



The Future Implications and Impact of Sustainable Production in the Digital Age

Guest Editors:

Dr. Anshuman Khare

Faculty of Business, Athabasca
University, Athabasca, AB,
Canada

Dr. Eduardo Ordonez-Ponce

Faculty of Business, Athabasca
University, Athabasca, AB,
Canada

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Message from the Guest Editors

As manufacturers face the challenge of producing sustainably, large- and small-scale production areas have seen remarkable advances in technology. Digital technologies are allowing for ever-increasing improvements in production effectiveness and efficiency through information feedbacks throughout product lifecycle processes, from design to retirement. For example, the digitization of products allows organizations to check on the status of the product while it is in use, and to suggest corrective actions when necessary. Digital technologies also enhance the consumer experience when the product is in their hands.

Digital has also brought production and services closer, as it is increasingly common to hear of a product as a service; in essence, ownership is giving way to rentership. These include heavy equipment; cloud computing that allows companies to focus on core competencies; on-demand scooters, bikes and cars that provide ready access for urban dwellers to simple forms of transit; or apps streaming media, books, films, and music with no requirements to own in order to enjoy. Even dinner is being provided in a box with all ingredients readied to prepare.





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Prof. Dr. Marc A. Rosen

Faculty of Engineering and
Applied Science, University of
Ontario Institute of Technology,
Oshawa, ON L1G 0C5, Canada

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Sustainability Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
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