Build4 Scale U.S. Department of Energy

Design for Manufacturing, Assembly, and Reliability

Module 3A Market Feasibility

Motivation

Why is this module important?



A basic understanding of how products are engineered, manufactured, and assembled can help entrepreneurs avoid critical mistakes early in the development process

Many hardware startups excel at creating technically viable prototypes, but struggle with engineering challenges related to safety, cost-effectiveness, durability, and (most importantly) market viability

A Yale University management professor in response to student Fred Smith's paper proposing reliable overnight delivery service: "The concept is interesting and wellformed, but in order to earn better than a 'C', the idea must be feasible." - Frederick W. Smith



Motivation

Common mistakes and misconceptions



- Introducing a product at too high of a price point due to high cost of production
- Poor understanding of product costs that leads to unsustainable margins
- Failing to obtain an intimate understanding of manufacturing cost and takt time in order to optimize scaling strategy
- Insufficient understanding of the market and customer expectations (e.g., needs, price points, and competition)



Module Outline

- Leaning objectives
- Market feasibility analysis
- Determining fixed versus variable costs for your company
- Calculating your cost of goods sold (COGS)
- Impact of design on costs
- Making decisions on cost models
- Achieving economies of scale

Learning Objectives



- LO1. What is COGS, how to calculate it, and what does it influence
- LO2. Basics of fixed and variable costs and how they change with volume
- □ LO3. How to achieve economies of scale



What This Module Addresses



- Market feasibility analysis
- Determining fixed versus variable costs for your company
- Calculating your COGS
- Impact of design on costs
- Making decisions on cost models
- Achieving economies of scale

Market Feasibility

Best practices

- Reduce complexity of product design before making critical investments in manufacturing
- Reduce product costs before launch, allowing for introduction of product at appropriate price point
- Accurately assess your product costs that lead to sustainable margins
- Obtain an intimate understanding of manufacturing cost and take time to optimize scaling strategy
- Obtain a deep understanding of the market and customer expectations (e.g., needs, price points and competition)



Market Feasibility Study

Basics

The topics that should be covered in a market feasibility study include the following:

- Industry and customer needs assessment
- Current market analysis
- Competitive landscape analysis
- Anticipated future market potential
- Potential buyers and sources of revenues
- □ Sales projections
- Opportunity versus risk assessment (portions covered in this module)
- Cost and margin analysis (the focus of this module)

Manufacturing Risk

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Mitigate Financial Risk

Mitigate Timing Risk

Mitigate Quality Risk

Mitigate Technology Risk

Mitigate Labor Risk

Mitigate Price-Cost Risk

Mitigate Manufacturability Risk

Market Feasibility

Basics



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Businesses need to know their total costs:

- A fixed cost (FC) is a cost that does not change the level of output and needs to be paid independent of any business activity
- □ A variable cost (VC) varies with the level of output
- The total cost is the amount of money spent by a firm on producing a given level of output



Market Feasibility

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Break-even

The break-even point (BEP) or break-even level represents the sales amount—in either unit (quantity) or revenue (sales) terms—that is required to cover total costs

□ Total profit at the **break-even point** is zero

Note: by keeping your overhead (fixed cost) low you can achieve your breakeven point with much lower sales and begin to be profitable



Examples – Variable costs

Merchandising companies:

COGS

Manufacturing companies:

Direct materials, direct labor, and variable overhead

Merchandising and manufacturing companies:

□ Shipping costs, commissions, and clerical costs (i.e., invoicing) Service companies:

□ Supplies, travel expenses, and clerical costs





Cost metrics

Important costs metrics:

- **Burn Rate** = R-C = Negative Monthly Cost Flow
- **Runway** = Cash Balance / Burn Rate
- **Cash-Out Date** = Today + Runway

	Examples	Insight
Fixed Costs (Don't change with volume)	Salaries, leases, insurance, utilities, housing, etc.	Fixed > variable costs for virtual goods and services
Variable Costs (Tied to volume)	Product materials and delivery costs, shipping, hosting usage, etc.	Calculate unit costs by dividing total variable costs by volume



Examples



Fixed Costs

Staff salaries **Production facility** Machinery and hard tooling Depreciation Rent Property tax **Property insurance** Patent amortization

Basics



- Direct costs are directly attributable to the product (The costs of materials, labor, equipment, etc., and all directly involved efforts or expenses for the product are direct costs)
- In manufacturing or other non-construction industries, the portion of operating costs that is directly assignable to a specific product or process is a direct cost
- Direct costs are for activities or services that benefit specific products

Examples: salaries for product staff, materials required for a particular product



Basics (cont.)



- □ Indirect costs are not directly attributable to the product (they are typically allocated to the product)
- In manufacturing, costs not directly assignable to the end product or process are indirect
- Indirect costs are for activities or services that benefit more than one product
 - *Examples*: rent, management, insurance, taxes, or maintenance

Basics (cont.)

Costs usually charged directly:

- Product-development and manufacturing staff
- Consultants
- Product supplies
- Publications

- Travel associated with product development and manufacturing
- □ Labor
- Direct bill of materials (BOM)
- Electricity (only if it is the principal source)

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Basics (cont.)

An allocated cost is a type of expense that is clearly associated with, and therefore assigned to, a certain business process, project or department etc. It can be allocated in different ways such as percent of square feet, percent of hours usage etc.

Costs charged directly or allocated indirectly:

- Director's salary (usually an indirect cost)
- Electricity (if it needs allocation it is indirect)

Costs usually allocated indirectly:

- Electricity and other utilities
- Administration cost
- Selling and distribution cost
- □ Office expenses
- Travel associated with business development and company administration



How to calculate indirect costs and overhead

- Find your overhead percentage; an overhead percentage tells you how much of your business is spent on overhead and how much is spent making a product
- Overhead percentage: divide indirect costs by direct costs
- *Example*: \$16,800 / \$48,000 = 0.35
- Multiply this number by 100 to get your overhead percentage
- *Example*: 0.35 x 100 = 35 percent. This means that your business spends 35 percent of its money on legal fees, administrative staff, rent, etc. for every product it produces
- A low overhead rating is good! The lower your overhead rating, the larger your profit (Most manufacturing companies have relatively large overhead ratings)
 Market Feasibility

Exercise – *Identify existing operation costs*

Module 2: Market Feasibility - Calculate Your Fixed vs. Variable Costs	Costs	
Fixed Costs		
Product development and manufacturing staff		
Manufacturing/Assembly/Inventory facilities (rent or mortgage)		
Capital equipment and machinery		
Hard tooling		
Product testing, inspection, quality systems		
Asset depreciation		
Product supplies, packaging		
Operation maintenance and repair		
Operation management (e.g., lean mfg systems)		
Travel associated with product development and manufacturing		
Labor associated with product development and manufacturing		
Product bill of materials		
Electricity (only if electricity is the principal source for producing the		
product)		
Consultants/Contractors		
Property taxes		
Property and product insurance		
Patent amortization		
Total		

Market Feasibility

Exercise – *Identify existing operation costs (cont.)*

Module 2: Market Feasibility - Workshop Exercise: Calculate	Costs
Your Fixed vs. Variable Costs	
Variable Costs	
Electricity (only if electricity is NOT the principal source for	
producing the product)	
Soft or disposable tooling	
Product scrap and waste removal	
Overtime premium	
Administration staff labor cost	
Selling and distribution cost	
Office space cost	
Office supplies	
Travel associated with business development and company	
administration	
Directors Salary (if not directly contributing to product)	
R&D (if general or associated with multiple products)	
Marketing and Communications expenses	
Technology/Product royalties or licensing fees	
Total	

Market Feasibility

Cost Of Goods Sold

Key questions



- What is my current and expected (i.e., future) cost of goods sold (COGS)?
- How do I account for everything associated with my COGS?
- □ What is the best method to estimate my existing hardware cost?
- What is the design and engineering validation cost for each component?
- What are my non-recurring expenses (NRE) associated with the BOM now versus product at scale?
- How do my business model/operations decisions impact costs and margins?
- What is the impact of product design changes on costs and margins?
 Market Feasibility



The formula can be rearranged to read as follows:

Cost of goods manufactured +/- the change in finished goods inventory = COGS

If the finished goods available for sale (i.e., inventory) decreased, then the amount of this decrease is added to the cost of goods manufactured (If the finished goods inventory increased, then the amount of this increase is deducted from the cost of goods manufactured)

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Cost Of Goods Manufactured

Schedule

- Direct materials
 - Raw materials inventory, beginning
 - Add: Raw materials purchased
 - Raw materials available for use
 - Deduct: Raw materials inventory, ending
 - Total: Raw materials used
- Direct labor
- Manufacturing overhead
 - Indirect material
 - Add: Indirect labor
 - Add: Rental of factory building
 - Add: Depreciation of factory equipment
 - Add: Utilities
 - Add: Property taxes
 - Add: Insurance
 - Total Manufacturing overhead
 - Deduct: Under-applied overhead
 - Total: Overhead applied to work in process

- Direct materials
 - Add: Direct labor
 - Add: Manufacturing overhead
- Total: Manufacturing costs incurred
 - Add: Work in process, beginning of period
- Manufacturing costs to be accounted for
 - Deduct: Work in process, end of period
- Cost of goods manufactured

Transferred to Schedule of COGS





Cost Of Goods Manufactured/Sold

Example – Calculation

Toll Brothers Inc. Cost of Goods Manufactured and Sold Report			
Beginning raw materials inventory	0		
(+) Raw materials purchased	+150,000		
(-) Indirect materials used	-10,000		
(-) Ending raw materials inventory	0		
Direct materials used in production	140,000		
Direct Labor	50,000		
Manufacturing overhead applied	60,000		
Total current manufacturing costs	250,000		
(+) Beginning work-in-process inventory	+0		
(-) Ending work-in-process (Job #3335)	-75,000		
Cost of goods manufactured (Job #2719)	175,000		
(+) Beginning finished-goods inventory	+0		
(-) Ending finished-goods inventory	-0		
Unadjusted cost of goods sold	175,000		
Adjustment for under-applied manufacturing overhead	+3,000		
Cost of Goods Sold	178,000		

Cost Of Goods Sold

Exercise - Calculation

Product Manufacturer Cost of Good Sold Calculator	\$
Beginning Raw Materials Inventory	\$
(+) Raw Material Purchased	\$
(-) Indirect Materials Used	\$
(-) Ending Raw Materials Inventory	\$
Direct Materials Used in Production	\$
Direct Labor	\$
Manufacturing Overhead (applied)	\$
Total Current Manufacturing Cost	\$
(+) Beginning Work in Process Inventory	\$
(-) Ending Work in Process	\$
Cost of Goods Manufactured	\$
(+) Beginning Finished Goods Inventory	\$
(-) Ending Finished Goods Inventory	\$
Unadjusted Cost of Goods Sold	\$
Adjustments for Underapplied Manufacturing Overhead	\$
Cost of Goods Sold	\$

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Impact Of Design On Costs

Common mistakes



- A never-ending cycle of design changes
- Responding to a customer design change request without considering the cost of making that change
- Making design changes without considering impact to manufacturing process and costs

Impact Of Design On Costs

Best practices



- Early on in the product-development timeline, establish designfreeze dates
- Establish cost targets for your product at system and component levels
- Track design changes to determine manufacturing process adjustments

Determine if design changes:

- Require use of different materials
- Require investment in new tooling
- Require different capital equipment
- Impact the assembly process

Impact Of Design On Cost



Decisions made during the **design process** have significant effects on the success (or failure) of your product



Source: Copyright 1989 Monroe & Associates, Inc.

Non-/Recurring Costs

Basics



Recurring costs are known as "revenue expenses" that your company needs to incur on a regular basis; for example, raw material expenses, and labor expenses

Non-recurring expenses are known as "capital expenses" that are not incurred on a regular basis—Once incurred, they provide long-term benefits

Example: purchase of land, building, and machinery

Non-Recurring Engineering

Budgeting and design expenses

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- Non-recurring engineering (NRE) expenses refer to the one-time cost to research, design, develop and test a new product
- When budgeting for a new product, NRE must be considered to determine if a new product will be profitable
- Even though a company will pay for NRE on a project only once, NRE costs can be prohibitively high and the product will need to sell well enough to produce a return on the initial investment
- NRE is unlike recurring engineering production costs, which must be paid constantly to maintain production of a product. It is a form of fixed cost in economics terms. Once a system is designed, any number of units can be manufactured without increasing NRE cost.

Note: NRE can become costly if several generations of product development are needed before a product can be viable for market Market Feasibility

Cost Models

Decision impacts



For "manufactured" products in mature industries, the cost of implementation and scaling can often be a deal breaker

Reality check:

- Can I deliver my product for a sustainable price?
- Will the costs and risks of implementation at scale eliminate my ability to achieve profit margins?
- Do I change my manufacturing strategy and business model to reduce operational risk?
- How do my "business operations model" decisions impact my cost model?



Manufacturer Value Model

Example – It's complex

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Cost Model Options

Decision Impacts

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Business Model Decisions Impact Cost Models				
Facilities/Equipment	Buy/Build/Install	VS.	Contract Manufacturing	
Product	Manufacture	VS.	License	
R&D	In-house	VS.	Outsourced Design/Engineering	
Operations	Fixed (economies of scale)	VS.	Variable Operational Costs	
Sales Channels	Direct Sales	VS.	Distributors/Reps	
Customer Relationships	Direct Customer Relationship Management	VS.	Distributors/Reps	
Headcount	Salaried Employees	VS.	Contract Employees	
IP	US/Global Patent	VS.	Proprietary Trade Secrets	

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Manufacturing Decisions

Captive versus outsource impacts on margins





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Business Model Impacts

Cost and margins

Physical product channel economics: original equipment manufacturer (OEM) or IP licensing?



* SG&A = Selling, General and Administrative Expenses

Who are you selling to? Is there a specific industry Is there a specific size or industries that are (revenue, assets, employees) best suited for the offering? Industry of organization that is being targeted? Product or Size of Is this a complete solution Solution Organization or a point product? Is this a new market where the focus is on Target Is this a complex sale early adopters or that involved an **Buyer** Buying Technology a mature market? approver, decision Adoption Process maker, recommender and influencer? Distribution Will this be sold by direct sales, What is the average **Price Point** Model inside sales, online sales or selling price and the indirect channels? average sales cycle? Market Feasibility

Business Model Impacts

Go to market options

Source: Adapted from www.fourguadrant.com

Business Model Impacts Example – Market segmentation **Aerospace Passenger vehicles Off Road Vehicles** Commercial Compact Agriculture Cargo/Shipping • Sedan Construction • Air Force SUV/vans • Sport (golf carts) • UAV's Trucks Racing Space travel **Commercial vehicles** Marine Light duty **TRANSPORTATION** Yachts • Medium duty Cargo/Shipping Heavy duty Naval 2–3 Wheel Vehicles • Bicycles **Military ground** Motorcycles, ATV's vehicles Rail Tactical Commuter Light • F-Bikes Non-tactical • Cargo /Shipping Community/ • UGV's High Speed neighborhood Trailers Market Feasibility

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Business Model Impacts

Pathway to customers?

Considerations in determining pathway to secure customers:

- Customer Acquisition Cost
- Time to Secure Customer
- Customer Maintenance Cost



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Business Model Impacts

Product to customer pathway options?

□ What is the wait time for customer to access your product?

□ Who inventories your product?

□ What is the cost to inventory your product?





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Business Model Impact

Customer growth plan



Cost Versus Price And Margins

Economies of scale

Economies of scale:

- □ How do I achieve economies of scale?
- How do fixed and variable costs change based on product volume?
- □ What is my "should cost"?
- How do I benchmark my competitors and their cost?
- How do I evaluate my value proposition in the value chain?
- □ What is my current product-manufacturing work flow?
- □ How is my work flow impacted as I begin to scale?
- How to develop a "Pro forma" based on production work flow

Basics

- Increase product volume
- Reduce fixed cost of product
- Reduce variability and options in product
- Map your manufacturing work flow process and develop ways to streamline operations
- Intimately understand your investment in terms of both manufacturing cost and takt time in order to optimize the scaling strategy



Enabling margins



Common misconception: *"It's all about volume"*

Yes it is, in part, but greater margins are also realized by a concerted effort to reduce fixed costs over time by learning to improve product manufacturing!



Reduce variability and options in the product

Manufacturing models



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Where to start?



Common mistake: Most companies leap into volume production with expensive capital equipment and tooling before conducting a thorough analysis of reducing their fixed product cost

- Begin by determining your current product cost
- Benchmark your competition
- Set a cost target for your product and individual components
- Identify your "Should cost" by engaging your own team and external experts to rethink the design of your product

Benchmarking

Basics

- Buy a unit of your competitor's product
- Disassemble the product
- Estimate its cost

Evaluate how it was designed for:

- Manufacturability and assembly
- Cost
- Performance
- Durability and lifecycle
- Maintenance and serviceability
- Packaging



Design/Analytical Benchmarking

Example - automotive



What should it cost?

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Identify the "should cost" by engaging your own team and external experts to rethink the design of your product:

- Can you remove cost? Or replace expensive materials?
- Can you adopt cheaper manufacturing processes?
- □ Can you reduce expensive tooling?
- □ Can you reduce part count?
- □ Can you reduce assembly steps?
- Can you lean the manufacturing process to reduce time, waste, etc.?
- Can you reduce manufacturing stations by employing flexible work cells?
- Can you streamline testing (e.g., in-line)?

Should Cost

Case study 1 – *Vehicle battery-pack tray*

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- The initial vehicle battery tray consisted of three separate metal parts with a number of individual fasteners (J-nuts, weld nuts and bolts)
- By converting the battery-pack tray to a single piece of molded plastic, the following benefits were recognized:
- □ The part count went from 16 to 1
- □ The number of fasteners decreased from 11 to 4
- Material costs decreased by more 70 percent
- Labor costs (i.e., installation) decreased by 40 percent
- □ Achieved a weight savings of 48 percent
- The manufacturer estimated a savings of over \$2M annually due to this change

Assembly-Process Map

Case study 1 – *Vehicle battery-pack tray (cont.)*



Source: Munro & Associates

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Assembly-Process Map

Case study 1 – Vehicle battery-pack tray (cont.)





Taurus Battery Tray

Battery Tray Comparison



Cost of Quality for alignment = .08 added to every good part Cost of Quality for alignment = .08 added to every good part Scrap & rework of stud due to misaligned parts





63% Less Parts! 52% Less Labor! 48% Less Weight! 65% Less Cost!

908 % Quality Improvement

Executive Summary

Case study 1 – *Vehicle battery-pack tray (cont.)*

	EXECUTIVE SUN	& ASSOCIATES INC.		
DESIGNPROFIT	Taulus Ballery	Пау	DESIGNPROFIT [®]	
	Taurus Battery Tray	1 Piece	Battery Tray	%↓
Parts	16		6	63%
Good Parts	1		1	0%
Steps	53		24	55%
Actual Time	210.00 sec	101	.00 sec	52%
Fasteners	11		4	64%
Ergo Dangers	0	VALUE	0	0%
Poka Yoke Issues	1	RO	0	100%
Total Weight	1,736.54 gm	899	.87 gm	48%
Piece Cost	\$11.08	4417 S	3.22	71%
Total Labor Cost	\$2.36	\$	51.40	40%
Q Burden	\$0.59	\$0.00		100%
Total Cost	\$14.03	\$4.62		67%
Investment Cost	\$476,316	\$85,000		82%
Annual Savings	N/A	\$2,351,730		0%
Right First Time	9.83%	99.96%		-917%
Sigma	3.61	5.65		-56%

A design for assembly (DFA) cycle led to substantial savings

for a battery-pack tray manufacturer!

Source: Munro & Associates

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MUNRO

Should Cost

Case study 2 - Aircraft waste-pipe bracket

The initial pipe bracket consisted of 16 parts with many fasteners and a complex assembly process

Using a component integration redesigning approach to the pipe bracket, the following benefits were recognized:

Part count went from 16 to 3 parts

- Assembly time reduced from 46 to 3 minutes
- Material costs dropped by more than 92 percent
- Labor costs (assembly) decreased by 93 percent
- Major tooling and part cost reduced from \$64 to under \$5/part

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Initial Assembly-Process Map

Case study 2 - Aircraft waste-pipe bracket (cont.)

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Initial Assembly-Process Map

Case study 2 - Aircraft waste-pipe bracket (cont.)





Revamped Lean Design

Case study 2 - Aircraft waste-pipe bracket (cont.)



Lean Assembly-Process Map

Case study 2 - Aircraft waste-pipe bracket (cont.)







Executive Summary

Case study 2 - Aircraft waste-pipe bracket (cont.)

Waste Pipe and Harness Hangers	Baseline	Lean Design	Percent Decrease
Assembly Operations	210	8	96
Parts	16	3	80
Assembly Time (minutes)	46	3	93
Labor Cost	\$35.27	\$2.44	93
Material Cost	\$28.74	\$2.44	92
Tooling Cost	N/A	\$14,522	N/A
Total Cost	\$64.01	\$4.74	93
Mass (ounces)	2.1	0.8	62

A "design for cost" reduction effort led to substantial savings for a pipe bracket manufacturer! Market Feasibility

Source: Munro & Associates

Value Chain

Basics



- A value chain is a set of activities that a firm operating in a specific industry performs in order to deliver a valuable product or service for the markin chaet
- A value chain assessment is a study that identifies the dynamics of the product or service delivery system incorporating:
- Upstream activities: R&D (design, engineering, testing), services (financing, leasing, certification, SAS), product supply chain including product manufacturing (materials, equipment, tooling, assembly, packaging)
- Downstream functions: sales, distribution, transportation, logistics, construction, operations/maintenance and repair)

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Value Chain

Example – Wind energy industry



Basics



Well-structured value chain assessments include identification of the key industry players (OEM's, suppliers, universities, national labs, non-profits), indication of the supply chain dynamics (how R&D and procurement interactions work within the value chain), and isolation of high-value systems and processes

Basics



Identify major players:

- OEM's, tier 1–2 suppliers, equipment/tooling provides, service firms
- What is the value proposition for every segment of the value chain?

How does procurement interaction work?

- □ Who supplies to who in the value chain?
- Is there vertical integration that will negatively impact my ability to take my product to market?
- Are there mergers and acquisitions that impact value-chain decisions/relationships?

Market Feasibility

Basics (cont.)

High-value systems:

- Am I offering something unique or a commodity?
- What systems, components, materials, software, controls, services, manufacturing processes have the most value?

Supply chain competitiveness:

- Are there currently domestic or global supply-chain gaps that I can fill?
- □ Can I expect there to be US competitiveness issues and why?
- Where are the opportunities for business-model innovation?

Translate your core competency into a unique proposition!

- □ Based on the unique value chain, what does my company offer?
- □ What is unique about my product?
- Do I have unique intellectual property?
- UWho has the most to gain or loose by me entering the market?
- □ What is my value proposition? And to whom?
- □ Who in the value chain has "pain" that my product can alleviate?
- Who in the value chain has the most to "gain" from the introduction of my product?
- How do I evaluate the value proposition to be "specific" and "quantitative"?
- Who can I strategically partner with to accelerate my pathway to market?
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Supply Chain

Example - Automotive

Industry Structure:

- Creating a tiered supply chain is part of supply chain management
- Each tier supplies to the one above it (tier 1 supply components directly (OEM))
- A company can be a tier 1 supplier in one supply chain and tier 2 in another



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Workflow Process

Key questions



□ What are the steps in the manufacturing process?

- What materials, equipment, energy, and people are needed and when?
- How does this work flow change when your product is scaled to a higher volume?



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Workflow Process

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Workflow Process To Pro Forma

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Workflow Process To Pro Forma

Exercise – *Wind tower production*

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Workflow Process To Pro Forma

Exercise – Wind tower production (cont.)

New Scaled-Up Product Volume = 100 towers a month or 10X increase (capacity approx. 150 towers a month)



Manufacturing Pro Forma

Exercise



Current product volume = X per month Inventory Cost = SX Inventory Cost = SX Inventory Cost = SX ٠ Material Cost = SX Material Cost = \$X Material Cost = \$X ٠ Tooling Cost = \$X Tooling Cost = \$X Tooling Cost = \$X • CapEx Cost = \$X CapEx Cost = \$X CapEx Cost = \$X • Inbound Station 2 Station 1 Station 3 Outbound Inventory Inventory - BOM Cost ? ? ? - Space Cost - Space Cost 1 Station = X per day 1 Station = X per day 1 Station = X per day Labor Cost = X staff @ \$X Labor Cost = X staff @ \$X Labor Cost = X staff @ \$X Energy Cost = \$X Energy Cost = \$X Energy Cost = \$X Takt Time = X Takt Time = X Takt Time = X hours/tower hours/tower hours/tower

Market Feasibility

Manufacturing Pro Forma

Exercise - (cont.)



New higher scaling product volume = X per month



Market Feasibility

List Of Terms

In glossary



- Fixed Cost (FC) are the indirect costs or overheads are business expenses that are not dependent on the level of goods or services produced by the business.
- □ <u>Variable Cost (VC)</u> is costs that change in proportion to the good or service that a business produces.
- Total Cost (TC) describes the total economic cost of production and is made up of variable costs, which vary according to the quantity of a good produced and include inputs such as labor and raw materials, plus fixed costs, which are independent of the quantity of a good produced and include inputs (capital) that cannot be varied in the short term, such as buildings and machinery.
- Break-Even Point (BEP) is the point at which total cost and total revenue are equal.
- Break-Even Level or Break-even output is a production level that achieves zero economic profit. In other words, a firm is just "breaking even." The total revenue received by a firm at the breakeven output just matches the total cost incurred. However, because total cost includes a normal profit, only economic profit is zero.
- Burn Rate is the rate at which a company is losing money
- Runway is the amount of time or money a company can operate in the red calculated as (cash balance divided by burn rate)
- Cash-Out Date relative to a company with a high burn rate is the future date at which the company will run out of money if the current burn rate remains constant.

Direct Costs are costs which are directly accountable to a cost object (such as a particular project, facility, function or product).

Market Feasibility

List Of Terms

In glossary (cont.)



- Indirect Costs are costs that are not directly accountable to a cost object (such as a particular project, facility, function or product). Indirect costs may be either fixed or variable. Indirect costs include administration, personnel and security costs.
- Allocated Cost is a type of expense that is clearly associated with and so can be readily assigned to a certain business process, project or department.
- Overhead Percentage relate to regular expenses that are not directly related to producing goods or services. These indirect expenses are termed "overhead" costs. Most businesses calculate overhead cost on a monthly basis. Typically, overhead cost is expressed as a percentage of sales or of labor cost.
- Recurring Costs are incurred repeatedly, or for each item produced or each service performed.
- Non-Recurring Expenses are an unusual charge, expense, or loss that is unlikely to occur again in the normal course of a business. Non recurring costs include write offs such as design, development, and investment costs, and fire or theft losses, lawsuit payments, losses on sale of assets, and moving expenses. Also called extraordinary cost.
- Non-Recurring Engineering refers to the one-time cost to research, design, develop and test a new product or product enhancement.
- Value Chain is a set of activities that a firm operating in a specific industry performs in order to deliver a valuable product or service for the market.
- Tiered Supply Chain or Multi-tier supply chains are multiple single-tier collaborations, meaning multiple <u>supplier</u>buyer-relations, within one <u>supply chain</u>. In practice it is said to have several <u>suppliers</u> but one customer from which's point of view a <u>supply chain</u> is derived.
- Design for Manufacturing (DFM) is the general engineering practice of designing products in such a way that they are easy to manufacture.
- Design for Assembly (DFA) is a process by which products are designed with ease of assembly in mind.

Market Feasibility