

Eric Cowan

Stanley Black & Decker

Industry 4.0 is a driving force that is changing the business landscape and setting a new bar for competitiveness across the globe. Eric is the Vice President of Industry 4.0 Program Delivery and Automation at the Manufactory Stanley Black&Decker's Advanced Manufacturing Hub in downtown Hartford, CT. He is responsible for delivering Industry 4.0 solutions to more than 115 locations around the world and transforming Stanley Black&Decker manufacturing and logistics operations with a focus on People, Process, and Technology.

Prior to joining Stanley Black&Decker and moving to Connecticut in September 2018 he was a life-long Texan. He spent the past 18 years working in high volume electronics manufacturing at Motorola and Continental Automotive. He started his career as a Software Engineer developing software and hardware systems to simulate vehicle environments to facilitate the testing of engine control units. Later as a process engineering manager he oversaw the SMT team responsible for a mix of Fuji and Universal SMT equipment and introduced AOI and in-house device programming to factory operations. He went on to manage the Test Engineering organization, Plant Logistics operations and various Continuous Improvement initiatives. He spent the last 7 years working on Industry 4.0 initiatives in IIOT, Apps, Analytics, Additive Manufacturing, and Robotics and lead the Americas CoE for Continental Automotive.

A lifelong learner, passionate about continuous improvement. An innovative leader, Eric has developed multiple hardware and software solutions to address manufacturing and logistics operations as well as leading business transformation programs. Experienced practitioner of LEAN, Six Sigma, Agile and other improvement methodologies applied across a wide range of business functions. He is passionate about manufacturing and about the importance of strengthening and growing manufacturing capabilities to enable companies to make where they sell.