

**NEW Manufacturing Alliance
INDUSTRY 4.0 TASK FORCE**

January 22, 2026

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Teams

Minutes

ATTENDEES: **Scott Janssen**-James Imaging Systems, **Brooke Albrecht**-James Imaging Systems, **Eddie Bauer**-Kaysun, **Tom Benzshawel**-Hatco Corp., **Jeff Blackman**-SGA, **Michael Combs**-QComp Technologies, **Kevin Endres**-Bright Ops Labs, **Ann Franz**-NEWMA, **Melissa Gregory**-Automation Bird Dog, **Joshua Guay**-Wisconsin Aluminum Foundry, **Nick Heiting**-Trilliant Foods, **John Katers**-UWGB, **Amy Kox**-NWTC, **Beth Kneisler**-VPI, **Joe LaChapell**-M2 Technology, **Ryan Lindeman**-Crescent Electric **Michael Mapes**-Tanduo, **Tyler Perry**- Bright Ops Labs, **Mike Race**-NWTC, **Erik Rasmussen**-Rockwell Automation, **Jon Stopple**-Control System Integrators, **Nick Rolf**-Guardian Business Solutions, **Michael Schulze**-Rockwell Automation, **James Woods**- Bright Ops Labs

Topic 1: Review 2025 taskforce initiatives

The taskforce had several educational speakers on topics such as continuous improvement, AI, digitizing the shop floor, UWO Engineering and cybersecurity. NEWMA had 284 member employees enrolled in the data analytics training, 112 member employees in project management training and 178 member employees in AI over the past year.

Topic 2: Discuss taskforce work for 2026

The focus of the taskforce will be on educational programming and use case studies. Plus the taskforce in fall will need to update the Industry 4.0 study that will be administered in 2027.

Topic 3: Building an IT foundation for industry 4.0 with Bowdark Consulting

See PPT attachment in email.

Topic 4: AI Use Case presented by Jeff Blackman with SGA, Inc.

See PPT attachment in email.

Topic 5: Agenda for next meeting – April 23, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. location tbd.