

APMS 2012 International Conference
Competitive Manufacturing for Innovative Products and Services
Proposed Special Session

Title:

Managing international operations

Chairs of the Session:

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You are cordially invited to participate to the special session on “*Managing International Operations*” in the International Conference on Advances in Production Management Systems (APMS). Since several decades, APMS is one of the major events and the official conference of the IFIP Working Group 5.7 on Advances in Production Management Systems.

APMS 2012 will take place in **Rhodes** Island (Greece), **24-26 September 2012**. Papers will be blind peer-reviewed.

Special Session Scope

The world has never been more interconnected, dynamic, and globalized. This global competitive playground brings along both new opportunities and inescapable challenges for every business manager. Recently, the global economic downturn has forced many companies to reduce operational costs, leverage risk, and seek new markets by internationalizing their operations. In the midst of it all stands the operations- and supply chain managers. *Managing international operations* is an essential knowledge area for any large corporation, and increasingly important for small- and medium sized enterprises (SMEs).

The internationalization of operations can take different forms and lead to the development of new configurations like international distribution systems, a network of global suppliers, and offshore manufacturing. Companies are increasingly internationalized through their integration in value chains that spread far beyond national borders. The internationalization process is one of the most difficult decisions to make, since it implies numerous risks. In particular this holds true for SMEs, which have limited resources.

The need to accomplish international markets development with sophisticated and diverse customer requirements and at the same time put into practice global purchasing strategies exploiting worldwide supplier market opportunities are influencing the way Production and Logistics Networks have to be configured and managed. This paradigm implies new competition rules in a more and unpredictable

environment, where Production and Manufacturing Supply Network Agents (i.e. Distributors, Original Equipment Manufacturers, Manufacturers, Suppliers and Logistic Operators) have to carry out new Operations and Supply strategies.

The aim of this special session is to bring scholars together who take a special interest in the various aspects of managing international operations. The main focus of this session is to discuss different strategies that a company can undertake in order to successfully face the internationalization of its operations. We specifically seek to address main barriers and enablers of managing international operations concerning procurement, manufacturing, and supply chain operations.

The special session invites papers primarily directed towards empirical studies based on global surveys, comparative case studies between different countries, continents and cultures or single case studies presenting and exploring global operations management issues. Theoretical papers proposing conceptual framework are also welcomed.

Sample topics include (but are not limited to):

- *Management of cultural differences in operations.*
- *Implementing improvement programs in multinational companies.*
- *Implementing technology in multinational companies.*
- *Improvement roadmap for overseas facilities.*
- *Frameworks, models, tools and techniques for aiding to accomplish the internationalization process in an effective and efficient way.*
- *Suppliers' network design within a global procurement strategy.*
- *Production planning and control of international operations managing knowledge in multinational companies.*
- *The role of plants and head quarters.*
- *Overseas production facilities. Configuration and improvement roadmaps.*

Further Information about special session

Enquires to:

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Further Information about Conference

Conference Website: www.apms-conference.org