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Global Suppliers Optimistic for 2025 Despite Financial Challenges

A survey of international suppliers found 85% are optimistic about 2025, marking a sharp rise from previous years. Despite concerns over tariffs and late payments, businesses are focusing on growth, AI adoption, and inflation management. Interest in early payment options has also increased as suppliers seek cash flow stability.

Source: Supply Chain Brain

Strengthening Europe's Chemical Industry for a Competitive Future

Europe's chemical industry is in crisis, warns Cefic President Ilham Kadri, urging immediate action to prevent shutdowns, lost investments, and declining global competitiveness. Cefic has proposed 10 urgent measures, including energy cost relief, trade protection, regulatory simplification, and funding for industrial decarbonization. The plan also calls for securing EU chemical value chains, supporting circular materials, and boosting demand through lower VAT and market incentives.

Source: Cefic

Li Ka-shing Delays Panama Ports Sale Amid Geopolitical Tensions

Billionaire Li Ka-shing's CK Hutchison has delayed signing the planned sale of its Panama Canal ports to a BlackRock-led consortium, though the deal isn't officially canceled. The transaction, valued at over \$19 billion, faces geopolitical tensions, with China opposing it due to trade concerns while the U.S. views it as regaining control. Chinese regulators are reviewing the deal for security and antitrust issues, and pro-Beijing media have strongly criticized the sale.

Source: Supply Chain Brain

Shell Reshapes Chemicals & Energy Strategy with Asset Cuts, LNG Growth

Shell plans to enhance its chemicals asset performance by forming strategic partnerships in the US and closing select assets in Europe. The company aims to cut capital spending on chemicals by 2030 while reviewing its US and European portfolio, with potential asset sales. Shell is also expanding its LNG business, targeting 4-5% annual sales growth, and increasing upstream oil and gas production by 1% annually through 2030. Additionally, it

PFAS Contamination Found in Residents Near 3M Plant, Raising Health Concerns

A study found PFAS in the blood of residents near the 3M plant in Antwerp, with half of participants having dangerously high levels. Exposure was linked to factors like consuming local food, groundwater use, and proximity to the plant. PFAS can impact thyroid and liver function, but further research is needed. The study recommends precautionary measures, while experts call for stronger regulations to protect public health.

plans to ramp up cost-cutting efforts, reaching \$5-7 billion in savings by 2028.

Source: ICIS

Source: Chem Trust

EPA Opens Path for Industry Emission Exemptions, Sparking Controversy

The EPA has introduced a policy allowing industrial facilities to seek exemptions from regulations limiting mercury, arsenic, benzene, and other hazardous air pollutants, sparking backlash from environmental and public health groups. Critics argue that the move undermines long-standing safeguards, disproportionately harming vulnerable communities. While industry sees it as regulatory flexibility, legal challenges are expected as concerns over transparency and public health risks grow.

Source: Environment Energy Leader

AI-Driven Sustainability: Transforming Manufacturing for a Greener Future

AI and digital technologies are driving sustainable manufacturing by optimizing resource use, reducing emissions, and enabling circular product designs. AI analyzes IoT data to adjust energy consumption, minimize waste, and optimize transportation for lower carbon impact. Digital twins help manufacturers simulate and refine processes for efficiency, while IoT-enabled data insights support repair, reuse, and recycling.

Source: Supply Chain Brain

Building Resilient Supply Chains in an Era of Disruption

Supply chain disruptions are now the norm, requiring businesses to adapt swiftly. Companies must evaluate supplier exposure, monitor risks, prepare for cost increases, and leverage AI-driven technologies for contingency planning. Strategies like optimizing inventory, adjusting supplier payment terms, and integrating AI with human expertise can enhance resilience. By combining data-driven insights with agile decision-making, organizations can build adaptive and disruption-ready supply chains.

Source: Supply Chain Brain

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