

People first, process strong, technology enabled

A TESTIMONIAL FROM NOVAGARD SOLUTIONS

NOVAGARD

FOUNDED
1977 · Cleveland, OH

INDUSTRY
Silicones, sealants,
coatings and foams

ENGAGEMENT
CESMII SM Roadmap

Novagard is a Cleveland, Ohio-based manufacturer of highly engineered silicones, sealants, coatings, lubricants and foams. Founded in 1977, the company serves electronics, automotive and transportation, manufacturing, construction, medical and military markets. With expertise in continuous process manufacturing and an in-house R&D team, Novagard has introduced 60+ new products since 2018 and built its reputation around innovation and solving customer challenges.

As Novagard continues to expand, operational excellence has become increasingly important to support that growth. Digitizing operations provides an opportunity to modernize the plant, empower the workforce and build a more scalable manufacturing foundation — while maintaining the quality and speed its customers expect.

The goal: digitize the plant as quickly as possible

As a forward-looking manufacturer, Novagard knew technology would play an important role in its next-generation operational strategy. The team was tasked with digitizing the plant and

becoming more technology-driven, but early efforts often focused on implementing new technologies before fully defining the business need or expected ROI. With many competing priorities, determining which investments would deliver the greatest value was a challenge.

To help determine which investments to prioritize, Novagard was introduced to the CESMII Smart Manufacturing Roadmap process through ManufacturingWorks, whose trusted relationship with the team made the connection possible.

Through the Roadmap process, Novagard took a step back to define the business need first. The exercise gave the organization a common language and framework for Smart Manufacturing. Instead of asking what to implement next, Novagard could build a roadmap around a strong business case with the building blocks for how to get there.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Results

\$0

Cost to Novagard — the project was grant-funded

130

Business processes formally documented and reviewed

88%

Downtime reduction, year over year

The CESMII Roadmap tools helped Novagard move from a fast-paced environment where many priorities competed for attention to a more strategic approach to manufacturing. With clearer priorities and greater alignment across the organization, teams can better understand where to focus their efforts and how technology can support their goals.

With the help of the CESMII Roadmap Professional, the team prioritized workforce training, standardized processes and access to the right data. The efficiency gained so far required

no investment beyond the team's own time and focus — better organizing to reduce waste and achieve flow, so that future technology investments can deliver greater returns.

The result is a more connected workforce and smoother day-to-day operations. The CESMII framework allows Novagard to evaluate technology investments as well as engage the right partners. Rather than viewing digitization efforts as a destination, the team is using the CESMII SM Roadmap as a tool to prioritize ongoing opportunities and improve business outcomes.

“Many assume Smart Manufacturing is all about technology, but we learned it starts with people and processes. That alignment has been huge for us as an organization.”

GREG SCHUMACHER, DIRECTOR OF MANUFACTURING, NOVAGARD SOLUTIONS

SM ROADMAP INITIATIVES

Strategic alignment

Workforce training

Data Unleashed

Plantwide processes

People-first approach

Data-driven decisions



**See what's possible
for your organization.**

A CESMII Smart Manufacturing Roadmap aligns your people, processes and technology to accelerate results and minimize risk.

Get Started Today!

ABOUT CESMII

CESMII — the Smart Manufacturing Institute — has a total current investment commitment of \$201M from Department of Energy funding and public/private partnership contributions, with a mandate to create a more competitive manufacturing environment in the US through advanced sensing, analytics, modeling, control, and platforms. CESMII is one of 17 Manufacturing USA institutes on this mission to increase manufacturing productivity, global competitiveness, and reinvestment by increasing energy productivity, improving economic performance and raising workforce capacity. For more information about CESMII, its history and Smart Manufacturing, visit cesmii.org.