Exploring the Potentials of Automation in Logistics and Supply Chain Management: Paving the Way for Autonomous Supply Chains

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Message from the Guest Editor

The automation of physical and informational processes is one of the major trends in logistics and supply chain management (LSCM). Companies that master this trend can react more efficiently to rising cost pressure, increasing product and supply chain complexity, as well as rising customer demand for greater individualization. Possible application areas of automation in LSCM are diverse, ranging from informational process automation of planning processes (e.g., forecasting, purchasing, capacity allocation, event management) to automation of physical processes (e.g., in-house operations, last-mile distribution) and many others. Due to the constantly growing possibilities in the processing of large amounts of data and the further developments in the area of artificial intelligence and machine learning, it seems like the sky is the limit for automation in LSCM. This Special Issue seeks to contribute to the discussion about the potentials of automation in LSCM to pave the way for automated, semi-autonomous, and possibly autonomous supply chains.