



STUDENT BRIEF

OPTIMISE PROCUREMENT STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE SUPPLIER SELECTION

Rolls-Royce

Summary

Rolls-Royce is a global leader in engineering, designing and building advanced power systems for industries like aviation, marine, and energy. With the aerospace industry moving towards net-zero emissions, Rolls-Royce is working to align its supplier choices with sustainability goals, while also keeping costs under control. Your task is to explore how the company can improve its procurement strategy to meet these challenges. You'll research supply chain trends, evaluate what makes a supplier both cost-efficient and environmentally responsible, and propose practical ways for Rolls-Royce to balance these priorities.

KEY WORDS

Sustainability, procurement, supply chain, aerospace, supplier evaluation, raw materials, titanium, rare earth metals

INDUSTRY

Aerospace, Engineering, Supply Chain Management

FOCUS

- Sustainable procurement practices
- Balancing cost-efficiency with environmental goals
- Supplier evaluation criteria
- Trends in raw material availability and pricing

Brief

I work in the procurement team at Rolls-Royce, where my job is to help ensure we have the right materials and components to build our products — at the right price and from suppliers who share our commitment to sustainability. Right now, we're facing a tricky challenge: the raw materials we rely on, like titanium and rare earth metals, are getting more expensive, and we also need to reduce the environmental impact of our supply chain. This isn't just about doing the right thing — it's a business necessity as we compete in an industry that's under pressure to become greener.

Here's where you come in. I'd like you to help us think about how Rolls-Royce can





adapt its procurement approach to meet these goals. To do this, you'll need to dig into what's happening in the aerospace industry and beyond.

Here's how to tackle it:

1. Research the current trends and challenges in sustainable procurement, especially in the aerospace industry. Look into things like rising material costs, supply chain emissions, and what other companies are doing to address these issues.
2. Identify what makes a supplier a good fit for Rolls-Royce. Think about both cost and sustainability. What criteria should we use to evaluate whether a supplier is right for us, and why?
3. Focus on the materials we depend on, like titanium and rare earth metals. What's happening in the market for these materials? Are there risks to availability, and how might prices affect our decisions?
4. Look at other industries that deal with similar challenges, like automotive or renewable energy. Are there clever ideas or strategies we could learn from them?
5. Pull everything together into a report or presentation. This should explain the trends you've found, suggest criteria for choosing suppliers, and include 2-3 clear, practical recommendations for how Rolls-Royce can improve its procurement strategy. Be sure to back up your points with publicly available sources.

A strong piece of work will show that you've really thought about how to balance cost, quality, and sustainability. It should also be clear and well-organised so someone unfamiliar with the topic can easily follow your reasoning.

Good luck, and thanks for helping us tackle this challenge!

