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THE FUTURE OF THE WORKPLACE

Organisations need to plan for a flexible, collaborative workforce

In the real world, evolution at work is rarely simple. A change in hierarchy or a new administrative system can force a team to spend months adapting. But what if your company decides to operate without physical headquarters, or implements a policy of working from home, or swaps desktop computers for augmented reality headsets?

Companies can prepare their infrastructure for the future, and many are already building drone landing-pads on rooftops and equipping every meeting room with collaborative smartboards.

But integral to all these changes ultimately being positive, are the people and teams that implement them. Siemens' FutureMakers initiative highlights just that. Among the 380,000 staff are mathematicians using artificial intelligence to detect cancer faster, engineers helping entire cities adapt to changing energy demands, and architects designing our future networks and interactions. Beyond the new hardware, collaborative tech tools and AI assistants, there is one theme that binds anyone working in this sphere: flexibility. And not just for clients – customer-centricity is a necessity in a competitive environment – but for employees. Jobs, working hours, working locations – anything that impacts the employee can be flexible and adaptable. Given a happy employee works 12 per cent harder, according to economists at the University of Warwick, this is not surprising.

Here are three of Siemens' FutureMakers syncing people and technologies to make change work.



Aleshia Eckard, who is designing people-led spaces