



EUROPEAN
RENTAL
ASSOCIATION

Digital Strategy within the Equipment Lifecycle

Alexander Schuessler
SmartEquip



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ERA Convention 2025

“Navigating Transitions In Rental”, Dublin, June 4-5

Introduction

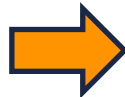
30 years of chasing lifecycle efficiencies

- **1995-2000** **Caterpillar Rental Services Network:** South America, then EMEA
- **2000-** **SmartEquip:** North America, Europe, Japan & APAC

A. What?

Improve Equipment Lifecycle Economics

- **Reduce Total Cost of Ownership (TCO)**
 - Acquisition Cost vs. Disposition Returns
 - Spare Parts Costs
 - Maintenance, Repair, Service Labour Costs
- **Increase Turnover**
 - Availability, Uptime, Rental Rates



B. How?

Digital Solutions

- **Steepen the Efficiency Curve**
 - Do the same, but **better**
- **Shift the Efficiency Curve**
 - Do things you **could not do before**

Introduction

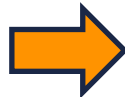
MAXIMISING FINANCIAL YIELD ON ASSETS

Why “Within the Lifecycle?”

A. What?

Improve Equipment Lifecycle Economics

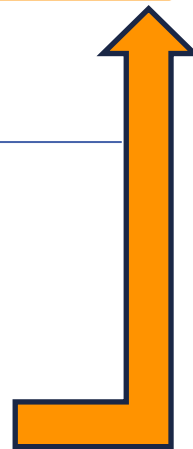
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Intro

MAXIMISING FINAN

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Why Lifecycle?



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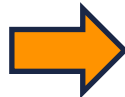
MAXIMISING FINANCIAL YIELD ON ASSETS

Digital Strategy Within the Lifecycle!

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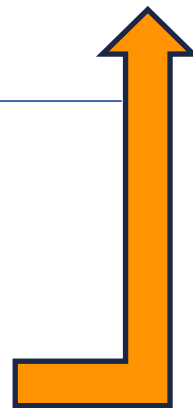
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Today

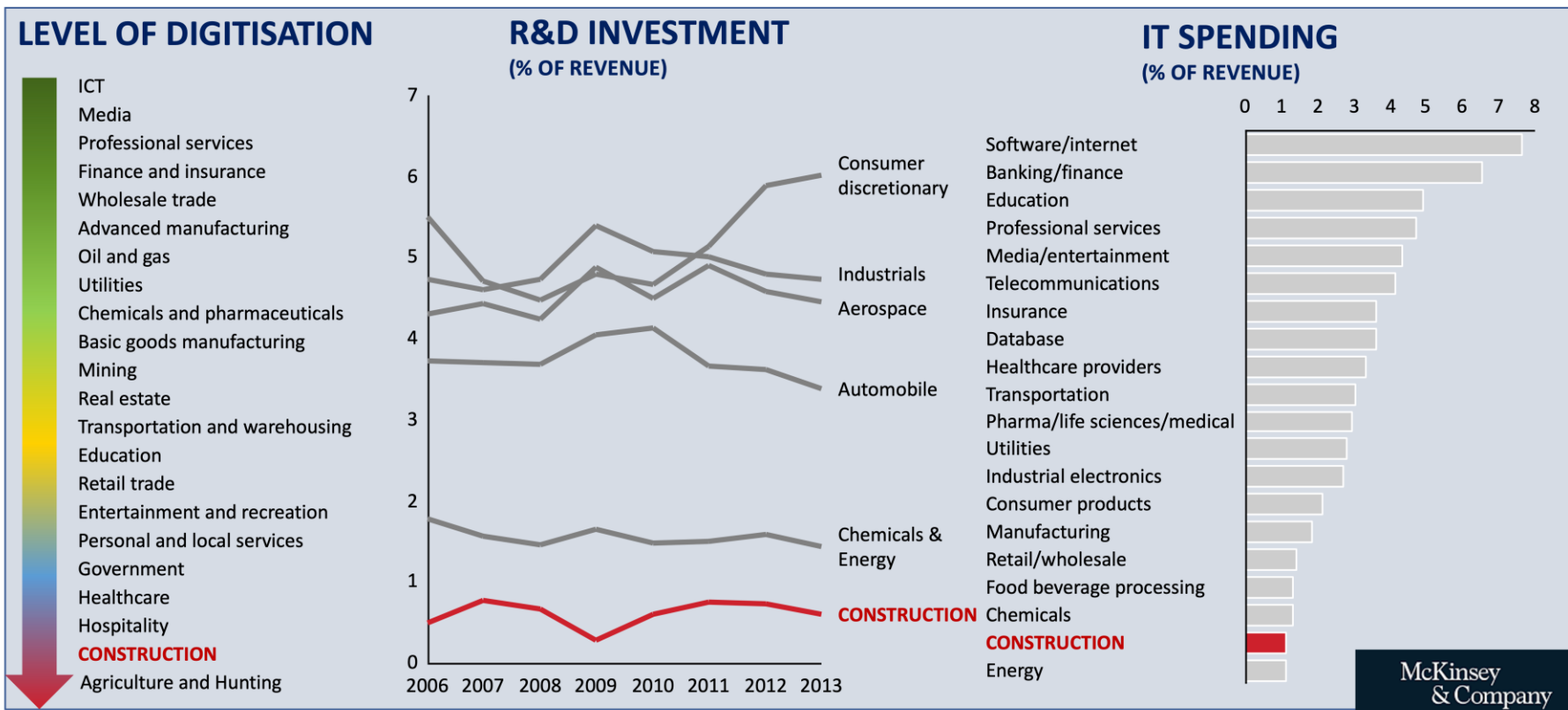
1. Framing Solutions: Equipment & Ownership Lifecycle

2. Digital Targets: Prioritising Solutions within the Lifecycle

3. Three Generations of Digital Evolution:

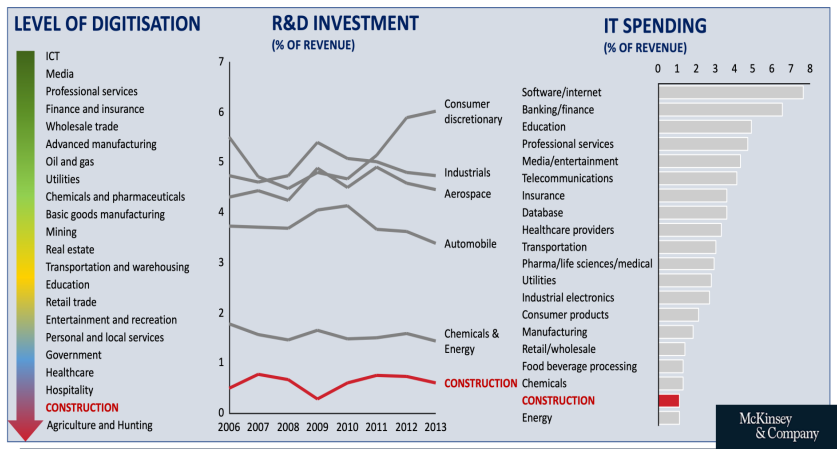
- **Automation**
- **Workflow Innovation: Following the Equipment Lifecycle (“Going Horizontal”)**
- **“Outsourced” Innovation: Artificial Intelligence**

Digital Readiness?



McKinsey
& Company

Digital Readiness?



IT'S EASIER TODAY!

1. You no longer need to build digital infrastructure
2. Your employees & customers are already highly “digital”
3. Remaining challenges:
 - a) Solution design
 - b) Change management



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ERA Convention 2018, “TOMORROW’S CUSTOMERS”, Vienna, 23 and 24 May

12 Years Ago

Today

1. Framing Solutions: Equipment & Ownership Lifecycle

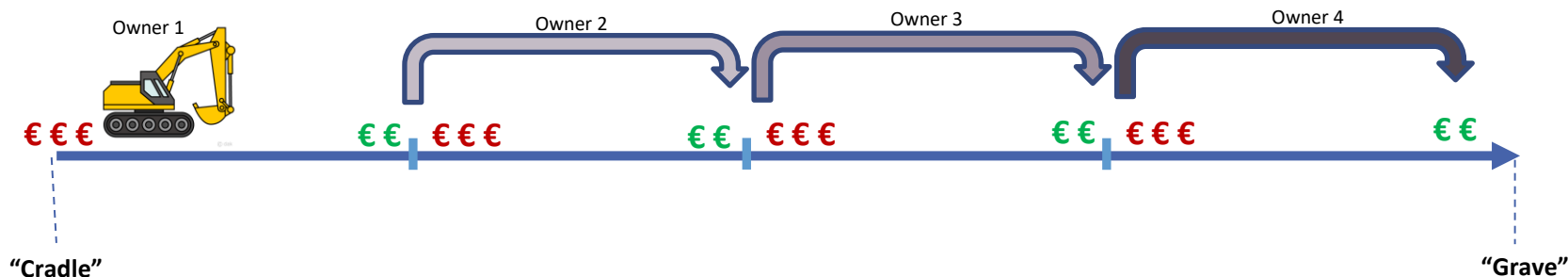
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3. Three Generations of Digital Evolution

- **Automation**
- **Workflow Innovation: Following the Equipment Lifecycle (“Going Horizontal”)**
- **“Outsourced” Innovation: From Automation to Inference to Intelligence**

The Equipment Lifecycle

1. Acquisition and Disposition



1. Economics of Transactions (TCO)

€ € € = Cost of acquisition

€ € = Returns on disposition

€ € € - € € = Part of TCO ("book ends")

Optimise TCO:

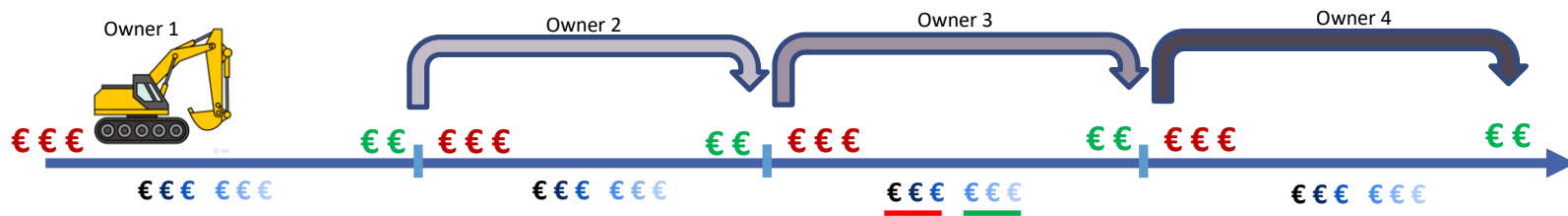
1. Optimise € - €
2. Optimise transaction costs

Digital
Targets

The Equipment Lifecycle

1. Acquisition and Disposition

2. Fleet Management



2. Economics of Fleet Management (TCO)

A. Reduction of Lifecycle Costs

- Drive down **service costs**
- Drive down **parts costs**
- Drive down **operational overhead**

Digital
Targets

B. Increase of Lifecycle Returns

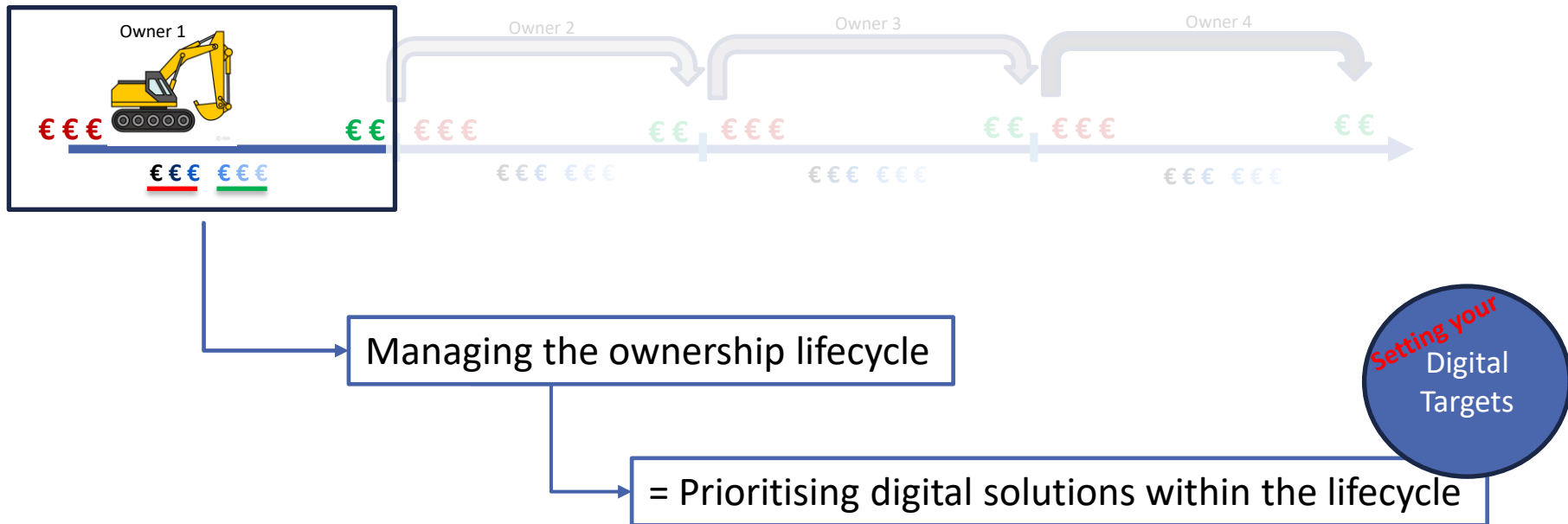
- Drive up **time utilisation**
- Drive up **financial utilisation**

Digital
Targets

The Equipment Lifecycle

1. Acquisition and Disposition

2. Fleet Management



Today

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The diagram illustrates the equipment lifecycle flow. It starts with 'Acquisition' (€€€), followed by 'Fleet Management' (€€€), and ends with 'Disposition' (€€). An excavator icon is shown in the center. A red arrow points from the 'Acquisition' stage to a green circle labeled 'Digital Solutions'.

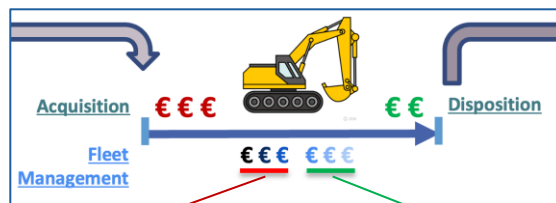
[illegible]

- Service Technician Support
- Spare Parts Inventory & Transactions Solutions
- Machine Performance Monitoring & Analysis

What is the Business Case?

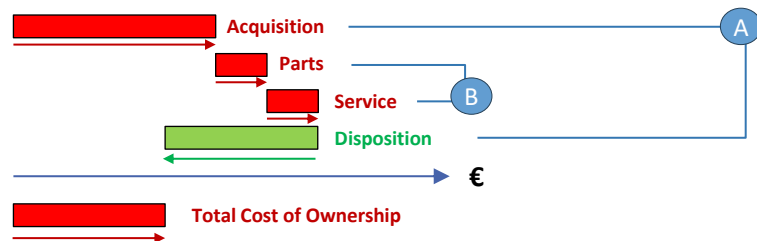
Prioritising Digital Solutions

Prioritising Solutions within the Lifecycle



A. Lifecycle Costs

TCO



B. Lifecycle Returns

Returns Drivers

- Uptime & Time Utilization
- Financial Utilization
(= 'uptime with pricing')

Digital
Targets

- Rate Optimization Data Services
- Digital Marketing & CRM
- Predictive Analytics / Preventative Repair
- Telematics/IoT
- Building Information Management System (BIM)
- Opportunity-driven service automation
- Multi-Enterprise Integrations (EDI +++)
- Etc.

Digital
Solutions

What is the Business Case?

Prioritising Digital Solutions

What drives the Business Case?

A. Lifecycle Costs

- “Universal” Service Technician Shortage?
- Average Equipment Age?
- Equipment Complexity and Fleet Mix?
- Duties, Tariffs and other Supply Chain Obstacles?
- TCO Ratio of Rental vs. Acquisition / Disposition



B. Lifecycle Returns

- Digital Readiness of your Employees & Customers
- Extent & Maturity of Data-Driven Management Practice

The equipment lifecycle is universally identical

The underlying variables are universally the same

The values of those variables vary by company, strategy, & region

Therefore, the business case varies by company, strategy, and region

Today

1. Framing Solutions: Equipment & Ownership Lifecycle

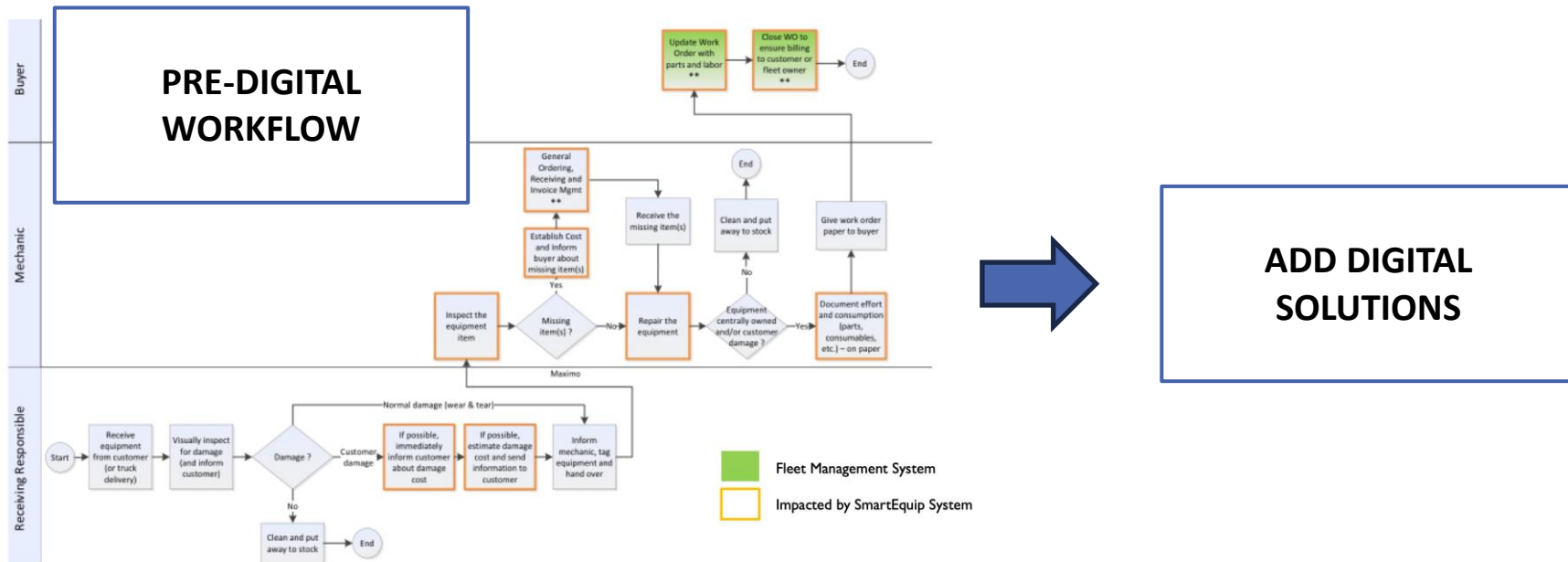
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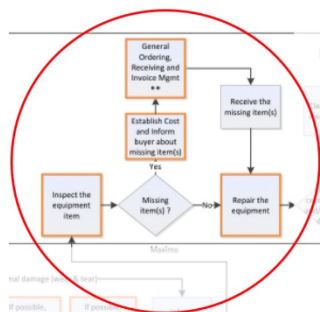
Three Generations of Digital Evolution

1. Automation: Do the same, but “better”



Three Generations of Digital Evolution

1. Automation: Do the same, but “better”



1. MAINTENANCE, REPAIR, PARTS, AND SUPPLY FOR FLEET (per repair purchase)

ACTIVITY	RESOURCE NEEDS
-Diagnosis	Need service documentation
-Identify needed item	Need OEM-presented parts documentation
-Check availability in internal stock	Need access to inventory information
-Find strategic supplier(s)	Need access to preferred vendor information
-Identify pricing	Need access to negotiated pricing rules
-Establish availability	Need access to preferred vendor system
-Place order	Need access to preferred vendor system
-Fill out purchase order	Need to duplicate-enter internal system
-Receive order	Need to enter in internal system
-Update inventory	Need to update inventory
-Perform repair	Need service documentation
-Fill out work order	Need to duplicate-enter internal system
-Receive invoice (in Contempus)	
-Check against purchase order	Need to compare documents manually
-Approve/reject invoice (3-way match)	Need to access internal financial system

I. REDUCTION IN LABOR TIME / ORDER (EVENT)

Cost (in minutes) SmEq Improv. Pot. Post-SmEq Cost

LOW HIGH low-end high-end LOW HIGH

10	120	20%	80%	8	24
included	included			included	included
5	30	0%	90%	5	3
1	30	0%	90%	1	3
included	included			included	included
1	30	0%	90%	1	3
5	15	50%	90%	2.5	1.5
30	30	95%	95%	1.5	1.5
10	10	0%	0%	10	10
included	included			included	included
30	240	20%	20%	24	192
20	45	75%	75%	5	11.25
2	15	0%	0%	2	15
included	included			included	included
10	10	0%	0%	10	10

124 575

improvement:

70 274.25

54 300.75

BEFORE

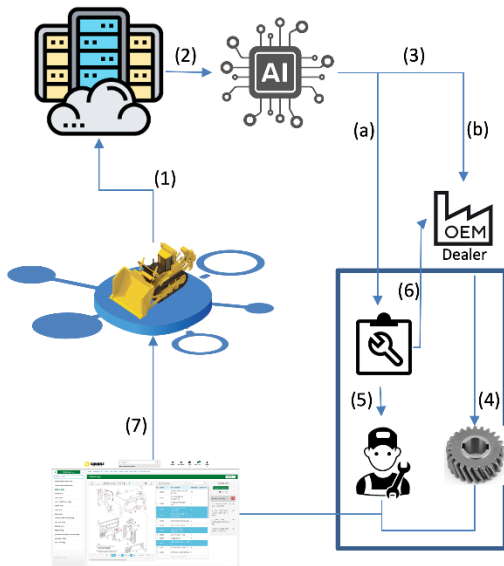


AFTER

Three Generations of Digital Evolution

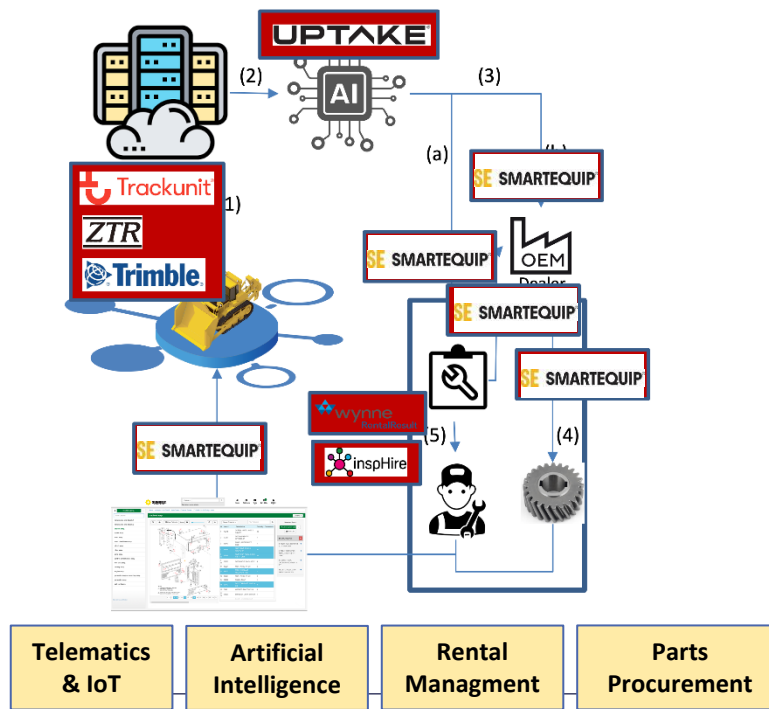
2. Workflow Innovation: Following the Equipment Lifecycle

Generation 1: Digital point solutions



Three Generations of Digital Evolution

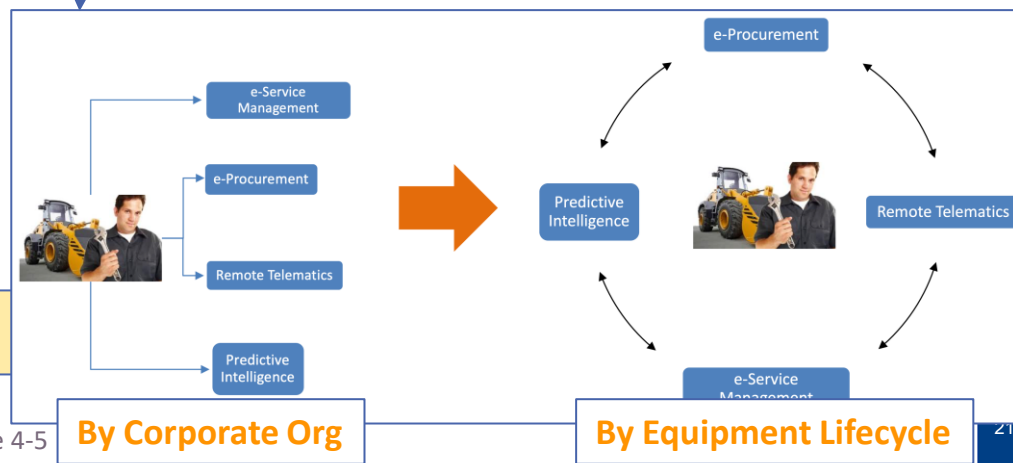
2. Workflow Innovation: Following the Equipment Lifecycle



Generation 1: Digital point solutions

Generation 2: Workflow innovation

- (a) Re-assessing point solutions (e.g. work order)
- (b) Solution-to-solution workflow



Three Generations of Digital Evolution

3. “Outsourced” Innovation: from Automation to Human Innovation to Artificial Intelligence

1. **Automation:** Digital solutions perform what humans used to do manually, but better/faster/cheaper
2. **Innovation:** Humans design new best practice because digital solutions make them possible
3. **Intelligence:** Digital solutions design new best practice for us, because they are becoming smarter than us

AI Today:

- **Analytical insights:** IoT data on performance parameters; parts & service consumption; etc.
- **Data structuring:** “On the fly”, with no need to “normalize” data across systems & organizations

AI Forthcoming:

- Defining and quantifying and solving the problems – within the equipment lifecycle

Digital Strategy within the Equipment Lifecycle

1. Define and prioritize digital projects within the Equipment Lifecycle
2. Business case: think globally about the lifecycle and locally about variable estimates
3. Then establish hierarchy of digital priorities
4. Don't evaluate them in isolation (point solutions) but as integrated workflow solutions
 - a. Gen 1: Automate prior manual work...
 - b. Gen 2: ... but then also use digital platform to re-innovate workflow
 - c. Gen 3: ... and now (with AI) begin to re-innovate workflow all over again, but still against the equipment lifecycle
5. Find and empower both an AI-friendly “architect” and a human-friendly change management leader



Thank you, Michel!