

STRATEGIC REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SUPPLY CHAIN



Purpose

The purpose of this tool is to ensure that the company's supply chain strategy contains the right elements to support the company's overall strategy. The strategy process is usually circular either bottom-up or top-down.

Participant(s)

Top management and supply chain management.

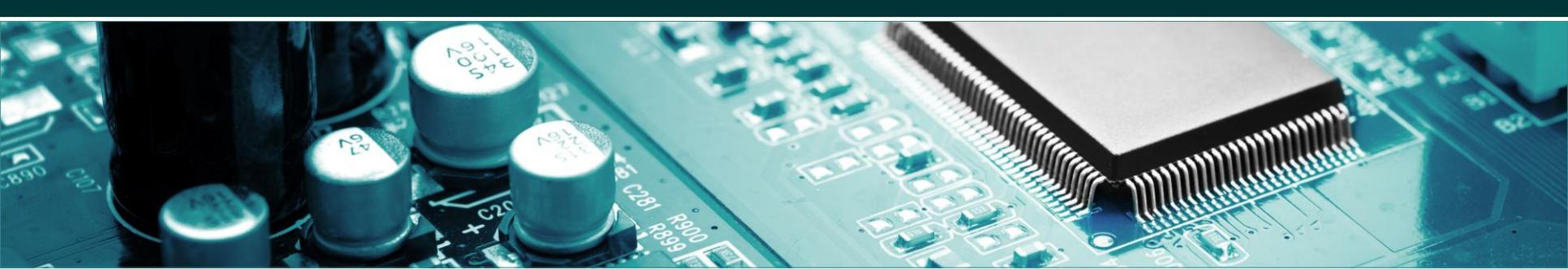
Application

The tool is used in the overall supply chain strategy processes as well as in the strategy deployment.



Method

In order to clarify the strategic requirements for the company's supply chain, a workshop covering the issue of the strategy process will create a focus on the supply chain. A workshop is a group process in which participants - in this case top management and supply chain management - together create knowledge and proposals for decisions or make decisions.



The following four activities should be included when planning and carrying through a workshop:

- 1. Planning:** this include the selection of participants. The participants should have experience in the field, should contribute with knowledge, and finally they should benefit from the outcome. It should be considered whether it exclusively is the supply chain management that is involved, or whether key employees in the company's supply chain also can contribute.
- 2. Preparation:** this include defining objectives for the workshop, as well as, which tools should be used, e.g., brainstorming, mind mapping, etc.
- 3. Implementation:** this task falls to a selected facilitator.
- 4. Evaluation & Feedback:** documentation and verification of the workshops results may be necessary, the material is collected, summarized and circulated to the participants.



These workshops have to be dedicated exclusively to focus on the requirements in the company's supply chain, creating tangible output. It may therefore be necessary to hold a series of workshops that focus individually on:

- The contents of the overall strategy.
- Clarification of the requirements for the company's supply chain (typical performance goals).
- Identifying the gaps between the overall strategy and requirements for the supply chain (here the previous tool, supply chain gap analysis can be useful).
- Preparation of an action plan, which secures alignment between the overall strategy and the requirements of the supply chain.



Benefits

The strategic requirements for the company’s supply chain are clarified, and the alignment between supply chain strategy and the company’s overall strategy is ensured

Output

The output of this process is specific content elements for the supply chain strategy, typical performance targets in relation to stock, quality, costs etc.

