

● **Germany's Merck Introduces Automation to Supply Chain**

German pharmaceuticals firm Merck KGaA's health-care division plans to deploy artificial intelligence and predictive analytics throughout its entire supply chain by the end of 2019, said Alessandro de Luca, chief information officer for the division. Occupying the forward edge of an industry-wide shift towards automated supply chains comes with a competitive advantage, Mr. de Luca says.

Source: Wall Street Journal Sep 10 2018

● **Argentina – The Crisis in Six Charts**

Argentina is once again looking into the barrel of an economic crisis. The currency is sliding, inflation rising and there could well be a recession in the making. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is providing an emergency loan. It's all happening under a government that was seen by the international financial markets as offering Argentina new hope, one which, under the leadership of President Mauricio Macri, held out the prospect of stability and sustainable market-oriented economic policy that could begin to reverse a century of poor performance.

Source: BBC News Sep 9 2018

● **E-Commerce Driving Need for More Warehouse Workers**

Demand for warehouse workers is growing faster than the labor supply, and that could drive up costs for fulfillment center operations as digital commerce becomes a bigger force in retail sales. U.S. warehouses and distribution centers need an additional 452,000 workers in total this year and next, commercial real-estate brokerage CBRE Group Inc. writes in a new report, a steep acceleration from hiring in the sector in recent years.

Source: Wall Street Journal Sep 4 2018

● **Pound Rises on Barnier's Brexit Comments**

The pound rose more than 1% against the dollar on Monday, after the EU's chief negotiator said a Brexit deal was possible within eight weeks "if we are realistic." Sterling later fell back slightly to \$1.3042 by the end of the afternoon. It is the second time in less than a week, Michel Barnier has made comments interpreted as suggesting the EU may be softening its negotiating stance.

Source: BBC News Sep 10 2018

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