The Supply Chain Exchange Capstone Partnership
WHAT IS A CAPSTONE PARTNER?

The MIT Supply Chain Management Program (SCM) is a masters degree program that prepares graduates for fast-track careers in logistics and supply chain management. A central part of each student’s degree program is a project — an opportunity to conceive and execute an independent research project, under guidance of a faculty supervisor.

Companies that are members of the CTL Supply Chain Exchange are able to propose business problems as a foundation for student capstone work. Matches are made to a student or a team of students. Capstone projects that are undertaken by students are completed on the MIT campus within a nine month window. Meetings between student teams and their company sponsors are encouraged and can take place on campus or at company facilities.

Students make final presentations of their work on the project and submit a written report. Participating Supply Chain Exchange partners are able to hear about capstone projects being done with other partner companies, giving them broad exposure to current issues in logistics and supply chain management.

And the capstone, the presentation, and other materials are available to help partners communicate the students’ findings within their organizations. On both sides, it’s a great opportunity to learn, grow... and produce results!

HOW DOES THE PARTNERSHIP WORK?

Companies that participate are asked to name a mid- to senior-level manager who will brief the students, coordinate company involvement, supply data if necessary, participate in progress checks, and champion delivery of research results to the company.

Designed for students with up to ten years of industry experience, the MIT SCM program is the only one of its kind to produce logistics professionals with a system-wide perspective who are equally at home with sophisticated data analysis and with complex management issues.
BENEFITS OF THE SUPPLY CHAIN CAPSTONE PARTNERSHIP

A key benefit to partner companies is having extraordinarily bright young minds tackle their business problems — under the guidance of MIT faculty — with access to the latest developments in supply chain theory and practice. In short, it’s an opportunity to get an important project completed and documented in less than an academic year.

But beyond that, capstone partner companies enjoy additional benefits:

- Early and deep exposure to students for recruiting,
- Networking with faculty, researchers, and other companies,
- A way to energize their staff by teaming up with bright, enthusiastic MIT graduate students,
- A low risk, low-cost, quick-turnaround study focused on a company problem.

Each sponsorship entitles the Capstone Partner company to the following:

- One or two graduate students working on the project for 9 months (Sept – May)
- A faculty member or research director with relevant experience as a capstone advisor
- A completed Masters Capstone presented in May at MIT CTL’s annual Research Fest
- A final presentation to the sponsoring company's management team
- A high-quality executive summary appropriate for distribution inside the company
Recent SCM projects have ranged from designing a combined forecasting and inventory model for an apparel manufacturer to evaluating the benefits of supply chain sustainability for the retail industry.

The Capstone Partner company is expected to commit to the following:

- For Supply Chain Exchange members, the payment of $15,000 fee for the project
- If you are not member of Supply Chain Exchange program, please contact us
- Assignment of an internal project manager to meet regularly with the students, arrange access to key individuals, help collect data, and liaison with company management during the project
- Payment of any out of town travel for team members to the company locations
- Attendance at MIT CTL's Research events (in Jan and May) where the project results will be presented
- Host a site visit in Oct-Dec to provide context to the students

The partnership fits within a compact yet productive nine-month window. See the table below for a schedule of key milestones.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milestone</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Partners finalize scope document</td>
<td>Early August</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partners present to students on campus</td>
<td>End of August</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director assigns students to projects</td>
<td>September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students visit company site(s)</td>
<td>October-December</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team schedules regular status calls</td>
<td>October-April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poster Session</td>
<td>January</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deadline / Research Fest Event</td>
<td>May</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To find past projects, please visit: [http://ctl.mit.edu/pubs](http://ctl.mit.edu/pubs)
MIT SCM Master's Program, visit: [http://scm.mit.edu](http://scm.mit.edu)

For more information on becoming a Partner, contact:

Aren Ghazarians, MIT SCM Program Manager  
Phone: 617-258-0245   Email: arengh@mit.edu

Dr. Maria Jesus Saenz, Executive Director MIT SCM Master Programs  
Phone: 617-253-8235   Email: mjsaenz@mit.edu