Thinking outside the box:

Integrated security for modern manufacturers

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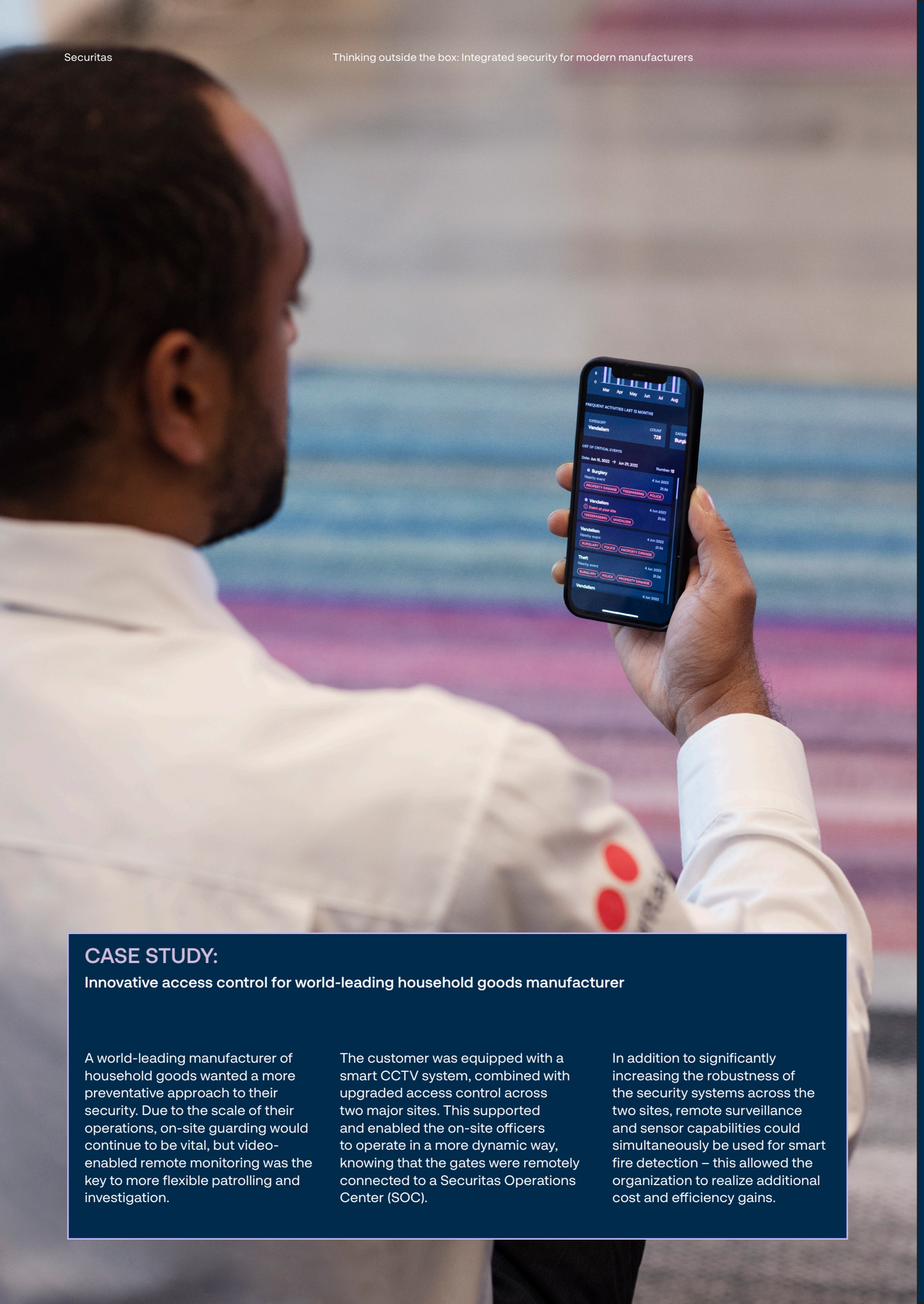
Looking ahead to the future, what will security for the factories of tomorrow look like? For manufacturing firms, a shift to future operational models is already well underway with many undergoing a sizeable evolution where digital transformation and automation are key drivers for change. According to a recent report[1] a key success factor for manufacturing will be moving beyond traditional automation to fully integrating data, AI, and digital tools.

And from future direction to the present, today's business landscape is a time of change and uncertainty for manufacturers. Geopolitical tensions and supply chain disruptions are creating challenges and, conversely, also bringing opportunities with a surge in reshoring, nearshoring, and governments strategically incentivizing manufacturers of key products such as electric vehicles, semiconductors, and other critical goods.

What role does security play in mitigating today's challenges, and how does it fit into the "future factory" vision? In step with the evolution of manufacturing, security is at a pivotal moment and is being re-defined by a shift where people, data, and technology are integrated and go beyond protection to predict, prevent, add business value and build resilience.



CASE STUDY:

Innovative access control for world-leading household goods manufacturer

A world-leading manufacturer of household goods wanted a more preventative approach to their security. Due to the scale of their operations, on-site guarding would continue to be vital, but video-enabled remote monitoring was the key to more flexible patrolling and investigation.

The customer was equipped with a smart CCTV system, combined with upgraded access control across two major sites. This supported and enabled the on-site officers to operate in a more dynamic way, knowing that the gates were remotely connected to a Securitas Operations Center (SOC).

In addition to significantly increasing the robustness of the security systems across the two sites, remote surveillance and sensor capabilities could simultaneously be used for smart fire detection – this allowed the organization to realize additional cost and efficiency gains.

Assembling an integrated security system

"Many of the businesses we talk with want a security provider to connect all the dots."

Elin Skarp
Commercial Director
Securitas Sweden

To put the complexity of today's landscape into perspective, only **12%**[2] of senior manufacturing decision-makers currently feel they can manage and mitigate the security risks they face.

Elin Skarp, Commercial Director, Securitas Sweden, says, "We have seen a steep rise in highly organized crime targeting manufacturers, and many of the businesses we work with are now opting for end-to-end security solutions as opposed to stand-alone services. Intelligent security that leverages data, AI, and insights to inform actions is increasingly the direction that manufacturers need to move towards. Many of the businesses we talk with want a security provider to connect all the dots and work in collaboration with authorities like the police."

REAL-TIME DATA SYNCHRONIZES SECURITY WITH SENSORS

As manufacturers look ahead to their broader usage of data as a business enabler, data also plays an increasingly vital role in security systems. An integrated security system requires visibility across manufacturing sites through real-time data – this is where sensor technology can play a pivotal role.

Many manufacturers still use siloed security systems, with intrusion alarms, access control systems, and video platforms all operating independently of each other. Without data visibility across security capabilities, manufacturers are unable to centralize valuable insights that can accelerate decisions, protect value, and drive business efficiencies.

Kristian Lundin, Director, Standardized Solutions, explains, "If you have glass-break detectors on every window but they sit on a different system to your video cameras or access control then you miss a holistic view of your security position. An increasing number of manufacturers are now integrating CCTV-based solutions, video analytics, and motion detection into one system. This allows them to monitor entire sites and have the full picture in real-time."

With a single view that links all security layers together, manufacturers see more than "the here and the now." They can gain the situational awareness to predict or deter threats before they even materialize. A single security platform also cuts maintenance costs by reducing redundant devices and can be more easily scaled across sites and international borders.

1 Accenture, 2025 - https://www.accenture.com/us-en/insights/industrial/future-of-manufacturing
2 WTW, 2025 - https://www.wtwco.com/en-gb/insights/2025/04/global-manufacturing-risk-report-2024-2025

ACCESS CONTROL 2.0 PROTECTS MANUFACTURING SITES

With manufacturing sites often spanning vast areas, one of the key security prerequisites is a robust access control system to deter trespassers, but equally to ensure that access for workers, suppliers, and other visitors is managed in an efficient way. Traditional access control remains an essential protective measure, but reliance on perimeter fencing and patrolling alone can result in significant security gaps.

Lundin says, “A thorough review of access levels and the adoption of ‘need-to-access’ methodology is a key step particularly across multiple sites or geographies.”

This means ensuring that access permission is granted based on specific operational needs and upheld through authentication and authorization. Lundin says, “Protecting facilities in zones, or adapting to the manufacturing activity of different sites is an important consideration. Sites with valuable intellectual property or R&D require a different security protocol compared to a production site, and for global firms it’s important to consider security across all the geographies in which they operate to avoid weak links in the chain.”

ADDING BUSINESS VALUE BEYOND SECURITY

The Internet of Things (IoT) opens the door to connecting a wide range of sensors that might not be traditionally associated with security. These include thermostats, connected water valves, energy meters, lighting controls, and audio devices. By bringing these sensor types into an integrated security solution, combining technology with a human element, security increasingly becomes a value-generating tool for a business.

> “An increasing number of manufacturers are now integrating CCTV-based solutions, video analytics, and motion detection into one system. This allows them to monitor entire sites and have the full picture in real-time”

A prime example is fire prevention - a key risk for manufacturers. Lundin says, “Fire prevention is made possible by integrating environmental monitoring sensors as part of a security system, allowing businesses to monitor a site via a single display.”

The ability to monitor the conditions that temperature-sensitive goods are stored in has transformative potential, especially industries such as food or pharmaceuticals.

Lundin adds, “Manufacturers need the full circle of human and technological capabilities to secure their operations. It’s important to note that people continue to play an integral part of security set-ups – either on-site or remotely. Monitoring of systems and incident handling can be managed off-site and where an issue is detected, an alert is sent to an Operations Center and actioned. Security solutions can do more than just react to an incident; they can prevent risks from becoming a reality.”

SECURING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Industrial manufacturing alone accounts for **36%**[3] of global energy use, underlining manufacturers’ responsibility to optimize the sustainability of their operations. Energy usage is costly and like many businesses, manufacturers are seeking ways in which they economize and shrink their carbon footprint.

Lundin says, “There are opportunities for manufacturers to put smart security systems to work in ways that can support sustainability goals.

CASE STUDY:

Sensors cut 75 tons of CO_2 per 400 m^2 annually

A leading manufacturer wanted to improve their energy efficiency and were introduced to the potential gains of integrating smart thermostats into their wider security system.

After an assessment of the facilities, an opportunity was identified to significantly increase the manufacturer’s energy efficiency. Sensors were set up to automatically lower temperatures by 3°C when arming the security alarm system each night.

This integrated platform now enables the manufacturer to cut CO_2 emissions by up to 75 tons a year for every 400 m^2 of facilities, a reduction equivalent to the annual emissions of five petrol cars.

3- Gitnux, 2025 - https://gitnux.org/sustainability-in-the-industrial-industry-statistics/

Much like in a smart home, businesses can integrate thermostats within a security platform to schedule or automate temperature control and switch off lights and machinery outside hours, on a site-wide basis. We are already helping clients implement this - optimizing carbon footprints and cutting costs simultaneously.”

Skarp says, “There are many ways to improve security energy efficiency without compromising security standards. Remote patrolling of manufacturing sites or video monitoring with incident verification can save energy costs from unnecessary callouts.” With integrated systems linked to an Operations Center, this approach to incident response reduces the number of vehicles and therefore emissions.”

By combining surveillance, alarms, access control, and other capabilities within an integrated security system, manufacturers can achieve an auditable, traceable security environment. This streamlines complex compliance requirements relating to ESG and supply chain security.

Beyond the factory gates

Protecting production with intelligence and insights

In addition to gathering security data from sites, manufacturers are increasingly looking to security providers to provide external intelligence that can reveal threats to a manufacturer's operations ahead of time, sometimes months in advance.

Mike Evans, Director Risk Intelligence Center (RIC), says, "We monitor for anything that could put business value at risk, down to supplier mentions online that could be indicative of an evolving threat. For example, if a manufacturer is the target of organized crime or disruptive activism, we conduct analysis to determine whether clients are upstream or downstream suppliers from the target company."

A critical point for manufacturers is that to be operationally resilient, security needs to look further than the immediate risks and beyond the perimeter to become proactive. Monitoring for upstream and downstream risks can mitigate costly downtime and reputational damage for both manufacturers and their suppliers.

As operational models like just-in-time (JIT) struggle to cope with the increased levels of disruption faced by the industry, enhancing operational resilience has become a top priority for manufacturers. The globalization trend of recent decades is losing momentum, and manufacturing leaders are demonstrating a growing awareness of how fundamental intelligence is for resilient and more localized operations.

However, data alone is not enough. Whether businesses use video surveillance analytics, alarm monitoring or access control solutions to collect valuable data, the information gathered needs to be accessible and usable. Evans says, "Information is power, and leading manufacturers are recognizing the potential to have more control over their facilities and supply chain. However, you can gather all the data in the world, but if it is not made available to use and turned into intelligence, it doesn't support decision-making, so it's worth nothing."

Organizations often focus on understanding external threats, but assessing how they become risks to their business is more important. To enhance overall business resilience, deeper insights must be gained to determine how threats exploit specific vulnerabilities and interact with property, data, finished goods or other assets.

By engaging with security providers and thinking outside the box, manufacturers have an opportunity to not only streamline their approach to security, but to simultaneously support their sustainability or compliance goals.

CASE STUDY:

Risk Intelligence saves multinational defence manufacturer £30 million

Securitas Risk Intelligence Center identified a serious case of unauthorized access and equipment sabotage targeting an upstream supplier to a multinational defence manufacturer. An activist group had gained entry to a manufacturing facility by force, damaging vital machinery and leaking highly sensitive information.

The incident was proactively flagged, and a detailed risk assessment was provided. By highlighting the key triggers and actions the manufacturer identified the requirements to prevent such a breach should they be targeted next.

The next step was to monitor high-risk flashpoints on an ongoing basis, advising on executive protection, event security and mitigating misinformation. By increasing the security controls significantly ahead of time, the manufacturer determined that they had saved £30 million in disruption relating to sabotage concerns.

CASE STUDY:

Activist sabotage plot identified 6 months in advance

During organization-specific monitoring for a global business, the RIC team intercepted the plans of a group linked to a prominent activist organization. Their intention was to damage and block critical access roads connecting the client's facilities.

A full threat assessment report was provided, covering the potential impact and implications in detail. Based on these pre-emptive insights, security was stepped up including additional on-site and mobile guarding to increase the client's visibility beyond the site perimeter, and suppliers were made aware of the situation.

Crucially, the intelligence provided by Securitas enabled the client to secure a high court injunction against the group in advance, meaning that the police were able to take immediate action before damage could be done. The results included **multi-million** euro cost savings.

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Director Risk Intelligence Center
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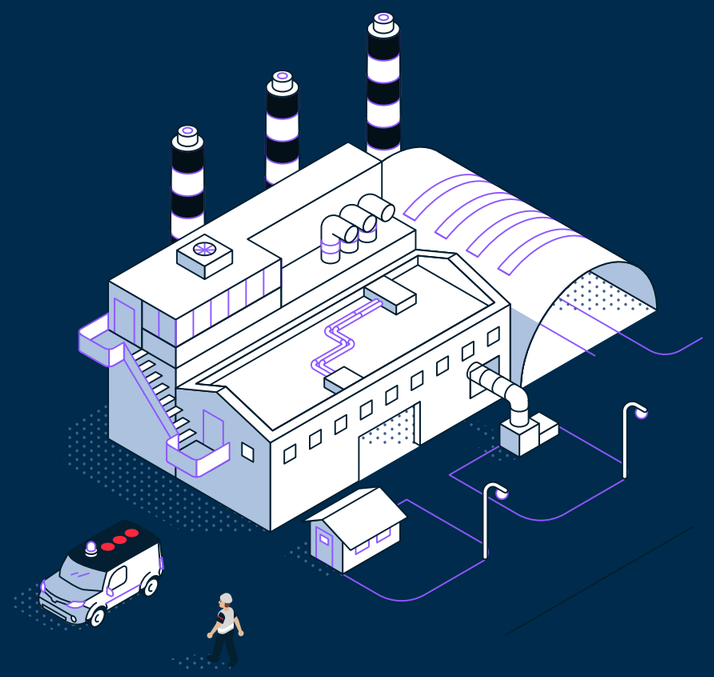

Blueprints for the future

Manufacturers are at a pivotal moment and are actively seeking ways to optimize and future proof their operations. The strategic use of data and digital tools is essential for building businesses that are not only resilient to security and other risks, but also sustainable.

Although ongoing geopolitical challenges will continue to cause disruption in manufacturing supply chains, intelligence-led and integrated security programs have the potential to give manufacturers the visibility and flexibility they need to maximize opportunities and to plan for increasingly sophisticated threats.

As manufacturers look towards the future, one of the areas yet to be unlocked is the potential for the security data and intelligence to be used more broadly. This is the moment when security programs are transformed from “protection and reaction” to predictive tools that can enhance operational efficiency and strategic decision-making for businesses.

“Today, manufacturers need the full circle of human and technological capabilities to secure their operations.”

Kristian Lundin
Director Standardized Solutions
Securitas Europe

At Securitas we are taking the security industry into the future. We bring together our expertise in individual services such as Remote, Mobile and On-Site services, Fire & Safety and Technology, into innovative security solutions to meet our clients' diverse needs. Just like your business, our security solutions are built to adapt and grow. And with a truly global presence, we are proud to be trusted security partners to businesses all over the world.