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Supply Chain Matters links

[Returnable Transit Packaging Development](#)

Returnable Packaging can mean a substantial investment. However investing time in careful design and sourcing, whilst taking into account all of the requirements of users throughout the entire supply chain should reduce operational costs over time. All aspects of the supply chain, including storage, handling, transport

[Supply Chain Modelling](#)

As system driven processes have increased in the last 2 decades, so has available data, often to unmanageable levels. Whilst, it's fantastic to have access to so much historical information, it can often become data overload and you lose the ability to analyse the information quickly and effectively.

Through detailed supply chain analysis.....

New Product Development - *The Crucial Investment*

In an expanding Global Manufacturing base, with the increasing ability to source cheaper products from further afield, it is imperative for manufacturers to continually develop new products and services to improve market positioning. Some companies shy away from investment in this area, wishing to rely on current product ranges to maintain their business and profitability. However this is a short sighted view as investment in New Product Development (NPD) is for your competitiveness in the future not necessarily today.

The timescales from new product inception to availability to market place will of course vary from one industry and manufacturing process to another, so it is therefore a case of planning the investment to suit your sector. If there is a lengthy design process, followed by tooling, testing, prototyping and then production, as well as the decisions of where to manufacture based on cost and location of your market, and then the marketing itself, then NPD must start well in advance for any possibility of success in the future.

NPD can be driven by customer demand for a specific product, or the manufacturer may design and build a product that they perceive as niche or unique and develop the market for it themselves. Both strategies have merits, and success depends on the innovative ability of the manufacturer and their understanding of the markets they are selling to.



One company that continually invests heavily into NPD is **Linpac Allibert**, which was created in February 2007 by the merger of Linpac Materials Handling and Allibert Buckhorn. **Linpac Allibert** design and manufacture Returnable Transit Packaging (RTP), such as plastic pallets and containers, for the

Retail, Automotive and General Industry sectors across the UK & Europe. Innovation and new product development are key strengths of this division of the Linpac Group. Their continued success and market positioning is due to the fact that they recognise the importance of reacting to customer demand and also in identifying areas for innovation via their experienced and established account managers across all sectors in the UK and Europe.

Since its formation, **Linpac Allibert**, (with Project Management support from Gideon Hillman Consulting), have restructured and invested into their European NPD and design departments. The result is that they can identify, innovate & prioritise NPD projects, increasing efficiency and potentially reducing new product lead-times to market.

[Outsourcing Cost Effective Project Management](#)

External project management facilitates a focused approach to the project objective, benefiting from specific independent expertise in the project area ...

[Container & Pallet Pooling](#)

The key to success is to provide a simple cost effective process design, which adds value to the existing operation by generating self funding pools, to include cost control mechanisms to reduce damage, loss and misuse

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Autumn 2007 edition - Feature Articles: - "Sourcing from China – The Reality" & "Transatlantic Project Management"......

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In fact so impressed were **Linpac Allibert** with the support from Gideon Hillman Consulting that they have employed former Senior Consultant – **Paul Trudgian** as their permanent European NPD Manager. Paul is now responsible for 7 staff and manages the inputs from and outputs to, design, tooling, finance, manufacturing, logistics, Sales and Marketing departmental managers over all NPD projects that **Linpac Allibert** are currently investing in and progressing.

Gideon Hillman Consulting will continue to provide project support to **Linpac Allibert**, working closely with the Directors and departmental managers, as they have done for a number of years with Linpac Materials Handling, and of course wish Paul the best of luck in his career with this major Materials Handling Equipment manufacturer.

How “Green” is your supply chain?

Road congestion, urban mobility, local air pollution and the need for CO² reductions and energy conservation will have a dramatic impact on the future supply chain of all industries. Companies will be forced to reduce the impact on the environment of their supply chains and will have to develop sustainable value chain strategies in the coming months and years.

Realising environmental objectives can be done in synergy with other strategic and financial goals. A green logistics or sustainable supply chain policy often reduces logistics costs as it focuses on reducing energy consumption and on improving the total supply chain. But it is also true that some economic trends, such as a shift to more offshore manufacturing and more frequent JIT deliveries, have a negative impact on the ecological performance of supply chains. Whatever the effect on costs, it is obvious that environmental performance indicators, the adoption of a green logistics policy and effective green logistics measures will become important aspects of total supply chain management in the near future.

As a member of **The Green Logistics Consultants group**, Gideon Hillman Consulting can support companies and governments to develop a green logistics policy or sustainable supply chain and to realise an energy- and eco-efficient supply chain and transport infrastructure.

Within this Global Group, we have access to the latest knowledge, data, best practices and tools to investigate, measure, propose, implement and evaluate ambitious but realistic eco-efficient supply chain projects.

The Green Logistics Consultants Group covers technical innovations and other drivers such as distance, speed, supply chain configuration, transport modes, transport and warehouse asset utilisation, packaging, reverse logistics, waste logistics and cultural change. The focus is on the measurement of Energy consumption, Greenhouse gas emissions and other Air contaminants and on Transport Avoidance, Operational and Technological strategies to reduce energy consumption and emissions.

Contact gideon@hillman-consulting.com for further details on **The Green Logistics Consultants Group**