



The ACA Group is an alliance of operations and supply chain experts.

Operational Performance Improvement Newsletter

Strategies for Improving Business Performance

May, 2018

 Send to a Colleague

Welcome

Our clients are wondering what to do about overload of supply chain technology - should they invest? Research further? Ignore and focus on their strengths? Thus, we thought we'd dedicate this newsletter to the trends taking place in supply chain technology. Let us know what you are experiencing. Which do you think pose the greatest risk for disruption?

We also find the summer season to be an ideal time to make significant improvements to your operations and supply chain. While the competition is on vacation, why not speed on by? Check out our many [articles](#) or give us a [call](#) if you'd like a few ideas on avenues to pursue and/or an assessment of where to focus efforts to achieve a dramatic "win".

We hope you'll join us at one of our APICS events in [San Fernando Valley](#) or the [Inland Empire](#). Why not add continuing education and new ideas into the mix this summer?

AI, Robots, IoT, Blockchain, Hike!

By Lisa Anderson, MBA, CSCP



AI (artificial intelligence), Robots, IoT (internet of things), Blockchain, hike! Doesn't it sound like a foreign language? It certainly does to my mother! Yet it is the language of the future.

Which of these technologies should we pay attention to? Let's look at some of the more popular ones:

1. AI- Depending on your industry, AI will most

The ACA Group Partner Spotlight



certainly impact it. Service industries such as accounting are definitely impacted. After all, if a program like Alexa can learn how to put together your taxes, it is bound to disrupt. Machine learning and artificial intelligence can be powerful - preventative maintenance can be completely redefined in a proactive, predictive way.

2. Robots - Isn't everyone talking about robots? Of course, this is partially because they are fun to talk about. Is a robot good in all situations? NO! We've seen many manufacturers and distributors try robots and end up slowing the process down because they didn't think about the full impacts.

[Read the rest of the article](#)

Robots Taking on Pharmaceuticals & Food?

By [Lisa Anderson, MBA, CSCP](#)

According to the Wall Street Journal, robots are taking on pharmaceuticals and food preparation. In pharmaceuticals, companies like Eli Lilly and GlaxoSmithKline are investing heavily in automation to radically change the process of drug discovery. If robots can handle thousands of samples around the clock (although costs will decrease or be reallocated to more valuable tasks), these results pale in comparison with the vast opportunity to develop drugs quicker!

Are you radically re-thinking and innovating with speed in mind?



[Read the rest of the article](#)

[James P. Strong, CPIM, CPM, CSCP](#)

Focused on "Supply Side" management, a strategy for improving profitability and competitive advantage.

Jim Strong is an independent consultant and trainer. He has over 20 years management and consulting experience, and has product knowledge in pharmaceuticals, electronics, plastic and rubber molding, metal fabrication, and aerospace products.

[more](#)

Service Focus:

Supply Chain Management

Improve Your Business Processes



Our view of the supply chain is from our supplier's supplier to our customer's customer inclusive of all elements in-between. It's no wonder executives are turning to their supply chain leaders to find out how to:

- Compress lead times
- Elevate service and delight customers
- Improve margins & profitability
- Accelerate cash flow
- Increase productivity and profitability

We partner with our clients to achieve results and align sourcing with business

Access [The ACA Group](#) library of materials on [Enterprise Resource Planning](#), [Organizational Development](#), [Lean Enterprise](#) and [Supply Chain Management](#).



UPCOMING EVENTS

APICS 2018
September 30 - October 2, 2018
Chicago, IL

APICS-IE Executive Panel & Networking Symposium
November 3, 2018
Claremont, CA



The ACA Group is an alliance of operations and supply chain management experts who partner with organizations to improve business performance



The ACA Group

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