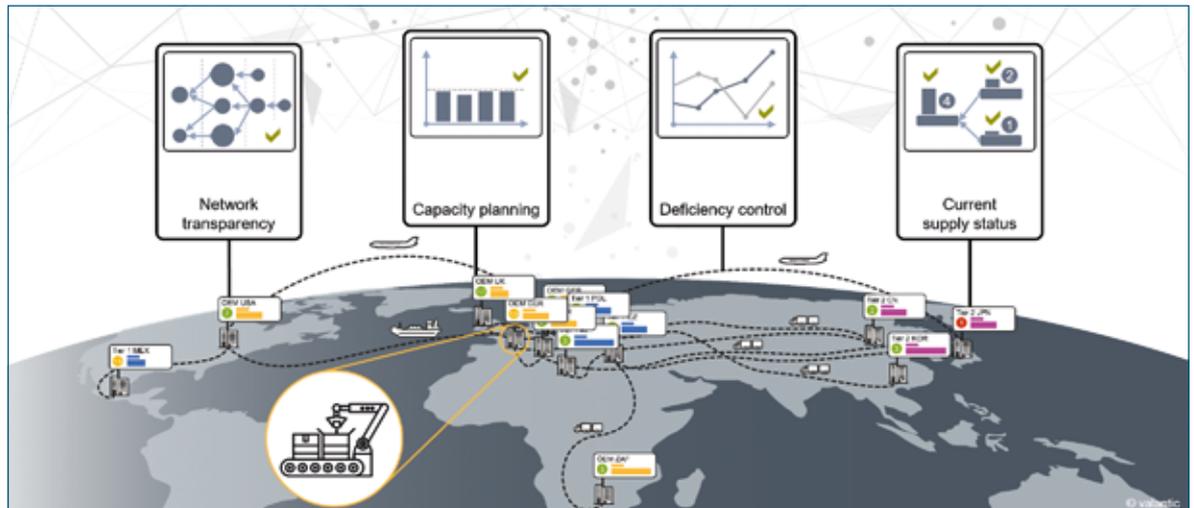


# Supply chain monitoring – transparency for the entire supply chain

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**There are many parties involved in a supply chain. The resulting sheer complexity alone often leads to critical supply situations and bottlenecks in companies. Targeted immediate actions are difficult to define due to a lack of transparency. A joint and uniform supply chain management is a promising way to go.**

There is a saying that too many cooks spoil the broth. This is probably true not due to the pure number of cooks, but due to their lack of cooperation, divergent goals and non-concerted actions. This can also be transferred to the supply chain in many companies. A delivery cannot be made on time due to machine failure or traffic congestion, but the information is often not passed on adequately.

If this threatens to cause a supply bottleneck, measures will be taken to avoid or mitigate it. Yes, the fundamental problem still remains. The necessary consistent transparency is lacking due to the heterogeneous nature of the various IT systems and so the next critical supply situation is just a matter of 'when' not of 'if'.

## Reveal bottlenecks in real-time

Particularly in the context of Industry 4.0, smooth operations increasingly depend on the availability of thorough information about critical situations occurring in the supply chain. Here there is a need for highly specialized software solutions that are capable of revealing all processes and bottlenecks, with access to the information anywhere and everywhere.

The web-based Connected Chain Manager (CCM) represents such a solution. It visualizes all important processes for complete transparency right along the supply chain. The software shows the current supply status and helps to optimize capacity planning and to manage shortages in critical situations. The basic prerequisite is an integration (manually or ideally extensively automated) of all relevant structured data from the supply chain partners. The degree of system integration and the intervals for updating the data can be freely defined depending on the project, situation or requirements of the suppliers.

Digital modelling of the entire supply chain helps decision makers to analyze the current supply situation right down to individual locations and material numbers, thus allowing for immediate reactions to any shortfalls. Integrated planning makes it easy to respond to machine failures or traffic congestion with a suitable measure.