

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Arch Systems, HARMAN and FORVIA HELLA to Headline AI-in-Manufacturing Panel at Automotive News Congress 2026

Sep 25, 2026 · PALO ALTO, Calif., Sept. 23, 2026 · Arch Systems, the manufacturing intelligence platform powering AI agents on factory shop floors, announced that two automotive manufacturers it is working with, HARMAN Automotive and FORVIA HELLA, will join a panel at Automotive News Congress 2026 on how manufacturers are scaling AI use cases that actually deliver results on the plant floor.

The session, "How Automotive Manufacturers Are Scaling the AI Use Cases That Work," is moderated by Arch Systems CTO and Co-Founder Tim Burke. It brings together operations and engineering leaders, Don Barnes, Vice President of Manufacturing Excellence, HARMAN Automotive, and Sven Hoenecke, CEO, FORVIA HELLA Americas, two tiers of the automotive supply chain, to share what it takes to turn AI pilots into measurable, repeatable outcomes.

This session gives manufacturing leaders a direct look at how AI is improving uptime, throughput, and quality today, and what it takes to scale a working use case across lines, plants, and operations.

HARMAN: Proven Results at Scale

HARMAN, the automotive technology leader and subsidiary of Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd., partnered with Arch Systems to deploy the Arch Factory Intelligence Platform across its global electronics manufacturing network, beginning with a lighthouse deployment at its Suzhou, China facility.

Documented results from the deployment:

- Approximately 30% growth in total placements across four manufacturing sites
- Approximately 37% improvement in Defects Per Million Units (DPMU)
- 6 to 8 percentage-point improvement in Overall Equipment Effectiveness (OEE) across multiple sites

The joint initiative, "Scaling Factory Intelligence with Agentic AI," was named a finalist for the 2026 Automotive News PACE Award.

"For us, AI is an enabler to drive quality and productivity across our manufacturing sites, while improving transparency and creating greater synergies across our global operations. Our collaboration with Arch Systems is helping us advance that journey, supported by HARMAN's strong culture of continuous improvement and our teams' willingness to embrace change," said Don Barnes, Vice President of Manufacturing Excellence, HARMAN Automotive.

FORVIA HELLA: AI in Action on the Line

FORVIA HELLA, a global Tier 1 automotive electronics and lighting manufacturer, recently began a pilot with Arch Systems focused on real-time downtime labeling and AI-driven root-cause analysis across SMT lines. On stage, Sven Hoenecke will address what has to be true structurally

before AI can scale across a global plant network, how AI, automation, and robotics combine to solve labor constraints in electronics manufacturing, and the lessons learned from putting AI to work in a highly quality-driven production environment.

"At FORVIA HELLA, we are focused on scaling AI where it creates measurable business impact," says Sven Hoenecke, President and CEO of FORVIA HELLA Electronics, Americas. "With a connected manufacturing network, a dedicated transformation organization, and a clear focus on business value, we are turning AI into measurable improvements in quality, productivity, and resilience across our global operations."

Event Details

Automotive News Congress 2026

Panel: How Automotive Manufacturers Are Scaling the AI Use Cases That Work

Date: September 29, 2026

Time: 12:40 PM

About Arch Systems

Arch Systems is a manufacturing intelligence platform that combines a governed manufacturing data foundation with autonomous AI in a single platform. Arch unifies fragmented factory data — equipment, MES, and enterprise systems — into trusted operational context, then puts trained expert manufacturing AI agents on top of it to investigate, reason, and act across quality, planning, and operations.

The result is expert-level decision-making that scales across every line and site, without infrastructure overhauls or multi-year transformation projects. Manufacturers see measurable results — less downtime, higher quality, greater efficiency in weeks, not years. Learn more at archsys.io

About HARMAN

HARMAN is a global leader in Lifestyle Audio and Automotive technology. We create intelligent experiences that enrich people's lives on the road, in their homes, on the stage, and everywhere in between. Our iconic audio brands — including JBL®, Harman Kardon®, AKG®, Bowers & Wilkins®, Denon®, and Marantz® — bring premium sound to consumers and audio/visual professionals worldwide. More than 50 million vehicles globally rely on HARMAN's technologies to deliver safer, smarter, and more intuitive in-cabin experiences. A wholly owned subsidiary of Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd., HARMAN has approximately 26,000 employees around the world.

About FORVIA HELLA

Forvia Hella is a listed international automotive supplier. As a company of the FORVIA Group, FORVIA HELLA stands for high-performance lighting technology and vehicle electronics and, with the Lifecycle Solutions Business Group, also covers a broad service and product portfolio for the spare parts and workshop business as well as for manufacturers of special vehicles. With

currently around 34,000 employees at over 125 locations, the company is active worldwide and generated adjusted sales of €8.0 billion in the fiscal year 2025.

Media Contact

Sabrina Gallier

sgallier@archsys.io