



# How Companies Are Benefitting from mInventory from Innovapptive

The fact that supply chain management is a critical part of the global economy has been highlighted by the current pandemic. Bustling warehouses full of an ever-expanding array of materials cover the globe and are a critical part of the supply chain in every sector including, retail, automotive, oil, mining, high tech, etc. Materials in warehouses need to be controlled, tracked, and moved efficiently across the globe from raw material source, through manufacturing, to the final customer. Without superb inventory management, bottlenecks are created, shipments are delayed, and visibility is lost, reducing customer service and driving up costs.

Navigating this global pandemic has taught us that supply chain management is no small challenge, and the numbers tell a concerning story. According to a survey from RetailNext,

in 2020 alone, [28 percent of supply chain operators](#) reported shortages and out-of-stocks that halted production and business. That translates into serious business implications and a big impact on bottom lines the world over.

When examining the challenges inherent in warehouse and inventory management, we see a huge role for digital solutions that are both holistic and user-friendly for your frontline workers. That's why now is the time to find solutions that minimize or eliminate inaccuracies and inefficiencies that come from poorly controlled, manually operated warehouses.

What follows is a look at some common challenges in warehousing and inventory management, and a closer look at a software solution that can transform outdated ways of working.



## Challenges in Inventory and Warehouse Management

In today's competitive global economy, companies should be focusing on how they can improve their supply chains and this is not a once-off activity. Companies need to keep control of inventory across their global supply chain and without the right technology in place, this can become a huge headache, and one that can negatively impact their profitability and shareholder returns.

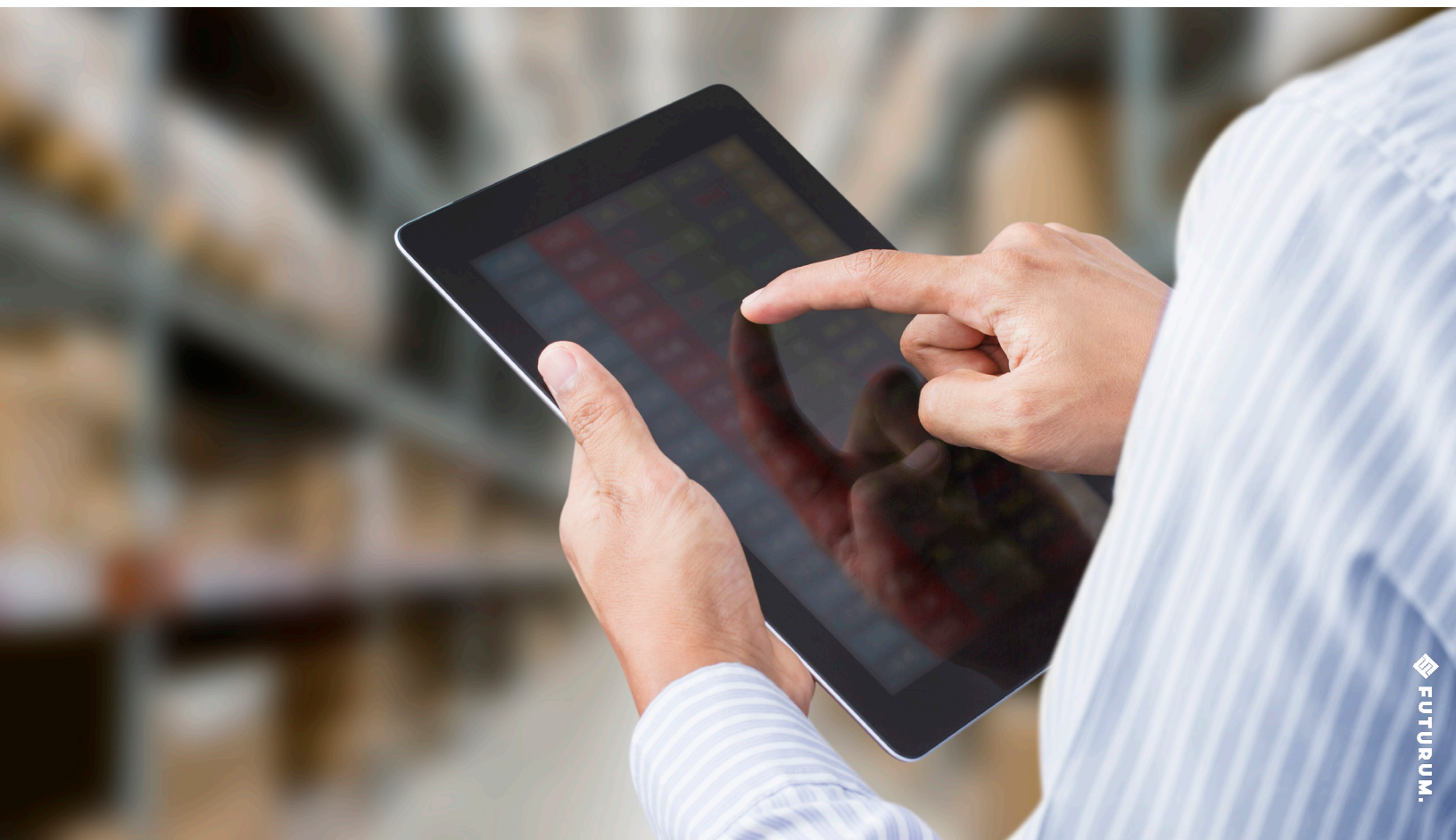
Supply chain professionals face consistent challenges across their operations:

**Manual Data Collection.** Too often, organizations rely on manual data entry and paper-based processes. This leads to inaccuracies and inefficiencies caused by data input errors with delays causing a misalignment between physical operations and what the

system is telling you. Manual processes don't scale easily, lead to local workarounds, and make it more difficult for the business to grow. The best global supply chain operators know their inventory down to the very last nut or bolt, so having the ability to accurately control and update inventory in real time is table stakes.

### **Lack of Warehouse Inventory Visibility.**

Warehouses are dynamic, frequently operate around the clock, and with a constant turnover of inbound and outbound inventory. In this fast-paced environment and without inventory movements posted in real time, it's very easy to lose control of operations. Operational visibility is impaired when there is a delay between inventory movements and systems updates. If updates are based on paper-based processes or outdated systems, an organization will likely never have an accurate picture of warehouse inventory.



**Inaccurate Data Affects Everything.** Inventory accuracy is a key measure of warehouse performance and compares physical inventory in the warehouse with the system of record. Low inventory accuracy negatively impacts the productivity of warehouse staff and just as importantly, the “customers” of the warehouse, which might include maintenance engineers and factory operations. Without robust inventory management, an organization cannot accurately make decisions on when to reorder materials, leading to inflated working capital and lack of stock.

**Poor Warehouse Processes and Systems Lead to a Poor Customer Experience.** Customer experience is the name of the game in today’s world, no matter the industry. The warehouse has a critical role to play in the whole customer experience by providing high levels of stock availability and on-time delivery. But poor warehouse operations can ultimately result in a complete loss of customer loyalty and a hit to brand reputation, leading to lost customers and lost revenue – this situation can be easily avoided.

## Improved Inventory Management with mInventory by Innovapptive

When it comes to improving warehousing and inventory management, technology can play a big role, but not every solution is created equally. Many solutions have proved difficult to scale beyond the first deployment, as subsequent warehouses had different processes and localizations that proved expensive to reflect in hard-coded solutions. A flexible solution that can be quickly scaled beyond the first deployment will be a critical success factor.

That’s what led us to evaluate **mInventory Mobile Warehouse Management** app by Innovapptive. By integrating with several SAP solutions, including SAP’s industry cloud, SAP Extension Suite, Inventory Management (IM), Warehouse Management (WM) and the SAP Extended Warehouse Management (EWM)

application, it allows organizations to connect warehouse operations and inventory in real time. Here are a few of the things we really like about mInventory:

**It’s fully digital.** Using mInventory, organizations can eliminate paperwork by digitizing and automating processes that are often riddled with errors. This will improve your end-to-end warehouse processes, including receiving, storage, and shipping. mInventory is a native app that works on both Android and iOS mobile devices, so it will work wherever employees are. We love this feature – no one has to go back to the office to make updates on a desktop, something we all know can slow processes down. Being a native app, mInventory is able to utilize all the features of the mobile device, including photos, videos, push notifications, attachments, GPS data, etc. These features can really enhance all the processes in your warehouse.

**Real-time inventory.** With mInventory, organizations can see real-time quantities and location of inventory. This also includes a breakdown into stock categories, including unrestricted, quality inspection, and blocked stock. With this increased visibility, leaders can make data-backed decisions that positively impact the company.

**Improved accuracy drives productivity.** mInventory integrates seamlessly with auto-id technology like barcoding and Optical Character Recognition (OCR), driving inventory accuracy to greater than 99%. Along with accuracy comes productivity increases, as staff is freed from spending time looking for products in the warehouse. mInventory can boost warehouse productivity by up to 20% and cycle count speed by up to 50%.

**Reduced warehouse costs.** At a time when every organization is operating on thin margins, managing inventory and warehouse costs can make a big difference to the bottom line. Inaccurate inventory will lead to ordering

the wrong products and quantities, inflating inventory holding costs, and driving down customer service. mInventory increases operational visibility, timely processing of transactions, and improved inventory accuracy – eliminating these unwanted costs.

**Implementation is easy.** One of the drawbacks of new systems is often the time it takes to implement. That’s not the case with mInventory, which also makes the app so appealing. Implementation takes just 8- to 12-weeks. As a no-code/low-code app, easy configuration of screens and workflows is enabled, allowing you to meet your exact warehouse processes.



## CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY

We took a closer look at some high-profile Innovapptive customers to see how mInventory solved key issues. A water company in the North East, US was growing rapidly. They needed a mobile solution to easily integrate with SAP Materials Management to cope with business growth and help them manage warehouse operations, productivity, and inventory accuracy. As one of many examples of the difference made, their warehouse manager shared: “Truck stock counts used to take us nearly a day with paper. Now, it’s just an hour. Warehouse cycle count times have been cut in half, from four hours to only two.”

That’s not the only customer success story we were able to glean. A global oil and gas company shared that they had been relying on manual data entry across their different warehouse operations. Inaccurate inventory, delays, and frustration were frequently the result. At a time when their workforce was being reduced, the strain on the remaining warehouse staff was acute. The company needed to find a solution and tapped mInventory. The results speak for themselves. They experienced a 75% reduction in process time of goods receipts tied directly to the use of the mInventory app. They experienced a 25% reduction in process time for cycle counts and also found that elimination of data entry meant team members could spend time on more value-added tasks. Overall, there was a step change improvement in warehouse performance. Moreover, maintenance technicians in the field enjoyed better service.



## Why mInventory?

It's not complicated – and that is the entire point. The mInventory solution provides a simple way for frontline warehouse staff to utilize all the backend power of SAP solutions. What does that mean? mInventory supports all SAP modules: Inventory Management (IM), Warehouse Management (WM), and Extended Warehouse Management (EWM). By eliminating delays between when an item moves out of inventory and when it gets recorded, now an organization knows exactly where the material is at all times. mInventory is a system that integrates with industry-standard barcode/QR code scanners, OCR, and printers and it's compatible with Bluetooth devices. This is quite clearly a tool that eliminates nearly every barrier to managing your warehouse operations.

Then there's the ROI. Improved inventory accuracy, reduced inventory holding costs, better customer service, and higher productivity mean that your operational dollars are being spent more efficiently. A sense that a logistical challenge like this is too big to tackle all at once, can stop companies from making much-needed changes. Ease of use, coupled with the benefits to customers, who are the next step in the supply chain, make [Innovapptive's mInventory, available now on SAP Store](#), a powerful, scalable solution to managing spare parts, raw materials, and finished goods in your warehouse.

