

**Rafael Vela (Mr.)** | Italian citizen | Panama City, Panama & EU | WhatsApp calls and messages +34 613 25 72 08 (Spain) | Calls +507 6671 4500 | [rvela@rafaelvela.com](mailto:rvela@rafaelvela.com) | <https://rafaelvela.com> | <https://www.linkedin.com/in/rafaelvela/>

**Summary:** A highly experienced global leader with 30 years of executive-level experience as a COO, CPO, VP, and CCO in supply chain, procurement, operations, manufacturing, and logistics. Possesses multi-industry experience in sectors such as automobile manufacturing, chemical, textile, and cement manufacturing, telecommunications, fintech, retail, and consulting. A natural-born logistician, customer-centered, and culturally agile leader adept at navigating diverse landscapes and driving operational excellence across global teams. Committed to Lean, Six Sigma, and sustainability principles, with a focus on creating high-performance organizations.

## Skills

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- **SCM & Operations:** Strategic Sourcing, Demand Planning & Forecasting, S&OP & IBP Programs, SRM - VRM, CRM, Warehouse & Inventory Management, Production Planning, Quality Control & Assurance, Cold Supply Chain, Logistics (Inbound, Manufacturing, and Reverse Logistics)
- **Project & Process Management:** Lean Six Sigma, Six Sigma, Process Improvement, Project Management, Change Management
- **Leadership:** Over 30 years of international, multinational, and multi-industry executive experience. Managed teams of over 400 people in more than 20 countries.
- **Technical:** SAP; Microsoft Dynamics 365; Oracle ERP; ServiceNow; the entire MS suite; and a variety of **APS** (Advanced Planning and Scheduling), **MES** (Manufacturing Execution System), **MRP** (Materials Requirement Planning), **WMS** (Warehouse Mgt. System), **TMS** (Transportation Mgt. System), **CRM** (Customer Relationship Mgt.), and **VRM** (Vendor Relationship Mgt.) systems.
- **Languages:** English (C2) , Spanish (C2) , Italian (C1) , French (B1)

## Work Experience

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- Managing Director / Chief Consultant Officer (CCO) | Pathway Consulting | Panama City, Panama | Jan 2019 – Present
- Senior Supply Chain Specialist | LGR Global | Switzerland | March 2021 – Present
- COO | Westgate International Consulting | Panama City, Panama | Jan 2017 – Jun 2019
- Global technology Asset Manager | Brinks regional Services LLC | May 2015 – dec 2016
- COO | Nexel Solutions Inc | Panama City, Panama | May 2011 – April 2015
- Group Procurement and Logistics Director | COMIUM | Cote D'Ivoire, West Africa | Feb 2010 – Jan 2011

- Regional VP Logistics & Supply Chain Americas & Caribbean | Cable & Wireless | Jul 2003 – Jul 2009
- Materials Flow Manager | Daimler Chrysler (today's Stellantis) | Nov 1998 – mar 2003
- Summary:
  - Managed teams of more than 400 people operating in over 20 countries.
  - Oversaw inventories exceeding US\$1.5 billion.
  - Directed logistics operations involving 10,000-12,000 containers annually.
  - Managed procurement operations with a spend of up to US\$1.1 billion in both OPEX and CAPEX.
  - Transformed existing operations and/or created new ones to achieve strategic goals and drive operational excellence.

For more details <https://rafaelvela.com>

## Education

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- Bachelor's in business administration

### **SUPPLY CHAIN & OPERATIONS EXCELLENCE**

- Global Procurement & Sourcing Specialization by Rutgers University - USA
- CSCMP (Council of SCM Professionals - USA )
  - Customer Relationship Management Professional Certificate
  - Procurement Professional Certificate
  - Demand Planning Professional Certificate
  - Inventory Management Professional Certificate
  - Manufacturing and Service Operations Professional Certificate
  - The Supply Chain Essentials Professional Certificate
  - Warehousing Operations Professional Certificate
- Supply Chain Management Specialization by Rutgers University - USA
- Leverage Data Science for a More Agile Supply Chain Specialization by University of California (UCI) - USA
- Supply Chain Finance and Blockchain Technology Specialization by New York Institute of Finance - USA

### **STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP & BUSINESS TRANSFORMATION**

- Strategic Management and Innovation Specialization by Copenhagen Business School- Denmark
- Business and Marketing Strategies Specialization by the University of London - UK
- Future Ready Company Specialization by London Business School-UK
- Project Management: Tools, Approaches, and Behavioral Skills by Politecnico di Milano - Italy

### **DIGITAL & ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES**

- Digital Technologies and the Future of Manufacturing Specialization by the University of Michigan - USA

## CRITICAL THINKING AND FOUNDATIONAL KNOWLEDGE

- Question Reality! Science, Philosophy, a Search for Meaning  
Specialization by Dartmouth College - USA
- Libertarian Free Will Specialization by Dartmouth College- USA
- Algebra: Elementary to Advanced Specialization by Johns Hopkins University - USA

*Full list of most relevant certifications and specializations available at*  
<https://rafaelvela.com>

## Additional Information

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Full CVs (English, Italian, and Spanish versions), publications, and more detailed information can be found at <https://rafaelvela.com>.