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Supply Chain Performance Management

Current Approaches

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Preface

Today's business environment is changing significantly due to globalization, shorter product life cycles, and new information technologies enabling more efficient organizational paradigms as well as product and process innovations. Companies enhance their business models and organize themselves in supply chains to cope with these changes. Therefore competition takes no longer between companies, but between entire supply chains.

One of the competition winning factors in this field is the continuous measurement and improvement of supply chain performance, which is a complex construct overall. Not only that performance contains several criteria like effectiveness, efficiency, quality, innovation or flexibility, which need to be balanced within each firm, but also there should be a consistent alignment of these criteria in the entire supply chain. Therefore a common supply chain performance management approach is required enabling companies to manage supply chain strategy through a fully integrated system of business improvement methodologies. Supply chain performance management encompasses all methodologies, metrics, processes, systems, and even software applicable to this task.

In recent years, research has made extensive progress in the analysis of supply chain performance management. This volume provides a valuable insight into novel concepts of supply chain performance management by taking into account supply and inventory management, as well as state of the art optimization approaches for supply chains. Furthermore, topics directly relevant to performance such as risk and quality management in supply chains are discussed in this book. In practice, this volume provides support in decision making not only for a single company, but also meets network-wide performance demands. In consequence, it becomes possible to adjust logistics designs and operations to the needs of the whole supply chain.

We would like to thank the authors for their excellent contributions, which advance the logistics research progress. Without their support and hard work, the creation of this volume would not have been possible. Additional thanks go to the publishing company, the Erich Schmidt Verlag, especially to Dr. Joachim Schmidt for the opportunity to publish this volume and his valuable cooperation. This book would not exist without good organization and preparation. Thus, we would like to thank Philipp Hohrath, Michael Zaggl and Thorsten Lammers for their efforts to prepare, structure, and finish this book.

Hamburg, August 2009

Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Kersten,
Prof. Dr. Thorsten Blecker,
and Prof. Dr. Matthias Meyer

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