Synchronize Planning and Execution Across the Extended Supply Chain

Benefits

- Reduce working capital and carrying costs by trimming excess buffer stock
- Increase assurance of supply and on-time customer shipments
- Respond instantly to changes in supply and demand with real-time visibility into metrics
- Spot potential breakdowns using dashboards and configurable rules, and fix issues before they impact customers
- Manage key direct spend processes easily – including ordering, forecasting, inventory, and quality – with SAP® Ariba® solutions

From Our Customers

“We are seeing US$300 million of working capital improvement with a 5% increase in our on-time, in-full measurement. Our service levels are going up; inventory is down.”
Robert Meshew, Chief Technology Officer, Microsoft Corporation

ACHIEVING TOTAL SUPPLY CHAIN VISIBILITY

In today’s global, nonlinear, and distributed economy, the power to transform your supply chain from a disconnected to a collaborative, digitally connected supply network can give you the power to sense and respond to demand changes quickly. You gain greater flexibility and visibility to reduce inventory buffers while increasing service levels and on-time shipments. This transformation requires innovative, cloud-based tools that enable you to:

- Integrate your suppliers’ operations into your supply chain planning and execution in real time, regardless of geographic location or systems used
- Work collaboratively with contract manufacturers and multitiered suppliers
- Identify and respond to unplanned supply chain events quickly, before they impact your customers

The SAP® Ariba® Supply Chain Collaboration for Buyers solution provides the missing link in your quest to drive an efficient supply chain network. By connecting systems and aligning stakeholders and trading partners to a common plan, it can help you orchestrate multitier supply chains to reduce inventory and improve customer service (see the figure).

Figure: Direct Spend Collaboration for Manufacturing and Retail Industries

Now you can optimize direct spend processes in discrete and process manufacturing, as well as in retail, with powerful capabilities including:

- Direct spend PO collaboration
- Subcontracting of orders and consignment item categories, including buyer shipment of components, visibility into component inventory, and supplier receipt and consumption of components
- Visibility and collaboration with multiple tiers of suppliers
- Scheduling agreement releases with time-phased delivery schedules
- Support for returns processes
- Delivery and financial transactions, including order confirmations, advance ship notices, goods receipt notices, and invoices
ONBOARD EFFICIENTLY

With comprehensive supplier enablement services bundled into SAP Ariba Supply Chain Collaboration for Buyers, you can easily take advantage of our world-class trading partner network. Our onboarding expertise helps you prioritize trading partners strategic to your business and seamlessly connect their systems and processes to yours, whether they prefer business-to-business integration, Microsoft Excel, e-mail, or portal-based collaboration. With our on-demand supply chain collaboration tools, the SAP Ariba solutions team is positioned to help you maximize your ROI potential and leverage all the e-commerce advantages of Ariba Network. In addition, on-line tutorials and help desk support in 20 languages help ensure that you and your suppliers’ concerns are handled quickly and efficiently.

AUTOMATE COLLABORATION

By integrating to your enterprise resource planning and supply chain planning systems and extending them to your trading partners, the solution lets you manage all supply chain collaboration in one place. Network-driven collaboration automates interactions with trading partners, reducing e-mail and spreadsheet communications to shorten cycle times and increase productivity. The ability to connect once and collaborate with many trading partners simplifies interactions and transactions, giving you greater agility to deal with supply chain volatility and meet customer commitments. Take collaboration to the next level with:

• Integration to any back-end system, including packaged integration with SAP ERP applications and supply chain solutions
• Industry-specific collaboration and business processes for high tech, chemicals, life sciences, industrial manufacturing, consumer products, retail, and more
• Multiple connectivity options for trading partners

ACCESS ACTIONABLE INTELLIGENCE

Our intelligent network approach enables you to identify and resolve potential supply chain problems before they become serious. Configurable intercompany business rules let you instantly identify errors (such as unconfirmed or wrong-quantity orders) through automatic validation and reconciliation. Automated dashboards and reporting make it easier to track the percentages of on-time orders, orders committed to, orders responded to, and other key metrics.

LEARN MORE

Call your representative today or visit www.ariba.com/solutions/solutions-overview/supply-chain/supply-chain-collaboration.