



# White Paper

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**Never break the chain:  
Supply chain optimization's  
winning formulas**

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Clients, consumers and an uncertain economic outlook are forcing manufacturers and supply chain owners to squeeze every last drop of efficiency from their operations. Louise Thompson, Corporate Services Director, SYSPRO from enterprise resource planning (ERP) software developer, SYSPRO, takes us through the current optimization trends to help supply chain owners improve their key metrics.

Whatever your supply chain looks like – from a single small-scale factory to multinational network, it is most likely comprised of organized systems of people, technology and resources. Each of these critical cogs needs to be working at peak efficiency, but how do you achieve this, and how do you know when you've achieved it? There's a number of ways to improve supply chain optimization (SCO); here's a summary of what they are and how they can help move things forward for your business, your clients and your bottom line.

## Number One: Supply Chain Optimization itself

Let's not overlook the seemingly obvious: SCO itself needs to be accepted as a force for good – one that can help drive profitability during a stagnant economic period and beyond. SCO processes continuously analyze and monitor costs, time and quality, helping guide management to make decisions that maximize performance across the supply chain.

## Number two: Inventory optimization

Your inventory is a balance sheet asset, so stock should be kept to the lowest levels while simultaneously guarding against out-of-stocks. Enterprise resource planning software can help you minimize cash tied up in 'dead' stock and keep your inventory processes fast, fluid and efficient.

## Number three: Manufacturing optimization

Inefficient use of raw materials and the resultant costly wastage is a source of great pain for supply chain manufacturers, hampering further expansion, plant optimization and growth. Manufacturing optimization – known as 'lean manufacturing' – aims to maximize customer value while minimizing waste, creating higher value from fewer and lower-cost resources.

## Number four: Planning optimization

Accurately predicting what and how many items a business will be selling in the future is the supply chain sector's Holy Grail. Enterprise resource planning software can help forecast future demand, aiding production managers plan schedules and deliver products that flow to the customer without gathering dust in warehouses.



## Number five: Look at the system as a whole

Due to the complexity and diversity of modern supply chains, increasingly sophisticated processes are required to ensure total optimization. It is the essence of supply chain optimization to apply processes that will improve the operation of a supply chain in its entirety. With the help of a robust, trustworthy ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) solution that takes in the wider view of the supply chain, planning cycles can be reduced, production scheduling enhanced, and the generation and management of purchase orders automated.

Everyone accepts technology can help supply chain managers make the best decisions, but this near-infinitely complex software can only be as effective as the individuals who built it. Whether you have employed all or just one of the above approaches, you'll want to look for an ERP, demand forecasting or inventory system that's designed by a team that understands your business. Only then can your supply chain ever attain the accolade 'optimized'.

## About SYSPRO

SYSPRO software is an award-winning, best-of-breed Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software solution for cost-effective on-premise and cloud-based utilization. Industry analysts rank SYSPRO software among the finest, best-in-class enterprise resource planning solutions in the world. SYSPRO software's powerful features, simplicity of use, scalability, information visibility, analytic/reporting capabilities, business process and rapid deployment methodology are unmatched in its sector.

SYSPRO, formed in 1978, has earned the trust of thousands of companies globally. SYSPRO's ability to grow with its customers and its adherence to developing technology based on the needs of customers is why SYSPRO enjoys one of the highest customer retention rates in the industry.



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