Acronym	Literal	Context	Meaning
3PL	Third Party Logistics	Operations	A third-party logistics provider (abbreviated 3PL, or sometimes TPL) is a firm that provides service to its customers of outsourced (or "third party") logistics services for part, or all of their supply chain management functions
4PL	Fourth Party Logistics	Operations	Is an integrator that assembles the resources, capabilities, and technology of its own organization and other organizations to design, build, and run supply chain solutions. A 4PL targets management of the entire process.
ALARP	As Low As Reasonably Practicable	Reliability	Is a term often used in the milieu of safety-critical and safety-involved systems. The ALARP principle is that the residual risk shall be as low as reasonably practicable.
ALT	Accelerated Life Test	Reliability	Is the process of testing a product by subjecting it to conditions (stress, strain, temperatures etc.) in excess of its normal service parameters in an effort to uncover faults and potential modes of failure in a short amount of time.
AML	Approved Manufacturer List	Operations	List of approved manufacturers to purchase a part.
ANSI	American National Standards Institute	Compliance	Is a private non-profit organization that oversees the development of voluntary consensus standards for products, services, processes, systems, and personnel in the United States.
APICS	Advancing Productivity, Innovation, and Competitive Success	Professional Societies	Is a not-for-profit international education organization, offering certification programs, training tools and networking opportunities to increase workplace performance.
ARO	After Receipt of Order	Operations	Restricts the start of work until a formal Purchase Order has been received.
AS9000	Aerospace Quality	Compliance	The standard is based in ISO 9000, with 27 additional requirements unique to the aerospace industry. The intent is to standardize and streamline many of the other aerospace quality management standards
ASQ	American Society for Quality	Professional Societies	Is a knowledge-based global community of quality professionals, with nearly 80,000 members dedicated to the promotion and advancement of quality tools, principles, and practices in their workplaces and in their communities.
AVL	Approved Vendor List (or Approved Supplier List)	Operations	Is a list of approved vendors defined for a procurement organization. Includes initial supplier approval along with regular verification audits.

Acronym	Literal	Context	Meaning
BGA	Ball Grid Array	Manufacturing	Is a type of surface-mount packaging used for integrated circuits. BGA packages are used to permanently mount devices such as microprocessors.
BOM	Bill of Materials	Systems	Is a list of the raw materials, sub-assemblies, intermediate assemblies, sub-components, parts and the quantities of each needed to manufacture an end product.
BSI	British Standards Institute	Compliance	Is a multinational business services provider whose principal activity is the production of standards and the supply of standards-related services.
BTO	Build To Order (or Assemble to Order)	Operations	is a production approach where products are not built until a confirmed order for products is received. BTO is the oldest style of order fulfilment and is the most appropriate approach used for highly customized or low volume products.
CAD	Computer Aided Design	Engineering	General software-supported-engineering term, strictly applying to graphical vector/planar resolution of mechanical design, but often encompasses computer-aided design & drafting (CADD) and computer-aided engineering (CAE). CAD generically includes 2D and 3D approaches.
CAPA	Corrective and Preventive Actions	Systems	A report from the field about a problem with a device and the actions taken. It includes actions taken to prevent recurrence of the problem.
CAR	Corrective Action Report	Compliance	Report to document corrective actions taken. Typically governed by a Quality Management System.
CE	Conformity Europe	Compliance	Is a mandatory conformity marking for products sold in the European Economic Area (EEA) since 1993. The CE marking is the manufacturer's declaration that the product meets the requirements of the applicable EC directives
CIP	Continual Improvement Process	Systems	Is an ongoing effort to improve products, services, or processes. These efforts can seek "incremental" improvement over time or "breakthrough" improvement all at once. Delivery (customer valued) processes are constantly evaluated and improved in the light of their efficiency, effectiveness and flexibility.
CM	Contract Manufacturer	Operations	In a contract manufacturing business model, the hiring firm approaches the contract manufacturer with a design or formula. The contract manufacturer will quote the parts based on processes, labor, tooling, and material costs.

Acronym	Literal	Context	Meaning
COGS	Cost Of Goods Sold	Operations	Refer to the inventory costs of those goods a business has sold during a particular period.
COTS	Commercial Off The Shelf	Operations	Defines a part that is both commercial and sold in substantial quantities in the commercial marketplace, and that can be procured under government contract in the same precise form as available to the general public
CPDM	Collaborative Product Development Management	Systems	Is a business strategy, work process and collection of software applications that facilitates different organizations to work together on the development of a product.
CPFR	Collaborative, Planning, Forecast, & Replenishment	Operations	Is a concept that aims to enhance supply chain integration by supporting and assisting joint practices. Allows for continuous updating of inventory and upcoming requirements, making the supply chain process more efficient.
CRM	Customer Relationship Management	Systems	Is a model for managing a company's interactions with current and future customers. It involves using technology to organize, automate, and synchronize sales, marketing, customer service, and technical support
CRP	Capacity Requirements Planning	Operations	Is the process of determining the production capacity needed by an organization to meet changing demands for its products.
CTO	Configue-To-Order	Operations	This approach is considered good for highly configured products, e.g. automobiles, computer servers, or for products where holding inventories is very expensive, e.g. aircraft.
DfM	Design for Manufacture	Engineering	Is the general engineering art of designing products in such a way that they are most easy to manufacture.
DfR	Design for Reliability	Engineering	Is the general engineering art of designing products in such a way that they are most reliable.
DfT	Design for Test	Engineering	Is the general engineering art of designing features specific to efficient/effective testing
DfX	Design for Excellence	Engineering	Is the overarching methodology covering all "design for" arts and may include: manufacturability, power, variability, cost, yield, or reliability
DHF	Design History File	Systems (MedTech)	Record of all design history, including everything in the DMR plus meeting notes, verification test results, and any other documentation created by engineering.

Acronym	Literal	Context	Meaning
DHR	Device History Record	Systems (MedTech)	A complete manufacturing record including the DMR plus ECRs, test results (usually serialized), CAPA notices, and other documentation.
DIN	Deutsches Institute fur Normung	Compliance	Is the German national organization for standardization and is that country's ISO member body.
DMR	Device Master Record	Systems (MedTech)	Everything required to build a device. Created by engineering and transferred to manufacturing.
DOA	Dead On Arrival	Reliability	A product arrives non-functional when received by the end user.
DOE	Design of Experiments	Reliability	Is the design of any information-gathering exercises where variation is present. This term is usually used for controlled experiments.
DVT	Design Verification Testing	Reliability	Is an intensive testing program which is performed to deliver objective, comprehensive testing verifying all product specifications, interface standards, OEM requirements, and diagnostic commands
ECN	Engineering Change Notice	Systems	Is a document which records or authorizes a change to a specific design.
ECO	Engineering Change Order	Systems	A change to a product's design is approved and ordered to be propagated through design to manufacturing with an effective date.
EC	European Community	Compliance	Is an economic and political union of member states that are located primarily in Europe. The EC operates through a system of supranational independent institutions and intergovernmental negotiated decisions by the member states
ECR	Engineering Change Request	Systems	A problem or opportunity is discovered that requires a design change in a product, but the change is not yet approved. The ECR documents the problem/opportunity, its costs/benefits, the proposed change, and the cost of change, and routes it for approval.
EDA	Electronic Design Automation	Engineering	The use of computer based tools to design electronics. This includes circuit simulation, schematic capture, layout, and IC design tools.
EDI	Electronic Data Interchange	Systems	Is a method for transferring data between different computer systems or computer networks. It is commonly used by big companies for e-commerce purposes, such as sending orders to warehouses or tracking their order
EMCP	Export Management and Compliance Program	Compliance	Is required by the U.S. Government to ensure that companies comply with export control policy for dual-use commodities, software, and technology.

Acronym	Literal	Context	Meaning
EMI	Electro-Magnetic Interference	Reliability	Radiation of a product which may inhibit the operation of another product or function. More general than radio-frequency interference.
EMS	Electronic Manufacturing Services	Operations	Is a term used for companies that design, test, manufacture, distribute, and provide return/repair services for electronic components and assemblies for original equipment manufacturers (OEMs).
EOL	End Of Life (part or product)	Operations	Is a term used with respect to a part / product supplied to customers, indicating that the product is in the end of its useful lifetime and a vendor will no longer be marketing, selling, or sustaining a particular product and may also be limiting or ending support for the product.
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency	Compliance	Is an agency of the United States federal government which was created for the purpose of protecting human health and the environment by writing and enforcing regulations based on laws passed by Congress.
ERP	Enterprise Resource Planning	Systems	A system that integrates internal and external management of information across an entire organization—embracing finance/accounting, manufacturing, sales and service, customer relationship management, etc.
ESD	Electro-Static Discharge	Reliability	Is the sudden flow of electricity between two objects caused by contact, an electrical short, or dielectric breakdown. ESD can be caused by a build-up of static electricity by tribocharging, or by electrostatic induction.
ESS	Environmental Stress Screening	Reliability	Is the process of exposing a newly manufactured or repaired product or component (typically electronic) to stresses such as thermal cycling and vibration in order to force latent defects to manifest themselves by permanent or catastrophic failure during the screening process.
ETO	Engineer To Order	Engineering	Is the application of scientific, economic, social, and practical knowledge in order to design, build, and maintain structures, machines, devices, systems, materials and processes on a contract basis.
EU	European Union	Compliance	Is an economic and political union of member states that are located primarily in Europe. The EU operates through a system of supranational independent institutions and intergovernmental negotiated decisions by the member states

Acronym	Literal	Context	Meaning
FCC	Federal Communications Commission	Compliance	Is an independent agency of the United States government. The FCC works towards six goals in the areas of broadband, competition, the spectrum, the media, public safety and homeland security.
FDA	Food and Drug Administration	Compliance	Is an agency of the United States Department of Health and Human Services. The FDA is responsible for protecting and promoting public health through the regulation and supervision of food safety, tobacco products, dietary supplements, pharmaceutical drugs (medications), vaccines, biopharmaceuticals, blood transfusions, medical devices, electromagnetic radiation emitting devices (ERED), and veterinary products.
FDIS	Final Draft International Standard	Compliance	Are final drafts for standards developed by international standards organizations. These are available for consideration and use, worldwide.
FEA	Finite Element Analysis	Engineering	Is a powerful technique originally developed for numerical solution of complex problems in structural mechanics. In the FEM, the structural system is modeled by a set of appropriate finite elements interconnected at points called nodes.
FET	Field Effect Transistor	Engineering	Is a transistor that uses an electric field to control the shape and hence the conductivity of a channel of one type of charge carrier in a semiconductor material. FETs are unipolar transistors as they involve single-carrier-type operation.
FFR	Field Failure Rate	Reliability	Is the frequency with which an engineered system or component fails in the field.
FGI	Finished Goods Inventory	Operations	The amount of a finished product that is available in inventory.
FMEA	Failure Modes and Effects Analysis	Reliability	This activity involves reviewing as many components, assemblies, and subsystems as possible to identify failure modes, and their causes and effects. For each component, the failure modes and their resulting effects on the rest of the system are recorded in a specific FMEA worksheet.
FMECA	Failure Modes, Effects, and Criticality Analysis	Reliability	See above, with a critical analysis added to prioritize findings.
FRACAS	Failure Reporting Analysis and Corrective Action System	Reliability	is a system, sometimes carried out using software, that provides a process for reporting, classifying, analyzing failures, and planning corrective actions in response to those failures.

Acronym	Literal	Context	Meaning
FRU	Field Replaceable Unit	Field	Is a circuit board, part or assembly that can be quickly and easily removed from a computer or other piece of electronic equipment and replaced by the user or a technician without having to send the product or system to a repair facility.
FS	Functional Specification == PRD	Engineering	Alternative name for Product Requirements Document (PRD).
FTA	Fault Tree Analysis	Reliability	Is a top down, deductive reasoning failure analysis in which an undesired state of a system is analyzed using Boolean logic to combine a series of lower-level events. Mainly used in the field of safety and Reliability engineering to determine the probability of a particular system level failure.
FTC	Federal Trade Commission	Compliance	Is an independent agency of the United States government. Its principal mission is the promotion of consumer protection and the elimination and prevention of anti-competitive business practices, such as coercive monopoly.
HALT	Highly Accelerated Life Test	Reliability	Is a stress testing methodology for accelerating product reliability during the engineering development process. The methodology greatly reduces the probability of in-service failures (that is, it increases the product's reliability), and decreases both monetary costs and design time
HASA	Highly Accelerated Stress Audit	Reliability	Is a proven test method developed to find manufacturing/production process induced defects in electronics and electro-mechanical assemblies before those products are released to market. HASA is a form of HASS.
HASS	Highly Accelerated Stress Screen	Reliability	See above -- Highly Accelerated Life Test
HIPAA	Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act	Compliance	Protects health insurance coverage for workers and their families when they change or lose their jobs. Title II of HIPAA, known as the Administrative Simplification (AS) provisions, requires the establishment of national standards for electronic health care transactions and national identifiers for providers, health insurance plans, and employers.

Acronym	Literal	Context	Meaning
IEC	International Electro-technical Commission	Compliance	Is a non-profit, non-governmental international standards organization that prepares and publishes International Standards for all electrical, electronic and related technologies – collectively known as "electrotechnology". IEC standards cover a vast range of technologies from power generation, transmission and distribution to home appliances and office equipment, semiconductors, fibre optics, batteries, solar energy, nanotechnology and marine energy as well as many others.
IEEE	Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers	Professional Societies	Is a professional association headquartered in New York City that is dedicated to advancing technological innovation and excellence. It has more than 400,000 members in more than 160 countries, about 51.4% of whom reside in the United States.
ISO	International Standards Organization	Compliance	Is an international standard-setting body composed of representatives from various national standards organizations. The organization promotes worldwide proprietary, industrial, and commercial standards.
ISO 13485	Medical Quality Standard	Compliance	Is an ISO standard, published in 2003, that represents the requirements for a comprehensive quality management system for the design and manufacture of medical devices.
ISO 14000	Environmental Management	Compliance	Is a family of standards related to environmental management that exists to help organizations (a) minimize how their operations (processes etc.) negatively affect the environment (i.e. cause adverse changes to air, water, or land); (b) comply with applicable laws, regulations, and other environmentally oriented requirements, and (c) continually improve above.
ISO 31000	Risk Management	Compliance	The purpose of ISO 31000:2009 is to provide principles and generic guidelines on risk management. It seeks to provide a universally recognised paradigm for practitioners and companies employing risk management processes to replace the myriad of existing standards, methodologies and paradigms that differed between industries, subject matters and regions.

Acronym	Literal	Context	Meaning
ISO 9000	International Quality	Compliance	Is the family of standards is related to quality management systems and designed to help organizations ensure that they meet the needs of customers and other stakeholders while meeting statutory and regulatory requirements related to the product.
ITAR	International Traffic in Arms Regulations	Compliance	Is a set of United States government regulations that control the export and import of defense-related articles and services on the United States Munitions List (USML). Its goal is to safeguard U.S. national security and further U.S. foreign policy objectives.
JIT	Just In Time	Operations	Is a production strategy that strives to improve a business return on investment by reducing in-process inventory and associated carrying costs.
LCA	Life Cycle Assessment	Engineering	Is a technique to assess environmental impacts associated with all the stages of a product's life from-cradle-to-grave (i.e., from raw material extraction through materials processing, manufacture, distribution, use, repair and maintenance, and disposal or recycling).
LED	Light Emitting Diode	Engineering	Is a semiconductor light source. LEDs are used as indicator lamps in many devices and are increasingly used for other lighting.
MAD	Mean Absolute Deviation	Reliability	In statistics, the absolute deviation of an element of a data set is the absolute difference between that element and a given point. Typically the deviation is reckoned from the central value, being construed as some type of average, most often the median or sometimes the mean of the data set.
MBQA	Malcolm Baldrige Quality Award	Compliance	Recognizes U.S. organizations in the business, health care, education, and non-profit sectors for performance excellence. The Baldrige Award is the only formal recognition of the performance excellence of both public and private U.S. organizations given by the President of the United States.
MDD	Medical Device Directive	Compliance	Is intended to harmonise the laws relating to medical devices within the European Union. The MD Directive is a 'New Approach' Directive and consequently in order for a manufacturer to legally place a medical device on the European market the requirements of the MD Directive have to be met.

Acronym	Literal	Context	Meaning
MDR	Medical Device Reporting	Compliance	Is the procedure for the Food and Drug Administration to get significant medical device adverse events information from manufacturers, importers and user facilities, so these institutions can be detected and corrected quickly, and the same lot of that product may be recalled.
MES	Manufacturing Execution System	Systems	Are computerized systems used in manufacturing. MES can provide the right information at the right time and show the manufacturing decision maker "how the current conditions on the plant floor can be optimized to improve production output."
MPI	Manufacturing Process Instructions	Systems	Formal instructions that define the detailed steps to assemble a product.
MPN	Manufacturer Part Number	Systems	Is an identifier of the manufacturer's part number that defines an "off the shelf" or standard part used in a product.
MPS	Master Production Schedule	Systems	Is a plan for individual commodities to produce in each time period such as production, staffing, inventory, etc. This plan quantifies significant processes, parts, and other resources in order to optimize production, to identify bottlenecks, and to anticipate needs and completed goods.
MR	Manpower Requirements	Systems	The amount of manpower required to support a project, plan, or activity.
MRD	Marketing Requirements Document	Marketing	Is a document that expresses the customer's wants and needs for the product or service including: Target market and customers, Competitive Analysis, Why customers are likely to want this product.
MRP	Material Requirements Plan	Systems	Is a production planning and inventory control system used to manage manufacturing processes. Most MRP systems are software-based, while it is possible to conduct MRP by hand as well.
MRP II	Manufacturing Resource Plan	Systems	Brings master scheduling, rough-cut capacity planning, capacity requirements planning, S&OP in 1983 and other concepts to classical MRP.
MTBF	Mean-Time Between Failure	Reliability	Is the predicted elapsed time between inherent failures of a system during operation. MTBF can be calculated as the arithmetic mean (average) time between failures of a system.

Acronym	Literal	Context	Meaning
MTO	Make To Order	Systems	See Build to Order Is a production approach where products are not built until a confirmed order for products is received. BTO is the oldest style of order fulfilment and is the most appropriate approach used for highly customized or low volume products.
MTS	Make To Stock	Operations	Is a build-ahead production approach in which production plans may be based upon sales forecasts and/or historical demand.
MTTR	Mean-Time To Recovery	Reliability	Is the average time that a device will take to recover from any failure. Examples of such devices range from self-resetting fuses (where the MTTR would be very short, probably seconds), up to whole systems which have to be repaired or replaced.
NCNR	Non Cancellable / Non Returnable	Operations	Materials that, once purchased, may not be returned. Increases the risk of purchasing a part
NDE	Non Destructive Evaluation	Reliability	Are analysis techniques used in science and industry to evaluate the properties of a material, component or system without causing damage
NPI	New Product Introduction	Systems	Is the complete process of introducing a new product to market. Focuses on the transition from development to volume production.
NRE	Non-Recurring Engineering	Engineering	Refers to the one-time cost to research, develop, design and test a new product. When budgeting for a project, NRE must be considered to analyze if a new product will be profitable.
NRND	Not Recommended for New Design	Engineering	Parts that will be going obsolete, and so should not be used in new designs.
NTF	No Trouble Found		Is a term used in various fields, especially in the electronics industry referring to a system or component that has been returned to the manufacturer or distributor for warranty replacement or service repair, but operates properly when tested.
NVOCC	Non-Vessel Operating Common Carrier (Freight Forwarder)	Operations	is a person or company that organizes shipments for individuals or corporations to get goods from the manufacturer or producer to a market, customer or final point of distribution.
O/H	Overhead	Operations	In business, overhead or overhead expense refers to an ongoing expense of operating a business; it is also known as an "operating expense". Examples include rent, gas, electricity, and wages.

Acronym	Literal	Context	Meaning
ODM	Original Design Manufacturer	Operations	Is a company which designs and manufactures a product which is specified and eventually branded by another firm for sale. Such companies allow the brand firm to produce (either as a supplement or solely) without having to engage in the organization or running of a factory.
OEM	Original Equipment Manufacturer	Business	The company that originally designed and manufactured a product or component that is marketed by another company in whole or as a part of a greater product. AC-Delco is the OEM of an alternator in a Chevy.
ORT	On-going Reliability Test	Reliability	Is a hardware test process usually used in manufacturing to ensure that quality of the products is still of the same specifications as the day it first went to production or general availability.
OTS	Off The Shelf	Operations	See COTS
P/N	Part Number	Systems	A part number unambiguously identifies a part design within a single corporation, and sometimes across several corporations.
PCA	Printed Circuit Assembly	Manufacturing	Is used to mechanically support and electrically connect electronic components using conductive pathways, tracks or signal traces etched from copper sheets laminated onto a non-conductive substrate.
PCB	Printed Circuit Board	Manufacturing	The bare circuit board. must initially be designed and laid out, but become cheaper, faster to make, and potentially more reliable for high-volume production since production and soldering of PCBs can be automated.
PCBA	Printed Circuit Board Assembly	Manufacturing	See PCA
PDCA	Plan-Do-Check-Act	Systems	Is an iterative four-step management method used in business for the control and continuous improvement of processes and products
PDM	Product Data Management	Systems	Is the business function often within product lifecycle management that is responsible for the management and publication of product data.
PLC	Product Life Cycle	Systems	Is a business analysis that attempts to identify a set of common stages in the life of commercial products, for example, introduction, promotion, growth, maturity and decline.

Acronym	Literal	Context	Meaning
PLM	Product Lifecycle Management	Systems	Is the process of managing the entire lifecycle of a product from its conception, through design and manufacture, to service and disposal. PLM integrates people, data, processes and business systems and provides a product information backbone for companies and their extended enterprise
PMA	Premarket Approval Application	Compliance (MedTech)	Clinical studies are most often conducted to support a PMA. An Investigational Device Exemption (IDE) allows the investigational device to be used in a clinical study in order to collect safety and effectiveness data required to support a Premarket Approval (PMA) application.
PO	Purchase Order	Operations	Is a commercial document issued by a buyer to a seller, indicating types, quantities, and agreed prices for products or services the seller will provide to the buyer.
PRD	Product Requirements Document	Engineering	Is a document written by a company that defines a product they are making, or the requirements for one or more new features for an existing product. A PRD is often created after a marketing requirements document (MRD) has been written and been given approval by management and is usually written before (or at least concurrently with) a technical requirements document.
QMS	Quality Management System	Systems	Is the organizational structure, procedures, processes and resources needed to implement quality management. Early systems emphasized predictable outcomes of a production line, using simple statistics and random sampling.
QRA	Quantitative Risk Analysis (Probabilistic Risk Analysis)	Reliability	Is a systematic and comprehensive methodology to evaluate risks associated with a complex engineered technological entity (such as an airliner or a nuclear power plant).
QSR	Quality System Regulation	Systems	FDA requirements for quality systems (21CFR820.30)
RA	Regulatory Affairs	Compliance	Is a profession within regulated industries, such as medical devices.
RBD	Reliability Block Diagram	Reliability	Is a diagrammatic method for showing how component reliability contributes to the success or failure of a complex system. RBD is also known as a dependence diagram (DD).
RCA	Root Cause Analysis	Reliability	Is a method of problem solving that tries to identify the root causes of faults or problems that cause operating events.

Acronym	Literal	Context	Meaning
RCCP	Rough Cut Capacity Planning	Operations	Is the estimation process of determining the production capacity needed by an organization to meet changing demands for its products.
REACH	Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals	Compliance	Is a European Union Regulation of 18 December 2006. REACH addresses the production and use of chemical substances (i.e. everything made of atoms), and their potential impacts on both human health and the environment. It is the strictest law to date regulating chemical substances and will affect industries throughout the world.
RFI	Request For Information	Business	Is a standard business process whose purpose is to collect written information about the capabilities of various suppliers. Normally it follows a format that can be used for comparative purposes.
RFID	Radio Frequency Identification	Engineering	Is the wireless non-contact use of radio-frequency electromagnetic fields to transfer data, for the purposes of automatically identifying and tracking tags attached to objects. Some tags require no battery and are powered and read at short ranges via magnetic fields (electromagnetic induction).
RFP	Request For Proposal	Business	Is a solicitation made, often through a bidding process, by a company interested in procurement of a commodity, service or valuable asset, to potential suppliers to submit business proposals. The RFP process brings structure to the procurement decision and is meant to allow the risks and benefits to be identified clearly up front.
RFQ	Request For Quotation	Business	Is a standard business process whose purpose is to invite suppliers into a bidding process to bid on specific products or services. Information like payment terms, quality level per item or contract length are possible to be requested during the bidding process.
ROA	Return On Assets	Business	The return on assets (ROA) percentage shows how profitable a company's assets are in generating revenue. Companies that require large initial investments will generally have lower return on assets.
RoHS	Restriction of Hazardous Substances	Compliance	Was adopted in February 2003 by the European Union. The RoHS directive took effect on 1 July 2006, and is required to be enforced and become law in each member state. This directive restricts (with exceptions) the use of six hazardous materials in the manufacture of various types of electronic and electrical equipment.

Acronym	Literal	Context	Meaning
ROI	Return On Investment	Business	Is the concept of an investment of some resource yielding a benefit to the investor. As a performance measure, it is used to evaluate the efficiency of an investment or to compare the efficiency of a number of different investments.
RPN	Risk Priority Number	Reliability	See FMEA
S&OP	Sales & Operations Planning	Business	Is an integrated business management process developed in the 1980s by Oliver Wight through which the executive/leadership team continually achieves focus, alignment and synchronization among all functions of the organization. The S&OP planning includes an updated forecast that leads to a sales plan, production plan, inventory plan, customer lead time (backlog) plan, new product development plan, strategic initiative plan and resulting financial plan.
SaaS	Software as a Service	Systems	Is a software delivery model in which software and associated data are centrally hosted on the cloud. SaaS is typically accessed by users using a thin client via a web browser. SaaS has become a common delivery model for many business applications.
SCM	Supply Chain Management	Operations	Is the management of a network of interconnected businesses involved in the provision of products and services required by the end customers in a supply chain. SCM spans all movement and storage of raw materials, work-in-process inventory, and finished goods from point of origin to point of consumption.
SCOR	Supply Chain Operations Reference	Operations	Is a process reference model that is the cross-industry de facto standard diagnostic tool for supply chain management. SCOR enables users to address, improve, and communicate supply chain management practices within and between all interested parties in the extended enterprise.
SDS	Software Design Specification	Engineering	Software description more detailed than the SRS. SDS items are not necessarily verified by testing.
SMED	Single Minute Exchange of Die	Manufacturing	Is one of the many lean production methods for reducing waste in a manufacturing process. It provides a rapid and efficient way of converting a manufacturing process from running the current product to running the next product.
SMI	Supplier Managed Inventory	Operations	Same as VMI - better name not as impersonal as VMI which characterizes a supplier as a "vending machine"

Acronym	Literal	Context	Meaning
SMT	Surface Mount Technology	Manufacturing	Is a method for making electronic circuits in which the components are mounted or placed directly onto the surface of printed circuit boards (PCBs). An electronic device so made is called a surface-mount device (SMD).
SO	Sales Order	Operations	Is an order issued by a business to a customer. A sales order may be for products and/or services. Given the wide variety of businesses, this means that the orders can be fulfilled in several ways.
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure	Systems	Are detailed, written instructions to achieve uniformity of the performance of a specific function.
SOW	Statement of Work	Business	Is a formal document that captures and defines the work activities, deliverables, and timeline a vendor must execute in performance of specified work for a client. The SOW usually includes detailed requirements and pricing, with standard regulatory and governance terms and conditions.
SRM	Supplier Relationship Management	Operations	Is the discipline of strategically planning for, and managing, all interactions with third party organizations that supply goods and/or services to an organization in order to maximize the value of those interactions. In practice, SRM entails creating closer, more collaborative relationships with key suppliers in order to uncover and realize new value and reduce risk.
SRS	Software Requirements Specification	Engineering	A requirements specification for a software system. Is a complete description of the behavior of a system to be developed and may include a set of use cases that describe interactions the users will have with the software. In addition it also contains non-functional requirements, such as performance engineering requirements, quality standards, or design constraints .
TAKT	Taktzeit = cycle time Takt time	Manufacturing	Sets the pace for industrial manufacturing lines. For example, in automobile manufacturing, cars are assembled on a line, and are moved on to the next station after a certain time - the takt time. The time needed to complete work on each station has to be less than the takt time in order for the product to be completed within the allotted time.

Acronym	Literal	Context	Meaning
TCO	Total Cost of Ownership	Business	Is a financial estimate whose purpose is to help consumers and enterprise managers determine direct and indirect costs of a product or system. It is a management accounting concept that can be used in full cost accounting or even ecological economics where it includes social costs.
TLC	Total Landed Cost	Operations	The landed cost is the total cost of purchasing, transporting, warehousing and distributing raw materials, semi-finished and finished goods.
TOC	Theory Of Constraints	Systems	Is a management paradigm that views any manageable system as being limited in achieving more of its goals by a very small number of constraints. There is always at least one constraint, and TOC uses a focusing process to identify the constraint and restructure the rest of the organization around it.
TQM	Total Quality Management	Quality	Is based on the premise that the quality of products and processes is the responsibility of everyone involved with the creation of products or services offered by an organization, requiring the involvement of management, workforce, suppliers, and customers, to meet customer expectations.
TRD	Technical Requirements Document	Engineering	See PRD
T's & C's	Terms and Conditions	Business	Is "any provision forming part of a contract". Each term gives rise to a contractual obligation, breach of which can give rise to litigation. Not all terms are stated expressly and some terms carry less legal gravity as they are peripheral to the objectives of the contract.
TUV	Technischer Überwachungs-Verein	Compliance	"Technical Inspection Association" (German)
UL	Underwriters Laboratory	Compliance	Is a safety consulting and certification company that has participated in the safety analysis of many of the last century's new technologies, most notably the public adoption of electricity and the drafting of safety standards for electrical devices and components.
UofM	Unit of Measure	Systems	Defines how material will be defined for the purchase or consumption of a part.

Acronym	Literal	Context	Meaning
UPC	Universal Product Code	Systems Operations	Is a barcode symbology (i.e., a specific type of barcode) that is widely used in North America, the UK, Australia, New Zealand and other countries for tracking trade items in stores. Its most common form, the UPC-A, consists of 12 numerical digits, which are uniquely assigned to each trade item.
URS	User Requirements Specification == MRD for software	Marketing	Is a document used in software engineering that specifies the requirements the user expects from software to be constructed in a software project.
V&V	Verification and Validation	Systems	Are independent procedures that are used together for checking that a product, service, or system meets requirements and specifications and that it fulfills its intended purpose. These are critical components of a quality management system such as ISO 9000, and ISO13485.
VMI	Vendor Managed Inventory	Operations	Is where the buyer of a product (business) provides certain information to a vendor (supply chain) supplier of that product and the supplier takes full responsibility for maintaining an agreed inventory of the material, usually at the buyer's consumption location (usually a store).
WEEE	Waste of Electrical and Electronic Equipment	Compliance	CE requirement that non-recyclable devices or parts be returned to the manufacturer.
WI	Work Instructions	Operations	See Manufacturing Process Instructions -- instructions that define the detailed steps to assemble a product.
WIP	Work In Progress	Operations	Are a company's partially finished goods waiting for completion and eventual sale or the value of these items. These items are either just being fabricated or waiting for further processing in a queue or a buffer storage.
WMS	Warehouse Management System	Systems	Controls the movement and storage of materials within a warehouse, including shipping, receiving, put-away and picking. It involves the physical warehouse infrastructure, tracking systems, and communication between product stations.
WO	Work Order	Operations	is an order received by an organization from a customer or client, or an order created internally within the organization. A work order may be for products or services.