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CSCOs in 2025: Navigating Cost Pressures, Geopolitics, and Future-Proofing Strategies

The Chief Supply Chain Officers (CSCOs) face mounting challenges in 2025, with 72% citing cost pressures as their top concern, followed by evolving consumer demands and geopolitical uncertainty. Many feel unprepared for potential trade disruptions, and 41% seek help in developing future-proof capabilities. To navigate these challenges, CSCOs are prioritizing operational efficiency, meeting shareholder expectations, and driving cultural change. Strategies like reverse mentoring and leadership programs focused on geopolitics, technology, and climate change are being implemented to build resilience.

Source: Supply Chain Brain

WE Soda Becomes World's Largest Soda Ash Producer with \$1.42B Genesis Alkali Acquisition

WE Soda has become the world's largest producer of sodium carbonate (soda ash) after acquiring Genesis Alkali for \$1.42 billion. This acquisition nearly doubles WE Soda's production capacity to 9.5 million metric tons per year, adding two large facilities in Wyoming. The company plans to expand production and integrate its sustainable aqueous extraction technology with Genesis Alkali's methods to reduce costs and risks.

Source: CEN.ACS

US Tariffs on Chemicals Spark Trade War with Canada, Mexico, and China

The US has imposed new tariffs on chemicals from Canada, Mexico, and China, sparking retaliatory measures. While a temporary freeze delayed duties on Canadian and Mexican goods, 25% tariffs took effect on March 4, with further increases expected. The chemical industry, heavily reliant on exports and foreign raw materials, faces supply chain disruptions and cost increases, with no exemptions granted for essential imports.

Source: ICIS

Streamlining EU R&I Funding: A Key to Industrial Competitiveness

The EU struggles to scale up and commercialize innovations due to fragmented R&I funding, pushing companies to seek investment elsewhere. To maintain global competitiveness, the EU must simplify funding mechanisms, de-risk investments, and integrate financial

Cyber Resilience: How CISOs Can Drive Digital Transformation and Business Growth

CISOs must move beyond traditional cybersecurity to enable digital transformation by adopting a holistic, platform-based approach. Cyber resilience, rather than just protection, is key to

instruments—especially for the chemical industry's transition to sustainability. Cefic's position paper outlines concrete steps to streamline funding, improve predictability, and support industrial transformation.

Source: C&EN

supporting innovation, regulatory compliance, and business growth. By integrating security into every layer of the organization, CISOs can streamline operations, reduce costs, and enhance trust in an increasingly complex digital landscape.

Source: We forum

Optimizing the First Mile: The Hidden Key to Supply Chain Efficiency

While last-mile delivery gets the most attention, the first mile of the supply chain is just as crucial for efficiency and cost control. Businesses struggle with labeling errors, data silos, and poor supplier communication, leading to delays and higher costs. By standardizing processes, enhancing visibility, and optimizing warehouse and transportation logistics, companies can strengthen their first mile—boosting resilience, agility, and long-term success in an evolving global marketplace.

Source: Supply Chain Brain

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