

## **BMW, Microsoft To Launch Open Manufacturing Platform To Develop Smart Factory Solutions**

German car giant BMW has teamed up with the US tech giant Microsoft to launch Open Manufacturing Platform (OMP) to support the development of smart factory solutions that will be shared by OMP participants across the automotive and broader manufacturing sectors.

The platform will be built on the Microsoft Azure Industrial IoT cloud platform to provide a reference architecture with open-sourced components based on open industrial standards as well as an open data model.

This deal came shortly after the announcement of Volkswagen and Amazon Web Services partnership to develop the Volkswagen Industrial Cloud that will combine the data of all machines, plants, and systems from all 122 facilities of the Volkswagen Group.

The OMP Advisory Board is expected to be in operation with an initial set of 4-6 partners in place and a minimum of 15 use cases rolled out into select production environments by the end of 2019. Manufacturers and suppliers including companies from outside the automotive industry are also encouraged to join the community.

BMW has already 3,000 machines, robots and autonomous transport systems connected which is built on Microsoft Azure's cloud, IoT and AI capabilities.

The new platform aimed to accelerate future Industrial IoT developments, shorten time to value and drive production efficiencies while addressing common industrial challenges, the companies said in a joint statement.

The announcement comes as companies accelerate spending to incorporate IoT and connectivity. Worldwide spending on IoT is forecast to reach \$745 billion in 2019, up by 15.4% over the \$646 billion spent in 2018, according to the International Data Corporation (IDC).

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