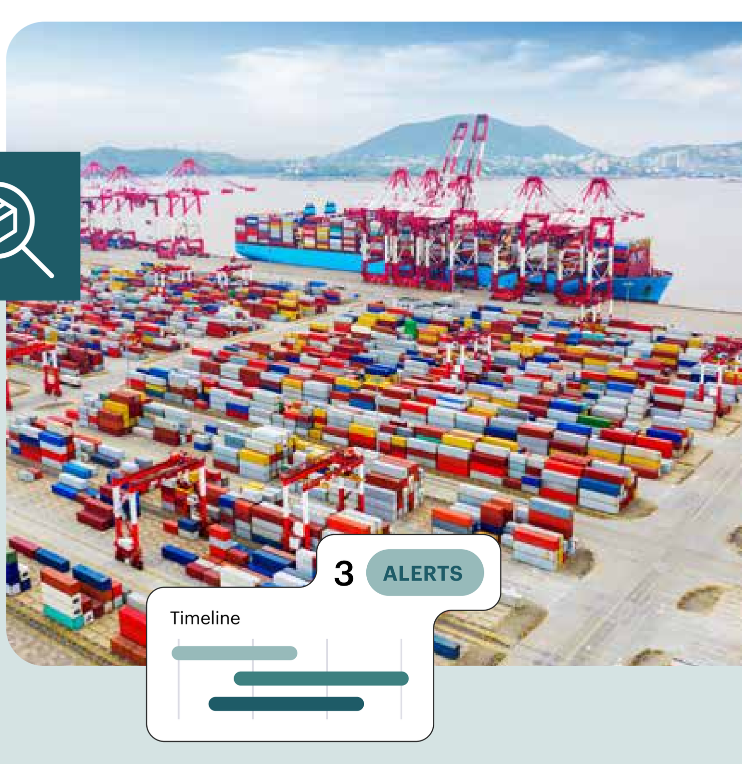
INFOGRAPHIC

From Logistics Visibility to Supply Assurance: A Path to Better Supply Decisions

A practical path to connect logistics execution with the supply decisions that depend on it.



Most supply chains have plenty of visibility today. Shipment tracking, status updates, and estimated arrivals are more accurate than ever. What's often missing is the connection between that visibility and the decisions it should inform. Procurement, logistics, planning, and production teams see different pieces of the picture, on different timelines, and by the time a disruption is visible, the window to respond has usually already closed.

The fix isn't a complete supply chain overhaul. It's connecting the signals you already have to the decisions that depend on them, one high-impact gap at a time.

How to align logistics execution with supply decisions

The good news is you don't need to wait for a complete supply chain overhaul. Organizations can start by identifying where the visibility-execution gap is causing the most pain and building connected solutions from there.

STEP 1:

Identify your highest-impact gap

Which supply disruptions cost the most time and money to resolve? Which delays surprise you most often? Which functions seem most disconnected from each other? These are the starting points. Solving the highest-impact problems first demonstrates value and builds momentum.

STEP 2:

Connect execution signals to at-risk decisions

Start with the area where early visibility creates the most value. For most organizations, this means connecting inbound logistics signals to production planning. The goal: identify risks early enough to do something about them.

STEP 3:

Extend visibility to suppliers and partners

Bring key suppliers into early visibility and forecasting processes. This is where forward-looking information flows and mismatches can be caught upstream instead of downstream.

STEP 4:

Unify cross-functional data and workflows

Over time, connect procurement, planning, and logistics on a shared data backbone so teams can work from the same source of truth. This eliminates manual coordination and accelerates decision-making.

Related resources:

LOGISTICS VISIBILITY | GLOBAL LOGISTICS ORCHESTRATION | SUPPLY INVENTORY COLLABORATION

The business impact

Organizations that connect execution signals to supply decisions see measurable improvements across multiple dimensions of supply chain performance. These improvements compound over time.

Act earlier and reduce disruption impact

When supply teams know about risks while alternatives still exist:

- Production lines stay running
- Customer commitments are protected
- Expediting becomes the exception rather than the default
- Supply disruptions become manageable because there's time to respond

Reduce expediting costs and line stoppages

When visibility connects to decision-making in real time:

- There are fewer surprises that surface too late
- Emergency shipments, expedited freight, and overnight logistics become rare
- The savings flow directly to the bottom line

Improve on-time supplier and delivery performance

When teams have cross-functional alignment and shared data:

- There are fewer conflicting signals to suppliers
- They gain earlier visibility so suppliers can commit more confidently
- There's less manual reconciliation and fewer billing disputes
- Supplier relationships are strengthened
- Delivery performance becomes more reliable

Right-size inventory across the network

When inventory visibility is unified and real-time:

- Safety stock targets can be based on actual conditions
- Allocation decisions reflect reality instead of assumptions
- There are lower carrying costs, less obsolescence, and faster inventory turns
- Service levels are either improved or maintained

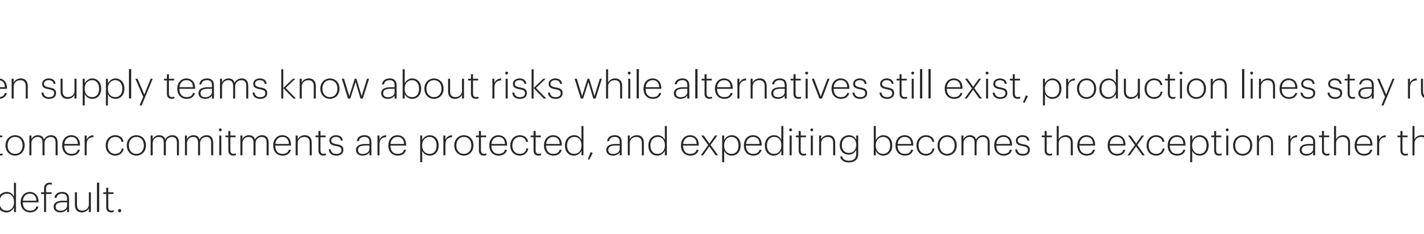
Shift from reactive to proactive management

When firefighting becomes the exception rather than the rule:

- Planners spend time planning instead of scrambling
- Buyers spend time optimizing rather than expediting
- Operations run more predictably
- The team can focus on strategy and optimization instead of crisis management

A vision for the future of supply assurance

Organizations that close the visibility-execution gap are doing so much more than improving operational efficiency. They're fundamentally shifting how supply chain risk is managed. The result is a chain reaction of positive outcomes:



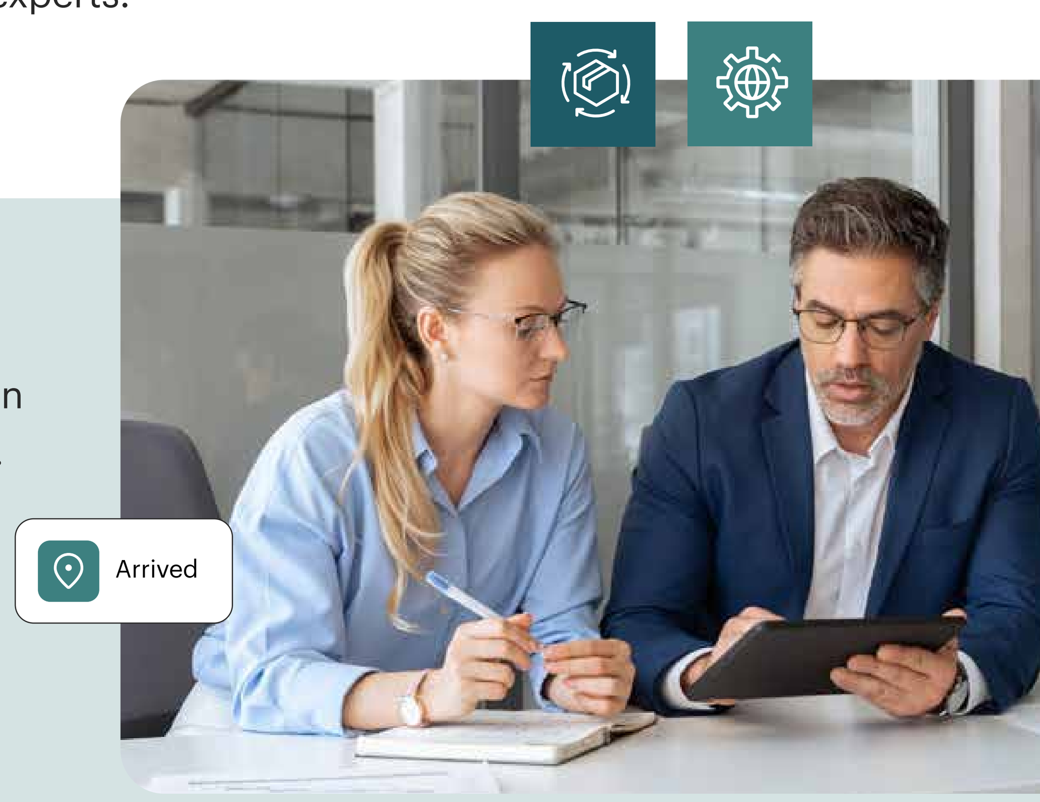
Early visibility means fewer surprises » **Fewer surprises mean faster decision-making** » **Faster decisions mean better outcomes**

When supply teams know about risks while alternatives still exist, production lines stay running, customer commitments are protected, and expediting becomes the exception rather than the default.

The improvements compound: reduced expediting costs, improved supplier performance, right-sized inventory, and a shift from reactive firefighting to proactive management. Most importantly, supply teams can focus on strategy and optimization instead of crisis management.

Closing the visibility-execution gap starts with connecting the teams, data, and decisions that determine supply performance. If you're interested in learning more about supply execution, get in touch with one of our experts.

Learn how connected supply assurance helps teams act earlier, reduce disruption costs, and improve supply performance. **Download our eBook, Supply and Logistics Collaboration: Turning Visibility into Supply Assurance.**



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