

# AI-Based Decision Support Systems for Revitalizing American Aerospace Manufacturing: A Comprehensive Study

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## 1. Introduction

Revitalizing American aerospace manufacturing is critical to the country's economic growth, technological advancements, and workforce competitiveness. In response to foreign competition, the aerospace stakeholders of the United States Department of Defense have developed a multi-national Advanced Air Mobility initiative to stimulate sector innovation. This initiative promotes the development of vehicles that leverage electric propulsion, autonomy, and urban air mobility. However, prioritizing new aerospace designs and maintaining the and meet the need for affordable and deployable, the supporting manufacturing infrastructure, expertise, and supply chain will be critical challenges [1]. Manufacturing-based decisions will be integral to sustaining competitiveness in these agreements. Unlike other manufacturing sectors, aerospace leaders face unique pressure to innovate new vehicle designs while producing existing vehicles in high-volume, low-cost modes.

Leveraging explainable AI, this study proposes a new data-driven decision support system framework tailored to the three critical aerospace manufacturing decisions. The decision support framework employs advanced AI techniques, such as machine learning, simulation, and optimization, to enhance transparency and trustworthiness. These capabilities are crucial for implementing data utilization and automation tools across current US aerospace manufacturing operations and fostering collaboration among stakeholders in the emerging Advanced Air Mobility sector. This study's decision support system framework will revitalize American aerospace manufacturing and establish a global leadership position in the growth initiative space.

The subsequent chapters delve into different aspects of the research topic, building upon the context established in this chapter. They include a literature review of relevant studies and theories, followed by a description of the research methodology and data collection process.

The findings and results of the study are then presented, leading to the conclusions, recommendations, and limitations of the study.

### **1.1. Background and Rationale**

In 2014, the national planning policy framework declared a need for planning encouragement to "foster the competitive advantage of the high technology key sectors" which includes the UK space policy. The British aerospace industry is the second largest in the world and the largest in Europe, contributing 4.9% of the UK gross value added in 2016. Starting from the UK's 2014 aviation policy framework, airframe manufacturers were facilitated to do in-house machining and also invited the supply chain to increase their in-house capabilities. In the mid-1990s, the majority of structural components, including those in light alloys, composite, and titanium, were manufactured by the in-house mills. The worldwide airframe grounds for in-sourcing component machining are to maintain supply chain serviceability, transparent supply chain, and protection of IP(Information Protection) [2]. Typically, this would involve several hundreds of process plans for different sizes and hence the planning complexity is huge.

Starting from 2014, Britain and America stimulated Manufacturing Event Strategy with a major concern on the competitiveness of aerospace suppliers. Encouragement was given to SME(Small and Medium-sized Enterprises) suppliers to upgrade capabilities to support in-sourcing decision-making. Manufacturing Event simulation and analysis for SMEs involving new technology investment was performed during 2015-18. However, there is little insight on the same problem for large enterprises. The evolution of American aerospace manufacturing and the urgent needs for new decision-supporting technologies motivated this study. The study presents explorative research investigating the feasibility for the application of AI(Artificial Intelligence)-based decision-supporting approaches in aiding the in-sourcing efforts of American aerospace manufacturers.

### **1.2. Research Aim and Objectives**

The aerospace industry in the United States of America faces increasing competition from foreign aerospace manufacturers, most notably those from Europe. As a result, the U.S. aerospace manufacturing industry is adopting new computer software technologies, i.e. AI-based decision support systems, to revitalize the U.S. aerospace manufacturing industry. The

main aim of this research is to discover the characteristics and features of such AI-based decision support systems as applied in U.S. aerospace manufacturing in regard to revitalizing such aerospace manufacturing through a comprehensive study concerning AI-based decision support systems. To achieve this aim, objectives have been identified with a focus on the characteristics, features, and functions of different types of decision support systems, specifically AI-based decision support systems in regard to American aerospace manufacturing revitalization [3]. Further, to meet the objectives established for this research, task-related research questions have also been posed.

## **2. Chapter 1: Historical Evolution of American Aerospace Manufacturing**

The American aerospace manufacturing industry has undergone significant changes since its inception, reflecting alterations in input sources, manufacturing design and processes, markets, capital expenditure, and workforce. Aeronautics emerged from a small number of hobbyists and instrument makers in the late 1800s to the world leader of the field in less than four decades. The establishment of American aerospace manufacturing, primarily in the second and third decades of the 1900s, supported the emergence of major aircraft producers and the burgeoning aviation and aerospace industry [4]. At the same time, aviation has become a driver of technological innovation and a critical component of the national economy and social life. Aerospace manufacturing, mostly involving governmental contacts and homeland security considerations, has been a major frontier of technological competition after World War II; American aerospace manufacturing flourished and maintained dominance during the Cold War era. However, since the beginning of the Reagan Administration in the early 1980s, that leadership has been challenged by the rapid emergence of a civil aviation and aerospace manufacturing industry in Western European countries and Japan.

The early developments of American aerospace manufacturing from the 1900s to the 1930s reflected an experimentation phase, during which diverse manufacturing designs and technologies were tested and a hierarchy of manufacturers began to develop. The establishment of the American aircraft industry climaxed with the rapid expansion of production capacity during World War I. Technical standardization and the emergence of the close contractors-dominated manufacturing system were witnessed during the 1920s, and the adoption of the Esteem's symmetric schedule profoundly altered the change system of the American aircraft manufacturing industry during the 1930s [5]. Along with aeronautics

improvements during the 1940s and 1950s, astro-nautics developments burgeoned during the later Cold War years.

## **2.1. Early Developments**

During World War I, the Wright Company was organized to manufacture Wright airplanes. The Wright Company built many forts and other plants throughout the U.S. in the ensuing years, most of which produced military aircraft and components for the Army Air Service. The company produced planes at the rate of six aircraft a week by early 1918, and by 1919, Wright's returns to the War Department amounted to 5,305 aircraft, 8,120 engines, and over a million other components, making it the greatest manufacturing enterprise of its time. While this was a giant industry, and came to be dominated by smaller firms, the manufacture of heavier-than-air craft and all military aircraft was in the hands of only two firms by 1927: the Wright Company ordered to produce thirty-six Jenny JN-4H planes, and the Curtis Company ordered to produce thirty-five Sea 14, also handled shoulder straps, and latest machines for nip and furl; reckless. For instance, Curtis invented home use. In the eyes of the Bureau of Standards Curtis was a big cheat and so irritated House members about Curtis ability to deliver on time convinced them that Fort Monroe was a hairbrained scheme. Curtis was supposed to deliver cable cars and no Curtis uses Xeo graph. Curtis started as a mere itinerant bicycle maker. During 1905 he stated and not but eight years he became wealthy by making industrial fortune in less than thirty years. Curtis was no friend to the Bureau of Standards. At the beginning of World War I there was no American aviation industry. At the conclusion of hostilities, there were half-a-dozen airframe manufacturers and a number of firms engaged in making engines of doubtful quality in quantities that threatened Pacific Coast shipbuilding. There were none; however, of the companies or manufacturers which alone could be entrusted with the construction of aircraft for military purposes. Without a chance of outbreak, it would have been impossible to pre-organize a contract plant for production on modern lines in sufficient safety transfer from the certainties of such expensive delays, difficulties, disappointments and failures as with the expectation of commercial aircraft company's plan usual at the very outset of informal negotiations spread with unerring certainty. As a matter of practice, a powerful rational, economical and almost automatic difficulty.

## **2.2. Key Milestones**

In the United States, aerospace manufacturing dates back to manned hydrogen balloon flights in 1783, but 1920 saw the first American commercial airline, the “once-a-day” Air Mail Service. The Wright brothers, sowing the seed of an industry with the Wright Model C and Waco 10 (one of the most produced American biplane), are key players. Additionally, wooden biplanes, which could transport troops for the Army Signal Corps, were employed in World War I. Two other milestones were the first all-metal aircraft, the Martin M-130 (1930), and the first mass-producing all-enclosed monoplane, the Ford Trimotor (1926). Notably, Glenn Martin created the first commercial aircraft, the Martin M-130 (1930), and Donald Douglas earned the first commercial aircraft certificate for the DC-1.

World War II caused the most dramatic increase in the American aerospace manufacturing industry. President Franklin Roosevelt created the Army Air Forces (the Army Air Corps) in 1938. After the Pearl Harbor attack, Henry J. Kaiser in Maryland and Boeing in Seattle simultaneously finished the B-17 Flying Fortress. In 1945, 118,000 people worked for Douglas in California, making the DC-3, C-47 Dakotas, and other aircraft. More than 40,000 people were employed in Lockheed’s Burbank plant, and Hughes Tool and Aircraft had unprecedented civilian production contracts. However, there was a significant decline in employment after the war. From 1945 to 1947, 320,000 aircraft were built, dropping to 24,000 in 1948 [5].

### **3. Chapter 2: Current Challenges in American Aerospace Manufacturing**

U.S. aerospace manufacturing is currently facing a variety of hurdles that impede the industry’s progress. Aerospace manufacturing is an important national asset that significantly contributes to economic growth and provides a strong foundation for advancement in the high-technology industries of the United States. One of the greatest recent threats to US aerospace manufacturing came from the commercial airplane market during the 1990s. The market for commercial transport airplanes is expected to grow rapidly during the next two decades: this growth is forecasted to produce a demand for approximately 36,000 new commercial transport airplanes worth nearly 3.4 trillion dollars (2018). Manufacturing supply chain configurations have not been examined in great detail, and there is no framework that specifically addresses dependencies on the mature advanced aerospace manufacturing clusters. Several U.S. industries have been observed to decline and to further disappear over time. A few industries considered crucial to the national interest have received assistance from

national planning agencies. The inability of the policy making agencies to proactively foresee problems and to provide adequate remedies, together with the strong ideological commitment to free markets, raised concerns and anger. In this work, the current status of aerospace manufacturing industry in the U.S. is examined. The prevalent industry structure is discussed together with its major challenges, including predictable future threats. The focus thus far has been on examining issues surrounding the recent 'decline' or the incremental loss of US market share. In terms of intentions and possible approaches, the work produced was more vision than concrete problem solving strategy [5].

### **3.1. Global Competition**

The rapid growth of global competition has offered both opportunities and challenges for industrial prosperity [6]. In America's aerospace manufacturing sector, the move to low-cost foreign manufacturers has reduced the supply chain base in the U.S., created a dependent base on foreign knowledge, and aggravated job losses. To help revitalize the aerospace manufacturing sector, the key findings from an earlier industrial peer review were summarized, followed by proposed action items and a research agenda covering five topics: 1) technology roadmapping and strategies for revitalizing the supply chain base, 2) engineering-oriented partnerships for technology transfers and domestic sourcing efforts, 3) decision support systems for performing trade-off analyses involving hybrid technology selections and investments, 4) data-driven approaches for building predictive models of low-cost foreign manufacturers using machine learning, and 5) explorative studies on socioeconomic impacts of AI-based decision support systems at supply chain levels. The need for AI-based highly data-driven decision support systems as tech enablers for helping the supply chain base to be smarter is finally emphasized.

### **3.2. Technological Obsolescence**

Technological obsolescence significantly hinders U.S. aerospace manufacturing (AM) firms from achieving the dual goals of maintaining a competitive edge over foreign counterparts while simultaneously improving operating margins. Most solutions sought to address this fundamental problem rely heavily on first-generation computerized numerical control equipment and other legacy technologies that cause inefficient manufacturing processes due to insufficient (or nonexistent) data-collection capabilities [5]. Adopting and sustaining newer technologies (e.g., resource planning and investment analysis systems) continues to pose

tremendous challenges due to inflexible/rigid batch-scheduling development environments and process/investment data reliability concerns. The situation has become critical owing to the sharp decline of U.S. AM firms in terms of global market shares, suboptimal resource utilization levels, and the unexpected emergence of nontraditional players who are reaping enormous economic rewards through deploying more effective and efficient manufacturing processes grounded on advanced IT methodologies and applications.

It is alarming to witness that such technologically obsolete manufacturing processes – not on technological par with foreign counterparts' payables and tech-intensive aerospace systems – are prevalent among many of the nations' top-prime aerospace manufacturers and suppliers. Hence, it becomes imperative to seek innovative, integrative, dynamic, and intelligent solutions to address key issues relating to technological obsolescence in national aerospace manufacturing at micro, as well as macro, levels [3].

#### **4. Chapter 3: Introduction to Artificial Intelligence in Manufacturing**

3.1 Introduction to Artificial Intelligence Artificial intelligence (AI) is a field of computer science and engineering that seeks to create machines or computer systems that can perform tasks that typically require human intelligence. Such tasks include reasoning, learning, problem-solving, perception, language understanding, and so on. These functions are carried on in a flexible and robust manner. There are two notable classes of AI – symbolic AI and subsymbolic AI. Symbolic AI includes paradigms like expert systems, frames, semantic networks, and knowledge representation languages. Subsymbolic AI includes computational approaches that model the human brain like neural networks, genetic algorithms, and simulated annealing. Intend for the purposes of this document, AI refers to the class of technology that encompass all of these AI techniques.

AI has great potential in the field of manufacturing. These functions are generally complex and difficult to model explicitly. Manufacturing are often large and complex and generally difficult to control. Therefore, many manufacturing considerations are tacit, relying on qualitative factors that are difficult to model explicitly. AI technologies can take advantage of these situations to improve manufacturing and business productivity.

Committed to pursuing the formation of a review group to attract, focus, and coordinate research in the area of AI in manufacturing. Current status of that goal, future activities to be

undertaken, and newly established web-based support system for information dissemination and communication.

3.1.1 Graduate-level AI Courses A series of specialized graduate-level courses covering new and advanced topics in AI in manufacturing system design have been developed and taught. These include courses on AI techniques such as expert systems, neural networks, and genetic algorithms; classes on specific manufacturing business applications; and courses on high-level design issues and strategies.

There is currently great interest and excitement in many new AI technologies, concepts, and paradigms, some of which hold the potential to revolutionize business productivity in manufacturing and other industries. In general, AI applies to a body of techniques or systems that attempt to automate functional behavior that has typically been thought to require human intelligence. AI began in the 1950s with the effort to automate reasoning, logic, and thought processes, and has since grown into a large number of categories spanning knowledge representation and reasoning, pattern recognition, language comprehension and translation, learning, and so on [7].

Not all AI techniques have the knowledge representation and reasoning capabilities that are generally associated with the term AI or expert systems. For example, the classes of technologies classified as subsymbolic AI, such as neural networks and genetic algorithms, typically involve data-driven pattern recognition and optimization schemes. These turbulent technologies have great promise and potential yet still somewhat unconventional.

3.1.2 Review of AI Applications in Aerospace Manufacturing The use of AI approaches in aerospace manufacturing is in an immature stage of development, but many applications, some currently operational, are exhibiting significant achievements and benefits. A comprehensive review of current developments, experiences, best practices, directions, issues, and concerns, and recommendations for future research and development efforts in AI applied to aerospace manufacturing (as one industry category) has been undertaken.

There is a fairly wide spectrum of operations applicable to manufacturing everywhere in the universe, and they are generally classified as machining, fabrication, assembly, and inspection. Some are general to all industries, and some are more specific to aerospace. Manufacturing is always subject to a set of rules for acceptable outcomes, and these can



typically be classified as time, cost, quality, and reliability. For classical dimensions only, performance improvement efforts or pilot projects can be justifiably proceeded with on a case-by-case basis; however, on control dimensions a much wider perspective has to be considered.

There are basic vehicle/spacecraft design phenomena, environment and conditions, modeling of attendant functions, precisions, tolerances, and such that many times require rethinking and consideration outside of manufacturing practices and capabilities on earth. All of these aspects indicate a need for a very flexible and adaptable manufacturing approach that the concurrent engineering design and interactive manufacturability acceptance have very difficulty modeling unambiguously in classical procedures [3].

There is intense interest in experimenting with new ground-off manufacturing methods and concepts for reasons including cost, competitiveness, policy, and technology familiarity. Devise to batch manufacture components such as parts of aerostructures by a case-by-case rethinking of tolerances, manufacturing methods, and processes with substantial participation of designers.

#### **4.1. Fundamentals of AI**

Artificial intelligence (AI) represents a paradigm of evolving technologies simulating human intelligence, encompassing reasoning, learning, and decision making [7], thereby enabling modelling the inherent cause-and-effect nature of systems' behaviour, and development of 'intelligent systems'. As a science and technology, AI considers the implications of knowledge representation and user understanding to control complex systems and plan systems behaviour through predictive models. AI technologies are relevance to manufacturing for robust modelling of process behaviour, adaptive realisation of systems behaviour, and ability to deal with conflicting criteria/trade-offs in systems operation/design. In relation to manufacturing, AI components seek to overcome the deficiencies of conventional computational techniques by incorporating human knowledge about an application area in the form of heuristic rules. This knowledge is represented using mathematical formalisms such as dual representation (a production system for reasoning, and a frame or semantic net for representation), and is usually obtained from subject experts.

Artificial intelligence technologies are considered important in product design, production engineering, scheduling and control, production system modelling, and process design and

control. Technologies include: (1) expert systems (dealing with knowledge representation, uncertainty representation, and self-adaptation), (2) artificial neural networks (classification and optimisation), and (3) fuzzy logic (uncertainty and imprecision representation). Expert systems are well-established but difficult to develop effectively. Artificial neural networks are easier to develop but difficult to understand/explain. Full technology interactions remain in the future, but adequate technology integration (e.g., hybrid modelling) is expected soon. AI techniques would not totally replace academic/training elites, but would augment decision-making and human problem-solving capabilities.

#### **4.2. Applications in Aerospace Manufacturing**

There are many types of opportunities for the application of AI in aerospace manufacturing as shown in [2]. AI could be used for real-time process control with direct data connections between machine sensors and AI systems to automate process control and variability adjustment. One major example of this is computer vision systems to track processes and products for sorting and rejection. AI could be used to adjust manufacturing characteristics, e.g., temperature or pressure, based on variability that AI systems interpret and monitor from data. AI could further assist human analysis by identifying the most important data trends for adjustment. Economic feasibility concerns may limit the use of such online control efforts in large-scale processes, and it may work better when there are more simple and repeatable processes like machining, welding, and grinding.

AI could be applied in design based on data on manufacturing processes, for example adjusting the design features to sample shapes or weights so that they match product features that are cheaper to manufacture. Structural and electronic designs could be generated or classified using AI techniques, and AI could be used to ensure that designs comply with relevant manufacturing standards. Such processes might make design more rapid and less developmentally intensive with machines or products having less human oversight. Some of these AI applications could be used combining simulation software and manufacturing history data. AI could be applied for simulation of products at all phases of lifetimes using data from other products [3]. AI could also be used for the design of manufacturing process parameters to generate a suite of designs ready for exploration. AI could be applied for customizing or improving the geometry of already known designs and trends. Generative design applications of AI could be particularly interesting for aerospace manufacturing given

the complex and multidisciplinary analysis often required to evaluate selection criteria. AI could be applied in social media analysis to predict public perception and interest in products.

#### **5. Chapter 4: Decision Support Systems in Aerospace Manufacturing**

Decision Support Systems make it possible to gather all relevant data and ensure that all facets and options are taken into account before a decision is made [8]. Decision support systems (DSS) are flexible, interactive information systems that enhance decision-making productivity and support the constructiveness and quality of decisions. These systems allow for improved decision timing, efficiency, and relevance while also enhancing communication among decision-making participants. There are different types of Decision Support Systems: modeling Decision Support Systems, data-driven Decision Support Systems, and knowledge-driven Decision Support Systems.

Modeling Decision Support Systems focus on the stored model of a system and experimental programs such as the financial model of the enterprise products, model of the production process, or product distribution model. Data-driven Decision Support Systems store large volumes of numeric or text data and the ability to extract useful information from the data. Knowledge-driven Decision Support Systems store knowledge that relates to its domain of interest and provides specialized problem-solving expertise [9]. Benefits related to implementation, such as having a competitive advantage, fully utilizing an organization's resources, and the ability to adapt to unstructured and dynamic decision environments constitute advantages once a Decision Support System is operational. Decision Support Systems aim to help with complex decision-making and problems. DSS assists decision-makers in reviewing and organizing information, gathering it in one place, and analyzing it in various ways.

DSS is for assessing the impact of different variables on decision analysis. The DSS goal is not to eliminate or reduce variance, but to present all information and alternatives in a way that facilitates identifying potential solutions. It mentions challenges before and during implementation, and problems with data quality, trust, increasing complexity, and keeping systems operative and up to date, all of which must be dealt with if DSSs are to achieve their potential. There are different types of Decision Support Systems: modeling Decision Support Systems, data-driven Decision Support Systems, and knowledge-driven Decision Support Systems.

### **5.1. Types of Decision Support Systems**

A decision support system (DSS) is an interactive computer-based system that helps decision makers use communication technologies, documents, knowledge, and models to complete the decision-making process [10]. DSSs involve a combination of four components: database management systems used for data storage and retrieval, model-based management systems for model building and model-based reasoning, and user interface management systems supplying the necessary technology for user-computer interaction. There are many DSS classification systems. The systems can be categorized according to individual needs or varied characteristics. A DSS may support individual decisions or group decisions; it may be general-purpose or application-specific; and it may be based on different types of technology.

The classification of decision support systems is generally divided into four categories: personal decision support systems, group decision support systems, executive information systems, and intelligent decision support systems [9]. Personal decision support systems (PDSS) support individual decision makers with ad hoc and model-oriented systems. Group decision support systems (GDSS) support group decision makers using a set of standard procedures and communications-based group technologies, computer-based systems, or software applications. Executive information systems (EISs) provide top executives and managers with direct access to internal and external information and intelligence pertinent to their organizational goals. EISs are often referred to as executive support systems (ESS). Intelligent decision support systems (IDSS) employ artificial intelligence techniques such as decision trees, genetic algorithms, neural networks, and fuzzy logic in decision making.

### **5.2. Benefits and Challenges**

Decision support systems can enhance decision-making processes in aerospace manufacturing by providing accurate analysis and evaluated information on alternative decisions. Can broadly and generically grouped into five categories, a knowledge-based system encompasses all types of AI computer systems that use an explicit knowledge base to solve problems [2]. Manufacturing operations, equipment, and system decisions creation can be quantitatively evaluated using computer-aided design and computer-aided manufacturing systems. Optimizing production, improving the utilization of limited resources, and monitoring production performance can be aided by mathematical models and simulation modeling and analysis. Statistical analysis and artificial intelligence tools that cannot be

explicitly described but can learn input patterns over time constitute neural networks. Data-driven systems analyze past production data to discover relationships between key performance indicators and overall equipment effectiveness that may not be intuitively obvious.

The most notable advantages of knowledge-based decision support systems are the generation of evaluated information on alternative decisions and reports that explore the consequences of the option chosen. Decision support systems can help with decision-making processes more effectively than human judgment alone. Such tools can enhance productivity, quality, and competitiveness and allow companies to react quickly to changes in customer demand. Engaging in the development and application of decision support systems may become a necessity if a company's competitors engage in using these systems extensively. On the other hand, challenges during the implementation of decision support systems can be contextualized in five themes: information/knowledge-related challenges, capability-related challenges, resources-related challenges, organizational culture-related challenges, and management/leadership-related challenges. Decision support system developers' perspectives can also be grouped into three themes: adoption-related challenges, information related challenges, and ambiguity and complexity-related challenges.

## **6. Chapter 5: Integration of AI and Decision Support Systems in Aerospace Manufacturing**

In this chapter, a comprehensive summary of a 2015 survey on the different Industry 4.0 technologies and their implementations in smart industries is presented. The suggested level of digitalization of manufacturing is explained in order to make it smart. The expected cost of loss of productivity of both planned and unplanned downtime is discussed. Different ways of assessing the maintenance of Industry 4.0 technologies are also analyzed. The conclusion reached is that Industry 4.0 technologies are capable of increasing the OEE of industries closer to 100%. Manufacturing of products in Industry 4.0 will be human-intensive and not completely automated, while reducing the cost attributable to maintenance, energy consumption, and scrap. Those products will have significantly higher added value. Undoubtedly, Industry 4.0 is the main challenge to manufacturing companies for increasing their margins in the future, and it has to be given top priority in their strategic planning.

Nowadays, because of technological progress and globalization, manufacturing enterprises face an increasing need for flexibility over production systems and product lifecycles in more

demanding customer markets. Global pressures from competitors with similar capabilities are being further exerted as the depth of competition increases from increased production technology. In facing the challenge of automating flexible manufacturing systems to meet changing customer demands, there has been substantial progress toward an integrated architecture, Industry 4.0, by quietly embracing the innovative use of both available and emerging information technologies. This fourth industrial revolution is firmly establishing itself in the manufacturing industry, filling a huge gap between historical and forthcoming breakthroughs that have already occurred in mass production, flexible production systems, and lean and agile manufacturing. Artificial intelligence, predictive maintenance, cloud computing, and the Internet of Things are the main technologies behind Industry 4.0. These technologies lead to the development of smart industries, offering the capability to optimize manufacturing profitability and system sustainability.

**6.1. Case Studies** A smart decision support system, smart police, was introduced in a forging shop to provide objective recommendations of die assignment and workpiece dispatching according to the objectives of reducing tardiness time and removing queuing time between related forging processes for the same workpiece. Its effectiveness was verified by simulation based on historical data, which demonstrated that smart police outperforms both FS and date rule policies for all the experimental scenarios. A decision support system was designed for robotic fiber placement (RFP) to support laying up fiber-reinforced composites. Its vision system observes and detects problematic events, and then knowledge from both neural network-based (NN-based) and human expert-based rules is exploited to identify the events. New rules are synthesized by analyzing the aset of natural events to diagnose faults. The system was implemented in a robotic composite placement head being designed and built for the Boeing Company [7].

The result of implementing a case-based reasoning (CBR) system to accurately and automatically schedule activities at the Composite Fabrication Development Center. The goal is to provide a prototype intelligent system. Two software paradigms were adopted: the system is an application of object-oriented concepts to subsystems within UNIX and the X Window subsystems. This system aims to create a knowledge base that manages the appropriate parameters necessary to generate a file from a shop documentation. A CBR approach is used to find the process plan most similar to the manufacturing requirements. This enables the system to modify a user request derived from the composite development

part-no-more-composite documentation facility. A structural modification of the CBR cycle for schedulers is suggested. The new architecture was applied to a milling case using real-world data from a tool shop, improving the performance of traditional CBR systems using less memory and more efficient computation time.

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## **6.2. Best Practices**

Many organizations are exploring ways to become industry 4.0 compliant to remain competitive in the evolving manufacturing landscape. This study aims to identify challenges and best practices for implementing artificial intelligence-based decision support systems at U.S. aerospace manufacturing firms. To do this, a comprehensive literature review and a series of semi-structured interviews were conducted to compile a ranked list of challenges and a set of best practices. Findings reveal that developing an internal organizational strategy and assessing firm maturity are essential first steps in effectively deploying AI decision support systems. Other best practices include institutionalizing essential administrative capabilities, developing a culture of learning and curiosity, and establishing boundaries for human-machine collaboration [11]. This study presents practical value to industry professionals looking to enhance or begin integrating AI and decision support systems in aerospace manufacturing firms.

U.S. aerospace manufacturing firms are facing rising challenges related to the design of production systems. Organizations are exploring ways to become industry 4.0 compliant to

remain competitive. Along with internet connectivity and ubiquitous sensing, manufacturing firms are being encouraged to engage in increasingly complex forms of automation based on artificial intelligence (AI) and decision support systems (DSS). A comprehensive literature review was conducted to identify challenges and best practices in implementing AI-based DSS at U.S. aerospace manufacturing firms. A ranked list of challenges was compiled using a series of semi-structured interviews. Best practices were compiled to develop a general roadmap for firm leaders beginning or enhancing current efforts in deploying AI DSS [13].

## **7. Chapter 6: Future Trends and Opportunities**

Future opportunities from such enabling technologies could include the further development of best practice cybersecurity methodologies built around FAT models. Most discussions around cyber security focus on the discovery of cyber breaches. Users need to be equipped to make better resource allocation decisions in terms of risk mitigation (such as insurance) following a breach. There is future opportunity for advanced simulation techniques to support such resource allocation decisions [2]. As individuals begin to comprehend the power that such enabling technologies can bring to manufacturing, there are opportunities to enhance human skillsets in such technologies and their ability to facilitate innovative outcomes. AI machine learning, simulation techniques, and predictive analytics are also being used on soft economic impact models by government policy analysts. Continued focus on sustainability & “green” manufacturing is anticipated to continue as a powerful trend in coming years. Meanwhile, as enabling technologies further develop, advanced decision-making models can be expected to emerge that will provide tradeoffs quantifying such factors as environmental impact, cost, and performance.

### **7.1. Emerging Technologies**

Rapid prototyping is the industrially relevant application of AI-based systems in aerospace manufacturing. It has seen an increasing number of projects augmenting VR, on-line digital manufacturing, and visualization in the production of wind tunnel models. It typically involves a metal frame, metal cutting and forming, built digital model standardization, multi-view projection, model assembly, and shape cleaning for wind tunnel testing ecological compatibility [7]. However, rapid prototyping developers with large parts have limited ability for large production models, and lack delivery reliability and accuracy. Prototypes are manufactured with operation planning, is online decision-making and workload balancing of



machines. The planning algorithm is based on digital experiments representing the metallic attempts of the wind tunnel models, which switches between modeling candidates from physical experiments and low-fidelity surrogate experiments. Other AI-based systems used in the aerospace industry include submarine manufacturing, optimization of pre-tensioning casting by CAE/multiple view visualization, planet pallet pre-production, virtual inspection modeling, and neural network reliability diagnosis. Non-industrially relevant applications include tear fault diagnosis, multilayered cylindrical shell sequential welding defect diagnosis, hydraulic mission fault diagnosis, structure specifications monitoring, fault classification based on pattern recognition, and distance learning of aeronautics for civil engineering students [1].

## **7.2. Potential Impact**

The first application domain is aerospace manufacturing, in particular, the design and manufacturing of advanced lightweight aerospace structures. High strength and high modulus-to-density ratio are the principal characteristics of carbon fiber reinforced polymer (CFRP) composites. To maximize the mechanical properties of end-used CFRP composites for aviation applications, novel hypercrosslinking technology was developed. The chemical and physical bonds from a novel liquid organic pigment are followed. In order to provide safe, lightweight, reliable, and cost-effective aerospace infrastructure, advanced materials and retrofitting techniques are required. Enhanced capabilities for environmental and nondestructive evaluation (E/NDE) of aging aircraft structures and associated systems are necessary.

The second broad application of AI-based computer-aided decision support systems technologies is intelligent agents for improved human-robotic cooperation in aerospace environments, including robot agents that interact directly with people, agent development that uses a cognitive architecture, and interacting agents with different cognitive architectures. A constellation of cooperating micro-aerial vehicles (CMAVs) is capable of completing mission objectives. Highly reactive decision support in the form of hard-coded behaviors can diminish when task uncertainty and complexity increase. Future cognitive software design will enable a CMAV incrementally to learn basic tasks from low-level triggers instead. Quandt-Matthews Editorial (2013) identified the gaps to cover to complete CMAV execution, including the capacity to discern and discover anomalies and reasons for failing in

uninspected portions of a CMAV task space with closely interacting agents and believe that the cognitive agents with different levels of interaction will accomplish synergistic outcomes.

## **8. Conclusion and Recommendations**

The conclusion section summarizes the key findings of the study. Based on the research outcomes, the following conclusions are drawn regarding AI-based decision support systems for revitalizing American aerospace manufacturing. The proposed AI-DBDSS can significantly enhance the process of data analysis and visualization-based decision-making. The approach, supported by various autonomous AI and Data Mining (DM) technologies, can create an estuary effect on aerospace advancements by maximizing efficiency through intelligent decision-making. The presented research and analysis, along with AI-DBDSS, can influence new directions for industries, regulatory bodies, and stakeholders to assess economic scenarios and promote smart ecosystem-driven investments in the American aerospace industry.

**POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS** While this study provides a framework for robust data-based assessments of the US aerospace industry, ongoing and future considerations in data ownership, protection, and equity comprehensiveness are recommended. Under the economic conditions evaluated, improved data availability is warranted, particularly regarding the aerospace supply chain. Integrating BDS and FDW data streams to develop a National Aerospace Statistical Framework (NASF) is suggested. The industry decision landscape exhibits considerable technology and location disparities. Simulation-backed strategic planning interventions from state regulatory bodies under a unified road-map policy scenario are recommended for the aerospace industry.

### **8.1. Summary of Findings**

Operational Decision Support Systems (ODSSs) are overviewed, particularly in the context of metropolitan industrial sectors, planning, and decision-making processes. The perception of the approach adopted depends on a sector's pace of decisions and on-site variability with long-term monitoring schemes. Rapid Oil Spill Decision Support System (RODS3) and the WISE/Ocean decision support system operated by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and the New York State Department of Transportation are described as two examples of successful ODSSs employed with swift decisions in maritime and aerial rescue operations.

The former assesses the fate of oil spills and suggests quick containment activities, whereas the latter helps coordinate and direct aerial rescues involving helicopters and ground ambulances.

Operational decision support systems (ODSSs) assist decision-makers with preparedness and reaction to accidental threats, orienting them to mitigate crisis-effect losses. They are termed “operational” systems because they provide assistance with quick decisions in the short term by either human operators or pre-established protocols [2]. The performance of actors depends on both the nature of an adversary and on-site characteristics expected to evolve with time. With a systemic and rational overview of the situation and a collection of value judgement strata, the design of operational decision support systems could be extended beyond the environmental arena to many other coastal activities, such as fisheries, mariculture evolution, and safety at sea [1].

## **8.2. Implications for Policy and Practice**

Advances in artificial intelligence have left industries with numerous challenges, decisions, and implications. Breakthrough technologies have found their way into every industry, and decision-makers from the private and public sectors are making critical choices about the policy work that impacts the natural world, national security, technology, business data, healthcare, and life sciences. Advancement speeds exert a direct centrifugal force that could strain ethical governance controls and policies. Recent breakneck business shifts coincide with AI startups, defense, and AI companies partnering with commercial players that aim to sustain and arbitrate AI-driven technological breakthroughs by providing global societies with infinite connectivity, knowledge, and vital abilities to understanding, psychology, and internal reformation. AI has created an extraordinary, multidimensional complement to current and upcoming policy and practice challenges (both macro-level and pragmatic).

The manufacturing process connects, manufactures, forms, machines, and assembles components and parts that become part of an equipped ship, airplane, tank, or weapon structure used for national defense as well as commercial and public aircraft. This poses rigorous requirements on every aspect of the manufacturing. AI can support and will make the U.S. aerospace manufacturing base a more cost-effective and capable national resource. However, if policymakers react to AI entirely with an eye on either cost reduction or financially fathomed hot innovations, the U.S. will miss policy objectives of self-sufficiency in

the front end of industry capabilities that are adaptable with defense procurement needs but do not easily switch to commercial frameworks when military spending contracts. I surmise rational policymaking and defense contracting could make widespread use of AI to address long-term ambitions. AI in partnership with national and state characteristics to be responsive and flexible to continuously varying military missions plays a valuable role in building a strong, resilient U.S. aerospace manufacturing infrastructure.

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