

Lean through the Supply Chain, A research proposal utilizing maturity metrics to guide decision making.

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ABSTRACT

This research proposal represents a conceptualization of a model from findings of a literature review pertaining to Lean, Supply Chain Management and Maturity metrics. This represents work leading to a Ph.D. dissertation proposal with a focus on applied research with an intention to determine priorities for decision making based on both internal and external assessments of maturity.

With a proliferation of initiatives and options for training and deployment just what is the appropriate devotion of resources to sustain continuous improvement? This study proposes development of a model useful for such decision making based on evaluation of the level of development of both internal and external factors. In some cases personnel are competent while organizational factors limit capability. Alternately a capable organizational environment needs competent personnel to carry out Lean initiatives. Ideally competence and capability would be developed in parallel leading through a maturity process that sustains continuous improvement through application of Lean principles throughout the organization and the supply-chain.

The proposed model provides a framework that allows assessment of maturity of the members of the supply-chain and the relationships between these organizations. Linkages of maturity are developed as a structural equation model which is intended to facilitate evaluation of interrelationships and thus provide insight for development and deployment of Lean and supply-chain initiatives that improve alignment of these efforts.