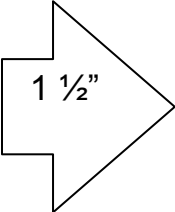


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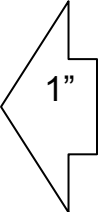
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ABSTRACT OF THESIS

**STRATEGIC NETWORKS OF
GROWTH-ORIENTED MANUFACTURING FIRMS:
A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF STRUCTURES AND OUTCOMES**



Organizations facing competitive environments increasingly adopt collaborative strategies for competitive advantage. This study examined the growing phenomenon of purposeful interorganizational relationships, or strategic networks, of independent, small and medium size manufacturers. These networks provide a membership-based group of “designated collaborators” that focus on increasing competitive advantage for member firms. Firm-level outcomes and interorganizational relationship structures related to network involvement were investigated.



KEYWORDS: Interorganizational Relationships, Strategic Networks, Manufacturing, Network Structures, Manufacturing Networking *(Include exactly 5 keywords or phrases)*

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