MANUFACTURING AUTOMATION READINESS CHECK

15 questions to help determine whether your next investment belongs in process improvement, digital workflows, physical automation or applied AI.

PROCESS FOUNDATION

01. Critical work instructions are current and consistently followed.	Yes [ ] Partly [ ] No [ ]
02. We measure the true production constraint and its impact.	Yes [ ] Partly [ ] No [ ]
03. Engineering and operating changes reach the shop floor reliably.	Yes [ ] Partly [ ] No [ ]

PHYSICAL EXECUTION

04. We have evaluated repetitive manual handling tasks.	Yes [ ] Partly [ ] No [ ]
05. Equipment downtime and cause codes are consistently recorded.	Yes [ ] Partly [ ] No [ ]
06. Machine and workstation variability is understood.	Yes [ ] Partly [ ] No [ ]

DATA & TRANSACTION INTEGRITY

07. Production and inventory transactions match physical activity.	Yes [ ] Partly [ ] No [ ]
08. Critical BOM, routing, item and location data can be trusted.	Yes [ ] Partly [ ] No [ ]
09. Operators can record work without repeated manual rekeying.	Yes [ ] Partly [ ] No [ ]

SYSTEMS CONNECTIVITY

10. Important applications exchange information reliably.	Yes [ ] Partly [ ] No [ ]
11. Production status is visible without extensive spreadsheet reconciliation.	Yes [ ] Partly [ ] No [ ]
12. System errors and transaction exceptions have clear owners.	Yes [ ] Partly [ ] No [ ]

INVESTMENT READINESS

13. Automation opportunities are tied to measured operating losses.	Yes [ ] Partly [ ] No [ ]
14. Owners and support capability are identified for new technology.	Yes [ ] Partly [ ] No [ ]
15. Safety, cybersecurity and life-cycle financial returns are reviewed before investment.	Yes [ ] Partly [ ] No [ ]

Use this as a conversation starter, not a validated maturity score. Page 2 explains how to interpret your answers.

WHAT YOUR ANSWERS SUGGEST

Prioritize the category with the most No / Partly responses. Then verify the underlying constraint through observation and data before purchasing technology.

Finding	Practical first intervention
Weak process foundation	Standard work, process ownership, validated bottleneck and change control.
Manual or inconsistent physical execution	Work redesign and safety review; then consider fixtures, sensors, conveyors or robotics.
Unreliable ERP / production transactions	Master-data repair, digital travelers, barcode capture and transaction discipline.
Disconnected systems and delayed visibility	System-of-record decisions, ERP interfaces, governed workflows and exception management.
Weak investment readiness	Measure operating losses, establish ownership, evaluate life-cycle costs, risks and ROI.

THREE DIFFERENT TECHNOLOGY CHOICES

Physical automation: fixtures, conveyors, sensors, machine tending, and robotics for qualified physical work.

Digital automation: barcode capture, ERP integrations, deterministic workflows, and rule-based transaction handling.

Applied AI: validated predictive or generative methods where high-quality data, responsible controls, and a demonstrated incremental return justify their use.

NEXT STEP: EVIDENCE-BASED ASSESSMENT

The paid Zenthesys Manufacturing Automation & AI Readiness Assessment evaluates process, equipment, systems, data, risk and economics; compares alternatives; and produces a 90-day charter plus a staged transformation roadmap.

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