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Reviewer's Assessment of Doctoral Dissertation

Reviewer: doc. Ing. Petr Kolář, Ph.D., Prague University of Economics and Business, Faculty of Business Administration, Department of Logistics, email address: petr.kolar@vse.cz

Doctoral dissertation by MSc. Stefan Jovčić, University of Pardubice, Faculty of Transport Engineering

Titled A Decision-Making Model for Third-Party Logistics Provider Selection

The reviewed dissertation A Decision-Making Model for Third-Party Logistics Provider Selection has 114 pages, including its body, figures, tables, appendixes, references and the author's list of publications. The dissertation body consists of the following chapters: introduction, overview of current knowledge, main objective of the doctoral dissertation, a proposal of a decision-making tool in third-party logistics (3PL) provider selection – illustrative example, and conclusion and future research directions.

The Dissertation Relevance and Topicality

The author interlinks the outsourcing and elaborating (by methods (by methods and criteria) on the manufacturers' third-party logistics provider selection. Such an approach is highly relevant to both the business practitioners from the management perspective and the branches of transport economics and management from the research perspective. For the literature review that focuses on the keywords and research methods, I would appreciate providing the review or definitions of several key terms I find in the dissertation repeatedly. However, the author did not provide their definition supporting his understanding of the terms such as green logistics or sustainability.

Meeting of the Dissertation Objective

The author provided the dissertation key objective as the proposition of a decision-making tool helping in the decision-making process of the 3PL service provider selection in chapter 3. Based on the collected data, information and the methods applied by the author in chapter 4 and chapter 5 with the tool visualisation in Figure 10 and its reasoning, I can conclude the author met the dissertation objective as defined in chapter 3.

Dissertation Methodology

In the dissertation, the author deals with the methodology in two chapters. Firstly, he provides a well-structured in detail overview of the dissertation's methods (chapter 4) and their application's reasoning. Secondly, he applies the reviewed methods in chapter 5, in which the additive ratio method (ARAS) is used. The author does not provide any information on how and why the author applied it since “based on the idea from a tire manufacturing company in the Czech Republic” (page 58) statement seems to be a bit dubious. In the very same subchapter (page 58), there is the statement of “Some of the major benefits of the company reflect through the high level of service, professional staff, and online ordering systems across the Czech Republic”. Again, it is unclear if the input is biased as provided by the company or

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based on the author's assessment supported with the data and its analysis. Besides, providing the general overview of company organization would help justify the selection of logisticians, their relevancy and specific expertise (page 59) since the logisticians are perceived as the party defining the criteria of own fleet vehicles by company and 3PL service provider outsourcing concepts. In other words, it would support the eventual 3PL selection tool design developed by the author and its implementation by other companies or relevant (manufacturing) industries.

Dissertation Outcomes – Research Novelty

The dissertation's key value is providing a new perspective and developing a new decision-making tool used by the manufacturing companies in selecting a 3PL company that provides the outsourced logistics service. Without a doubt, it complements and partly questions published and reviewed literature. On the other hand, the author mentioned the identification of the research gaps (page 16) and their filling as the dissertation's novelty. It lacks clearer or expanded information on that matter in chapter 5 and relatively short chapter 6.

The question for the author to address during the defence presentation:

What was the process (or method) used to identify and select the mix of the company's logisticians (page 59) and cold chain company's logisticians (page 61) as the parties defining the own fleet's criteria and the 3PL provider concepts for the 3PL selection tool?

The big picture-wise, I find the research novelty of the dissertation more than sufficient. Implementing the model in more companies or a sample of companies from various industries would have increased the value of the dissertation outcomes. However, it was not its objective and beyond the scope of the dissertation.

Assessment Summary

The dissertation's formal quality is adequate, only with some minor grammar and vocabulary issues. The author works with both the highly-cited and verified by time literature while recognising the latest peer-reviewed publications relevant to the dissertation topic and applied methods. To cite the author's publications (besides being provided in the list of own publication) through the dissertation's body, where applicable, would help me understand how they are related to the dissertation contents.

Based on my review of the doctoral dissertation A Decision-Making Model for Third-Party Logistics Provider Selection by MSc. Stefan Jovčić, **I recommend the thesis to the relevant commission for the defence of the doctoral dissertation.**

In Prague, March 1 2021.

doc. Ing. Petr Kolář, Ph.D.

Reviewer