

# FOREWORD

*“How many supply chain planners does it take to change a light bulb?*

*None, the light bulbs are late.”*

Nowadays, supply chain management is one of the most important aspects for the national economies' functionality all around the world. At each factory or enterprise, operating in the area of production, service, commercial or any other, there are elements and processes that create the supply chain characteristic for each company. Having the good and wide knowledge about the basic elements and principles of supply chain's operations, not only affect the current operations and conditions of enterprises, but also determines their future development.

In the beginning there was supply chain only, described by the shortest definition presented by Lambert, D.: *"the supply chain is a group of companies that supply finished products to market"*. The issue of supply chain management was next. Supply chain management concept was first formulated in the early 80's of the twentieth century, but its origins were the results of research conducted in the field of distribution channels, business cooperation and integration schemes that were carried out 20 years earlier. Since then, a number of new concepts related to the supply chain management and supply chain itself, have appeared: green supply chain, sustainable supply chain and reverse supply chain. All of these concepts have also affected significantly the supply chain management issues in the today world.

Having the above in mind, as well as to meet the following changes and evolutions, this book contains the most common elements and the knowledge, which, both in a practical and theoretical dimension, allows for in-depth familiarity with the topic of supply chain management. This book is dedicated to the wide range of issues to a greater or lesser extent, discuss today's supply chains, tools and resources used to manage supply chains in such a way as to allow all parties (or the participants or companies) effectiveness of their activities in the field of logistics and chain supplies.

In this book, the impact of sustainable development on supply chain management, system solutions and bullwhip effect, the use of modern system solutions, strategic alignment, and aspects of reverse logistics were widely discussed aspects. And international standards and instruments currently used in market economies are also discussed. At the end of the book presents new trends in supply chain management in the dimension of the new, global economy.

An extensive range of subjects and a very detailed presentation and discussion of all aspects of supply chain management, allows to treat this book as a manual for students, a compendium of knowledge for researchers, in a short word, this book is a very good material for both, theorists and practitioners, dealing with the issue of supply chain management.

*Janusz K. Grabara*  
*Czestochowa University of Technology*  
*Poland*