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The role of SMEs in the next manufacturing revolution

Mr. Peter MARSH
Former Manufacturing Editor
Financial Times
United Kingdom

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Author of the best seller *“The New Industrial Revolution: Consumers, Globalization and the End of Mass Production”*

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Manufacturing globally is going through big changes that offer new opportunities for companies from big to small. There has been a lot of discussion about the potential of advances in digital technology based on 3D printing, the internet of things and intelligent robots. All are important but so are many other elements including non-digital technologies such as materials science, linking physical production with services and tailoring of goods to specific needs through customisation. The businesses and countries that aim to succeed in manufacturing in the next 30 years need to devise a set of strategies that go beyond digital so they can capitalise on the new trends.