

ECRA Special Issue on Supply Chain Trading – Call for Contributions

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Supply chain management is central to the operation of today's enterprises. Global competition and ever shorter product life cycles are forcing companies to explore more agile supply chain practices. This includes adopting more flexible contractual relationships and taking advantage of new levels of interoperability made possible by emerging standards such as Web services. In these emerging supply chain environments, prices and availability of components and finished products tend to be less predictable. This in turn gives rise to new competitive (or "strategic") interactions between actors across the supply chain. This includes interactions between manufacturers and their suppliers, between the suppliers themselves, between manufacturers, between manufacturers and their customers. Similar trends and strategic interactions arise in the service sector.

The objective of this special issue is to assemble a collection of original, high-quality articles describing novel supply chain trading techniques. This includes work on designing and evaluating expressive supply chain trading mechanisms, managing portfolios of more flexible contractual supply chain relationships, the development of adaptive trading technologies, as well as techniques and architectures aimed at better coordinating interactions with both customers and suppliers. The issue is particularly interested in recent work on dynamic supply chain trading technologies such as those developed and evaluated in the context of the Supply Chain Trading Competition (TAC-SCM). We are also seeking articles that present results obtained in the context of actual environments representative of emerging supply chain trading practices. While submissions describing entire supply chain trading solutions such as agents developed for the supply chain trading competition will be considered, this special issue is primarily looking for articles that discuss specific techniques and provide empirical evidence intended to isolate the performance of these techniques - in contrast to results limited to the performance of an overall solution such as an entry in the TAC-SCM competition.

Submission deadline:

Initial submissions are due by **November 15, 2007** – manuscripts should be submitted online at <http://ees.elsevier.com/ecra/> and should comply with ECRA's submission requirements. As they upload their papers, authors should make sure to select the correct special issue.

Tentative Schedule

Papers are expected to be reviewed by January 15 2008, with revisions due by May 1, 2008. The issue has been tentatively scheduled to appear as Vol. 7 No. 4 at the end of 2008.

References

More information on the supply chain trading competition is available at www.sics.se/tac