



Aberdeen *Group*

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## The Business Value of Plant Floor Visibility

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*Empowering Executive Decision Makers*

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— Underwritten, in Part, by —



**Rockwell**  
**Automation**



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enabling people, process, and technology



## Executive Summary

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### Key Business Value Findings

Best in Class manufacturers are driven to improve plant floor data management initiatives by two related yet distinct pressures. In fact, both the desire to improve performance improvement program effectiveness and the desire to improve operational performance visibility motivates the majority of Best in Class manufacturers, *70% in both cases*. These manufacturers have also realized that the best way to address these pressures is with a technology centric approach. Again, the majority of Best in Class manufacturers, *65% and 55% respectively*, are utilizing technology to both automate the collection of plant floor data and then subsequently display relevant data to the appropriate decision makers in a timely manner.

### Implications & Analysis

Aberdeen's analysis of over 150 plant floor data management initiatives has resulted in the correlation of specific business capabilities in the areas of process, organization, knowledge and technology to Best in Class operational performance. Best in Class manufacturers are 15% more likely to be utilizing plant floor data that has been collected from an automated source. This data is 40% more likely to have been collected in real time and 31% more likely to have been integrated with ERP. Best in Class manufacturers, in regards to enterprise organization and knowledge management, are 13% more likely to manage plant floor data initiatives at the corporate level and are 26% more likely to give executive decision makers plant floor visibility. These characteristics of Best in Class business capabilities are the foundation for the following recommendations.

### Recommendations for Action

- Collected data should be integrated with ERP to solidify corporate buy in and ownership of plant floor data management initiatives.
- Utilize an automated visualization and analytics solution to provide plant floor visibility to executive decision makers.
- Utilize an automated plant floor data collection solution to provide real time plant floor data visibility.
- Best in Class manufacturers are four times more likely to be utilizing Manufacturing Intelligence solutions. Manufacturers should adopt this type of solution and utilizing the technology to implement the above three recommendations.

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