

BREI AT A GLANCE

Robotics



As workforce issues persist, and competition increases, robotics can play a role as businesses consider how to free up existing employees for more productive roles, as well as seek to increase their output speeds to meet growing customer expectations. As your community's business "pit crew" – could you share information and resources that might help businesses see where the use of robotics could help them? Use your BREI visits to recognize when a business might need some encouragement to think about robotics as part of their operations strategy!

Webinars & Video to Share



Iowa Manufacturing 4.0 Consortium webinar recording: [The Role of Automation and Robotics in Iowa Manufacturing](#)

[CIRAS Industry 4.0 Webinars on Demand](#)

Video:

[Flywheel Supply](#) - LeMars, IA

Cut & Paste Text for Your Next Newsletter



Thinking about robotics in your business?

As Industry 4.0 technologies have made robots less expensive, you may be wondering if adding a robot or cobot could be right for your business. Workforce issues in Iowa may have caused you to be looking more closely at how robots or cobots could free up your existing employees to be productive in the ways that only people can. Activities like picking and placing, welding, and packing can be mundane, tedious and repetitive – sometimes even dangerous. Are there parts of your workflow that sound like this? If so, you might want to consider robots or cobots as a way to free up existing employees. And a bonus - a modern, high tech workplace can be a workforce attractor! Here's a quick article to check out, "[Getting Started with Automation: How to Start Your Journey](#)" from the Association for Advancing Automation.

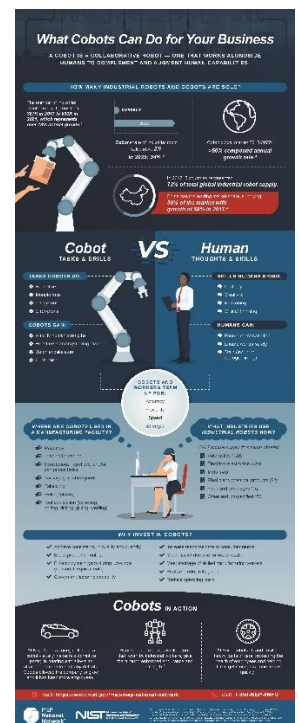
BREI Discussion Starters for Your Visits with Local Businesses



1. Tell me about your workforce, are there any tasks that they do that might be dull, dirty or dangerous?
2. Do you have any production pinch points where automation might speed the process?
3. How do you learn about incorporating robotics in your industry? What are you hoping to incorporate?
4. Some businesses are using robots or cobots because of the tight labor market – How are you training your staff to become robot handlers or programmers?
5. There are resources in Iowa to help businesses assess your processes and suggest robotic solutions. When you think about _____ is this an area you would like or need more information or assistance?

BREI Follow Up:

Share this "[What Cobots Can Do for Your Business](#)" infographic with your businesses. Look for common needs and organize a workshop. Share webinars and resources on your website. Make referrals...



Robotics Referrals to Share

Public sector service providers for your businesses:

- [CIRAS](http://ciras.iastate.edu/ciras_services/automation/) (ciras.iastate.edu/ciras_services/automation/) offers assessments, assistance with cost benefit analysis and integration planning, among other services.
- Download the Quad Cities Manufacturing Innovation Hub [Robotics & Automation](#) playbook to get started.

Iowa Vendors & others:

- [Acieta](#) is an Iowa-based robot systems integrator.
- [Thompson](#) is an Iowa-based technology systems integrator.
- [Universal Robots](#) specializes in cobot solutions in manufacturing.
- [Omron](#) specializes in robotic solutions in manufacturing.
- [FANUC](#) specializes in robotic solutions in manufacturing.
- [ABB](#) specializes in robotic solutions in manufacturing.
- [Epson](#) specializes in robotic solutions in manufacturing.

Disclaimer: This is not meant to be a comprehensive list of service providers

Additional Resources for You or Your Businesses

- ✓ [International Federation of Robotics](#) – offers research and white papers to promote robotics.
- ✓ National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) – Check out the articles and research in [Robotics in Manufacturing](#), or this blog: [A Simple Guide for Manufacturers on When to Choose a Robot](#).
- ✓ [Robotics Tomorrow](#) – an online robotics trade magazine. Offers numerous white papers and other resources for businesses.
- ✓ [Association for Advancing Automation](#) – an automation trade association. Website offers many free informational resources for businesses including an ROI calculator (automate.org)
- ✓ [Robotics Business Review](#) – informative website with articles, “The Robot Report” podcast, blogs and more.
- ✓ [Advanced Robotics for Manufacturing \(ARM\)](#) – supports projects in robotics solutions, operates [RoboticsCareer.org](#), an online resource for finding workforce training and education programs.

Notes about Robotic Applications

If tasks are...	These Robotic Application might help:
Dull or repetitive	Palletizing, Packing/Packaging, Inspection, Machine Tending
Dirty or in unfavorable conditions	Welding, Material Handling, Machine Tending
Dangerous	Material Handling, Machine Tending, Bin Picking
Dependent on accuracy and are repeatable	Assembly, Material Handling, Machine Tending, Palletizing, Packing/Packaging, Welding



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