

## Appendix A: Consent Form

You are invited to participate in a research study on technology innovation strategies supply chain owners or managers adopt to improve product marketing and profitability. The purpose of this study is to explore the innovative strategies that business owners or managers within supply chain management organizations can use to enhance marketing capabilities and increase profitability using technology. The researcher is inviting owners and managers of supply chain management (SCM) organizations working within the United States as participants. This form is part of the consent to help you understand the study before deciding whether or not to participate. The research sample will include 5 owners or managers of SCMs currently in operation. The participants must have five years' work experience in SCM as an owner or manager. The person conducting the study is George Rapciewicz Jr. who is a doctoral student at Walden University.

### **Procedures**

This study will involve you completing the following steps:

- Responding to questions either in a written questionnaire. This step will take about 15-60 minutes, depending on how in depth you choose to be in your responses.
- If necessary, responding to follow-up questions either via email or through an audio recorded interview done via telephone or videoconferencing. This step will take about 5-15 minutes.

- Reviewing a summary of my interpretation of your responses to ensure I am accurately representing what you meant to say. This step will take about 15 minutes.
- Providing non-confidential documentation relating to the subject of innovative strategies by email.

**Voluntary Nature of the Study**

Your participation in this study is strictly voluntary. Please note that the study is voluntary and your decision to participate (or not) will be respected. Agreeing to participate in the study does not preclude your ability to withdraw at a future date if you so desire.

**Study Risks and Benefits**

As a participant in this study, you will be encouraged to recall and describe experiences, some of which might present minor discomfort with memories evoked and the passage of time. The study will not present any risk to the safety or wellbeing of the participants. Owners and managers of SCMs will learn about innovative strategies that business managers within supply chain management organizations can use to enhance marketing capabilities and increase profitability using technology.

**Payment**

Participation in this study will not entail or elicit payment of any kind.

**Privacy**

Any information provided by a participant will be accorded the highest confidentiality. The researcher will not use your personal information for any purpose

other than that which is required for this research project. Further, the researcher will not include your name or any other personal or identifiable information in the study reports. All information including the recordings, transcripts and other computer related data files would be kept securely in a safe to which only the researcher has access. The data collected during the data collection process will be kept secured by the following measures, such as password protecting the data, using codes in place of the names of the participants and their organizations. The research data will be kept for a period of at least 5 years, as required by Walden University, at which time all records will be destroyed.

**Contacts and Questions:**

Should you have any questions you are welcome to contact George Rapciewicz Jr. at 760-809-2694 or by way of email: [george.rapciewicz@waldenu.edu](mailto:george.rapciewicz@waldenu.edu). If you wish to speak privately about your rights as a participant, you may call the Walden University on 1-800-925-3368 EXT 3121210 (USA) and 001-612-312-1210 for those outside the USA or by email at [irb@mail.waldenu.edu](mailto:irb@mail.waldenu.edu). Walden University's approval number for this study is 01-10-22-1003723 and it expires on January 9, 2023. Please retain a copy of this form for your records.

**Obtaining Your Consent**

If you understand the study well enough to participate, you can reply to my email with the words 'I consent.'