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Knowledge Partner

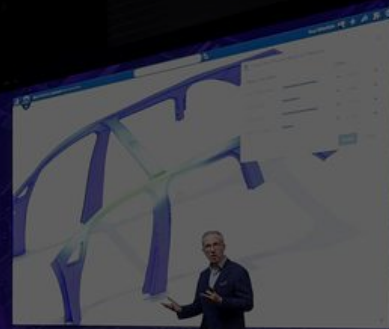
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INSIGHTS REPORT

Connected Industries

at MWC Barcelona 2026

GSMA
CONNECTED
INDUSTRIES
Manufacturing and
Production Summit



Connected Industries is a unique meeting point for key decision-makers

Connected Industries ran four sector-specific summits at MWC Barcelona 2026: Smart Mobility, Fintech and Commerce, Manufacturing and Production, and Sports and Entertainment. Each addressed an industry where network technology is becoming central to how organisations operate and compete.

Accenture's exclusive relationship with the GSMA as the Connected Industries Knowledge Partner is the cornerstone to our MWC Barcelona presence. Across key industry verticals, the program showcases how communications and connectivity underpin innovation at scale - powering transformation across industries worldwide.



2,873

attendees



115

countries



50.3%

senior-level



22.4%

C-Level

TOP FIVE INDUSTRIES IN ATTENDANCE:

01

9.35%

Consultancy

02

8.39%

Finance, FinTech,
Insurance

03

7.01%

Network
infrastructure vendor

04

6.75%

Software
development

05

6.59%

AI

Why Connected Industries matters at the leading global tech event

GSMA Intelligence projects a \$1 trillion enterprise opportunity for mobile operators by 2030. Connected Industries exists to accelerate the work of capturing it.

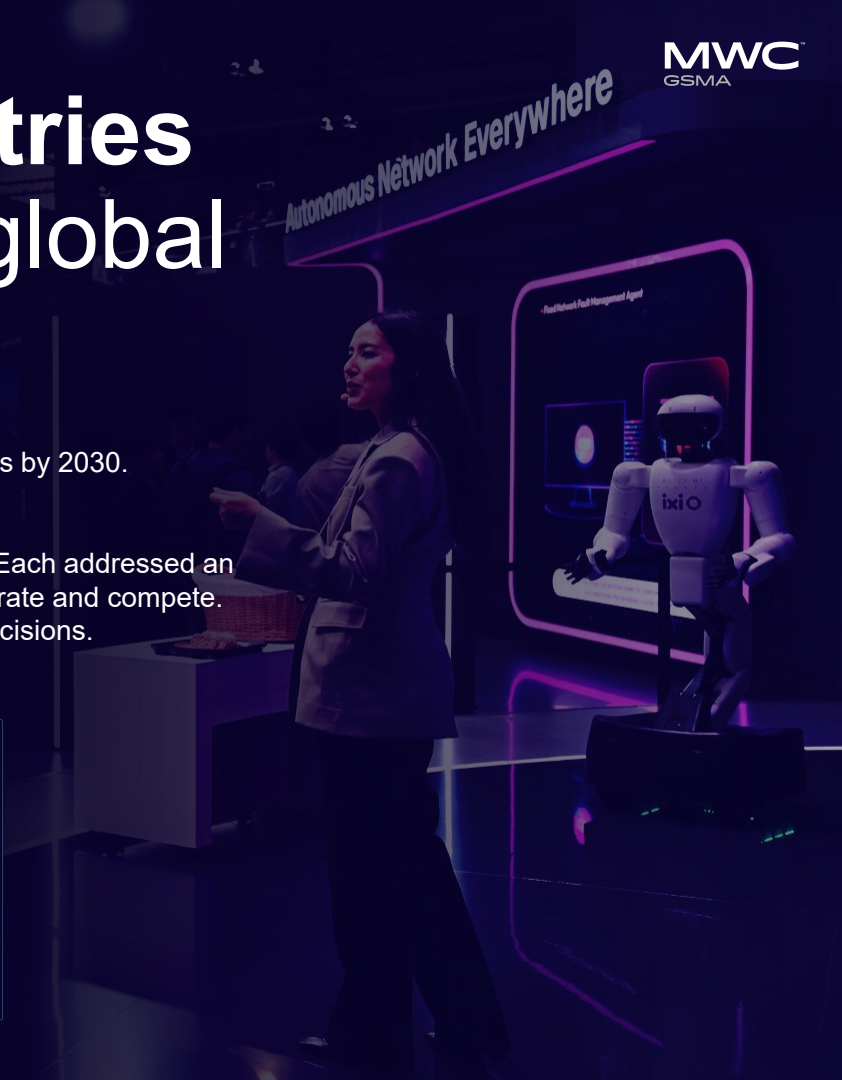
Connected Industries ran four sector-specific summits at MWC Barcelona 2026. Each addressed an industry where network technology is becoming central to how organisations operate and compete. These events drew key figures responsible for future planning and purchasing decisions.



Connected Industries shows how mobile technology is moving beyond connectivity to power growth across manufacturing, mobility, finance and other key sectors. Over the next five years, there is a \$1 trillion opportunity due to the digital transformation which will be happening across every single sector - the mobile ecosystem will have a huge role to play.

Richard Cockle

Head of GSMA Foundry and Connected Industries



Accenture | Connected Industries Knowledge Partner

AI Driven, Purpose Built Networks Are Becoming the Control Layer of Connected Industries

Across finance, manufacturing, mobility, and sports and entertainment, MWC Barcelona showed a clear convergence: AI is turning physical and digital environments into adaptive, real-time systems and generic connectivity cannot support that shift.

AI is now the decision engine *inside* live operations

From agentic payments and autonomous factories to connected vehicles and live venues, AI increasingly senses, decides, and acts in real time — amplifying both value and risk.

Best effort networks break first at scale

Latency, lack of observability, and inconsistent performance undermine trust, safety, revenue, and regulatory compliance across all four industries.

Purpose-built connectivity is now mandatory

Private 5G/LTE, edge intelligence, deterministic performance, and zero touch operations are becoming baseline requirements — not advanced options.

Network, platform and operations are one decision

If these layers are designed together, AI scales. If one is wrong, the others fail — regardless of model sophistication.



Connectivity is the intelligent control layer that determines whether AI, autonomy, and monetization succeed across connected industries.



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Tunc Yorulmaz

Senior Managing Director - Global Intelligent Infrastructure Services Lead, Accenture



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Manufacturing and Production Summit

Intelligent manufacturing is already taking shape

Mobile technologies are improving end-to-end productivity across supply chains, from materials sourcing and processing to assembly and warehousing. Early adopters are using predictive maintenance, RedCap IoT, private 5G networks, robotics and augmented reality to improve operations in practical and measurable ways.

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GROUP**

Who was in the room?

TOP FIVE INDUSTRIES IN ATTENDANCE:

- 01 9.1% Consultancy
- 02 7.7% Network Infrastructure Vendor
- 03 7.3% Association and Not-for-Profit
- 04 7.1% AI
- 05 7.0% Software Development

708

attendees from
64 countries

53%

senior-level
attendees



24.1%

C-Level

A specialist audience: global manufacturers, process engineers, automation vendors, connectivity providers and the IT and OT leaders responsible for making these technologies work together on production lines.

Key insights from the Manufacturing and Production Summit

01

IT/OT convergence is an organisational problem

Integrating information technology and operational technology is rarely blocked by protocol incompatibilities. The recurring difficulty is organisational: siloed teams, misaligned incentives, and different views of who is responsible for the connected factory. Sessions returned to this point again and again.

02

Private 5G is maturing from trial to procurement

Manufacturers are making capital expenditure decisions on private 5G. The conversations covered vendor selection, total cost of ownership and performance guarantees. The technology works. The question now is procurement.

03

Data sovereignty has reached the boardroom

As manufacturing processes generate more data, questions about who owns it, where it sits, and who can access it have become strategic. The Masterclass on sovereign edge computing (see slide 21) addressed this directly.

04

Sustainability and connectivity are the same investment

Energy efficiency, supply chain transparency and emissions tracking are data problems. Several sessions showed how the same infrastructure that increases factory productivity also enables decarbonisation reporting and compliance.

“

The future doesn't belong to companies that have the fastest network. It belongs to partnerships that speak the same language.



Priya Kurien

Research Director, IBM
Institute for Business Value

AI on the factory floor

The Manufacturing and Production Summit returned repeatedly to one question: what does it take to move AI from pilot projects to production lines? Priya Kurien, Research Director, IBM Institute for Business Value, argued that the answer lies in partnerships, because no single company controls enough of the technology stack to deliver an intelligent factory alone.

Elisa Garcia Anzano of Cisco provided a more direct assessment: AI does not fix a bad idea, it exposes it at exponential speed. Her point was that manufacturers investing in AI without first sorting out their data architecture and process logic are accelerating failure, not progress.

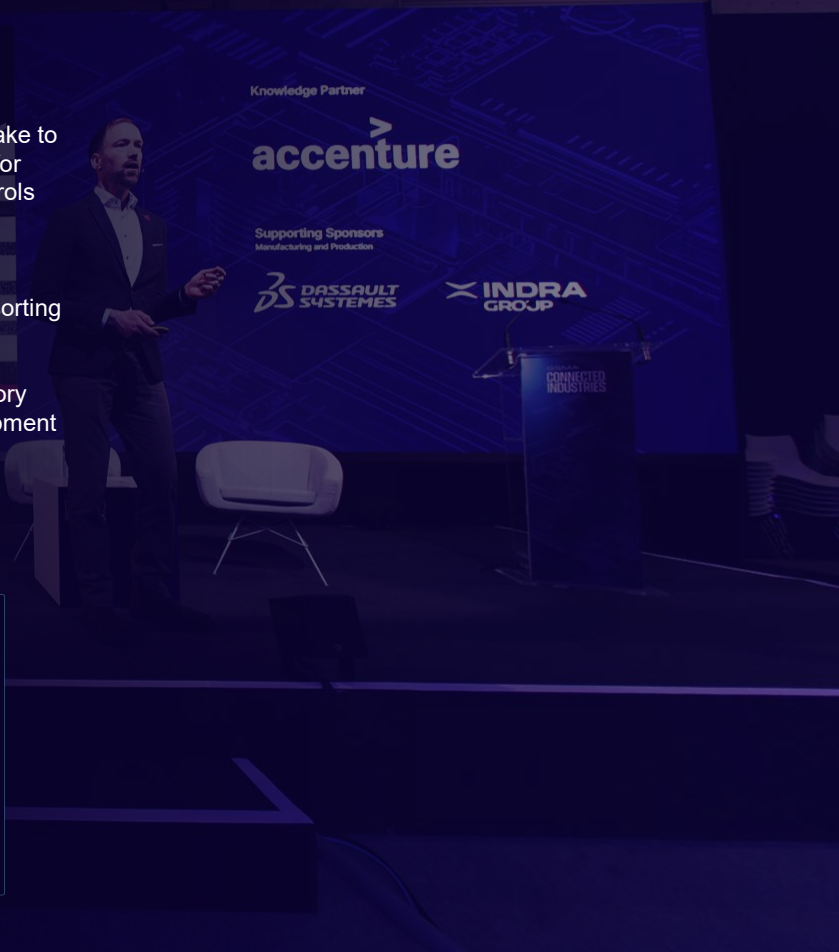
Several speakers described live deployments where private 5G networks are now running factory operations in real time: predictive maintenance, automated quality inspection and remote equipment control, all dependent on low-latency connectivity that public networks cannot yet guarantee.



Interoperability really is at the heart of the work that we're doing.

Amir Stephenson

Director, Networked Electromagnetic Systems (NES) & 5G.MIL, Lockheed Martin



Fintech and Commerce Summit

Mobile-powered finance

Mobile has transformed the way we bank and now plays a central role in financial services. Fintech and commerce present major growth opportunities, with cloud, AI, 5G and new platform models reshaping competition and enabling innovation. At MWC Barcelona, leaders from across mobile, technology, banking and government come together to examine the latest challenges and opportunities in fintech.

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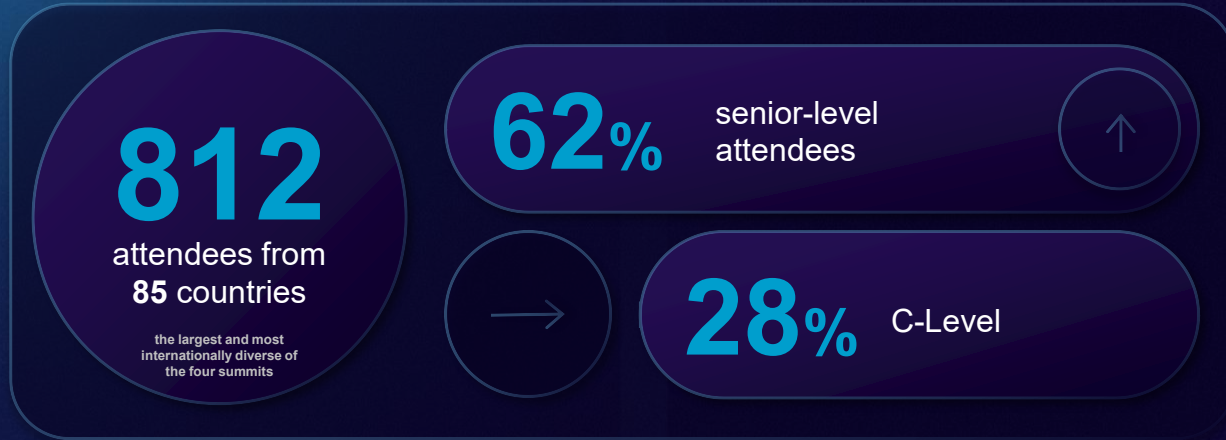
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 **iFLYTEK**

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 **VONAGE**

Who was in the room?



TOP FIVE INDUSTRIES IN ATTENDANCE:

01	21.3% Finance, FinTech, Insurance
02	7.7% MNO
03	7.1% AI
04	6.7% Consultancy
05	6.4% Software Development

Fintech and Commerce attracted the widest international audience of any Connected Industries summit, a reflection of how global the payments and financial services transformation has become. The audience included banks, mobile money operators, payment processors, regulators and network providers.

Key insights from the Fintech and Commerce Summit

01

AI is already operating inside payments infrastructure

Speakers described AI-driven fraud detection, credit decisioning and personalised financial services that are live and in production today. The competitive advantage now depends on how deeply AI is embedded in the payments architecture.

02

Network coverage is a financial inclusion issue

Expanding financial access in emerging markets depends as much on mobile network coverage as it does on product design. Several sessions made the point that payments innovation without connectivity investment is an incomplete strategy.

03

Regulatory divergence is both a problem and a signal

Different regulatory approaches across Europe, Asia and Africa are fragmenting the global payments market. But speakers noted that companies engaging proactively with regulators tend to gain an advantage, because they help shape the frameworks rather than react to them.

04

Real-time payments are now the expectation

Instant, borderless payments are now expected. What remains to be built is the plumbing: interoperability standards, fraud controls designed for real-time flows, and trust frameworks that hold across jurisdictions.

“

85% of commerce is screen-based today. By 2030, that could completely flip.



Parisa Yousefi

Head of Mobile Financial Services, Ericsson

When fraud moves at machine speed

The Fintech Summit put AI-driven fraud at the centre of the conversation. Brad Joffe of Apatе.ai described how a drag-and-drop phishing kit now costs \$25, meaning the tools once limited to expert criminals are available to anyone. The defence has to be equally automated and equally fast.

Parisa Yousefi of Ericsson pointed out that 85% of commerce is currently screen-based, but by 2030 that could flip entirely as voice, biometric and ambient commerce models take over. The payments infrastructure built for screens will need to be rebuilt for a world where transactions happen without them.

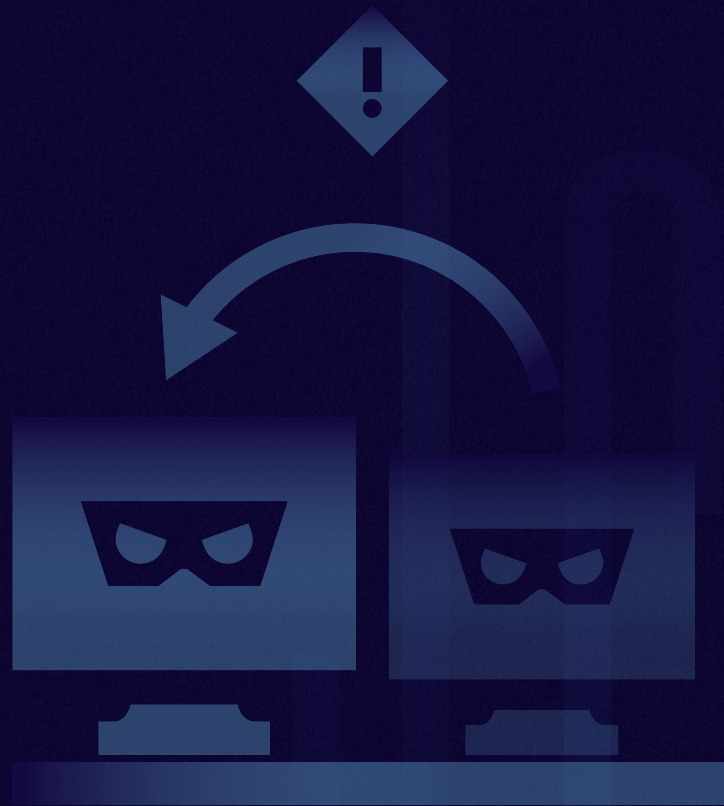


You can buy a drag-and-drop phishing kit for \$25. The barrier to entry for financial crime has collapsed.



Brad Joffe

CEO, Apatе.ai



Smart Mobility Summit

Smart mobility is opening new transport opportunities

Intelligent transport is improving efficiency, safety and sustainability across road, rail, air and sea. Logistics operators are using data and connectivity to strengthen operations and optimise the flow of trade. Meanwhile, automotive and aviation leaders are using advanced connectivity to improve the travel experience and build stronger relationships with frequent travellers.

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Who was in the room?

TOP FIVE INDUSTRIES IN ATTENDANCE:

- 01 11.2% Automotive and aerospace
- 02 7.2% Consultancy
- 03 6.9% Event management and services
- 04 5.9% IT/hardware manufacturing
- 05 5.2% Network infrastructure vendor

568

attendees from
62 countries

50.3%

senior-level
attendees



22.4%

C-Level

The Smart Mobility Summit drew a senior audience of vehicle and aircraft manufacturers, infrastructure operators, city transport authorities and network providers. The mix reflected the cross-sector nature of the problem: building connected mobility systems requires people from all of these backgrounds in the same room.

Key insights from the Smart Mobility Summit

01

Ecosystem convergence matters more than technology choice

The discussions kept returning to the same point: it is less important which technology wins than whether MNOs, OEMs, municipalities and software providers can work together well enough to deliver integrated mobility systems at scale.

02

Connectivity belongs in the infrastructure plan

Speakers across the summit treated 5G and edge computing as essential infrastructure for intelligent transport, on a par with roads and signalling systems. The implication is that network investment in mobility belongs in the infrastructure plan, on long-term timescales.

03

Trust and safety frameworks are not keeping pace

As autonomous systems mature, the regulatory and ethical frameworks governing them remain underdeveloped. Several sessions called for industry-led standards that can apply across borders, before fragmented national approaches take hold.

04

This is already commercial

The evidence presented was operational: live deployments, procurement decisions, commercial delivery. Smart mobility has passed proof-of-concept. Companies are buying and building.

“

Physical AI will not change the world if we cannot move. Mobility is not just a feature. It is the foundation.



Hongseok Cheon

Co-Founder and CEO,
Twinky

Where physical AI meets the road

The Smart Mobility Summit made a clear case for physical AI as the next major frontier in connected transport. Twinny CEO Hongseok Cheon argued that AI systems controlling real-world movement need fundamentally different infrastructure from cloud-based AI, and that MNOs have a direct role in building it.

Marie Högberg of Telenor IoT described a network handling 30 million connected SIM cards and processing 1.5 billion real-time events per day, evidence that the volume of connected mobility data is already at industrial scale.

Maxime Flament of the 5GAA outlined how C-V2X technology is enabling direct vehicle-to-vehicle and vehicle-to-infrastructure communication, reducing dependence on centralised cloud processing for safety-critical decisions.



The wireless industry has an unprecedented new opportunity. We don't have to wait for 6G. This technology is ready to scale and deploy today for 4G or 5G as well. It can perceive, it can understand movement. It can generate intelligence all from the signals already in the air.

Dr. Amitav Mukherjee

Founder and CEO, Tiami Networks Inc



Sports and Entertainment Summit

Explore new horizons in sports and entertainment

Sports and entertainment are being transformed by connected technology, and MWC26 Barcelona was where the industry came together to explore what is next. From smart stadiums and frictionless fan journeys to immersive content and new commercial models, this was where operators, rights holders and venue innovators shared how they are reshaping the fan experience.

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MATSING

Who was in the room?

TOP FIVE INDUSTRIES IN ATTENDANCE:

563

attendees from
47 countries

39.8%

senior-level
attendees



16.4%

C-Level

01 9.9% Consultancy

02 9.0% Education

03 6.5% Digital marketing and ad tech

04 6.3% Software development

05 6.0% Sports and gaming

This summit sat at the intersection of two industries: the technology companies building connectivity platforms and the rights holders, broadcasters and venue operators putting them to use. The audience reflected that split, and the discussions were shaped by it.

Key insights from the Sports and Entertainment Summit

01

Connected stadiums are now up and running

Several sessions featured live deployments of 5G-enabled fan experiences: real-time stats overlays, instant replay on personal devices, and in-venue wayfinding. The technology is proven. The work now is on the commercial model.

02

Fan data is becoming as valuable as broadcast rights

Preferences, behaviours, engagement patterns: the data generated at connected touchpoints is a strategic asset. Rights holders and venue operators are building data strategies that treat every interaction as a potential revenue line.

03

Immersive technology is redefining the meaning of 'attendance'

XR, spatial audio and multi-camera streaming let fans participate in live events without being physically present. This challenges the traditional economics of ticketing and opens commercial categories that did not exist five years ago.

04

Sustainability and community are where sponsorship is heading

Leading sports organisations are embedding sustainability targets and community programmes into their technology strategies. Sponsors are following. Net-zero venues and social connectivity initiatives are appearing in partnership negotiations with increasing frequency..

“

You cannot talk about fans as a group of people of this age and this demographic anymore.



Gorka Llort
Chief Commercial Officer,
MotoGP

Connectivity as a revenue engine

If there was one concept that distinguished the Sports and Entertainment Summit from the other three, it was this: connectivity in sport and entertainment is a revenue engine.

5G-powered multi-angle replays, AI-curated content feeds, and personalised in-venue services are all generating income, as well as improving experience. The organisations presenting at this summit had moved past asking whether these technologies work and were discussing pricing, rights structures and return on investment.

The outstanding question is about frameworks. The commercial and rights structures needed to monetise immersive, data-rich experiences at scale do not yet exist in most markets. Building them is the next phase of work.



**It took 23 years to reach 90% adoption of the internet.
It has taken three years to reach 90% adoption of AI.
And we're just at the beginning.**



Adam Berger

Product Marketing, Wearables Devices, Meta



Architecting the sovereign edge




86 attendees

51% senior-level attendees | 19% C-Level | 24 Countries

How organisations across industries are building data sovereignty strategies: protecting sensitive workloads at the edge while maintaining the agility to scale connected operations globally.

SPEAKERS:

Mauro Capo 

James Kaplan 

Anar Jafarzade 

Björn Weidenmüller 

Moderator: Jo Gilbert 

Turning business problems into scaled private 5G value



136 attendees

46% senior-level attendees | 19% C-Level | 32 Countries

A practical session on how manufacturers, logistics operators and enterprise technology teams are deploying private 5G to solve specific, commercial-scale business problems.

SPEAKERS:

Kevin Kapich 

Hakim Achouri 

Graham Wilde 

Regina Andersson 

Moderator: David Roberts 

Connected Industries ran two masterclass sessions at MWC Barcelona 2026, each led by industry practitioners and Accenture specialists. These were focused, technical sessions designed for people working on specific deployment challenges.

Three invite-only roundtable sessions ran across the Connected Industries programme. All operated under Chatham House rules, giving senior attendees the space for candid, off-the-record discussion.

Smart Mobility

Participants agreed that the barrier to connected mobility is coordination. Successful deployments start when vehicle manufacturers, MNOs and city authorities share ownership of the problem rather than trying to control the full solution independently.

Manufacturing and Production

The room identified IT/OT convergence as an issue of governance. Integration projects stall when teams work in silos. Participants called for shared frameworks and cross-sector standards before incompatible approaches become entrenched

Fintech and Commerce

Senior leaders from payments, networks and technology agreed that AI capability, payments infrastructure and network performance need to be designed as a single architecture. Competitive advantage goes to companies that treat them together, not separately.

Held at the Accenture booth. Chatham House rules applied.

Where industry leaders meet, and where the agenda is set

- **From trials to procurement.** Every summit featured organisations that have stopped testing connectivity and started buying it. The question in every room was "how do we scale it and what does it cost?"
- **The hardest part is organisational.** In manufacturing, mobility, finance and entertainment, the same pattern appeared: the technology is ready, but the teams, incentives and governance structures are not. Organisational change is the rate-limiting step.
- **Data sovereignty and trust as competitive ground.** Across all four sectors, data ownership, security and regulatory readiness came up as strategic concerns. The organisations treating these as first-order priorities are the ones making faster progress.

The four summits told the same story from four different angles:

the organisations already deploying connected infrastructure are writing the rules their competitors will have to follow.

Thank You to Our Sponsors

GSMA Connected Industries at MWC Barcelona 2026 was made possible with the generous support of our sponsors.

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The Accenture logo features the word "accenture" in a bold, lowercase sans-serif font. Above the letter "t" is a white chevron symbol pointing to the right.

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FINTECH AND COMMERCE

The ManageEngine logo consists of the word "ManageEngine" in a bold, sans-serif font. To the right of the text is a circular icon composed of several curved lines, resembling a stylized globe or a signal.

MANUFACTURING AND PRODUCTION

The Dassault Systemes logo features a stylized "DS" monogram on the left, followed by the words "DASSAULT" and "SYSTEMES" stacked vertically in a bold, sans-serif font.

The Indra Group logo features a stylized "X" symbol on the left, followed by the words "INDRA" and "GROUP" stacked vertically in a bold, sans-serif font.

FINTECH AND COMMERCE

The iFlytek logo features a stylized "X" symbol on the left, followed by the word "iFLYTEK" in a bold, sans-serif font.

The Vonage logo features a stylized "V" symbol on the left, followed by the word "VONAGE" in a bold, sans-serif font.

SMART MOBILITY

The kt logo features the lowercase letters "kt" in a bold, sans-serif font.

SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

The Matsing logo features the word "MATSING" in a bold, sans-serif font.

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