

In order to remain competitive in today's global markets, manufacturers need to drive innovation by placing the most skilled employees in agile, modern facilities.

At the same time, manufacturers need to minimise downtime, mitigate risk and protect intellectual property – no easy task in the hostile digital landscape in which they operate.

How can your business evolve to gain and maintain competitive advantage, enabling you to deliver products faster and at a lower cost whilst maintaining high quality standards?

“The success of the UK implementation created a confidence in Six Degrees – we knew that they understood the objectives AvantiGas is working to achieve and there was a great methodology between the two businesses which could be built upon.”

- Steve Jones, Head of IT, UGI Corporation



Minimise downtime and maximise productivity

Downtime costs UK manufacturers £180bn a year.¹ Minimise downtime and implement automation, predictive maintenance and other process efficiencies to maximise productivity and ensure production and cost targets are met.

- **Highly available and resilient public, private and hybrid cloud hosting** with market-leading uptime and RTO and RPO guarantees, backed by credit-based SLAs, and supported by BaaS and DRaaS, minimising downtime and maximising productivity.
- **Cloud and IT infrastructure assessments** support you in understanding and optimising your server estate, balancing efficiency with security to enhance performance of your ERP.
- **Security best practices** built-in at every level, mitigating the risk of DDoS and other attacks that lead to costly downtime which can prevent you from fulfilling orders, resulting in lost customers.
- **Deployment of SD-WAN architectures** that will optimise both throughput and uptime whilst prioritising traffic against specific resource demands, ensuring efficient use of your inter-site network connectivity.



Enable smart factories and drive innovation

UK manufacturers expect to achieve a 10.8% revenue boost and savings of 9.3% within five years through implementing Industry 4.0 practices.² By provisioning scalable IT infrastructures your operators will be able to model different technologies and process enhancements without impacting day-to-day production.

- **Hybrid cloud strategy workshops and assessments** run by our cloud experts help you identify workloads that can be optimised through moving to the cloud, delivering cost efficiencies and freeing up resources to invest in innovation.
- **Cloud, SD-WAN connectivity and data solutions** lay the stable foundations that enable you to become more agile, integrate systems and leverage data more effectively to drive further production efficiencies through automation, IoT, machine learning, digital twins and more.
- **Our fully-managed IT services remove day-to-day challenges**, enabling you to focus on identifying areas where you can deliver further production efficiencies or new revenue models, such as servitisation, enabling you to retain a competitive edge in a challenging market.



Mitigate business risk and protect intellectual property

60% of UK manufacturers have been the victim of cybercrime, and a third of those have suffered some financial loss or disruption to business as a result.³ Protect increasingly integrated and connected systems to ensure your intellectual property, business data and brand reputation are not placed at unnecessary risk.

- **Ultra-secure storage** in managed cloud and Tier III+ data centre colocation facilities, keeping your intellectual property and business data safe from breach.
- **Secure connectivity**, via encrypted SD-WAN, and next generation firewalls deliver robust perimeter protection, ensuring there are no weaknesses in your network that can be exploited by cybercriminals.
- **Managed CSOC and SIEM capabilities** and cyber security monitoring tools, developed utilising decades of experience, protecting you and your customers from evolving cybersecurity threats and preventing financial loss and damage to brand reputation.



Attract, retain and upskill employees

60% of industry and technology professionals consider the recruitment of staff with the right skills to be the biggest anticipated barrier to achieving their business objectives over the next three years.⁴ Recruit and retain the right skills by delivering agile, innovative productivity tools that meet the demands of the modern workforce.

- **Cutting-edge cloud technology** combined with futureproofed connectivity networks, enabling manufacturers to automate and realise process efficiencies to increase employee productivity.
- **Cloud-based unified communications platforms** simplify collaboration throughout your business and beyond, streamlining data sharing by rapidly delivering secure access to the people that need data, when they need it.
- **Secure hybrid cloud solutions** provide the capacity to store and deliver digital libraries of logs and instructional videos to protect maintenance cycles and backfill skills, safeguarding operations for the future.



Achieve operational agility

Keeping control of bottom line expenditure and maximising profit margins across operations is essential for any manufacturing business. But faced with an ever-changing economic and political climate, UK manufacturers must also ensure that they have the operational agility needed to adapt to changing demands.

- **Strategic cloud and IT infrastructure assessments** align your technology estate to your business strategy, ensuring there are no wasted resources and enabling you to recover resources to reinvest in innovation.
- **Market-leading communication, collaboration and contact centre solutions** enable you to manage your supply chain more efficiently, minimising staff travel costs and streamlining logistical operations.
- **Flexible connectivity** enables you to operate effectively from new and/or remote locations as well as optimising your internal network to grow your adoption of and fully leverage the increasing benefits of IoT technologies.

Clients



Partners and Accreditations



Six Degrees works as a collaborative partner to manufacturing businesses making a digital transition. By supporting manufacturers in their journey to becoming more efficient, automated and digitally-enabled, Six Degrees helps them become more agile and able to retain their edge in an ever-changing economic and technological landscape.

¹<https://www.themanufacturer.com/articles/machine-downtime-costs-uk-manufacturers-180bn-year/>
²PWC Industry 4.0 Global Digital Operations 2018 Survey

³<https://www.makeuk.org/insights/publications/2019/09/06/cyber-security-and-manufacturing>
⁴<https://www.theiet.org/media/4815/skills-2019-issues.pdf>