


Similarly, the addition of more third-party vendors and contractors introduces supply chain risks, including vulnerable software updates—sometimes unintentional vulnerabilities, but sometimes intentional ones coming from countries with ties to malicious actors. This might allow attackers to exploit those vulnerabilities once an attack occurs, something we may see increase in

2023. Scanning for vulnerabilities and applying patches is essential before applying software updates or using potentially vulnerable removable media.


Likewise, internal teams use laptops, power system simulators, and other transient cyber-assets to monitor, manage, and diagnose issues on the ICS, but these assets may be infected with malware and cause widespread infection or

stolen to make unauthorized and unwelcome changes to the ICS. Without visibility into OT assets, cybersecurity teams in ICS/OT environments have difficulty planning out a security system that meets the unique needs of the manufacturing industry. With that in mind, we predict OT security teams will heavily invest in OT-asset visibility and management in the coming year. 

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## Find your hidden plant in the new year

By **Andreas Eschbach**, CEO at Shiftconnector

 Manufacturing has been experiencing an upheaval over the last few years. With the lingering effects of the pandemic and the war in Ukraine upending supply chains, sourcing has become a major challenge for chemical and process manufacturers.

A key to the strategic solution will be to ‘find the hidden plant’ within a company’s global manufacturing operations—identifying those processes that represent the untapped efficiencies of each plant and to make the most of capacity and productivity as

sourcing needs change throughout the year. With fuel and other costs rising worldwide, some manufacturers will opt to move elements of their global operations back to the United States.

Having the right data from all sources to make optimal decisions represents a significant competitive advantage. Incorporating software and agile processes as part of a digital-transformation strategy will pinpoint those production assets that are under-performing, identify recurring costs that can be lowered,

and find safer ways of performing a plant process.

A collaborative people-centered approach to digital transformation takes this one step further by providing a central digitized knowledge bank for all levels of plant personnel to access. This can spark inventive ideas that lead to improved efficiencies or cost-saving ideas and set them in motion—truly leading to resilience with a united manufacturing team. 