

Research Study on Industry 4.0 and Open Innovation

Introduction

Industry 4.0¹ is a broad and complex concept, which has implications and challenges not only for engineering but also in several knowledge areas, such as business management. Therefore, this research is focused on analysing the concept of Industry 4.0 under a more strategic and managerial lens. The research objective is to analyze how R&D collaborations contribute to innovation in Brazilian and European industrial firms in the context of Industry 4.0 and digital transformation. To achieve this goal, there is a need to collect data from companies that are already collaborating on R&D to assist or accelerate the development and use of digital solutions.

Research project

The research is being conducted by Ms. Clarissa Rocha from the Pontifical Catholic University of Paraná (PUCPR) in Brazil, under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Carlos Quandt (Graduate Program in Business Administration) and Prof. Dr. Fernando Deschamps (Postgraduate Program in Production and Systems Engineering) both from PUCPR. The research is also being conducted in collaboration with Prof. Dr. Simon Philbin from the Nathu Puri Institute for Engineering and Enterprise at London South Bank University (LSBU) in the UK and as such Clarissa is currently a Visiting Researcher at LSBU for 6 months. The title of the doctoral research project is: ‘Strategies of R&D Collaboration for Organizational Transformation: A Multi-Study between Brazil and UK in the Context of Industry 4.0’.

Research interviews

Clarissa has already carried out interviews with companies from Brazil and has now started to collect data from the UK as part of the comparative study. Consequently, we are investigating suitable companies that would have an interest in taking part in the research. If you are involved in Industry 4.0 or related aspects of digital transformation and collaborative projects, please consider whether you would like to be interviewed as part of this international research project. If you would like to take part in the study, please contact Clarissa Rocha at the email address given below. The interviews can be carried out in-person or remotely (e.g. over Skype). All cases collected and their respective participants are kept as anonymous.

Contact details

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¹ For an introductory summary of Industry 4.0 see: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/bernardmarr/2018/09/02/what-is-industry-4-0-heres-a-super-easy-explanation-for-anyone/#28424109788a>.