Reshoring: A supply chain innovation perspective

Over the last decades, offshoring of production activities to emerging countries has raised significant managerial challenges for companies and severe economic and social concerns in Western countries due to the loss of jobs and the depletion of manufacturing skills. Though clues exist that the reverse trend (a phenomenon known as “Reshoring”, or “Backshoring”) has recently started raising, and it is attracting the interest of the Academic community. Reshoring is a company’s location decision. It refers to the relocation to the home country of formerly offshored (in-sourced or out-sourced) production or service activities.

Research on global value chain management has acknowledged the importance of effective supply chain configuration and coordination capabilities, proficient supplier management skills in international relationships, etc. as main drivers of firm’s successful internationalization. Preliminary evidence on the triggers of reshoring suggests that these supply chain factors are likewise relevant to the location decision. A supply chain management perspective could thus usefully complement the extant international business theories for investigating the phenomenon. It has been noted that supply chain-related factors are becoming more important in manufacturing location decisions; besides, the novel framework of Supply chain innovation appears as a promising perspective for reshoring research, since by explaining how firms can change the way they create and deliver value, it can help to clarify the proactive role of companies in reducing, or eliminating, their dependence on the resource advantage of offshore locations.

However, reshoring research is still in its infancy. There is a dearth of empirical studies, and of structured theoretical frameworks that can explain the phenomenon. Undertaking a supply chain perspective can prove useful in studying the motivations and mechanisms of reshoring. At the same time, it is important to understand how the relocation of production activities is influencing the supply chain redesign.

Guidelines
All submissions must adhere to the format, style and other established guidelines for regular OMR submissions (see “Important Information for Authors” pdf at www.editorialmanager.com/omra and more details at http://springer.com/12063). This includes a 25 pages limit and a special emphasis on application to practice. Manuscripts must be submitted by 1 September 2015. Authors should note that in submitting a manuscript to be reviewed for this special issue, they may be invited to serve as potential reviewers for other manuscripts.

Topics that are of interest for this special issue include, but are not limited to:
- Empirical analyses of the role of supply chain-related factors in driving the reshoring decision.
- The managerial challenges with reshoring.
- How new technology appliance has made it possible to reshore.
- How reshoring has impacted environmental issues
- How reshoring has impacted social issues
- How it has affected creation of jobs.
- The complexity of “reshoring-in-practice”: issues in implementing reshoring and re-configure the supply chain.
- Supply chain innovation and the reshoring decision.
- “Regional supply chains”, “Local manufacturing in important markets, with a strong focus on regional concentration and specialization”: how are companies redesigning their supply chains?

Milestones
September 1st, 2015 Submission deadline
December 1st, 2015 First round decisions on all submitted manuscripts
February 1st, 2016 Submission deadline for invited revisions
March 1st, 2016 Final decisions
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