

Call for Papers
International Journal of Production Economics

Special Issue on
Operations Strategy and Supply Chain Management

Special Issue Guest Editors
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Background and Objectives

Operations strategy is a blueprint that sets the vision and overall direction for operations decision-making. It shall work in concert with other functional strategies such as marketing and finance strategies to support the business strategy of the firm. Operations strategy is usually defined in terms of the key operations objectives such as quality, delivery, flexibility, cost, service and innovation. It aims to deploy an organization's resources to gain competitive advantages in the market place. Globalization, rising customer expectations and advancement in information technology have caused dramatic changes in the competitive priorities of firms. To remain competitive in the global market place, organizations have to make dramatic improvements in multiple dimensions of their operational capabilities such as quality, flexibility, speed and services as well as costs. Increasingly organizations find that they cannot dramatically enhance their capabilities in multiple dimensions by utilizing their own resources, and they have to leverage over the resources and capabilities of their key trading partners. Business competition is shifting from individual enterprise versus individual enterprise to supply chain versus supply chain. Companies must not only integrate their processes internally, but also integrate their processes with their key suppliers and customers. Therefore, coordinated supply chain management has become the new paradigm of modern business operations and competition. Under such circumstances, an organization's operations strategy should be in alignment with the operations strategies of other

organizations within its supply chain. The supply chain must also have a consistent supply chain strategy that supports the competitive strategies of the firms within the supply chain. As a result, supply chain management offers new opportunities to conduct operations strategy research. In recent years research interests on both operations strategy and supply chain management have been increasing rapidly, especially by empirical researchers.

The overall aim of this special issue is to publish a collection of papers that will shed light on how operations strategy interplays with supply chain management. More specifically, the objectives of this special issue are:

1. Explore how firms enhance their capabilities through supply chain collaboration using the perspective of resources-based theory and transaction cost theory;
2. Investigate the relationship management issues in supply chain using such perspectives as trust and commitment theory, transaction cost theory and agency theory;
3. Examine the impacts of competitive environment and institutional environment on the choice of operations and supply chain strategies using the perspectives of institutional theory, contingency theory and/or configuration theory;
4. Discover the relationships between strategies (operations strategy, supply chain strategies), practices and performance using the perspective of contingency theory and/or configuration theory.

Topics

Although we highly encourage contributors to explore research issues using the theoretical perspectives listed above, authors are not limited to studying these issues or adopting these theoretical perspectives. We invite research papers or review papers that explore operations strategy, supply chain management, their interfaces and their interactions with the environment. Appropriate topics include, but are not limited to:

1. Outsourcing and procurement management
2. Supplier/customer relationship management
3. Supply chain integration/collaboration
4. Control and governance mechanisms in supply chain relationships
5. Impact of power, trust, relationship commitment on supply chain integration
6. Impact of supply chain strategy and management practices on performance
7. Alignments or fits among environment, product characteristics, supply chain strategy and supply chain practices
8. Impact of competitive environment and strategies on supply chain strategies and practices
9. Formulation and implementation of operations strategy
10. Alignments or fits among environment, competitive strategies and operations strategies
11. Innovation and new product development
12. Logistics/transportation management
13. Manufacturing planning and control for supply chain management
14. Postponement/mass customization.
15. Concurrent engineering
16. Information system/information technology for supply chain

Manuscript Preparation and Submission

In preparing their manuscripts, authors are asked to closely consult the Guide for Authors at : <http://authors.elsevier.com/gfa/ijpe>

Manuscripts will be refereed according to the standards of the Journal. Completed papers should be sent to the Special Issue Guest Editors before 30 September, 2007. Send your submission as a single attachment to an email to Mr Ein Chan, Center for Supply Chain Management and Logistics, Li & Fung Institute of Supply Chain Management and Logistics, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, at cscml@baf.msmail.cuhk.edu.hk. In your email, please include (1) the full title, (2) abstract, (3) three key words of your paper, and (4) full names and postal addresses, including email address and fax numbers, of all the authors. Manuscripts should be written in English, and prepared to conform to the following requirements:

1. The first page should include the title and abstract only. The text starts from the second page, including the title. No author identification information should be included to facilitate the anonymous review process. Acknowledgements can be added after the paper is accepted for publication.
2. The manuscript is doubled-spaced, with all the pages numbered, and formatted correctly in MS Word or PDF format.
3. The length is limited to 30 double-spaced pages, including the text, references, tables and figures.

Publication Schedule

Manuscript submission: 30 September 2007

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