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## Competitive Challenges, Chain Reactions

Edward Sweeney

*Technological University Dublin, [edward.sweeney@tudublin.ie](mailto:edward.sweeney@tudublin.ie)*

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# Competitive Challenges, Chain Reactions: Towards an Integrated Approach to Supply Chain Re-engineering



Supply Chain Management  
Centre of Excellence

# **Competitive Challenges, Chain Reactions: Towards an Integrated Approach to Supply Chain Re-engineering**

**Edward Sweeney**  
**Director of Learning, NITL**

**Waterford, January 2007**

# Agenda

- **NITL**
- **Context**
- **Characteristics of SCM excellence**
- **How do Irish companies measure up?**
- **SC re-engineering**
- **Concluding comments**

# Agenda

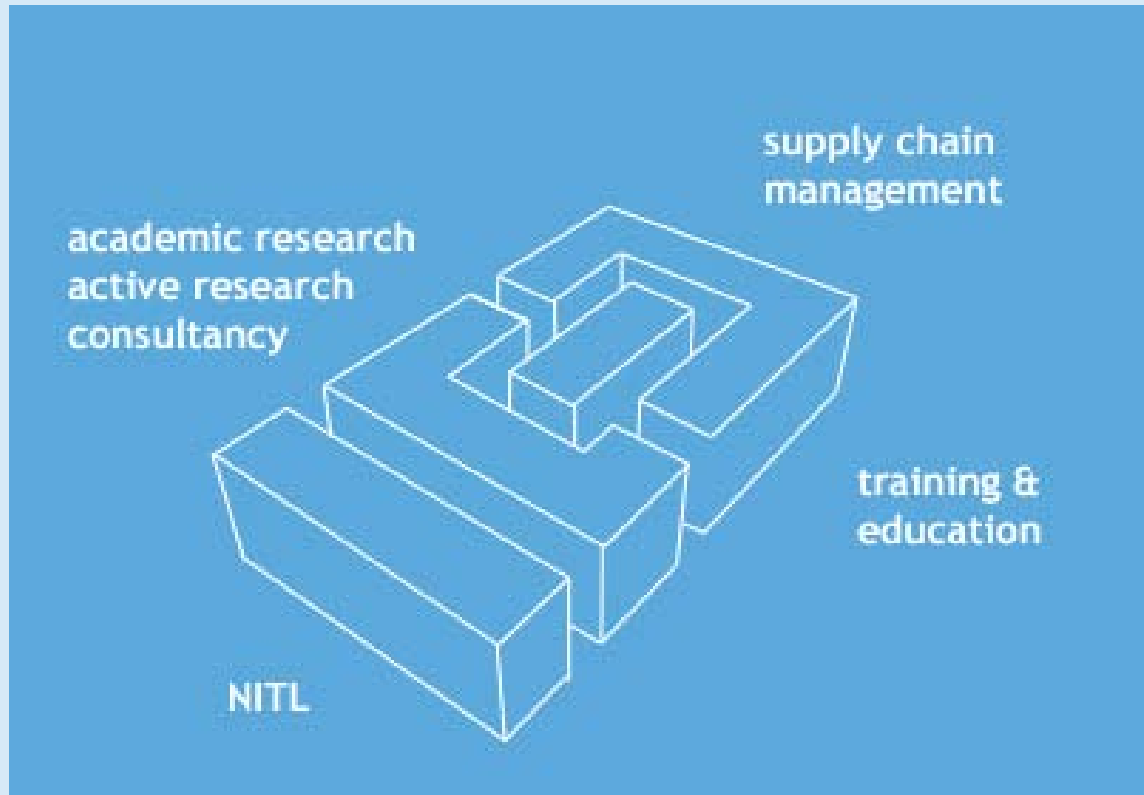
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# History of NITL

- Report “World Class to Serve the World”
- April 1998
- National Centre for Supply Chain Excellence
- Supported by National Development Plan
- Managed by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
- Through Enterprise Ireland
- Based at the DIT



# NITL Structure and Activities



# Agenda

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# The Evolving Strategic Context

- **Internationalisation (or globalisation) of supply chains**
- **Vertical disintegration**
- **Changing role of the SC in strategic differentiation**

# The Irish Context: importance of SCM

- Potential operational benefits (supply chain economics and customer service)
- Open economy (imports/exports proportion of GDP)
- Transport only one, and not most important cost, therefore location not a significant disadvantage
- Relatively small companies often part of a global supply chain
- Can manage 'virtual' supply chains from Ireland

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- Establishment and measurement of supply chain KPI's because *what gets measured gets done!*

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# How Do Irish Companies Measure Up?

- **NITL SCM Barometer 2004/5**
- **Conducted by MORI on behalf of NITL**
- **Survey of 1073 companies on the island of Ireland**
- **Approximately 75% ROI; 25% NI**
- **Approximately 75% indigenous; 25% MNC**

# How Do Irish Companies Measure Up?

- 57% do not measure customer service formally and those which do not have very limited measurements
- Companies score low in relation to having the latest supply chain IT and having them integrated internally and across the supply chain (one in five)
- 8.5% have a formal SCM/logistics position
- Few companies had clearly defined SCM KPI's (e.g. 58% do not know their supply chain costs)

# How Do Irish Companies Measure Up?

- Overall: SCM positively related to overall company performance
- Pockets of SCM excellence but much room for improvement
- Excellent or good SCM practice: <10%; Reasonable: ~30%; yet to establish SCM programme: ~60%
- Large MNC vs. Indigenous SME
- Future plans?



# Some Barriers to SCM Excellence

- **Inefficiencies are often built into the supply chain**
- **Communication structures ineffective and exchange of information poor**
- **Culture inappropriate**
- **Excessive reliance on forecasting and stockholding**
- **Managing problems, rather than eliminating their causes**

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# Re-engineering Supply Chains

- **Re-engineering = analysing + planning improvement + implementing improvement**
- **There is no “magic” solution**
- **Beware of copying inappropriate solutions**
- **BUT!**
- **There is a logical and systematic way of addressing the issue**

# Understanding Customer Service



**Market Driven  
Customer  
Service  
Strategy**

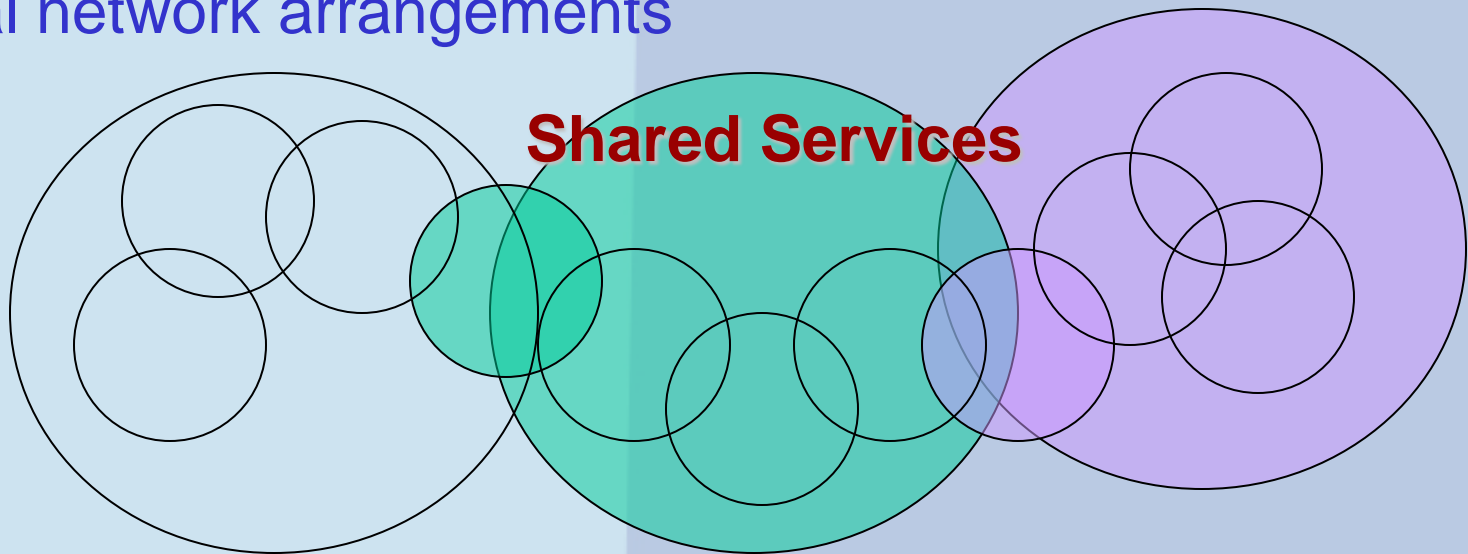
**Performance  
Specification for  
Integrated Supply  
Chain Management**

***The basis of effective re-engineering and change***

# Supply Chain Organisation

The organisational shape of the future?

Internal network arrangements



External network arrangements

***Think process and effectiveness NOT function and efficiency***

# Technology: the great enabler?

- Key role as an integration enabler
- Piecemeal and tactical approach to integration and to IT/IS development
- Multiple standards, processes and platforms
  - Internally
  - Across the supply chain

# Does IT Matter?

## Information Enablers and Drivers

Most IT solutions are no longer likely to provide strategic advantage, but simply the business basics (*IT is imitable*)

The competitive advantage for companies will originate from developing creative information technology strategies and implementing them superbly

***Focus on process and people NOT on systems and hardware***

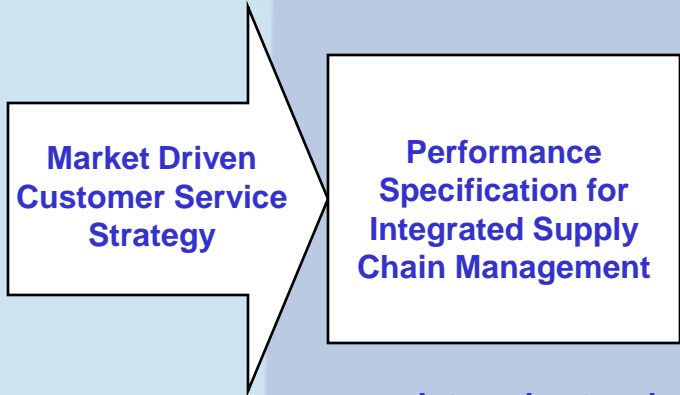
# Supply Chain KPIs in World Class Companies

- relates to company strategy (and stakeholders)
- incorporates non-financial measures
- limit the number of measures
- measures change over time
- measures simple and easy to use
- fast feedback to staff
- “learning” experience

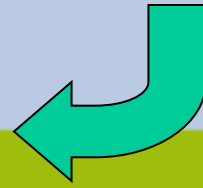
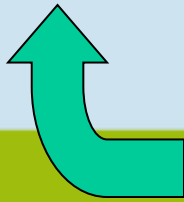
***KPIs: the only rational basis for continuous improvement***



# Towards A Supply Chain Re-engineering Roadmap



Internal network arrangements



# Cultural Capability Change Management

## Prerequisites for change

**Prerequisite One: - Pressure for Change**

**Prerequisite Two: - Clear Vision for Change**

**Prerequisite Three: - Capacity for Change**

**Prerequisite Four: - First-up Actions**

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# Final Thoughts for the Day

- **Standing still = falling behind**
- **Innovation in all aspects is the key to survival**
- **Remember that most innovation is a series of small steps**
- **Re-engineering must focus on service delivery, integration, organisation and performance measurement**
- **People and learning are critical success factors**

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