Factors Influencing Supply Network Design Decisions

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Designing optimal supply networks involves multiple decisions regarding the locations of manufacturing and warehousing facilities as well as decisions on how to source customers. Multiple cost elements must be factored into the design including those for logistics services, raw materials, energy, labor, inventory, capital investment, and taxes. Customer-service requirements and sustainability impacts continue to emerge as influencers in network design. This discussion will focus on incorporating these factors into the decision-making process. Several examples from recent studies will be cited.

Jim Jacobs has been employed for ten years by Procter & Gamble where he has been involved in distribution network design, transportation management, and mathematical optimization in strategic sourcing. His current role is focused on manufacturing siting and sourcing for the Americas. Prior to P&G he worked in quality assurance for Rockwell Collins Avionics. He has a BS in Statistics and an MS in Industrial Engineering from the University of Florida.

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