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European Research Projects Join Forces to Advance Resilient Manufacturing as a Service

MAASive, ACCURATE, M4ESTRO and NARRATE highlight how interoperable manufacturing systems, sovereign data spaces and Artificial Intelligence can transform European industrial value chains.

Four Horizon Europe research and innovation projects—MAASive, ACCURATE, M4ESTRO and NARRATE—joined forces at the European Big Data Value Forum (EBDVF 2026) to explore how Manufacturing as a Service (MaaS) can strengthen industrial competitiveness, adaptability and supply-chain resilience.

The projects contributed to the session “Manufacturing as a Service and the DATA/AI Backbone Challenge”, sponsored by MAASive and co-hosted with ACCURATE, M4ESTRO and NARRATE under the Made in Europe partnership. Sergio Gusmeroli and Davide Dalle Carbonare from the BDVA Smart Manufacturing Industry Working Group moderated the session.

Unlocking Europe’s manufacturing potential

European manufacturing faces pressure to respond rapidly to supply-chain disruptions and changing production requirements, while capacity remains underutilised in parts of industrial networks. MaaS offers an alternative: transforming production capabilities into accessible services that can be discovered, shared and coordinated across organisational boundaries.

The four projects presented complementary approaches to three connected challenges: making manufacturing capabilities discoverable, enabling secure data collaboration and supporting informed operational decisions.

Four projects, complementary solutions

MAASive — Connecting manufacturing capabilities. MAASive presented common process classifications and machine-capability descriptions that support rapid matchmaking. Its optimisation tools can identify alternative resources and production routes when disruptions occur.

ACCURATE — Enabling intelligent and trusted manufacturing decisions. Valeria Borodin from IMT Atlantique described how ACCURATE applies Manufacturing-as-a-Service to connect individual supply chains into broader collaborative networks. She highlighted how transforming manufacturing capabilities into accessible services, supported by multilevel digital twins and human-centered decision support, helps companies coordinate resources, assess disruption impacts, and explore recovery strategies. Thomas Komenda from deltaDAO presented the Pontus-X ecosystem, which supports sovereign data sharing using Gaia-X principles, self-sovereign identities and Compute-to-Data.

M4ESTRO — Improving supply-chain visibility and transparency. Andrea Villa from Cefriel presented an approach combining digital-thread technologies, controlled data exchange and scenario analysis. These capabilities help manufacturers assess alternatives against cost, lead time, resilience and environmental sustainability.

Funded by the European Union

NARRATE — Supporting proactive supply-chain management through AI. Jesús Ávila Molina from Nunsys presented the Intelligent Manufacturing Custodian, which connects analytical tools, IoT sensors and event-processing systems to identify risks and propose mitigation options. Recommendations remain explainable, with operational decisions under human control.

Three foundations for industrial resilience

- Interoperability and standardisation: common ontologies and capability descriptions improve the discovery and coordination of production resources.
- Trusted and sovereign data spaces: decentralised architectures enable collaboration while protecting commercial information and intellectual property.
- Intelligent, human-centred decision support: Digital Twins, optimisation and Agentic AI help manufacturers anticipate disruptions and assess alternatives.

From innovation to industrial adoption

The discussion highlighted the need for trusted governance, clear service responsibilities, sufficient participation by providers and users, and affordable onboarding for SMEs. Open and interoperable approaches can help reduce dependence on proprietary platforms and widen participation in European manufacturing networks.

Together, MAASive, ACCURATE, M4ESTRO and NARRATE show how complementary European research can establish a foundation for more connected, resilient and collaborative manufacturing ecosystems. Looking towards 2040, these approaches offer a pathway to improved resource utilisation and stronger collective responses to disruption.

About the participating projects

MAASive develops manufacturing-capability descriptions, resource matchmaking and supply-chain reconfiguration. ACCURATE advances Digital Twins, trusted data spaces and decision support for resilient MaaS value chains. M4ESTRO develops solutions for industrial interoperability, supply-chain visibility and scenario analysis. NARRATE explores Agentic AI and analytics for proactive disruption management.

Find out more about the projects:

ACCURATE project website: https://accurateproject.eu/

MAASive project website: https://www.maasive.eu/

M4ESTRO project website: https://www.m4estro-project.eu/

NARRATE project website: https://project-narrate.eu/

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