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**WYDZIAŁ MECHANICZNY TECHNOLOGICZNY**

**PRACA DOKTORSKA**

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**ZARZĄDZANIE ŁAŃCUCHEM DOSTAW  
W BUDOWANIU INNOWACYJNOŚCI PROCESOWEJ  
PRZEDSIĘBIORSTW BRANŻY MOTORYZACYJNEJ**

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**DOCTORAL THESIS**  
**MSc. Rafał KANIA**  
**SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT IN BUILDING PROCESS INNOVATION**  
**IN AUTOMOTIVE ENTERPRISES**

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***Abstract***

The doctoral dissertation, "Supply Chain Management in Building Process Innovation in Automotive Industry Enterprises", analyzes the impact of supply chain management on process innovation in automotive companies. In the era of increasing global competition and rapid technological changes, automotive enterprises must continuously improve their production processes to remain competitive. A key element in achieving this is the effective implementation of supply chain management, which has the potential to influence process innovation significantly, understood as the introduction of new or improved production and management methods.

The research hypothesis assumes that process innovation in automotive enterprises is correlated with implementing supply chain management in manufacturing processes. The dissertation aims to demonstrate that a well-managed supply chain can become a crucial mechanism supporting process innovation.

The dissertation consists of an introduction and five chapters. The first chapter introduces the topic and defines the purpose of the study. The second chapter offers a detailed literature review on process innovation and supply chain management, with a particular focus on the specificities of the automotive industry. The third chapter discusses empirical research methodology, which is based on analyzing survey questionnaires from automotive companies. The fourth chapter presents an analysis of the research findings, which confirm strong relationships between effective supply chain management and increased process innovation. The fifth and final chapter contains conclusions from the research and recommendations for business practice.

The research proves that supply chain management in the automotive industry, especially supplier collaboration characterized by conceptual partnerships, positively influences companies' ability to implement innovative process solutions.

This dissertation presents a developed model for process improvement, which is based on the homogeneity of the automotive supply chain and the co-participation of all its links in fostering innovation. This model not only provides a theoretical framework but also has the potential to serve as a practical foundation for further research and implementation in automotive companies, thereby contributing to the advancement of the field.