

---

## Plan Overview

*A Data Management Plan created using DMPonline*

**Title:** TPM- MSc- Optimizing Reverse Supply Chain Operations through ERP Integration: A Focus on Managing Urgent Defects with SAP

**Creator:** Nikhil Shitole

**Affiliation:** Delft University of Technology

**Template:** TU Delft Data Management Plan template (2021)

### Project abstract:

The study explores the integration of Information Systems (IS) like Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems, particularly SAP, as a standardized platform for managing Reverse Supply Chain (RSC) operations with an emphasis on urgent defects flow. In the context of high-tech industries, efficient, responsive, and transparent management of urgent repairs, reconditioning, and remanufacturing is critical for maintaining operational continuity and ensuring customer satisfaction. The primary aim is to understand how leveraging an IS like SAP can improve communication flow and information sharing among internal stakeholders, thus addressing urgent defects more effectively and having a positive impact on the KPIs.

This research is underpinned by a qualitative analysis focusing on the experiences, and challenges faced by stakeholders involved in RSC operations for the management of urgent defective products that need immediate repair work so that they can be reused in manufacturing. Through semi-structured interviews and document analysis, the study aims to identify key inefficiencies in current RSC processes, explore criteria for prioritizing urgent defects within SAP, and assess the impact of transitioning to SAP on the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) of RSC operations. Additionally, it investigates the influence of adopting SAP to improve transparency, visibility, and efficiency of the RSC processes and explores necessary change management strategies for successful SAP optimization and implementation.

The literature reveals gaps in understanding how IS like ERP systems support Reverse Logistics (RL) and the specific functionalities of ERP that can be tailored for RSC operations with the RL. Despite recognizing the benefits of standardization in RL for visibility and operational efficiency, there is a lack of detailed analysis on ERP-based information systems' development and adoption to enhance RSC efficiency. This research aims to bridge these gaps by providing insights into optimizing SAP ERP for urgent defects management in RSC, contributing to the strategic management of reverse logistics in high-tech industries.

Through this study, we seek to contribute towards the strategic integration of IS in RL, highlighting the role of ERP in RSC operations' by positively impacting the KPIs while improving efficiency, transparency, and scalability. By focusing on SAP as a standard platform for managing urgent defects, this research underscores the importance of standardized processes and information integration in achieving a sustainable and efficient RL framework, aligning with circular economy objectives.

**ID:** 147123

**Start date:** 12-02-2024

**End date:** 30-08-2024

**Last modified:** 20-03-2024

**Copyright information:**

The above plan creator(s) have agreed that others may use as much of the text of this plan as they would like in their own plans, and customise it as necessary. You do not need to credit the creator(s) as the source of the language used, but using any of the plan's text does not imply that the creator(s) endorse, or have any relationship to, your project or proposal

# TPM- MSc- Optimizing Reverse Supply Chain Operations through ERP Integration: A Focus on Managing Urgent Defects with SAP

## 0. Administrative questions

### 1. Name of data management support staff consulted during the preparation of this plan.

My faculty data steward, Nicolas Dintzner, reviewed this DMP on 20-03-2024.

### 2. Date of consultation with support staff.

2024-03-15

## I. Data description and collection or re-use of existing data

### 3. Provide a general description of the type of data you will be working with, including any re-used data:

Type of data	File format(s)	How will data be collected (for re-used data: source and terms of use)?	Purpose of processing	Storage location	Who will have access to the data
Interviews recordings	.mp3 (for audio) .mp4/ .avi (for video)	Recorded during the interview (with informed consent)	Capturing expert's opinions about the SAP system. This would be used for generating transcripts to do data analysis	TU Delft Onedrive, TU Delft MS Teams	Nikhil Shitole, M.Y. (Yousef) Maknoon, J. (Jafar) Rezaei, Dr. A.C. (Sander) Smit
Interview transcripts	.txt/.pdf/.doc	Automatically generated transcripts by audio-to-text convertors	Capturing expert's opinions about the SAP system.	TU Delft Onedrive, TU Delft MS Teams	Nikhil Shitole, M.Y. (Yousef) Maknoon, J. (Jafar) Rezaei, Dr. A.C. (Sander) Smit
Interview Summary	.txt/.pdf/.doc	Produced from transcripts	To provide a privacy-preserving version of the data for long-term archival	TU Delft Onedrive, TU Delft MS Teams	Nikhil Shitole, M.Y. (Yousef) Maknoon, J. (Jafar) Rezaei, Dr. A.C. (Sander) Smit
Survey	.xlsx (Excel spreadsheet), .txt/.pdf/.doc	From interview participants, as the last step of the interview.	Capturing expert opinions	TU Delft Onedrive, TU Delft MS Teams	Nikhil Shitole, M.Y. (Yousef) Maknoon, J. (Jafar) Rezaei, Dr. A.C. (Sander) Smit
Participant's list	.xlsx (Excel spreadsheet)	Professional network.	Capturing expert's opinions	TU Delft Onedrive, TU Delft MS Teams	Nikhil Shitole, M.Y. (Yousef) Maknoon, J. (Jafar) Rezaei, Dr. A.C. (Sander) Smit
Report	.pdf	Serves as a record of the process as well as documentation	Long term documentation	TU Delft Onedrive, TU Delft MS Teams	Nikhil Shitole, M.Y. (Yousef) Maknoon, J. (Jafar) Rezaei, Dr. A.C. (Sander) Smit

### 4. How much data storage will you require during the project lifetime?

- < 250 GB

## II. Documentation and data quality

### 5. What documentation will accompany data?

- Methodology of data collection

## III. Storage and backup during research process

### 6. Where will the data (and code, if applicable) be stored and backed-up during the project lifetime?

- OneDrive

The data will be organized as follows:

The OneDrive repository will contain a folder for Interviews, in which each sub-folder will contain all documents about a single interview - the proof of consent, recording, and transcripts.

I will be using my TU Delft credentials to login.

## IV. Legal and ethical requirements, codes of conduct

### 7. Does your research involve human subjects or 3rd party datasets collected from human participants?

- Yes

### 8A. Will you work with personal data? (information about an identified or identifiable natural person)

*If you are not sure which option to select, first ask you [Faculty Data Steward](#) for advice. You can also check with the [privacy website](#) . If you would like to contact the privacy team: [privacy-tud@tudelft.nl](mailto:privacy-tud@tudelft.nl), please bring your DMP.*

- Yes

Before the interview, the following demographics of the participants will be collected:

- Name
- Email Address
- Company (Domain where they work)
- Role in the company
- Number of years of experience in the industry

### 8B. Will you work with any other types of confidential or classified data or code as listed below? (tick all that apply)

*If you are not sure which option to select, ask you [Faculty Data Steward](#) for advice.*

- No, I will not work with any confidential or classified data/code

I will only be working on understanding the current inefficiencies in the process flow of Reverse Logistics and what improvements can be made to improve the process flow. This is based on the interviewees that will be conducted.

**9. How will ownership of the data and intellectual property rights to the data be managed?**

***For projects involving commercially-sensitive research or research involving third parties, seek advice of your [Faculty Contract Manager](#) when answering this question. If this is not the case, you can use the example below.***

IP and data ownership are framed by the graduation agreement between ASML, TUD, and myself.

**10. Which personal data will you process? Tick all that apply**

- Other types of personal data - please explain below
- Data collected in Informed Consent form (names and email addresses)
- Signed consent forms
- Photographs, video materials, performance appraisals or student results
- Email addresses and/or other addresses for digital communication
- Names and addresses

Other demographics:

- Company (Domain of activity) in which they work
- Role in the company
- Number of years of experience in the field

**11. Please list the categories of data subjects**

Experts and users of SAP system for the Reverse Logistics Operations in ASML and TU Delft Professors within Europe.

**12. Will you be sharing personal data with individuals/organisations outside of the EEA (European Economic Area)?**

- No

**15. What is the legal ground for personal data processing?**

- Informed consent

**16. Please describe the informed consent procedure you will follow:**

All study participants to be interviewed will be asked for their written consent for taking part in the study and for data processing before the start of the interview.

**17. Where will you store the signed consent forms?**

- Same storage solutions as explained in question 6

For each interview there will be a folder which will contain following information:

- Informed consent form
- interview recording
- interview notes (if any)
- transcripts
- anonymized tsummary

**18. Does the processing of the personal data result in a high risk to the data subjects?**

If the processing of the personal data results in a high risk to the data subjects, it is required to perform [Data Protection Impact Assessment \(DPIA\)](#). In order to determine if there is a high risk for the data subjects, please check if any of the options below that are applicable to the processing of the personal data during your research (check all that apply).

If two or more of the options listed below apply, you will have to [complete the DPIA](#). Please get in touch with the privacy team: [privacy-tud@tudelft.nl](mailto:privacy-tud@tudelft.nl) to receive support with DPIA.

If only one of the options listed below applies, your project might need a DPIA. Please get in touch with the privacy team: [privacy-tud@tudelft.nl](mailto:privacy-tud@tudelft.nl) to get advice as to whether DPIA is necessary.

If you have any additional comments, please add them in the box below.

- None of the above applies

**19. Did the privacy team advise you to perform a DPIA?**

- No

**22. What will happen with personal research data after the end of the research project?**

- Personal research data will be destroyed after the end of the research project
- Anonymised or aggregated data will be shared with others

## **V. Data sharing and long-term preservation**

**27. Apart from personal data mentioned in question 22, will any other data be publicly shared?**

- All other non-personal data (and code) underlying published articles / reports / theses

The summaries of the interviews and outcomes of the surveys based on the informed consent of the participants, interview questions, and survey questions will be shared.

**29. How will you share research data (and code), including the one mentioned in question 22?**

- I will upload the data to another data repository (please provide details below)

I will upload the data (thesis report) after the completion and approval from my thesis supervisor and committee into the TU Delft student thesis repository.

**31. When will the data (or code) be shared?**

- At the end of the research project

The data will be distributed as part of the MSc thesis, under Dutch copyright laws.

## **VI. Data management responsibilities and resources**

**33. Is TU Delft the lead institution for this project?**

- Yes, leading the collaboration - please provide details of the type of collaboration and the involved parties below

TU Delft will be the leading collaborator and the anonymized data from interviews will be shared with the internship company ASML Netherlands BV through the internship report.

**34. If you leave TU Delft (or are unavailable), who is going to be responsible for the data resulting from this project?**

My thesis supervisor: M.Y. (Yousef) Maknoon ([M.Y.Maknoon@tudelft.nl](mailto:M.Y.Maknoon@tudelft.nl))

**35. What resources (for example financial and time) will be dedicated to data management and ensuring that data will be FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Re-usable)?**

No additional resources will be required. The student thesis repository of TUDelft has quite a large number of space available for each researcher to store the data free of charge. We do not expect to exceed this and therefore there are no additional costs for long-term preservation.