

Key Elements of Effective Supply Chain Integration

<input type="checkbox"/>	It puts the customer first, keeping the motive for every collective decision in perspective.
<input type="checkbox"/>	It has the total commitment of upper management throughout the chain so that every small setback doesn't risk destroying the partnership.
<input type="checkbox"/>	The entire process should be within one database, so all partners have equal access to information, which encourages open communication.
<input type="checkbox"/>	The integration doesn't <i>just</i> link <u>Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP)</u> and technology, but it also links mindsets and goals.
<input type="checkbox"/>	The purchasing department is at the center, and is the final authority on decisions in order to keep costs down and benefits mutual.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Segmented customers help to anticipate changing needs to determine the true requirements of the supply chain.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Work is relocated to whoever performs them best to strengthen the chain.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Activities are not performed more than once, so you eliminate redundancy in the chain.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Trading partners should agree on same metrics and rewards systems so that different organizations aren't working towards conflicting objectives.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Face-to-face contact is encouraged, as this allows for cultivating the best ideas and forming trust among the chain members.