Computer models (digital twins) of existing equipment can be used to optimise what you already do, and models/twins of new equipment can be used to optimise and integrate them into new processes.

Although different pieces of equipment often use their own monitoring and control systems, it is now possible to simulate the entire factory by connecting digital twins to create one accurate view - optimising the whole factory.

Making sure components and sub-assemblies arrive to schedule, makes for less clutter and the need for less working capital. The digital representation of a supply-chain is large and complex but it is possible to optimise it at the systems level or at the individual process level.

Using digital technology to see what happens to your products gives you information on how customers use products, what they do that works and when things go wrong. All this information can be used to manage preventative maintenance programmes and be fed back into design.

If you are measuring everything from raw materials to how your products are recycled or disposed of, you can effectively produce a digital twin of the whole business process - and then use the same tools to see if your current business model is the most effective.