printing for prototypes



- Magna has a special unit that uses flexible manufacturing to make front-end modules (FEM) and fascias
- The FEM consists of up to 50 components and can have up to 15,000 variants depending on customization
- Before assembling a part, workers scan each component to make sure that it goes in that particular variant
- Instead of conveyors, they use an automated guided cart system since they can easily be reconfigured
- The plant is able to reduce production without a significant cost impact



# Flexible manufacturing brings many benefits, but there are some challenges in implementing the system

## High Initial Investment



Changing a whole production line to be flexible means removing many of the current machines and replacing them with newer and flexible ones. This represents a high investment

## Substantial Planning



A flexible manufacturing system needs to be correctly planned in order for it to work properly. The factory needs to be accurately designed so that flexibility can be achieved

## High-Skilled Workers



The flexible machines and robots are more complex than traditional ones. So while fewer workers are needed, those that remain will need to be highly trained to use the new equipment

# Flexible manufacturing brings many opportunities in new ways of production

## Takeaways

- Flexibility will be a key ability in order to compete in the future in many industries
- Flexible manufacturing is great for companies with different kinds of products or uncertain demand
- The automotive market will see a shift towards a more variable and customized demand
- Flexible manufacturing makes production more efficient
- Flexible manufacturing gives a company resilience against problems and opens up new opportunities



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