The future of manufacturing Making things in a changing world. 01 April 2015, John Hagel III United States. Economics of production: Technologies such as additive manufacturing are making it possible to cost-effectively manufacture products more quickly, in smaller and smaller batches. Chris Anderson described this phenomenon in his book The Long Tail: an increased shift away from mainstream products and markets at the head of the demand curve, replaced by a gravitation toward multiple, ever-expanding niches that constitute the curve’s “long tail.”

The ubiquity of platform and application (app) models, represented most famously by the iTunes and Android platforms, exemplifies both. Making Value for America examines these challenges and opportunities and offers recommendations for collaborative actions between government, industry, and education institutions to help ensure that the U.S. thrives amid global economic changes and remains a leading environment for innovation. Filled with real-life examples, Making Value for America presents a roadmap to enhance the nation’s capacity to pursue opportunities and adapt to transforming value chains by widespread adoption of best practices, a well-prepared and innovative workforce, local innovation networks to support startup Embracing the Future of Manufacturing, Technology, and Work (2015). Consensus Study Report. Purchase Options. Filled with real-life examples, Making Value for America presents a roadmap to enhance the nation’s capacity to pursue opportunities and adapt to transforming value chains by widespread adoption of best practices, a well-prepared and innovative workforce, local innovation networks to support startups and new products, improved flow of capital investments, and infrastructure upgrades. Topics. Industry and Labor Industrial and Manufacturing Technologies. Industry and Labor Policy, Reviews and Evaluations. Suggested Citation. National Academy of Engineering.