
BUSI4496

Supply Chain Planning & Management

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Operations Management
and Information Systems

Lecture 1

Introduction and overview



29. 09.2025

 Nottingham University
Business School
UNITED KINGDOM • CHINA • MALAYSIA

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Outline

1. What is a Supply Chain?
2. What is Supply Chain Management?
 - What do we cover in BUSI4496? – Module Topics
3. Classification of operational systems
4. Learning points – summary

Pre-Recorded Self Study Session on Moodle

5. The Customer Order Decoupling Point (CODP)
6. Contemporary Supply Chains – Digitalisation of Supply Chains
7. Review questions and the examination

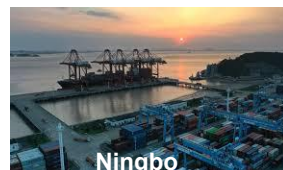
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1. What is a supply chain?

THEY ARE EVERYWHERE!

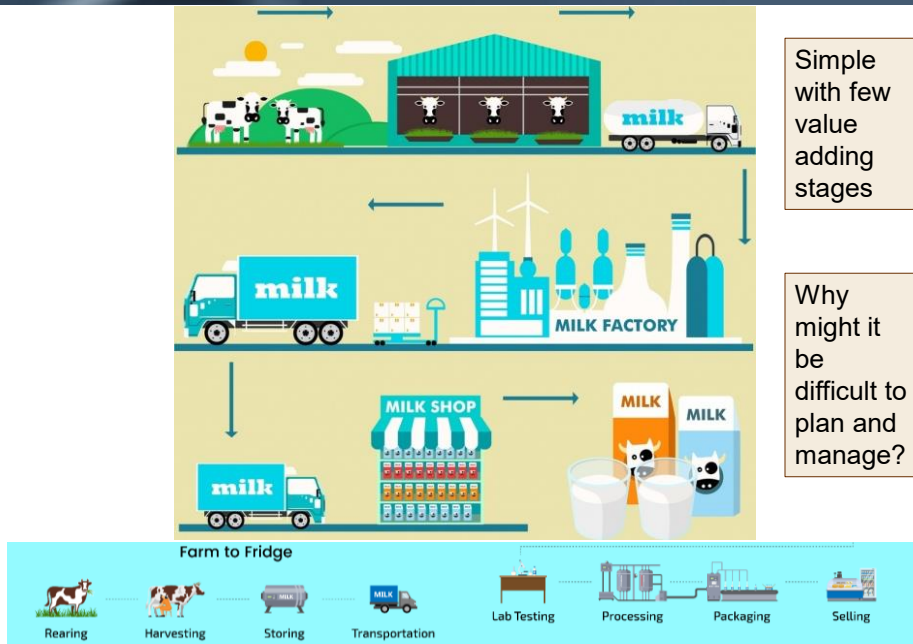
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Supply Chains in the news - globally



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A Simple Supply Chain – Milk & Dairy



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Supply Chains Everywhere



Starbucks

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EIYNhGbOTOQ>



M&S



They want to be faster and more agile



<https://www.businessoffashion.com/articles/news-analysis/ms-breaks-tradition-get-agile-style>

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Real Complexity - Boeing - The Dreamliner 787



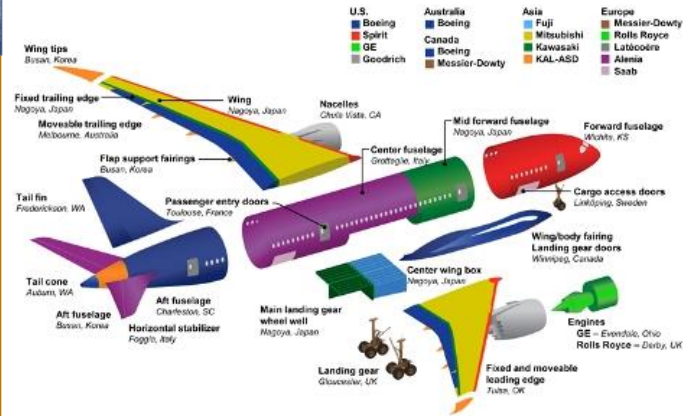
Flat panels

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k4Ng2TptMIs>



Landing gear

Global Partners Bring the 787 Together

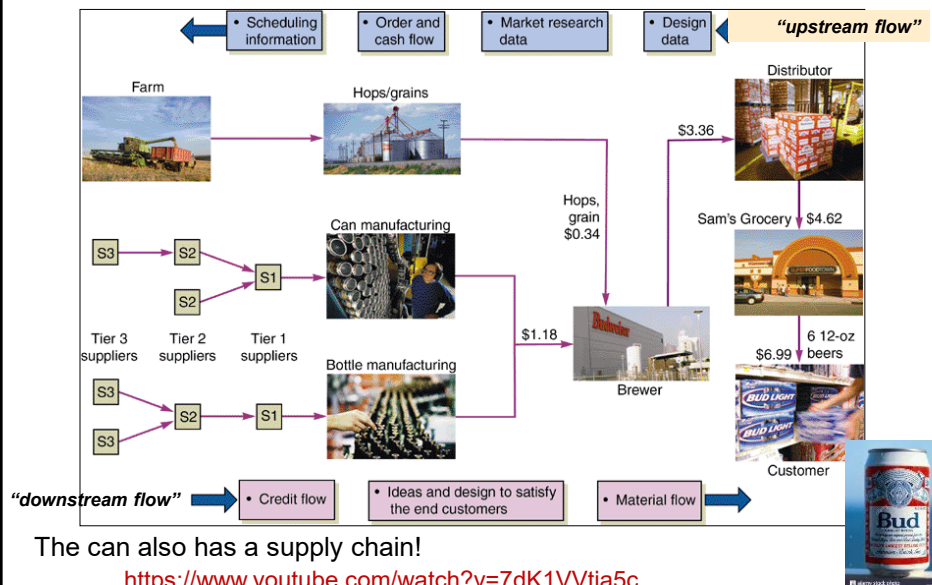


737 production

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WTmFXPY0EGI>

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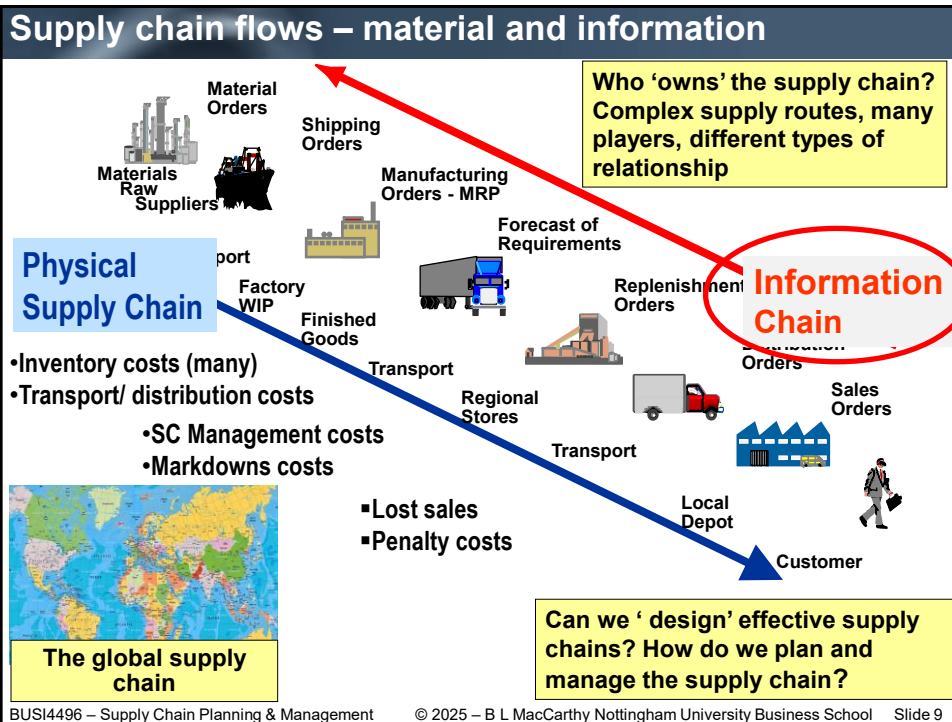
A Supply Chain (SC) – A Brewer's Typical SC



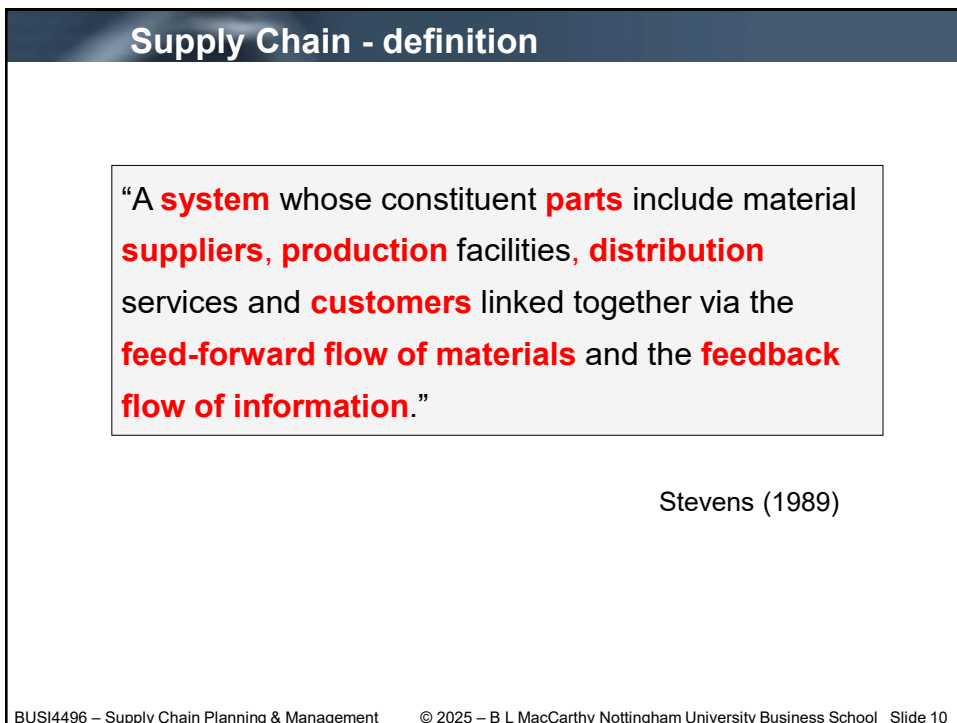
The can also has a supply chain!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7dK1VVtja5c>

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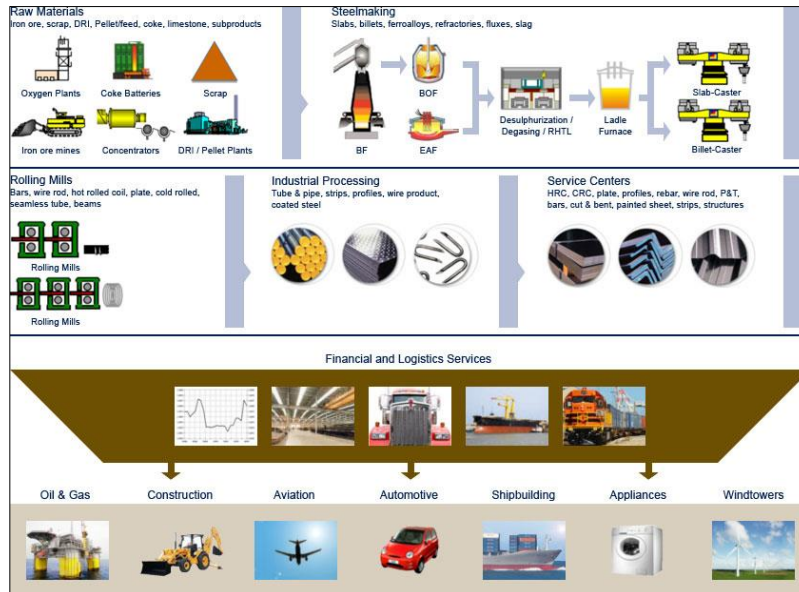


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Steel – mature supply chain



<http://www.cnfinternational.com/aboutus.html>

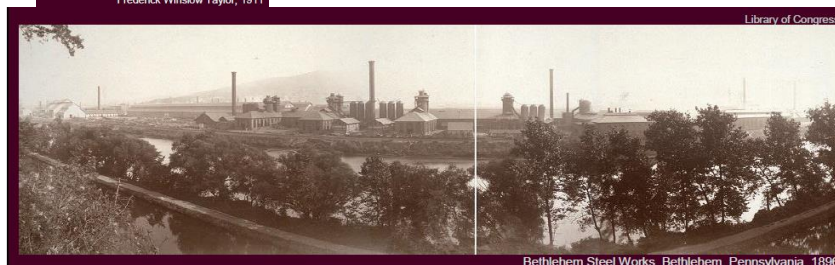
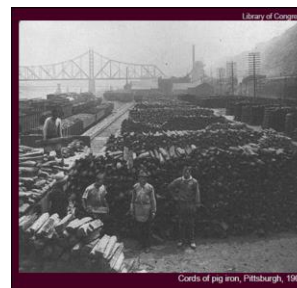
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Steel – mature supply chain



Taylor (1911),
The Principles
of Scientific
Management,
Harper, NY.



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Clothing supply chains



MacCarthy & Jayarathne (2013)

'Mature'
production
technologies

but remains a
'low tech'
industry

Many changes
in global
clothing supply
networks

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Flash memory - new supply chains

Technology patents barely 25 years old !

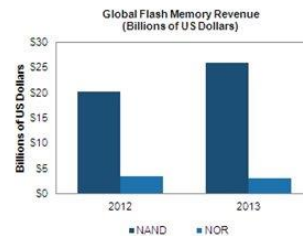


Supply Chains only started to
emerge in early 2000's' !

**NAND hits a record year, while
NOR Flash shrinks further
25/2/2014**

www.electronicnews.com.au/news/

MacCarthy et al. (2016)



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2. What is Supply Chain Management (SCM)?

What do we cover in Supply Chain Planning and Management?

Supply Chain Management - definition

Integrates suppliers, manufacturers, warehouses, distributors, retailers... so that products and services are produced and distributed efficiently, in the right quantities, to the right locations, at the right time, whilst minimizing system-wide costs and satisfying service level requirements.

We will deal with the operations and supply chain planning part of supply chain management

Supply chain management challenges

1. Is my supply chain performing well?
2. Do I need to hold more stock – where?
3. Do I have too much stock in the system?
4. Why can't my supply chain perform more quickly at lower cost?

We will answer **some** of these questions



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Supply chain ramp up – iPhone 17 – 19 Sept 2025



Apple doesn't own any factories!

Why does Apple need Supply Chain Planning and Management?

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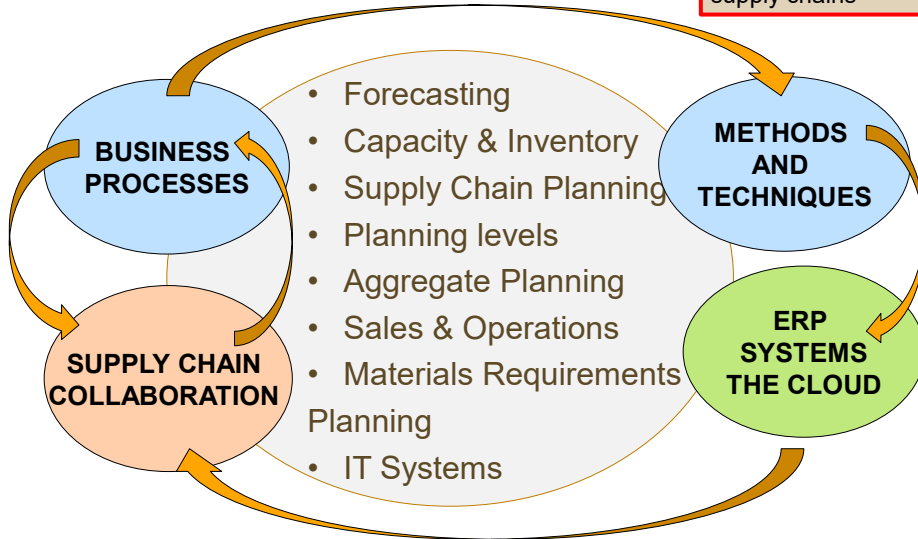
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MODULE TOPICS

▪ How do you plan supply chain operations?

▪ TREK – Cloud-based ERP

JLR & M&S - cyber attacks affect operations and supply chains



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3. Classification of operational systems

WHY CLASSIFY?

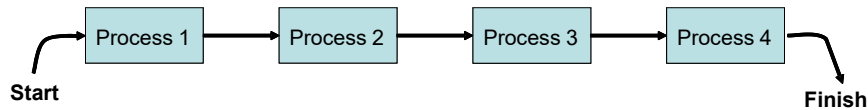
HOW MANY WAYS?

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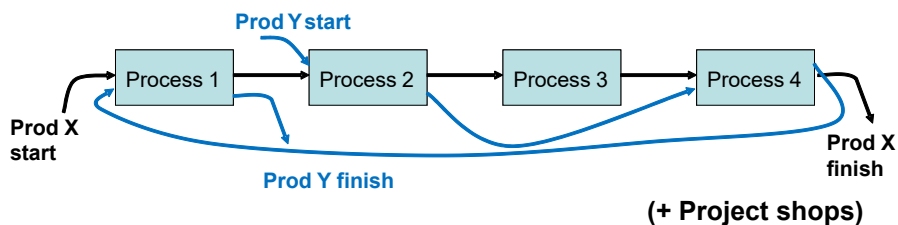
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Classification based on routing

- **Flow shop**



- **Job shop**



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Classifications based on flow characteristics

Terminology varies!

- **Volume of flow**

- Continuous
- Mass production (repetitive, high speed)
- Batch
- Jobbing/ one-off production
- Project engineering

- **Material flow**

discrete ----- spectrum ----- continuous

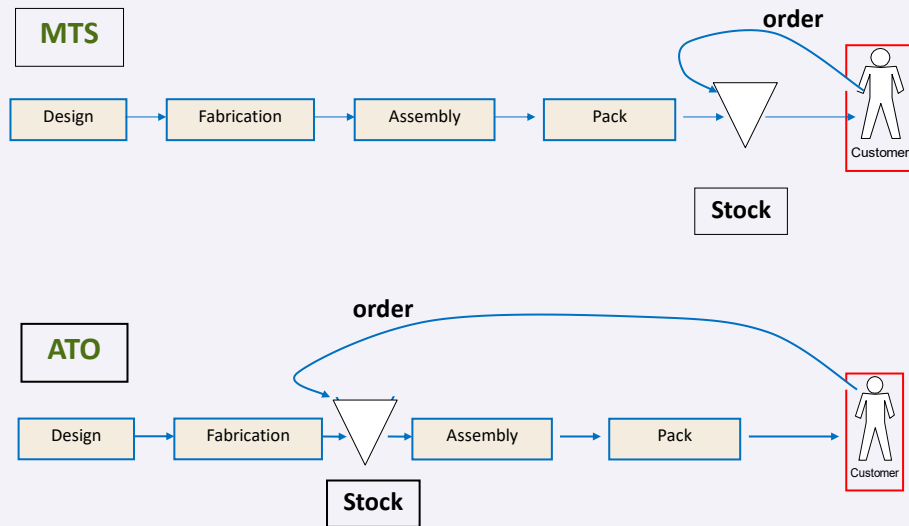
batch ---- line ---- process

- **Many variations** (e.g. cellular production etc)

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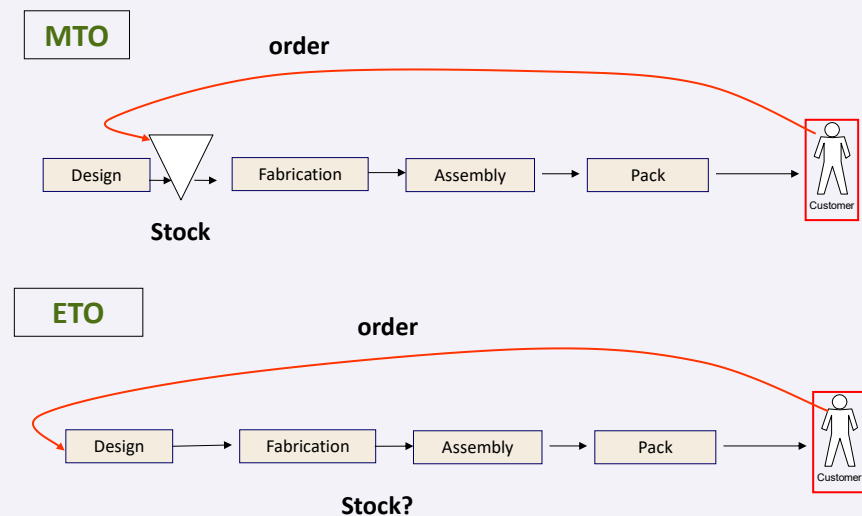
MTS/ATO – how do we meet demand?



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MTO/ETO – how do we meet demand?



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Classification based on how demand is met

- **Make-to-Stock (MTS)**
 - order dispatched from pre-manufactured stock of finished products
- **Assemble-to-Order (ATO)**
 - product assembled from a stock of pre-manufactured components on receipt of an order
- **Make-to-Order (MTO) (or Build-to-Order)**
 - product manufactured on receipt of an order
- **Engineer-to-Order (ETO) (Design-to-Order)**
 - product designed and manufactured on receipt of an order

This classification is important for supply chain planning management and supply chain control!

Notice that the main stocking point moves further upstream as we transition from MTS to MTO/ETO.

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Comparing Make-to-Stock and Make-to-Order ¹

Characteristics	MTS	MTO
Kinds of business/ industries	Fast moving, simpler products, high volume, low value, Typical for grocery and many retail products.	Slower moving, more complex and specialised products, lower volume, higher value, Typical for industrial products, machinery, instrumentation
Response time to customer	Tends to be short	May be long
Satisfying the customer with a customised product	Cannot be done	Can be done but the extent depends on the willingness of the producer and the needs of the customer
Cost per unit	Tend to be low if economies of scale and efficiencies in production can be realised	May be high if the volume is low

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Comparing Make-to-Stock and Make-to-Order ²

Characteristics	MTS	MTO
Profit per unit	Tends to be low – small profit margin per unit	May be high, particularly for specialised complex products
In-process inventory	Maintain sufficient in-process inventory to produce at a planned rate based on forecast of demand	What in-process inventories should you keep – do you wait for an order before obtaining inventory?
Risks	What do you do if you have high amount of finished stocks and no customers want them - obsolescence?	What do you produce if you are low on orders – produce nothing?
Operations and supply chain planning	Relatively easy, supply chain and production operations organised for speed and efficiency	May be challenging - depends on the complexity and difficulty of supply chain and production operations

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iPhone 17



Make-to-Order
or
Make-to-Stock?

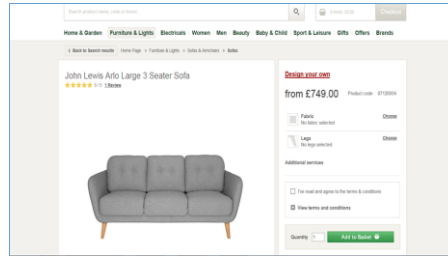
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MTS/ATO/MTO?



B&Q household items



John Lewis custom Sofa



3-door Mini Hatch

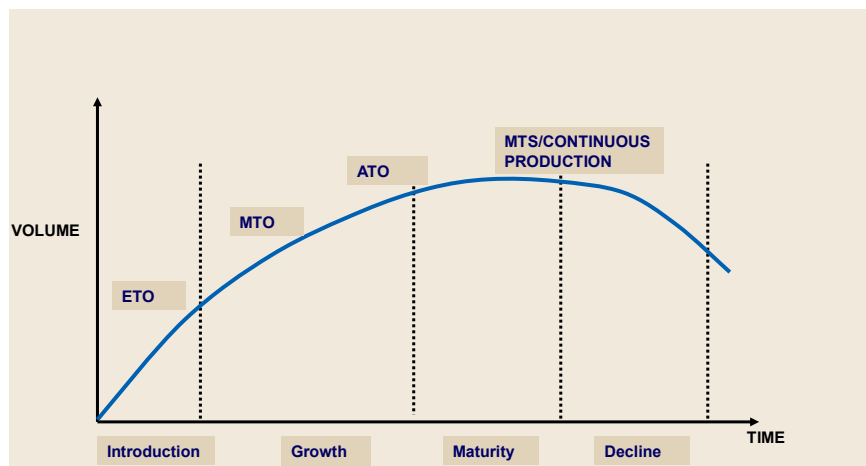


Mini cooper custom

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Operational mode and Product Lifecycle



The way production/operations is organised can vary over time. A new product may use ETO/MTO in the early phase. When/if the market is mature with stable demand volumes, an MTS approach may be adopted as there is less risk of obsolescence. In the decline phase we may move back to making to order as demand drops.

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Summary – key learning points ₁

1. A **supply chain** will typically consist of :
 - a **feed forward flow of material** with value adding processes/activities at each stage
 - a **feedback flow of information** on orders, forecast and requirements
2. Supply chains can be **very different in different industries**
 - Some supply chains are well-established, others need to be developed
3. **Supply chains do not run themselves!**
 - they need planning, direction, management and control
4. Supply chain management (**SCM**) requires the **integrated /coordinated** working of many entities
 - This needs **processes, methods** and **techniques** for **supply chain and operations planning**

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Summary – key learning₂

5. It helps to **classify supply systems to understand their operations planning and control requirements**
 - For production operations we often distinguish between:
Flow shops, Job shops and **Project shops** (but there are many hybrids)
6. It is very important to understand **how demand is met** in a supply system. We use the terms:
 - **MTS, ATO, MTO, ETO**
 - These apply in different circumstances for **different products** and **different industries**
7. These approaches have **different decoupling points**, where the customer order enters the system, discussed in the **pre-recorded session on Moodle**.

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