Consumer Electronics Show Highlights from ECIA's Chief Analyst Dale Ford: Part 1 January 2026

The 2026 Consumer Electronics Show is officially over, and organizers say it was the biggest post-pandemic turnout yet, with 148,000 attendees, 4100 exhibitors, 6900 global media, content creators and industry analysts. "CES is the world's most powerful proving ground for innovation," said Gary Shapiro, Executive Chair and CEO, Consumer Technology Association (CTA)®, owner and producer of CES. "CES is more than a showcase; it's where technology meets community, business, and policy. Global leaders, startups, and policymakers came together to highlight technologies that will define the next decade of economic growth and competitiveness."

ECIA's own Chief Analyst Dale Ford was one of those 6900 industry analysts, and he weighs in on his impressions of what innovators are doing and how that will impact our corner of the electronics industry. In other words, he walked the 6.2+ million square feet of exhibitor halls, so you didn't have to. Thank you, Dale.

Here is part 1 of his report:

The New "Advanced Manufacturing Showcase."

One exciting new area of CES located in a prominent location is called "Advanced Manufacturing Showcase." This area is Jointly sponsored by CTA and the Society of Manufacturing Engineers. Established in 1932 as a nonprofit organization, SME represents the entire North American manufacturing industry, including manufacturers, academia, professionals, students, and the communities in which they operate.

The stated objective of this new area of the CES is to support North America manufacturing and the return of manufacturing and new manufacturing to the U.S.

Exhibitors showcased solutions that they can bring to manufacturers in a partnership that will support more efficient and secure manufacturing solutions.

Companies presenting solutions

Here is a sample of some promising technologies for manufacturing.

EOS (Industrial 3D Printing): partner in the world of additive manufacturing in industrial 3D printing. This advanced technology offers an extensive product portfolio.

MIR / Teradyne Robotics: Autonomous mobile robots (AMRs) automate material handling tasks with payloads from 250 kg (551 lbs) to 1350 kg (10,000 lbs). Delivers enhanced productivity, offering a high return on investment by streamlining workforce efficiency, reducing lead times, and improving workplace safety.

ZEISS: Showcasing innovations in XR (Extended Reality) materials, featuring waveguide glass for clearer displays, IR cut filters, and diffractive lenses for better 3D sensing in smart glasses and AR/VR devices. Zeiss's industrial solutions focus on AI-driven microscopy software (ZEN core) and automated quality control with deep learning for manufacturing.

Lumafield (Industrial X-Ray CT): They have developed a whole system, from X-ray capture, to computer vision analysis, to web-based collaboration, to the entire business model, making the most advanced manufacturing tech more accessible to every industry.

Orases: They develop custom software & AI solutions that combine advanced engineering, industry experience, and AI-enabled development practices to transform your vision into custom software solutions that meaningfully improve core business metrics

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formlabs: They have become the largest supplier of professional stereolithography (SLA) and selective laser sintering (SLS) 3D printers in the world. They employ a wide variety of materials for 3D solutions in a variety of industries.

MASTERCAM: They claim their products deliver superior machining performance with advanced productivity tools and AI-enabled CAM intelligence for Mastercam CONNECT users.

TERRAGRIT: Their products enable collaborative, no-code simulation platforms to easily create "VMs" of a physical space designed for virtual pilots. A simple example of how they are positioned - "We are to digital twins what Canva is to Photoshop."

Aura Technologies: They are a strategically diversified innovation engine revolutionizing Quantum Computing, Digital Supply Chain, Cyber-Physical Security, Health Technology, AI/ML-Enabled solutions and more, solving real problems with new ideas.

Alchemi Data: Protect sensitive manufacturing data – from CAD drawings to G-code – across the entire projection workflow. Built for defense contractors who need CMMC compliance without disrupting work.

JR Automation (Hitachi Group Company): They accelerate intelligent, connected manufacturing solutions that adapt, evolve, and scale at the speed of business. They bring together pre-automation consulting, advanced automation, comprehensive service, and data-driven insights to help you build smarter, scale faster, and seamlessly evolve for what's next.

Get more information and website links for these companies by using the CES Exhibitor Directory.

Next up... In a highly impressive presentation at the Las Vegas Sphere, Lenovo staged a broad showcase of "Smarter AI for All," unveiling personal and enterprise AI across devices, data centers, and edge, with deep partner support from nVidia, Intel, Microsoft, Qualcomm, AMD, Formula One, Sphere, and FIFA.