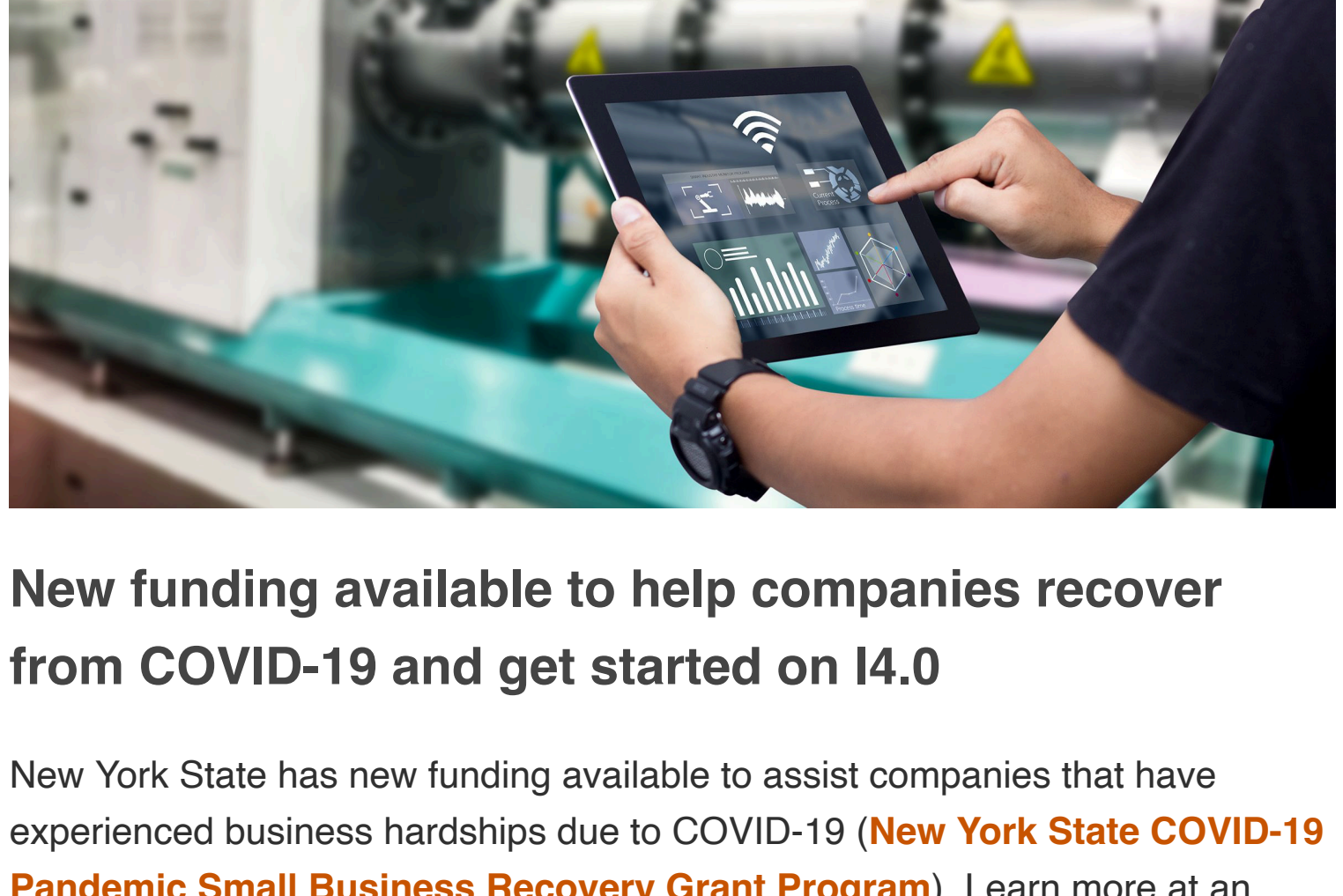


In this Industry 4.0 edition: Funding to help manufacturers implement Industry 4.0, small businesses tell how they got started in Industry 4.0 implementation, how to maximize workplace productivity and efficiency, and more!

What is Industry 4.0?

Industry 4.0 (I4.0) is a new vision for the extensive use of digital data and tools to streamline manufacturing processes and decision-making. The adoption of I4.0 technologies—like the Internet of Things (IoT), robotics, big data analytics, and machine learning—can help improve manufacturing quality, increase operational efficiencies, and reduce lead times, to name only a few benefits. **Learn more about I4.0 and find resources to help you put it to work in this issue.**

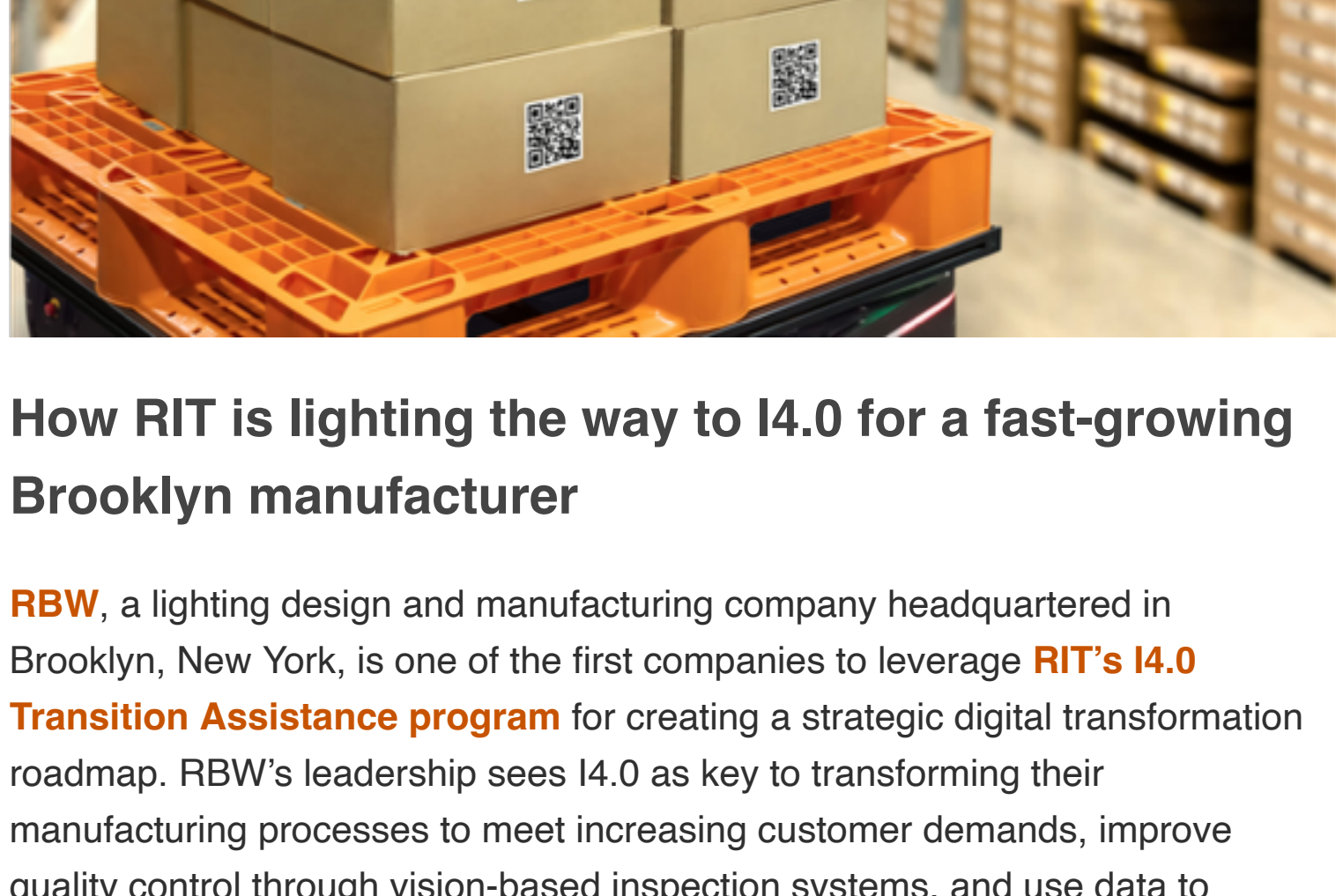


New funding available to help companies recover from COVID-19 and get started on I4.0

New York State has new funding available to assist companies that have experienced business hardships due to COVID-19 (**New York State COVID-19 Pandemic Small Business Recovery Grant Program**). Learn more at an upcoming informational webinar on Dec. 13 at 1 p.m.—**register here**.

The Center of Excellence in Advanced and Sustainable Manufacturing (COE-ASM) was recently awarded \$1.1 million by the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) to accelerate RIT's I4.0 Transition Program within two Upstate New York regions, the Finger Lakes and Central New York. Partnering with **NextCorps, Train, Develop, Optimize (TDO)**, and the **Rochester Technology and Manufacturing Association (RTMA)**, the program provides funding to assist small and medium-sized manufacturers (SMMs) in advancing their I4.0 literacy, assessing opportunities, and implementing new technologies. This funding was allocated through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). In addition to this program, COE-ASM offers other I4.0 assistance opportunities for companies across New York State.

[Learn More](#)



How RIT is lighting the way to I4.0 for a fast-growing Brooklyn manufacturer

RBW, a lighting design and manufacturing company headquartered in Brooklyn, New York, is one of the first companies to leverage **RIT's I4.0 Transition Assistance program** for creating a strategic digital transformation roadmap. RBW's leadership sees I4.0 as key to transforming their manufacturing processes to meet increasing customer demands, improve quality control through vision-based inspection systems, and use data to support more informed, quicker decision-making.

[Read More](#)

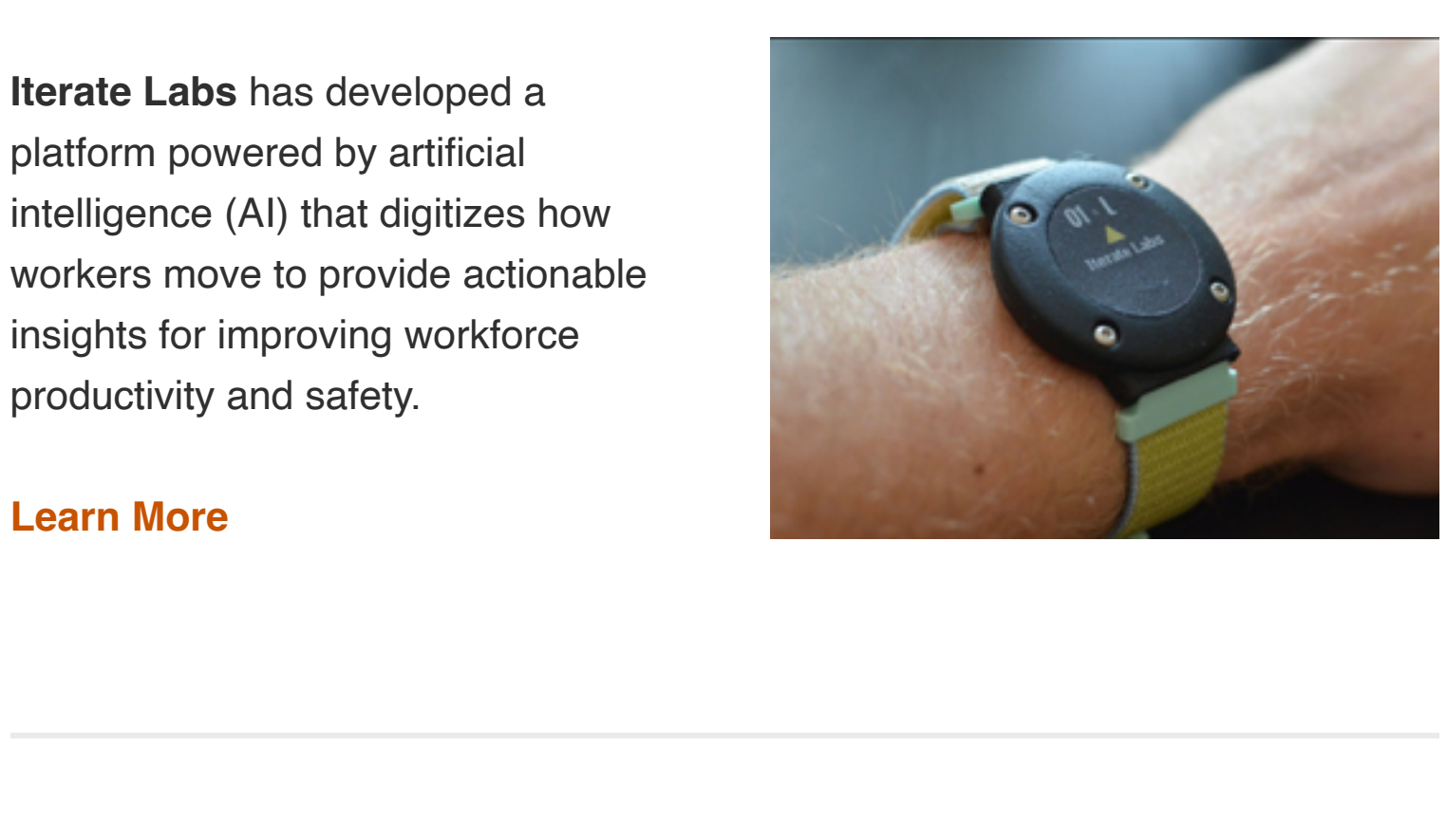


How one small manufacturer adapts to I4.0

The adoption of I4.0 is uneven. Large-scale manufacturers are far ahead of SMMs when it comes to the implementation of even the most basic I4.0 technologies.

OptiPro Systems, LLC, a small business with about 100 employees in Ontario, New York, is an exception. One strategy that OptiPro has employed to move forward on I4.0 as a small business is collaboration. Since its beginnings in the 1990s, the company has taken advantage of funding and research partnership opportunities offered by government agencies and research universities.

[Read More](#)



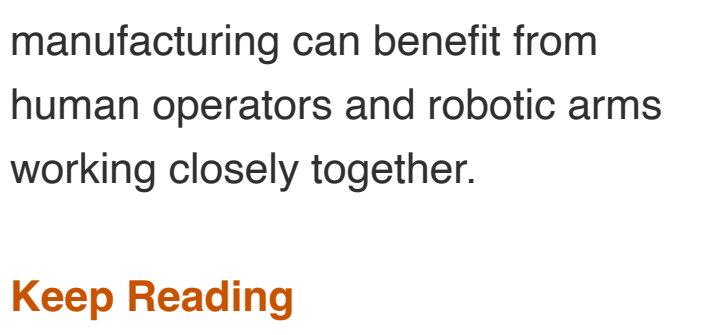
These innovative start-ups can help you with digitization



QTH 54's software product, Machine Document, aims at a perennial source of frustration: missing technical documentation. The software collects critical machine and equipment documentation, including service instructions and support bulletins, in one easy-to-access digital system.

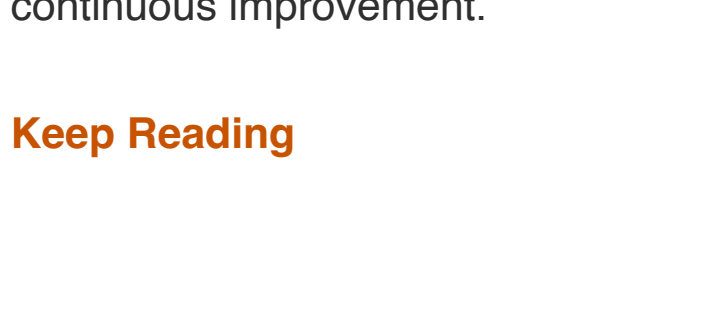
[Learn More](#)

Iterate Labs has developed a platform powered by artificial intelligence (AI) that digitizes how workers move to provide actionable insights for improving workforce productivity and safety.



[Learn More](#)

What we're reading



Making Sense of the New Cobot Era

Collaborative robots—known as “cobots”—are designed to address the growing need for flexibility and collaboration in areas where manufacturing can benefit from human operators and robotic arms working closely together.

[Keep Reading](#)

Future of Manufacturing: Lean 4.0



I4.0 provides technologies that can significantly enhance the speed, effectiveness, and persistence of lean implementations and continuous improvement.

[Keep Reading](#)

You might also be interested in...

Industry 4.0: How To Make It Work for Your Business

Pre-recorded webinar

Digital Manufacturing 101: Choosing an ERP Platform

Article