



## SELECTING SUPPLIERS IN GREEN SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

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**Abstract.** The traditional supply chain management (SCM) model must be developed by applying new conditions and dynamic construction industry. Greening the supply chain is an increasingly important concern for many business enterprises and a challenge for different types of industry. Green supplier improvement and selection is a critical function within green supply chain management (GSCM). In this study, the authors propose a complex assessment model based on MCDM methods and used information from decision-makers selecting the supplier company. The numerical example shows that the created model can be applied in praxis.

**Keywords:** Green supplier improvement and selection, green supply chain management (GSCM), complex assessment model, multiple criteria decision making (MCDM).

**JEL classification:** J22, C44, C51.

### 1. Introduction

In the last decade construction was one of the most important industrial branches. The quality of building highly depends on rational selection of a construction process, planning, technical and management problem. Today, the creation of mathematical models for management decisions, in order to get the best economic rates becomes the background of rational construction.

### 2. Green supplier chain management

Supply Chain Management (SCM) is considered as one of the most important aspects of production planning and control (Yigin *et al.* 2007; Xia, Wu 2007) and it has recently been taken into account by developer's managers and researchers. The general task of SCM is to manage multiple relationships across the Supply Chain (SC) by applying to the entire flow different type of information, resource, and services to fulfill customer demand in an efficient manner (Li, Wang 2007). Supply

Chains comprise of potential suppliers, researchers, developers, consultants, contractors, dealers, manufacturers, producers, distributors, retailers and customers, etc. In this regard, the integration of cooperation partnership with suppliers with better performance is recommended within the SC, while leads to enhance the performance of the chain in many types goals such as costs reduction through waste elimination, spend in time, reputation protection, continuous improvement of quality to achieve zero defects, flexibility improvement to meet the end-customers' requirements, decrease lead time at different stages of the SC (Amin, Razmi 2009).

The research is based on comprehensive review of literature on lean in the supply chain there are presented articles and the corresponding supply chain scopes, industry sectors, research objectives and methods.

Previous research on supply chains suggests that quality, cost, flexibility and delivery are considered very important issues in the supply chain (Amy, Lee 2009; Behrouzi, Wong, 2011; Taj, Mo-

rosan 2011; Agus, Hajinoor 2012 Tamošaitienė *et al.* 2013a). In order to perform the activities identified in the above definition better, supply chain managers and coordinators have been thinking of approaches to adopt in order to achieve reduced cost, efficient delivery, high quality and flexibility with the supply chain. The general SSCM areas are presented in Fig. 1.

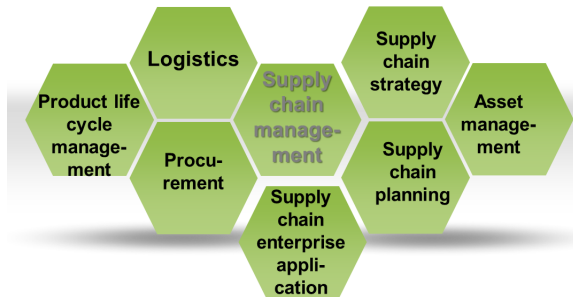


Fig. 1. The SCM areas (Tamošaitienė *et al.* 2013a)

The goal of SSCM is new created methods, algorithms there oriented in to sustainable development of environment, building life cycle and human life.

The SSCM process in construction provides such advantages:

- Minimizes the risk in construction;
- Forms the clear understanding of the tasks;
- Establishes standards of processes performance;
- Composes the sequence of works;
- Provides the relevant procedures of control;
- Provides the minimum time and least attempt to the best results.

For these reasons the SSCM in construction assumes the processes in micro, macro and mezzo environments and implemented construction industry transformation processes, changes in construction management, organization developments and business processes. All SSCM processes are oriented in to product customer (Fig. 2) (Tamošaitienė *et al.* 2013a).

The customer in construction industry can be many different types. This also depends on the requirements of construction processes. In each stage of building life cycle are many numbers

types of the suppliers'. The types of suppliers in construction, in building life cycle are presented in Fig. 3.

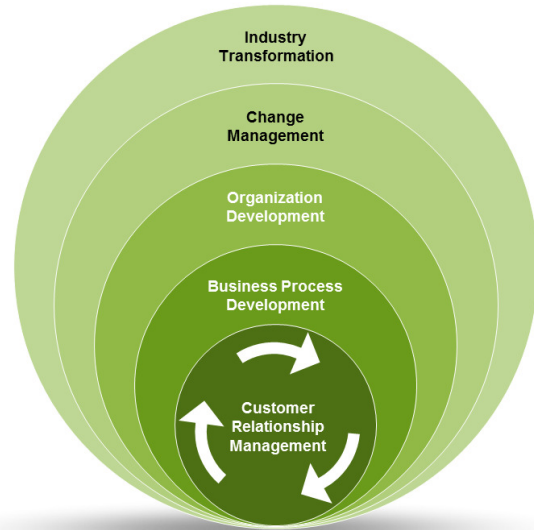


Fig. 2. The SSCM processes orientation in to customer (Tamošaitienė *et al.* 2013a)

### 3. Green supplier selection criteria

For the new management results must the new development of MCDM methods. Multi-attribute decision making (MADM) methods and analysis is a useful tool in many economic, managerial, and construction industries problems. The task models of construction process management, technical and technology solution problems can be used at the decision making stage in the construction process for the more effectiveness results in the future. Models and problem solution instruments, in the field of civil engineering and management, sustainability and other aspects, including complexity, creation and application in SSCM under dynamic and risky environment creation.

Supplier selection is a multiple criteria decision-making (MCDM) problem that is affected by several conflicting factors. Consequently, a purchasing manager must analyze the trade-off between the several criteria. MCDM techniques support the decision-makers (DMs) in evaluating a set of alternatives. The supplier selection problem in a

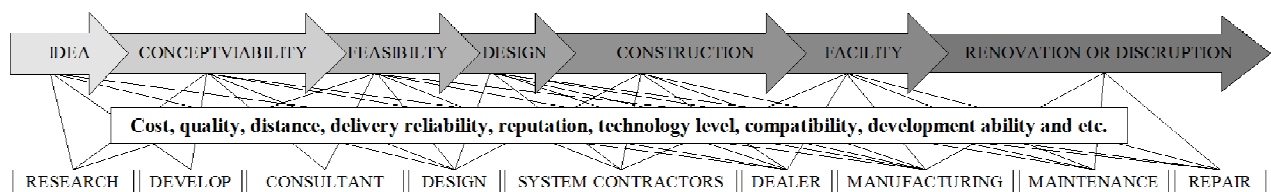


Fig. 3. The suppliers' types in construction industry (Hashemkhani Zolfani *et al.* 2012)

supply chain system is a group decision based on multiple criteria.

Besides, purchase managers should especially know the most appropriate method and then use it to select the right supplier. It is because the right supplier could work with companies closely and offer the sustained companies competitive advantages such as low purchase price, on time products, high product quality, and customer satisfaction. Supplier selection is therefore one of the most important problems for many companies due to the fact that most of companies currently failed to be benefited by selecting their suppliers.

In the future the research fields of Sustainable Supplier Chain Management in Construction must be developed on Sustainable Development, complexity aspects where are presented in Fig. 4.

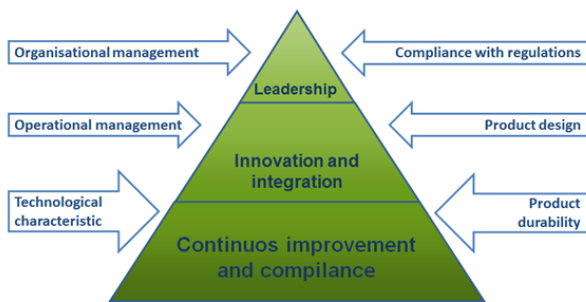


Fig. 4. The GSCM in construction

Since the process of green supplier selection is a complex system composed of many factors, such as environmental management, design, manufacturing, and compliance with regulations, there is no universal agreement among researchers and practitioners about what exactly constitutes evaluation indicators in the selection processes. This suggests that green supplier selection is context-dependent and selection should reflect the real operating environment of the investigated industry or company. Based on the above evaluation process, the evaluation system and its sources within each dimension are identified is presented in Table 1.

MADM methods and analysis is a useful tool in many economic, managerial, and construction industries problems. The task models of construction process management, technical and technology solution problems can be used at the decision making stage in the construction process for the more effectiveness results in the future. Models and problem solution instruments, in the field of civil engineering and management, sustainability and other aspects, including complexity, creation and application in SSCM under dynamic and risky environment (Zavadskas *et al.* 2010; Tamošaitienė *et al.* 2013b) creation.

#### 4. Case study

In case study, after consulting with four senior managers and referring to the prior studies, a green supplier selection system having four alternatives. Then, through a questionnaire survey we asked managers from related departments to rank the importance of each criterion with respect to green supplier selection. The weight of the criteria is determined applying the AHP method (Saaty 1980, 1990; Podvezko *et al.* 2010; Podvezko 2011; Vodopivec *et al.* 2014). The rate the importance of the evaluation criteria on a 9-point scale ranging from 9 (absolutely superior criteria) to 1 (criteria are equal). Finally the results then used to construct initial date for a system for green supplier selection. For the problem were assesst four supplier selection companies from construction industry. For the supplier selection was used COPRAS - *COmplex PROportional ASsessment* method (Zavadskas *et al.* 2009). The initial date, the weights of the criteria, normalization and calculation results are presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Green supplier selection criteria

Alternative	Initial date matrix			
	Criteria			
	$x_1$	$x_2$	$x_3$	$x_4$
Weight	<i>min</i>	<i>max</i>	<i>max</i>	<i>max</i>
	0.08	0.24	0.64	0.04
$S_1$	5	9	3	9
$S_2$	7	7	5	8
$S_3$	6	8	4	9
$S_4$	8	7	6	7
	Normalized matrix			
$S_1$	1.00	1.00	0.50	1.00
$S_2$	0.71	0.78	0.83	0.89
$S_3$	0.83	0.89	0.67	1.00
$S_4$	0.63	0.78	1.00	0.78
	Normalized weighted matrix			
$S_1$	0.080	0.240	0.320	0.040
$S_2$	0.057	0.187	0.533	0.036
$S_3$	0.067	0.213	0.427	0.040
$S_4$	0.050	0.187	0.640	0.031
	$P_j$		$R_j$	
$S_1$	0.080		0.600	
$S_2$	0.057		0.756	
$S_3$	0.067		0.680	
$S_4$	0.050		0.858	
	$Q_j$	$N$	Rank	
$S_1$	0.937	100.00	1	
$S_2$	0.738	78.72	3	
$S_3$	0.823	87.80	2	
$S_4$	0.649	69.30	4	

#### 5. Calculation results

According to calculation results of supplier selection priority line is as follows:  $Supplier_1 \succ Supplier_3 \succ Supplier_2 \succ Supplier_4$ .

**Table 1.** Green supplier selection criteria

<i>Criteria group</i>	<b>Organisational management – <math>x_1</math></b>			
<i>Criteria</i>	<b>Environmental management system</b>	<b>Training related green management</b>	<b>Commitment of GSCM from managers</b>	
<i>Sources of literature</i>	Hsu <i>et al.</i> (2011); Zhu <i>et al.</i> (2007); Hsu & Hu (2009); Tseng (2011); Huang & Keskar (2007); Yang (2006); Handfield <i>et al.</i> (2002); Humphreys <i>et al.</i> (2003), Abernathy, <i>et al.</i> (2000); Suhong & Visich (2006); Wamba <i>et al.</i> (2008).	Hsu <i>et al.</i> (2011); Fu <i>et al.</i> (2012); Collins <i>et al.</i> (2010); Schuster <i>et al.</i> (2007); Smart <i>et al.</i> (2010); Strucker & Gille (2010).	Zhu <i>et al.</i> (2007); Tseng (2011); Burgess <i>et al.</i> (2006); Mentzer (2001); Vainiūnas <i>et al.</i> (2009, 2010) Zavadskas <i>et al.</i> (2012, 2011, 2009), Alimardani <i>et al.</i> (2013); Zolfani <i>et al.</i> (2012); Amy & Lee (2009); Behrouzi & Wong (2011).	
<i>Criteria group</i>	<b>Operational management – <math>x_2</math></b>			
<i>Criteria</i>	<b>Decreased consumption of hazardous/harmful/toxic materials during manufacturing processes</b>	<b>Pollution control initiatives and decrease of frequency of environmental accidents</b>	<b>Environmental collaboration and information sharing with firm</b>	<b>Use of cleaner technological processes</b>
<i>Sources of literature</i>	Zhu <i>et al.</i> (2007); Hsu & Hu (2009); Tseng (2011); Handfield <i>et al.</i> (2002); Lin <i>et al.</i> (2011); Chatterjee <i>et al.</i> (2011); Chatterjee & Chakraborty (2012), Agus & Hajinoor (2012); Taj & Morosan (2011).	Zhu <i>et al.</i> (2007); Giovanni & Vinzi (2012); Lin <i>et al.</i> (2011); Attaran (2007); Kayakutlu & Buyukozkan (2010)	Zhu <i>et al.</i> (2007); Giovanni & Vinzi (2012); Hsu <i>et al.</i> (2011); Lin <i>et al.</i> (2011); Tseng (2011); Fu <i>et al.</i> (2012); Andersen <i>et al.</i> (2009); Angeles (2005); Attaran (2007); Barjis and Wamba (2010); Bose and Lam (2009); Bottani <i>et al.</i> (2009); Cachon & Fisher (2000); Kelepouris <i>et al.</i> (2007); Kim <i>et al.</i> (2008); Lee & Ozer (2007); Li <i>et al.</i> (2010); Reyes <i>et al.</i> (2007).	Hsu & Hu (2009); Giovanni & Vinzi (2012); Tseng (2011)
<i>Criteria group</i>	<b>Product design – <math>x_3</math></b>			
<i>Criteria</i>	<b>Applying life cycle analysis to carry out eco-report</b>	<b>Design of products for reduced consumption of materials/energy</b>	<b>Design of products for reuse and recycling of materials and packaging</b>	
<i>Sources of literature</i>	Buyukozkan & Cifci (2012); Diabat & Govindan (2011)	Zhu <i>et al.</i> (2007); Hsu & Hu (2009); Fu <i>et al.</i> (2012); Akadiri <i>et al.</i> (2013); Peldschus <i>et al.</i> (2010)	Diabat & Govindan (2011); Zhu <i>et al.</i> (2007); Zhu & Sarkis (2007)	
<i>Criteria group</i>	<b>Compliance with regulations – <math>x_4</math></b>			
<i>Criteria</i>	<b>Green certification</b>		<b>Government regulation and environmental legal-compliance</b>	
<i>Sources of literature</i>	Zhu <i>et al.</i> (2007); Tseng (2011); Diabat & Govindan (2011); Green <i>et al.</i> (2013); Schiederig <i>et al.</i> (2012)		Zhu <i>et al.</i> (2007); Diabat & Govindan (2011); Hsu & Hu (2009); Yigin <i>et al.</i> (2007); Xia & Wu (2007).	

## 6. Conclusions

Nowadays, dynamic business environments lead to the selection of the best suppliers, which is very important for companies. Typically, supplier selection is the foundation of supply chain cooperation and is an MCDM problem. It is because supply chain cooperation involves numerous tasks (evaluation criteria).

The aim of this study is to utilize a hybrid model of MCDM method in supplier selection. It used AHP to weigh the eight evaluation criteria and the COPRAS method to evaluate the performance of three suppliers of international company with adopting weighted evaluation criteria.

Furthermore, organizations could satisfy such tasks by working along with good suppliers. The hybrid model of MCDM method is developed in this research. The case study's focusing on an international company. The presented model proposed can also be a guide for other foreign companies for their supplier selection with efficiency in the decision-making process of top managers. Based on the calculation result of the AHP and COPRAS method, the best supplier for company is thus verified.

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