



Olivier ROUZE

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SIRI, where is my cylinder?

Olivier Rouzé is the Fab Director of Digital Cylinders.

Developing digital cylinders, based on the Internet of things and other technologies, so as to predict or enhance supply chain, sales, etc. is already a giant's leap for AL business and customers. But listening to Olivier Rouzé, it actually sounds like there is even more coming...

Olivier, if I give you any serial number, can you tell me where the cylinder is?

We have certainly made lots of progress regarding connected cylinders. We collect data, share it, control it remotely, and then process it. However, even though we are now able to answer the centuries-old questions 'where is my cylinder?' and 'how much gas is left inside?', we have actually come to realize that these are not our clients' priority!

What???

Ha, ha! In hospitals for instance, they use the cylinder when the patient has to leave the room for an exam or a consultation, otherwise they don't care about the bottle more than the anesthetic table, the defibrillator... So, from our immersion within the daily life of our Healthcare clients, we have found out that they want to better monitor all their assets, not only the cylinders... So that's where we're heading now. Same if you consider a welding unit – the cylinder is a minor input in their process, but a real pain in the process: heavy, dangerous, bulky... So, they are interested in cylinder data only if we can cross them with other data: staff, power consumption, consumables. Then we bring something useful, something they can buy. This is where we are going.

The future sounds fantastic... But today, what is the impact of your work for AL employees?

We are client, client and client oriented. However, from client's needs we can design nothing without the people from the WBLs, the other Fabs or the support functions, who show incredible interest and commitment when we have workshops here in our lab, or in remote collaboration. Now, what about the other thousands of AL people who have not yet been involved in one of our projects? We absolutely want to develop better visibility for them to understand what we do, collect their good ideas and engage them. This is in my opinion the ultimate goal of digital transformation: empower the local teams so that in a few years, my team and I become - almost - useless!

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