

# Robotics and Automation Frameworks for Future Industrial Innovation

**Prof. Olivier Sigaud**

Professor, Sorbonne Université, France

## **Abstract**

Robotics and automation have become central technologies in the transformation of modern industrial systems. The integration of industrial robots, collaborative robots, artificial intelligence, machine vision, Internet of Things connectivity, digital twins, advanced control systems, and data analytics is creating new frameworks for flexible and intelligent manufacturing. This study examines robotics and automation frameworks for future industrial innovation, with particular attention to robotic architecture, intelligent automation, human–robot collaboration, digital integration, adaptive control, and production optimization. A qualitative descriptive and conceptual research design based on secondary academic literature was adopted. The analysis indicates that integrated robotics and automation frameworks can improve production consistency, operational efficiency, flexibility, quality management, workplace safety, and responsiveness to changing production requirements.

Collaborative robots can facilitate closer interaction between human workers and automated systems, while artificial intelligence and machine vision can strengthen perception and decision-making. Digital twins can provide virtual environments for simulation, performance evaluation, and optimization before physical implementation. However, implementation remains constrained by challenges involving high investment requirements, system integration, cybersecurity, workforce skills, safety, interoperability, maintenance, and technological complexity. The study concludes that future industrial innovation will increasingly depend on flexible and intelligent robotics frameworks that integrate physical automation with digital intelligence. Future research should investigate autonomous robot learning, human–robot collaboration, digital-twin-enabled robotics, intelligent perception, adaptive production systems, and safe integration of emerging artificial intelligence technologies.

**Keywords:** Industrial Robotics, Automation, Industrial Innovation, Smart Manufacturing, Collaborative Robots, Artificial Intelligence, Machine Vision, Digital Twins, Industry 4.0, Intelligent Manufacturing

## **1. Introduction**

Industrial robotics and automation have become important components of contemporary manufacturing and production systems. Traditional automation primarily focused on repetitive and highly structured operations, whereas modern robotic systems increasingly incorporate sensing, computation, artificial intelligence, machine vision, and network connectivity. These developments are enabling robots to perform more complex tasks and interact with changing production environments. Consequently,

robotics and automation are moving beyond isolated machine operations toward integrated frameworks capable of supporting intelligent and flexible industrial processes.

The emergence of Industry 4.0 has accelerated the integration of robotics with digital technologies. Connected robots can exchange information with production systems, sensors, enterprise platforms, and analytical applications. This connectivity allows operational data to be collected continuously and used for production monitoring, maintenance, quality management, and process optimization. Research on Robotics 4.0 similarly emphasizes the integration of robotic perception, cognition, motion, computing, and networked systems as a pathway toward more intelligent industrial automation.

Collaborative robotics has further expanded the role of automation by enabling robots and human workers to operate within shared industrial environments. Collaborative robots can combine robotic precision and consistency with human flexibility and problem-solving capabilities. Recent research identifies flexibility, productivity, safety, ergonomics, and human factors as important considerations in collaborative manufacturing. This development changes automation from a model based primarily on replacing manual activities toward systems designed around human-machine cooperation.

Artificial intelligence is also strengthening the capabilities of industrial robots. Machine-learning techniques can support object recognition, predictive maintenance, anomaly detection, adaptive motion planning, and intelligent quality inspection. Machine vision can provide robots with improved perception of objects and environments, while intelligent control systems can allow robotic operations to respond to changing conditions. Emerging research is also examining natural-language models and vision-language models as mechanisms for improving robot interaction and task execution in industrial environments.

Digital twins represent another important component of future robotics and automation frameworks. A digital twin can provide a virtual representation of a physical robot, production cell, or manufacturing process and can be used for simulation, monitoring, evaluation, and optimization. Recent research has examined digital-twin-based self-learning frameworks in which decision models can be developed and evaluated virtually before validated actions are deployed to physical production systems. This approach can potentially reduce implementation risks and improve the adaptability of industrial automation.

Despite these technological advances, the development of integrated robotics frameworks involves substantial challenges. Industrial organizations must address investment requirements, legacy-system integration, workforce skills, cybersecurity, safety, interoperability, maintenance, and organizational adaptation. Collaborative systems additionally require consideration of worker ergonomics, trust, and human factors. Therefore, future industrial innovation requires frameworks that combine technological sophistication with practical implementation, human-centered design, security, scalability, and operational reliability.

This study examines robotics and automation frameworks for future industrial innovation by analyzing robotic technologies, intelligent automation, human-robot collaboration, digital integration, artificial intelligence, and digital twins. The study further identifies implementation challenges and future research directions. The objective is to understand how integrated robotics frameworks can

support flexible, intelligent, efficient, and adaptive industrial systems while addressing the technological and organizational requirements associated with next-generation manufacturing.

## 2. Objectives of the Study

### Primary Objective

The primary objective of this study is to examine robotics and automation frameworks for future industrial innovation by analyzing industrial robots, collaborative robots, intelligent control, artificial intelligence, machine vision, digital twins, and connected manufacturing technologies. The study seeks to understand how integrated robotic systems can improve productivity, flexibility, quality, safety, decision-making, and adaptive production while identifying major implementation challenges and future technological requirements.

### 2.1 Examination of Robotics and Automation Frameworks

The first objective is to examine the principal technologies supporting modern robotics and automation frameworks, including industrial robots, collaborative robots, sensors, machine vision, control systems, artificial intelligence, and digital connectivity. The study evaluates how these technologies interact within intelligent production environments. Understanding their integration can help identify architectural requirements for developing flexible automation systems capable of responding to changing industrial tasks and production conditions.

### 2.2 Assessment of Industrial Innovation Capabilities

The second objective is to assess how robotics and automation can contribute to industrial innovation through improved productivity, production flexibility, quality control, predictive maintenance, intelligent inspection, and human–robot collaboration. The study examines how digital technologies can enhance robotic capabilities and support data-driven production. Particular attention is given to adaptive automation and digital-twin technologies that can improve simulation, monitoring, optimization, and decision-making within modern manufacturing environments.

### 2.3 Identification of Implementation Challenges

The third objective is to identify challenges associated with advanced robotics and automation, including implementation costs, system integration, cybersecurity, safety, workforce capabilities, interoperability, maintenance, and technological complexity. The study examines how these challenges can influence industrial adoption and operational performance. Identifying such barriers can support the development of future robotics frameworks that are scalable, secure, human-centered, adaptable, and economically viable for different industrial environments.

## 3. Review of Literature

### 3.1 Industrial Robotics and Smart Manufacturing

Industrial robots have traditionally been used for repetitive operations requiring high precision, speed, and consistency. Their integration with smart manufacturing technologies has expanded their functionality from isolated automation toward connected production systems. Research on smart factories emphasizes the increasing interaction between humans, robots, and digital technologies.

Industrial robots can now exchange operational information with manufacturing systems and contribute to flexible production environments. These developments support the transition toward more connected and data-driven industrial operations.

Research on Robotics 4.0 emphasizes the integration of robotic sensing, motion, computing, perception, cognition, and communication. Such integration enables robots to respond to more complex industrial requirements than conventional programmed systems. Intelligent robotic frameworks can combine physical automation with digital information processing, creating opportunities for flexible manufacturing and adaptive production. The literature therefore increasingly views robotics as part of a broader industrial technology ecosystem rather than as an independent automation technology.

### 3.2 Collaborative Robotics and Human–Robot Interaction

Collaborative robots have become increasingly important in modern manufacturing because they can operate alongside human workers. Literature reviews indicate that cobots can provide flexibility and facilitate human–machine interaction, particularly in assembly and manufacturing environments. However, successful collaboration requires consideration of productivity, safety, ergonomics, task allocation, and human factors. Recent systematic research has emphasized the need to understand different collaboration scenarios and performance criteria when integrating cobots into production systems.

Human factors are particularly important because direct interaction between workers and robots can create both opportunities and challenges. Collaborative systems can reduce physical workload and support repetitive tasks, but worker comfort, trust, cognitive workload, and perceived safety must also be considered. Research on modern production systems highlights the importance of integrating human factors with robotic design. Therefore, future automation frameworks should consider technological and human requirements simultaneously.

### 3.3 Digital Twins and Intelligent Robotics

Digital twins have emerged as an important technology for improving the development and management of intelligent robotic systems. A digital representation of a robot or production environment can support simulation, testing, monitoring, and performance evaluation before physical implementation. Recent research has demonstrated the potential of digital-twin-based frameworks for evaluating collaborative systems, monitoring production, and supporting decision-making.

Artificial intelligence is further expanding robotic capabilities by enabling perception, learning, prediction, and adaptive decision-making. Recent work on digital-twin-based self-learning robotics proposes combining virtual production environments, learning modules, controllers, and physical production systems. Such frameworks can support safer development of autonomous decision-making by allowing learned behaviors to be evaluated before deployment. Emerging research on language and vision-language models also indicates potential for more intuitive human–robot interaction and intelligent industrial task execution.

## 4. Research Methodology

### 4.1 Research Design

This study adopted a qualitative descriptive and conceptual research design to examine robotics and automation frameworks for future industrial innovation. The research was based on secondary academic literature concerning industrial robotics, automation, collaborative robots, artificial intelligence, machine vision, Industry 4.0, digital twins, intelligent manufacturing, and human–robot collaboration. The design was selected to synthesize existing research and identify relationships among technologies contributing to future industrial automation.

The conceptual framework was organized around six dimensions: robotic hardware, sensing and perception, intelligent control, connectivity, human–robot collaboration, and digital integration. These dimensions were examined in relation to industrial outcomes such as productivity, flexibility, quality, safety, adaptability, and operational efficiency. Cybersecurity, interoperability, workforce capabilities, and maintenance were considered cross-cutting factors because they influence the successful implementation of integrated robotics and automation systems.

### 4.2 Data Collection

Secondary information was collected from peer-reviewed journal articles, academic publications, conference papers, and established scholarly literature concerning industrial robotics and automation. Literature addressing collaborative robotics, smart manufacturing, artificial intelligence, digital twins, machine vision, robotic control, and human–robot interaction was examined. Recent literature concerning intelligent industrial robotics and emerging automation technologies was also considered to reflect contemporary research directions.

The collected literature was classified according to technological and industrial functions. Research on robotic hardware and control was distinguished from studies addressing collaboration, digital integration, artificial intelligence, and intelligent decision-making. Literature concerning safety, ergonomics, cybersecurity, workforce requirements, and implementation challenges was also included. This classification enabled a structured assessment of the technologies and organizational factors contributing to future industrial innovation.

### 4.3 Data Analysis

The collected literature was analyzed using thematic analysis. Major themes included industrial robotics, automation, collaborative robots, artificial intelligence, machine vision, digital twins, intelligent control, human–robot collaboration, cybersecurity, and workforce adaptation. Each theme was examined according to its contribution to industrial innovation and its role within integrated automation frameworks. Recurring findings were identified to establish common requirements for future industrial robotics.

Comparative synthesis was then applied to examine how different technologies complement one another. Robots were considered physical automation mechanisms, sensors and machine vision as perception technologies, artificial intelligence as an intelligent decision layer, and digital twins as virtual modeling and optimization mechanisms. Human–robot collaboration was analyzed as an interaction

framework, while connectivity and interoperability were considered enabling requirements for integrated industrial environments.

## 5. Analysis

### 5.1 Core Components of Robotics and Automation Frameworks

Modern industrial automation depends on the integration of physical robotic systems with sensing, intelligence, connectivity, and digital technologies.

**Table 1: Major Components of Future Robotics and Automation Frameworks**

| Component               | Primary Function                  | Industrial Contribution      |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Industrial Robots       | Automated physical operations     | Productivity and consistency |
| Collaborative Robots    | Human–robot cooperation           | Flexible automation          |
| Sensors                 | Environmental and machine sensing | Operational awareness        |
| Machine Vision          | Visual perception                 | Intelligent inspection       |
| AI and Machine Learning | Intelligent analysis              | Adaptive decision-making     |
| Control Systems         | Motion and process control        | Precision and reliability    |
| IoT Connectivity        | Data exchange                     | Connected production         |
| Digital Twins           | Virtual simulation                | Optimization and testing     |
| Analytics Platforms     | Data interpretation               | Production intelligence      |

The table indicates that future automation frameworks depend on integration rather than isolated robotic functionality. Industrial robots provide physical execution, while sensors and machine vision provide environmental awareness. Artificial intelligence can support intelligent interpretation and control. IoT connectivity facilitates information exchange, while digital twins enable virtual simulation and optimization. Together, these components can establish more flexible and intelligent production systems capable of responding to changing industrial requirements.

### 5.2 Industrial Applications and Innovation Outcomes

Robotics and automation can support multiple industrial activities and generate different forms of operational improvement.

**Table 2: Industrial Applications of Robotics and Automation**

| Application              | Robotic/Automation Capability | Potential Outcome               |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Assembly                 | Robotic manipulation          | Improved production consistency |
| Material Handling        | Autonomous movement           | Faster logistics                |
| Quality Inspection       | Machine vision and AI         | Improved defect detection       |
| Welding                  | Robotic precision             | Consistent processing           |
| Packaging                | Automated handling            | Higher throughput               |
| Predictive Maintenance   | Sensor-based analytics        | Reduced downtime                |
| Collaborative Production | Human–robot interaction       | Flexible task allocation        |
| Production Simulation    | Digital twins                 | Improved planning               |

The analysis demonstrates that robotics and automation can contribute to industrial innovation across production, logistics, inspection, maintenance, and planning. Collaborative systems can improve flexibility, while intelligent inspection can strengthen quality management. Digital twins can support production planning and performance evaluation before physical changes are implemented. Research on cobots also indicates that flexibility and human–machine interaction are increasingly important dimensions of modern manufacturing.

## 6. Discussion

Robotics and automation frameworks are increasingly shifting industrial production from fixed automation toward flexible and intelligent systems. Conventional robotic systems can perform repetitive tasks efficiently, but integration with sensors, machine vision, artificial intelligence, and network connectivity enables broader operational capabilities. Connected robotic systems can exchange information with manufacturing platforms and respond to production conditions. This creates opportunities for more adaptive production processes, improved quality management, and better utilization of industrial resources.

Human–robot collaboration represents an important direction for future industrial innovation. Collaborative robots can combine robotic precision with human flexibility and problem-solving capabilities. However, successful collaboration requires appropriate task allocation, safety mechanisms, ergonomic design, and worker acceptance. Research has emphasized that collaborative robotics can improve manufacturing flexibility while also creating important questions concerning human factors, trust, comfort, and occupational safety.

Digital twins and artificial intelligence can further strengthen future automation frameworks. Digital twins can provide virtual environments for testing production configurations, evaluating robotic performance, and supporting real-time monitoring. Artificial intelligence can enable robots to recognize objects, detect anomalies, learn from operational data, and adapt decisions. Recent research

demonstrates the potential of digital-twin-based self-learning frameworks for industrial robots, while emerging language-based technologies are creating new opportunities for intuitive human–robot interaction.

## 7. Challenges

### 7.1 Implementation Costs and System Complexity

Advanced robotics and automation systems often require significant investment in robotic equipment, sensors, machine-vision technologies, controllers, software platforms, networking infrastructure, and technical integration. Organizations may also need to redesign existing production processes to accommodate new automation technologies. These requirements can make adoption difficult, particularly for organizations operating with limited capital or legacy manufacturing systems. The economic benefits of automation may also vary according to production volume, task complexity, workforce structure, and system utilization.

System complexity can increase when multiple technologies are integrated into a single industrial framework. Robots must interact with sensors, databases, enterprise systems, control platforms, and analytical applications. Poor integration can create communication problems and reduce operational reliability. Effective implementation therefore requires modular architectures, appropriate technology selection, lifecycle planning, and qualified technical personnel. Organizations should evaluate both initial investment and long-term maintenance, software updates, training, and infrastructure requirements before large-scale deployment.

### 7.2 Safety and Human–Robot Collaboration

Human–robot collaboration creates opportunities for flexible production but introduces important safety requirements. Robots operating near workers must be capable of detecting people, unexpected movements, and potentially hazardous situations. Safe interaction requires appropriate sensing, motion control, emergency mechanisms, workspace design, and risk assessment. Collaborative systems must also consider different operational scenarios because the level of interaction between workers and robots can vary significantly across industrial tasks.

Human factors represent another important challenge. Workers may experience uncertainty or concern when interacting with increasingly autonomous machines. Ergonomic conditions, cognitive workload, trust, training, and perceived job security can influence acceptance. Research on collaborative robotics emphasizes that human factors should be considered alongside robotic performance rather than treated as secondary concerns. Future automation frameworks should therefore incorporate human-centered design, worker participation, training, and continuous safety evaluation.

### 7.3 Interoperability and Cybersecurity

Industrial automation environments frequently contain equipment from different generations and manufacturers. Legacy machines may use communication technologies that differ from those used by modern robotic platforms and digital systems. This heterogeneity can make integration difficult and may restrict the exchange of information. Interoperability requires compatible communication protocols, data models, interfaces, and control mechanisms capable of connecting diverse industrial technologies.

Cybersecurity becomes increasingly important as robots and automation systems become connected to industrial networks and digital platforms. Networked robots may become potential targets for unauthorized access, malicious commands, data manipulation, or operational disruption. Security measures should include authentication, access control, network segmentation, secure software updates, and continuous monitoring. Future robotics frameworks should integrate cybersecurity throughout system architecture rather than adding security mechanisms only after connectivity has been established.

## 7.4 Workforce Skills and Technological Adaptation

The increasing sophistication of robotics and automation changes the skills required within industrial environments. Workers may need knowledge of robotic programming, system monitoring, data analysis, machine vision, maintenance, and digital technologies. Organizations that introduce advanced automation without adequate workforce development may experience difficulties in operating and maintaining systems effectively. Training and continuous professional development are therefore essential components of successful industrial transformation.

Technological adaptation also involves organizational and managerial changes. Automation can modify job responsibilities, production workflows, maintenance procedures, and decision-making structures. Employees may need to transition from repetitive manual activities toward supervisory, analytical, technical, and collaborative roles. Future industrial innovation should therefore adopt human-centered implementation strategies that combine automation investment with workforce development, organizational communication, and appropriate transition planning.

## 8. Future Research

Future research should develop intelligent robotics frameworks capable of combining machine vision, artificial intelligence, digital twins, adaptive control, and autonomous learning. Research should investigate self-learning robots that can safely improve their performance using virtual and physical production data. Greater attention should also be given to human–robot collaboration, including natural-language interfaces, vision-language models, adaptive task allocation, and explainable robotic decision-making for complex industrial environments.

Further research should examine interoperable robotics architectures capable of integrating legacy equipment with emerging digital technologies. Cybersecurity, functional safety, energy efficiency, and lifecycle management should be incorporated into future frameworks. Digital twins should be further investigated for real-time monitoring, predictive maintenance, production optimization, and virtual commissioning. Research should also evaluate the long-term workforce implications of advanced automation and develop effective human-centered strategies for industrial technological transformation.

## 9. Conclusion

Robotics and automation frameworks are becoming important foundations for future industrial innovation by integrating physical automation with sensing, connectivity, artificial intelligence, and digital technologies. Modern robotic systems can perform increasingly complex tasks while providing opportunities for improved productivity, precision, flexibility, and quality. The transition toward

integrated automation therefore represents a significant development in the evolution of smart manufacturing systems.

The analysis demonstrates that collaborative robots, machine vision, artificial intelligence, and digital twins can substantially expand robotic capabilities. Collaborative robots can support human-machine cooperation, while machine vision and intelligent analytics can improve perception and quality control. Digital twins can enable simulation, monitoring, and optimization before or during physical implementation. These technologies can collectively support more adaptive and intelligent industrial processes.

However, successful robotics implementation requires more than technological deployment. Organizations must address investment costs, system complexity, safety, cybersecurity, interoperability, workforce capabilities, maintenance, and technological adaptation. Human factors are particularly important in collaborative environments because worker safety, ergonomics, trust, and acceptance can influence the effectiveness of robotic systems.

Overall, future industrial robotics should evolve toward intelligent, adaptive, connected, and human-centered automation frameworks. The integration of artificial intelligence, digital twins, advanced perception, collaborative robotics, and emerging language-based technologies can create new opportunities for industrial innovation. Future development should balance automation capabilities with safety, cybersecurity, workforce development, interoperability, and responsible implementation. Such an approach can establish more resilient and flexible industrial systems capable of responding effectively to increasingly dynamic manufacturing requirements.

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