

# **Session: Sustainability Throughout the Supply Chain: FDA Perspectives**

Center for Devices and Radiological Health

Mike Hoffman, OPEQ Shortages Lead, Immediate Office

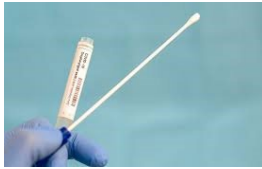
Tammy Beckham, Resilient Supply Chain Program, Office  
of Strategic Partnerships and Technology Innovation

# Resilient Supply Chain Program (RSCP): Protecting Patients and Strengthening Our National Security

## COVID-19 Medical Device Shortages



### Testing Supplies and Consumables



Swabs & Transport Media



Blood Collection Tubes



Pipettes



Laboratory Testing Supplies



Laboratory Reagents



Test Kits

### Personal Protective Devices & Ventilation



Ventilators



Respirators



Gloves



Surgical Gowns



Surgical Masks

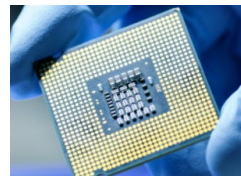


Examination Gown

### Cross-Cutting Examples



Resin



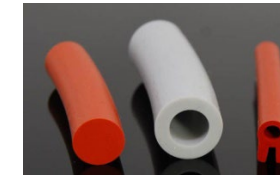
Semiconductors



Ethylene Oxide



Paper (e.g., labels)



Silicone

# Today's Supply Chain Complexities

*Supply chain disruptions pre-date COVID and will continue in the future*



## Just in Time Delivery

Minimizing inventory costs + increasing risk from disruption



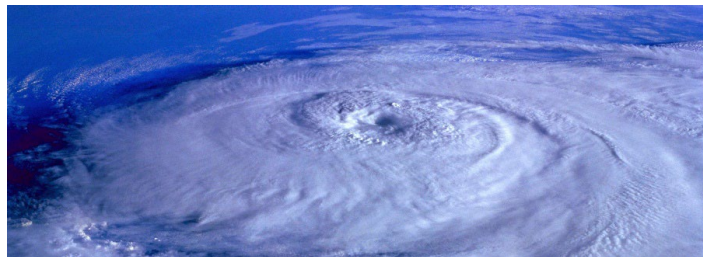
## Sole-Source Suppliers

Supply base consolidation



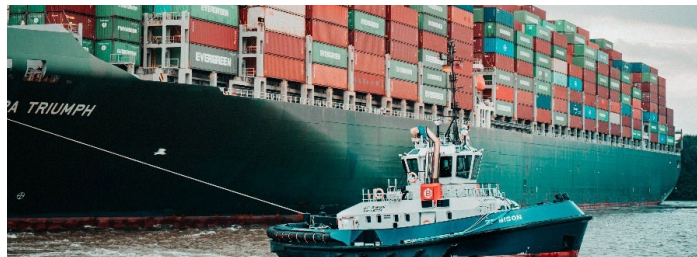
## Labor + Logistics

Shortage of workers + transportation bottlenecks



## Climate Change

More frequent weather disruptions + natural disasters



## Geopolitical Competition

Increased trade disruption + competition for resources



## Demand Shocks

Increased demand due to pandemic or post-pandemic illnesses

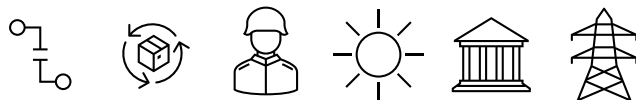
# Healthcare is Critical Infrastructure

Innovation and partnership is needed to ensure medical device availability as threats are increasingly cross-cutting and systemic.

## Supply Chain Pressures

### 1 Global Supply Chain Pressures

Supply chain pressures: Geopolitical; Climate Change; Sole Source; Regulatory; Transportation; Energy



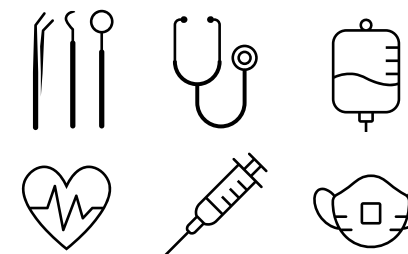
### 2 Medical Tech Industry vs. Overall Market

Small resource needs relative to other industries; suppliers tend to favor larger purchasers



### 3 Broad Impacts

Supply chain pressures impacting multiple devices and device types



# Resilient Supply Chain Program (RSCP)

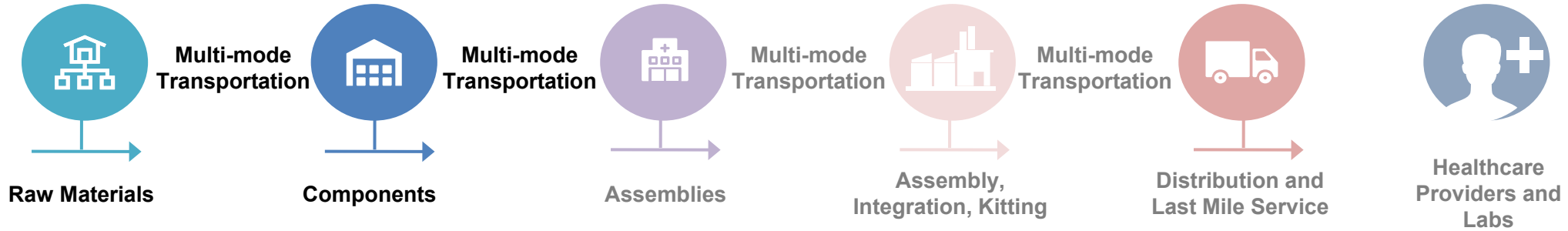
*Our Mission: Strengthen public health supply chains by proactively monitoring, assessing, and communicating risks and vulnerabilities to prevent shortages of medical devices*

Protecting patients and providers means strengthening the end-to-end supply chain for critical medical devices



**Raw materials ♦ Suppliers ♦ Manufacturers ♦ GPOs ♦ Distributors ♦ Transportation + Logistics ♦ Patients + Providers**

# Raw Materials/Components



Resin

## Root Causes

- Sole Source Suppliers
- Geopolitical
- Natural Disasters
- Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act (UFLPA)
- Market Concentration
- Labor

## Supply Chain Impacts

- Resin
- Silicone
- Semiconductors
- Paper
- Cotton



Semiconductors

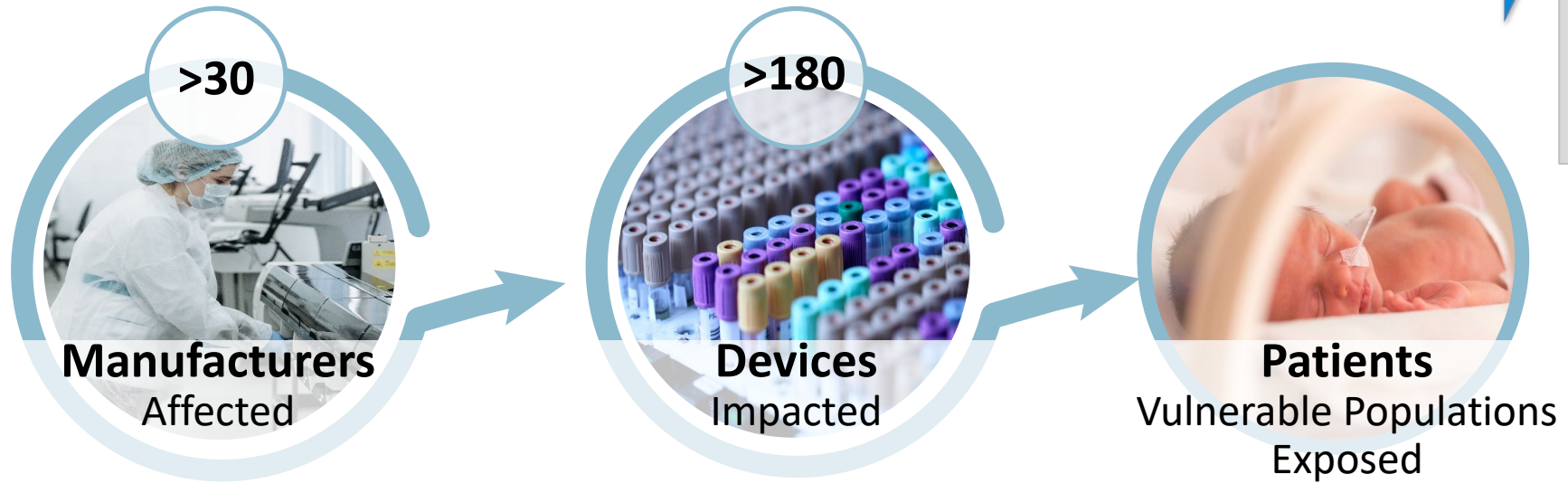
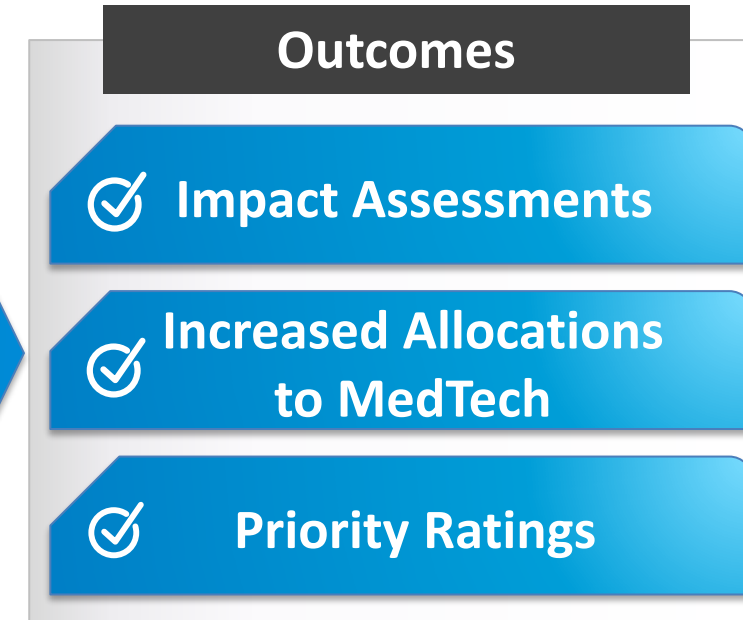


Paper (e.g., labels)



Silicone

# Case Study: Resin



# Case Study: Semiconductors

**Signal**

Manufacturers

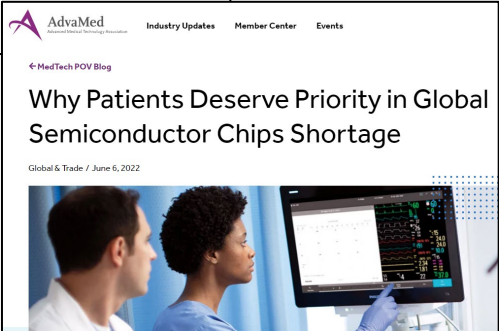
**Actions**

Outreach, Advocate, Coordinate, Illuminate

**Outcomes**

- ✓ Priority Request Letters
- ✓ DPA Priority Rating
- ✓ Medical Device Advocacy
- ✓ DoC and CEO Roundtable-Awareness

**FDA CDRH Response**  
Coordinated, Targeted Actions



**Supply Chain Analysis and Illumination**



**Patient Impact Assessments**



**Industry Engagement**



**Escalation to DoC, ASPR, White House**



# Case Study: Packaging

**May 2022**  
Signals: Allocations,  
Converter Communication,  
Manufacturers)

**July/August 2022**  
Outreach, Coordination

**FDA CDRH Response**  
Industry and Interagency Coordination, Analytical Insights

- Outcomes**
- ✓ ASPR DPA and WH COVID WG Engagement
  - ✓ USG Encouraged Transparency
  - ✓ Advocate-Prioritization of MedTech Industry



**Stakeholder Outreach**



**Impact Assessments**  
Inform USG actions



**Supply Chain Visualization**  
Manufacturers, Suppliers,  
Converters



**USG Coordination**  
ASPR DPA Office; WH  
COVID Working Group

# Sterilization

**FDA's Role: Assure that patients and providers have timely and continued access to safe, effective, and high-quality medical devices**

- FDA regulates devices which need to demonstrate adequate sterilization using method chosen by manufacturer
- Cross government coordination on sterilization issues and regulations (EPA, ASPR, White House)

## **EPA Action on April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023:**

- Released proposed rule regulating ethylene oxide (EtO) sterilizers of medical technology and other commercial uses through the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) under the Clean Air Act.
- Released proposed updated of EtO registration as a sterilant under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA).

# FDA Communications & Actions



## Communications

- April 11<sup>th</sup>: Announcement of Radiation Sterilization Master File Pilot Program
- Updating FDA webpages
- CDRH Center Director Statement
  - [FDA Continues Efforts to Support Innovation in Medical Device Sterilization](#) (August 2022)



## Actions

- Launched Radiation Master File Pilot Program
- Maintain 2 EtO Innovation Challenges
- Maintain the PMA Master File Pilot Program
- Launched the 510(k) EtO Master File Pilot Program
- Continued Shortage Assessments
- Continued Stakeholder Engagement

# Radiation Master File Pilot Program

- Voluntary program for sterilization providers that **terminally sterilize single-use PMA approved medical devices** and **use gamma radiation or ethylene oxide (EtO)**.
  - In response to global supply chain constraints and supports sterilization supply chain resiliency
  - Sterilizers may submit Master File(s) when making **certain** changes to **sterilization sites, methods, or processes** under the specific conditions outlined in the notice
  - Help companies advance alternative and innovative ways to sterilize approved medical devices, including changing radiation sources, ***in a least burdensome regulatory approach***
- PMA holders with a right of reference by a sterilization provider may include references to Master File(s) accepted into the Pilot in **post-approval reports** describing the particular changes noted above (changes to **sterilization sites, methods, or processes** of Class III devices).

# Our Role as the FDA

- Bird's Eye View
  - Interdependencies and Vulnerabilities
  - Prevent Shortages
  - Mitigate Challenges
- Alternative Suppliers
- Advocate
  - USG; Suppliers
  - Medical market allocations
- Impact Assessments



## RESILIENCE BUILDING + INNOVATION

- Supply Chain Transparency
  - Data and best practices
  - Convener
- Supply Chain Master File pilots
- Alternative supplier-qualification
- Innovative regulatory mitigations
- Innovation challenges

# Collaboration Is Essential

*No single entity can resolve these issues on its own. We must work collaboratively to proactively identify and address vulnerabilities*

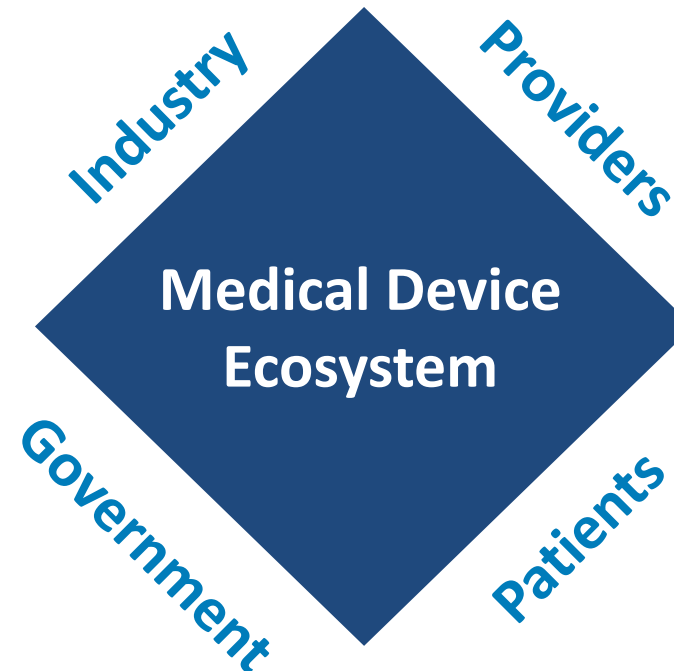
**Shared vulnerabilities**



**Coordinated actions**



**Mutual outcomes**



Trade Associations | Professional Organizations |  
Academia | Advocacy Organizations

# How to Share Shortage Signals

*Help us get ahead of potential shortages and raise awareness early*

- Manufacturers can submit voluntary 506J notifications by:
  - Submitting a 506J notification via the web portal: <https://fdaproduct.force.com/shortages>
  - Emailing: [CDRHManufacturerShortage@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:CDRHManufacturerShortage@fda.hhs.gov)
- Other medical device stakeholders can submit shortages by:
  - Emailing: [deviceshortages@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:deviceshortages@fda.hhs.gov)



## We take confidentiality seriously!

Any information provided to the FDA that is trade secret or confidential information will be treated as such, consistent with 5 USC 552(b)(4), 18 USC 1905, and other applicable laws.

A man in a blue athletic shirt and black pants is running towards the right. Behind him is a digital trail of blue and purple lines and dots, suggesting speed and technology. The background is dark blue with a pattern of small, glowing dots.

**MEDCON**

# Sustainability Through the Supply Chain: Industry Perspective

26 | April | 2023

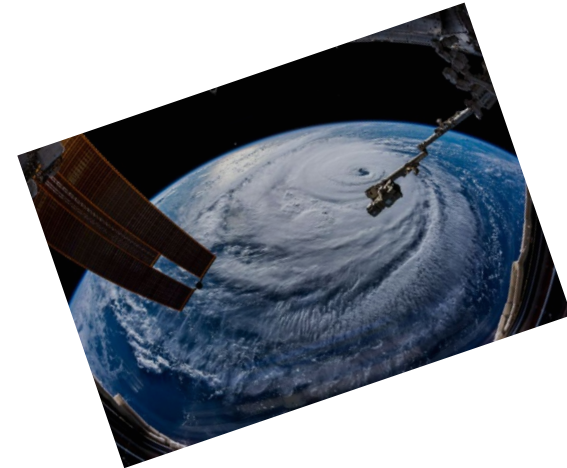
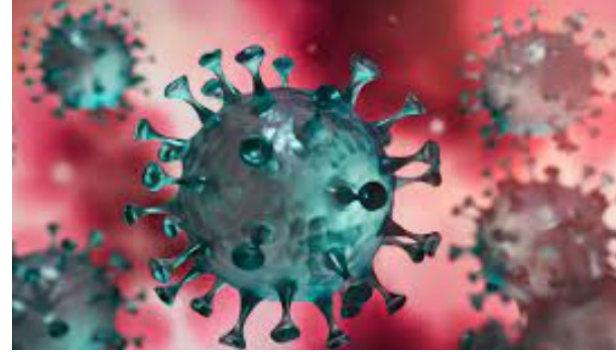
**AARON BERNSTEIN – DIVISIONAL VICE PRESIDENT, PROCUREMENT - ABBOTT**

**MEERA BHATIA – DIVISIONAL VICE PRESIDENT, QUALITY - ABBOTT**



# Supply Challenges Continue to Evolve

- Supplier health and quality
- Labor shortages
- Geopolitical landscape
- Severe weather conditions
- Sole sourced materials
- Evolving regulatory environment
- Cyber threats



# Pandemic Launched a Crisis in Global Supply Chains

## *How the World Ran Out of Everything*

Global shortages of many goods reflect the disruption of the pandemic combined with decades of companies limiting their inventories.

### Price Hikes and Shortages: Production Uncertainty for Electronic Parts in 2021

Electronic industry expects increased prices and lead times for electronic parts due to shortages and uncertainty.

ARTICLE BY CHASE CORRELL  
Updated June 16, 2021 - 5 Min Read

'Perfect storm' creates electronic component supply chain shortages



## Semiconductor shortage hammering automakers, costing billions in lost production and sales

Nearly 20 auto factories in North America and Europe have cut back in recent weeks over a lack of parts.

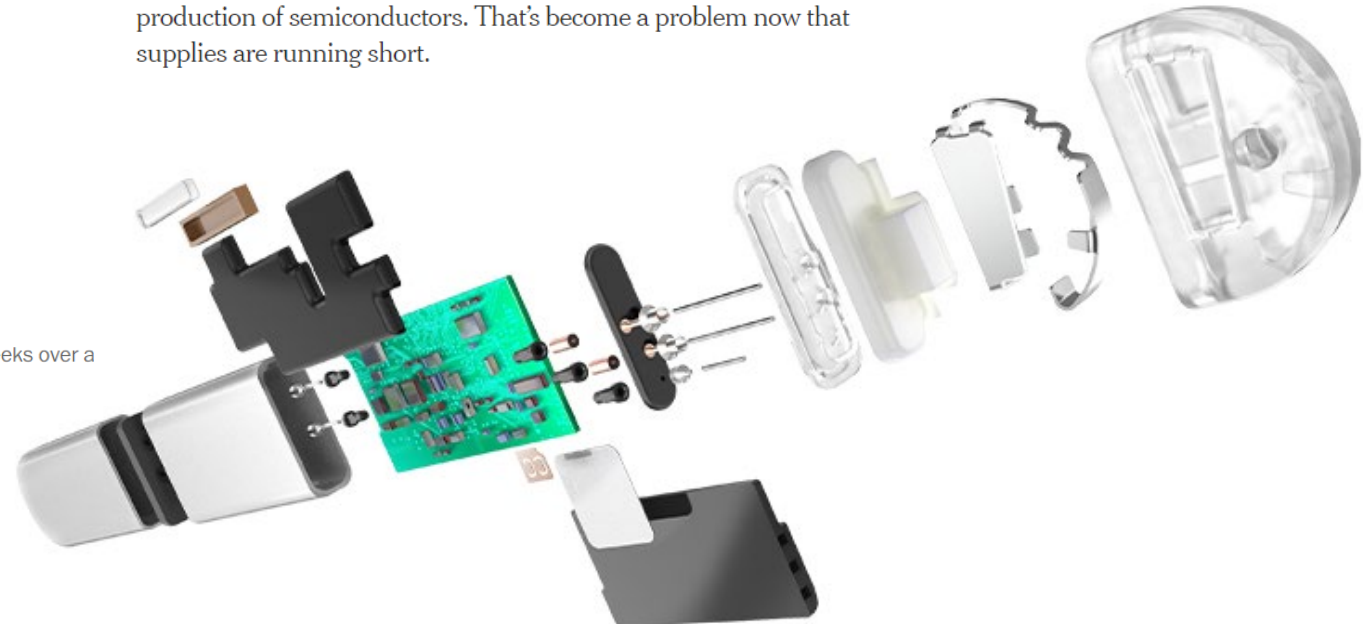
20th April 2021  
Digi-Key  
Joe Bush

## Auto Makers Warn Chip Shortage Will Continue to Impact Vehicle Production

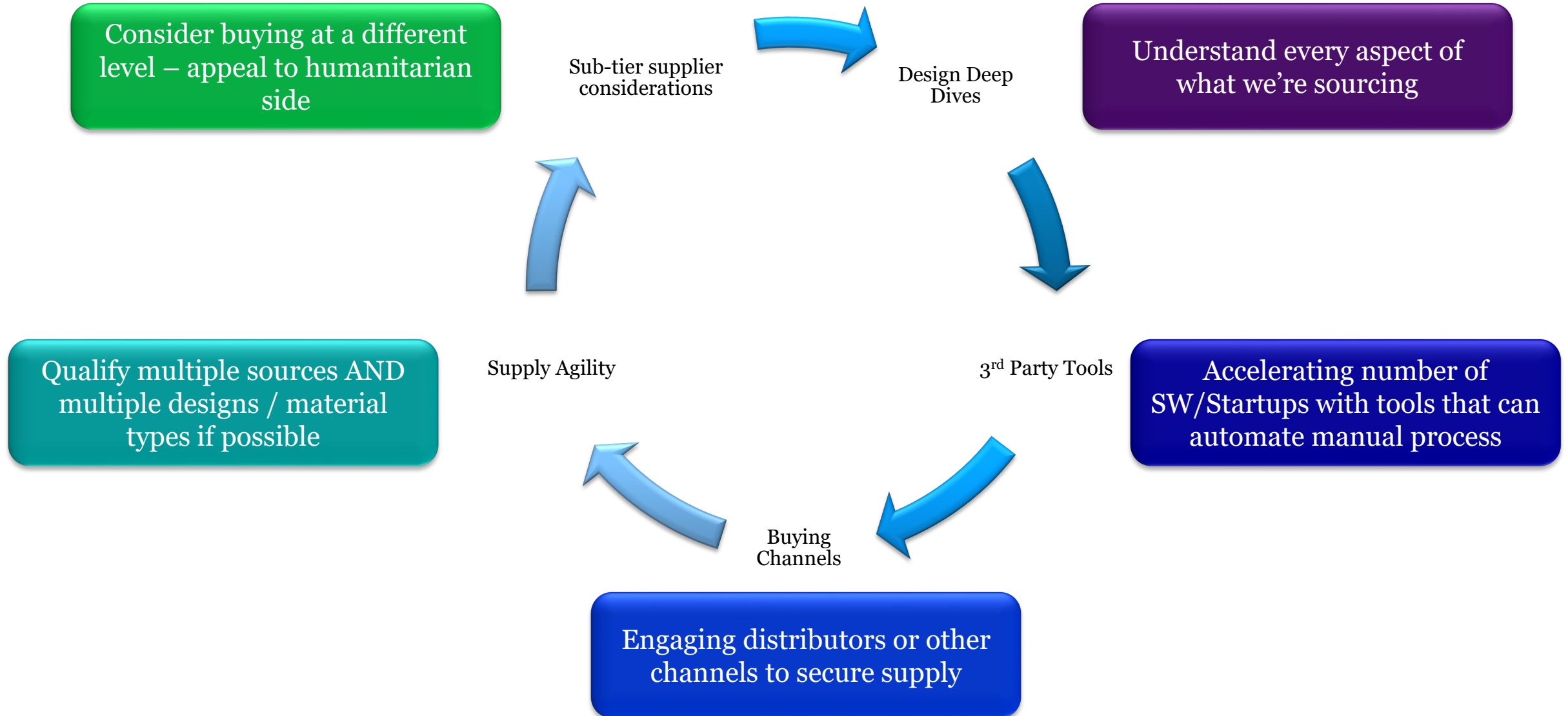
GM idles truck plants again, Jeep maker Stellantis sees lack of semiconductors hurting its operations

## *'It's a Roller-Coaster Ride': Global Chip Shortage Is Making Industries Sweat*

The internet-connected world is completely dependent on the production of semiconductors. That's become a problem now that supplies are running short.



# Securing supply when we're a small buyer



# Single Sourcing – Swab Story



## 2019

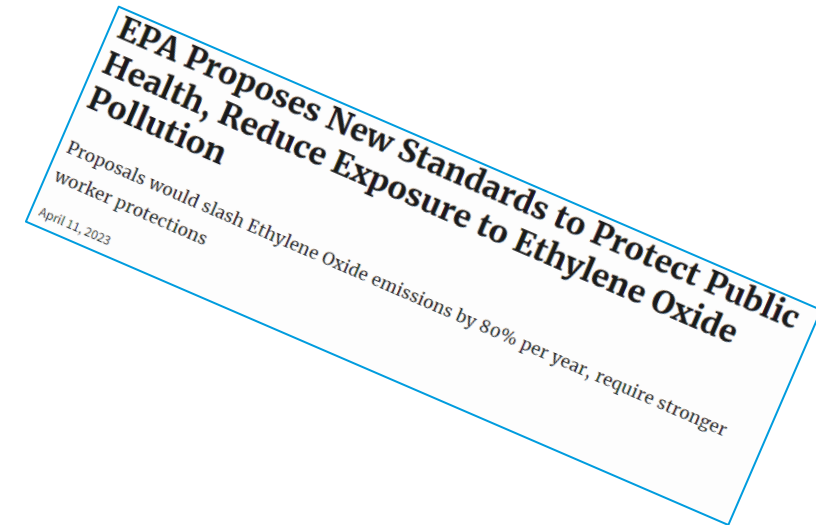
- Single Sourced Swab for Flu test
- Low volume forecasted

## 2020

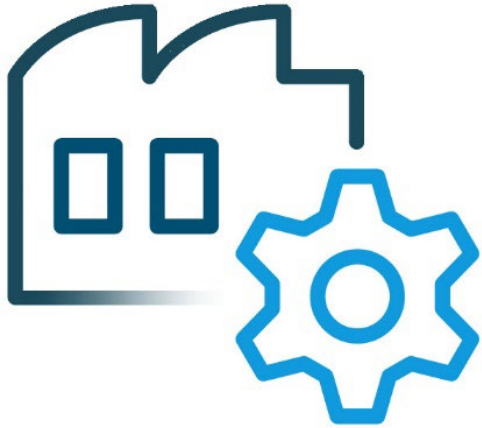
- Leveraged existing platform to develop Covid-19 test
- Assisted on single source volume ramp up
- Qualification of additional suppliers
- Expedited all aspects of supply chain

# Sterilization Challenges of Medical Devices – Ethylene Oxide

- Evolving regulations has impacted the availability of EtO Sterilization suppliers
  - Affects the output of existing sterilizers
- Feasibility, validation and ultimate product approval of alternative modalities is a multi-year process
  - Many products will not tolerate sterilization modalities
  - Evaluate alternative materials / components which will tolerate alternative modalities during design
- Partnership with FDA through multiple forums has been positive (Resilient Supply Chain Program, CDRH, Master File Pilot for changes)
- Industry groups have formed recognizing the importance on establishing and harmonizing sterilization standards and development of sustainable sterilization methods



# Ongoing Considerations



## Vertical Integration

- Allows manufacturers more supply chain control and agility
- Presents a different set of complexities for manufacturers



## Design Philosophy

- Enhanced supply chain consideration in development
- Introduce greater flexibility downstream (more platforms, software and speed)



## Sustainability

- Rapidly evolving landscape
- Creates supply chain risk, but also opportunity

# QUESTIONS