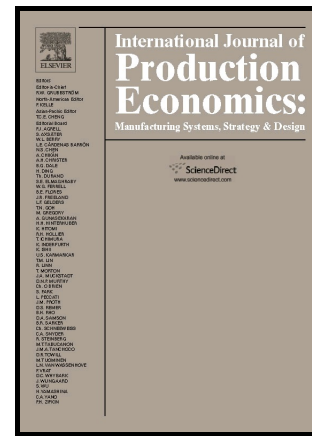


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## Supplier Flexibility and Postponement Implementation: An Empirical Analysis

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## **Supplier Flexibility and Postponement Implementation: An Empirical Analysis**

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### **Abstract**

Postponement has been recognized as a strategy to manage uncertainties in demand. Its performance however depends on various prerequisites. Numerous technical factors that influence postponement such as product modularity and process redesign have been widely studied. Notwithstanding, the effect of external factors on postponement have been paid much less attention. This paper addresses the external factors which affect postponement application, and in particular, concentrates on the relationship between supplier flexibility and postponement implementation. Four constructs of flexibility and three constructs of postponement – namely volume flexibility, mix flexibility, new product design flexibility, product modification flexibility, manufacturing postponement, ordering postponement and product design postponement – are identified, and measured variables for each construct are extracted from the literature. Supported by a theoretical ground, built based on the literature, the positive relationships among supplier flexibility and postponement constructs

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