Charu Chandra and Jānis Grabis
*Supply Chain Configuration: Concepts, Solutions, and Applications*
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Supply chain management is a truly interdisciplinary research area. Its needs have been driving developments in management science, operations research, information technology as well as in other areas. Many of well-established books in supply chain management attempt to cover the entire scope of supply chain management. This book narrows the scope explicitly on a supply chain configuration problem and provides an in-depth exploration of this problem from various perspectives. By doing so, the book not only presents one of the most up-to-date coverage of the configuration problem but also proposes an overall framework for further supply chain management activities. It uses the configuration as starting point of supply chain management and fuses quantitative modeling and information modeling to establish a basis for implementation, execution and monitoring of management decisions.

The book has three parts: 1) Part I: “Supply Chain Configuration Problem and Issues”, covers conceptual issues of supply chain configuration; 2) supply chain configuration methods are presented in Part II: “Solutions”; and 3) Part III: “Applications” reports case studies in supply chain configuration.

Part I of the book defines the supply chain configuration problem and argues that dynamics of operating environment and internal pressures requires continuous reconfiguration of supply chains. It includes a detailed analysis of existing research in the supply chain configuration area and a methodology for supply chain configuration. The methodology defines various methods used in supply chain configuration and it serves as starting point for exploration of these methods in Part II. Part II along with well-known techniques for supply chain configuration such as mathematical programming and simulation also discusses application of knowledge management, information modeling and hybrid techniques as well as a role of information technology. Part III is devoted to real-life supply chain configuration studies. It includes the review of case studies reported in research literature and exploration of configuration related problems in automotive industry and retail. The authors suggest that validation and evaluation of supply chain configuration is a complex problem and acknowledge that currently there is little progress in this area.

Reviewed by Girts Vulfs, Technical University, Latvia
The book serves as material for academics and practitioners working in the area, as well as graduate students in management science and industrial engineering seeking to enhance their knowledge of specific supply chain management issues.

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