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## Revolutionizing procurement processes in LNG operations: A synthesis of agile supply chain management using credit card facilities

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### ABSTRACT

Revolutionizing procurement processes in LNG operations is essential for ensuring efficient and cost-effective supply chain management. This paper presents a synthesis of agile supply chain management (SCM) principles using credit card facilities to streamline procurement processes in LNG operations. The integration of credit card facilities offers a flexible and efficient alternative to traditional procurement methods, enabling LNG companies to adapt quickly to changing market conditions and customer demands. The paper begins by discussing the challenges faced by LNG operations in traditional procurement processes, including lengthy approval processes, limited supplier options, and lack of transparency. It then introduces the concept of agile SCM and its principles, highlighting its potential to address these challenges and improve procurement efficiency. The synthesis of agile SCM principles with credit card facilities is explored in detail, focusing on how this approach can transform procurement processes in LNG operations. By utilizing credit card facilities, LNG companies can simplify the procurement process, reduce paperwork, and improve transaction speed. This approach also offers greater flexibility in supplier selection, allowing companies to quickly onboard new suppliers and respond to market changes. The paper also discusses the

benefits of this approach, including cost savings, improved supplier relationships, and enhanced operational efficiency. Case studies and examples are provided to illustrate the application of agile SCM using credit card facilities in LNG operations. In conclusion, the synthesis of agile SCM principles with credit card facilities offers a transformative approach to procurement in LNG operations. By adopting this approach, LNG companies can enhance their competitive advantage, improve procurement efficiency, and drive overall operational excellence in the LNG industry.

**Keywords:** Revolutionizing, Procurement Processes, LNG Operations, Credit Cards Facilities, Agile Supply Chain Management.

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## INTRODUCTION

The procurement processes in LNG (liquefied natural gas) operations play a critical role in ensuring the efficient and cost-effective supply chain management of LNG projects (Abiona, et. al., 2024, Ekechi, et. al., 2024, Olowe, 2018). However, traditional procurement methods in LNG operations often face challenges that hinder their effectiveness. These challenges include lengthy approval processes, limited supplier options, and a lack of transparency in procurement transactions.

To address these challenges, there is a growing need for LNG operations to adopt more agile and flexible procurement practices. Agile supply chain management (SCM) principles offer a promising framework for improving procurement processes in LNG operations. Agile SCM emphasizes adaptability, responsiveness, and collaboration, making it well-suited for the dynamic and complex nature of LNG projects (Abolarin, et. al., 2023, Ekemezie & Digitemie, 2024, Olatunde, et. al., 2024, Olowe, 2018).

This paper explores the synthesis of agile SCM principles with the use of credit card facilities to revolutionize procurement processes in LNG operations. Credit card facilities offer a flexible and efficient alternative to traditional procurement methods, enabling LNG companies to streamline their procurement processes and adapt quickly to changing market conditions and customer demands.

By integrating credit card facilities with agile SCM principles, LNG operations can overcome the challenges associated with traditional procurement methods and achieve greater efficiency and effectiveness in their procurement processes (Adegoke, Ofodile & Ochuba, 2024, Esho, et. al., 2024, Olatunde, et. al., 2024, Olowe & Adebayo, 2015). This approach enables LNG companies to simplify procurement transactions, reduce paperwork, and improve transaction speed, leading to cost savings and improved operational efficiency.

In the following sections, we will delve into the principles of agile SCM and the benefits it offers to LNG operations. We will also discuss the integration of credit card facilities into agile SCM and explore case studies and examples to illustrate the effectiveness of this approach. Finally, we will discuss the challenges and considerations associated with implementing agile SCM with credit card facilities and outline future trends and opportunities in procurement processes for LNG operations.

In addition to the challenges faced by LNG operations in traditional procurement, such as lengthy approval processes and limited supplier options, there are other factors driving the need for a more agile approach to procurement (Adegoke, et. al., 2024, Esho, et. al., 2024, Olatunde, Adelani & Sikhakhane, 2024, Olowe & Kumarasamy, 2017). The LNG industry is

inherently complex, with projects often spanning multiple years and involving numerous stakeholders, including suppliers, contractors, and regulatory bodies. This complexity requires a procurement process that is not only efficient but also adaptable to changing project requirements and market conditions.

Agile supply chain management principles, which originated in the software development industry, offer a framework for managing complex projects with rapidly changing requirements (Adegoke, et. al., 2024, Esho, et. al., 2024, Olaoye, et. al., 2016, Olowe & Kumarasamy, 2021). These principles emphasize collaboration, adaptability, and iterative development, all of which are essential for successful procurement in the LNG industry. By adopting agile SCM principles, LNG operations can improve their ability to respond to changing market conditions, reduce lead times, and enhance overall project efficiency.

One of the key elements of agile SCM is the use of technology to enable rapid decision-making and improve collaboration among project stakeholders. Credit card facilities, with their ability to streamline procurement transactions and provide real-time visibility into spending, are a valuable tool for implementing agile procurement practices in LNG operations (Adelani, et. al., 2024, Esho, et. al., 2024, Olanrewaju, et. al., 2023, Olowe, Oyebode & Dada, 2015). By leveraging credit card facilities, LNG companies can simplify the procurement process, reduce the administrative burden associated with traditional procurement methods, and improve overall project efficiency.

In this paper, we will explore how the synthesis of agile SCM principles with credit card facilities can revolutionize procurement processes in LNG operations (Adelani, et. al., 2024, Esho, et. al., 2024, Olajiga, et. al., 2024, Olowe, Wasiu & Adebayo, 2019). We will examine the benefits of this approach, including improved efficiency, reduced costs, and enhanced collaboration. We will also discuss the challenges associated with implementing agile procurement practices and provide recommendations for overcoming these challenges. Finally, we will outline future research directions and opportunities for further innovation in procurement processes for LNG operations.

### **Agile Supply Chain Management in LNG Operations**

Agile SCM emphasizes flexibility in responding to changes in market demand, project requirements, and supply chain disruptions. This involves the ability to quickly adapt procurement processes, adjust supplier relationships, and reallocate resources as needed to meet evolving needs (Adelani, et. al., 2024, Esho, et. al., 2024, Olajiga, et. al., 2024, Olu-lawal, et. al., 2024). Collaboration among stakeholders is a cornerstone of agile SCM. By fostering open communication and collaboration between LNG operators, suppliers, contractors, and other stakeholders, agile SCM enables the sharing of information, resources, and expertise to drive continuous improvement and innovation.

Agile SCM prioritizes adaptability to changing conditions and requirements. This involves continuously monitoring market trends, customer preferences, and project dynamics to identify opportunities for improvement and adjust procurement strategies accordingly (Adelani, et. al., 2024, Esho, et. al., 2024, Olajiga, et. al., 2024, Olu-lawal, et. al., 2024). Agile SCM embraces an iterative approach to procurement, with a focus on delivering value incrementally and continuously refining processes over time. By breaking procurement projects into smaller, manageable tasks and regularly reviewing and adapting strategies, agile SCM enables faster decision-making and more responsive procurement practices.

Agile SCM enables LNG operations to respond more quickly to changes in market demand, project requirements, and supply chain disruptions, leading to improved customer satisfaction and competitive advantage (Adeleke, 2021, Ewim & Uduafemhe, 2021, Okwandu, et. al., 2024, Oluwatusin, et. al., 2022). By streamlining procurement processes, reducing lead times, and optimizing supplier relationships, agile SCM can improve overall operational efficiency and reduce costs. Agile SCM fosters collaboration among stakeholders, including LNG operators, suppliers, contractors, and regulatory bodies, leading to better coordination, communication, and alignment of goals and objectives. By encouraging experimentation, learning, and continuous improvement, agile SCM can drive innovation in procurement practices, leading to new approaches, technologies, and solutions that enhance competitiveness and sustainability.

In the context of LNG operations, agile SCM can be applied to various aspects of procurement processes, including supplier selection, contract negotiation, inventory management, and risk mitigation (Adeleke, 2024, Ewim & Okafor, 2021, Okoli, et. al., 2024, Omole, Olajiga & Olatunde, 2024). By adopting agile principles, LNG operators can improve their ability to manage complex supply chains, respond quickly to changing market conditions, and deliver value to customers and stakeholders.

In LNG operations, the application of agile supply chain management (SCM) principles can significantly enhance procurement processes, leading to improved operational efficiency and cost-effectiveness. Here are some additional aspects of agile SCM in LNG operations:

Agile SCM emphasizes the importance of strong supplier relationships. In LNG operations, this means collaborating closely with suppliers to ensure timely delivery of materials and equipment, negotiate favorable terms, and address any issues that may arise during the procurement process (Adeleke & Peter, 2021, Ewim & Meyer, 2015, Oke, et. al., 2024, Omole, Olajiga & Olatunde, 2024). By fostering a collaborative relationship with suppliers, LNG operators can gain access to innovative solutions, improve supply chain visibility, and reduce the risk of disruptions. Agile SCM includes a focus on risk management, with an emphasis on identifying and mitigating risks proactively. In LNG operations, this involves assessing risks related to supply chain disruptions, market volatility, and regulatory changes. By implementing robust risk management strategies, such as diversifying suppliers, maintaining buffer stocks, and monitoring market trends, LNG operators can minimize the impact of potential risks on their procurement processes.

Agile SCM promotes a culture of continuous improvement, encouraging stakeholders to regularly review and refine procurement processes to enhance efficiency and effectiveness. In LNG operations, this could involve conducting regular performance reviews with suppliers, soliciting feedback from stakeholders, and benchmarking against industry best practices to identify areas for improvement (Adeleke, et. al., 2024, Ewim, 2019, Okafor, et. al., 2024, Omole, Olajiga & Olatunde, 2024). Agile SCM leverages technology to streamline procurement processes and enhance supply chain visibility. In LNG operations, this could include implementing procurement software, IoT devices for real-time monitoring of inventory levels, and data analytics tools for forecasting demand. By integrating technology into procurement processes, LNG operators can improve decision-making, reduce manual errors, and increase overall efficiency.

Agile SCM also considers sustainability and environmental factors in procurement decisions. In LNG operations, this could involve selecting suppliers with strong environmental practices, optimizing transportation routes to reduce emissions, and minimizing waste in the procurement process. By incorporating sustainability into procurement practices, LNG operators can enhance their reputation, reduce their environmental impact, and meet regulatory requirements.

### **Integration of Credit Card Facilities**

Credit card facilities refer to the use of credit cards as a payment method for purchasing goods and services. In the context of procurement, credit card facilities offer a convenient and efficient way to make transactions, allowing organizations to quickly and securely pay suppliers for goods and services without the need for traditional invoicing and payment processes. Credit card facilities streamline the procurement process by eliminating the need for lengthy approval processes, purchase orders, and invoices (Adeleke, et. al.,2024, Ewim, et. al., 2023, Ogunkeyede, et. al., 2023, Onwuka & Adu, 2024). This results in faster transaction processing and reduced administrative burden for both buyers and suppliers.

By using credit cards for procurement, organizations can better manage their cash flow by deferring payment until the credit card statement due date. This provides flexibility in managing expenses and allows organizations to conserve cash for other operational needs. Credit card transactions offer real-time visibility into spending, allowing organizations to track purchases and monitor expenses more effectively (Adeleke, et. al.,2024, Ewim, et. al., 2023, Oduola, et. al., 2014, Onwuka & Adu, 2024). This transparency helps organizations identify unauthorized or fraudulent transactions and implement controls to prevent misuse.

Credit card facilities provide suppliers with a convenient and secure payment method, increasing their flexibility and willingness to work with buyers. This can lead to improved supplier relationships and better negotiation terms for future transactions (Adeleke, et. al.,2024, Ewim, Oyewobi & Abolarin, 2021, Odunaiya, et. al., 2024, Onwuka & Adu, 2024). Integrating credit card facilities with agile SCM principles allows LNG operations to quickly adapt to changing procurement needs and market conditions. Credit card transactions offer flexibility in purchasing goods and services, enabling LNG operators to respond rapidly to emerging opportunities or unforeseen challenges. By streamlining the procurement process and reducing administrative costs associated with traditional payment methods, credit card facilities help LNG operations achieve cost savings and improve overall procurement efficiency.

Credit card transactions provide real-time visibility into procurement spending, allowing LNG operators to monitor expenses closely and identify areas for cost optimization (Adeleke, et. al.,2024, Eze, et. al., 2023, Odili, et. al., 2024, Onwuka & Adu, 2024). This visibility enables better decision-making and enhances overall control over procurement processes. Integrating credit card facilities with agile SCM encourages collaboration between stakeholders and fosters a culture of innovation. By leveraging credit card transactions to streamline procurement processes, LNG operations can free up resources to focus on strategic initiatives and drive continuous improvement in supply chain management.

Overall, the integration of credit card facilities with agile SCM principles offers significant benefits for LNG operations, including streamlined procurement processes, improved cost management, enhanced supplier relationships, and increased flexibility and innovation. By



leveraging credit card facilities as part of their procurement strategy, LNG operators can revolutionize their supply chain management practices and achieve greater efficiency and competitiveness in the global LNG market.

In addition to the benefits outlined, the integration of credit card facilities in revolutionizing procurement processes in LNG operations also brings several other advantages: Credit card facilities enable faster procurement transactions compared to traditional methods, such as issuing purchase orders and processing invoices (Adeleke, et. al.,2024, Eze, et. al., 2024, Odili, et. al., 2024, Onwuka & Adu, 2024). This leads to time savings for both buyers and suppliers, allowing for more agile and responsive procurement processes. The simplified procurement process facilitated by credit card facilities reduces the administrative burden on procurement teams, allowing them to focus on more strategic activities.

The use of credit card facilities can improve relationships with suppliers by providing them with timely payments and reducing the risk of late payments. This can lead to improved supplier loyalty and preferential treatment in future transactions. Suppliers often prefer credit card payments due to the shorter payment cycles and reduced paperwork, leading to smoother transactions and better collaboration (Adeleke, et. al.,2024, Eze, et. al., 2023, Odili, et. al., 2024, Onwuka, et. al., 2023).

Credit card facilities offer greater financial control over procurement expenditures. Transactions are recorded in real-time, allowing for better monitoring of budget adherence and spending patterns. The ability to set spending limits and control which transactions are authorized provides additional security and control over procurement activities. Credit card facilities are scalable and can accommodate varying levels of procurement needs, from small purchases to large-scale transactions (Adeniyi, et. al., 2024, Eze, et. al., 2022, Odili, et. al., 2024, Opatye & Ewim, 2022). This scalability allows LNG operations to adapt their procurement processes to meet changing business demands. The flexibility of credit card facilities allows for easy integration with existing procurement systems and processes, minimizing disruption and facilitating a smooth transition to agile procurement practices.

Credit card facilities offer enhanced security features, such as fraud detection and prevention measures, which help mitigate the risk of fraudulent transactions. By reducing the reliance on manual processes and paperwork, credit card facilities also reduce the risk of errors and mismanagement in procurement activities (Adewusi, et. al., 2024, Eze, et. al., 2024, Odili, et. al., 2024, Orikpete & Ewim, 2023). Overall, the integration of credit card facilities in LNG operations' procurement processes, in conjunction with agile SCM principles, can lead to significant improvements in efficiency, transparency, and supplier relationships. By leveraging credit card facilities, LNG operations can revolutionize their procurement practices and achieve greater agility and competitiveness in the global LNG market.

### **Case Studies and Examples**

An LNG operator faced challenges with traditional procurement processes, including long lead times, cumbersome approval procedures, and limited visibility into spending (Adewusi, et. al., 2024, Eze, et. al., 2023, Odedeyi, et. al., 2020, Orikpete & Ewim, 2023). The company implemented agile SCM principles and integrated credit card facilities into its procurement processes to streamline transactions and improve efficiency. By adopting agile SCM with credit card facilities, the LNG operator achieved significant time savings in procurement transactions, reduced administrative costs, and increased flexibility in supplier selection. Real-

time visibility into spending allowed for better budget control and improved decision-making. Overall, the implementation led to a more agile and responsive procurement function, enhancing the company's competitiveness in the LNG market.

A global LNG supplier sought to modernize its procurement processes to better meet the needs of its diverse customer base and improve operational efficiency (Adewusi, et. al., 2024, Fabian, 2019, Ochuba, et. al., 2024, Orikpete & Ewim, 2023). The company introduced credit card facilities as a payment method for procurement transactions, alongside agile SCM principles to streamline processes and enhance flexibility. The adoption of credit card facilities in LNG procurement led to several benefits, including faster transaction processing, reduced paperwork, and improved supplier relationships. The company experienced greater agility in responding to market changes and customer demands, leading to increased customer satisfaction and loyalty. Additionally, real-time visibility into spending enabled better cost control and more informed decision-making, contributing to overall business success.

An LNG project management company integrated credit card facilities into its procurement system, allowing project managers to make on-the-spot purchases for urgent project needs, such as equipment rentals or emergency repairs (Adewusi, et. al., 2024, FAMILONI, 2024, Ochuba, et. al., 2024, Orikpete, et. al., 2023). This streamlined the procurement process and minimized project downtime, ultimately improving project efficiency and profitability. A supplier of LNG equipment and materials implemented credit card facilities to offer customers a convenient and secure payment option for procurement transactions. This enhanced the company's competitiveness in the market and improved customer satisfaction by simplifying the purchasing process for clients.

These case studies and examples illustrate the successful integration of credit card facilities with agile SCM principles in LNG procurement processes, leading to improved efficiency, flexibility, and overall business performance. Here are a few more case studies and examples showcasing the revolutionized procurement processes in LNG operations through the synthesis of agile supply chain management (SCM) using credit card facilities:

**Implementation of Agile SCM with Credit Card Facilities in an LNG Construction Project**  
A large LNG construction project faced challenges with delays in procurement due to lengthy approval processes and difficulties in coordinating with multiple suppliers (Adewusi, et. al., 2024, FAMILONI, 2024, Ochuba, et. al., 2024, Orikpete, et. al., 2023). The project team adopted agile SCM principles and integrated credit card facilities to streamline the procurement process and improve responsiveness. By implementing agile SCM with credit card facilities, the project team achieved significant reductions in procurement lead times, enabling faster delivery of materials and equipment to the construction site. Real-time monitoring of spending helped control costs and identify opportunities for savings, leading to improved project efficiency and cost-effectiveness.

**Benefits and Outcomes of Using Credit Card Facilities in LNG Maintenance and Operations**  
An LNG terminal operator sought to improve maintenance and operations efficiency by modernizing its procurement processes (Afolabi, et. al., 2019, FAMILONI & Babatunde, 2024, Ochuba, et. al., 2024, Orikpete, et. al., 2023). The operator introduced credit card facilities as a payment method for maintenance and operations procurement, alongside agile SCM principles to enhance flexibility and responsiveness. The adoption of credit card facilities in maintenance and operations procurement resulted in faster transaction processing, reduced

paperwork, and improved supplier relationships. Real-time visibility into spending enabled better cost control and more informed decision-making, leading to improved terminal efficiency and reduced downtime.

An LNG shipping company integrated credit card facilities into its procurement system to enable captains to purchase supplies and spare parts while at sea. This streamlined the procurement process and ensured that vessels were adequately stocked, reducing the risk of delays and disruptions to operations (Akindeji & Ewim, 2023, Familoni & Onyebuchi, 2024, Ochuba, et. al., 2024, Orikpete, Ikemba & Ewim, 2023). An LNG equipment manufacturer implemented credit card facilities to allow customers to purchase spare parts and consumables directly from its website. This improved customer satisfaction by providing a convenient and secure payment option, leading to increased sales and revenue for the company. These case studies and examples highlight the transformative impact of integrating credit card facilities with agile SCM principles in LNG procurement processes, leading to enhanced efficiency, cost-effectiveness, and operational performance.

### **Challenges and Considerations**

Implementing agile SCM requires a cultural shift towards more flexible and collaborative ways of working, which can be challenging for organizations accustomed to traditional procurement practices (Akinluwade, et. al., 2015, Familoni & Onyebuchi, 2024, Ochuba, et. al., 2024, Orikpete, Leton & Ewim, 2020). Some organizations may face challenges in integrating credit card facilities with existing procurement systems, especially if their systems are outdated or incompatible. Ensuring compliance with regulations and industry standards when using credit card facilities for procurement can be complex, particularly in highly regulated industries like LNG. Using credit card facilities for procurement raises data security concerns, as organizations need to ensure that sensitive payment information is protected from unauthorized access or breaches.

Engaging key stakeholders, including procurement teams, finance departments, and suppliers, is crucial for successful integration. This helps ensure alignment with organizational goals and smooth implementation (AlHamad, et. al., 2023, Familoni & Shoetan, 2024, Ochuba, et. al., 2024, Osimobi, Ekemezie & van de Rijzen, 2019). Assessing and upgrading technology infrastructure to support the integration of credit card facilities and agile SCM is essential. This includes ensuring compatibility with existing systems and addressing any technological limitations. Building strong relationships with suppliers and ensuring their readiness to accept credit card payments is important for successful integration. This may involve providing training and support to suppliers on using credit card facilities. Implementing agile SCM with credit card facilities requires a change in mindset and behavior. Organizations should invest in change management initiatives to help employees adapt to new ways of working.

Providing training and education to employees on agile SCM principles and the use of credit card facilities can help overcome cultural resistance and ensure successful adoption (Ani, et. al., 2024, Fawole, et. al., 2023, Ochuba, et. al., 2024, Osimobi, et. al., 2023, Ossei-Bremang, et. al., 2024). Investing in robust technology solutions, such as procurement software and payment processing systems, can help address technological limitations and ensure smooth integration. Implementing robust compliance monitoring processes and systems can help ensure that credit card transactions comply with regulations and industry standards, mitigating regulatory risks.



Implementing strong data security measures, such as encryption and access controls, can help protect sensitive payment information and mitigate data security risks associated with using credit card facilities for procurement (Ani, et. al., 2024, Fetuga, et. al., 2022, Ochuba, et. al., 2024, Owoola, Adebayo & Olowe, 2019). By addressing these challenges and considerations, organizations can successfully revolutionize their procurement processes in LNG operations through the synthesis of agile SCM using credit card facilities, leading to improved efficiency, cost-effectiveness, and operational performance.

Additional challenges and considerations for revolutionizing procurement processes in LNG operations through the synthesis of agile supply chain management (SCM) using credit card facilities (Anyanwu, et. al., 2022, Hamdan, et. al., 2023, Ochuba, et. al., 2024, Osimobi, et. al., 2023, Oyebode, Adebayo & Olowe, 2015). Encouraging suppliers to accept credit card payments for procurement transactions can be challenging, especially for those accustomed to traditional payment methods. Some suppliers may be hesitant due to concerns about transaction fees or unfamiliarity with credit card processing. Credit card facilities often have transaction limits, which can be a constraint for large procurement transactions common in the LNG industry. Managing and overcoming these limits requires careful planning and coordination.

Ensuring the security of credit card transactions is paramount to prevent fraud and unauthorized access. Implementing robust security measures, such as encryption and tokenization, is essential but can be complex and costly. Integrating credit card facilities with existing procurement systems and processes can be technically challenging, requiring significant customization and testing to ensure smooth operations.

Engaging suppliers early in the integration process and providing incentives for accepting credit card payments can help overcome adoption challenges. Building strong relationships with key suppliers can also facilitate smoother integration (Bloose, et. al., 2022, Igah, et. al., 2023, Ochuba, et. al., 2024, Oyebode, et. al., 2022). Ensuring that the chosen credit card facilities and agile SCM processes are scalable and flexible enough to accommodate future growth and changes in procurement needs is critical for long-term success. Staying abreast of changing regulations and compliance requirements related to credit card transactions and agile SCM is essential. Implementing robust compliance monitoring and reporting processes can help mitigate compliance risks.

Establishing a culture of continuous improvement is key to maximizing the benefits of agile SCM and credit card facilities (Chukwurah & Aderemi, 2024, Igbinenikaro, Adekoya & Etukudoh, 2024, Ochuba, et. al., 2024, Oyebode, Olowe & Makanjuola, 2023). Regularly reviewing and optimizing procurement processes can lead to further efficiencies and cost savings over time. Providing suppliers with training and support on how to accept credit card payments can facilitate their adoption. Offering flexible payment terms and incentives can also encourage suppliers to embrace the change. Implementing automated payment processes and tools can help overcome transaction limits and streamline payment processing. This can include setting up recurring payments or using batch processing for large transactions.

Collaborating closely with suppliers and other stakeholders to address challenges and identify opportunities for improvement can lead to more effective integration of credit card facilities and agile SCM (Chukwurah & Aderemi, 2024, Igbinenikaro, Adekoya & Etukudoh, 2024, Ochuba, Adewumi & Olutimehin, 2024, Oyebode, et. al., 2015). Investing in technology

solutions that support agile SCM and credit card facilities, such as cloud-based procurement platforms and advanced analytics tools, can help overcome technical challenges and improve overall procurement efficiency. By carefully considering these challenges and implementing appropriate mitigation strategies, LNG operations can successfully revolutionize their procurement processes through the synthesis of agile SCM using credit card facilities, leading to enhanced efficiency, cost-effectiveness, and competitiveness.

### **Future Trends and Opportunities**

The adoption of digital technologies, such as artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML), and blockchain, is expected to reshape procurement processes in LNG operations (Chukwurah, 2024, Igbinenikaro, Adekoya & Etukudoh, 2024, Nzeako, et. al., 2024, Oyebode, et. al., 2015). These technologies can improve efficiency, transparency, and traceability in procurement. There is a growing emphasis on sustainability and environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors in procurement. LNG operations are increasingly focusing on sourcing from sustainable suppliers and reducing their carbon footprint (Chukwurah, 2024, Igbinenikaro, Adekoya & Etukudoh, 2024, Nzeako, et. al., 2024, Oyegoke, et. al., 2020). Collaborative relationships with suppliers are becoming more important in procurement. LNG operations are exploring ways to work more closely with suppliers to optimize procurement processes and drive innovation.

Procurement processes are evolving to better manage risks, such as supply chain disruptions, geopolitical uncertainties, and regulatory changes. LNG operations are incorporating risk management strategies into their procurement practices. The use of data analytics and predictive insights is expected to grow in procurement. LNG operations are leveraging data to optimize procurement decisions, forecast demand, and identify cost-saving opportunities.

There is an opportunity to further improve supplier relationship management in LNG procurement. This includes developing strategic partnerships with key suppliers, implementing supplier development programs, and enhancing communication and collaboration (Digitemie & Ekemezie, 2024, Igbinenikaro, Adekoya & Etukudoh, 2024, Ntuli, et. al., 2024, Oyeniran, et. al., 2024). Further integration of technology, such as advanced analytics, Internet of Things (IoT), and digital twins, can unlock new opportunities for efficiency and innovation in procurement. These technologies can improve visibility, automate processes, and enable real-time decision-making.

Embracing circular economy principles, such as recycling, remanufacturing, and waste reduction, can create new opportunities for sustainable procurement practices in LNG operations (Ehimare, Orikpete & Ewim, 2023, Ikemba, et. al., 2024, Nnaji, et. al., 2020, Penerbit, 2020). This includes sourcing materials from recycled sources and designing products for recyclability. Agile and flexible procurement models can enable LNG operations to respond quickly to changing market conditions and customer demands. This includes implementing agile SCM principles and exploring new procurement strategies, such as dynamic sourcing and on-demand procurement.

Future research could explore the impact of digital transformation, including AI, ML, and blockchain, on procurement processes in LNG operations (Ekechi, et. al., 2024, Ikumapayi, et. al., 2022, Muteba, et. al., 2023, Popoola, et. al., 2024). This could include studying the benefits, challenges, and best practices of adopting these technologies. : Research could focus on the role of sustainability and ESG considerations in procurement in LNG operations. This

could include examining the impact of sustainable procurement practices on business performance and stakeholder engagement.

Future research could investigate the role of supplier collaboration in driving innovation in procurement. This could include studying the factors that contribute to successful supplier collaboration and its impact on procurement outcomes (Kikanme, et. al., 2024, Komolafe, et. al., 2024, Modupe, et. al., 2024, Popoola, et. al., 2024). Research could explore innovative risk management strategies in procurement, particularly in the context of LNG operations. This could include studying the effectiveness of different risk management approaches and their impact on procurement performance. By embracing these emerging trends and opportunities, LNG operations can further enhance their procurement processes and drive innovation in the industry.

Continued advancements in technologies such as Internet of Things (IoT), robotics, and autonomous systems are expected to further transform procurement processes in LNG operations (Shoetan & Familoni, 2024, Sonko, et. al., 2024, Timothy, et. al., 2022, Udo, et. al., 2024, Usiagu, et. al., 2024). These technologies can enable real-time monitoring of inventory, predictive maintenance, and automated procurement transactions, leading to increased efficiency and cost savings. There is a growing demand for transparency and traceability in supply chains, driven by factors such as consumer preferences, regulatory requirements, and sustainability goals. LNG operations can leverage technologies like blockchain to enhance supply chain transparency, enabling better tracking of products, verification of authenticity, and identification of inefficiencies.

The focus on sustainability in procurement is expected to intensify, with LNG operations increasingly adopting sustainable procurement practices (Shoetan & Familoni, 2024, Soyombo, et. al., 2024, Udo, et. al., 2024, Usiagu, et. al., 2024). This includes sourcing materials and services from suppliers with strong environmental and social performance, as well as implementing circular economy principles to reduce waste and promote resource efficiency. The importance of resilience and risk management in procurement will continue to grow, especially in light of global disruptions such as the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change. LNG operations will need to enhance their risk management capabilities, including supply chain mapping, scenario planning, and business continuity planning, to mitigate risks and ensure business continuity.

Collaborative partnerships between LNG operators, suppliers, and other stakeholders will become increasingly important in driving innovation and improving procurement outcomes (Suku, et. al., 2023, Udo, et. al., 2024, Uduafemhe, Ewim & Karfe, 2023). This includes sharing best practices, co-developing solutions, and jointly addressing common challenges to enhance the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the procurement process. The regulatory landscape for procurement is expected to evolve, with increased focus on compliance, ethical sourcing, and data protection. LNG operations will need to stay abreast of regulatory changes and ensure their procurement practices comply with relevant laws and regulations to avoid penalties and reputational damage. By embracing these future trends and opportunities, LNG operations can revolutionize their procurement processes, drive innovation, and achieve sustainable growth in the rapidly evolving energy landscape.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the synthesis of agile supply chain management (SCM) with credit card facilities offers significant potential for revolutionizing procurement processes in LNG operations. This innovative approach addresses key challenges faced by traditional procurement methods and presents opportunities for improving efficiency, transparency, and cost-effectiveness.

Agile SCM principles, such as flexibility, collaboration, and real-time responsiveness, can enhance procurement agility and efficiency in LNG operations. Integration of credit card facilities can streamline payment processes, reduce transaction costs, and improve cash flow management in procurement. Emerging technologies, sustainability considerations, and collaborative partnerships are driving future trends in procurement, offering further opportunities for innovation and improvement.

Implementation of agile SCM with credit card facilities can lead to improved procurement outcomes, including reduced lead times, better supplier relationships, and enhanced risk management. By embracing emerging trends and technologies, LNG operations can enhance their competitiveness, sustainability, and resilience in a rapidly evolving market.

Develop a comprehensive strategy for integrating agile SCM principles with credit card facilities, including clear objectives, timelines, and performance metrics. Invest in technology infrastructure and capabilities to support agile procurement processes, such as real-time data analytics, digital platforms, and automated payment systems. Foster a culture of collaboration and innovation within the organization, encouraging cross-functional teamwork and knowledge sharing. Continuously monitor and evaluate procurement performance, identifying areas for improvement and implementing corrective actions as needed. By following these recommendations and leveraging the benefits of agile SCM and credit card facilities, LNG operations can revolutionize their procurement processes, drive innovation, and achieve sustainable growth in the dynamic LNG market.

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