

Preface

This book is the product of a process which started in 2006 as a cooperation seminar between the Dow Olefinverbund GmbH and the chairs of Production & Logistics, Statistics, and Operations Research. At this time I couldn't imagine a result like this. During this time not only the project has developed and changed, also my experiences, skills, and expectations have grown. These developments would have been impossible without the support of a bunch of persons. The space provided here does not suffice to duly thank all these persons. So, the following thanks are rather exemplary than encompassing.

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No less important was the support of all employees of Dow Olefinverbund GmbH which allowed me to study not only Dow's production and logistics processes but also their day-to-day business. In particular, I thank Wolfgang Schnabel, Andreas Kroupa, and Wubbe Prins for organizing and coordinating the practical part of this project. Without their support, this book would not exist.

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