Thinking beyond digital, in digital transformation projects

Despite references to digitisation and automation, the success of digital transformation projects is largely determined by human factors and the willingness of the users to embrace the technology being implemented.

To ensure the success of Digital Transformation, the associated "4.0 projects" must be led by capable leaders. Widespread and sustainable adoption of the technology can only be achieved if the project lead is able to communicate clearly where the project fits into the vision of the organisation. Further, the project lead must have the resolve to push through any challenges which may occur during the deployment process.

Adoption of the technology being implemented is typically one of the measures of success in a 4.0 project. Sustainable adoption can only be achieved if the end users have confidence in the technology and confidence is closely associated with competence. Workshops are a great way to improve user competence and confidence. Workshops also provide an opportunity for two-way communication between the vendor and the users, ensuring they have understood what is required from them and any implications that there may be on the current process.

Once implemented, the system should not be left to the end-users without review. Often the process of adopting new technologies is continuous in that the technology itself, or the deployment process, generates insights which motivate and direct investment into subsequent technologies. The outcomes of each project should be reviewed and taken into consideration for the next part of the journey. An example of this is an advanced analytics system which highlights blind spots in the data environment and motivates additional investment in sensors for that section of the plant. In this way, digital transformation can be thought of as a continuous process.

It is important to reflect at the end of a 4.0 project to ensure that technical and commercial success criteria have been met. More importantly, however, is acknowledging those who have contributed to the project. Communicating not only technical successes but also the contributions of those involved ensures buy-in for future projects and the continuity of the open-ended digital transformation strategy.

Most importantly, the end-users should be celebrated as they are the unsung heroes of any digital transformation process.

DataProphet helps customers around the world to reduce defects, increase recoveries and improve throughput. Our Expert Execution System (EES) — DataProphet PRESCRIBE, optimizes beneficiation plants through a deep learning artificial intelligence system.

Throughout the planning, deployment, implementation phases, our team work closely with operators and engineers. This ensures the long term, sustainable adoption of our solution. The

workshops which we hold with operators and engineers are an important part of our deployment process, enabling our models to be influenced by domain experts and the end-users.

The insights generated by our teams during the deployment are often used to motivate for changes in processes and equipment. Our results are significant and quantifiable. Through the use of our EES, our clients have generated significant savings and have often chosen to reinvest them into further continuous improvement and innovation projects.

Contact us to learn more about how we can help you make a real difference to your process outcomes.