



Supply Chain Management

Insight in our competencies

These days, the success of companies depends on the effectiveness of their supply chain management (SCM). The system must accommodate the needs of complex, multilevel value chains and even networks. Here, the elementary factors include the design of agile supply chains, the application of modern methods for planning and control and ultimately close collaboration with the partner as well. We believe that in order to be sustainably successful, supply chain management must be based on the company's proprietary SCM strategy. Based on this, it becomes possible to ensure integral optimisation of network structures, processes and auxiliary SCM software systems in procurement, production and distribution. Supply chain management covers a comprehensive and complex set of process and IT issues whose optimisation requires broad and coherent empirical knowledge.

Insight in current topics

Competitive supply chain solutions for online retail

In the future, the market will insist that supply chains for goods distribution in online retail provide next-day delivery, same-day delivery and just-in-time deliveries. Adjustment and optimisation of the entire supply chain are necessary to enable these services at minimal cost. Warehouse network structures must be adapted and harmonised according to highly efficient transport strategies. The warehouse or hub function needs to be designed efficiently and flexibly in regard to the order picking, shipping, automation level and inventory range processes. Moreover, smart combination and control are necessary for a variety of supply concepts/distribution methods, including third-party delivery, cross-docking fulfilment or single and double-stage warehouse fulfilment. Our toolset allows us to design these complex supply chains at benchmarkable cost and to assess them in a high level of detail.

End-to-end-supply chain optimisation

Several key elements need to be considered from a company's perspective to enable integral supply chain optimisation:

- The planning processes, combining sales and inventory planning, demand and capacity planning (sales & operation planning), as well as production and procurement planning.
- Order management and the order-to-cash process.
- Implementation of a lean supply chain by reducing unnecessary handling and inventory stages during inbound, intra- and outbound logistics.

All planning and control processes are analysed, optimised and finally integrated, based on the big picture for planning processes within a company. Supply chain and value stream design methods are applied to ensure leaner material flow. Consistent optimisation of this kind requires expertise within information and material flow topics, in planning and control, as well as knowledge of auxiliary IT applications for the ERP and SCM systems.

Supply Chain 4.0

Digitalisation, the Internet of Things (IoT), big data applications and highly automated handling and transport systems are frequently cited as supply chain building blocks in the age of Manufacturing 4.0. Accomplishments achieved within lean supply chain management are now precipitating the next transformation process for greater efficiency and transparency. Big data analytics allows our consultants to tap into significant rationalisation potential in the client's supply chain, especially in the area of transport optimisation (utilisation of transport means and containers), inventory optimisation and empties management. High-performance analysis and optimisation tools are developed for these big data applications

Competencies of ebp-consulting – A selection

We provide a broad range of consulting services for supply chain management. In this regard, we capitalise on our successful methods and proven solutions based on our long-standing experience in a variety of industries and consulting projects.

1. SCM Strategy:

- Development of company specific SCM strategies
- Design of a big picture for planning and control processes
- Definition of value added and postponement strategies within the production network
- Development of market supply and distribution strategies
- Definition of warehousing and inventory strategies
- Definition of integration strategies for suppliers and distribution partners
- Introduction of variant management and synchronisation with the SCM

2. Location and network structures

- Design of procurement networks
- Center of gravity analysis
- Design of distribution networks; definition of distribution locations
- Implementation of range strategies and stock-optimised inventory management for merchandise distribution
- Design of production networks and assignment of value added scopes
- Benchmarking of production plants within the value-added network
- Outsourcing of production to other locations and suppliers
- Simulation of networks with supply network design and simulation tools
- Definition of the transport network and system
- Feasibility analyses and development of supplier parks and supply centres

3. Flow of materials and goods

- Implementation of end-to-end supply chain optimisation
- Introduction of lean supply chain management
- Optimisation of the value-added material flow within the network
- Development and implementation of vendor-managed inventory concepts (VMI) and consignment warehouse principles
- Optimisation of distribution and shipping processes
- Design of the order processes/order-to-cash processes
- Simulation of process scenarios/supply chain simulation

4. Planning, control, collaboration

- Introduction of central demand planning
- Optimisation of requirements forecasts/forecasting and demand planning
- Introduction/optimisation of sales & operations planning (S&OP)
- Introduction of collaborative planning, forecasting and replenishment processes (CPFR)
- Optimisation of planning methods and algorithms
- Introduction of new materials planning methods
- Inventory optimisation in the supply chain
- Optimisation of replenishment and stocking processes
- Specification of requirements and selection of SCM and APS software systems
- Optimisation of SCM-IT systems such as SAP-APO
- Introduction of indicator systems (KPI, SCOR model)
- Introduction of order management or SCM team structures
- SCM training using the Beer Distribution Game

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