



~Thank you Henry Ford for teaching us all how to "grok the muda" - putting America in the lead of worldwide manufacturing.

In 1903 Ford put the United States in the lead of the manufacturing landscape with the assembly line. According to the 2016 Global Manufacturing Competitiveness Index, by 2020 the U.S. will once again become the most competitive manufacturing economy in the world.

The ability to "grok", or understand so thoroughly that the observer becomes a part of the observed, to thoroughly understand all forms of waste or "muda". This relentless pursuit of eliminating waste in all forms, is what propelled Ford's phenomenal growth.

US manufacturing will achieve this by going through another historic shift led by changing consumer demands which are challenging the status quo and leading to revolutionary new ways to think about production. According to the New Equipment Digest, **these are the terms you must know to remain competitive:**

- **On-demand manufacturing** - customized short-run production that is agile and can adapt to change quickly
- **The IIOT, the industrial internet of things** - using advanced technologies to digitize manufacturing, more closely aligning the relationship between humans and their machines
- **Distributed manufacturing** - decentralized manufacturing utilizing a network of resources and equipment to gain maximum versatility and efficiency in the production process

As we take the day to celebrate all of our successes, there is something **we can all do to keep American manufacturing strong...buy American.** It's a simple choice that is worth it in the long run.



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