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Supply Chain Awards 2024: Eight applications reach the final

The finalists for the Supply Chain Management Award 2024 are Bosch Mobility Aftermarket, Ludwig Meister, Otto Fuchs and Würth Industrie Service. Qualified for the final round of the Smart Solution Awards 2024: Cellumation, Knapp, Körber and Themis. The finalist pitches for the Supply Chain Awards 2024 and the award ceremony will take place on 12 November in Frankfurt am Main.

Munich, September 23, 2024. The eight finalists of the Supply Chain Awards 2024 have been chosen. Bosch Mobility Aftermarket, Ludwig Meister, Otto Fuchs und Würth Industrie Service will compete in the final of the Supply Chain Management Award. The final round of the Smart Solution Award will be contested by Cellumation, Knapp, Körber's Business Area Supply Chain and Themis by Commerzbank.

The finalists of both awards will present their concepts to the audience and jury members on 12 November in Frankfurt am Main. Following the final round, the independent jury of experts will select the winners. Participants can also vote live during the event - the public vote for the Supply Chain Management Award and for the Smart Solution Award will be included in the jury vote. The award ceremony for the Supply Chain Awards 2024 will take place in the evening straight after the final rounds. The theme of the final day of the Supply Chain Awards 2024 is 'Adapt Supply Chains to meet Political, Technological, and Environmental Shifts'. The programme includes exciting keynotes, an interesting panel discussion and workshop sessions on supply chain management.

The award winners and participants of the event can also look forward to speeches by the laudators at the awards ceremony and extensive networking within the supply chain community.

"Supply chain managers have to face a wide range of business challenges. With the help of sophisticated concepts and innovative solutions for supply chain management, companies can position themselves for business success. We are looking forward to the presentations of the eight finalists and are excited to see who will win the Supply Chain Management Award and who will win the Smart Solution Award 2024", says Stefan Schrauf, Global Supply Chain and EMEA Operations Lead, PwC Germany.

"Anyone who works hard with their team on supply chain management would like to make their successes even more visible both inside and outside the company. The competition for the Supply Chain Awards provides a perfect platform for this", adds Matthias Pieringer, Editor-in-Chief of the trade magazine LOGISTIK HEUTE from Munich-based HUSS-VERLAG. "The eight finalists can already be very proud of their qualification for the finalist pitches."

About the Supply Chain Awards

LOGISTIK HEUTE, Strategy& and PwC are presenting the **Supply Chain Management Award** for the 19th time this year: This award recognises outstanding SCM concepts that have been developed, implemented and are groundbreaking for other companies. The aim is to optimise the supply chain, reduce costs, increase transparency or improve collaboration between individual teams. The current winner in 2023 is Philip Morris International.

The **Smart Solution Award** will be presented for the seventh time in 2024 - for particularly innovative concepts that are still at an early stage of implementation. This award recognises solutions that have the potential to fundamentally change traditional value chains in the future. The Smart Solution Award 2023 went to Finboot.

The finalists of the Supply Chain Management Award 2024

Bosch Mobility Aftermarket

Bosch Mobility Aftermarket (MA), the division responsible for the spare parts business for passenger cars and commercial vehicles at technology and service supplier Bosch, has fundamentally redesigned its logistics. All processes for the supply of spare parts are designed and implemented backwards from the customer. The focus is on vehicle owners who expect fast and binding delivery dates for their spare parts from their workshops. Under the motto "Deliver a promise", MA has consistently aligned its order flow with this and mapped it in a holistic end-to-end process. MA achieved even greater customer satisfaction and significantly increased delivery capability as a result of the realignment while at the same time significantly reducing the required stock levels. The basis for this was the close integration of the process chains and the high level of integration of various business intelligence solutions, which allows the order flow to be monitored and controlled efficiently. The digital logistics model also ensures that the end-to-end processes (E2E) can be comprehensively evaluated.

The implementation of the E2E concept benefited from the employees' strong identification with the "Deliver a promise" motto and their high level of commitment. Shortly after its introduction, MA was able to achieve top industry scores for key performance indicators such as delivery capability and forecasting accuracy.

The Bosch Mobility Aftermarket (MA) division provides aftermarket and repair shops worldwide with modern diagnostic and repair shop equipment, as well as a wide range of spare parts—from new and exchange parts to repair solutions—for passenger cars and commercial vehicles. Its product portfolio includes Bosch original equipment, products developed in-house specifically for the aftermarket, and various services. More than 16,000 employees, along with a global logistics network, ensure that spare parts reach customers quickly and on time. To this end, the logistics department manages several hundred thousand part numbers, which are delivered via 65 global distribution centers.

Ludwig Meister

Ludwig Meister (LM), a family-owned company specializing in technical trade and distribution solutions, proudly presents its new "Never Out of Stock" (NOS) solution. This innovative service has been designed to ensure continuous availability of essential products and materials, preventing production disruptions for customers.

LM's "Never Out of Stock" solution is an advanced digital service aimed at optimizing supply chain processes. It leverages real-time data analysis and automated procurement systems to guarantee a continuous supply of materials, with shortages predicted up to twelve months in advance. This service was developed through close collaboration between LM's supply chain management team and IT department.

By implementing the "Never Out of Stock" solution, inventory levels have been reduced by up to 25 per cent, and lead times shortened by as much as 30 per cent. Supply chain transparency has improved, material availability increased, and order processes streamlined. The automated integration of over 100 suppliers plays a key role in ensuring continuous supply. Customers benefit from reduced inventory costs, enhanced planning capabilities, greater security, and proactive flexibility in material procurement. Case studies show that customers using this solution were able to respond swiftly to market changes and avoid supply shortages.

Since its founding in 1939, LM has established itself as a trusted partner for industrial applications. The mid-sized company, headquartered in Dachau with over 300 employees, offers a wide range of products and services in the areas of bearings, linear technology, power transmission, fluid technology, tools, and workplace equipment. LM places great emphasis on quality, innovation, and customer service.

Otto Fuchs

Otto Fuchs As part of the competition for the Supply Chain Management Award, Otto Fuchs presents its "Fast Track" solution. In times of constantly increasing cost pressure on one side and highly capital-intensive growth ambitions on the other, it is of immense importance for a company to continuously optimise. The "Fast Track" solution presented by Otto Fuchs aims to reduce the lead time of materials in the aerospace sector. Through internal improvements, such as streamlining the material flow, optimising inventories, and adjusting batch sizes, as well as a closer integration of external service providers and suppliers with in-house production, the lead time of an exemplary component group has already been reduced by 30 per cent. Every optimisation in this area is significant, and further reductions are targeted by the end of the project.

The improved value stream also makes faster responses to changing customer needs possible and brings additional advantages, such as reduced stock levels and an optimisation of the capital tied up in the cost-intensive titanium and nickel alloys. This enables Otto Fuchs to secure its business sustainably and grow in the long term despite rising financing costs and other challenging conditions, and to grow prospectively – thus strengthening and expanding its position as a strong partner in the growing aerospace sector. With advancing digitalisation, the pilot project can also be extended to other products, which also ensures the company's future viability and secures jobs in the South Westphalia region in the long term.

Otto Fuchs KG, headquartered in Meinerzhagen, was founded in 1910 and employs over 5.000 people. The company is divided into three divisions: Aerospace, Automotive, and Industrial. In the aerospace division, Otto Fuchs supplies all major international aircraft manufacturers with demanding and highly safety-relevant metal components. State-of-the-art manufacturing technologies and a consistent focus on process optimisation ensure the company a strong competitive position in a dynamic and challenging market.

Würth Industrie Service

In manufacturing companies, there are often hundreds or even thousands of parts that need to be managed and monitored at the same time. This not only involves handling C-parts such as screws, nuts and production-related MRO products like gloves or masks, but also A- and B-parts like gearboxes or headrests. In times of increasing dynamics, growing volatility and faster product life cycles, this can become a challenge in purchasing and procurement as well as in neighboring areas of the company if no automated and digital solutions are in use. With the "CPS – C-Parts Solutions" brand developed by Würth Industrie Service, the company offers modular solutions that can be easily adapted to individual customer requirements. Logistics and planning services such as scanner-supported shelving systems, automated electronic ordering systems, industrial vending solutions, just-in-time supply using RFID Kanban container systems or CPS miSELF as a holistic material availability tool offer a decisive competitive advantage in the digital transformation of the Würth Group and its customers. Consumption- and demand-based systems significantly streamline the processes for purchasing, logistics and quality assurance and enable the cost-optimized procurement of small parts.

Würth Industrie Service GmbH & Co. KG handles supplying the industrial sector within the Würth Group. Since its foundation in 1999, the company has been operating at the Würth Industrial Park in Bad Mergentheim with over 1,800 employees. With a specialized product range of over 1.4 million items, the company presents itself as a complete C-parts supplier: from screws, fasteners and fixing technology to tools, chemical-technical products and occupational safety. In addition to the extensive standard range, the company's strength lies in customized, logistical and planning supply and service concepts as well as special parts.

The finalists of the Smart Solution Award 2024

Cellumation

Even in the modern logistics world, many conveyor systems are prone to disruptions, demand significant space, and offer limited scalability or adaptability to new requirements. To address this challenge, the Cellumation team, led by Dr. Hendrik Thamer and Claudio Uriarte, has developed a software-controlled material flow solution. At the heart of the solution is the celluveyor – a hexagonal cell with three omnidirectional, independently driven wheels. By combining multiple celluveyor cells, a surface is formed on which objects can be flexibly moved. A vision system and AI-supported software ensure optimal material flow through precise control of the individual cells.

The technology can be applied in logistics (and prospectively in production) for complex transportation tasks: palletizing and depalletizing, sorting, aligning and singulating transport goods, merging material flows, diverting objects, and many more. Main advantages of the solution include up to 95 per cent reduction of space requirements, high throughput, low energy costs, and easy maintenance. Additionally, the solution can be quickly integrated into existing material flow systems and offers the flexibility to switch between different use cases through via software updates.

Cellumation GmbH, founded in 2017 to develop and commercialize the patented celluveyor technology, now employs over 70 people. Since 2019, more than 120 systems have been commissioned by over 30 customers worldwide. With several prominent customers already in its portfolio, the company aims to continue its international expansion in the coming years.

Knapp

Knapp is a company in logistics automation, delivering intelligent solutions for supply chain management across various sectors, including healthcare, fashion, retail, and industry. Specializing in the integration of robotics, AI, and digital software, Knapp optimizes value chains from production to point-of-sale. Their comprehensive business model encompasses consulting, project management, system installation, and ongoing support, with a strong emphasis on innovation and efficiency in logistics.

With the intelligent solution “D³ Daily Dose Dispenser”, Knapp is pursuing a clear mission: to create maximum added value for patients and relatives and optimum efficiency for blister centres and pharmacies. That's why “D³ Daily Dose Dispenser” is not just a product, but a comprehensive solution package including software, service and ongoing advice.

Körber's Business Area Supply Chain

Supply chains are growing more complex by the day. Körber uniquely provides a broad range of proven, end-to-end supply chain solutions fitting any business size, strategy or appetite for growth. The customers conquer the complexity of the supply chain thanks to our portfolio that includes software, automation, mail and parcel solutions, voice solutions, robotics, and material handling – plus the expertise to tie it all together. The Business Area Supply Chain is part of the global technology group Körber.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a buzzword that most companies want to incorporate and make use of, but how do we apply AI in the intralogistics industry? Körber has a new and innovative AI solution: K.Optimize AI Operator Eye that reduces repeat errors by up to 75 per cent by AI automatic reset. The Operator Eye is an example of how digital enablement and AI can help the intralogistics industry to identify the root cause of downtime errors, and how it can help us work with another great challenge – master data. The solution reduces energy consumption and CO2 emissions by optimizing operational efficiency and reducing the amount of damaged goods.

The Operator Eye uses embedded cameras to capture operations, but it is much more than a machine-mounted camera. It makes our customer's equipment intelligent. The AI-powered digital solution interprets the data and operator behavior to learn and solve common issues, such as trailing pallet wrap and problematic slip sheets. It can then make autonomous decisions and adapt to future-proof your operations.

Körber continues to develop the digital product portfolio and is almost ready with the next two AI solutions to boost its' customers' operations.

Themis by Commerzbank

Commerzbank has partnered with BASF and Evonik to tackle challenges faced by the industry in day-to-day supply chain management. In 2020 they started mirroring Procure-to-Pay and Order-to-Cash processes on a distributed ledger. In its current stage, Themis can validate order and invoice data between any buyer and seller in real time, autonomously approve invoices and settle payments directly on the platform. The innovative use of smart contracts helps companies to reduce labor-intensive exception handling, which leads to significant cost savings while adhering to the highest data privacy and security standards. Programmable payments in digital money provided by Commerzbank (tokenized deposit) are directly integrated into the invoice approval process, leaving behind any additional cost of payment handling or inherent risk of fraud. Themis ensures that payments are settled precisely according to the agreed payment terms, further contributing to accurate liquidity management.

Themis can securely communicate with any Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system via simple Application Programming Interfaces (API) which makes the solution easily accessible. No prior knowledge of distributed ledger technology is required. Themis is well-suited for any company engaged in trading or producing goods that is interested in significantly improving its own efficiency in supply chain management.

About Commerzbank

Commerzbank is the leading bank for small and medium-sized enterprises and a strong partner to around 25,500 corporate client groups and nearly eleven million private and business customers in Germany. Commerzbank handles about 30 per cent of Germany's foreign trade and is represented internationally in more than 40 countries within its corporate client business.

About BASF

Around 112,000 employees in the BASF Group contribute to the success of the customers in nearly all sectors and almost every country in the world. The portfolio comprises six segments: Chemicals, Materials, Industrial Solutions, Surface Technologies, Nutrition & Care and Agricultural Solutions. BASF generated sales of €68.9 billion in 2023.

About Evonik

Evonik is a company in specialty chemicals. The company is active in more than 100 countries around the world and generated sales of €15.3 billion and an operating profit (adjusted EBITDA) of €1.66 billion in 2023. Evonik goes far beyond chemistry to create innovative, profitable, and sustainable solutions for customers. More than 32,000 employees work together for a common purpose: We want to improve life today and tomorrow.

Further information on the Supply Chain Awards can be found at: <https://supply-chain-awards.com> and <https://logistik-heute.de/supply-chain-awards>

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Attachment: LOGISTIK HEUTE, PwC and Strategy& will once again present the Supply Chain Awards in 2024, i.e. the Supply Chain Management Award (left) and the Smart Solution Award. (Image credit: Photo: Mario Andreyka/Montage: HUSS-VERLAG)

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LOGISTIK HEUTE

The trade magazine LOGISTIK HEUTE addresses managers in industry, trade and the service sector who are responsible for logistics processes in the company. An editorial team and specialist authors from science and practice provide up-to-date information on innovative logistics concepts, new products, ideas and trends in all areas of the supply chain. Detailed market overviews and company reports complete the range of logistics topics month after month. Procurement, production, distribution and disposal - logistics is involved everywhere. That's why LOGISTIK HEUTE, the logistics magazine for decision-makers in industry, trade and the service sector, refers consequently to the entire supply chain and represents thus an indispensable source of information.

HUSS-VERLAG

HUSS-VERLAG is a modern B2B publishing house that publishes trade journals and periodical special publications for experts and executives in the logistics and automotive industries as well as in the tourism, after-sales and passenger transportation sectors. Currently HUSS-VERLAG publishes the business trade magazines LOGISTIK HEUTE, LOGISTRA, taxi heute, busplaner, VISION mobility, Unterwegs auf der Autobahn, PROFI Werkstatt and the newspaper Transport, including special publications and digital media . HUSS-Verlag awards prizes such as BEST OF mobility, BESTER AUTOHOF, the European Transport Prize for Sustainability, the International busplaner Sustainability Award, Taxi of the Year, the BEST PROFI Werkstatt Brand, the BEST LOGISTICS BRAND, LOGISTRA best practice and the Supply Chain Management Award. HUSS-VERLAG is managed by Christoph Huss and Rainer Langhammer and is part of the HUSS company group with headquarters in Munich and Berlin.