



Reinventing the Supply Chain due to the impact of the Pandemic

The impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic is one that has had severe impacts on us as humans and the corporations we work for, run or own. The impact individuals have endured is nothing less than tragic. At the same time, corporations have experienced extreme negative impacts from a revenue generation, employee retention and supply chain execution perspective. As we slowly progress from mass quarantine / stay at home orders, to the new normal, we see organizations asking - What's the best path going forward to optimized supply chain for our company? Supply chains are a fine balance of managing cost, quality, and risk in terms of execution and delivery. What should organizations focus on to deliver this optimized supply chain?

We see conversations focused on managing the risk in potential disruption based on the reach of an organization's extended supply chain. Understanding on how to manage the risk within your supply base, your locations and the time needed from order to fulfillment. Some key areas/concepts to consider and focus on are:

1. Improved speed from Design to Manufacturing
2. Supplier Diversification
3. Strengthen internal manufacturing technologies and capabilities
4. Strengthen tracking capabilities throughout the supply Chain

1. Improved speed from Design to Manufacturing

Speed from design to manufacturing is an aspect that not only improves product and company financial return, it also enables speed within the supply chain. From integrating connected digital and physical product verification and validation to rapid prototyping, to digital product planning. Extending this concept from your internal four walls to your extended supply chain and partners provides speed, flexibility, and agility needed to perform as unforeseen circumstances arise. These capabilities need to be integrated within the company's supply chain to develop speed as well as mitigate risk.

2. Supplier Diversification

A supply base that is single-sourced or only sourced from afar, is something that increases supply chain risk. The thought of having both local and global suppliers to execute and fulfill the extended supply chain gives organizations multiple advantages. Local presence, global cost advantages, and working in parallel mitigate the supply chain's risk.

3. Strengthen internal manufacturing technologies and capabilities

With the understanding of keeping the fine balance of managing cost, quality, and risk in terms of delivery. The need to increase a company's internal manufacturing capabilities such as connected shop floor systems to attain real-time data, 3D printing, digital work instructions, and automation are all capabilities needed to be able to perform optimally with great quality at the best cost. These capabilities that are now essential to compete in the global marketplace.

4. Strengthen tracking capabilities throughout the supply Chain

To increase the efficiency, flexibility, and adaptability of your supply chain, you need to enhance your visibility of what is occurring in the supply chain. To do this, implementing a holistic tracking strategy is key to expanding the data points needed to make key decisions in a timely manner. This capability needs to be applied internally "in factory", internal supply chain, and to the extended supply chain.

We believe keeping these **four** concepts front and center when you are reinstating your supply chain to incorporate key technologies and capabilities and let you reimagine what your supply chain can be. The key is to have these concepts and characteristics built into your holistic strategy and execution plan ensuring the needed flexibility and adaptability so that your supply chain can weather the next disruption.

If you would like to talk about any of the concepts outlined in greater detail please reach out to us via email or give us a call.

Next Month: Why Innovation is key to your company's continued success?