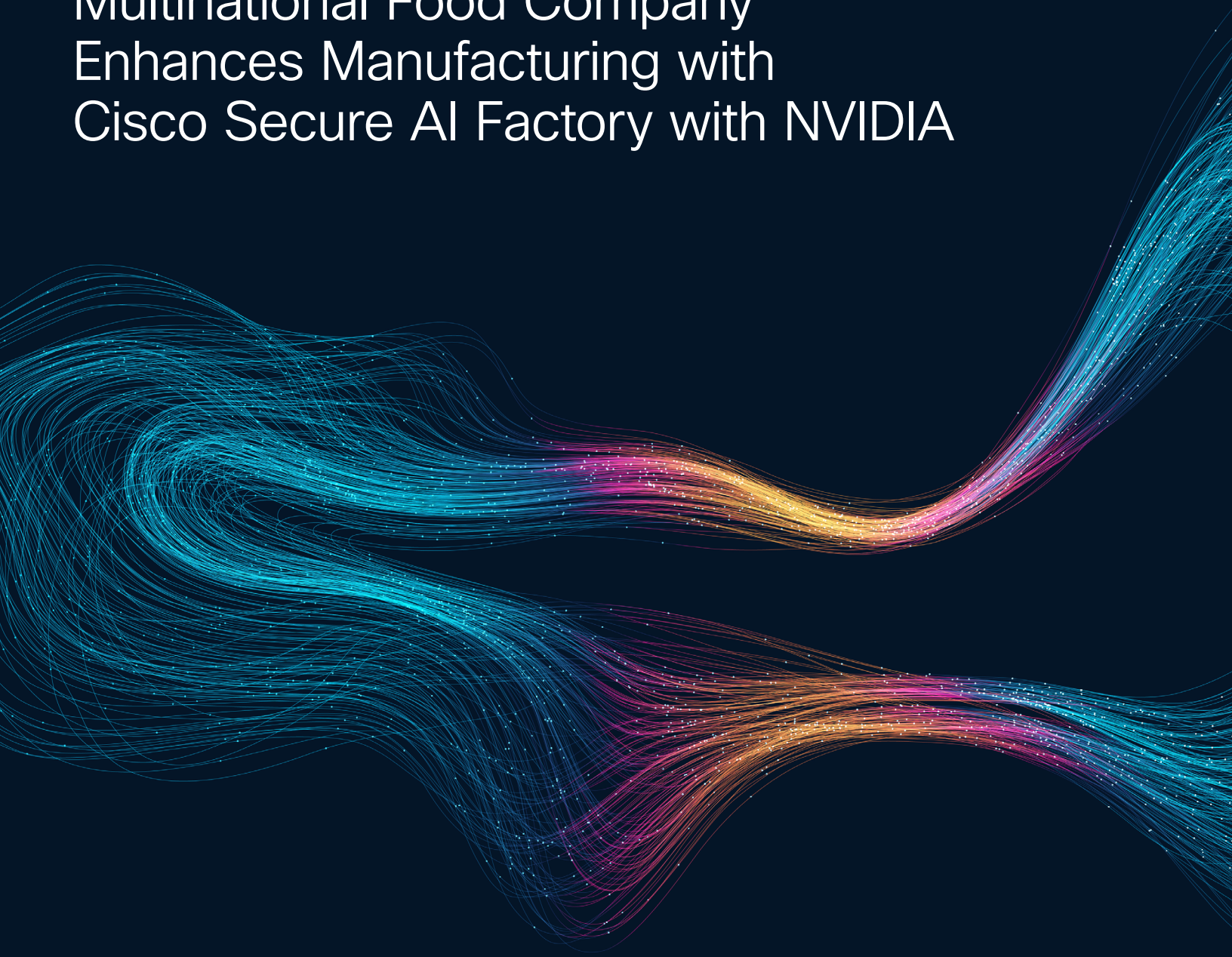




Multinational Food Company Enhances Manufacturing with Cisco Secure AI Factory with NVIDIA



For a top global food manufacturer, AI isn't just a competitive advantage—it's a fundamental pillar to support future innovation and growth. With dozens of production facilities spanning six continents, the multinational frozen foods company relies on Cisco solutions to support its enterprise networking, SD-WAN, enterprise switching, security, and industrial infrastructure. The company is also a cloud-first organization for data center applications, relying heavily on Microsoft Azure. But complacency is never an option for a market leader, and the company is always exploring ways to improve its operations.

Achieving executive-driven AI innovation

Technology innovation doesn't always start with IT; in some cases line of business (LOB) drives the process. The company's vice president of digital manufacturing spearheaded a project to enhance manufacturing yield, quality, and productivity, utilizing AI. To improve these critical performance indicators, the organization decided to build a digital twin of a key manufacturing process, while digitizing plant operations. Although the company had been working with Accenture to train AI models on rented cloud-based CPUs, the process was slow, with a single training iteration taking days.

To accelerate innovation, the manufacturing leadership realized they needed a GPU-based solution that they could own and operate, so they reached out to Cisco. Working in close collaboration with the LOB stakeholders, while keeping IT in the loop, Cisco looked beyond technical specs to focus on the best way to achieve specific business outcomes. To keep technology and operations fully aligned, the Cisco account team helped navigate collaboration between OT and IT.

Building on a trusted Cisco foundation

The customer already trusts Cisco to run its global network backbone, so the account team proposed deploying Cisco AI Pod and Cisco Secure AI Factory with NVIDIA. Flexible and modular, Cisco AI PODs simplify the deployment of powerful, secure, and scalable AI infrastructure for the enterprise. They form the AI infrastructure building blocks for Cisco Secure AI Factory with NVIDIA. These enterprise-class infrastructure solutions also offer the same reliability and ease-of-management as the company's existing network.

This was the company's first major on-premises AI initiative, and like all major strategic initiatives, it brought some level of risk. Backed by proven reference designs, Cisco's modular solution enabled the company to start with a smaller, more economical entry point that can scale up as the project proves its value.

Charting a path to agile, efficient manufacturing

Deployment of the new solution went smoothly, and the manufacturer is now moving forward with training, while exploring future directions with executives. The long-term vision is to establish regional centers of excellence equipped with Secure AI Factory AI Pods for model training, strategically located to serve clusters of factories. Once models are trained, the organization plans to use Cisco Unified Edge at other production and warehouse facilities. Cisco Unified Edge delivers a systems approach for distributed computing by bringing infrastructure to the data, enabling real-time inferencing and agentic workflows from edge to core. The solution will support digital twin model deployment and inferencing using real-time data to quickly identify anomalies and make adjustments or perform necessary maintenance.

By bridging the gap between IT and manufacturing, this innovative food manufacturer is well-positioned to own their AI future through the Cisco Secure AI Factory. Together with Cisco, the leading manufacturer is transforming a former cloud-based bottleneck into a scalable foundation for global innovation.

“This ‘One Cisco’ effort successfully navigated a complex, non-traditional buying center, transforming a cloud-based bottleneck into a scalable foundation for global innovation.”

Cisco Account Executive