

PhD Candidate/Research Assistant (m/f) in “Optimizing Supply Chains using Smart Devices”

Procter and Gamble’s Global Supply Network Innovation Center (SNIC) and Kühne Logistics University (KLU) in Hamburg share an interest in research on optimizing supply chains with smart devices. The research focuses on advancing supply chain management in the fast moving consumer goods (FMCG) industry through leveraging the capabilities of smart devices and data gathered with them. To support our research team at Kühne Logistics University KLU we are looking for a PhD candidate / research assistant (m/f) based in Hamburg, Germany.

Subject of the Research

A world in which ubiquitous computing, enabled through intelligent devices, is the norm and smart devices interact, actuate and facilitate human decisions is not that far away. The proliferation of smartphone, the increased use of autoID technologies, intelligent home appliances, Internet of Things (IoT), and numerous other “experiments” in the use of sensors have generated increased interest in a connected world. In our research, we will identify how smart devices can be used to improve supply chain operations. Opportunities for lead time reductions, revenue enhancements, time-to-market accelerations or cost reductions are manifold. Smart devices can be used to improve inventory visibility throughout the entire chain, to enable real-time planning or to introduce new business models. This raises a number of scientific and practical issues, such as:

- What is the current landscape of smart device applications for supply chain management?
- What are potential use-cases for leveraging smart devices in end-to-end supply chain optimization?
- How can supply chain processes be re-engineered to take full advantages of the data provided by smart devices?
- How to do handle analytics, data mining, security and visualization of large scale and real-time data gathered with smart devices?
- What are the incentives of internal and external supply chain partners and how to ensure buy-in for new technologies and processes?

Position

The KLU is seeking to recruit a very capable and highly-motivated PhD candidate to work on this project in close collaboration with a team of three professors. Candidates are expected to have a Master’s or Diploma degree in a relevant field, such as Business Administration/Management (major in supply chain management preferred), Industrial Engineering, Engineering, Business Computing, or Mathematics.

The applicant should have excellent communication skills and be able to work effectively with academics and practitioners. Moreover, the applicant should have strong analytical skills and be able to conduct advanced statistical analyses and handle large amounts of data on a range of technical and operational factors. The applicant is expected to do research and write scientific papers as well as a PhD thesis on this research project. Therefore, the applicant should have the ability to write clear and concise reports in English and to give presentations to groups of academics and practitioners. The PhD candidate will be working mainly in Hamburg but will be travelling regularly to P&G's offices in Brussels during the project.

Duration

The research will be starting in autumn 2015 and will be running for four years. It is hoped that the successful candidate will be able to take up the post and the PhD Program by October 2015 at the latest.

Salary and Conditions

The successful candidate will start as a PhD candidate at the KLU and receive an attractive salary, which covers all fees and living expenses in Hamburg, including a budget for 5000 Euro per year for research related costs. The candidate can expect excellent working conditions and a great atmosphere.

Closing Date for Applications

August 10th, 2015

Kühne Logistics University

The Kühne Logistics University – Wissenschaftliche Hochschule für Logistik und Unternehmensführung (KLU) is an independent, state-accredited private university based in the HafenCity district of Hamburg and sponsored by the non-profit Kühne Stiftung (Foundation). The KLU currently offers master's and bachelor's programs in Global Logistics and Management, a PhD as well as an Executive MBA program and executive education. The 2014 Handelsblatt research ranking of management faculties in Germany, Austria and Switzerland ranks the KLU among the top five universities from a field of more than 120 universities. In the future the university will have a maximum of 400 students. The KLU is establishing a strong portfolio of professorships in the area of logistics and management. In combining education and research competence, KLU covers the whole spectrum of teaching and research in the field of logistics, supply chain and business management.

Application

We are looking forward to your application! All applications should be sent by email to KLU program director on Duclinh.Vantri@the-klu.org. Your application should include a CV, all relevant certificates and a cover letter explaining why you are well suited for the position. Note that unsuccessful candidates can apply for a standard KLU PhD scholarship. Should you have any questions concerning the application please do not hesitate to contact the program director.