

Implications of Mobile Technologies for Supply Chain Management

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Abstract

Mobile technologies and m-Business are considered the next innovation potential for organizations. In this context, mobile computing is changing the way companies manage their entire business and Mobile Supply Chain Management (mSCM) is fast gaining recognition as a major source of cost reduction and supply chain performance. Mobile Supply Chain Management is defined as a system of suppliers, producers, distributors, retailers and customers where material, financial and information flows connect participants towards anywhere, anytime based on ubiquitous network environment and is based on advanced mobile communication technologies, a variety of mobile devices, computer and Internet technologies. However, there is little published academic literature on the application and implementation of mobile and/or wireless technology in SCM. This article attempts to explore the chances and challenges of mobile technology for successful implementation of mSCM and provides an overview of how modern computing devices can support the expansion of a range of mobile solutions for SCM and how this will help business achieve total portability.

Key words: Mobile Supply Chain Management (mSCM), mBusiness, wireless technology, mobile devices, ubiquitous network.