

PROCESS INNOVATION: HOLISTIC SCENARIOS TO REDUCE TOTAL LEAD TIME

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Rezumat. Globalizarea piețelor necesită o dezvoltare continuă a scenariilor holistice de afaceri cu scopul de a asigura flexibilitatea acceptabilă pentru a satisface clienții. Îmbunătățirea continuă a lanțurilor de distribuție presupune îmbunătățirea continuă a lead-time-ului și a fluxului de materiale și produse, a stocurilor de materiale și de produse finite și creșterea la maximum a numărului de furnizori. Contribuția studiului nostru constă în prezentarea de scenarii holistice pentru îmbunătățirea și inovarea lead-time-ului total prin implementarea politicii lanțului de distribuție.

Abstract. The globalization of markets requires continuous development of business holistic scenarios to ensure acceptable flexibility to satisfy customers. Continuous improvement of supply chain supposes continuous improvement of materials and products lead time and flow, material stocks and finished products stocks and increasing the number of suppliers close by as possible. The contribution of our study is to present holistic scenarios of total lead time improvement and innovation by implementing supply chain policy.

Keywords: process innovation, supply chain policy, supply lead time, production lead time, delivery lead time

1. Introduction

With the increase in global competitiveness, one of the objectives of manufacturing companies is to continuously improve the creativity of employees in order to continuously meet customers demands [1, 2]. The continuous improvement of human creativity [3] supports the development of innovative strategies [4] which refer to the creation of new products [2], new materials [5], new processes [6] and new technologies [7], better or more efficient or using ideas easy to put into practice [8]. In most cases, the effects of innovation are manifested by reducing the scrap ratio and the man/hour, by reducing the number of breakdowns and Mean Time To Repair (MTTR) duration [9], cost reduction [10, 11], minor stops/ idling elimination and rework reduction [8]. In order to achieve these desired effects, the innovation activities are typically focused on two main areas, namely: *continuous improvement of total lead time [12] and*

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