# Manufacturing and Innovation: The GE Perspective

Stephan Biller April 4, 2013



























Cornerstone of GE's commitment to technology

### **GE Global Research**

#### Market-focused R&D



**Global Research Center** Niskayuna, NY



**India Technology Center** Bangalore, India



China Technology Center Shanghai, China



**Global Research Europe**Munich, Germany



Advanced Manufacturing & Software Technology Center Ann Arbor, MI



**Global Software Center** Silicon Valley, CA



**Brazil Technology Center** Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

- ~2,200 scientists/engineers, nearly two-thirds PhDs.
- 3,522 US patents filed by GE in 2012
- One of the world's most diversified industrial research organizations, providing innovative technology for all of GE's businesses



Cornerstone of innovation for GE

## A tradition of innovation























1879 Carbon Filament Incandescent Electric Lamp

1895 World's Largest Locomotive

1920 Portable X-Ray Machine

1921 The Magnetron

1941 Entering the Jet Age

1998 CT Scanner

2002 Lightspeed™ Wind Power

2003 **Evolution®** Locomotive

2009 Vscan™

2010 2012 WattStation™ Durathon™ **Battery** 



### Global environment

Materials ... rising costs & supply constraints

Production ... overcapacity in most industries

Labor ... increasing costs in the developing world



Product development ... shorter cycle times, more price points





Must innovate differently

## Rethinking Industrial R&D

#### Old

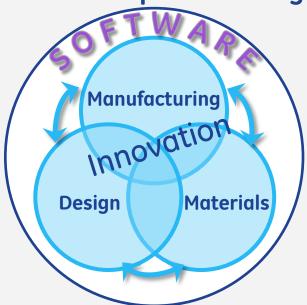
Design dictates materials and manufacturing selection

Design innovation Materials selection Manufacturing & supply chain planning

- Mostly sequential process
- Few interactions
- Limits design options

#### New

Manufacturing and materials differentiate product design



- Non-sequential process
- Creates interactions
- New degrees of freedom



# Infusing technology into manufacturing



Carbon Fiber Composites



**Novel Casting Technology** 



**Hybrid Laser Welding** 



Microwave Brazing



**Nano Spray Coatings** 



**Printable Diodes** 

2x-7x decrease in material 30-50% increase in yield

#### **Growing Trends / Recent Focus Areas:**

- Additive Manufacturing
  - Smart Manufacturing





## Billet vs. Additive Manufacturing

#### Conventional







## Start with a pre-formed billet, which gets formed and machined.

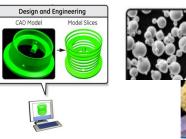
Material properties unchanged and cannot be location specific

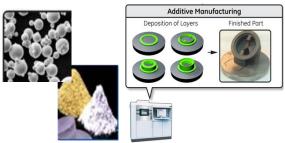
Limited to known set of geometries

Design constrained by manufacturing

Requires extensive tooling

#### **Additive**





Start with a powder or wire and produce part layer upon layer upon layer.

Build material properties as part is built ... location specific

More complex geometries possible

Allows for faster iterations between design, materials and manufacturing

Minimal tooling required



Material properties created during manufacturing

→ Ability to tailor by location

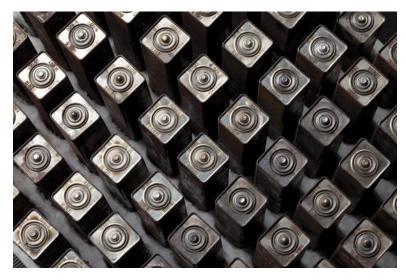
Inventing new technology

**Advanced Batteries** 

Disruptive technology for Transportation ... rail, marine, road, mining

Growth opportunity for telecommunications, uninterruptible power supplies, smart grid

Novel chemistry and materials creating a \$1B business







## **Durathon Battery Plant**

- 10,000+ sensors measure temperature, humidity, air pressure and machine operating data.
- The swipe of a finger can prevent machine malfunctions and adjust processes.

The result? Continuously improving efficiency & quality at speed like never before.







# Supply Chain Execution Durathon Battery Plant

Battery performance can....





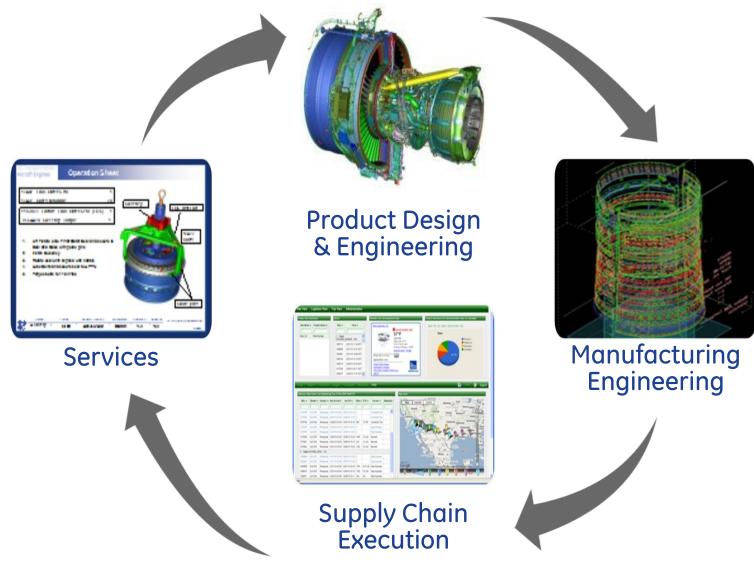
..... be traced back to batches of powder .....

.... and analyzed at every step in between.

Powered by data, reimagined battery manufacturing.



## **Smart Manufacturing:**





## GE at Work in the Capital Region

GE Healthcare ... Digital X-ray Detector Production Facility at the RPI Tech Park 150 people

GE Transportation ... Battery Plant in Schenectady >350 jobs, 100 more to be added

GE Energy ... Renewable Energy Headquarters in Schenectady 650 jobs

GE Global Research ...

100 new hires in past three years



GE Healthcare Detector facility
LEED Gold certified



**GE Battery Plant** 



Investments in technology created >1,000 jobs