



## Broadening the frame

The case for integrated third-party management (TPM)

# Foreword



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I am pleased to introduce you to our new whitepaper, “Broadening the frame: The case for integrated third-party management.” For some time now we have observed organizations identifying a need for greater coordination between sourcing, contracting, and risk management. Very few organizations have managed to address this effectively and we wanted to share our perspectives on how this could change in the future.

As we experience continued uncertainty, efficiency and continued investment in technology will become key in understanding the wider ecosystem and in turn the ability to make rapid and informed decisions. Key areas of focus going into 2022 include further investment in sustainable supply chains (ESG in supply chains) and resilient supply chains—all of which effective TPM would support significantly. As you will read, the business case for change is clear and we would welcome any feedback you have on the content in this document.

## The story so far

Organizational dependence on supply chains and other third-party networks not only continues to increase, but these relationships (that make up the extended enterprise in organizations) are becoming more intertwined, co-dependent, and complicated. Any operational deficiencies, resource constraints or misconduct related to such third parties can therefore have knock-on effects, not just on the focal organization that has engaged these third parties but can also potentially lead to systemic issues affecting a chain of organizations or worse, the entire industry. The pandemic has heightened the need to make sure that the links in this extended enterprise are robust, trusted, and reliable to enable every party in the supply chain to act with integrity and confidence to serve their customers and stakeholders.

Despite growing board and leadership focus and investment on managing supplier and other third-party relationships over the last six years, our annual extended enterprise surveys over this period also show that incremental improvements to third-party management from an efficiency, cost-effectiveness or stakeholder value perspective have fallen short of stakeholder expectations.

The root cause typically lies in the silos that exist in organizations. These silos narrowly focus on just a piece of the business (e.g., a functional area or department), without considering the effects of their decisions and actions on the other areas of supply chain or end-to-end third-party management. Such fragmented approaches are often reinforced by the lack of seamless integration between IT systems and data across the organization, highlighting the need to adopt IT architecture and software that supports data quality and real-time integration on an end-to-end basis.

## Adopting a broader perspective to address this challenge

Our research, supported by client conversations demonstrate that organizations that adopt an integrated approach and leverage external assistance where appropriate, can aim to achieve:

- 15-25% cost savings in each process area such as sourcing and procurement, financial processing, risk management, contract and legal management, and end-to-end visibility of the supply chain across all layers including subcontractors etc.
- 11-18% increase in third-party spend managed per Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) reflecting ability to better leverage organizational talent involved in these tasks.
- 15-30% additional contribution to net revenue from supply chain improvement initiatives.
- 20-33% increase in organizational Earnings Before Interest, Tax, Depreciation and Amortization (EBITDA) and share price (upon completion of the entire transformation).
- Several non-financial benefits including agility in responding to the external environment and to do so as a responsible business.

These potential opportunities are discussed in more detail in this publication.

However, the first step on this transformational journey is to broaden the framing of this strategic opportunity. This ensures a more holistic perspective across functions and firms covering all types of third-party relationships in the extended enterprise.

We believe technology will be at the very heart of this journey, supported by utilizing external assistance where required, particularly managed services technology platforms from trusted partners to enable a more risk intelligent approach to accelerate this transition.

As you read this document, I hope you will agree on the opportunities this presents organizations, and further enhance your understanding of what has changed and what lies ahead as you as you make strategic choices to exploit the many opportunities that your TPM transformation journey creates for your organization.





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Approaches to managing third parties have generally failed to keep pace with rapidly expanding third-party networks and their role in organizational success.

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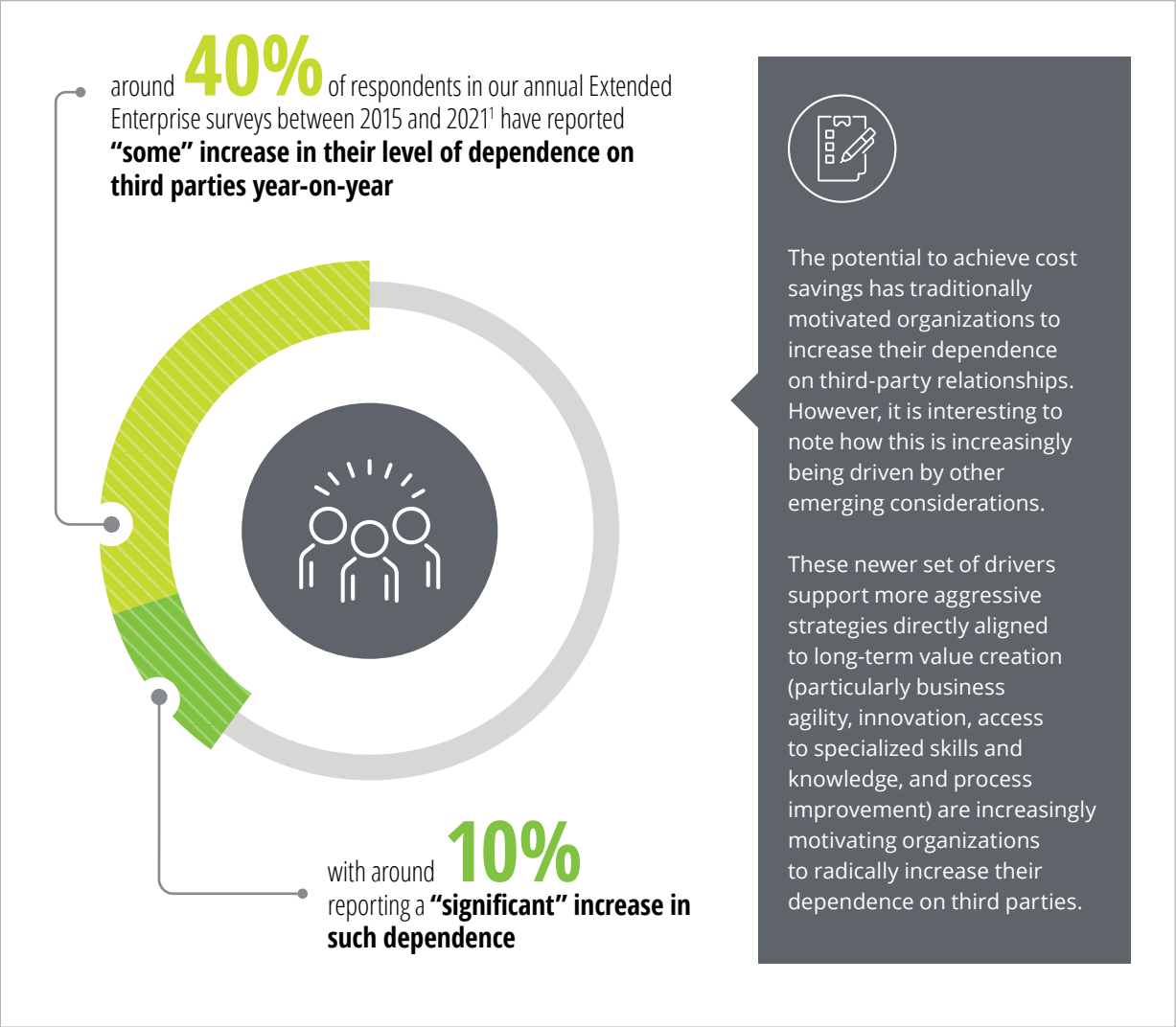




# Managing third parties—the second most valuable organizational asset

## The spectacular rise of third parties as organizational drivers of value

Since the mid-nineties, organizations have been benefitting immensely from collaborating with third parties forming their extended enterprise. These third parties not only include suppliers of goods and services and strategic supply chain partners, but also extend to the sales side of these organizations covering retailers, distributors, as well as joint venture or alliance partners, subsidiaries, and affiliates.



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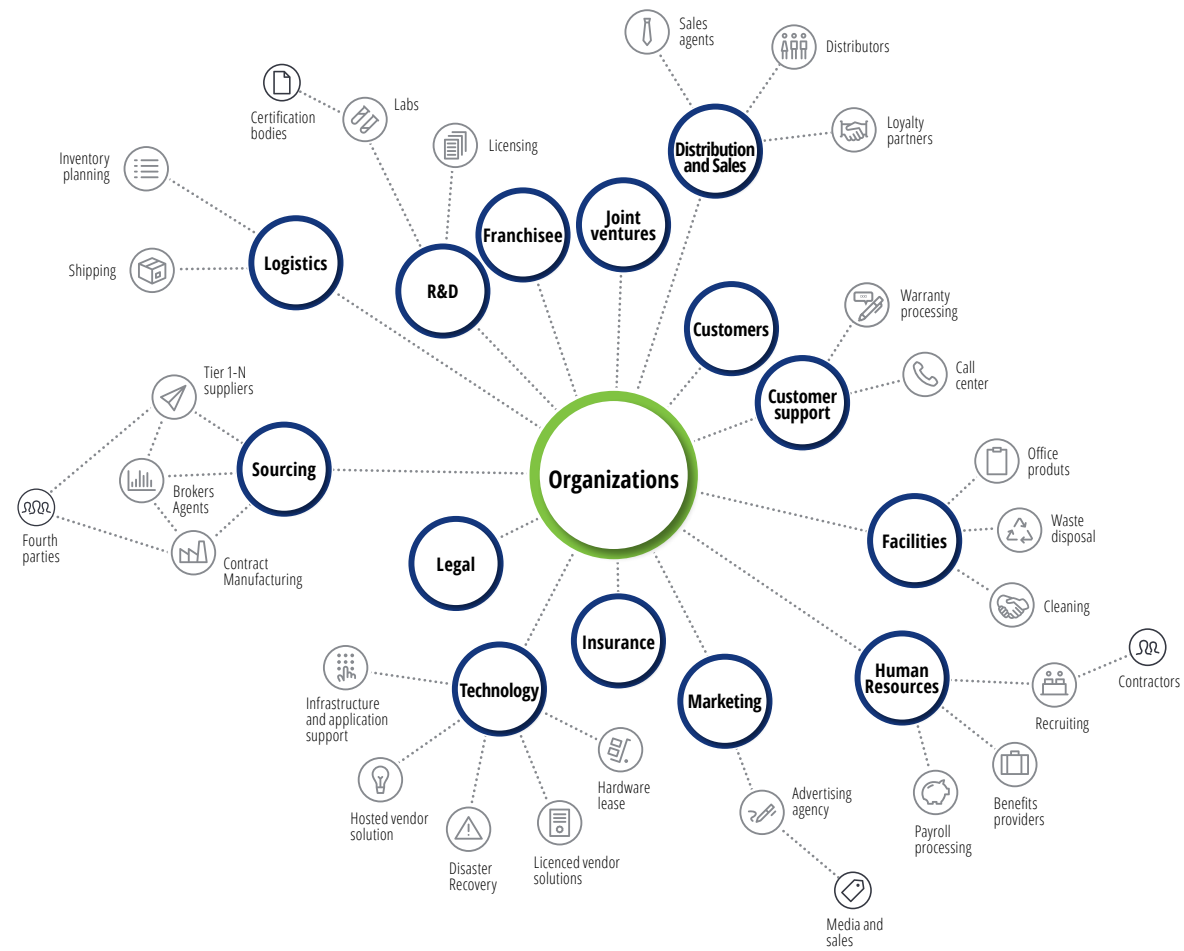


### Realising the full potential from investment in third-party management

Management thinkers such as Michael Hammer<sup>2</sup> have advocated the alignment and integration of businesses since the mid-nineties, and it has long been clear that, **managed correctly**, these extended enterprises can deliver organizational value and competitive advantage. However, it is in these third-party management processes where the problem also lies. Most organizations have been challenged in continually realigning their approach to managing the rapidly changing third-party landscape.

Despite growing board and leadership focus and investment in this area over the last few years, our research shows that approaches to managing third parties have generally failed to keep pace with rapidly expanding third-party networks and their increasing criticality in organizational success. A significant part of this problem stems from a more traditional mindset that organizations perform best when each function or department simply does its job in silos based on functional specialization. This means that the effects of their decisions and actions on the other areas of supply chain or related aspects of third-party management are often ignored. Such approaches are often reinforced by the lack of seamless integration between IT systems and data across the organization providing a myopic view rather than the wider and more holistic perspective.

Figure 1. The increasing complexity of the extended enterprise



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### Outsourcing and third parties are here to stay

It is interesting to note that COVID-19 led many organizations to consider taking back outsourced business activities, either partially or fully. This was particularly the case where there were heightened concerns about third-party failure or losing control over outsourced activities.

However, in most cases, this did not move on beyond initial conversations. On the one hand, most organizations realized that they lacked the internal capability for such insourcing, as well as the ability to develop such capacity in the short to medium term. They also faced strong cost pressures, making them reluctant to spend significant amounts of money to carry out business activities at higher cost compared to using third parties. The conversation therefore shifted to enhancing resiliency and control over their third-party ecosystems, in conjunction with other measures to increase resiliency such as diversifying sources of supply.<sup>3</sup> There is therefore little doubt that global third-party ecosystems are here to stay despite the emerging challenges.

### Clear visibility of the extended enterprise is the first step to astute third-party management

Since 2018, our Extended Enterprise Risk Management (EERM) surveys have captured the increasing complexity of third-party arrangements caused by the increasing use of subcontractors at various levels. In many cases, third parties are now also contracting out some of the business activities contracted to them, creating fourth-party relationships. This chain of subcontracting can go on at various lower tiers of the relationship, creating fifth parties, sixth parties and so on. This expansion of subcontracting chains has not only increased complexity but also impaired visibility and transparency throughout third-party ecosystems. Actions of a sixth party, for instance, can impact the operations of the prime organization connected to it through a chain comprising the third, fourth, fifth and sixth parties. As a result, the management of third parties needs to include the management of these various tiered and supporting relationships, driving complexity, and requiring clearer visibility.

The increasing use of new technology (such as the cloud and cloud-based applications) that facilitate collaboration and enable businesses to enhance their virtual boundaries will further accelerate this trend of growing third-party dependence. But this growing dependence has to be managed by investing in more technology that integrates the constituent parts to ensure a holistic approach.

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### Our client engagements indicate that typically



can be attributable to third parties in organizations with business models that rely significantly on third parties for mission-critical activities<sup>4</sup>.

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### From siloed to integrated TPM


In addition to considering all tiers of third-party relationships across all third-party types, an integrated perspective on third parties also needs to consider the entire TPM lifecycle end to end—from initial processes such as sourcing, procuring, and contracting through to monitoring, financial processing, and executive decision-making. That perspective, and the integrated approach it fosters, is rapidly becoming a pre-requisite for increasing efficiency, reducing costs (including third-party spend as well as third-party management costs) and meeting ESG commitments.


Deloitte specialists believe that organizations can potentially double their efficiencies, cost-savings, and management effectiveness by adopting this wider perspective versus piecemeal approaches. This occurs not only by aggregating performance improvement opportunities in each individual TPM process but also by exploiting synergies across processes. Those synergies (discussed in more detail in chapter [three](#)) are achieved through more holistic approaches to strategy, and to portfolio and relationship management, enabled by automation and innovation.





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### The growing impact and incidence of third-party incidents reiterates the need for improvement

The fact that many organizations continue to face significant negative consequences from third-party incidents reiterates that organizational systems are struggling to keep pace with the increasing dominance and diversity of the extended enterprise.



## Our global third-party survey in 2021 indicated that

**51%** of organizations had faced one or more third-party risk incidents in the last one year.

Of these, **13%** were very **high-impact incidents** that:

- ✓ Severely compromised financial performance/profitability;
- ✓ Impaired customer service;
- ✓ Seriously breached legal or regulatory requirements; or
- ✓ Adversely affected organizational reputation.

A further **31%** had a **moderately high impact**.

The financial impact included **finances, direct compensation costs** and **lost revenue**.

In absolute terms, **19%** of organizations estimated their financial exposure to a major third-party incident at **US\$500 million or more**;

**11%** had put it at **more than US\$1 billion**.

This financial impact has at least doubled over the past five years with one in five estimating a tenfold increase.

Moreover, **30%** of listed companies surveyed **believed that share prices could fall by 10% or more after an incident, if third-party risks were not managed well**.

It is also interesting to note that one out of ten participating organizations were not sure whether they had suffered a third-party incident or not. This may reflect either a lack of mature TPRM processes in their organizations or a lack of awareness of what is happening in their organization as a whole, triggered by a narrow and siloed mindset focused on specific aspects of third-party management such as sourcing, procurement, financial processing or contracting.

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### Third-party management and regulators

Over the last few years, regulators around the world have continued to increase their attention on third-party management by their regulated entities, holding them responsible for the actions of their third parties. Although the financial services industry is leading the way in this regard, such regulatory attention and scrutiny is rapidly expanding to other industries such as life sciences and healthcare, energy and resources, telecom, and consumer industries. These regulators are both explicit and extensive around clarifying who is included within the scope of a “third-party” and are including not just vendors but all third-party relationships within the entire extended enterprise.

This has driven the the earlier focus on vendors as part of supply-chain management to now expand to include outsourced/offshored providers of information technology and supporting business processes, all contractors, marketing partners and agents, brokers, franchisees and other parties operating under a collaboration agreement, joint venture partners, and subsidiaries as an integral part of their third-party management programs. It also extends to intercompany/ inter affiliate services. Some of these third parties may also, in turn, outsource specific activities to other subcontractors or service providers, giving rise to the concept of fourth parties. Regulatory guidance is starting to include these “fourth parties” if such parties are eventually responsible for supporting the third-party business.

There is also an emerging trend amongst global regulators to significantly increase the amount of fines and penalties. For instance, the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) in the UK has implemented a revised penalty framework which seeks to remove the value of the entire financial benefit derived directly from any non-compliance, with powers to further increase the same by a multiplier of such financial benefit derived to serve as a “credible deterrent.”

According to the FCA's end of year enforcement data<sup>5</sup>, this resulted in such fines aggregating a staggering £567,765,219 (approximately US\$ 770 million) over the course of the 2021 calendar year, up by £375,195,201 (approximately US\$ 508 million) from 2020, when it had issued £192,570,018 (approximately US\$ 262 million) in fines.

**An increase in fines and penalties is true across most regulators around the world including the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) and the Fed in the US, the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) and the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC). Several elements of legislation and regulation are industry-neutral and have a global impact. As an example, the US Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) applies to all industries and affects multiple global jurisdictions. The “top 10” FCPA enforcement actions to date indicate that non-U.S. companies dominate the biggest FCPA cases with fines and penalties ranging from US\$180 million to US\$800 million in each case, most of which involved third parties involved in money laundering and other corrupt practices or compromising the interest of consumers as common themes for misconduct.**

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## Capitalizing on the opportunity and reaping the rewards



### Since 2015

our research has demonstrated that those organizations that have a good handle on their business partners, can not only avoid the punitive costs and reputational damage, but stand to gain competitive advantage over their peers, outperforming them by an additional

**4-5% return on equity**, which, in the case of **Fortune 500 or FT500 companies** can mean additional EBITDA in the range of **US\$25-500 million**<sup>6</sup>.

Organizations that have invested in their positive supply chain relationships over a sustained period of time have more recently seen reputations enhanced even more than ever.

Effective management and governance of the extended enterprise can drive performance by:

- Increasing revenue by identifying and recovering under-reported revenue streams.
- Minimizing costs by selecting the right relationships that enhance the brand, operate cost-effectively, limit regulatory issues and associated penalties.
- Enhancing the value of the third-party relationship by gaining efficiencies (for instance through technology-integration), improving service levels and better agility in responding to changes in market conditions.

Academic researchers concur that best-in-class companies establish formal and comprehensive programmes that orchestrate their internal functions, suppliers, and customer operations, aligned to corporate goals.

Managing third-party risks and performance also needs to be accompanied by proactive strategies of establishing trust. Such strategies can be accelerated through a holistic understanding of critical third-party relationships enabled by better visibility.<sup>7</sup>

## Such strategic orientations have enabled some businesses to:



innovatively **reduce product development times** by as much as **40%**



and **reduce the cost of purchased materials and services** by between **15-35%**<sup>8</sup>.

The recent pandemic has, however, challenged nearly every organization's ability to fully exploit these opportunities while mitigating the risks. Many organizations acknowledge that they were unprepared to manage third-party relationships at a time of such a large scale disruption and uncertainty, indicated by higher lead times and rising costs. The pandemic also highlighted the downside of such critical levels of dependence through strategic failures, and the realization of how quickly some of these risks can strike on a real-time basis in an interconnected world. Beyond these growing losses from COVID-19, we see evidence of a lack of extended enterprise intelligence and planning necessary to respond to such high-impact events.

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## What are high-performing TPM teams doing differently?

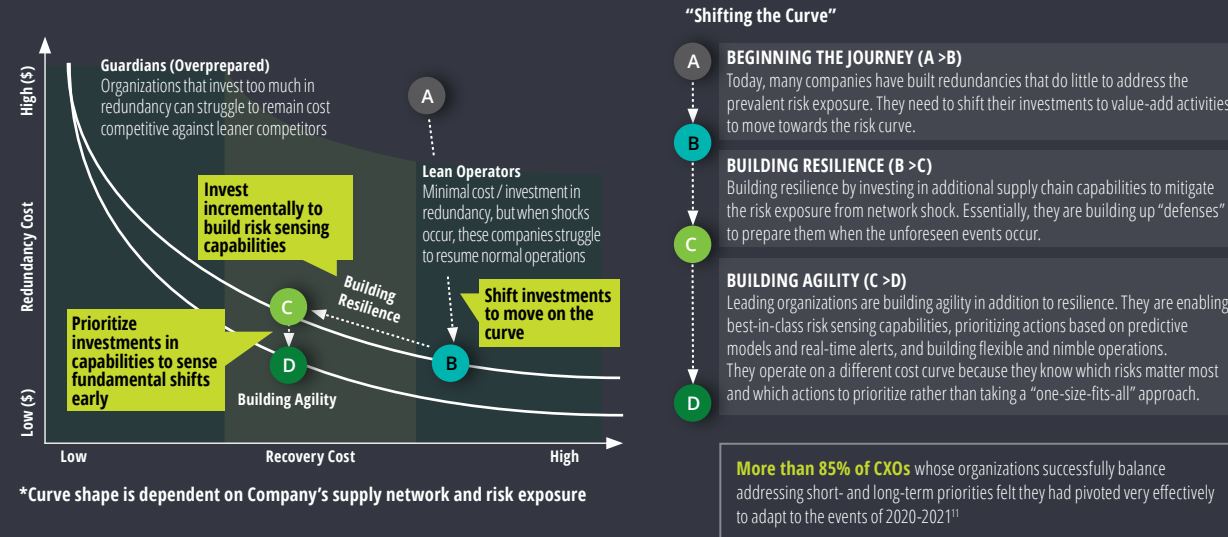
Firstly, high-performing TPM teams continue to evolve their operating models, continually revisiting what they track and measure in an ever-changing world. The Deloitte 2021 Chief Procurement Officer Survey<sup>9</sup> captures a significant shift in mindset with regards to measuring performance of third-party management teams. Traditionally, the metrics used for this purpose have revolved around return on investment (ROI), cost savings, operational efficiencies, and third-party performance. While these continue to remain important considerations, some additional parameters have also evolved, most notably, the ability to meet and balance multiple stakeholder objectives (for instance, managing conflicts between operating as a responsible business and cost savings or profitability) and more importantly, the extent to which such teams are able to influence stakeholder decision-making. The level of influence of such teams are also reflected in evolving measures such as the proportion of spend that is actively sourced in the organization. Such is also the case with the more traditional measures such as operating efficiency of third-party management teams which are now more actively tracked by the high-performing organizations using metrics such as spend per full-time employee (FTE) in the team.

Secondly, best-in-class organizations have started achieving mastery in not only being more resilient but also more agile in dealing with both the ambiguity as well as the uncertainty<sup>10</sup> that the complexity of the current business environment fosters (see journey from A to B, B to C, and C to D in figure 3).

Figure 3. Resilience and agility in high-performing TPM teams

### Building Resilience & Agility “Shifts the Curve”

Most organizations are shifting from a lean orthodoxy to a more balanced approach with some built-in redundancy. Best-in-class organizations take this one step further by building agility and subsequently, “shift the curve.”



To be able to do so, these organizations are increasing the sophistication in their TPM operating models enabled by higher levels of digitization and integration. This holistic and integrated view, in turn, enables them to expand their value propositions beyond just cost reduction and supply assurance to an orchestration of broader value—one in which they influence demand and drive innovation, working closely with third-party partners and strategic suppliers to increase speed to market, drive continuous improvement and commercial compliance. But to get there, they have had to overhaul legacy processes, policies, metrics, tools, and mindsets, while still driving measurable value improvements that show up on the financial statements.

Ambiguity, in particular, is related to complexity. The more complex the environment, the more there are possible interactions, and the more the choices available.

Although some intuition is required for decision-making, even more so at strategic levels, real-time data available through integrated TPM remains key to informing the decision maker in these high-performing teams. Those organizations that have an integrated end-to-end view of supplier and third-party relationships can therefore quickly rise to the occasion by being able to make sense of the available data more clearly, thereby outperforming their peers.

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# Siloed management or integrated value creation?

Functional silos within organizations narrowly focus on just their piece of the business, without considering the effects of their decisions and actions on the other areas of supply chain or end-to-end third-party management. Now is the time to stop trying to adopt a piecemeal approach by each functional area and adopt a broader holistic perspective.

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# Siloed management or integrated value creation?

## The many challenges of siloed management

Organizational focus on a specific area or function (such as sourcing, procurement, contracting, financial processing, legal/contract compliance, and risk management) within the third-party lifecycle has often been driven by the need to generate economies of scale through specialization. This has led many organizations to ignore the impact of their decisions and actions on other areas—impact that would be visible through a more holistic perspective.

Management researchers acknowledge that, “over time, a strictly siloed approach creates the mindset that anything happening outside the business unit is a potential threat, managers lose the willingness and ability to work across functional boundaries, and any gains produced by specialization are quickly eroded by costly disconnects between functions and with customers”<sup>12</sup>.

This is also sometimes referred to as the psychological silo. People are afraid of the unknown, which makes them afraid to experiment, collaborate, and let go of control. They could fail, look foolish, and in some work environments, potentially lose their jobs. But these fears also hinder innovation within supply chains—and innovation is vital to keeping your business competitive and your customers happy.

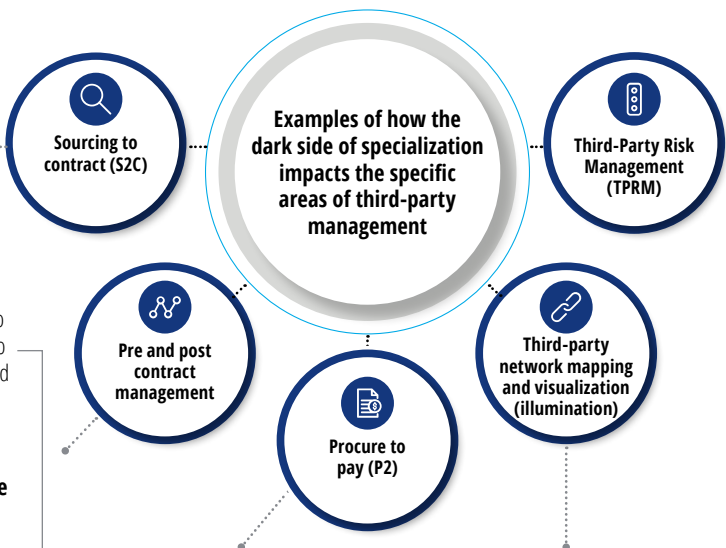
## The dark side of specialization and its impact

A narrow focus can come in the way of working with the wider organization to achieve cost base reductions, driving efficiencies, and assisting strategic sourcing. This in turn limits the ability to achieve the best price and deal for the business.

Not every negotiation is strategic, but every contract, from creation to subsequent management, needs to be aligned to the strategic goals and restraints of the organization.

As noted in the World Commerce & Contracting report<sup>13</sup>

companies are losing, on average, **9.2%** of their annual contract value due to poor contract lifecycle management due to the lack of alignment to wider business goals and organization-wide priorities. As an indicator of complexity, it is important to recognize that a typical IT contract **has 300 obligations** on the service provider and an outsourcing arrangement **has 1000** as a base which need to be prioritized and managed.



A siloed approach in this area often comes in the way of reaping the benefits from wider organizational transformation projects aimed at streamlining and centralization of finance activities to improve payments to third parties by providing organizations with control and visibility over the life cycle of a transaction.

Lack of complete visibility of all organizational third-party relationships through all applicable tiers (i.e., subcontractors at various levels), can come in the way of organizational strategic goals, being more resilient to disruption or addressing regulation. This includes gathering and making sense of data related to environment, social and governance (ESG) compliance in the extended enterprise.

The lack of an integrated cross-risk view of all third parties weakens the chain of risk management, as organizations would not have any idea on its overall risk exposure and how this compares to the organizational appetite for taking such risk. Such an organization would also be unable to ensure a proportionate approach to managing such risks (for instance by closer monitoring those third parties that present a higher risk across various risk domains. A fragmented approach to risk management also impairs their ability to leverage a common risk management platform that ensures efficient risk management in a cost-effective way, using both organization-wide data as well as external data and specialized feeds from various risk domains.

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## Additional benefits from an integrated approach to TPM

Apart from addressing the impact on specific functional areas (previously discussed), an integrated approach can bring further benefits such as:



**Optimizing third-party strategy, portfolio, and relationship management**

by enabling leadership to establish a charter and vision, and a vendor portfolio strategy most appropriate.



**Operating as a responsible business and being perceived as one**

Since 2020, our research has demonstrated how organizations are now much more aware of the need to be a responsible business. This is now one of the top drivers of investment in managing third-party relationships, although appropriate budgets are yet to be allocated to embed responsible business initiatives across all types of third-party relationships in many organizations. This, in turn, is supported by a much stronger emphasis on social purpose from boards and c-suites to appropriately define, implement and report on environmental, social and governance factors. This therefore encompasses a much broader spectrum in comparison to the earlier focus on corporate social responsibility (CSR), specifically including ethical behaviour, human rights, climate change and other aspects of the environment.



**Innovation and automation**

through a fully integrated managed service solution (see chapters 4 and 5). This helps identify efficiencies in the operating model, and helping the organization avoid bottlenecks, whilst improving communication through the entire workflow.

▶ Social purpose has become an important element of integrated business strategies, and organizations are rapidly realizing that this needs to apply not just within the traditional organizational boundaries but also to their entire extended enterprise as well. It's through this process that many have discovered that successful implementation of environmental, social and governance (ESG) expectations is possible only where organizations have integrated third-party management (TPM). A holistic, end-to-end view of third parties is an essential prerequisite to address ESG considerations efficiently and effectively across the entire depth and breadth of organizational activity.

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### Beyond technology implementation

#### Understanding and implementing cross-functional integration in organizations

Over the last five decades, eminent research scholars including Forrester, Galbraith and Mintzberg have continually noted a crucial tension within organizations. Organizations aspire to specialize within functional areas to gain efficiencies. On the other hand, this often conflicts with the desire to manage more holistically across interdependent functional areas to maximize organizational performance. Aspirations to achieve functional specialization have also driven the development and deployment of tools, technologies, and support systems to be siloed, leading to lack of integration and alignment, both across technology architectures as well as departmental data structures. This, in turn, has further challenged organizational ability to integrate TPM.

“While this problem has been recognized for several years, the pandemic highlighted the severity of consequences of not addressing the issue.

As one observer puts it, decision-making processes were undermined as organizations realized that they had “both the wrong data and the data wrong. Top management literally couldn’t see what was happening—or needed to happen ... and this came as a shock.”<sup>14</sup>

### Widening the frame

Despite technology aggravating the challenge of cross-functional integration, the approach to finding the solution needs to go beyond just systems integration to achieve a wider “unity of effort” that can be possible by reconciling diverse goals, activities, and knowledge into unified action.

Our experience, reinforced by prior management research in this area, indicates that this is normally **a three-step process and involves:**

1



Alignment on goals

2



Integrating activities

3



Leveraging organizational knowledge



click to see the three steps

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## STEP 1



### Goal alignment

Any integration effort typically starts with reconciling divergent goals in complex organizations. Various functional groups (such as sourcing, procurement, finance, legal, compliance and risk management) seek satisfactory solutions to problems within their area of operation and in the face of specific constraints faced by them. As a result, their goals and objectives can vary widely. This has been true over the last few decades and continues to be the case even today. **Since the late sixties and early seventies, management thinkers such as Lawrence and Lorsch (1967) have recognized that integration starts by aligning functional or business unit objectives with more comprehensive organizational goals.**

Resolving goal-conflicts through better alignment with the *core business driver* (see inset) to increase collaboration therefore becomes an important means for achieving integration, enabled by the engagement of multidisciplinary leadership. This is also what can make the synchronization strategy unique to the organization, enabling them to create inimitable competitive advantage.

#### UNDERSTANDING THE CORE BUSINESS DRIVERS IS THE FIRST STEP TO ALIGNING TPM GOALS WITHIN ORGANIZATIONS

**The core business driver** sets the parameters for business decision-making. Cross-functional leadership within the organization need to have a clear understanding of these drivers and continuously align operations accordingly.

A retailer, for example, might define its supply-chain vision with respect to its aims for enhancing omnichannel customer experiences:

*"We will provide customers with seamless, satisfying experiences, from their first visit to a store or digital channel to the moment when they receive exactly what they ordered, when we promised it."*

A pharmaceutical company, on the other hand, might define a supply-chain vision that will help it adapt to the financial constraints of healthcare providers:

*"We will enable our customers to save money by establishing the lowest-cost supply chain among our peers and by providing them with experiences that make their operations more efficient."*

The next step is to reflect these organizational priorities in functional or departmental performance goals to address that organization's vision for transformation of its third-party management mechanisms.

Cross-functional goal alignment needs to recognize all the related considerations, including agility, quality of service, capital investment, and cost. A company that aims to reduce lost sales by a specific amount, for example, would need corresponding supply-chain performance, goals such as timely procurement through sourcing initiatives (impacting sourcing and procurement teams), improving the speed and reliability of shipments to customers (impacting logistics management and delivery teams).

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## STEP 2



# Integrating TPM activities through coordination mechanisms

The traditional view of an organization has been a system of interdependent functions, each carrying out a specified set of activities, such that the outputs from some functional activities represent inputs for other functional activities. The central “problem” of integration in this perspective therefore becomes managing the interdependencies across functional activities so as to optimize the overall flow of inputs and outputs along an entire “activity series” or process.

## WHY COLLABORATE?

*“The highest levels of waste are typically observed in areas where people and processes intersect. As a result, the greatest opportunities for value creation come from managing the seams and intersections of complex third-party value chains.”*

Emphasis is therefore being placed on improving coordination mechanisms, including rules, plans, schedules, and periodic reviews, that regulate and synchronize functional operations.

Top executives need to have a good cross-functional understanding (in addition to relevant soft skills) to influence business as well as commercial and financial heads, to succeed in the current environment. Such executive teams should include representatives from sales, finance, and product research—as well as traditional supply chain functions—and focus on enhancing business processes with an eye toward improving key financial metrics.<sup>15</sup>

The latest digital technologies also have distinctive abilities to integrate better methods of collaboration into organizational processes.

Properly implemented, this can translate into a number of opportunities:

- Integrated TPM improves coordination and alignment across all phases of the end-to-end relationship lifecycle, from sourcing through to renewal/termination, while improving control and providing a holistic view.
- Integrated TPM supports holistic practices that enhance day-to-day operations and the ability to respond rapidly in times of crisis and to exercise contractual rights, fulfil responsibilities, and engage alternative sources.

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## ► STEP 3



### Integrating and sharing organizational knowledge

Knowledge represents the most basic organizational resource; in that it allows organizations to overcome operational problems associated with value creation through better strategic decision-making. However, the knowledge needed to address specific problems is often lacking or dispersed across specialized groups and individuals. From this perspective, integration effectively becomes a process of maintaining reciprocal information flows between different parts of the organization, with technology acting as an important mechanism for facilitating such intra-organizational communication.

Integrated TPM can create several opportunities for businesses by harnessing organizational knowledge.

- As the third-party network grows, administrative burdens expand and sightlines into vendor relationships including 4th/5th/6th parties in the ecosystem may become blocked, reducing visibility into costs and performance as data is stored in various systems and viewed only within a specific business group or process. Integrated TPM consolidates data and reporting without increasing (and often while decreasing) work and headcount. This occurs through a solution that delivers more timely, accurate, and actionable information on third parties and on processes for managing them.
- Lack of coordination among internal TPM functions creates delays, disorganization, and confusion. Although each function could properly execute its role, management could still be left without a grasp of the end-to-end value chain and its performance. This, in turn, has led to a number of significant organizational failures in the recent past. Integrated TPM improves coordination and alignment across all phases of the end-to-end relationship lifecycle, from sourcing through to contract renewal/termination, while improving control and providing a holistic view.

“In recent years, investments made by organizations in IT architecture and software that support data quality and real-time, organization-wide communication are becoming **critical differentiators** to provide organizations a clear competitive edge.

**Some businesses have done a good job in putting together cross-functional teams but have lagged behind in data collaboration, both internally as well as across third-party partners.**”

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**The expanding boundaries of third-party risk management**

For those organizations that have been able to provide the required attention and investment in the area of third-party risk management (TPRM), the evolution of TPRM into a wider discipline could be the next logical step to establish holistic mechanisms to manage all categories of third parties.

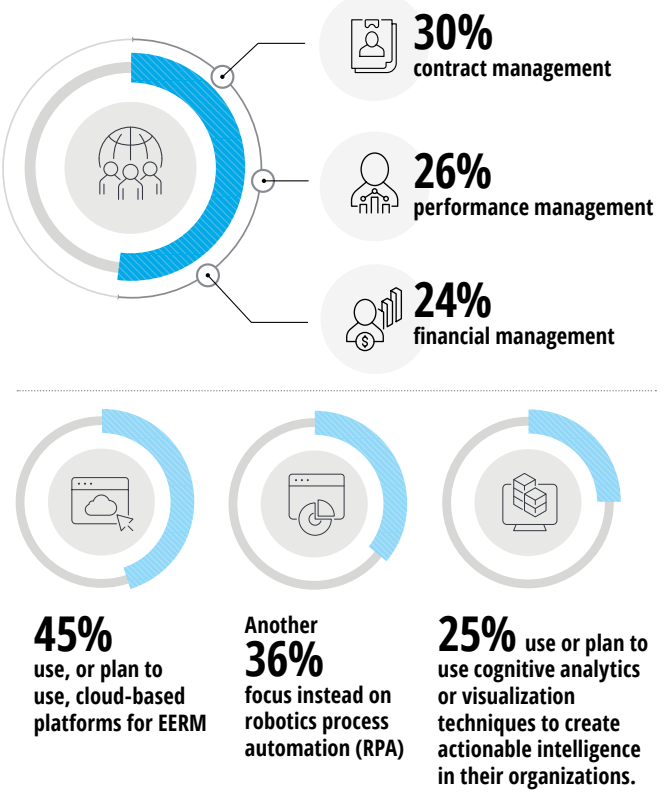
Our TPRM surveys between 2015 and 2019 captured how organizational focus on third-party risk had traditionally been reactive and determined by who was driving the activity. This had typically been procurement teams focused on suppliers and vendors, brand and intellectual property protection functions focused on non-authorized manufacturers, or distribution channels. Such a fragmented approach to third-party risk led to micro-focus on risk areas that interested certain parts of a business or a certain function, for example, operational performance from a supply chain perspective or information security from a corporate security angle.

Broadening third-party risk management into a wider approach started to emerge from 2019 and has started to go beyond risk management to further boost the overall efficiency and effectiveness of third-party relationships. In organizations that are more mature from a risk management perspective, there is a gradual move to start to comprehensively integrate all other inherently related key activities such as contract and finance management or monitoring of financial performance. We believe that organizations will try to increasingly achieve this through centralization, coordination, or integration of these activities, leveraging the common third-party

risk-management infrastructure they have started to establish. This can include common organization structures, processes, technology platforms and people. Alternatively, organizations can better coordinate with central TPM teams providing common guidance, standards, templates, and support to different teams embedded within various business units.

We predict this evolution of a more strategic and broader view of third-party management will continue and be driven by executive leadership and boards who are increasingly ultimately accountable for managing third parties and the related strategic opportunities and risks they create for organizations. The evolution will be enabled by making the additional technology investments described previously. We also believe that the trend for ultimate accountability to travel to the very top of the organization will improve coordination, which, as discussed earlier, could otherwise prove to be a significant challenge. Top-level accountability will make it easier for people in charge of different risks, business unit leaders, functional heads, legal teams, internal audit, and so on, to work together.

**52% of organizations believe that TPRM is turning into a broader TPM concept that includes**



Organizations' highest priorities include enhancing the monitoring of third parties by using emerging technologies, such as real-time ongoing monitoring and risk sensing, to provide actionable intelligence. **More than one in three (35%) say it is one of their top three priorities.**

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# Where is your organization on the journey to integrated TPM?

Despite aspirations to evolve as a digital enterprise, many organizations struggle to seamlessly integrate diverse TPM systems. Such organizations can consider applying an “engagement layer” that leverages user interfaces (UI) and analytics to provide a user experience (UX)-based design to enable interoperability and present a cogent view of their extended enterprise.

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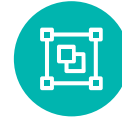
Most organizations are currently in various stages in their journey to evolve as a digital enterprise. Such digital enterprises can efficiently and effectively leverage data and technology to continuously evolve all aspects of its business including what they offer, how they sell or interact with their customers and deliver their end-products, how they procure raw materials and other inputs, processes, and account for them, etc. by innovating and automating (while managing the related risks throughout all these processes). Our research indicates that integration of third-party management processes is a key component of such transformation plans for many.

Our prior research<sup>16</sup> into the area of digital maturity has uncovered a strong connection between digital maturity in organizations and financial performance driven by factors such as:



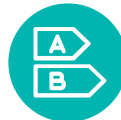
## Data mastery

Aggregating siloed data to increase visibility and efficiency



## Flexible yet secure technical infrastructure

Providing a common platform for diverse systems



## Recalibrated processes

Creating and maintaining rationalized and integrated workflows



## Effective engagement

Linking all areas that manage and monitor the third-party ecosystem

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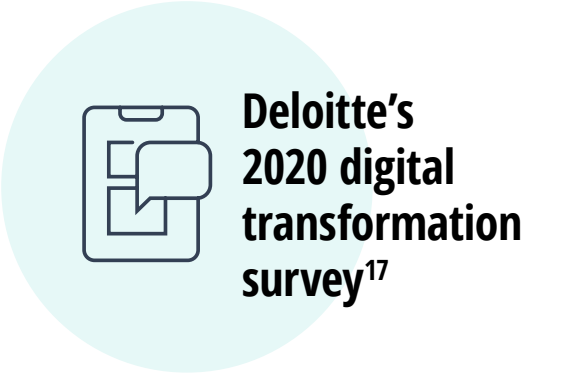
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The role of digital pivots in the integrated TPM transformation journey



Deloitte's 2020 digital transformation survey<sup>17</sup>

reconfirms that most organizations are indeed planning to invest aggressively in such digital transformation efforts, evidenced by a **planned increase in such digital transformation budgets by**

**25%** in 2021 and 2022 in comparison to 2020



Respondents recognize that digital transformation is about more than implementing discrete technologies, but instead it requires developing a broad array of technology-related assets and business capabilities, which we call *digital pivots*, that can help propel an organization along the journey toward becoming a digital enterprise.



These digital pivots include the following:

Digital pivot	Description
Flexible, secure infrastructure	Implementing technology infrastructure that balances security and privacy with the ability to flex capacity according to business demand.
Data mastery	Aggregating, activating, and monetizing siloed, underutilized data by embedding in into products, services, and operations to increase efficiency, revenue growth, and customer engagement.
Digital savvy, open talent networks	Retooling training programs to focus on digital competencies, and staffing teams through flexible, contingent talent models to rapidly access in-demand skill sets and flex the organization's workforce based on business need.
Ecosystem engagement	Working with external business partners including R&D organizations, technology incubators, and startup companies to gain access to resources such as technology, intellectual property, or people to increase the organization's ability to improve, innovative, and grow.
Intelligent workflows	Implementing and continuously recalibrating processes that make the most of both human and technological capabilities to consistently produce positive outcomes and free up resources for higher-value actions.
Unified customer experience	Delivering a seamless customer experience built around a 360-degree view of the customer that is shared company wide so that customer experience coordinated digital and human interactions that are useful, enjoyable, and efficient in immersive, engaging environments.
Business model adaptability	Expanding the organization's array of business models and revenue streams by optimizing each offering to adapt to changing market conditions and argument revenue and profitability.

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## Implications of higher digital maturity in context of TPM

A higher digital maturity comes with several implications:

- Organizations that are more digitally mature—meaning they are deriving greater benefit from digital transformation efforts—are in large part distinguished by their ability to cross-functionally execute a wider array of more digital pivots.
- On average, higher-maturity organizations' digital transformation efforts are twice as broad as those at lower-maturity organizations.
- A higher level of digital maturity is correlated with above-average financial performance. Higher-maturity organizations are nearly three times more likely than lower-maturity organizations to report net profit margins and annual revenue growth that are significantly above the averages in their industry<sup>18</sup>.

These insights related to overall organizational digital maturity also equally apply to integrated TPM. For instance, those organizations that are more advanced in their TPM integration journey can consider a wider array of the TPM components such as sourcing, procurement, risk management, contract life cycle management, ongoing monitoring and other TPM activities, thereby enabling the higher maturity organizations to scope the related improvement projects wider, recognizing the commonalities, linkages and inter-relationships, thereby significantly improving the results of such initiatives in quantitative and qualitative terms (see [next](#) chapter on business case).

## Defining, implementing, and reporting ESG as an example

▶ In recent years, organizations have been called on to enhance their Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) strategies and performance, and many have started to realize the true business power of ESG practices. Businesses are taking inventory of the environmental and social risks across their organizations, and through this evaluation process, they are also starting to look beyond their traditional boundaries to consider third parties. It's through this process that many have discovered that successful implementation of ESG is possible only where organizations have integrated third-party management. Such a holistic, end-to-end view of third parties is an essential prerequisite to address key ESG considerations efficiently and effectively across the entire depth and breadth of organizational activity.

**Successful ESG execution impacts culture, capabilities, and practices that organizations rely on to create, preserve, and realize value. As businesses and value chains grow and**

**become more global and complex, it's often harder to make these positive changes. ESG requires strategy-setting and performance monitoring across a broad range of business processes and functions. These go far beyond traditional organizational boundaries to cover the extended enterprise, which is made up of an ecosystem of all third parties engaged by these organizations. Above all, to successfully demonstrate ESG performance, all parties associated with an organization—from leaders and employees to supply-chain partners and affiliates—need to be committed to making real, impactful changes. To achieve this, organizations require a far higher level of visibility into their relationships with their third-party vendors and also need significant collaboration cutting across traditional organizational divisions such as sourcing, procurement, finance, contracting and risk management teams. The role of technology in achieving this integrated view is critical.**

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### Evolving an integrated TPM Maturity Model

A “maturity model” portrays the degree of formality and optimization of processes related to the discipline in question, usually on a continuum from ad hoc practices, to formally defined steps, to active optimization. In this sense, maturity is also a measure of an organization’s “room for improvement” in a particular discipline. It achieves this objective by presenting maturity continuum, typically consisting of 4-5 levels where the uppermost level is a notional ideal state where processes (and underpinning technology platforms<sup>19</sup>) would be systematically managed by a combination of continuous improvement and optimization.

Such a maturity model can be used as a benchmark for comparison and as an aid to understanding – for example, a comparative assessment of different organizations where there is something in common that can be used as a basis for comparison. In the case of integrated TPM, for example, the basis for comparison would be the extent to which these organizations have been able to develop a holistic and integrated approach to the management of their third-party relationships, which almost invariably needs to be supported by a common technology platform or at least by using an integrated technology architecture.

In line with this thinking, we propose the following maturity model for integrated TPM:

### Integrated TPM Maturity Model



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## Maturity Level 1 of 4 (INITIAL):

At this initial level of maturity, we typically find that TPM processes are strongly embedded in functional domains. Some ad hoc processes are used to cut across these functional siloes, mostly on a reactive rather than a proactive basis when there is a need to look at cross-functional data. However, these processes are not institutionalized but instead based on individual effort. As a result, none of these are standardized or coordinated processes. The organization therefore fails to gain any significant synergies or even ongoing real-time connectivity across constituent base applications related to sourcing, procurement, risk management, contract life-cycle management, ongoing monitoring, etc. presenting a fragmented approach to third-party strategy, portfolio and relationship management and lack of innovation.


### SCENARIO 1


A global Consumer Products organization evaluated its various systems for managing third-party relationships and found that most needed to be replaced as the related technologies were obsolete. Procurement, legal, finance, and accounting independently managed different aspects of these relationships, creating inefficiencies and increasing risks.


At the same time, management had drawn up plans for significant transformation of the related TPM processes. The organization aims to do away with siloes and adopt a fully integrated technology platform that will provide a 360-degree view of the third-party ecosystem. The organization also aims to realize significant synergies across the applications related to sourcing and procurement, risk management, contract lifecycle management, and performance monitoring. Management believes this approach will foster innovation and improve its approach to third-party strategy formulation as well as portfolio and relationship management.


**Under these circumstances, the organization decided to explore the possibility of adopting an integrated end-to-end TPM managed services solution provided by Deloitte as a “big bang” solution going forward.**


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## Maturity Level 2 of 4 (DEVELOPING):

At this second level of maturity, we typically find some evidence of alignment and coordination across specific TPM processes, although these are still not consistently implemented across the entire organization. Efforts to achieve data mastery (for instance, by aggregating siloed data) and any intelligent/integrated workflows often result from stitching together base applications with some external assistance/outsourcing, thereby partially meeting the intended objectives with scattered use of off-the-shelf tools for managing third parties that have some interfaces with each other.

### SCENARIO 2

A traditional Financial Services organization plans to offer a range of innovative services by expanding its network of third-party partners. The organization has continued to invest in technologies to manage sourcing and procurement, risk management, and contract lifecycle management with some outsourcing of the related financial processes. This new strategy and approach require end-to-end visibility into the third-party ecosystem, to realize cost savings and enhance profitability.

The organization has achieved limited alignment and coordination across TPM processes but has not consistently implemented those improvements across functions. Efforts to aggregate siloed data and create integrated workflows have been hobbled by lack of an end-to-end perspective, leading to partially reached objectives. Facing significant cost pressure, the organization aspires to protect its investment in its off-the-shelf tools for managing third parties but needs a consolidated view across all third-party contracts. The organization also suffers lack of visibility into key contractual terms, particularly emerging ESG compliance requirements.

**To achieve “quick wins,” management sought external assistance to implement an incremental approach to integrating sourcing, procurement, and spend management systems, and contracting and contract management processes supported by process improvements achieved through advanced UX and analytics. Management sees this as the first step in bringing other relevant areas onto the same platform.**

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### Maturity Level 3 of 4 (INTEGRATED):

TPM processes are aligned and coordinated across the entire organization with mature capabilities to achieve data mastery by aggregating siloed data and related systems. This also results in intelligent and integrated workflows that continuously recalibrate the underlying processes with a judicious balance of human and technological capabilities, not only achieving positive outcomes consistently but also freeing up resources for higher-value actions.

## SCENARIO 3

A North American global Life Sciences organization has already outsourced third-party risk management to Deloitte. However, further integration of procurement, sourcing, legal, contracting, and monitoring mechanisms is needed to eliminate process duplication and thus improve efficiency and effectiveness. While some integration among these systems exists, it was achieved a few years earlier using technology that stitched them together in elementary ways, for example, through batch processes run at various time intervals.

That solution did not leverage modern UX design techniques that enable an analytics layer to provide a holistic view across the organization in real-time. Lack of real-time updates has inhibited the adoption of online alerts and notifications, leaving the organization without a single source of truth on which to base strategic decisions.

**At the time of writing this paper, this organization was considering engaging Deloitte to develop an “engagement layer” using advanced UX and analytics technologies that covers all related systems and enables them to operate seamlessly as a unified TPM platform. This integration allowed the organization to recalibrate and realize additional efficiencies and cost savings.**

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## Maturity Level 4 of 4 (OPTIMIZED):

In addition to being integrated, optimized TPM focuses on continually improving process performance through both incremental and innovative technological improvements. Quantitative process-improvement objectives for the organization are established, continually revised to reflect changing business objectives, and used as criteria in managing process improvement. Optimizing processes that are nimble, adaptable, and innovative depends on appropriate talent that is aligned with the business values and objectives of the organization.

### SCENARIO 4

A European technology company has a mature TPM platform using customized software developed by a third-party. This organization is experiencing unprecedented growth, stretching and stressing its technology infrastructure and staff and its methods of managing third-party relationships. The organization seeks a full-scale, end-to-end TPM managed services solution covering sourcing, procurement, third-party contract and risk management, and ongoing monitoring of third-party performance. It is also seeking a 24/7/365 service capability with significant resourcing that it has been unable to obtain on its own in the marketplace.

**The organization decided to bring the entire end-to-end third-party management process under a common managed services platform to create synergies by increasing efficiency and effectiveness and providing much-needed agility to respond to change.**

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Addressing organizational challenges along the TPM maturity journey

As organizations increase their maturity, more and more organizational challenges get addressed along the journey, as shown in figure 4. Connecting systems and processes starts to result in increasing operational efficiency, although the full benefits are likely to be achieved when integration is complete and enables continuous improvement and optimization.

Advancement on this maturity journey also progressively builds up a complete end-to-end view of organizational third-party relationships with integrated data sets, while eliminating duplication between functionally siloed teams. Lastly, activities such as real-time tracking, monitoring, and controlling not only enhances the quality of risk management processes but also eliminates value leakages, for instance, by enabling cost and revenue recovery mechanisms.<sup>20</sup>

Figure 4. Addressing organizational challenges along the TPM maturity journey

	Initial	Developing	Intergrated	Optimized
 <b>Multiple processes and technologies</b> – Disconnected systems and processes lead to operational inefficiency, as well as challenges to enable real-time assurance or a 360° view of a third party.	●	●	●	●
 <b>Duplication of effort due to no single source of truth</b> – Costs and resources are duplicated across the multiple processes and technologies in place, leading to cost and timeframe inefficiency.	●	●	●	●
 <b>Manual performance and financial monitoring</b> – Financial and performance metrics are often tracked manually outside of the various technologies in place, which results in a lack of visibility and control over spend.	●	●	●	●
 <b>Loss of contract value</b> – Estimated 9% of contractual spend is lost, which is partly due to the lack of connected data available across vendor management activities.	●	●	●	●
 <b>Lack of visibility of supply chain</b> – There is an inability to understand the extended supply chain beyond tier 1 without a detailed effort to gather the information from first tier third parties, leading to exposure across several dimensions to include performance, compliance and sustainability.	●	●	●	●
 <b>Disparate vendor datasets</b> – As a result of multiple datasets in place there is a lack of ability to understand vendor risk and performance and gain clear insight for strategic management of the supply chain. Organizations struggle to understand how they are performing across their Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) and Supplier Diversity initiatives.	●	●	●	●

- Organizations likely to face significant challenges in these areas
- Organizations likely to be moderately challenged in these areas
- Organizations likely to have addressed these challenges by increasing their TPM maturity levels.

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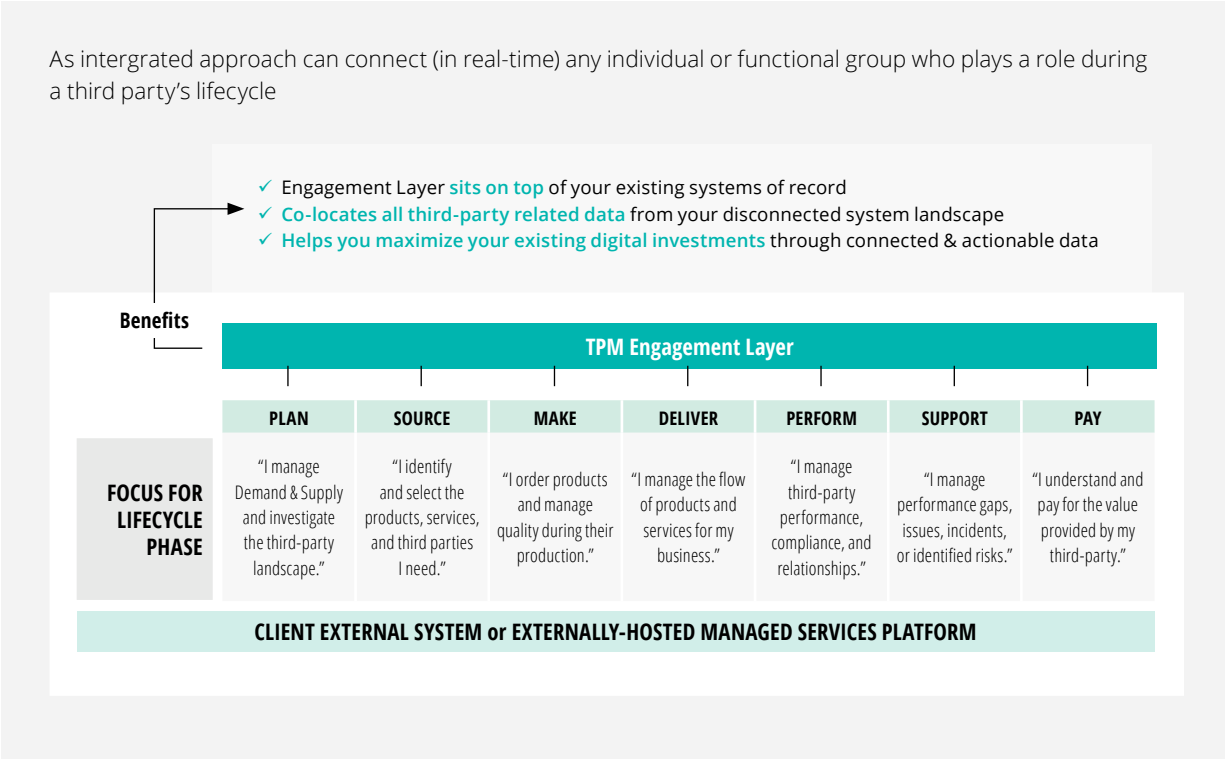


Leveraging technology smartly to enhance maturity

It is interesting to note that many organizations get to the “developing” stage, but then struggle to advance further in being able to integrate their TPM systems. To accelerate the integration of TPM processes and data from supporting systems, Deloitte can assist organizations who have already moved up to the “developing” stage to smartly apply an “engagement layer”—leveraging User Interfaces (UI) and analytics to provide a User Experience (UX)-based design that enables interoperability and creates a cogent view of the third-party ecosystem.

This solution consolidates third-party data drawn from existing TPM systems and, when useful, from external sources. It then applies analytics to that data to generate actionable insights and support strategic decision making (see figure 5). Such a solution can connect disparate software and platforms as well as support any individual or function with a role in any aspect of the third-party lifecycle as well as senior executives with broad responsibility for enterprise growth and value. This “engagement layer” sits on top of existing systems and thus protects the organization’s prior technology investments. Such an integrated approach can then be further enhanced by complementing it with a managed services platform where appropriate.

Figure 5. Connecting up disparate solutions



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As an organization's extended enterprise grows in terms of size, spend, and strategic importance, the business case for integrating TPM becomes stronger, including several financial and non-financial benefits that range from cost-reduction and efficiency improvements on the one hand, to the ability to operate as an agile yet responsible business on the other.

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Our research over the last six years has continued to demonstrate that end-to-end alignment across functional areas comes with several financial as well as non-financial benefits ranging from significant cost-reduction and shareholder value enhancements to being more responsive to changes in the external environment and ability to operate and be perceived as a more responsible business. As always, the benefits from the whole will be greater than the sum of its parts. There is no doubt that technology and digitization will lie at the very heart of this transformational journey at a time when the availability of managed services technology platforms from trusted partners provide an attractive strategic option to organizational leadership to accelerate this transition.

“If you are looking to invest in companies with a durable competitive advantage, then analysis of supply-chain dynamics would be a good place to start. Supply chain visibility is among the top strategic priorities for companies across the globe, yet it is surprising how unprepared many of them are.”<sup>21</sup>

INVESTORS' CHRONICLE, UK

Our research found that the value proposition from integrated TPM comes from the following four areas shown in figure 6:

Figure 6. The value proposition from integrated TPM



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However, success in exploiting this value proposition requires certain changes to the organizational approach and mindset to reinforce the changing paradigm.

### Three key mindset changes to maximize the value proposition from integrated TPM

As noted earlier in this paper, third-party ecosystems are playing an increasingly important role in defining the competitive positioning for organizations and ultimately their success in the marketplace. As a result, the opportunities from integrated TPM continue to increase for those who have made this investment over the years. However, there are also many organizations that remain unclear about some of these growing areas of opportunity and the business benefits they can potentially provide. This lack of clarity unfortunately means that the latter find it difficult to optimize the management of their third parties in response to the rapidly changing dynamics of the marketplace.

▶ **Three key mindset changes** that organizations need to make in order to reap the enhanced benefits of integrated TPM are set out below:

1

**From a narrower focus on cost savings to thinking more broadly about profitable growth delivered with a customer-centric approach:**

In recent years, when economic circumstances have often been challenging, executives have demanded cost reduction and savings throughout their organizations. Third-party managers have responded to these demands by taking the lead in delivering what collectively amounts to billions of dollars of savings in inventories, freight costs, procurement and other costs associated with logistics. Though CFOs no longer view cost reduction as their number one goal—their focus having moved towards the creation of profitable growth—those who manage third-party relationships such as supply chain and logistics managers are yet to fully embrace this changing mindset and mobilize themselves in support of this new goal.

2

**From passive demand forecasting to actively improving the supply response:** For most companies, forecasting—the analysis of current and historical data to determine future market trends—is a familiar activity that remains extremely important in enabling them to achieve their strategic goals. Traditionally, this has generally been applied to demand patterns in order to define customers’ potential future behavior with a focus on shortening the time horizon as far as possible so that they can make earlier and more accurate predictions.

In an integrated TPM context, it has become clear that forecasting should not focus solely on predicting demand as it has often done in the past. Instead, enterprises need to apply more accurate forecasting techniques to their supply response. In this way they will be able to position themselves better to cope with the increasingly complex, dynamic, and global markets in which they must operate. This activity should also shift away from centralized and automatic algorithm-based planning and forecasting towards an increasingly collaborative approach both within the traditional frontiers of the organizations on a cross-functional basis as well as external knowledge on market conditions.

3

**Redefining visibility in third-party networks** enables enterprises to build competitive advantage by enabling them to determine the strategic advantages and disadvantages of many possible actions that might shape their final offering to their customers. These actions include not only activities within a company, but also the external activities of distribution and disposal/return which occur at the level of the supplier or consumer.

Greater visibility in the supply chain makes it easier for an organization to better understand which segments, distribution channels, price points, product differentiation, selling propositions and value chain configurations—such as the linkages between activities and processes that occur within and outside the company—will yield the greatest increase in competitive advantage. Traditionally, organizations have focused primarily on enhancing end-to-end product visibility for better decision-making. However, a more integrated approach with end-to-end process visibility, third-party partner visibility, as well as profit visibility (i.e., being able to measure the impact of supply chain operations on profitability, using an appropriate set of indicators on an end-to-end basis) can significantly enhance the overall decision-making process.

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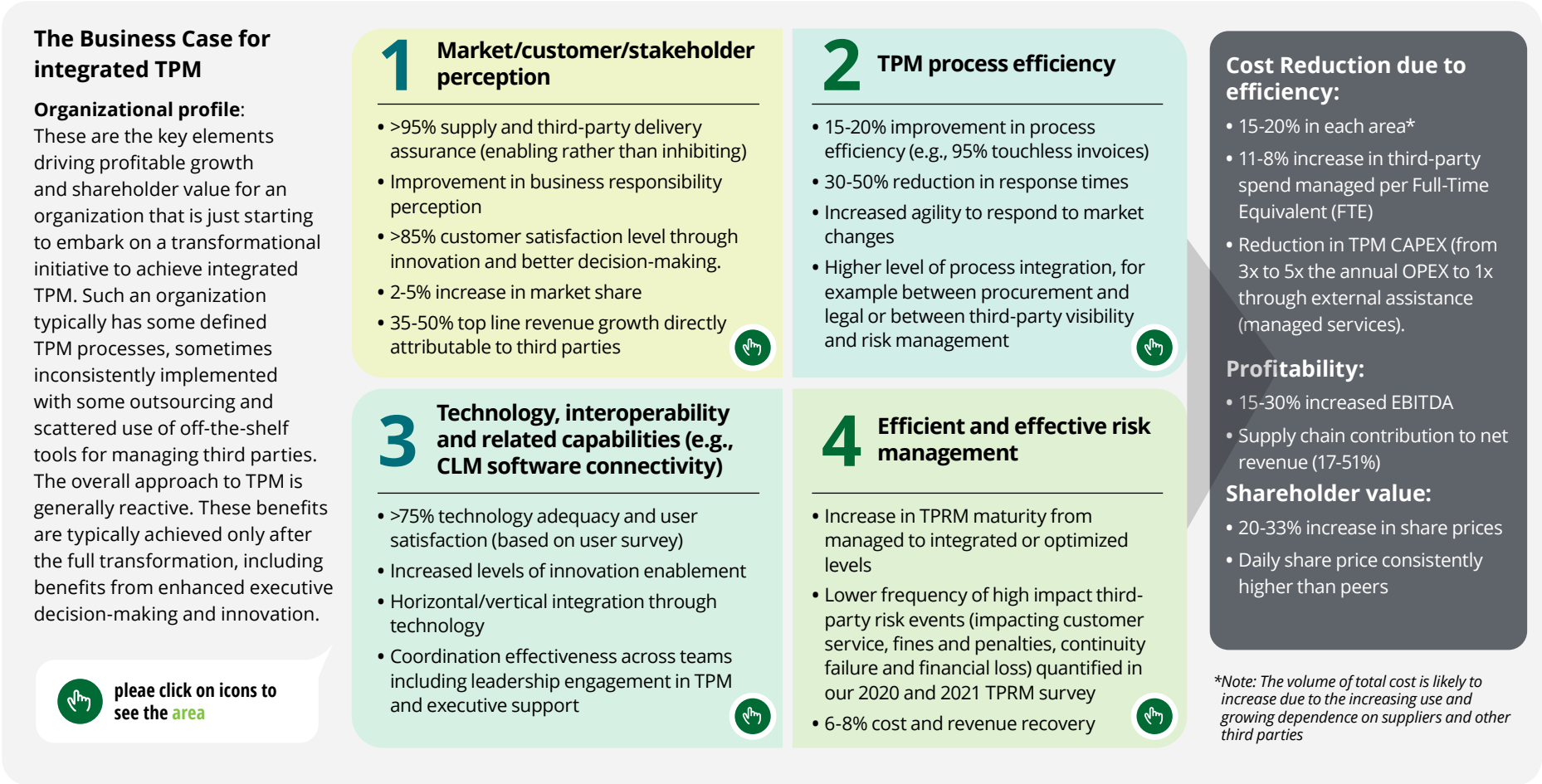
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Translating the rewards from integrated TPM to tangible financial statement results

Our research identified four categories of benefits from an integrated approach to TPM that translate into tangible results in financial statements as summarized below.

Figure 7. Measuring and realizing the value from integrated TPM



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As indicated in the foreword to this paper, organizations that adopt an integrated approach and leverage external assistance where appropriate, for instance through managed services solutions, can aim to achieve:

**15-25%**

cost savings in each process area such as sourcing and procurement, financial processing, risk management, contract and legal management, illumination, and visibility of the supply chain, etc.



**11-18%**

increase in third-party spend managed per Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) reflecting ability to better leverage organizational talent involved in these tasks.



**15-30%**

additional contribution to net revenue from supply chain improvement initiatives.



**20-33%**

increase in EBITDA and share price (upon completion of the entire transformation).



**Several other non-financial benefits including agility in responding to the external environment and to do so as a responsible business.**

*\*Note: The volume of total cost is likely to increase due to the increasing use and growing dependence on suppliers and other third parties*

see the **four areas**

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Each of the four areas that our research identifies as key contributors to achieving these overall benefits are discussed in further detail.

## 1 Market/customer/stakeholder perception



The shifting focus of the chief finance officer (CFO) from the nuts and bolts of the finance function to ensuring profitable growth has created the potential opportunity for integrated third-party management to emerge as the key front-office lever to drive increased net revenue.

**Smarter business decisions made on the back of end-to-end data available from integrated TPM can ensure that the right product or service is delivered to the right customer at the right time and price, in the right condition and packaging, in the right quantity, with the right documentation.**

This in turn increases the perception of such organizations as flexible, responsive, and reliable in addition to improving customer satisfaction levels.

Higher top line and margins are also increasingly being derived after a product is shipped. Service and

support, therefore, are becoming just as important as the product itself. If integrated TPM is to be at the heart of a company's profitable sales and support processes, then it must ensure that it does not falter or fail in the face of the demands placed upon it.

Additionally, the successful definition, implementation and reporting of ESG initiatives, as described earlier, can enhance organizational perception as a responsible business.

Demand manifests itself through multiple third-party channels, such as online marketplaces, as well as through partnerships, in addition to the more traditional retailers, distributors and sales agents. In each of these channels, holistic third-party and supply chain management can be a critical element in supporting the sales of goods or services, and the exchange of information and funds.

The primary benchmarks and measures that can be used for measuring this typically include the following:

- a Improved customer delivery assurance, often more than **95%** (right product at the right time at the right price)
- b Increased customer satisfaction levels (often more than **85%**) and improved perception as a responsible business (measured through customer surveys)
- c **2-5%** growth in market share resulting in **35-50%** top line revenue growth through innovation improved decision making and effective management of third parties on the "sales side" such as distributors, retailers, and sales agents

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## 2 TPM process efficiencies on an end-to-end basis in the supply chain and third-party network



Management researchers have long acknowledged the importance of innovatively gaining efficiencies on an end-to-end basis in organizational supply chains and third-party networks. In fact, some researchers even recognize that **the real competition today is not amongst these organizations but rather their supply chains and how efficiently and effectively they are managed. Such “strategic” efforts to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of supply chain activities and processes depend heavily on supply chain integration, also known as “supply chain cooperation”<sup>22</sup> and “supply chain collaboration”<sup>23</sup>.**

This, in turn, requires integration of processes underpinned by common, or at least compatible, technology considerations, not only internally within

an organization but also externally across suppliers and customers<sup>24,25</sup>. Such an integrated environment is an important pre-requisite to fuel innovation.

More often than not, technology is a significant catalyst to such innovation initiatives, particularly in case of process innovation where the highest efficiencies are gained by leveraging connected technology platforms that significantly reduce administrative burdens associated with manual or semi-automated processes, eliminate duplication while ensuring cross-functional considerations of data relevant for critical business decisions on a real-time basis and in a coordinated manner. It is in this way that innovation has a positive mediating effect between supply chain or integrated TPM initiatives on the one hand and organizational financial results on the other<sup>26</sup>.

The primary benchmarks and measures that can be used for measuring this typically include the following:

- a **15-20%** improvement in overall efficiency monitored through various other individual metrics (e.g., more than **95%** touchless invoices, indicating efficiencies achieved through higher levels of automation on an end-to-end basis)
- b **30-50%** reduction in response times, implying higher agility (see also what high performing TPM teams do differently in chapter 1)
- c **Higher level of process integration between related functions** such as procurement, contract management and legal processes

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### 3 Technology, interoperability, and related capabilities



Gartner, IDC, and Forrester all predict that 80% of companies will have advanced on their journey to digital transformation by 2021, yet only the most progressive companies are leading the way to digital transformation for integrated supply chain and third-party management. The lack of focus on such technology enablement, interoperability, and related capabilities, in turn, means that they are missing out on the opportunities discussed earlier from end-to-end visibility, improved efficiency, cost savings, and better management of risk.

Experts believe that global supply chains and third-party networks represent the top area that's particularly ripe for digitization. Gartner, in its recent publication entitled "Three-Step Plan for Supply Chain Digital Transformation" (2020) advocates the following three steps that large global organizations with complex third-party networks and supply chains should embrace:

1. **Embed supply chain and third-party management in the organizational digital ecosystem.** Such an ecosystem is a dynamic network of entities (people, businesses, and things) interacting with each other through real-time integrated solutions to create and exchange sustainable value. These technologies can also

inform decision making and drive efficiencies across the supply chain ecosystem by sharing information, blurring the boundaries between internal and external partners to the organization.

2. **Progressively increase levels of automation while managing digital risks.** Automation of processes has been a characteristic of supply chains for decades. With the introduction and pervasiveness of robotics process automation (RPA) and artificial intelligence (AI), supply chains can introduce autonomous processes into their functions that augment—not replace—people. AI is expected to be able to progressively make a range of complex decisions, more autonomously (e.g., better predict demand, set inventory levels, reroute transportation, redesign the supply and distribution network).
3. **Continuous improvement by identifying and addressing gaps and challenges.** This includes obstacles or vulnerabilities in their organization's response to the challenge of digital business and the delivery of customer value. Synchronizing physical capabilities with digital ones can build resiliency in supply chains.

The primary benchmarks and measures that can be used for measuring this typically include the following:

- a More than **75%** technology adequacy and user satisfaction (measured through user satisfaction surveys)
- b Increased levels of innovation enablement
- c Coordination effectiveness across teams including leadership engagement in TPM-related decisions and executive advocacy

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## 4 Efficient and effective third-party risk management



As indicated earlier in chapter 2 of this paper, the increasing complexity of the third-party risk landscape over the last two years has driven third-party risk managers go beyond those activities that have been traditionally badged as core risk management activities (e.g., risk identification, due diligence, remediation, monitoring, etc.) to further boost the overall efficiency and effectiveness of third-party relationships.

**In organizations that are more mature from a risk management perspective, there is a gradual move to start to comprehensively integrate all other inherently related key activities such as contract and finance management or monitoring of financial performance.** We believe that organizations will try to increasingly achieve this through centralization, coordination, or integration of these activities,

leveraging the common third-party risk-management infrastructure they have started to establish. This can include common organization structures, processes, technology platforms and people. Alternatively, organizations can better coordinate with central TPM teams providing common guidance, standards, templates, and support to different teams embedded within various business units.

The evolution will be enabled by enhancing organizational maturity related to TPM as described previously. With ultimate accountability for TPM moving to the very top of many organizations, the collaboration and coordination across functional teams (e.g., people in charge of different third-party processes and risks, business unit leaders, functional heads, legal teams, internal audit, etc.) is likely to improve, which could otherwise prove to be a significant challenge for integrated TPM.

The primary benchmarks and measures that can be used for measuring this typically include the following:

- a **Increase in levels of TPM maturity on maturity scale defined in chapter 3**
- b **Reduction in number and proportion of third-party incidents**
- c **6-8% cost and revenue recovery to recover excess payments to “buy side” third parties and additional revenue recovery from “sell side” third parties.**

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A key choice for organizations is whether they would like to implement an incremental or phased manner by migrating one or two TPM components/processes at a time to a common technology platform (i.e., “land and expand”) or whether they would like to do so all together (“big bang”).

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Depending on the organization and its maturity, needs, and resources, either an incremental or a fully integrated approach can hold benefits.

### OPTION A: Achieving quick wins through a “land and expand” (incremental) approach

A phased approach provides organizations the ability to deploy TPM modules based on need and priority to get started and chart next steps.

The *traditional thinking* in this regard has been to start with the relatively simpler processes such as payment processing (that are not as mission critical as strategic sourcing or legal and contract management) first so that there is room to learn from experience and be able to do this more efficiently and effectively with the more complex, strategic, or critical processes that present a higher number of decision points.

However, our more recent research experience indicates that *this thinking has been challenged during the pandemic which forced organizations to address critical processes with priority* rather than having the luxury of time to go with the traditional approach of being able to experiment with the simpler processes first. For instance, an organization might start with moving their relatively more complex procurement processes along with the related contracting and legal processes that currently present the highest pain points for the organization and may therefore have the highest potential for quick wins to be realized in these two areas. Alternatively, the relatively more mature risk

management teams may want to start by migrating these processes to a common platform, alongside related processes such as illumination processes which provide greater visibility on their suppliers and other third parties, as another example.

It should be acknowledged that two or more related components or processes can be grouped together for phased migration (as shown by the earlier examples), thereby providing a middle path between the big bang and the traditional incremental approach. Even with such a phased approach in their journey to embracing integrated TPM, organizations can still leverage their global delivery centers and carry out active third-party management of these TPM processes that have been selected for migration.

### OPTION B: Adopting a “big bang” (fully integrated) approach

Considering all relevant TPM components or processes (all together at the same time) to achieve a broader and more integrated approach to TPM often results in a major transformation project for the organization, creating significant ambiguity as well as pressure on organizational staff responsible for managing third-party relationships in being able to achieve the desired project outcomes. However, some organizations would still prefer to adopt this approach to achieve a full 360-degree view of their third-party ecosystem at the end of such a project, enabled by the migration of all TPM modules and processes to a fully integrated technology platform which is either hosted in-house or in the form of an externally provided managed services solution. This, in turn, provides them the ability to connect with any source

system relevant to TPM to generate a single version of the truth regarding their third parties.

### Making an informed choice

Our client conversations and experience from client engagements indicate that organizational ability to adopt simpler migration strategies such as being able to:

- **“Retain”** existing systems that are supported by compatible technology architecture; or
- **“Lift and shift”** existing systems to be able to re-host them without significant changes; or at best
- **“Lift, tinker and shift”** (re-platform them with minimal additional effort)

drives an organization to consider a big bang approach.

However, if more complex alternatives to migration need to be resorted to, for instance **“shop and drop”** (repurchase) or **“re-architect”** existing solutions, the organizational thinking tends to move towards phased implementations. In such cases, these organizations could consider prioritizing those **specific areas to move to the integrated platform first that involve simpler migration strategies.**

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Figure 8. Incremental vs. fully-integrated approach

	OPTION A	OPTION B
CONSIDERATION	INCREMENTAL	FULLY INTEGRATED
<b>Objectives</b>	Early quick wins realized through selected TPM services	360° view of the third-party ecosystem
	A subset of services to address high priority pain points	An end-to-end managed services solution
<b>Technology</b>	Activation of selected elements of a third-party technology platform	Adoption of a fully integrated technology platform for TPM managed services
<b>Operational</b>	Global delivery centers and active third-party management of selected TPM processes	Global delivery centers supporting all TPM processes and active management of third parties
<b>Key benefits</b>	Ability to deploy TPM modules based on need and priority to get started and chart next steps	Ability to connect with any source system to generate a single version of the truth regarding third parties

**Flexible Deloitte TPM service delivery options**

In keeping with these options available, our services to help organizations adopt a fully integrated approach to TPM can be delivered on a customized basis to:

- a. Support one, two or more TPM processes
- b. Provide an end-to-end managed service solution
- c. Operate as a hybrid solution (i.e., using a combination of existing inhouse systems and a managed services or technology platform)

Each pathway is scalable upward or downward as organizational needs and processes evolve, with resources expanding or contracting with changes in the third-party network.

**More rewards are realized in the advanced stages of each journey, not near the beginning.** In a phased implementation scenario, there will be further prizes in the form of innovation, automation, and executive performance indicators, etc. as further TPM components have been successfully migrated to the common platform.

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### What a good target operating model (TOM) for integrated TPM looks like

#### Moving towards more centralized TPM operating models

Our experience indicates that TOMs of those organizations that have generally been more successful than others in embracing integrated TPM have implemented or are in the process of moving to a more centralized operating model.

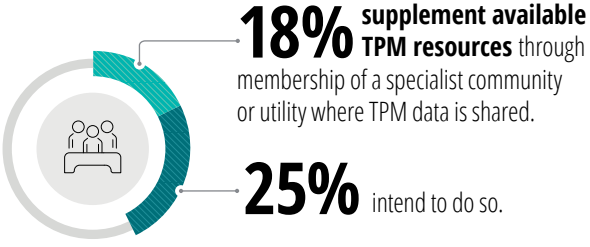
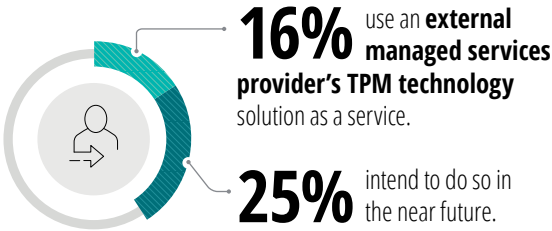
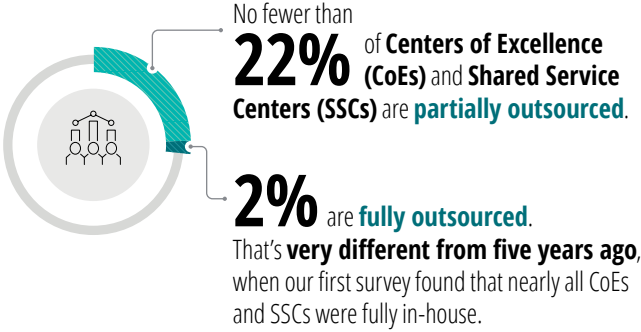
Such centralized TOMs are increasingly being led by a dedicated TPM team (i.e., all key roles assigned to specific individuals with appropriate skills) and facilitated by upgraded third-party management processes and technologies covering all relevant third-party types and risk domains.

#### Leveraging external assistance (including managed service solutions) for TPM effectively

Over the last two years, such TOMs are increasingly being supported by external assistance for the transformation (design and implementation) as well as certain aspects of day-to-day execution of TPM activities based on where the highest pain points for the organization reside, often also presenting the highest opportunities for improvement.



**Our annual third-party surveys continue to reconfirm how a rising number of organizations embrace external support to improve their TPM capability.**



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We believe such external support for improving organizational TPM programs will continue to be judicious going forward. This will include assistance with risk intelligence, utility models, and managed services in addition to engaging with trusted advisors to recover and thrive, following the pandemic.

External providers can often deploy trained workers and specialist technology faster to address organizational TPM challenges more efficiently and effectively. They have the skills and the people to do so. In parallel, the interest in more generic community and utility models will continue to rise, but the adoption rate may remain slower for some time until organizations are convinced that these models can fully address their specific requirements.

We believe the growing use of technology-based managed services models and utilities will drastically reduce TPM capital costs, and to a lesser extent operating costs, while improving the quality and rigor of risk-management efforts. Organizations will prefer providers of managed services solutions that have a trusted brand and operate globally to be able to serve them across the breadth of their global third-party ecosystem.

### The ongoing evolution of managed service delivery for TPM

Our research indicates that TPM processes are being revolutionized by disruptive shifts in market. Organizations must think differently, organize differently, and work differently to respond to highly integrated market disruptors. The traditional mode of insourcing all talent and technology can sometimes provide cost advantages, but also limits speed and agility—including the ability to rapidly respond to regulatory shifts and address emerging skill, resource, and/or ecosystem needs. The common challenges with insourcing include:

- New opportunities and/or disruptive technologies are often not well understood
- Slower adjustments to shifts in market trends and regulatory requirements
- Staff are often focused on legacy technology (possessing out-of-date skills and lacking the new skills)
- Existing approaches are typically not service oriented, not responsive, and not adaptive to the business
- Lack of speed exists in responsiveness and delivery of services

There are many supply chain technologies on the market, and it gets increasingly difficult for organizations to decide which technologies they need to navigate their respective shifts and seize competitive advantage. Organizations that continuously evaluate supply chain technology innovations will be better prepared to incorporate new technology in their long-term strategy.<sup>27</sup>

**GARTNER, THE CSCO'S GUIDE TO SUPPLY CHAIN TECHNOLOGY INNOVATIONS**

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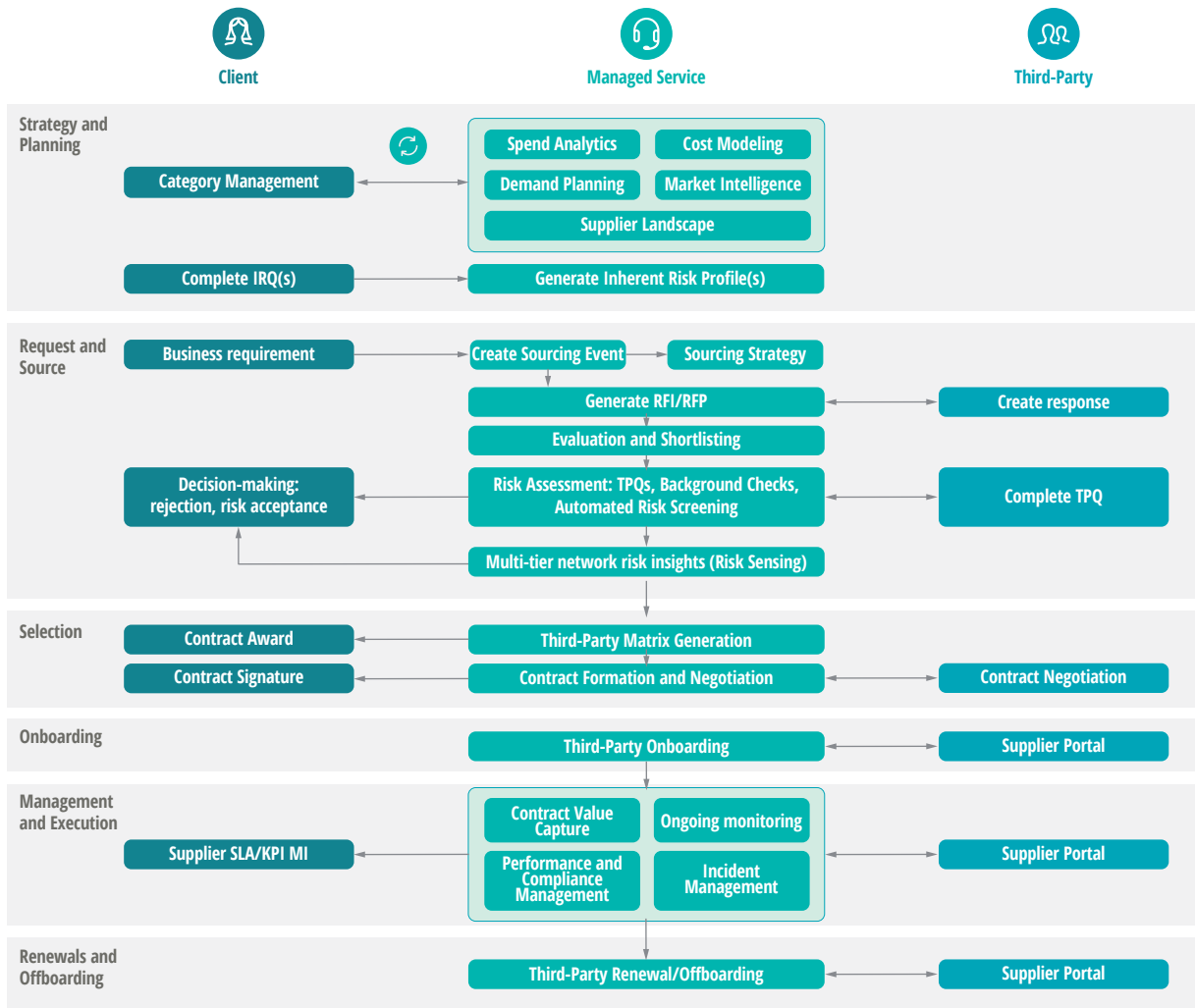


Deloitte’s managed service solutions, for instance, enable organizations to take advantage of disruptive solutions [such as cloud technologies, robotics process automation (RPA) and artificial intelligence (AI)] that are challenging traditional methods. When executed well this can deliver competitive advantage by transforming the way these organizations operate. This leads to better performance, improved speed to market, and increased innovation.

This is particularly relevant in an environment where shifts to more dynamic business models demand more flexible organizational structures and a reduction in long term investments involving capital expenditure (CAPEX). As a result, organizations are rapidly replacing traditional fixed term, fixed scope partnerships that are often associated with sunk costs with flexible consumption, unit, or volume-based constructs that managed services platforms can provide (see example of end-to-end managed services delivery in figure 9).

At the same time, the ever-changing business environment demands refreshed priorities and new engagement models. While some organizations continue to be focused strictly on cost reduction, other organizations are looking for self-funding models where savings achieved by leveraging external expertise are automatically directed to transformation, creating new revenue sources, or acquiring customers. And all this is happening at a time when market competition and new entrants are raising the stakes. This, in turn, makes the opportunity to benefit from real-time decision-making, leveraging diverse yet interconnected analytical insights, even more attractive for organizations to continually enhance their competitive advantage. This is also where an end-to-end TPM managed services solution that bundles expertise with emerging automation technology can help (figure 9).

Figure 9. End-to-end TPM Managed Services Delivery example



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**In addition to assisting with technology integration, our four core services can help organizations to unlock significant value residing in specific areas, potentially on a common managed-services platform:**

- **Spend Management as a Service (SMaaS)**, which enables source-to-contract (S2C) process design and improvement and procure-to-pay (P2P) processes that enhance visibility and control over spend across the third-party network and the lifecycle of transactions and contractual relationships.
- **Legal & Commercial Services**, which deliver full contracting support as our lawyers and legal, business, and process specialists, working with you and other providers in your ecosystem, optimize the value of your legal spend through negotiation, review, drafting, remediation, and renewal of contracts across the relationship lifecycle.
- **TPRM-Managed Services**, which provide third-party screening, background checks, on-site and remote inspections, and ongoing monitoring of risks and risk events to provide consistency and high quality while freeing internal resources for more strategic initiatives.
- **Supplier Mapping**, which illuminates the flow of services and products across the value chain to enable validation of the network, allocation of costs, and mitigation of risks to boost the agility and resilience of the supply chain and the effectiveness of inventory and cost controls and category management.

**In addition to assisting organizations with implementing an integrated approach, Deloitte can bring value to various TPM components and processes.**

**Why Deloitte?**

Virtually all organizations require external resources to operationalize this approach to TPM on either an incremental or a fully integrated basis. Most also require expertise and supporting technologies that they would not find economically feasible to acquire, update, and maintain. In addition, an external catalyst can usually more efficiently drive an integrated TPM initiative and balance the needs of the diverse functions involved in TPM processes. Deloitte offers a strong record of proven performance in TPM service capabilities including procurement, contracting, supply chain management, contract lifecycle management, supporting technology, and managed services delivery. We have developed our services based on deep field experience and our continual research among procurement, supply chain, legal, risk, and other senior management executives, and board members. **Research firm Gartner has named Deloitte a leader among data analytics and service providers for the seventh time in a row. Deloitte was highly positioned for its completeness of vision and ability to execute.**

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Figure 10. The value Deloitte brings to TPM processes

Helping management establish a **charter** and **vision**, and the **vendor portfolio strategy** most appropriate. Highly skilled in coordinating the **Executive Governance and Relationship Management** (including Executive Performance Indicators)

Access to **17,000 risk practitioners** to improve the health of an organization's TPRM risk profile. Using **industry leading technology** to continuously monitor third parties, using **advanced analytics and artificial intelligence** from data harvested from the internet and proprietary sources

**Mapping and visibility of third-party networks and risk management**, identifying areas for improvement/efficiency, reducing the chances of disruption, while maintaining **compliance and regulation**. This enables the organization to stay **competitive**

Monitoring of third-party **performance to contractual obligations** such as SLAs and KPIs. Ensuring adherence to operational governance, using **insight** to identify potential issues



A complete S2C solution, leveraging **cross industry** and category management expertise to achieve best price and deal for the business. Working with the organization to achieve **cost base reductions**, driving **efficiencies** and assist strategic sourcing

**Transformation, streamlining and centralization** of the Accounts Payable activity to improve payments to third parties, providing organizations with **control and visibility** over the life cycle of a transaction

**Contract management specialists**, operating from over 80 countries, provide **end-to-end contract** intake, triage, drafting, negotiation, and post-signature legal and commercial obligations

Providing new ways of **innovating** and achieving **automation** through a **fully integrated managed service**. Finding efficiencies in the operating model, and helping the organization **avoid bottlenecks**, while **improving communication** though the entire workflow

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Kristian Park is global leader for Extended Enterprise at Deloitte. Based in the UK, Kristian works with his clients to develop governance framework to identify and manage all types of third-party risk. He looks at both process and technology solutions, performs inspections of third-party business partners on his clients' behalf, and accesses third-party compliance with contractual terms and conditions, Kristian is also responsible for Deloitte UK's software asset management and software licensing obligations to generate efficiencies and savings.

He has experience in a variety of industry sectors including life science, financial services, energy and resources, sport, technology, media, and consumer & industrial products.



**Dr. Sanjoy Sen**  
Head of Research and Eminence,  
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Sanjoy Sen is the global head of research for Extended Enterprise at Deloitte. He also holds the honorary title of senior fellow in strategy and governance in the school of business and economics at Loughborough University (UK). Sanjoy's pioneering research and thought leadership in the area of third-party management has earned him a doctorate from Aston University (UK) in 2019 and the prestigious global research impact prize awarded by the Association of MBAs (AMBA) in 2021. Since 2014, Sanjoy's work has been cited in various academic and professional journals including the *Academy of Management* and *Wall Street Journal* and other frontline newspapers.

Sanjoy has extensive experience advising boards, senior leadership, heads of risk, and internal audit on strategic governance and risk management of the extended enterprise, outsourcing, and shared services. He is a chartered accountant (FCA), cost and management accountant, and certified information systems auditor (CISA) with over 30 years of experience, including 17 years of partner-level experience at Deloitte and another Big Four firm.

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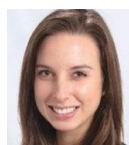
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## Broadening the frame

The case for integrated third-party management (TPM)



Managing third parties—  
the second most valuable  
organizational asset



Siloed management or  
integrated value creation?



Where is your organization on  
the journey to integrated TPM?



The business case for  
transformation



Implementation choices and  
next steps



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