



## Press release

Vendor managed inventory (VMI)

### **Ensuring high availability of goods while keeping stock low – the ECR Community’s new VMI manual explains how it is done**

Bern, 10 May 2016 – **The new VMI manual published by the ECR Community explains how better availability of goods can be ensured while keeping stock levels low. VMI principles and input on implementation, control and targets are also provided as part of the manual’s content, as well as best practice examples. Obtain a free copy in English at [www.gs1.ch/ecr](http://www.gs1.ch/ecr).**

*Best practice in implementing VMI – a recommendation by the ECR Community* highlights an efficient cooperation-based replenishment strategy, which facilitates high availability of goods while at the same time only requiring a low stock level. The publication comprises current contributions by supply chain experts from industry and academia as well as the findings of a survey conducted in 15 countries. In addition, key supply chain topics are addressed, including VMI principles and organisation, important categories, implementation, control, targets and IT coordination. The manual also describes the latest VMI theory and includes some tools and templates which make practical implementation easier for supply chain experts. It is a must have for all those who work in or manage supply chains in Europe.

The manual was developed by 15 ECR and GS1 organisations in cooperation with Associate Professor Hele Hammer at Tallinn University of Technology and coordinated by GS1 Switzerland. This unique cooperation is the first of its kind. Valentin Wepfer, Deputy CEO of ECR/GS1 Switzerland, explains: ‘Process models must have cross-border validity so they don’t become obsolete. The VMI manual is an initial step, but further cooperation will need to follow.’ Declan Carolan, Co-Chair of ECR Community says “The VMI Manual is the first major publication from ECR Community (formerly known as ECR Europe) and entirely appropriate in being so as it complements the purpose of ECR Community, to be the “flagship for collaboration”.

**ECR/GS1 Switzerland** is the platform on which experts optimise the flows of goods and information to create sustainable value. The global GS1 standards and ECR process models with which GS1 Switzerland works make possible the design of more efficient value chains. As an association of more than 5,000 member companies, GS1 Switzerland provides a network for all trading partners to co-operate and share expertise. In addition, practical training, useful publications and stimulating events enable the exchange of experience and knowledge to the benefit of all participants. GS1 Switzerland is a member of GS1 Global, as well as Efficient Consumer Response Europe and the European Logistics Association. [www.gs1.ch](http://www.gs1.ch)

#### **For more information about the VMI manual, please contact**

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