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# WAREHOUSING AND INVENTORY MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS: CASE STUDY TESLA. INC

Oleh:

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Abstract. Tesla's innovative techniques for supply chain management and inventory control have positioned it as a leader in the electric vehicle industry. This paper explores the prevailing practices and proposes new strategies to address the challenging situation in Tesla's inventory management. Key areas of concern include enhancing dealer collaboration, implementing advanced forecasting strategies, implementing hybrid inventory versions, and leveraging automation. The study also emphasizes the importance of robust sustainability and disaster management. The proposed solutions aim to improve accuracy, performance, and resilience while aligning with Tesla's commitment to innovation and environmental obligations. The analysis highlights the challenging situation, benefits, and implications for stakeholders, including suppliers, clients, and the organization itself. Robust implementation of these strategies will enhance inventory stability, operational performance, and sustainability, thereby aiding Tesla's long-term fulfillment in the competitive market.

**Keywords**: Stock Control, Supply Chain Optimization, Sustainability, Inventory, Warehousing.

### INTRODUCTION

Tesla, Inc., the iconic leader in electric vehicles (EVs), has redefined automotive manufacturing extensively through its progressive supply chain strategy. Founded in

2003, Tesla has grown into a leading force in the automotive industry, known for its high-performance electric vehicles, technology, and dedication to sustainability. The company's success is deeply rooted in its carefully managed supply chain, which integrates vertical operations, advanced technology, and strategic partnerships to achieve performance and cost effectiveness.

Tesla's method for managing its supply chain is characterized by its emphasis on vertical integration. Unlike many traditional automakers, Tesla controls most of its supply chain, spanning every step from raw material sourcing to final vehicle assembly. This vertical integration allows Tesla to exercise stringent quality control, reduce production costs, and streamline its operations. By owning or closely controlling new critical elements of the supply chain, including battery manufacturing and vehicle assembly, Tesla ensures that its products meet the high requirements of high-end and modern performance. A key element of Tesla's highly modern supply chain approach is its implementation of a sophisticated just-in-time (JIT) inventory system. This system minimizes the need for large inventories by ordering components and materials only when they are needed in the production process. This method reduces carrying costs and reduces the risks associated with excess inventory, as well as obsolescence and obsolescence. Tesla's JIT system is complemented by its robust logistics network, which ensures that components and materials are delivered exactly when they are needed, maintaining contemporary production efficiency and speed. (MacAs et al., 2021).

Similar to vertical integration and JIT inventory, Tesla has invested heavily in automation and advanced technology. The company uses robotics and automated systems to improve manufacturing performance and reduce labor costs. Tesla's production centers are equipped with machines that support high-speed, high-precision manufacturing techniques. Automation not only speeds up production but also increases consistency and reduces the likelihood of new errors, contributing to Tesla's ability to meet high demand while maintaining product quality. Tesla's sophisticated use of advanced data analytics is another cornerstone of its current supply chain strategy. By leveraging big data, Tesla monitors and analyzes supply chain performance in real-time, allowing it to make informed choices and address inefficiencies quickly. Fact-driven insights help Tesla optimize inventory control, forecast demand more accurately, and streamline manufacturing techniques. This proactive use of data ensures that Tesla remains agile and

aware of market changes, thereby maintaining a competitive edge in the dynamic automotive business.

The company's strategic relationships with suppliers also strengthen its supply chain efficiency. Tesla has established long-term partnerships with key suppliers to provide favorable pricing and ensure timely delivery of critical advanced materials. These relationships are essential to maintaining a reliable supply chain and aiding Tesla's ambitious manufacturing dreams. By working closely with suppliers, Tesla can negotiate better terms, control supply chain risks, and keep cutting-edge materials flowing.

Tesla's commitment to sustainability is a defining function of its supply chain. The company integrates environmental concerns into its supply chain practices through the use of renewable energy assets, recycling of substances, and the implementation of energy-saving techniques. Tesla's awareness of sustainability not only aligns with its project to promote easy electricity but also meets the growing demands of clients and regulations for environmentally responsible business practices. This emphasis on sustainability complements Tesla's brand recognition and contributes to its universal success.(Dharmayanti et al., 2023).

Tesla's global supply chain community is extensive and well-coordinated, allowing the company to operate effectively on a global scale. The company's global reach allows it to source components from multiple regions, reduce production costs, and respond quickly to market demand. Tesla's new network of suppliers and logistics partners support its production and distribution needs, ensuring that the organization can deliver its merchandise to international customers on time. (Stouthuysen et al., 2019).

In short, Tesla's progressive supply chain strategy has played a critical role in its success as a pioneer in the electric vehicle industry. By integrating vertical operations, leveraging advanced technologies, and cultivating strategic supplier relationships, Tesla has realized significant performance savings and value. The company's commitment to sustainability has also enhanced its competitive advantage, demonstrating how strong supply chain management can drive fulfillment and transformation in the automotive sector.

### THEORETICAL STUDY

Tesla, Inc., renowned for its remarkable advancements in electric vehicle (EV) technology, faces several complex challenges in its inventory management that impact its operational performance and overall company performance. As a leading participant in the automotive industry, Tesla's approach to inventory control is critical to ensuring that the company meets client demand while maintaining cost-effectiveness and operational agility. Despite its revolutionary techniques, several issues remain in Tesla's inventory control system, posing major challenges that the company must overcome to maintain its competitive edge.(Zulkarnaen et al., 2020).

## **Supply Chain Disruptions and Lead Times**

One of the major challenges Tesla faces in inventory control is disruptions in its supply chain, which impact lead times for acquiring critical components. The automotive industry, particularly the electric vehicle segment, relies heavily on a global supplier community for specialized components, including batteries and semiconductors. Disruptions to this network—due to geopolitical tensions, trade disputes, or natural disasters—can result in delays in receiving these additional materials, impacting Tesla's production schedule. For example, the global semiconductor shortage that began in 2020 highlighted the vulnerability of Tesla's supply chain. Although Tesla attempted to mitigate this issue through strategic partnerships and inventory adjustments, the shortage caused significant delays in vehicle manufacturing. These disruptions not only impacted Tesla's capacity to meet client demand but also increased operating costs due to expedited shipping and higher issue costs.

## Timely stock risk

Tesla uses a just-in-time (JIT) inventory system to minimize protection costs and mitigate the risks associated with excess inventory. While JIT offers significant benefits, including lower carrying costs and less waste, it also poses risks associated with stock availability. In a JIT system, an organization relies on just-in-time deliveries from suppliers to maintain production continuity. Any delays or variability in overall dealer performance can result in inventory shortages, halting production lines, and impacting delivery schedules. The reliance on JIT inventory control became apparent during the COVID-19 pandemic as supply chains around the world faced unprecedented disruption.

Tesla struggled to maintain satisfactory stock levels due to supplier delays and logistical constraints. While Tesla's agile supply chain allowed it to adapt and find opportunistic suppliers, the circumstances underscored the dangers associated with JIT inventory in an unpredictable environment.

## **Estimated inventory of demanding situations**

Accurate inventory forecasting is critical for Tesla to align its production schedule with market demand. Tesla uses advanced data analytics to forecast demand and stage inventory accordingly. However, forecasting remains a complex mission due to the volatility of client preferences, market trends, and external elements including financial situations or regulatory changes.

Tesla's inventory forecasting challenges are compounded by the rapid evolution of the EV market, which is characterized by fluctuating demand for unique vehicle models and components. In addition, the introduction of new models and features can create spikes in demand that may be difficult to anticipate as intended. Misguided forecasting can lead to overstocking or out-of-stocking, both of which have major economic implications. Overstocking leads to accelerated retention costs and capability obsolescence, while out-of-stocking can lead to missed revenue opportunities and client dissatisfaction. 4. Balancing Automation and Human Oversight

Tesla's investment in automation and robotics is a critical component of its supply chain strategy, which aims to improve performance and reduce costs. Automation streamlines processes, reduces the possibility of human error, and speeds up production, which is critical in Tesla's fast-paced and innovative environment. The use of advanced robotics allows Tesla to maintain a high level of precision in manufacturing, leading to improved product quality and consistency. However, reliance on automation also poses significant challenges, particularly in inventory management, where the balance between automated systems and human oversight is critical.

One of the primary benefits of automation in Tesla inventory management is the ability to streamline operations. Automated systems can quickly sort, track, and manage inventory with minimal human intervention, reducing labor costs and increasing efficiency. These systems are designed to handle complex tasks that would be time-consuming and error-prone if done manually. For example, an automated warehouse

equipped with robotics can manage large quantities of components, ensuring that the right parts are available at the right time without delay.

However, despite these advantages, there are inherent risks associated with overreliance on automation. Automated systems, while highly efficient, are not perfect. Technical issues such as software glitches, hardware failures, or network failures can disrupt the entire inventory management process. When these systems experience problems, the lack of direct human intervention can lead to significant delays in resolving the issue, which in turn impacts inventory accuracy and overall supply chain performance. In such scenarios, human oversight becomes essential to quickly diagnose and resolve emerging issues, ensuring that operations can continue with minimal disruption.(Abd-Elmageed et al., 2020). The complexity of Tesla's computerized systems also adds another layer of challenge. Resolving technical issues in these systems often requires specialized knowledge and can be time-consuming, which can impact the accuracy of inventory records. For example, if a robotic system misclassifies or misplaces inventory, the error may not be immediately apparent, leading to discrepancies in stock levels. Over time, these discrepancies can accumulate, resulting in inaccurate inventory data that can misinform production planning, procurement, and distribution decisions. Additionally, the lack of adequate human oversight in automated inventory systems can lead to issues such as stock mismatches, misallocated assets, or inaccurate records. These issues are particularly problematic in the context of Tesla, where proper inventory management is critical to maintaining production schedules and meeting customer demand. If automated systems record inventory levels incorrectly, it can result in overstocking or understocking of critical components, both of which have negative implications for Tesla's operations. Overstocking ties up capital and storage space, while understocking can cause production delays and impact customer satisfaction. (Chang et al., 2019).

Therefore, while automation brings many benefits to Tesla's inventory management, it is important to strike a balance with human oversight. Human intervention is needed not only to troubleshoot technical issues but also to ensure that automated systems are functioning properly and that the data they generate is accurate. By combining the power of automation with the critical thinking and problem-solving abilities of human operators, Tesla can optimize its inventory management processes, mitigate the risks associated with automation, and achieve its goals of increasing

efficiency and reducing costs. In conclusion, Tesla's investment in automation and robotics is a double-edged sword in inventory management. While it offers significant benefits in terms of efficiency and accuracy, it also requires careful management to avoid potential pitfalls. A balanced approach that combines automation with human oversight is essential to ensure that Tesla's inventory management system operates at its full potential, delivering the best results for the company. (Mohamud et al., 2023).

#### RESEARCH METHODS

In analyzing the warehousing and inventory management practices of Tesla, Inc., a qualitative research method offers profound insights into the intricacies of their operations. By conducting in-depth interviews and observing the operational workflows within Tesla's highly automated facilities, researchers can uncover the key strategies that drive efficiency and innovation in their inventory systems. This case study highlights Tesla's unique approach to inventory management, emphasizing their real-time data utilization and adaptive supply chain practices, which not only optimize storage space but also enhance overall productivity. Moreover, examining the qualitative data reveals how Tesla's commitment to sustainability influences their warehousing decisions, making them a leader not just in automotive production but also in responsible inventory management. Such an analysis provides valuable lessons for businesses aiming to refine their own practices, underscoring the importance of flexibility and responsiveness in an ever-evolving market landscape.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### **Integrated Practice**

## a. Vertical Integration

Tesla's vertical integration strategy is one of the cornerstones of its supply chain management. By controlling multiple stages of integrated manufacturing techniques, from raw material sourcing to integrated manufacturing, Tesla seeks to reduce dependence on external suppliers and integrated requirements. This technique allows integrated Tesla to have greater control over the integrated range and integrated schedule. However, while vertical integration provides considerable integration, it also provides

integrated requirements for complex integrated operations and integrated manufacturing scale properly.(Romadhaniah & Lahaya, 2021).

### b. Just-In-Time (JIT) integrated system

Tesla uses a Just-In-Time (JIT) integrated inventory system to integrate integrated inventory holding costs and reduce waste. JIT allows Tesla to order additional materials and supplies only as needed, saving costs associated with carrying excess inventory. This is in line with Tesla's commitment to reducing production and enabling integrated obsolescence. Due to its benefits, JIT relies heavily on just-in-time delivery from suppliers, which can result in ongoing supply chain disruptions. (Haslindah et al., 2020).

### c. Advanced Automation and Robotics

To streamline processes and improve performance, Tesla has invested in tightly integrated automation and robotics. Computerized systems handle repetitive tasks, reduce manual errors, and increase production speed. Automation also extends to integrated inventory control, with Tesla using sophisticated systems to track and control integrated stages.

### d. Decision making based on data

Tesla uses advanced data analytics to forecast demand, monitor supply chain performance, and make integrated decisions. Through integrated historical fact analysis, market characteristics, and real-time integration, Tesla seeks to optimize the stages of integrated inventory integration and integrated manufacturing schedules. These integrated techniques allow for better alignment between supply and demand, although accurate forecasting is integrated in an effort due to the dynamic nature of the automotive market.

### **Proposed answer**

## a. Collaboration and diversification of providers is more desirable

To mitigate the risks associated with delivery disruptions, Tesla should increase collaboration with its suppliers and diversify its dealer base. Long-term partnerships with key suppliers can improve reliability and better align with schedules. Additionally, by diversifying its supplier base, Tesla can reduce its reliance on supply and mitigate the

impact of disruptions. Implementing a multi-supplier strategy for critical components, semiconductors and batteries, can also hedge against delivery volatility.

### b. Adopt advanced Stock Forecasting techniques

To address the integrated forecasting situation, Tesla can apply superior forecasting strategies, and artificial intelligence (AI). The technology can analyze a large number of integrated inventories to forecast integrated demand patterns accordingly. Through AI-driven forecasting tools, Tesla can improve its ability to assume market fluctuations, optimize integrated inventory levels, and reduce the risk of overstocking or out-of-stock. In addition, integrated real-time data from integrated revenue, integrated, and integrated market developments into the forecasting model can improve accuracy and responsiveness.

### c. Implementation of the Hybrid integrated inventory model

Given integrated JIT, Tesla needs to build a hybrid version that combines JIT with integrated safety. Safety stock requires an integrated reserve for supply and demand fluctuations. This model can offer a more resilient method for integrated management by ensuring that critical additives are available even at certain stages that provide disruptions. By strategically determining the optimal level of inventory protection, Tesla can balance the benefits of JIT with the need for inventory balance.(F. Wijaya et al., 2019).

## d. Stronger Automation and Protection Protocols

While automation has significantly improved efficiency, Tesla must improve its protocols to address capability issues that arise with automated systems. Predictable and enforceable technology can help find and address issues before they impact integrated control. Regularly scheduled, real-time tracking of automated structures can prevent downtime and ensure smooth operation. Additionally, investments in advanced robotics and automation technology with redundancy can reduce system disruptions due to catastrophic events.(T. Wijaya & Maghfiroh, 2018).

## e. Awareness of sustainability practices and circular economy

To align with its sustainability goals, Tesla must build integrated circular economy practices into its inventory management methods. This integrated design builds products for reliability, repairability, and recyclability, which can reduce the need for new

materials and minimize waste. Building a closed-loop supply chain where end-of-life items are recycled or refurbished can help manage inventory more sustainably. By partnering with integrated recycling and refurbishment, Tesla can ensure that materials are reused effectively and contribute to environmental sustainability. (Murniati, 2022).

## f. Strengthening disaster control and sustainability management

Given the unpredictable nature of the global supply chain, Tesla must improve its disaster management and continuity management techniques. Developing a comprehensive threat assessment and response strategy can help Tesla adapt quickly to disruptions. Creating continuity management plans for a variety of contingencies, natural disasters, geopolitical conflicts, or pandemics, can ensure that the company is prepared to effectively manage a crisis. Reviewing and updating these plans regularly will increase Tesla's capacity to respond quickly and reduce the impact of disruptions on management.

## **Analysis of Practices**

Evaluation of proposed answers to Tesla's stock control: challenges, pros and cons, and implications

## Better collaboration and diversification of suppliers

challenges: implementing better supplier collaboration and diversification presents some demanding situations. building long-term partnerships takes time and negotiation, and may involve additional administrative and coordination costs. ensuring alignment between Tesla's rigorous exceptional standards and those of more than one supplier can be complex. Additionally, diversifying the dealer base can lead to accelerated complexity in managing more than one supplier relationship and maintaining consistency across exceptional suppliers.

### pros and cons

pros:

 risk mitigation: diversification reduces dependence on a single dealer, thereby reducing the likelihood of disruptions due to dealer-specific issues along with geopolitical events or financial instability.

- step forward reliability: long-term partnerships can improve reliability through better communication and expertise from Tesla's perspective, leading to a more predictable and solid supply chain.
- value performance: ultimately, diverse providers can offer aggressive pricing and more advanced phrases due to expanded negotiating power.
- Developing and implementing such technologies requires huge investments in infrastructure, knowledge, and education. The complexity of AI models and the need for facts can make it difficult to achieve accurate forecasts. In addition, there may be a risk of over-reliance on the technology, where unexpected anomalies may still emerge.
- Statistical Dependence: The accuracy of forecasts is highly dependent on the accuracy and completeness of records, which may be difficult to maintain.
- Complexity: handling and interpreting AI-driven forecasts requires specialized skills and expertise, which may lead to a steep learning curve.

## Implementation of Hybrid stock model

Challenges: Implementing a hybrid inventory version, which combines JIT with safety inventory, offers a demanding situation along with determining the final stage of safety stock and handling the associated prices. Balancing the desire for flexibility with the cost of carrying additional stock requires careful analysis and continuous adjustment. In addition, the hybrid model can also involve changes to current processes and systems, which require versioning and integration.

advantages and disadvantages:

#### pros:

- Extended resilience: safety inventory provides a buffer against supply chain disruptions and demand fluctuations, which increases inventory resilience.
- Reduced stockouts: The hybrid version helps prevent stockouts by ensuring that critical components are available even during surprise disruptions.
- Flexibility: Combining JIT with safety inventory allows for stability between stock performance and responsiveness.

Cons:

- higher costs: maintaining safety stock involves additional maintenance costs, consisting of storage and capital costs.
- complex control: dealing with hybrid stock versions can be complex, requiring careful monitoring and adjustment to ensure the most important stock levels.
- potential for waste: excess protection inventory can lead to obsolescence and waste if no longer properly controlled.

## Implications for stakeholders:

- suppliers: suppliers may also experience more stable demand due to reduced frequency of urgent orders, which can improve production planning and scheduling.
- customers: better stock availability can increase customer satisfaction and reduce waiting times for products.
- Tesla: Hybrid models offer faster durability and flexibility but require stability between safety stock benefits and associated costs.

## **Better Automation and maintenance protocols**

Demanding situations: the enhancement of automation and maintenance protocols encompasses demanding situations along with the initial value of advanced robotics and automation structures, as well as ongoing maintenance and management. Predictive protection technologies require proper tracking and evaluation, and the effectiveness of such structures depends on the satisfaction of the information and technology used. In addition, the integration of current structures with existing strategies can be complex and time-consuming.(Aprillia et al., 2023).

- Education and skills enhancement may be essential to handle superior automation structures.
- Clients: Improved performance and reduced downtime can result in faster production cycles and better product availability.
- Tesla: Better operational performance and reduced downtime contribute to higher inventory control but require significant funding and ongoing management.

## Awareness of Sustainability and Practice of a Round Financial System

Demanding situations: Integrating sustainability and round-the-clock economic practices into inventory control involves demanding situations such as repurposing products for durability and recyclability, setting up recycling programs, and managing closed-loop supply chain logistics. In addition, implementing these practices may also require full-scale adjustments to current approaches and collaboration with outside partners.(Pangestika et al., 2021)

#### **Pros and cons:**

#### Pros:

- Environmental benefits: Sustainable practices reduce waste, conserve resources, and minimize environmental impact.
- Financial savings value: Recycling and repair programs can reduce material costs and create new revenue streams.(Rury & Dra. Retno Lukitaningsih, 2021).
- More favorable brand photos: Emphasizing sustainability can adorn Tesla's logo photos and attract environmentally conscious buyers.

#### Counter:

- Initial costs: Transitioning to sustainable practices involves initial costs to repurpose merchandise, set up recycling programs, and modify the supply chain.
- Complex implementation: Implementing circular financial system practices requires coordination with multiple stakeholders and may involve complex logistics and strategies.
- Potential Resistance: There may be resistance to change from within the company or from supply chain partners who are used to standard practices.

## Implications for Stakeholders:

- Providers: Providers need to adapt to new sustainability requirements and may engage in recycling and repair programs.
- Clients: Environmentally conscious clients will benefit from Tesla's dedication to sustainability and may be more likely to support the brand.
- Tesla: Emphasizing sustainability aligns with Tesla's mission but requires careful control of pricing and processes to ensure successful implementation.

## Strengthen crisis management and contingency plans

Demanding situations: Strengthening disaster management and contingency planning includes demanding situations along with identifying capability risks, developing comprehensive response techniques, and conducting normal testing of contingency plans. The approach calls for collaboration across departments and with external partners, and there is no guarantee that every capability crisis can be anticipated or managed efficiently.

#### **Pros and Cons**

#### Pros:

- Better preparedness: robust crisis management and contingency planning enhance Tesla's ability to respond appropriately to disruptions and mitigate their impact.
- Reduce Downtime: effective contingency planning can reduce downtime and ensure continuity of operations at crisis points.
- Better resilience: Strengthening crisis management practices builds resilience in the supply chain and allows for maintaining inventory balance.

#### Cons:

- Help in depth: Developing and testing a crisis management plan requires significant time, resources and coordination.
- Uncertainty: While contingency plans can reduce risk, they cannot eliminate all uncertainty or guarantee compliance in every disaster scenario.
- Overhead Costs: Implementing crisis control practices can also result in additional overhead costs and complexity.

## **Implications for Stakeholders**

- Employees: Employees will benefit from better preparedness and clean protocols at crisis points, reducing stress and uncertainty.
- Suppliers: Suppliers will want to coordinate with Tesla's disaster management plan and may face modifications in their own methods and tasks.
- Clients: Strong disaster control ensures that customer orders are fulfilled and disruptions are minimized, leading to higher client satisfaction.

### **CONCLUSION**

In short, optimizing Tesla's inventory control involves addressing several key areas, each with its own set of challenges and benefits. Increasing supplier collaboration and diversifying sources can reduce risk and improve reliability, but require careful relationship management and increased complexity. Adopting superior forecasting techniques promises advanced accuracy and efficiency, but includes excessive costs and reliance on best-of-breed facts. Enforcing a hybrid inventory system offers resilience and flexibility, though it can increase carrying costs and complexity. Increasing automation and predictive protection can improve operational performance and reduce downtime, but requires extensive funding and technical understanding. Embracing sustainability and round-the-clock economic practices aligns with Tesla's challenges and can enhance its brand image, but involves complex upfront costs and implementation. Strengthening crisis management and contingency planning improves preparedness and resilience, but requires significant resources and coordination. Balancing these strategies efficiently will help Tesla achieve additional inventory balance, operational efficiency, and sustainability, ultimately positioning it for long-term success in a competitive marketplace. Careful consideration of the executive pros, cons, and stakeholder implications is essential to implementing these solutions efficiently.

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