MESA in Ireland

Great attendance and participation today at www.MESA.org Ireland seminar at the impressive www.imr.ie centre in Mullingar, Ireland. MESA (Manufacturing Enterprise Solutions Association) International is a global community of manufacturers, producers, industry leaders, and solution providers who are focused on driving business results from manufacturing information.

At the meeting today there was a nice mix of manufacturers from different sectors, solution providers and consultants. The day kicked off with Tom Murphy from www.mITw.eu giving an introduction to MESA in Ireland and how companies can benefit. This was followed by Andrew Lynch from the IMR discussing the importance of research organisations can play with manufacturers to raise the bar for Ireland Inc. Desmond Savage (MESA Ireland Chair & www.ats-global.com) then gave a peek into the quality of training material available from MESA, such as Manufacturing Maturity Model and applying the ISA95 standard at the factory floor level.

After a lively networking break, Gary Leonard, Group Operations Director www.steripackgroup.com gave a very insightful presentation on how SteriPack set about selecting their MES solution and the importance of minimising customisation. MESA material was used throughout the selection process to help filter down the list of potential vendors and define an implementation strategy. The final discussion was opened to the audience and topics discussed included:

- The jargon associated with Industry 4.0, Smart, Digital Twin… MESA through various working groups is working hard to ‘Demystify’ this jargon, but the pace of change, lack of regulation along with security treats, is daunting!
- How to establish a Roadmap for Smart Manufacturing? WHITE PAPER #53: MESA MOM Capability Maturity Model Version 1.0, was discussed and seen a great starting point to baseline a roadmap approach. How fast companies move along that roadmap will depend on the starting point and what focus is put on the initiative.
- The Business Case for investing in Manufacturing IT. Always seen a major challenge to help sell internally. The importance of qualitative benefits and how MES (for example) is an enabler, was called out and discussed.
- Is the Cloud the future for MESA? Siemens, SAP, AWS, GE, Microsoft are investing heavily and there is momentum into this space. No body too sure how quick it will happen, but the benefits are seen and there was consensus it will happen in time.

The day finished up with a sponsored lunch by www.visionid.ie and a tour of IMR, where we all learnt about the capabilities of Additive Manufacturing, interesting times ahead!

Once collected, the slides from the day will be posted, so watch this thread.

Thanks all for helping organise, host, sponsorship and the great participation, we look forward to the next meeting (remember we are seeking a host, so anyone interesting, we’d be delighted to hear from you).