# Beyond the Headset: Empowering Frontline Inspections with the Untapped Potential of Voice

7th July 2025



Inspections form the bedrock of safe and efficient operations across vital industries like manufacturing, aviation, utilities, and logistics. Yet, all too often, these critical processes are weighed down by the inefficiencies of paper trails, the tedium of manual data entry, and the inconsistencies of human interpretation. As organizations embrace digital transformation, hands-free technologies like voice interfaces and augmented reality are emerging as powerful allies, promising significant gains in safety, accuracy, and overall productivity.

The Augmented Reality for Enterprise Alliance (AREA), a leading voice in the adoption of immersive technologies, recently shed light on this evolution with their report, <ins>"The Adoption of Real-Time AR-assisted Inspections for Quality and Compliance"</ins>. This insightful report highlights the transformative potential of AR headsets in frontline inspection scenarios. However, the fundamental needs identified within – hands-free access to information, real-time documentation capabilities, and intuitive guided workflows – resonate just as powerfully with the ruggedized mobile devices that remain the workhorse platform for a vast majority of frontline teams.

## The Voice Advantage: Adding a Layer of Seamless Efficiency to Inspections

While AR offers a visually immersive experience, voice interfaces provide an equally compelling – and often more readily deployable – pathway to hands-free operation. Imagine inspection teams, whether clad in gloves or navigating complex machinery, interacting effortlessly with their devices simply by speaking. This capability translates directly into tangible benefits:

- **Enhanced Safety:** By freeing up hands and eyes, voice interfaces allow workers to maintain complete situational awareness, crucial in potentially hazardous environments. No more fumbling with screens or looking down to input data.
- **Boosted Productivity:** Voice commands streamline workflows, accelerate data capture, and provide instant access to information, significantly reducing the time spent on each inspection.
- **Improved Accuracy:** Verbal confirmations and dictation minimize errors associated with manual data entry and ensure consistent adherence to protocols.

- **Reduced Cognitive Load:** Voice-guided workflows and hands-free data input allow inspectors to focus on the task at hand, reducing mental fatigue and improving the quality of their observations.

Drawing inspiration from the AREA report, several compelling voice-enablement use cases emerge that directly address the evolving needs of industries where frontline workers often operate in challenging conditions. These applications aren't confined to the realm of AR headsets; they seamlessly integrate with the ruggedized mobile devices already deployed across field service, logistics, and industrial landscapes. Voice interfaces provide a natural and intuitive way for workers to navigate complex procedures, capture critical data in real-time, and access essential information without ever breaking their stride or compromising their focus. And when powered by robust on-device speech recognition, these advantages are delivered with unwavering reliability and security, even in noisy, offline, or sensitive environments.

## Unlocking Efficiency: Key Voice Use Cases for Inspection Workflows

1. **Voice-Driven Digital Checklists: Ensuring Safety and Compliance, Hands-Free**

   - **How it works:** Replace cumbersome paper-based forms and error-prone on-screen taps with simple verbal confirmations. Voice prompts guide inspectors through each required step, demanding spoken verification to ensure thoroughness and adherence to regulations.
   - **Value:** Dramatically enhances safety protocols, improves inspection accuracy by ensuring no steps are missed, accelerates the process, and reduces the mental burden on inspectors.

1. **Voice-Activated App Navigation and Control: Keeping Focus Where it Matters Most**

   - **How it works:** Empower workers to navigate intricate inspection workflows or access digital Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) using intuitive voice commands.
   - **Value:** Preserves critical focus and maintains complete situational awareness, significantly mitigating the risk of accidents, especially in potentially hazardous operational zones.

1. **Voice-Based Data Entry and Inspection Logging: Capturing Insights in Real-Time**

   - **How it works:** Enable inspectors to verbally dictate their findings, observations, and log inspection results directly while performing the task.
   - **Value:** Eliminates the redundant and time-consuming step of manual data entry, significantly improves the accuracy and immediacy of documentation, and creates a robust and easily auditable trail of inspections.

1. **Voice Search for Critical Reference Material: Knowledge at the Speed of Speech**

   - **How it works:** Allow frontline teams to instantly retrieve essential manuals, detailed procedures, or historical inspection reports using simple voice commands.
   - **Value:** Minimizes operational downtime caused by searching for information and provides immediate access to the critical knowledge needed to make informed decisions in the field.

1. **Guided Procedures with Voice Interaction: Ensuring Consistency and Accelerating Training**

   - **How it works:** Voice interfaces can provide clear, step-by-step verbal guidance through complex inspection workflows, acting as a virtual assistant.
   - **Value:** Significantly accelerates the onboarding process for new technicians and ensures

consistent adherence to best practices across all inspections, regardless of experience level.

**The Undeniable Value of On-Device Processing for Inspections**

In the demanding environments where inspections take place, the advantages of on-device voice processing become even more pronounced. Eliminating the reliance on often unreliable or unavailable network connectivity in industrial facilities, remote sites, or high-security zones is paramount. On-device speech recognition guarantees immediate response times, keeps sensitive inspection data secure within the device, and reduces dependence on complex backend infrastructure. This translates directly into greater operational reliability, significantly lower latency, and a safer, more efficient experience for every frontline worker.

*Keen Research provides the cutting-edge KeenASR SDK to voice-enable your frontline workflows. Contact us today at https://keenresearch.com or info@keenresearch.com to discuss your needs.*

# Object Management Group Announces Cross-Consortia Artificial Intelligence Joint Working Group

7th July 2025



"We're leveraging the collective experience and intelligence of the OMG Standards Development Organization along with the members of the Digital Twin Consortium and the Augmented Reality for Enterprise Alliance," said Bill Hoffman, CEO and Chairman of OMG. "We've assembled a world-class group of professionals spanning many industries working to understand and apply AI across their organizations."

The new working group will align AI-related activities across four main areas:

- Standardization and Semantics – This subgroup will explore the potential role of AI in standardization, gathering use cases from the digital twin and extended reality areas to identify scenarios in vertical industry domains and horizontal technologies where standardization would be beneficial. It will explore the role of AI and formal semantics in data integration, enabling implementation of FAIR (findable, accessible, interoperable, reusable) principles.
- Interoperability and Intelligent Automation – This sub-group will develop comprehensive frameworks for interoperability, intelligent automation, and generative AI with agent-based systems. These frameworks will provide guidance for creating intelligent, interoperable, trusted and autonomous systems. This will include defining and developing the required key assets and promoting industry use.
- eXtended Reality (XR) – (i.e., AR/VR/MR) – This subgroup will focus and emphasize the convergence of eXtended Reality (XR) technologies, encompassing augmented reality (AR), virtual reality (VR), and mixed reality (MR) and the intersection of artificial intelligence (AI). These technologies, while powerful individually, can create synergistic effects when combined, leading to innovative solutions and enhanced operational efficiencies.
- Responsible AI – This subgroup will develop a comprehensive framework for responsible AI governance by examining current standards and promoting ethical AI practices across different industries and levels of maturity. The subgroup will focus on creating a toolkit that supports both current AI implementations including privacy and data provenance with the anticipated shift towards digital twin-based, multi-agent, autonomous AI systems.

Learn more about the OMG cross-consortia [Artificial Intelligence Joint Working Group](#). Join an OMG consortium ([AREA](#), [DTC](#), [OMG SDO](#)) and collaborate with industry leaders to advance key technologies such as AI.

**About OMG**
The Object Management Group® (OMG®) is an international, open membership, not-for-profit technology standards consortium with representation from government, industry and academia. OMG Task Forces develop enterprise integration standards for a wide range of technologies and an even wider range of industries. OMG's modeling standards enable powerful visual design, execution and maintenance of software and other processes. Visit [www.omg.org](http://www.omg.org) for more information.

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# The AREA Welcomes Oakland University as a Member

7th July 2025



"AREA can help our Augmented Reality Center effectively promote AR technology to industry partners, assisting them in improving operational efficiency and creating long-term benefits," says Khalid Mirza, Ph.D., founding director of the [Oakland University Augmented Reality Center.](#)

Joining AREA will also give Oakland University's augmented reality-engaged faculty greater capacity to make an impact through their research and scholarship and amplify their capacity to disseminate their work. Faculty can learn about other cutting-edge advances in the field and connect with potential collaborators and industry partners. Oakland University's association with AREA and its members elevates its recognition as an educational leader in the Augmented Reality ecosystem.

"Through these efforts, OU can be a regional leader in AR training and research," says David A. Stone, Ph.D., vice president for research at Oakland University. "AREA membership can accelerate our momentum in these directions."

"We're excited to have Oakland University as a member of the AREA," said Mark Sage, Executive Director at the AREA. "We look forward to leveraging Oakland University's research, training, and experience with AR to further the development of immersive applications."

**About Oakland University**

Oakland University is a doctoral, Carnegie Classification R2 "High Research Activity" university located in Oakland and Macomb counties, Michigan. The main campus is located on 1,443 acres of scenic land in the Southeast Michigan cities of Rochester Hills and Auburn Hills. Oakland University offers bachelor's degrees, graduate degrees and certificate programs and is organized into the College of Arts and Sciences with a School of Music, Theatre and Dance, the Oakland University

William Beaumont School of Medicine and the Schools of Business Administration, Education and Human Services, Engineering and Computer Science, Health Sciences, Nursing, and Honors College. The rich campus atmosphere is complete with residence halls, Greek life, Division I athletics and more than 300 student groups that lend to the total college experience. Learn more at www.oakland.edu.

**About the Oakland University Augmented Reality Center**

The Augmented Reality Center (ARC) represents a partnership between the Oakland University School of Engineering and Computer Science, the College for Creative Studies, and various corporate collaborators. Its mission is to provide students and industry professionals with the specialized skills required to create impactful immersive technology applications. ARC achieves this through a range of initiatives, including workshops, seminars, projects, and a showcase lab, all designed to promote exploration, innovation, and the practical use of immersive technology in industrial settings. For more information, visit the ARC at ouarc.org.

**About the AR for Enterprise Alliance (AREA)**

The AR for Enterprise Alliance (AREA) is the only global membership-funded alliance helping to accelerate the adoption of enterprise AR by supporting the growth of a comprehensive ecosystem. The AREA accelerates AR adoption by creating a comprehensive ecosystem for enterprises, providers, and research institutions. AREA is a program of **Object Management Group**® (OMG®*)*. For more information, visit the AREA **website**.

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# Object Management Group Publishes Aviation and Aerospace Journal of Innovation

7th July 2025

"The JoI now has an expanded scope to include articles from OMG's consortia, including the OMG Standards Development Organization, the Augmented Reality for Enterprise Alliance (AREA), and Digital Twin Consortium® (DTC)," said Bassam Zarkout, CEO of IGnPower and Co-chair of OMG's Thought Leadership Group. "We are thrilled to present the latest edition of the JoI under the expanded scope. This edition explores the theme of Pioneering Innovations in Aviation and Aerospace."

The three articles in this edition include:

- <u>Guiding Supply Chain Security in Aeronautic Development</u> – by MITRE and Boeing – Assessing aeronautics supply chain risks is complex due to the lack of standardized risk sets, evaluation practices, and result communication methods. This article proposes leveraging System of Trust™ (SoT) to address these challenges. The article also discusses NASA's effort to demonstrate real-world consequences and cost impacts on Boeing and Airbus due to supply structure changes and volatility. This work leveraged MITRE's efforts to standardize security measurement and demonstrate its application and outcomes.
- <u>Advancing Space Technology for ISAM Maturity and Success</u> – by Dassault Systèmes – Like the golden age of flight 100 years ago, today we are in the golden age of commercial space. New space missions – in this case, In-Space Service, Assembly, and Manufacturing (ISAM) – enable space capabilities to expand the space economy, improve life on Earth, and extend our use of space farther than ever.
- <u>Digital Engineering Enables Innovative Hardware Integration Opportunities in Aerospace</u> – by SimVentions – Avionics systems need reliability and redundancy but face budget and time constraints. The US Navy's Hardware Open Systems Technology (HOST) standard provides a modular and open approach for hardware interoperability and reuse. However, reliance on homegrown tools limits its long-term value and data reliability. SimVentions' research for the US Navy led to the creation of the HOST Hardware Integration Toolkit (HHITS), demonstrating DE's value in enabling transformative automation and integration for avionics systems.

JoI articles have covered diverse topics and themes, including industry digital transformation, data in the industrial internet, solutions at the digital edge, the role of IoT in enabling rapid response to Covid, industrial artificial intelligence, intelligent transportation, innovations in digital twins, smart cities, smart factories, trustworthiness, and many more. Download current and past editions of

OMG's [JoI](#).

**About OMG**
When tech organizations, governments, and academia must solve discrete pieces of a technology puzzle or discuss matters of common interest, they often seek to join or form a consortium. Since 1989, Object Management Group® (OMG®) has created and nurtured a productive community with common technology interests and problems to resolve. OMG communities include Augmented Reality Enterprise Alliance (AREA), Consortium for Information and Software Quality™ (CISQ™), Digital Twin Consortium® (DTC), and OMG Standards Development Organization (SDO®). OMG is global, not-for-profit, and vendor-neutral. Visit [OMG](#).

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# Augmented Reality for Enterprise Alliance Announces the AR Security Infographic

7th July 2025



The infographic has ten sections for AR Security. The sections contain the risks and considerations related to the topic within AR. Each section has a summary to the left when it is clicked on. There is

a detailed page for the section when clicking the 'LEARN MORE' button.

"AR headsets pose unique security risks for businesses. Traditional mobile security isn't enough," said Mark Sage, Executive Director of the AREA. "Vendors, IT departments, and users share responsibility for securing AR."

The sections include:

**Attack Surface—**Pathways to infiltrate and corrupt data.

- **Connection Abuse—**Enterprises contain AR devices that connect many mobile devices. Understanding the network connections and potential threats at all levels is essential.
- **Physical Breach—**AR devices pose unique security risks because they collect real-world data (audio, video, location), unlike traditional IT systems.
- **System Breach—**AR devices introduce new security risks beyond those of mobile devices.

**Data Domains** – Nefarious agents use these domains to eavesdrop, pilfer, and exploit enterprises.

- **Trust Exploitation/Data Extraction—**AR devices pose unique security challenges due to their ability to interact with the physical world.
- **External Services/Physical World Data—**AR devices collect vast user data through cameras, sensors, and microphones.
- **Environment/Object/Visual Manipulation—**AR devices introduce unique security risks for businesses. Unlike traditional IT systems, AR devices collect real-world data (audio, video, location) that attackers can exploit.

**Considerations** –

- **Configuration & Management/Integrity Protection—**AR devices face mobile device security challenges, including logging, malware detection, and incident response.
- **Root of Trust/Physical Security—**AR devices require a hardware root of trust for core security functions due to their unique hardware and complexity.
- **I/O Security/Identity—**AR's unique hardware and data collection require careful security assessment of all components to minimize confidentiality, integrity, and availability risks.
- **Access Control/Monitoring & Analysis—**AR's new voice, gesture, and gaze controls make strong passwords difficult for secure access. Biometrics offers a solution, but integrating them securely company-wide is complex.

The AREA Security Committee member companies and Brainwaive LLC contributed expert insight to completing the <u>**AR Security Infographic**</u>.

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# Augmented Reality for Enterprise Alliance Elects New President

7th July 2025



As President, Ryan will serve as the organization's primary advocate, fostering partnerships, driving strategic direction, and ensuring the successful execution of programs and initiatives. Ryan replaces Boeing Technical Fellow Paul Davies, who served as AREA President for more than eight years, and continues as part of the AREA Executive Committee and as Vice President of the AREA Enterprise Segment.

At Collins Aerospace, Ryan leads the RTX XR Working Group, helps lead the RTX XR Community of Practice, and co-chairs the RTX Immersive & Interactive Visualizations Technology Interest Group. Ryan has also led teams that have invented numerous visual analytics and virtual reality-enabled applications.

"We're excited to announce Ryan Wheeler as President of the AREA," said AREA Executive Director Mark Sage. "With his technical background in AR/XR technologies and proven track record of working with AR/XR communities, we are certain he will steer the organization's efforts to make it easier for enterprises to adopt interoperable AR-enabled systems that fully deliver on their promises. I would also like to thank Paul Davies, Technical Fellow at Boeing, who has served as President for many years, and he will continue to actively be involved in the AREA."

**About the AREA**

The Augmented Reality for Enterprise Alliance (AREA) is the only global non-profit member organization. Whether you view it as the next computing paradigm, the key to breakthroughs in manufacturing and service efficiencies, or the door to unimagined applications, AR will have an unprecedented impact on enterprises of all kinds. AREA is a program of Object Management Group®. Visit https://thearea.org for more information.

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# Augmented Reality for Enterprise Alliance Publishes Latest Research on the Adoption of Real-Time AR-assisted Inspections for Quality and Compliance

7th July 2025



"AR-assisted inspections can greatly benefit aerospace and defense, oil and gas, and healthcare industries due to intricate processes and inspection protocols, strict safety and quality compliance guidelines, and the high cost of downtime," said AREA Executive Director Mark Sage. "AR solutions enhance task performance, reduce mental workload for frontline users, minimize errors, and allow for better utilization of resources."

Common barriers to the adoption of AR-assisted inspections include:

- *Technological barriers* can be mitigated by establishing innovation hubs outside of their IT

infrastructure to enable close evaluation of potential AR solutions for quality and compliance inspections.

- *Economic barriers* can be addressed by implementing scalable proofs-of-concept (POCs) that show tangible ROI for solutions using data and performance-driven KPIs. This showcases the potential savings and efficiency gains and provides flexible pricing models and financial incentives to lower the initial investment barrier.
- *Organizational barriers* require effective change management strategies. These include engaging stakeholders at all levels, providing comprehensive training programs, and designing intuitive, user-friendly AR solutions.
- Collaboration with governing and compliance bodies to establish clear guidelines and standards for AR-assisted inspections can mitigate *regulatory and compliance barriers*.

Please view an executive summary of the research report on <u>The Adoption of Real-Time AR-assisted Inspections for Quality and Compliance</u> from the AREA website. <u>Vertical Realities</u> completed the research report on behalf of the AREA.

The full report includes a comprehensive view of the factors affecting the adoption and implementation of AR solutions for inspection use cases and a template for measuring the direct impact of AR-assisted inspections (available to AREA members).

Please also consider the website's executive summaries of other AREA resources and enterprise guidance. To learn about AREA membership, visit the AREA <u>website</u>.

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# The AREA Welcomes Net4 Connect as a Member

7th July 2025

"We are delighted to join the AREA community. Becoming part of a network sharing our enthusiasm and passion for augmented reality was easy. The opportunity to share and gain knowledge with fellow members will be invaluable, benefiting us and our clients," said Alex Taylor, CEO of Net4 Connect. "Through our membership, we hope to gain new insights, foster innovative collaborations, and stay at the forefront of industry advancements, ultimately enhancing our service offerings and driving success for our clients. We look forward to contributing to and growing with this vibrant community."

"Net4 Connect is a welcome addition to the AREA," said Mark Sage, AREA's Executive Director. "We look forward to the contributions they will make to our alliance in the use of augmented reality and their knowledge and expertise in AI, IoT, and 5G."

**About Net4 Connect**

Empowering Innovation with Cutting-Edge Technology Solutions. Visit our website: https://net4connect.com/.

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# Augmented Reality for Enterprise Alliance Announces the AR Safety Infographic

7th July 2025



**BOSTON, MA – MAY  9, 2024 –** Today, the [Augmented Reality for Enterprise Alliance](#) (AREA) announced the [AR Safety Infographic](#), a new tool that explores the benefits and potential safety risks of using AR in the workplace. By carefully considering safety before deploying AR solutions, organizations may be able to avoid issues before they occur.

Each section contains the benefits and challenges of using AR and includes a summary to the left when it is clicked on. There is also a detailed page for the section when clicking the 'LEARN MORE' button to help you understand the benefits and potential risks and how to manage them.

*"Our mission is to help companies in all parts of the AR ecosystem achieve greater operational efficiency through the smooth introduction and widespread adoption of interoperable AR-assisted enterprise systems,"* said Mark Sage, Executive Director of the AREA. *"Our AR Safety Infographic provides reliable guidance that makes the path to AR adoption surer, shorter, and smoother."*

The sections include:

**AR Experience** – integrates the digital and physical worlds seamlessly, and any interactions should feel like you are interacting within a real-world environment.

**Cognition** – Effective use of technology-based environments and augmented reality reduces cognitive load by scaffolding information and lessons' contents

**Sensory** – Engaging in immersive experiences can offer many benefits, catering to personal growth, entertainment, education, and even therapeutic purposes.

**Environmenta**l – Augmented Reality has all the trapping to encourage sustainability in the energy sector; AR is being used to power renewable energy systems by providing a more detailed understanding of energy sources and their potential.

**Physica**l – The most prevalent benefit is the AR headset experience, enabling users to see their physical surroundings while interacting with virtual assets. This allows not only safety for the user by seeing their surroundings but also mobility.

**Devices & Accessories** – Augmented Reality Devices encompass various hardware, each offering unique immersive experiences.

See the AREA <u>website</u> for member companies contributing to the <u>AR Safety Infographic</u>.

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# RealWear Launches Cloud Offering

7th July 2025



RealWear Cloud is a new multi-purpose software offering for IT and business operations. Through the new dashboard, IT and Business Operations can remotely and securely streamline control of their RealWear device fleet. As companies grow their fleet of RealWear devices, RealWear Cloud allows for convenient low-touch, over-the-air firmware updates, keeping the devices secure and company data protected. Working alongside organizations' existing EMM or MDM software such as Microsoft Endpoint Manager (InTune), the offering further provides teams more real-time data and metrics to optimize operational efficiency. RealWear Cloud complements existing EMM/MDM

solutions and enables device-specific control and configuration capabilities. Also, it is the only way to gain trusted and secure access to certified third-party apps designed for our product portfolio.

In addition, RealWear is introducing RealWear Cloud Assistance as part of the offering.  RealWear Cloud Assistance provides real-time remote technical support and troubleshooting to frontline workers to quickly identify, diagnose and fix device issues. Reducing device downtime through remote troubleshooting will have a growing impact on company bottom lines. According to VDC research, individual incidences of device failure result in 72 minutes of lost or disrupted productivity for frontline workers. Remote support, firmware updates, and data analytics will not only increase productivity but will be necessary as businesses face ongoing talent shortages, the scarcity of which Gartner notes was exacerbated in 2021.

"As a deployment of RealWear devices grows across sites and countries, it's critical that we provide great IT tools and real-time metrics for those ultimately responsible for the successful deployment of the devices in the field," said Andrew Chrostowski, Chairman and CEO of RealWear. "We're capturing data that will drive better decisions. It's exciting to see RealWear transitioning from a device-centric company to a platform solution company with the introduction of our first software-as-a-service (SaaS) offering."

RealWear's previous lightweight device management tool, will transition to RealWear Cloud. Current Cloud customers will automatically be enrolled in the Basic plan.

"Wearable technologies are becoming more and more mainstream in the enterprise, and making deployments simple and frictionless is one of our key goals," continued Chrostowski. "Wearables are no longer viewed as a novelty but are now trusted by enterprises to bring value and solve real-world problems."

**About RealWear**

As the pioneer of assisted reality wearable solutions, RealWear® works to engage, empower, and elevate the modern frontline industrial worker to perform work tasks more safely, efficiently, and precisely. Supporting over 65,000 devices, RealWear gives workers real-time access to information and expertise while keeping their hands and field of view free for work. Headquartered in Vancouver, Washington and used by 41 of the Fortune 100 companies, RealWear is field-proven in a wide range of industries with thousands of world-class customers, including Shell, Goodyear, Mars, Colgate-Palmolive, and BMW.