Colin Scott • Henriette Lundgren • Paul Thompson

Guide to Supply Chain Management



Foreword

This guide is a really useful reminder of what good practice is and how it should be applied within supply chain management. The book is relevant for students of supply chain management and professional practitioners alike.

The key aspects of supply chain are laid out clearly – plan, source, make, deliver, and return. The book is well constructed in totality – and I can envisage revisiting specific chapters in isolation whilst constructing and delivering supply chain strategy.

This is the first book that I have come across that is focussed more upon the concepts underpinning the total supply chain rather than the physical execution of the supply chain. Its range is from forecasting, inventory management and cash through execution strategy and development. I would add it to my arsenal and recommend it to others.

The content is relevant; concepts are clearly explained and supported by case studies that bring the concepts to life. The language used is clear and contemporary, visualisations re-enforce the concepts well. The additional suggested reading at the end of each chapter offers an added opportunity to further develop understanding of specific elements of the supply chain.

Organisations operating on a global stage have to get this stuff right, both in process and physical terms: it is an essential element to delivering profitable growth. This book offers an invaluable guide to understanding the specific dynamics of your supply chain and the fundamentals underpinning it. It provides the framework for delivering a supply chain strategy based upon recognised best practice.

Chief Executive Officer Dyson Limited Wiltshire, Uk Martin McCourt

Preface

Supply chain management is a fast-growing business. Over the last ten years, it has driven companies around the world to change structure and – maybe more importantly – the way they think about operating in a global environment. Everything we consume from the food we eat and the clothes we wear, to the cars we drive, is configured from components that have travelled from different corners of the world. As consumers request high-quality products at lower cost, supply chain management has become as critical as sales, marketing and finance in today's organisations.

Companies that produce and move products are finding it more and more difficult to make themselves unique or different from the competition, where success is evermore difficult to achieve. As a consequence, releasing opportunities in supply chains is now, as ever, the goal to beat competition – and provide better service at lower cost.

During our work as supply chain trainers for large multinational companies in various industries we have met professionals all over the world who are passionate about achieving these goals. This guide is designed to help professionals, students and everyone else with an interest in this topic to structure their thoughts and methodologies.

Business practitioners who work in supply chain management and those whose business functions interact with it will also have an interest in reading the guide. Students, whether studying at universities or in vocational training, will find this guide a comprehensive introduction to supply chain management. But also people working in other contexts, such as charity projects or professional industry bodies will find this text useful with its intuitive models and many practical examples.

In writing this guide, we have tried to connect with our readers by using simple and straightforward models. By including real-life examples and case studies of best practice, the guide aims to bring supply chain theory to life. The practical approach and format will enable readers to capitalise on the insights presented in the guide.

In preparing this book, we have drawn greatly on the thoughts and concepts of others. If we have omitted to give any credits where credits are due, we apologise

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and hope that they will make contact to include in future editions. Learning is an interactive experience, so we welcome any feedback or ideas of how to improve this guide. After all, we have learned most from the people we worked with.

If you would like to get in touch with the authors, please email us: feedback@grangepartnership.com

Worcestershire, UK

Colin Scott Henriette Lundgren Paul Thompson

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