Establishing a Nitinol Supply Chain in Costa Rica

Abstract: Nitinol, is recognized for its shape-memory and superelastic properties, is a critical material used in the manufacturing of advanced medical devices. As Costa Rica continues to strengthen its position as a strategic medical device manufacturing hub, establishing a robust and sustainable Nitinol supply chain within the country represents an important opportunity to enhance supply continuity, operational agility, and long-term manufacturing capabilities. Nitinol is especially beneficial in medical devices because it combines superelasticity, shape-memory behavior, flexibility, fatigue resistance, and biocompatibility in a way that conventional metals often cannot. These characteristics are particularly valuable for minimally invasive devices that must be compressed during delivery and then recover their intended shape inside the body.

Biography: Laura Vargas is a senior supply chain and procurement leader with 17 years of experience across global sourcing, purchasing, inventory planning, supplier management, and strategic negotiations. Her career includes progressive roles as Buyer, Global Inventory Planner, Sourcing Specialist, and Sourcing Manager, with experience at Boston Scientific and Chiquita Brands. Throughout her career, Laura has successfully managed complex global supplier networks and high-value categories. In her Global Sourcing leadership role at Boston Scientific, she managed Metals categories, including Nitinol Supply Chain Assessment projects, representing approximately $142 million in annual spend across 37 suppliers, while leading strategic initiatives focused on cost optimization, contract coverage, supplier development, and supply chain risk mitigation. Laura holds a Bachelor's degree in Production Industrial Engineering and a Master's degree in Business Administration (MBA) from the Technological Institute of Costa Rica. Passionate about supply chain management, Laura particularly enjoys negotiation, building strong supplier relationships, developing high-performing teams, and collaborating across cultures and regions. She believes leadership is grounded in trust, respect, collaboration, and leading by example. Her professional journey reflects a strong commitment to delivering business results while developing people and building lasting relationships