

## Participant Information Sheet

**Name of department: Management Science**

**Title of the study: Supply chain planning in the food industry**

### Introduction

You have been invited to take part in a joint research project by the University of Strathclyde and the International School of Management supported by Höveler Holzmann Consulting. The research project is coordinated by David Stüve. This sheet provides information about the project and the role of participants. Please ask any questions if you are unsure about what is written here.

### What is the purpose of this research?

Changing consumer attitudes and a growing product variety are making supply chain management in the food industry increasingly complex. In addition, food characteristics such as perishability and cooling requirements need to be considered in order to satisfy quality requirements of consumers and to prevent food waste. Dedicated software tools (Advanced Planning Systems = APS) can help to retain an overview of the supply chain. This study aims to explore to what extent software tools for supply chain planning (SCP) in the food industry are used. We are also interested in understanding how the functions of software tools for SCP are assessed by practitioners and how software tools can be improved to better suit the needs of the food industry.

### Do you have to take part?

You are being invited to participate voluntarily in this survey. You will be asked a series of questions about the use of software tools for SCP and your views of the respective software functions. You can refuse to participate or withdraw at any time without any consequences.

### What will you do in the project?

Participants will be asked to complete a short survey which should take 10 to 20 minutes to complete.

### Why have you been invited to take part?

This survey is sent to managers who hold roles in either IT or SCM departments within food producing companies. The latter group of managers could hold diverse positions within SCP, production, logistics and warehouse management.

### What are the potential risks to you in taking part?

There are no foreseen risks, burdens or specific preparatory requirements for you.

### What information is being collected in the project?

The survey only collects information related to the use of software tools, perspectives on the benefit of such and characteristics of individual supply chains. No personal or identifiable data is obtained unless an email address is provided to receive a summary of the study.

### Who will have access to the information and where will it be stored?

Responses by individual participants will be kept confidential. Contact data will not be shared with any third parties. The data will be stored securely at the University of Strathclyde. References to individuals or organisations will be removed.

### The place of useful learning

The University of Strathclyde is a charitable body, registered in Scotland, number SC015263

**What happens next?**

If you are happy to participate in the research, you are welcome to complete the survey via the link. You will be able to obtain a summary of the outcome of the survey by providing your email address in the survey. If you prefer not to participate, thank you for your time. In that case no further action is required.

**Researcher contact details:**

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This research was granted ethical approval by the University of Strathclyde Ethics Committee.

If you have any questions/concerns, during or after the research, or wish to contact an independent person to whom any questions may be directed or further information may be sought from, please contact:

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Research & Knowledge Exchange Services  
University of Strathclyde  
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