

# High-Tech Manufacturing Begins With High-Performance Networking And Security Solutions

Driving Business Goals Through Innovation

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## APJ MANUFACTURERS ARE INNOVATING FOR IMPROVED EFFICIENCY AND RESILIENCE

High-tech manufacturers are leveraging innovation and automation for efficiency gains and growth:

- 66%** said delivering modern resilient operations is an IT priority in the next 12 months.
- 63%** had optimized manufacturing processes with automation and robotics.
- 61%** said edge solutions, IoT applications, and networks were essential to driving innovation.
- 42%** had increased IT security operation efficiency from next-generation security solutions.
- 41%** of mid-market firms said bridging the IT/OT gap was an IT priority (vs. APJ: 55%).\*

## EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES EMPOWER MANUFACTURERS TO DELIVER

Manufacturers are set to invest in them to deliver at scale, efficiently, and securely. In the next 24 months:

**38%**  
plan to invest in **cloud-managed networking.**

**73%**  
said **secure, fast, comprehensive Wi-Fi coverage and network access** will help achieve business goals.

**50%**  
of manufacturers are expanding, upgrading, or planning to invest in **Zero Trust Edge solutions.**





**39%**  
plan to invest in **IoT security.**

## KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Manufacturing leaders need to act now to forge a path with high-performance networking and security solutions.

- » Harness emerging technologies to drive efficiency and scalability.
- » Invest in Zero Trust technology and best practices to secure the benefits of automation and AI.
- » Place employees at the heart of smart factories and encourage shared responsibility.

## DATA PRIVACY AND SECURITY IS NOW PARAMOUNT

-  **52%** considered data privacy and security amongst their top 5 networking challenges.
-  **48%** said the lack of cybersecurity features in legacy IoT devices is one of their top 5 challenges.
-  **18%** said overcoming the IT/OT divide is amongst their top 2 networking challenges.
-  **52%** of mid-market firms ranked cross-functional collaboration a key networking challenge.

Base: 272 business and IT decision-makers from the high-tech manufacturing industry in APJ  
\*Base: 111 business and IT decision-makers from the mid-market high-tech manufacturing industry in APJ.  
Source: "The Path To Smart Manufacturing Begins With High-Performance Networking Solutions," a commissioned study conducted by Forrester Consulting, January 2022

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