In today’s dynamic and competitive market setting, as a matter of fact, supply chain innovation is among the most crucial aspect for any firm to continuously survive. Supply chain innovation could enhance firm processes essential for effective supply chain management through continuous collaboration with their supply chain partners, which includes manufacturers, suppliers, distributors, and customers. Supply chain innovation supports in handling uncertainty to offer solutions for customer needs as well as identify new ways to better firm processes using new technologies. As a result, firms could achieve supply chain efficiency for more effective value creation through supply chain innovation. Supply chain innovation has always received increased academic awareness; however, with varied proposals for its content. One way to view supply chain innovation is through three interconnected components of business processes, network structure, and technology (Arlbjørn et al., 2011). This framework has been used in various subject areas such as green supply chain innovation, humanitarian supply chain innovations, offshore wind energy sector supply chains and in relation to offshoring and backshoring of manufacturing.

Supply chain innovation has been defined as “a change (incremental or radical) within a supply chain network, supply chain technology, or supply chain process (or a combination of these) that can take place in a company function, within a company, in an industry or in a supply chain in order to enhance new value creation for the stakeholder (Arlbjørn et al., 2011, p. 8)”.

Firms need to be aware of the necessity to develop supply chain strategies and make supply chain transformations through supply chain innovation projects. Also, firms need to make it a reality where improvement projects are competing on scare resources in busy daily operations. With the overall purpose of secure long-term survival of firms, executives need to manage scare resources efficiently and to balance a dilemma between exploitation and exploration activities. Developing a strategy will make it clear regarding what to do – that is typically performed through projects in competition with daily operations. The lesser the strategy – the lesser awareness on ambidexterity. The challenge with ambidexterity is “lack of disciplined application of project and change management principles, partly being too busy to have the right time to do the right things” Slone et al. (2010, p. 152). From ambidexterity perspective,
firms should try to focus on exploring and exploiting all the three components of supply chain innovation simultaneously.

In spite of these important contributions in extant literature, there is still lack of knowledge about alignment of supply chain management strategies and innovation management strategies. Accordingly, there is need to conduct further research concerning supply chain management concepts and understanding of how supply chain strategy is being implemented and how the realization of supply chain innovation is being affected by companies’ ambidextrous capabilities. In addition, it is also important to identify the appropriate antecedents, behavioral aspects and performance measures of supply chain innovation. We believe that this Special Issue on supply chain innovation, supply chain strategy, ambidexterity, and performance management demonstrates a contribution to the current literature. The intention of this Special Issue is to blend innovative researches disclosing wide range of topics related to supply chain innovation as well as to provide both theoretical and practical relevance.

References


Submissions may address but are not restricted to the following topics:

- Conceptualizations of supply chain innovation
- Antecedents of supply chain innovation
- Theoretical underpinnings of supply chain innovation
- Supply chain innovation and technology
- Supply chain innovation and business processes
- Supply chain innovation and business networks
- The relationship between supply chain strategy and supply chain innovation
- Supply chain innovation and ambidexterity
- Supply chain innovation and performance management – does it pay off?
- Behavioral aspects of supply chain innovation
- Orchestration of portfolios of supply chain innovation projects
- Qualitative, quantitative and secondary data-based supply chain innovation

Submissions will be subject to a double-blind peer review process. On line submissions to *Supply Chain Forum: an International Journal* are made using ScholarOne Manuscripts, the online submission and peer review system.

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