



logistics



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Lights-Out Logistics

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Deadline for manuscript
submissions:

closed (1 February 2023)

Message from the Guest Editors

Automation is changing the face of manufacturing in ways previously unimaginable, from extensive production facilities almost entirely driven by robots to small workshops looking to improve a few key manufacturing processes. Fully self-driving plants are still not viable for most manufacturers, but more and more people are embracing automation on a smaller scale that makes sense for their business. This trend towards automation introduced us to a new concept: "Lights-Out." Automation in production, in particular, led to the development of "Lights-Out" manufacturing, which could operate 24 hours a day with minimal staff in the second and third shifts, and the concept was often associated with manufacturing. Considering that the term "Lights-Out" refers to a digitized, automated process that does not involve any human intervention, it can have an impact beyond manufacturing throughout supply chains. Furthermore, Lights-Out Logistics can help supply chains become more resilient in times of great uncertainty and disruption, such as financial crises and pandemics like COVID-19.



mdpi.com/si/104681

Special Issue