

The Next Foundation

What we shared
and what we heard back



MOMENTUM
FORWARD DAY 2026

THURSDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2026

9AM – 7PM

EINDHOVEN

WHITEPAPER



UNGSOOK PARK
55 -

STEPHEN
HAWKING
1942 - 2018

VALENTINE
DE SAINT POINT
1875 - 1953

KARL MARX
1818 - 1883

JARON LANIER
1960 -

AMY WEBB
1974 -



VLEES
IJS

BISTRO-INVITRO.NL

WELCOME TO
MOMENTUM
FORWARD DAY 2026

Where manufacturing
meets what's next

ENJOY THE DAY

WELCOME TO
MOMENTUM
FORWARD DAY 2026

Where manufacturing
meets what's next

ENJOY THE DAY

Walking
Dinner



A building raised as a monument to the future, still standing sixty years on.

On 17 September, 87 people from 44 companies spent their Thursday with us at the Evoluon in Eindhoven; the building Philips raised in 1966 as a monument to the future. Sixty years on, it is still standing, and that was the point of the day: architecture outlasts whatever content sits inside it.

This white paper distils what we shared and what we heard back, for everyone in our network who could not be there in person. If any of it is relevant to your own operation, the closing section tells you how to take it further with us.



87
PEOPLE

44
COMPANIES

3
BREAKOUT ROOMS

1
FULL DAY, ON-SITE

Four priorities, one direction

Alexander Moentjens, Brighteye's CEO, opened the day with four forces every plant in the room is already absorbing. None of these are predictions. They are already on the floor.

FORCE 01

7.3% **Scarce people**

EU VACANCY RATE – MANUFACTURING LABOURERS. SCARCE PEOPLE: THE PEOPLE SIMPLY ARE NOT COMING BACK.

FORCE 02

85% **Cost pressure**

OF MANUFACTURING LEADERS UNDER PRESSURE TO PROTECT MARGINS. ANSWERED ONLY BY PRODUCTIVITY.

FORCE 03

78% **Volatile supply chains**

EXPECT DISRUPTION TO PERSIST FOR 1–2 YEARS. VOLATILE SUPPLY CHAINS ARE HERE TO STAY.

FORCE 04

87% **AI**

OF MANUFACTURERS NOT YET USING AI IN OPERATIONS. AI KEEPS MOVING THE GOALPOSTS.



Momentum's answer sits in four priorities: customers first, a product that grows with you, a next-generation architecture, and growth with partners as much as with customers.

Complexity never disappears. It needs to be orchestrated.

01**CUSTOMERS FIRST**

Your value decides the roadmap, not the other way around. A partner for the long term.

02**A PRODUCT THAT GROWS WITH YOU**

Modular, so you add what brings value today; built on 20 years of expertise.

03**A NEXT-GENERATION ARCHITECTURE**

Built to last and upgradable, with AI at the core rather than beside it.

04**GROWTH**

With customers and partners alike; more capacity, same model.

“Complexity never disappears. It needs to be orchestrated.”

— ALEXANDER MOENTJENS, CEO



Complexity never disappears. It needs to be orchestrated.



MES

EXECUTION, KNOWLEDGE AND
OEE FOR THE PLANT FLOOR.



WMS

END-TO-END WAREHOUSE
LOGISTICS, RECEIPT TO OUTBOUND.



WCS

REAL-TIME CONTROL OF CONVEYORS,
SORTERS, AS/RS, AMRS.



BATCHING

ISA-88 BATCH EXECUTION,
GUIDED AND AUDITABLE.



APS

DIGITAL-TWIN SCHEDULING
THAT REACTS TO THE FLOOR.



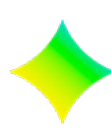
QMS

QUALITY TESTS, TRACK &
TRACE, AUDIT-READY.



EQUIPMENT HUB

ONE CONNECTOR LAYER:
MQTT, OPC, KAFKA, MODBUS.



AI AGENT

READS ACROSS EVERY
MODULE – NOT BOLTED ON.

BUILT FOR

FOOD &
BEVERAGE



DISCRETE &
ADVANCED
MATERIALS



CHEMICALS
& SPECIALTY
CHEMICALS



RECYCLING &
ENERGY



2003

Founded in Belgium

100+

Customers globally

~60

Brighteye specialists

1

Platform, one codebase

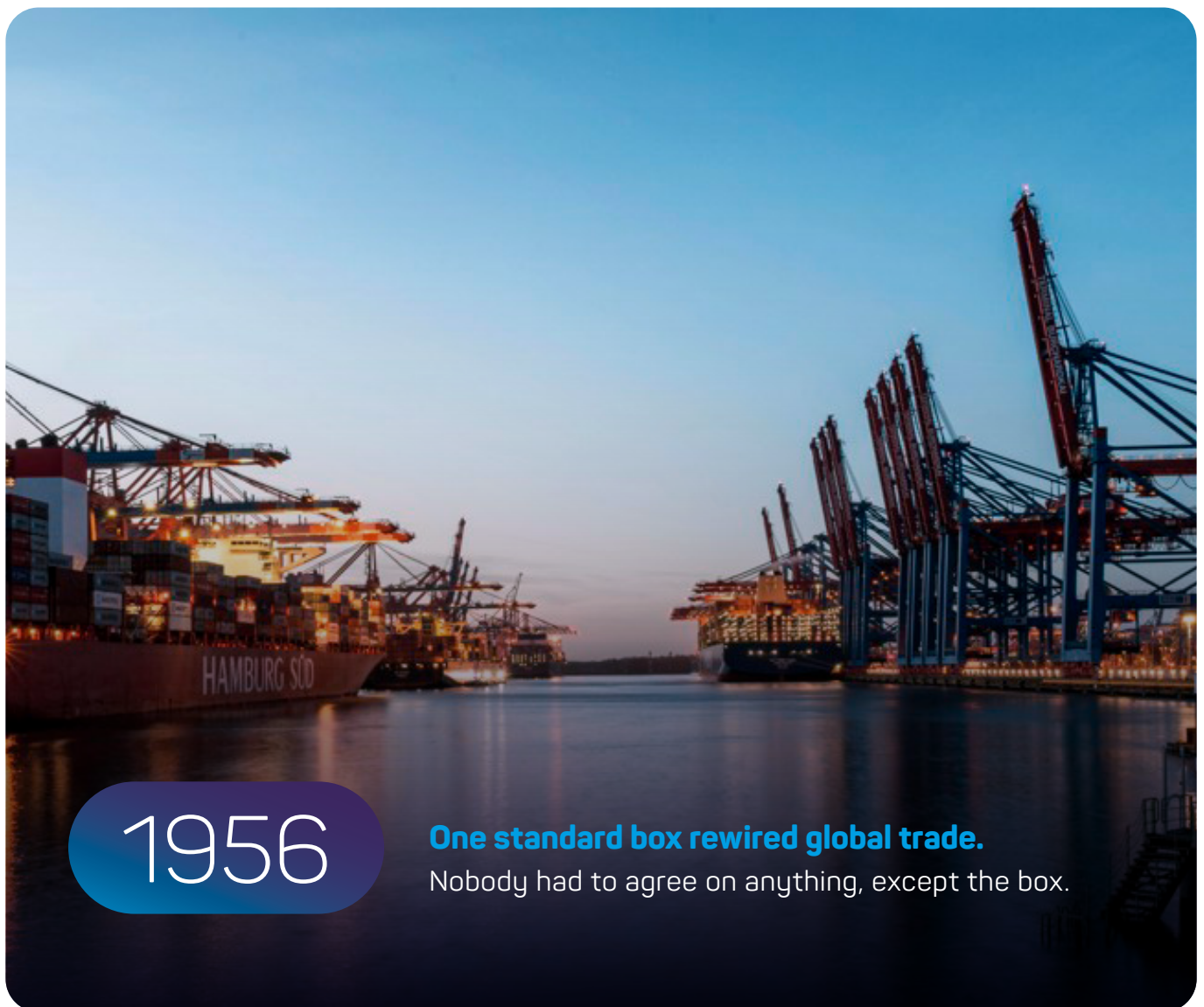
Built from scratch, event-based and modular by architecture; not assembled through acquisitions.
That's the foundation the rest of this white paper is about.

THE NEXT FOUNDATION

Why architecture is the real story

Chief Architect Lode Blomme used one image to carry his keynote: in 1956, a standardised steel shipping container rewired global trade; not a faster crane, or a bigger ship. A standard. Momentum's next foundation applies the same idea inside the factory.

For your plant floor, this is the difference between waiting on IT for every new integration and adding a machine, screen or app without a project to connect it to what's already running.



A standard event, on a shared bus, replaces point-to-point integrations between MES, WMS, WCS, equipment and screens. Almost nothing calls anything else directly; every system publishes what happened and subscribes to what it needs, so no system depends on another one being up.

What this means on the floor: add a new scale, screen or line and it plugs into the bus; it doesn't need a project to connect it to everything already running and nothing has to be rebuilt because one system was briefly down.

WHAT TRAVELS ON IT: EVENTS



Pills are events, boxes are systems. No system calls another system. They all speak to the bus.

Layered on top is a **unified namespace**, built on the ISA-95 hierarchy manufacturers already use, which gives every measurement in the plant one address; plus durable, replayable event streams, so a system that was offline for an hour, a day or does not exist yet can catch up on everything that happened.

ONE ADDRESS FOR EVERYTHING

Enterprise → your company
Site → Ghent
Area → Packaging
Line → Line 3
Cell → Filler
Device → Checkweigher

ONE EVENT, ADRESSED

GHENT › PACKAGING › LINE 3 › FILLER
 weight.measured

ISA-95 — the hierarchy you already use

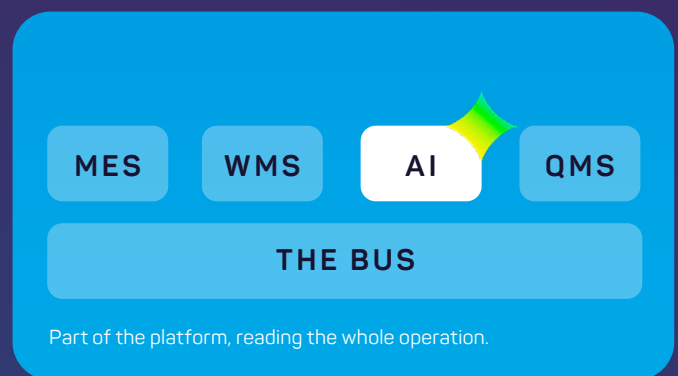
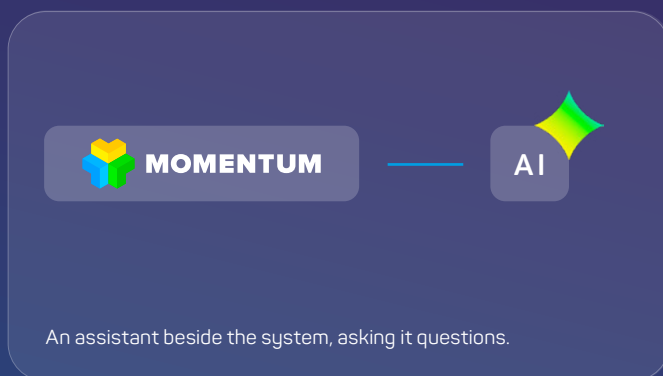
CloudEvents — one payload envelope, not fifty

Durable streams — replayable from the start

WHERE THIS IS GOING

The goal is AI at the core.

On AI, Brighteye is deliberately cautious. The ambition is AI at the core of the platform, not bolted on beside it as an assistant that has to ask the system questions. But today this is early: experiments, not product.



Everyone can call the same models. The difference is what the model can see.

The value of the architecture is that any model can be tested safely against real production history before it ever touches a live decision and switched off again by simply unsubscribing.

What this means for you: today, that's fewer false alarms and less time tuning models. AI stays a helper you can switch off, not a new system to babysit.

"The contents date.
The architecture
endures."

— LODE BLOMME, CHIEF ARCHITECT



Q8 Oils: from Excel to one operational backbone



Q8 Oils blends and packages more than 1,000 lubricant products from over 6,000 recipes at its Antwerp plant. Before Momentum, the operation ran on a mix of Excel, paper and point solutions, with a MES nearing end of life.

Phase one went live in April 2026, delivered by a cross-functional team of more than 20 people from IT, OT and the business and led deliberately by the blending manager as business owner rather than by IT. Inbound, blending and outbound now run through Momentum, with warehouse management, filling-line integration and detailed scheduling next on the roadmap.



Q8 Oils blending plant, Antwerp – 215 employees, blending and packaging more than 1,000 lubricant products.

170

TANKS

40 km

PIPING

7000

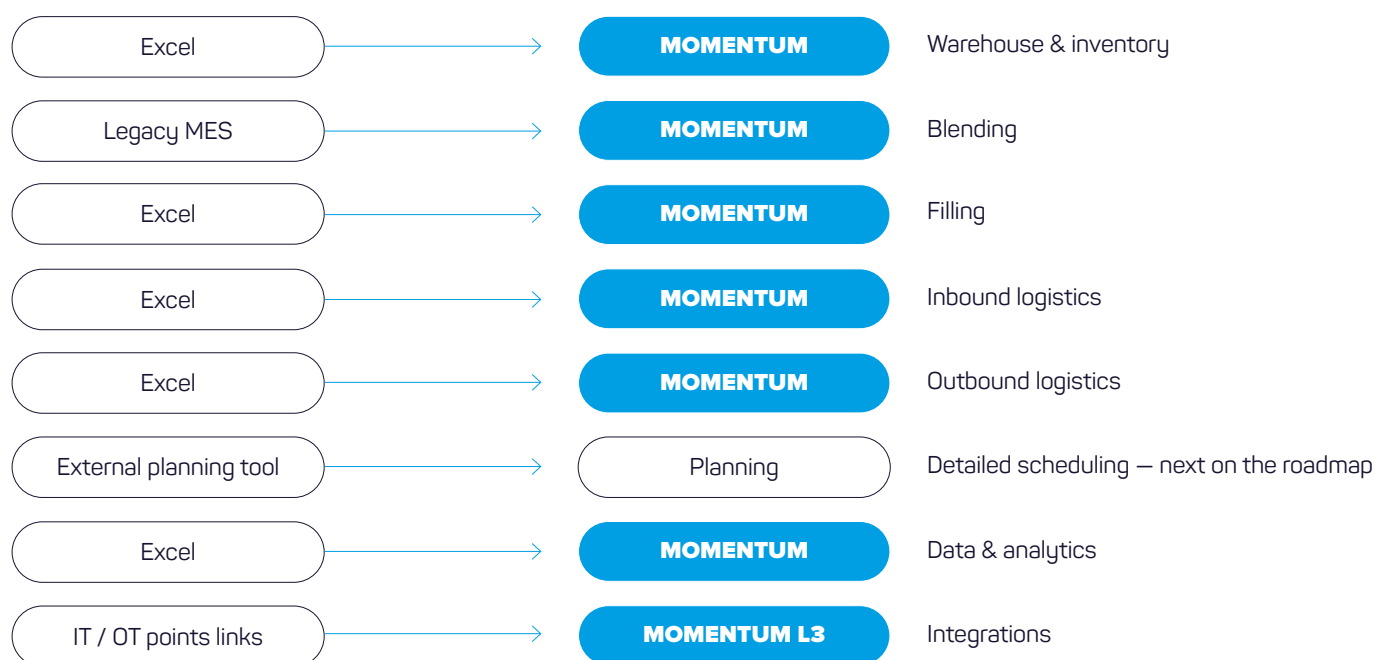
VALVES

24x1.5M L

BASE OF OIL TANKS

From fragmented landscape to connected operations

Eight functions across the plant, each running its own tool before Momentum now converging on one operational backbone.



“Business ownership is the most critical success factor.”

— PROJECT TAKEAWAY, Q8 OILS



Vitablend: enforcing quality where it starts



Vitablend produces nutritional premixes and antioxidants for infant, medical and animal nutrition and food and beverages, where a single 3-tonne batch becomes roughly 250,000 tins of infant formula and a dosing error does not stay inside the plant.

981

RAW MATERIALS

733

RECIPES

462

SALES UNITS

After comparing 11 MES candidates, Vitablend chose Momentum for its near one-to-one fit with its existing batch engine and for a shift the platform enabled: quality moved from something the operator recorded to something the process enforces.

A mandatory quality test, guided by the PLC, now has to be completed before production continues eliminating any potential workarounds on the floor. Standardised batch technology cut the need for a separate recipe per line across all 733 recipes, and real-time integration with SAP replaced manual stock corrections.

Raw material potency varies per delivery; the effective dosage is only determined on the line itself. Combined with a MES that had reached the limits of its capabilities, every batch now has to reconcile with SAP in real time, order by order.

Responsibility at the source

BEFORE

Responsibility often landed on the production floor, who sometimes lacked the means to continue the operation.

WITH **MOMENTUM**

Responsibility shifts to the planners, before scheduling ever starts.

Quality: from recording to enforcing

BEFORE

A yes/no tick or readout by the operator; for instance on a metal detection step.

WITH **MOMENTUM**

A mandatory quality test, guided by the PLC, must be completed or approved before the process continues.

“Momentum helps us safeguard business processes at every level, and gives us the flexibility to do so according to our own quality standards.”

— NICK HOGEVEEN
PROJECT MANAGER, VITABLEND

“Everything we raised: ‘Can it do this, can it do that?’, there was an immediate answer to it.”

— MURK DALSTRA
OT-ENGINEER, VITABLEND

APS & Planning: the plan is the bottleneck, not the machines

54% of small and medium plants still run scheduling on some combination of pen, paper and spreadsheets.

Source: Brighteye internal analysis, based on customer conversations and industry benchmarks.

Individually optimised machines still produce WIP piling up between areas and changeovers misaligned across stages, because the real constraint was never a single resource, it was how work flows between already-feasible local schedules.

Release 18.2 brings area-based scheduling and schedule previews to Momentum's APS module, so planners can compare optimisation options visually before committing to one.

LOCAL OPTIMUM vs. GLOBAL OPTIMUM

LOCAL OPTIMUM

Area A



Area B

Optimal sequence for Area A dumps a wave of WIP on Area B. Long changeover results in queues, idle time, missed due dates.

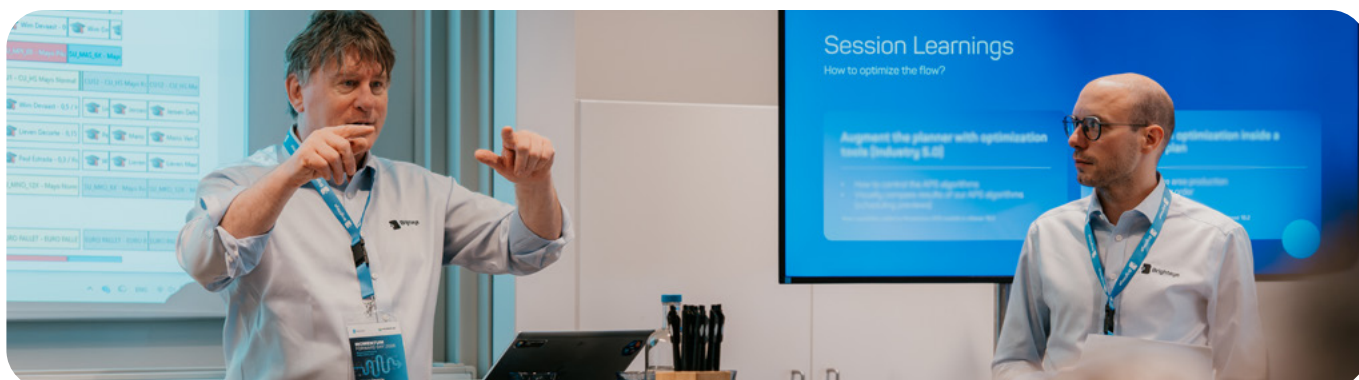
GLOBAL OPTIMUM

Area A



Area B

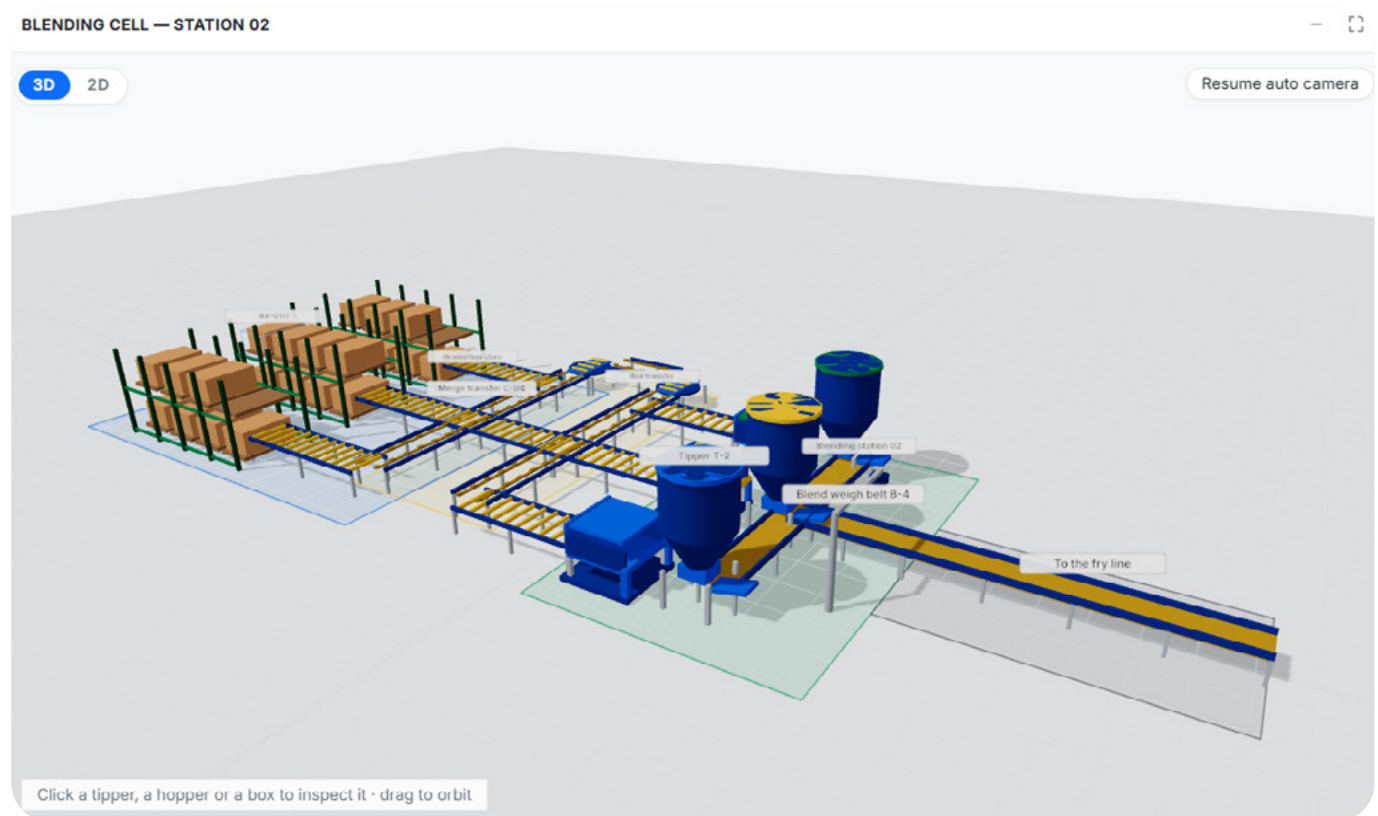
Cross-area optimisation coordinates how work flows between already-feasible local schedules; solving the global picture.



Lieven Decorte (CTO) and Dennis Asselman (Head of Product) walking through APS session learnings and how to optimise the flow.

WCS & Automation: the potato blend that fixed itself

The breakout's running case: a potato processing line blending three size grades to a fixed target ratio for fries, where the raw material is never exactly what was planned and the stock drifts while it is being consumed.



How the plant looks like: the blending cell, modelled in 3D: tippers, hoppers and the blend weigh belt feeding the fry line.

When the blend camera detected a shift toward larger potatoes, Momentum's MES recalculated the recipe, WMS forecast the resulting stock shortfall before it happened, and WCS rerouted the replenishment in time; 3 systems, one event, no meeting and no phone call in between.

THE CLEAN RUN

One event. Four actions.

Blend ratio drifted
published once, on the bus

**EQUIPMENT HUB**

CAPTURED THE DEVIATION

**MES**

CHANGED THE RECIPE

**WMS**ORDERED BEFORE REACHING
STARVATION**WCS**

BROUGHT THE BOXES IN TIME

“Nobody called anybody:
something published an
event, and something
else was listening.”

— WCS & AUTOMATION BREAKOUT



AI vs MES: six use cases, one honest test

Not everything called AI is AI. One word, two eras; knowing which one you are being sold tells you what to trust.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE — THE FIELD, NOT A PRODUCT

MID-1950S → MID-1990S

Classical / symbolic AI

Rules, logic, expert systems, search and constraint solving. It never went away; it is what your scheduler runs on today.

Decides, and can prove it

MID-1990S → TODAY

Modern AI / machine learning

Learns patterns from your data. Needs history. Sometimes wrong; this is what people mean when they say AI in 2026.

Predicts & generates

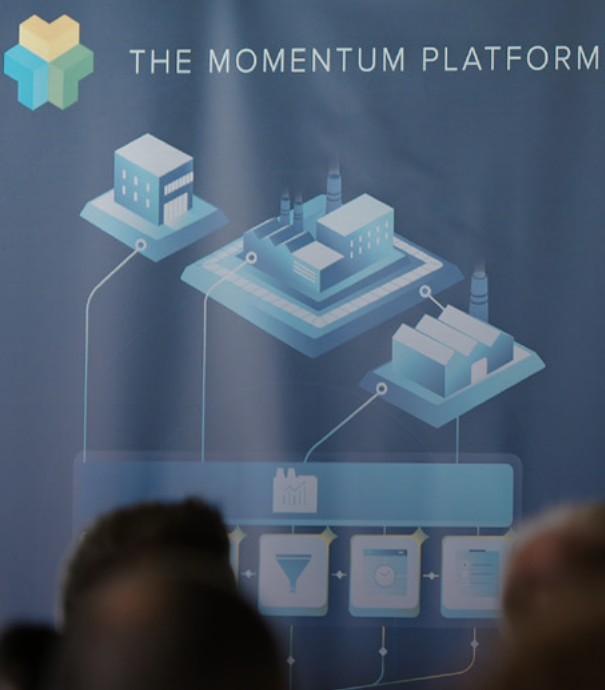
NOT AI AT ALL

Rules & thresholds · SPC & statistics · Dashboards & reports · Scripts & RPA · all of it gets sold as AI too.

Two questions for anything called AI: does it learn from your data, and can you check its answer?

Six candidate use cases were put to the room for a live vote: a generative batch-record assistant that summarises deviations with every line traceable back to its source record; a conversational inventory chatbot; AI-suggested replanning after a disruption; predictive downtime (harder than it looks: 99% of maintenance data says everything is fine, and a model will happily learn to always say so); a golden-batch model correlating settings to quality outcomes; and predictive quality inspection.

We didn't walk away with a clean tally to report, what we did walk away with were two ideas the room raised unprompted: energy management and AI-generated shift handovers. Both are now feeding directly into the roadmap.



CUTTING FOOD WASTE AT THE SOURCE

— YARNE DE MUNCK, CEO OF POLYSENSE

Closed the morning with a case from Belgian fries producer Roger & Roger. A vision system measures the peel percentage on every individual potato after peeling, in real time, and uses that to dynamically correct the peeling parameters – removing over-peeling waste without a single operator in the loop.

Polysense trains its models on synthetic 3D data rather than months of manually labelled images, which is how it scales across the 200-plus potato varieties and 90-plus fry types it already supports – and it already integrates directly with Momentum. It is a preview of what AI at the core looks like once the operational data foundation is in place.

Release 18.2: what you can use today

The architecture story is about where Momentum is going. Release 18.2 is what ships now. Head of Product Dennis Asselman grouped it around three themes: control back in the hands of the planner, visibility for the people on the floor and a platform that is easier to run and harder to break.

MOMENTUM APS

01 · AUGMENTED PLANNER

- **Global scheduling, local optimisation.** Each process area is optimised within the overall plan, so one area's best sequence no longer becomes the next area's queue.
- **Schedule preview and comparison.** Run several scenarios automatically, compare them side by side on the timeline and commit only once you have seen the difference.
- **Personnel scheduling.** Shortages and surpluses per shift and per competence, down to a person/competence matrix.

SUPERVISOR & OPERATOR

02 · OPERATOR INSIGHTS

- **Site & area OEE.** One view across every workcentre in an area: what is running, which product, which warnings. Then drill down from availability, performance and quality to detected periods and loss reasons.
- **Expired quality tests.** See which checks were due and not performed within a chosen time window. The metal detection test nobody did no longer stays invisible.
- **Scanner Test App.** Diagnose a handheld scanner from a web app and see exactly what the device sends, instead of guessing why a scan fails.

03 · THE PLATFORM

- **PostgreSQL support.** Momentum now runs on PostgreSQL or SQL Server. Open source, no database licence costs, on-premise or in AWS and Azure.
- **Security updates.** Regular independent pentesting, with the findings fed into every release.
- **Web server logs.** Configurable logging for faster troubleshooting.

ALSO IN 18.2 · WMS

Storage locations can be marked as full, manually or automatically. Transfer orders are introduced as the way to instruct a WCS or WES to move goods, the groundwork for the Warehouse Control System on the roadmap.

WHAT THIS MEANS ON THE FLOOR:

planners see the consequences of a plan before they commit to it, supervisors see where performance is lost while there is still time to act, and IT gets more freedom in where and how Momentum runs.

"You want to take
decisions in an
informed way.
That needs visibility."

— DENNIS ASSELMAN, HEAD OF PRODUCT

Alexander closed the day the same way he opened it: the roadmap on the table was shaped by the room, not delivered to it.

If any of what you have just read; the new architecture, the AI use cases, advanced planning, warehouse control, or simply what a Momentum rollout actually looks like from Q8's or VitaBlend's side, is relevant to where your own operation is headed, we would like to continue the conversation on your terms and on your floor.

87

PEOPLE

44

COMPANIES

3

BREAKOUT ROOMS

Book 30 minutes with the Brighteye team

Reach out directly — Karen Decorte, karen.decorte@brighteye.eu
or call +32 (0) 51 26 32 10

[Get in touch](#)

MOMENTUM FORWARD DAY RETURNS IN 2027

— SAVE THE DATE ONCE WE LOCK IT IN.

