Foreword

by Michael Bourlakis

This book examines the concept of logistics outsourcing, which has been a major business trend since the 1980s, and many academics have researched it extensively. Despite this, there is a scarcity of books covering the topic of logistics outsourcing and this book fills a major gap.

More importantly, I have been very impressed with the comprehensive treatment of this topic in this book. In the start, the concept of logistics outsourcing is analysed followed by a section on its management. Very appropriate cases are introduced in another section whilst other sections cover the selection and evaluation of logistics service providers, costing and legal issues, and trends in outsourcing. These are not standalone sections of the book but are well-linked and integrated altogether and offer a holistic and overarching perspective of logistics outsourcing. Hence, readers of this book will benefit extensively by this approach and the intertwined theoretical and applied approach followed when covering various aspects of outsourcing.

I am confident that this book will be very popular amongst logistics academics, industry managers, and practitioners. In addition, it will be extremely valuable to both undergraduate and postgraduate students reading for Logistics Outsourcing and Logistics and Supply Chain Management modules and degrees, respectively, notwithstanding that many PhD students, working on the logistics field, will benefit by reading this book too. To conclude, this book is a welcome addition. I recommend it highly to anybody interested to the topic of logistics outsourcing.

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International Journal of Co-operative Management, International Journal of Business Science and Applied Management). Professor Bourlakis is also a scientific member of various Conference Committees including the Colloquium on European Retail Research and the International Conference on Supply Chains. In the past, he has been a Chair of the Organising Committee of the 11th Logistics Research Network Conference (Newcastle University, 2006, U.K.) and of the European Logistics Association Doctorate Workshop (Germany, 2007). Finally, he is a member of the European Technology Platform (Food for Life, European Union) and of the Academic Committee of the Chartered Institute of Logistics & Transport (CILT, UK).