

# PUT YOUR SUPPLY CHAIN ON A DIET

Viisibility

Zero waste is the new black in the fashion world. In response to green-conscious consumers, designers and manufacturers are increasingly looking at ways of reducing the average 15% wastage of fabric in producing clothes.

But there are some much larger areas of waste in the apparel sector than a few scraps of material on the cutting room floor.

There can be a huge amount of 'waste' in apparel supply chains i.e. waste of raw materials and other resources, waste from loss of IP, waste of staff time, waste of funds and waste in terms of missed opportunities for achieving sales.

While zero waste garments might add something to your fashion brand, reducing waste from your supply chain adds much more to your bottom line. It helps to enhance product quality, increase speed to market, improve customer satisfaction and results in a higher volume of sales.

Achieving a zero waste supply chain isn't about simply squeezing your existing structure for a few more drops of efficiency. It is about working with all the links in your supply chain in a smarter way – with better collaboration and the trust that engenders.

Collaboration is the secret to creating dynamic, modern and efficient supply chains, according to expert Frank Wilhelm of International Supply Chain Solutions. "To create real value for customers and the enterprise, supply chain members must work as a team, sharing costs, risks and profits, and focus on serving the customer."

Introducing new information technology is one key way of enhancing supply chain collaboration. Some companies seek to

extend their existing ERP or MRP systems by tacking on supply chain modules from vendors. Typically these appear low cost but offer limited functionality and do little to deliver the kind of collaboration needed to remove waste from the supply chain.

Others seek to introduce completely new ERP systems that promise better functionality for managing a modern supply chain. This introduces waste of a different sort, as enormous reserves of precious capital and staff time are consumed implementing a new system.

There is a middle way - an alternative that delivers enhanced capability without significant disruption. Best of breed, internet-based solutions can be integrated with your existing ERP system to provide the kind of collaboration tools that transform your ability to interact internally and with suppliers, sub-contractors, logistics providers and customers..

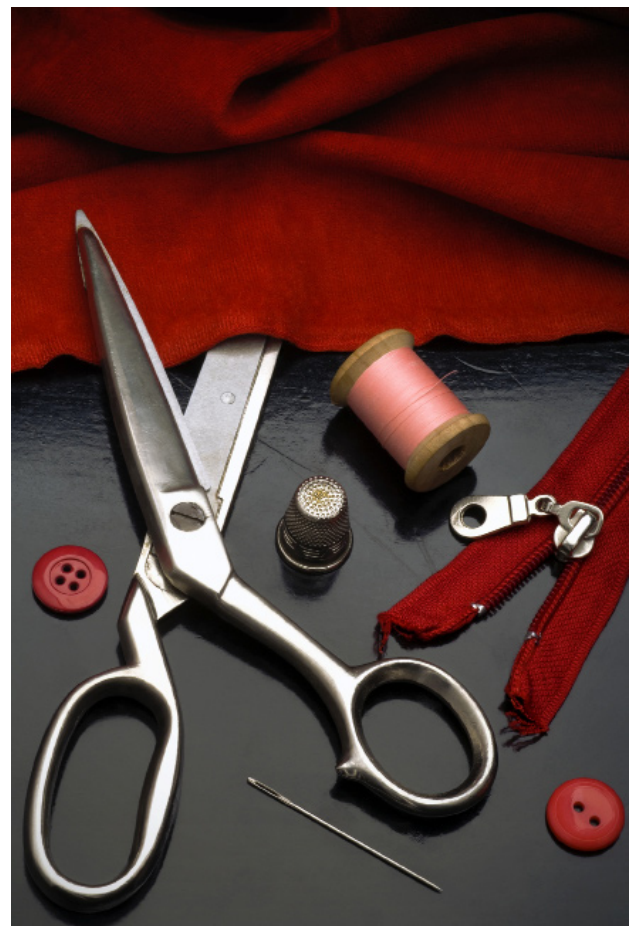
These web-based applications can extract data from a range of systems such as ERP, financial and planning systems, or even spreadsheets. Users log in to find up-to-date information about orders, dispatches, inventory and other critical supply chain information.

They also offer workflow for supply chain members, sending out alerts to people when information changes and action is required and providing regular reports on supply chain performance indicators.

Finally, and crucially, they capture the

entire conversation held around individual supply chain transactions. Members of the chain can access all relevant details, emails, faxes, notes or other communications around a particular transaction.

Achieving this kind of collaborative supply chain solution will enable apparel companies to reduce much more waste than just that on the cutting room floor.



## MORE INFORMATION

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