INTRODUCTION

Why Forward Deployed Inventory Systems Are Essential

A new discipline for placing inventory close to service without losing control of it.

PART I

The Problem No One Is Managing Well Enough

01 The Rise of Forward Deployed Inventory

Why uptime, automation, and service expectations are pushing parts closer to the point of service.

02 When the Part Is There, the Job Gets Done

How local access to the right part drives response time, first-time fix, uptime, and customer retention.

03 The Hidden Inventory Problem

What happens when inventory in trucks, lockers, and customer sites becomes invisible and hard to replenish.

04 Different Teams Different Priorities

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Why field service and supply chain need a shared operating model, not just competing scorecards.

PART II

The Shift from FDI to FDIS

05 What Is Forward Deployed Inventory, Really?

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The difference between positioning inventory near the work and managing it as a system.

06 Why Traditional Systems Fail in the Field

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How warehouse-oriented assumptions break down amid field variability and informal movement.

07 The Forward Deployed Inventory System

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The field-ready model for visibility, control, security, replenishment, and service alignment.

08 The FDIS Maturity Model

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Why trustworthy data and field discipline must precede AI and predictive placement.

PART III · LEVEL 1

Foundation

09 You Cannot Optimize What You Cannot See

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Extending visibility to every inventory environment, where simple tools used consistently beat sophisticated tools used poorly.

10 Closed-Loop Starts With Accountability

Turning visibility into discipline from expected receipt to replenishment and discrepancy follow-up.

11 Cycle Counts, Reconciliation, and Trust

Why field cycle counts are trust-building mechanisms, not merely counting exercises.

12 Secure Accessibility

Balancing fast access to field inventory with protection, auditability, and control.

13 Closed-Loop in the Hands of the Technician

How mobile workflow makes scanning, replenishment, counting, and exception handling practical in the field.

PART IV · LEVEL 2

Enhanced Optimization

14 From Control to Optimization

The shift from knowing where parts are to knowing whether the system performs well.

15 The Metrics That Matter in the Field

Forward-specific measures for planning, execution, service, replenishment, cost, and aging.

16 Network Optimization for Local Reality

Stocking points, shared locations, territories, and the real trade-offs between access and holding cost.

17 Inventory Optimization Without Over-Optimization

Using min/max, safety stock, and scenarios without creating fragile, needless complexity.

PART V · LEVEL 3

Proactive Demand Management

18 Change When It Matters, Hold Steady When It Does Not

The discipline of distinguishing a true demand signal from ordinary noise.

19 Signals, Trends, and Usage Patterns

Using work orders, field feedback, aggregate patterns, and exception-based alerts to read demand.

20 Scenario Planning and Response Playbooks

Preparing modeled responses to shifts before they become service crises.

PART VI · LEVEL 4

Predictive Precision

21 Inventory Follows Risk

Moving from history-based planning to risk-based placement.

22 Stock to Risk, Not History

Reliability concepts that explain why predictive placement differs from reactive replenishment.

23 Building a Risk Map for Parts Placement

Turning machine-level risk into staging decisions for markets, regions, and local service areas.

24 Pilot, Learn, Scale

A practical path to predictive precision through focused parts, geographies, metrics, and feedback.

PART VII

Making the Business Case

25 What Poor Forward Inventory Is Costing You

The economics of hidden inventory, repeat visits, premium freight, missed SLAs, and excess stock.

26 Building the ROI Case for FDIS

Connecting maturity improvements to uptime, customer satisfaction, labor efficiency, and working capital.

27 Premium Placement as a Revenue Opportunity

When guaranteed access and strategic proximity become a service customers will pay for.

PART VIII

The Journey to Maturity

28 The Acme Story

An end-to-end account of a company moving from low visibility and finger-pointing to predictive placement.

29 Scorecards, Action Plans, and Pilots

How to assess gaps, set targets, launch pilots, and govern progress over 30, 60, and 90 days.

30 From Weak Link to Competitive Advantage

How forward-deployed inventory becomes a managed source of trust, performance, and differentiation.