



MIT Center for
Transportation & Logistics

FUTURE OF RETAIL

1 AMHERST STREET 2ND FLOOR , CAMBRIDGE, MA

NOVEMBER 14/15, 2018

Across the globe, data show that retailers have been changing rapidly due to multiple factors. First, high population densities in urban areas limit the areas in which large retailers can be built, forcing market players to open small, easily accessible retail stores. This, in turn, causes fragmentation of urban distribution networks, leading to frequent deliveries in smaller volumes and increased logistics costs. In addition, the evolution of the retail footprint depends on diverse consumer socioeconomic backgrounds and profiles, and other trends. These factors should be used to design tailored logistics strategies, high-performance retail operations and collaborative supply chains. This strategy will couple the dynamic retail environment and help stakeholders achieve a long-term competitive advantage.

The MIT Global SCALE Network is committed to addressing the economic and social impacts of the ever-changing retail landscape. Given this existing and growing dynamism in the retail industry, the objective of this roundtable is to bring together key stakeholders (i.e., suppliers, logistics-service providers, manufacturers, and consumers) to better understand the challenges considering global perspectives from across the SCALE Network. In addition, we will discuss the best way generate productive supply chain solutions across various stakeholders considering operations of diverse retailers, going from the big-box chained retailers to the nanostores.

The future of retail will be driven by multiple trends such as technology, demographics, macro- and microeconomics. On the one hand, this future will be related to the way in which each stakeholder shapes his/her role, operations and collaborative schemes into the retail-based supply chains to improve the performance of the whole value chain. On the other hand, this future will be linked to how consumer profiles, preferences are coupled with the retail landscape and the way in which all retailers adopt and adapt their logistics strategies (e.g., replenishment, transportation, procurement) to changing market conditions (such as the entry or exit of a competitor and the evolution of consumer features).

In addition, practitioners need to address a number of more specific issues such as:

- Designing high-performance in-store and retail supply chain operations to guarantee availability and the optimal mix of products per geographic region
- Understanding core drivers of consumer profiles and retailer features in fiercely competed markets
- Analyzing the evolution of purchasing patterns in the SC stakeholders and the dynamic retail market
- Developing the best combination of inbound transportation and delivery alternatives to retailers and end consumers
- Building the capability to collect, analyze reliable data to improve supply chain decision making in the retail industry
- Fostering synchronization and building collaborative schemes for the retail industry
- Driving the most effective technologies and enablers from digital transformation into the retail industry

We will cover six key topics:

1. Retail operations and supply chains
2. Diversification and competition in the retail footprint
3. Coupling the dynamic consumer behaviors and the evolving retail SCs
4. Transportation and delivery strategies in retail
5. Data-driven decision making in retail SCs
6. Digital transformation and collaboration in retail

Target Audience: Supply chain professionals, large global retailers, food chains, CPG manufacturers, multi-stakeholder groups, logistics-service and technology providers, retail federations and associations, and governmental-related institutions

Wednesday, November 14

- 8:00 *Registration & Breakfast*
- 8:30 **Welcome and Introduction**
Katie Date & Chris Mejía - MIT CTL
- 9:00 **Session I: Retail operations and supply chains**
How do retailers design high-performance in-store and supply chain operations?
- 10:00 *Break and informal discussions*
- 10:30 **Session II: Diversification and competition in the retail footprint**
*What are the retailers doing to their formats/channels to deal with consumer preferences?
How do small and big retailers interact/compete in the market?*
- 12:00 *Lunch and Informal Discussion*
- 13:15 **Session III: Coupling the dynamic consumer behaviors and the evolving retail SCs**
*Why is it important to foresee the evolution of purchasing patterns in the dynamic retail market?
What are the key drivers to identify in consumer and retail formats to build effective logistics strategies?*
- 14:45 *Break and Informal discussion*
- 15:15 **Session IV: Transportation and delivery strategies in retail**
What factors to consider to develop the best combination of transportation alternatives to retailers and end consumers?
- 16:45 *Wrap-up Day 1*
- 17:00 *Adjourn followed by informal reception at Champions Restaurant*

Thursday, November 15, 2018

- 8:00 *Continental Breakfast*
- 8:30 **Recap of Day 1**
- 9:00 **Session V: Digital transformation and collaboration in retail**
How should the SC stakeholders embrace digital transformation and collaboration in the retail Industry?
- 10:00 *Break and informal discussions*
- 10:30 **Session VI: Data-driven decision making in retail SCs**
*How to collect, analyze datasets to improve supply chain decision making in the retail industry?
Why should companies embrace the data science capability in the next generation of retail employees?*
- 11:00 *Next steps*
- 12:00 *Adjourn*
- 12:15 *Lunch*