



# Rafael Vela

**Nationality:** Italian

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**Current residence:** Panamá City, Panamá

I am a C-suite SCM, procurement, logistics, operations, change & project management professional with many years of international executive experience. Developed and managed high performance and extremely efficient teams in more than 26 countries. Hard core advocate to lean management and sustainability philosophies in SCM and everything else. Highly proficient in lean six sigma, lean management, and six sigma (Green and Black belt accredited). Have held COO, Regional VP, and group Director positions in operations in different multinational companies.

I am a team leader, an educator, avid learner, a mentor, designer of solutions that add real value, good communicator at all levels, critical thinker, data literate, a collaborator capable of complex decision making

## WORK EXPERIENCE LAST 15 YEARS

- **COO @ Westgate International Consulting Inc.** from Jan 2017 – June 2019 / **Country:** Panama
- **Global Technology Asset Manager @ Brinks Regional Services LLC** from May 2015 – Dec 2016 / **Country:** Panama. Managed teams in +18 countries. Designed and implemented global asset management program worldwide
- **COO @ Nexel Solutions Inc.** from May 2011 – Apr 2015 / **Country:** Panama. Set up and management of sales and operations teams in 6 countries
- **Group Procurement and Logistics Director @ Comium Group** from Feb 2010 - Jan 2011 / **Country:** Cote D'Ivoire, West Africa, managed teams in 7 countries
- **Regional VP Logistics & Supply Chain Operations @ Cable & Wireless** from May 2006 - Jul 2009 / **Country:** Panama, managed teams in 16 countries

## AREAS OF EXPERTISE (YEARS OF EXPERIENCE)

Team leader (+30); Demand Planning (+30); Inbound logistics (+30); Inventory Mgmt. (+30); Operations & Production Planning (+25); Sourcing and procurement (+30); Project Mgmt. (+25); Quality assurance (+25); Reverse logistics (+25); SCM (+30); Warehousing (+30); Business Process Improvement (+20); Contract Mgmt. (+20); CRM (+20); Distribution and fleet Mgmt. (+20); IT Asset Mgmt. (+15); S&OP (+15); Supply chain sustainability (+15); Change Mgmt. (+20); VRM (+20); Lean Mgmt. and Six Sigma Philosophy (+10)

## EDUCATION

**Bachelor of business administration** + innumerable courses and certifications directly related to my area of expertise.

**LANGUAGES** (as per CEFR): English (C2); Spanish (C2); Italian (C1); French (B1).

## STRENGTHS

Work ethics; common sense; innovative; ability to analyze different viewpoints and understand the bigger picture; knowing I don't have all the answers; adaptable to new situations and data; team empathy.

## WEAKNESSES

None big enough to stop me from reaching targets I commit to. Sometimes I become too detail-oriented, too critical of my job and its results, zero tolerance for toxic people and working environments.

## ACHIEVEMENTS (VERY BRIEF DESCRIPTION)

Set up S&OP program; achieved inventory reduction in excess of 80%; implemented and directed strategic procurement programs; designed and directed important outsource programs attaining significant cost reductions and increasing operational efficiency; designed, negotiated, and implemented various strategic partnerships with important suppliers; guided end-to-end procurement and SCM projects with positive impact on multi countries operations; developed and implemented SCM emergency program to maintain operations running during and after natural catastrophes, (mainly hurricane season in the Caribbean countries); formed and trained high performance, multi-cultural, multi-language, multi-generational teams of up to 400 members in more than 26 countries.

## MOTIVATION

Currently acting as Senior consultant in various projects but looking actively to insert myself back in the corporate world and face new challenges directing, designing, implementing, or transforming operations as required and create and implement strategies that add value to the organization and its customers. Willing to relocate.

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