

AZO Releases Guide Detailing How Hybrid 'Super plants' Face Economic Uncertainty

A new guide from AZO tackles how a "hybrid" alternative between diversification and consolidation can prepare companies for economic uncertainty.

MEMPHIS, TN, UNITED STATES, February 10, 2021 /EINPresswire.com/ -- [Diversification](#) and consolidation of manufacturing plants have both long thought to be mutually exclusive in the world of bulk material handling. A new [guide](#) from AZO entitled "Hybrid Manufacturing Operations for Flexibility and Resilience" tackles how a "hybrid" alternative between diversification and consolidation might just better prepare a company for disruption and economic [uncertainty](#).

As the COVID-19 pandemic has affected various industries, this free guide aims to help companies build flexibility into their production processes. Specifically, "Hybrid Manufacturing Operations for Flexibility and Resilience" explores how manufacturers can react to both risk and uncertainty.

"The idea that 'everything is good, we're in a perfect place and we don't have to spend any money on capital equipment' is a recipe for disaster," general manager of AZO Inc., Chuck Kerwin, said. "Efficiency reduces costs, but ignoring process improvements will not allow for new sales growth. Efficiency derived from consolidation and plant closures assumes the top line is, at best, stagnant."

Kerwin has spent many years as a capital equipment supplier, and he has seen first-hand how some manufacturers have skimped on new investments while pursuing continuous cost reductions.

"Throw in a disruption like COVID, and fewer operations limit flexibility or adaptability," Kerwin said. "Diversify your manufacturing plants. Be able to quickly modify your products or where they are made. That's the advantage of a hybrid approach — to have plans ready to be able to shift from one way doing things to another quickly."

The new guide from AZO specifically covers risk management, factory diversification and a seven step process for building true flexibility into a plant. It acknowledges that managing a business requires inevitable trade-offs and that a company's ability to react to known risks and unknown uncertainty will depend on many factors beyond the operational excellence of production

managers.

"There's a long litany of CEOs who have been shown the door because they had a plan that didn't work out," Kerwin said. "When the next person takes over, how likely will they try anything new? Not likely — nothing major, that's for sure."

"Hybrid Manufacturing Operations for Flexibility and Resilience" is available at bigbagunloading.com and joins a slew of other free offerings from AZO concerning bulk material handling topics like super sack unloading, conveying and screening.

AZO, Inc. engineers, builds and installs components and complete systems for bulk material handling requirements. A wholly-owned subsidiary of AZO GmbH, the company supports U.S. customers with technical support from its Memphis location and rapid parts delivery. AZO equipment is used in companies ranging from small, family-owned businesses through the world's best known industrial and consumer products companies. More info about our company, as well as common questions related to the world of ingredient handling, can be answered on our company blog at <https://www.bigbagunloading.com/blog>

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