



# **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 well-formed, but in order to earn better than a 'C', the idea must be feasible."  
- Frederick W. Smith*

# Motivation

## *Common mistakes and misconceptions*



- ❑ Designing a product that is too complex to manufacture or assemble at scale
- ❑ 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



- Learning 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



Mitigate Financial Risk

Mitigate Timing Risk

Mitigate Quality Risk

Mitigate Technology Risk

Mitigate Labor Risk

Mitigate Price–Cost Risk

Mitigate Manufacturability Risk



Market Feasibility

# Fixed And Variable Costs

## *Basics*

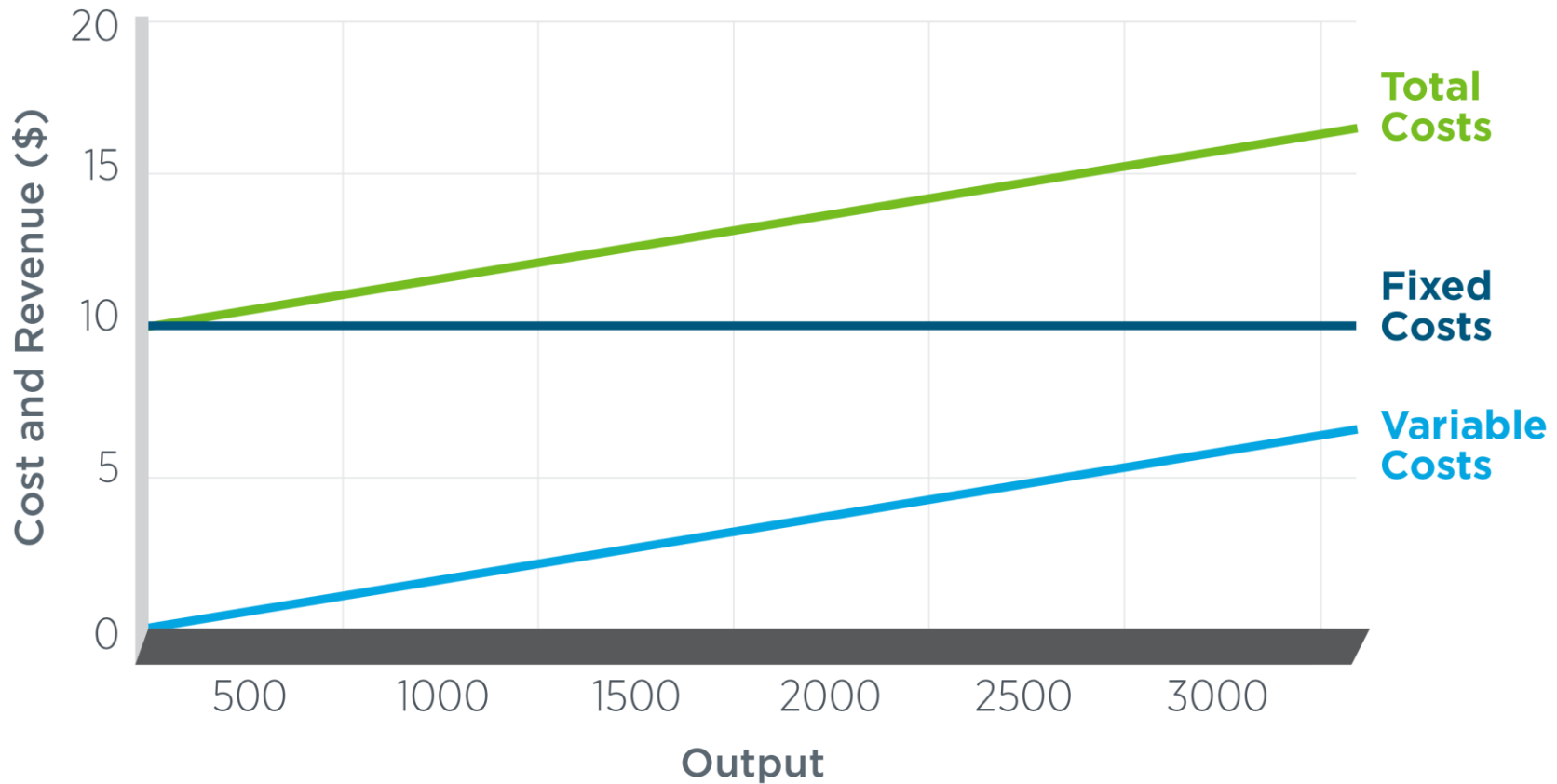


**Businesses need to know their total costs:**

- 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

# Fixed And Variable Costs

*Basics (cont.)*

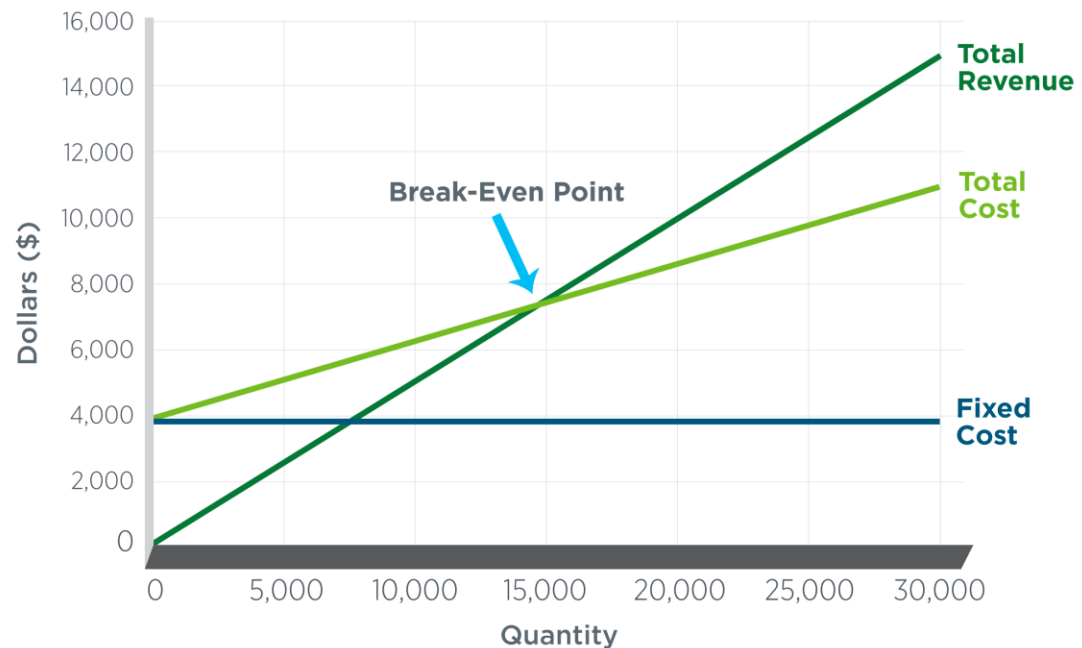


# Fixed And Variable Costs

## 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



Market Feasibility

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# Fixed And Variable Costs

*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

# Fixed And Variable 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

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

# Fixed And Variable Costs

## Examples



### Variable Costs

Supplies  
Fuel  
Power  
Small tools  
Spoiled inventory  
Communication costs  
Overtime premium  
Royalties

### Semi-Variable Costs

Contractors and Consultants  
Production Equipment  
maintenance and repair  
Office cleaning and maintenance  
Power and Energy  
Health and accident insurance

### Fixed Costs

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

# Direct Versus Indirect Costs

## *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



# Direct Versus Indirect Costs

## *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

# Direct Versus Indirect Costs

*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)

# Direct Versus Indirect Costs

## *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

# Direct Versus Indirect Costs

*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:*  $0.35 \times 100 = 35$  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)

# Direct Versus Indirect Costs

*Exercise – Identify existing operation costs*



Module 2: Market Feasibility - Calculate Your Fixed vs. Variable Costs		Costs
<b>Fixed Costs</b>		
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		

# Direct Versus Indirect Costs

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



Module 2: Market Feasibility - Workshop Exercise: Calculate Your Fixed vs. Variable Costs	Costs
<b>Variable Costs</b>	
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	

# 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?

# Cost Of Goods Sold

*Calculating your COGS*



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)



# 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
<b>Direct materials used in production</b>	<b>140,000</b>
<b>Direct Labor</b>	<b>50,000</b>
<b>Manufacturing overhead applied</b>	<b>60,000</b>
<b>Total current manufacturing costs</b>	<b>250,000</b>
(+) Beginning work-in-process inventory	+0
(-) Ending work-in-process (Job #3335)	-75,000
<b>Cost of goods manufactured (Job #2719)</b>	<b>175,000</b>
(+) Beginning finished-goods inventory	+0
(-) Ending finished-goods inventory	-0
<b>Unadjusted cost of goods sold</b>	<b>175,000</b>
<b>Adjustment for under-applied manufacturing overhead</b>	<b>+3,000</b>
<b>Cost of Goods Sold</b>	<b>178,000</b>

# Cost Of Goods Sold

## *Exercise - Calculation*



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

# 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 design-freeze 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*



# 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*



- ❑ **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*



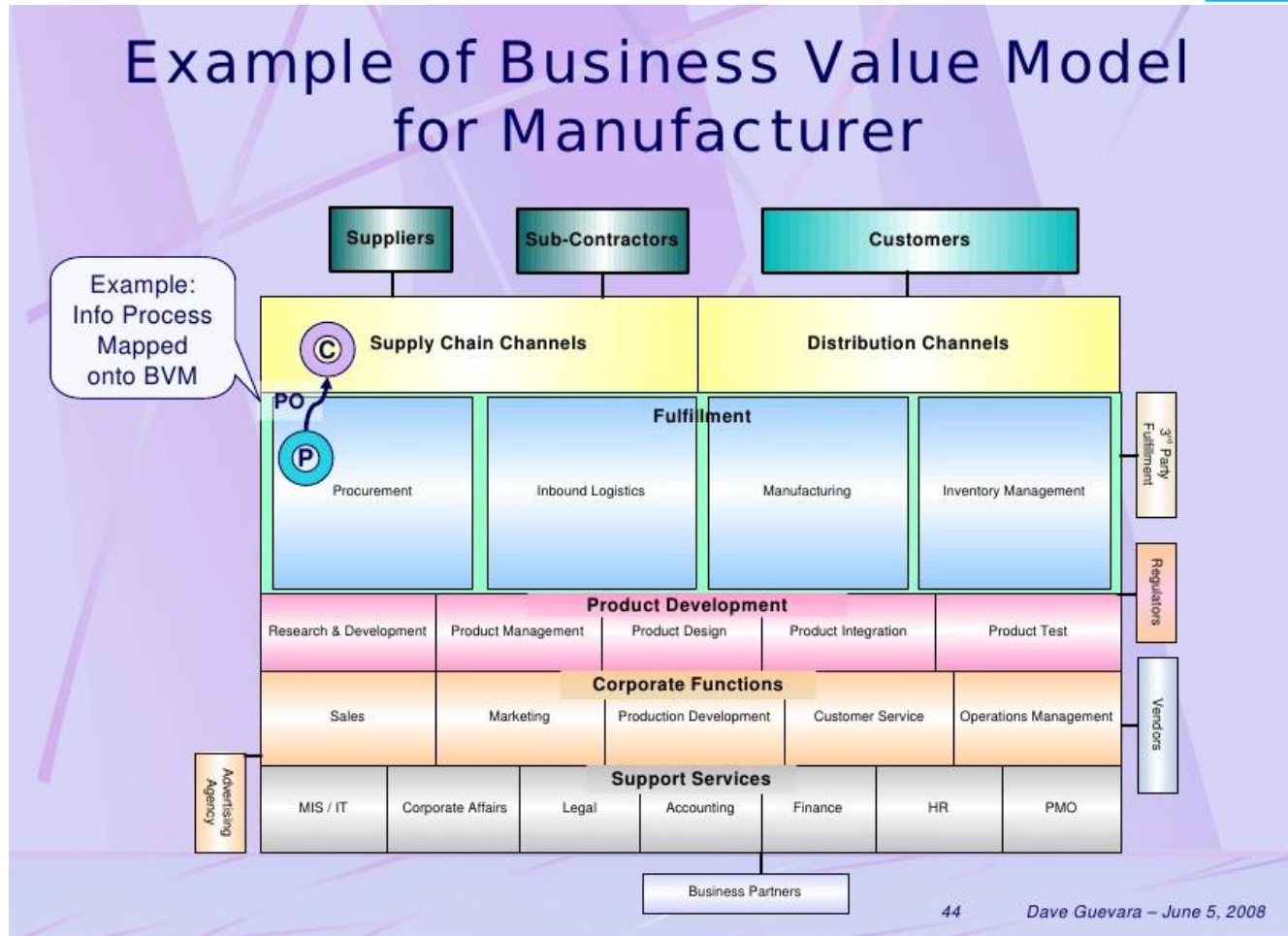
*For “manufactured” products in mature industries, the cost of implementation and scaling can often be a deal breaker*

## 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*



# Cost Model Options

## *Decision Impacts*



### Business Model Decisions Impact Cost Models

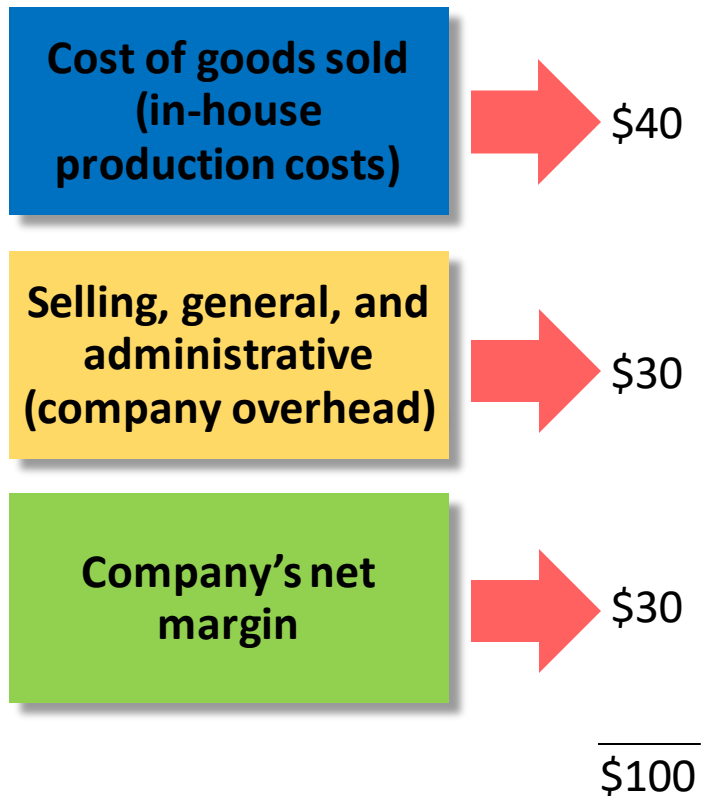
<b>Facilities/Equipment</b>	Buy/Build/Install	vs.	Contract Manufacturing
<b>Product</b>	Manufacture	vs.	License
<b>R&amp;D</b>	In-house	vs.	Outsourced Design/Engineering
<b>Operations</b>	Fixed (economies of scale)	vs.	Variable Operational Costs
<b>Sales Channels</b>	Direct Sales	vs.	Distributors/Reps
<b>Customer Relationships</b>	Direct Customer Relationship Management	vs.	Distributors/Reps
<b>Headcount</b>	Salaried Employees	vs.	Contract Employees
<b>IP</b>	US/Global Patent	vs.	Proprietary Trade Secrets

# Manufacturing Decisions

*Captive versus outsource impacts on margins*



## In-house manufacturing & sales



# Manufacturing Decisions

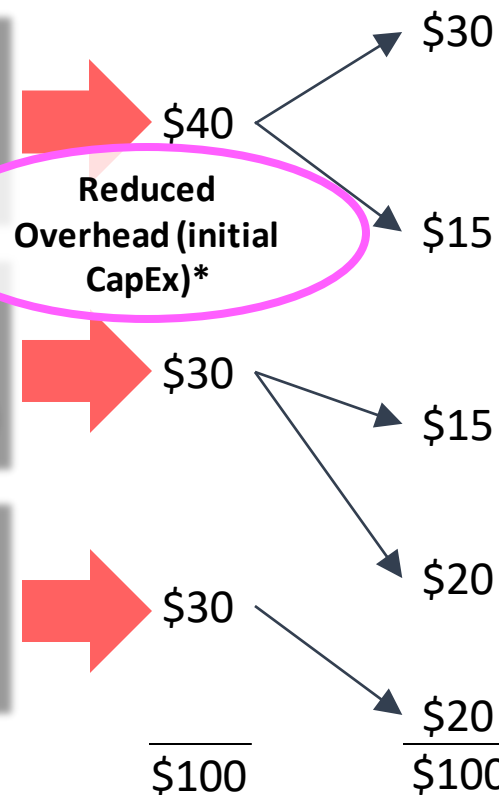
*Captive versus outsource impacts on margins  
(cont.)*

## In-house manufacturing & sales

Cost of goods sold  
(in-house  
production costs)

Selling, general, and  
administrative  
(company overhead)

Company's net  
margin



Reduced  
Overhead (initial  
CapEx)\*

## Contract manufacturing & distribution

Cost of goods sold  
(contract  
manufacturing  
costs)

Contract  
manufacturer's  
margin

Selling, general, and  
Administrative  
(company overhead)

Distributor's margin

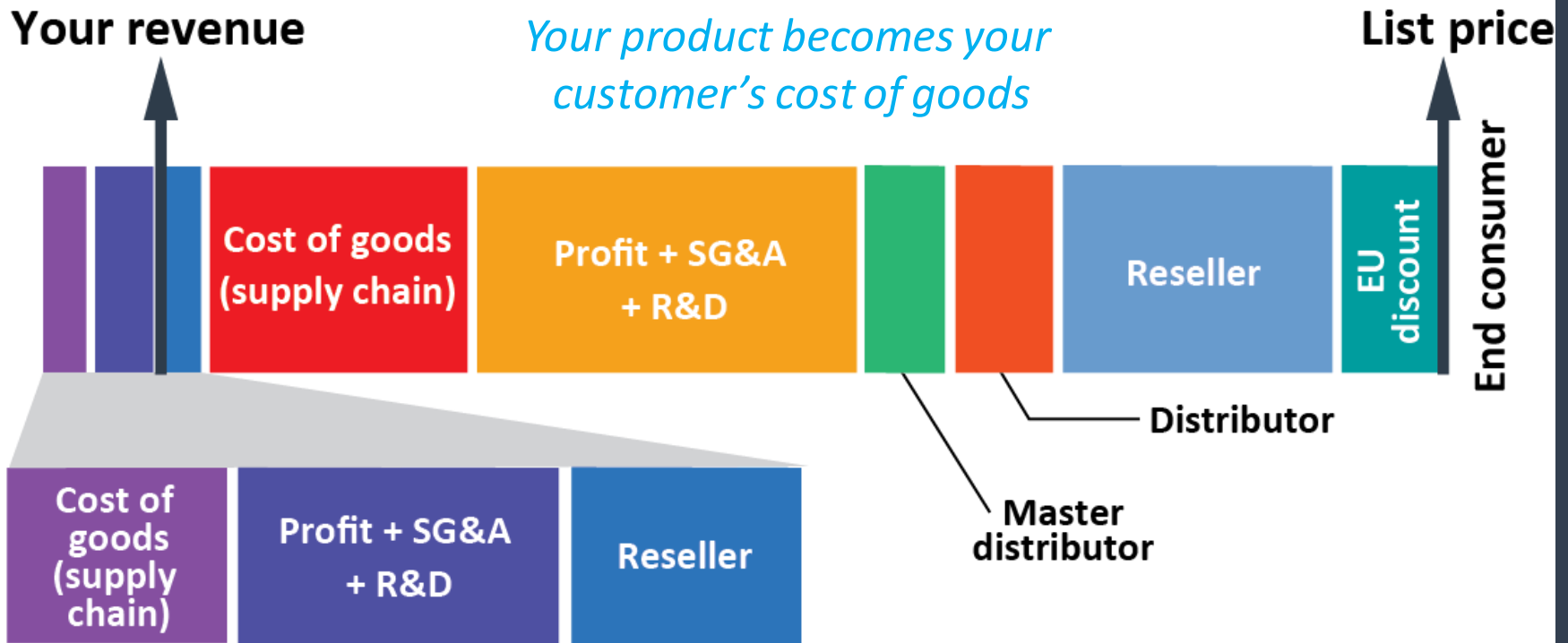
Company's net  
margin

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# Business Model Impacts

## *Cost and margins*

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



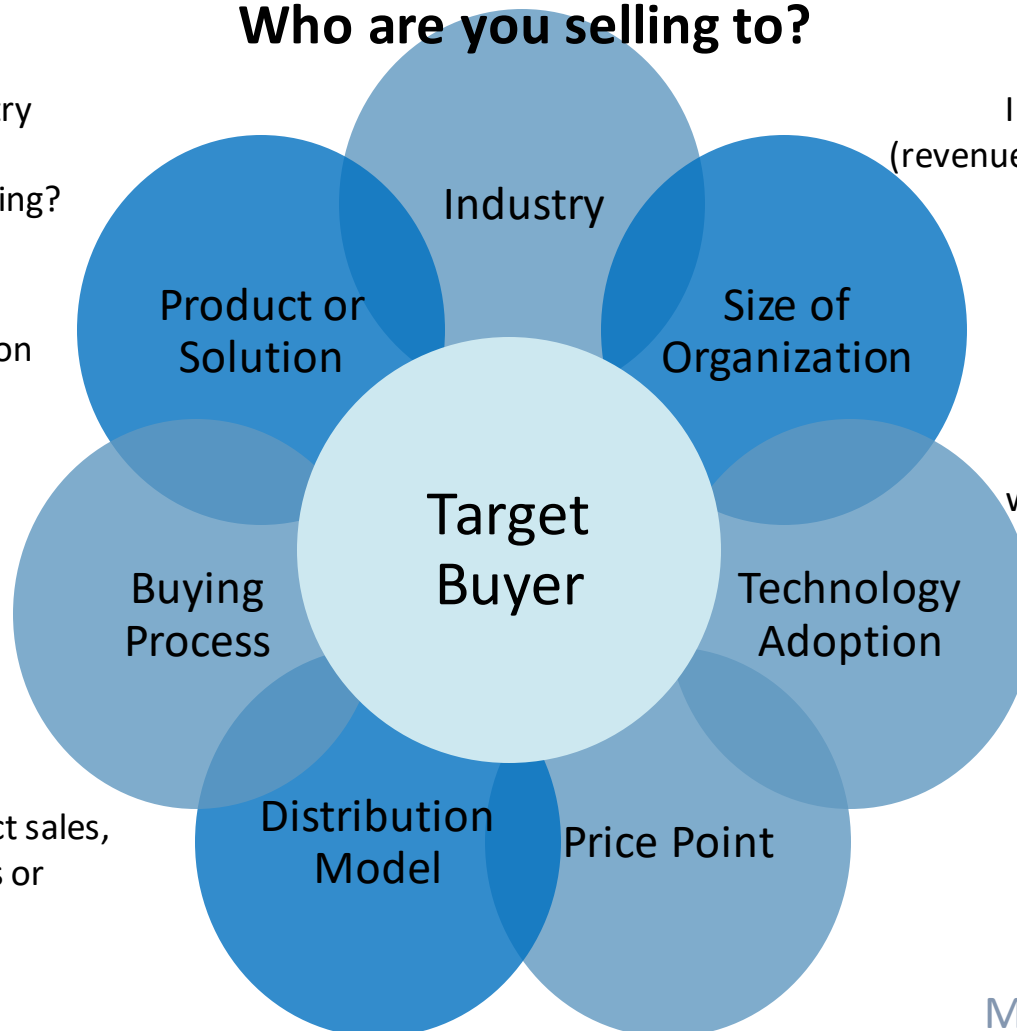
\* SG&A = Selling, General and Administrative Expenses

# Business Model Impacts

## *Go to market options*



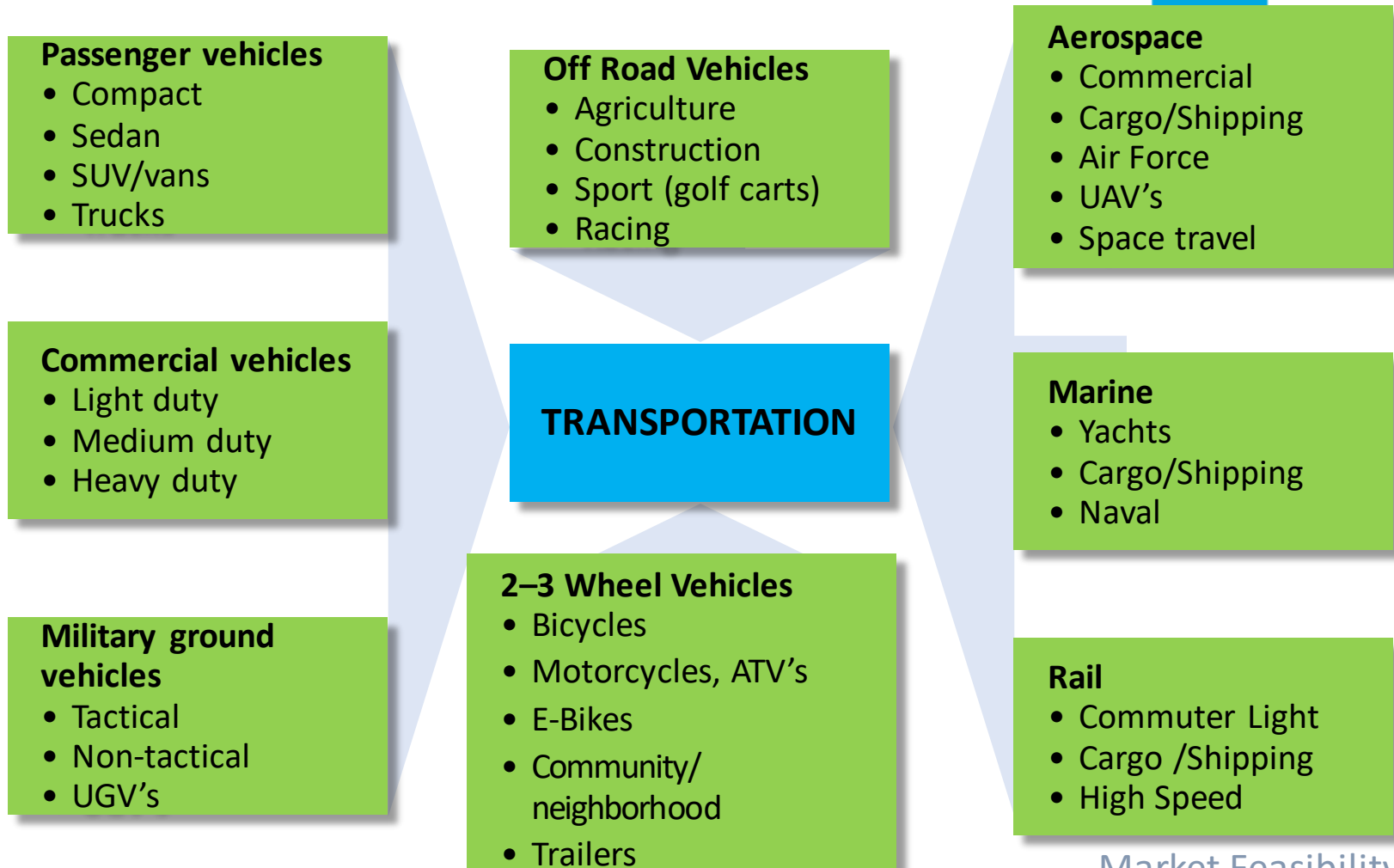
### Who are you selling to?



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# Business Model Impacts

*Example – Market segmentation*



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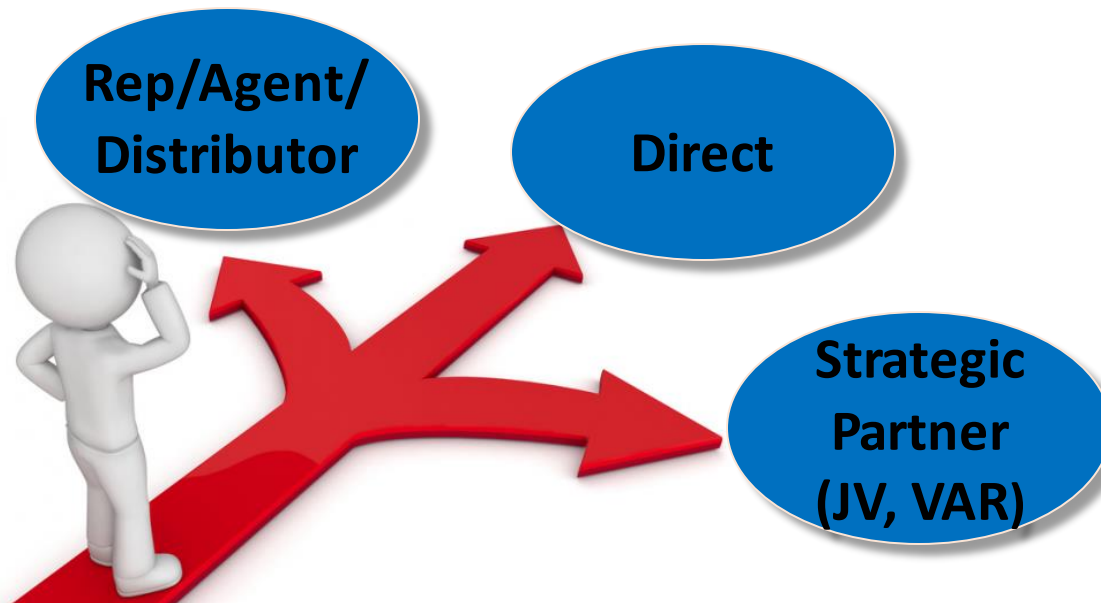
# Business Model Impacts

*Pathway to customers?*



**Considerations in determining pathway to secure customers:**

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



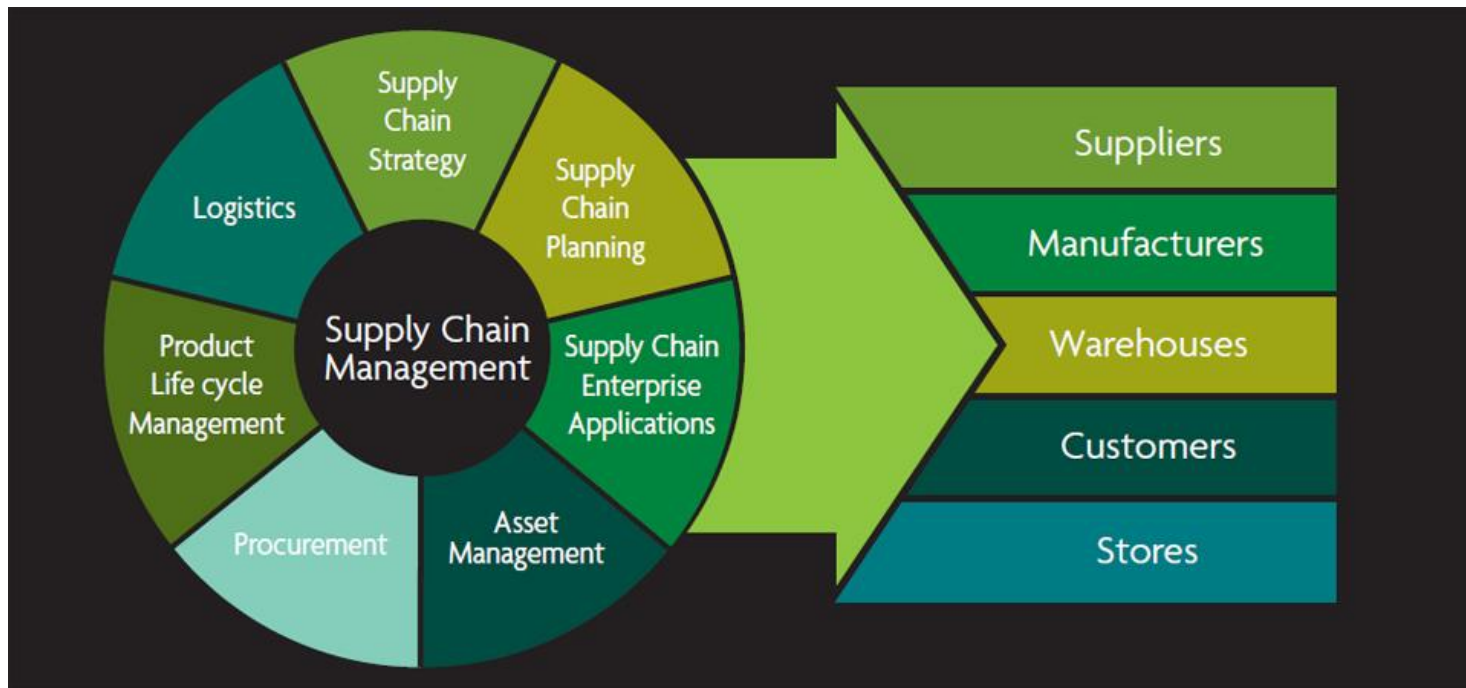
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# Business Model Impacts

*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?

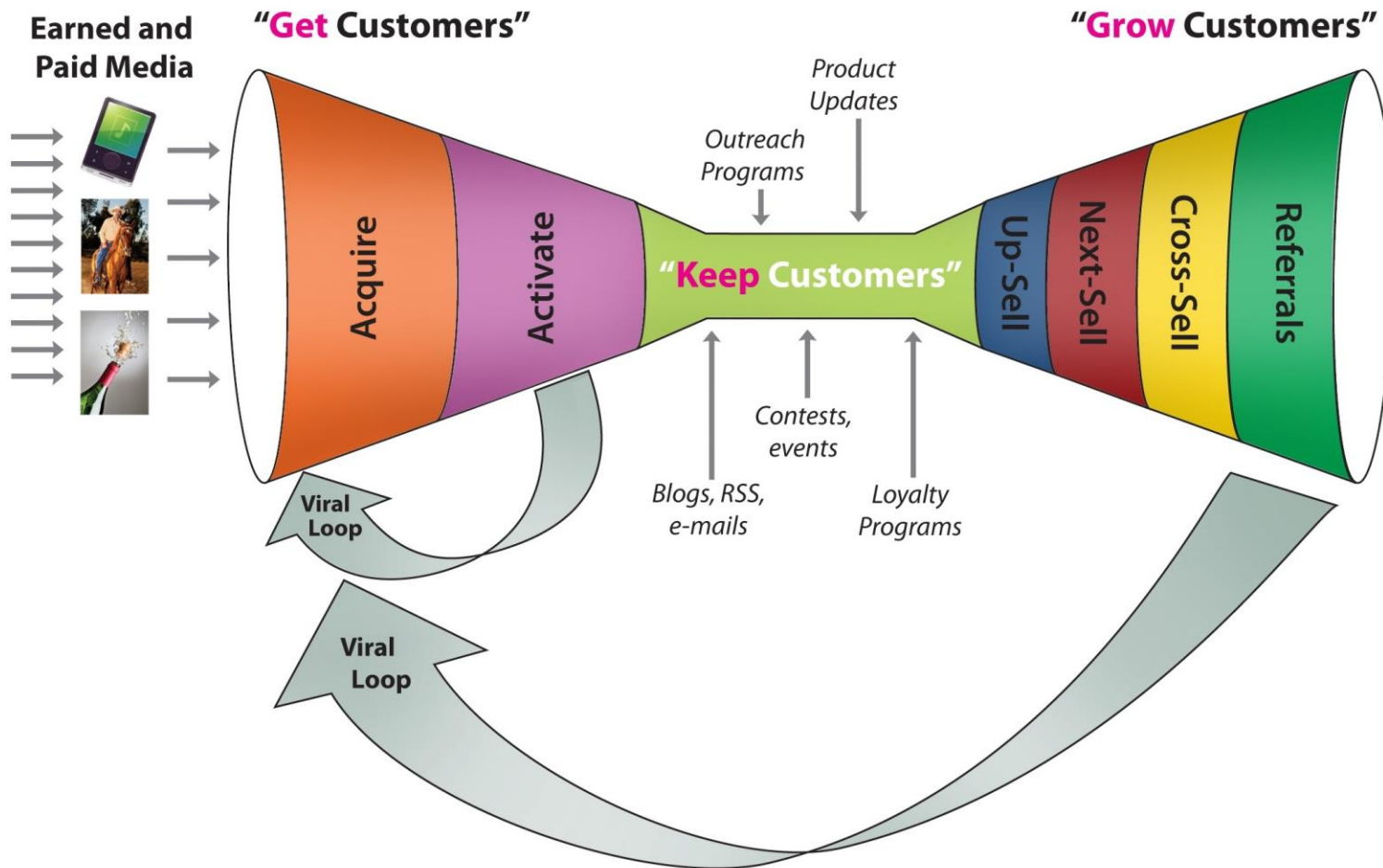


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# Business Model Impact

## 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

# Economies Of Scale

## *Basics*



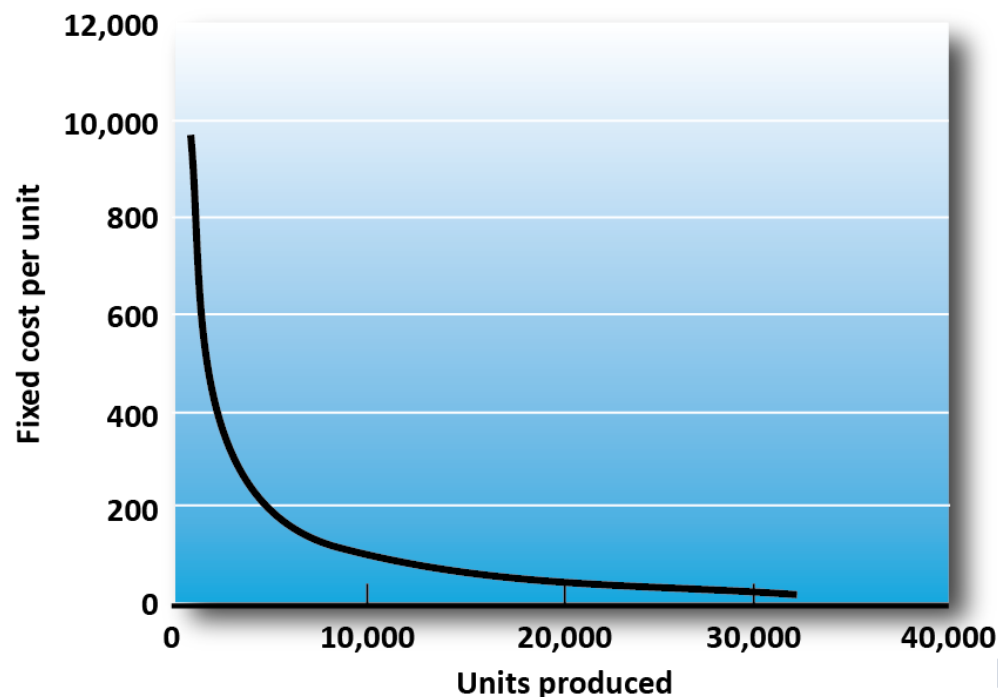
- Increase product volume
- Reduce fixed cost of product
- Reduce variability and options in product
- Map your manufacturing work flow process and develop ways to streamline operations
- Intimately understand your investment in terms of both manufacturing cost and takt time in order to optimize the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

# Economies Of Scale

*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!



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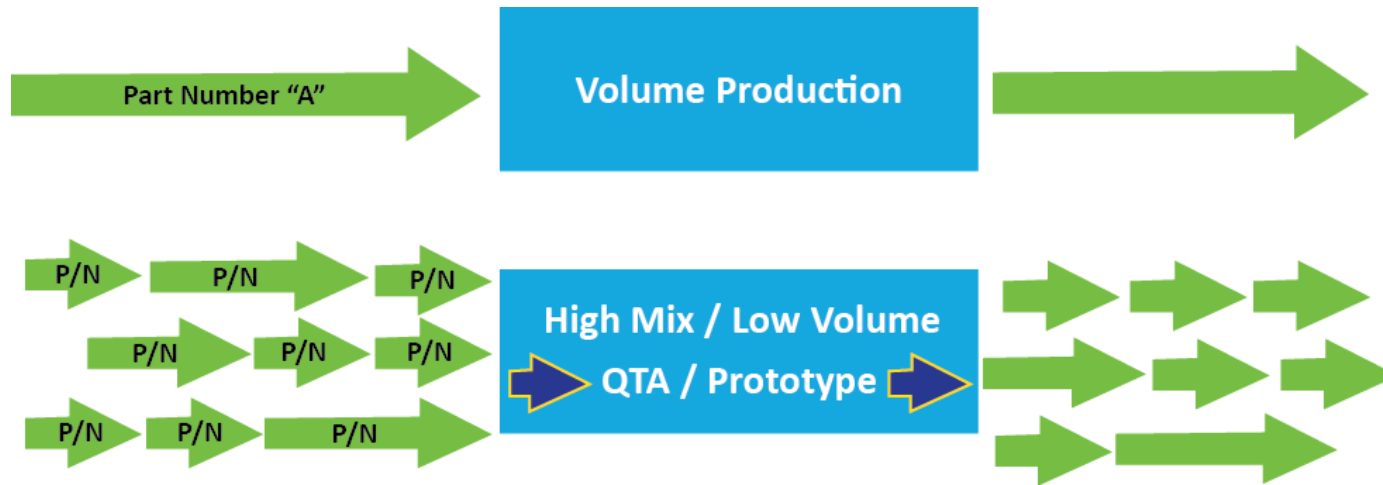
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# Economies Of Scale

*Reduce variability and options in the product*



## Manufacturing models



Model	Capital utilization	Setups and changeovers	Human capital required	Tooling capacity	Focus
Volume	High	Low	Low	Low	Materials Cost
High Mix	Medium	High	High	Medium	Fixed-Cost Absorption
QTA	Low	High	High	High	On-Time Delivery

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# Economies Of Scale

*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



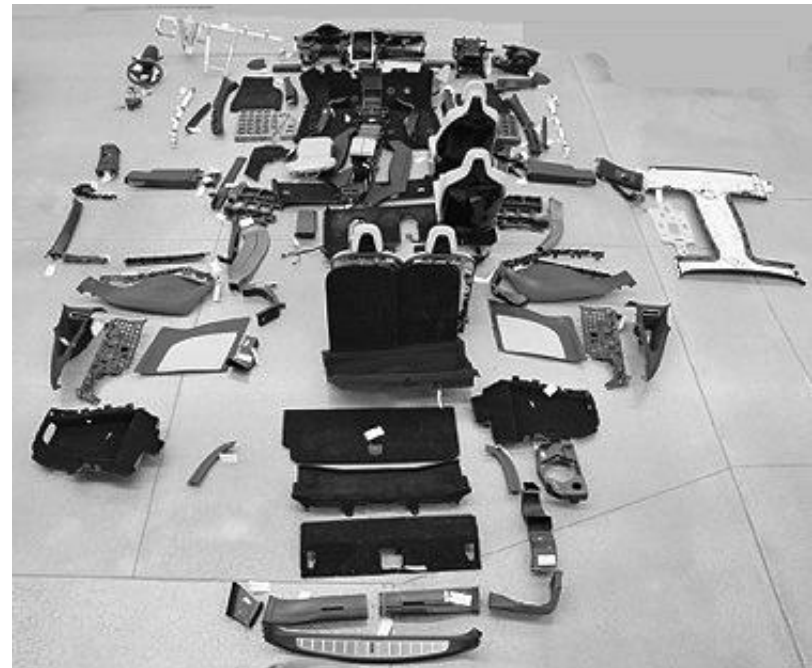
# Benchmarking

## *Basics*

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

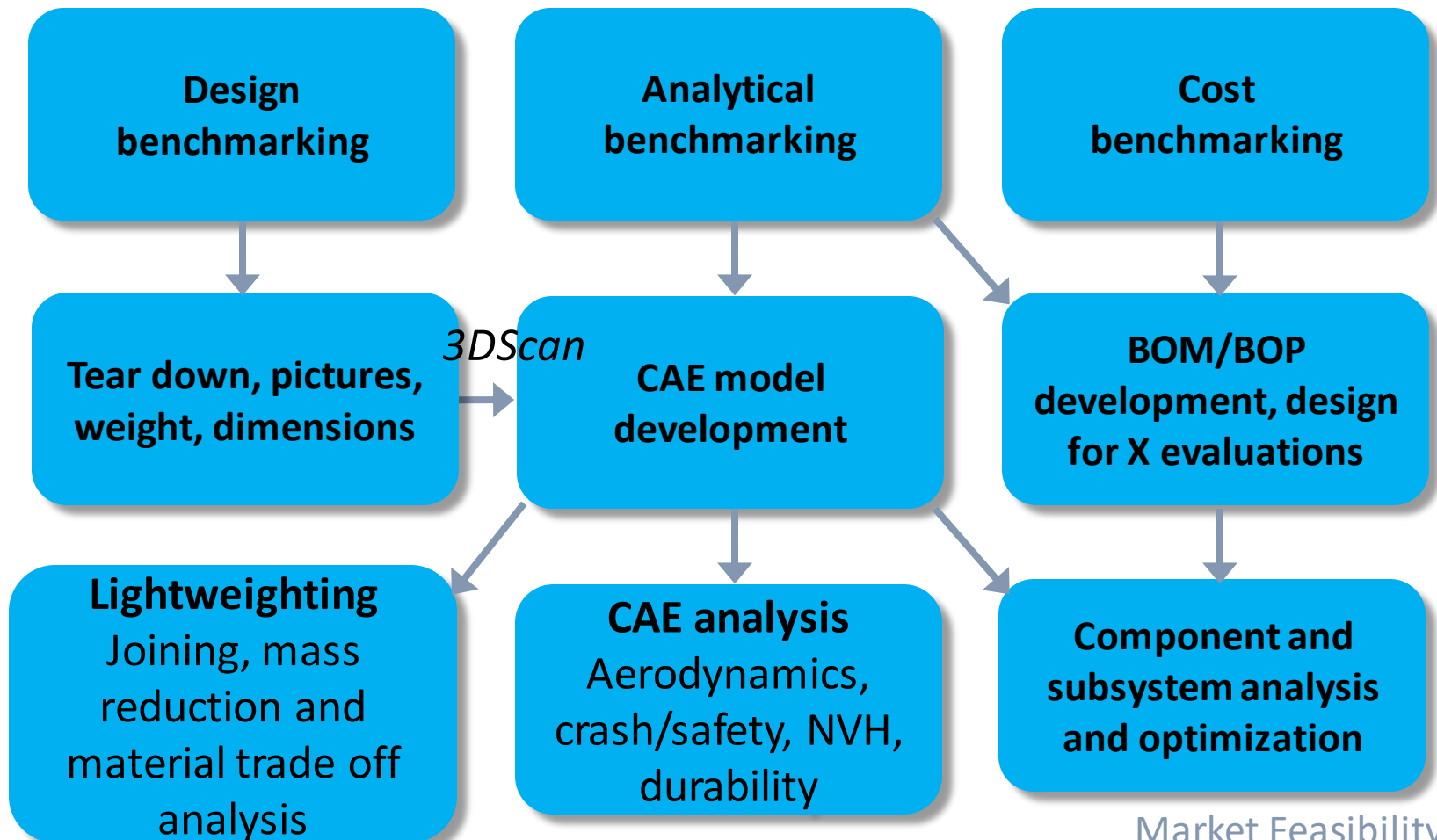
### **Evaluate how it was designed for:**

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



# Design/Analytical Benchmarking

*Example - automotive*



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# Economies Of Scale

*What should it cost?*



**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)?

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# Should Cost

## *Case study 1 – Vehicle battery-pack tray*



- 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.)*

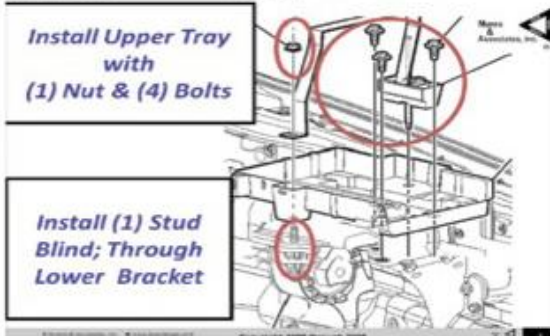
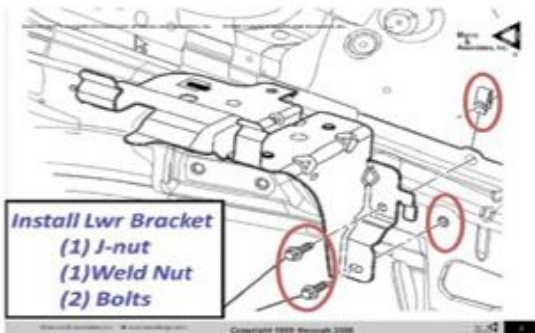


## Ford Battery Tray



Taurus Battery Tray

The ONLY part that has customer value



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# Assembly-Process Map

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



### Battery Tray Comparison

Taurus Battery Tray



Cost of Quality for alignment = .08 added to every good part

Scrap & rework of stud  
due to misaligned parts



1 Piece Battery Tray



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

**908 % Quality Improvement**

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# Executive Summary

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



### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY Taurus Battery Tray



MUNRO  
& ASSOCIATES INC.

DESIGNPROFIT®

	Taurus Battery Tray	1 Piece Battery Tray	% ↓
<b>Parts</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>63%</b>
<b>Good Parts</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Steps</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>55%</b>
<b>Actual Time</b>	<b>210.00 sec</b>	<b>101.00 sec</b>	<b>52%</b>
<b>Fasteners</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>64%</b>
<b>Ergo Dangers</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Poka Yoke Issues</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Total Weight</b>	<b>1,736.54 gm</b>	<b>899.87 gm</b>	<b>48%</b>
<b>Piece Cost</b>	<b>\$11.08</b>	<b>\$3.22</b>	<b>71%</b>
<b>Total Labor Cost</b>	<b>\$2.36</b>	<b>\$1.40</b>	<b>40%</b>
<b>Q Burden</b>	<b>\$0.59</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$14.03</b>	<b>\$4.62</b>	<b>67%</b>
<b>Investment Cost</b>	<b>\$476,316</b>	<b>\$85,000</b>	<b>82%</b>
<b>Annual Savings</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>\$2,351,730</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Right First Time</b>	<b>9.83%</b>	<b>99.96%</b>	<b>-917%</b>
<b>Sigma</b>	<b>3.61</b>	<b>5.65</b>	<b>-56%</b>

*A design for assembly (DFA) cycle led to substantial savings  
for a battery-pack tray manufacturer!*

Market Feasibility

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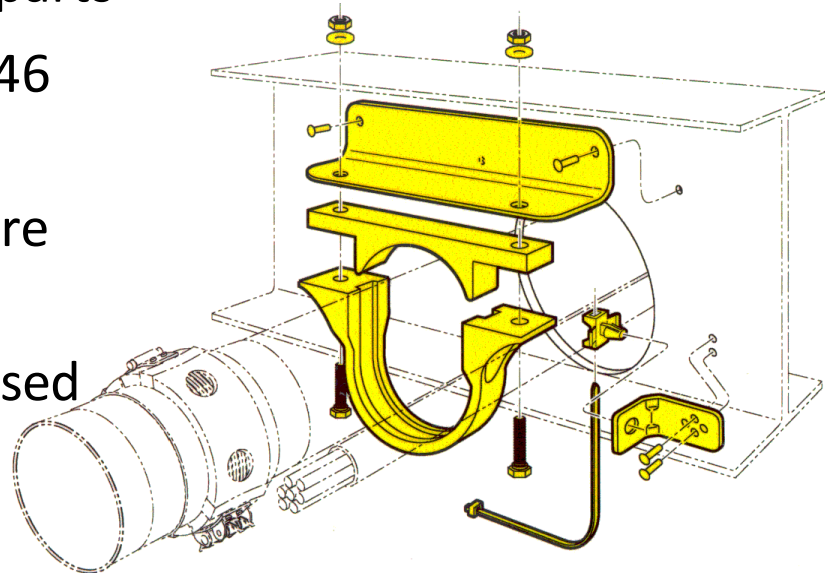
# Should Cost

## *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

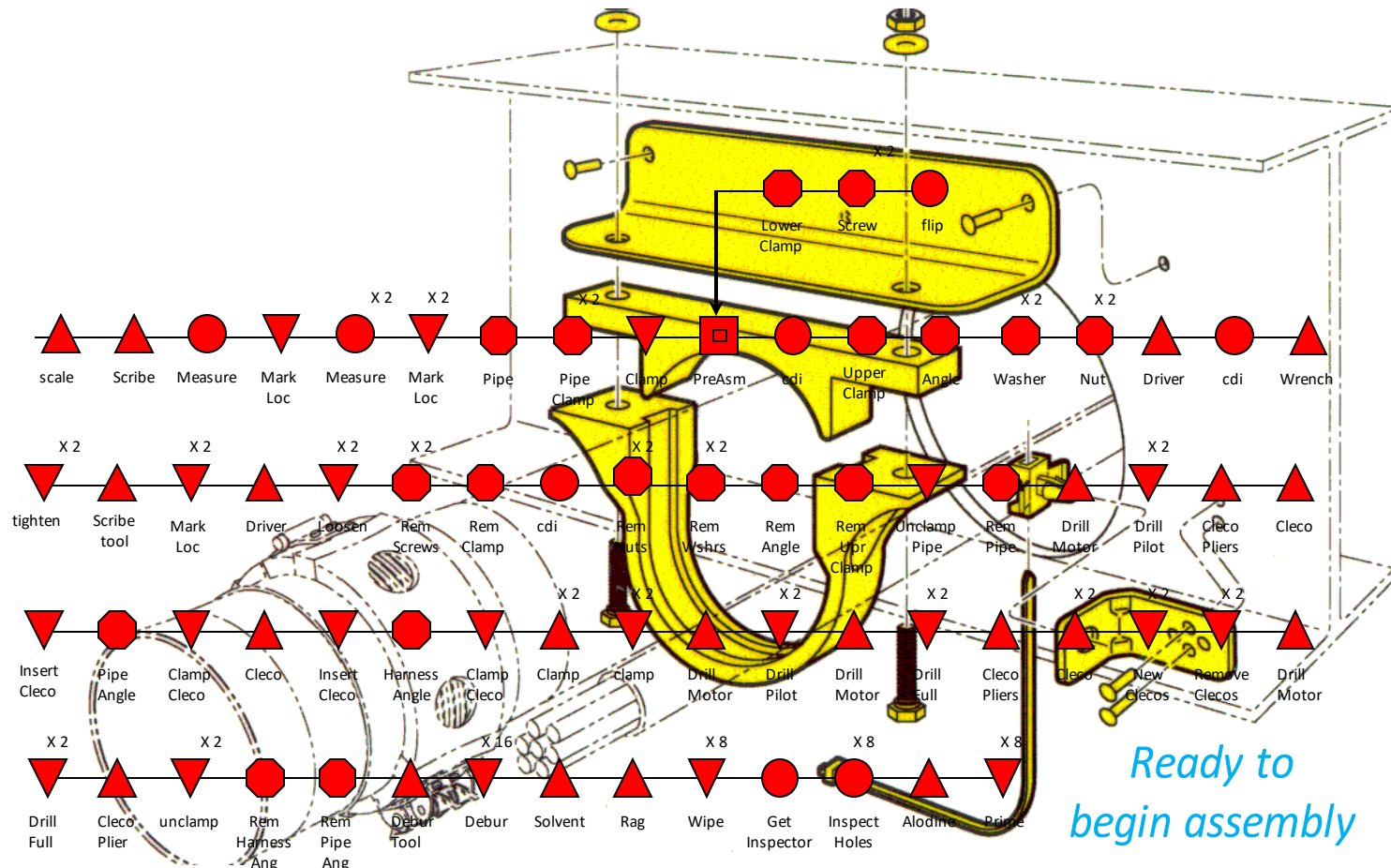


Market Feasibility



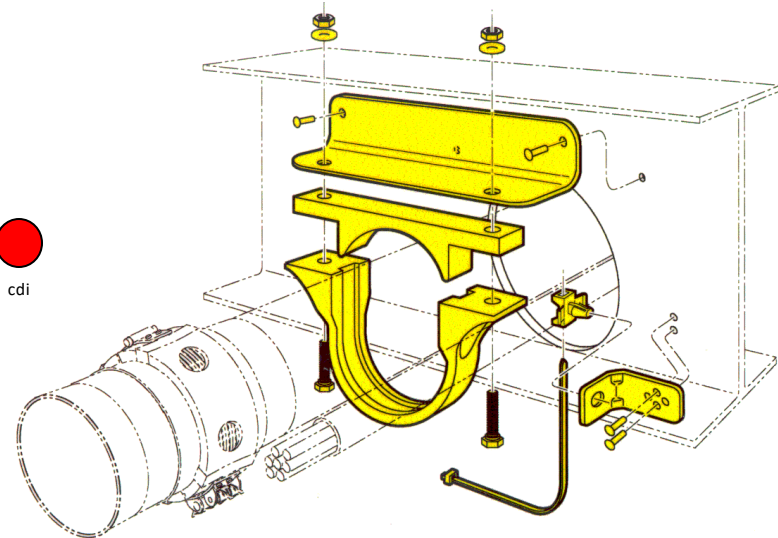
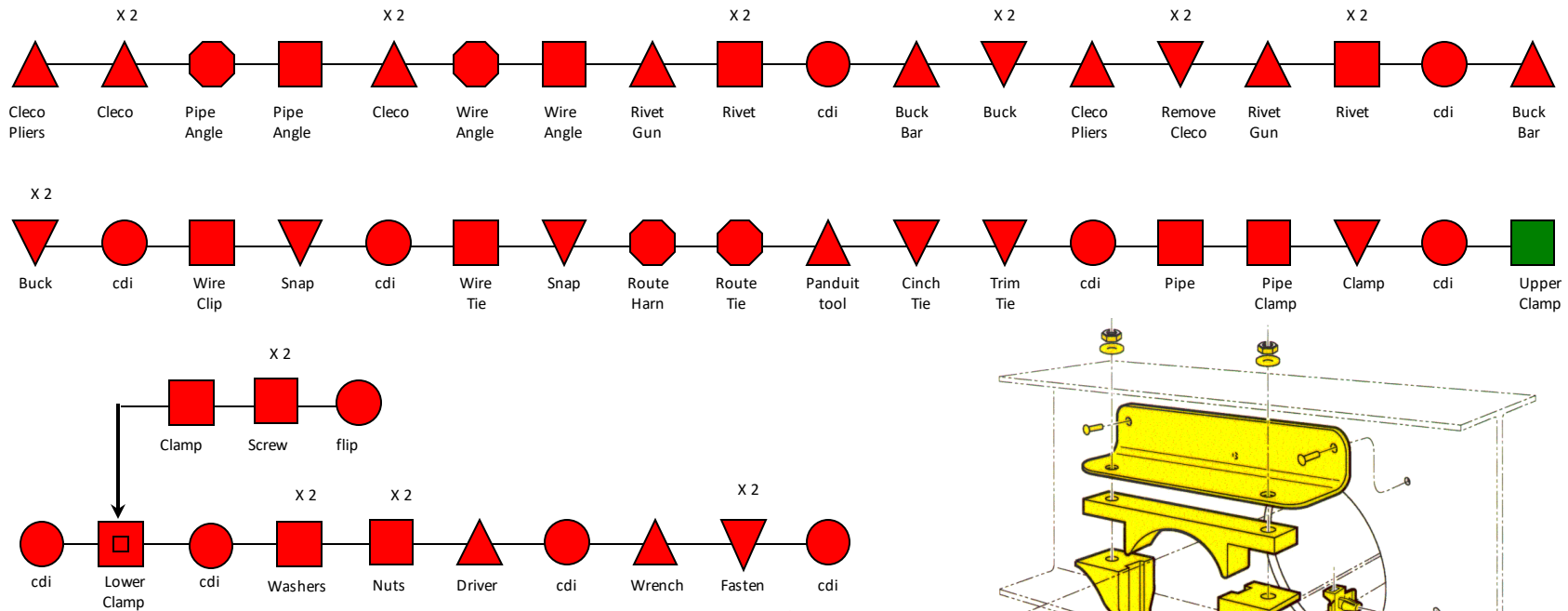
# Initial Assembly-Process Map

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



# Initial Assembly-Process Map

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

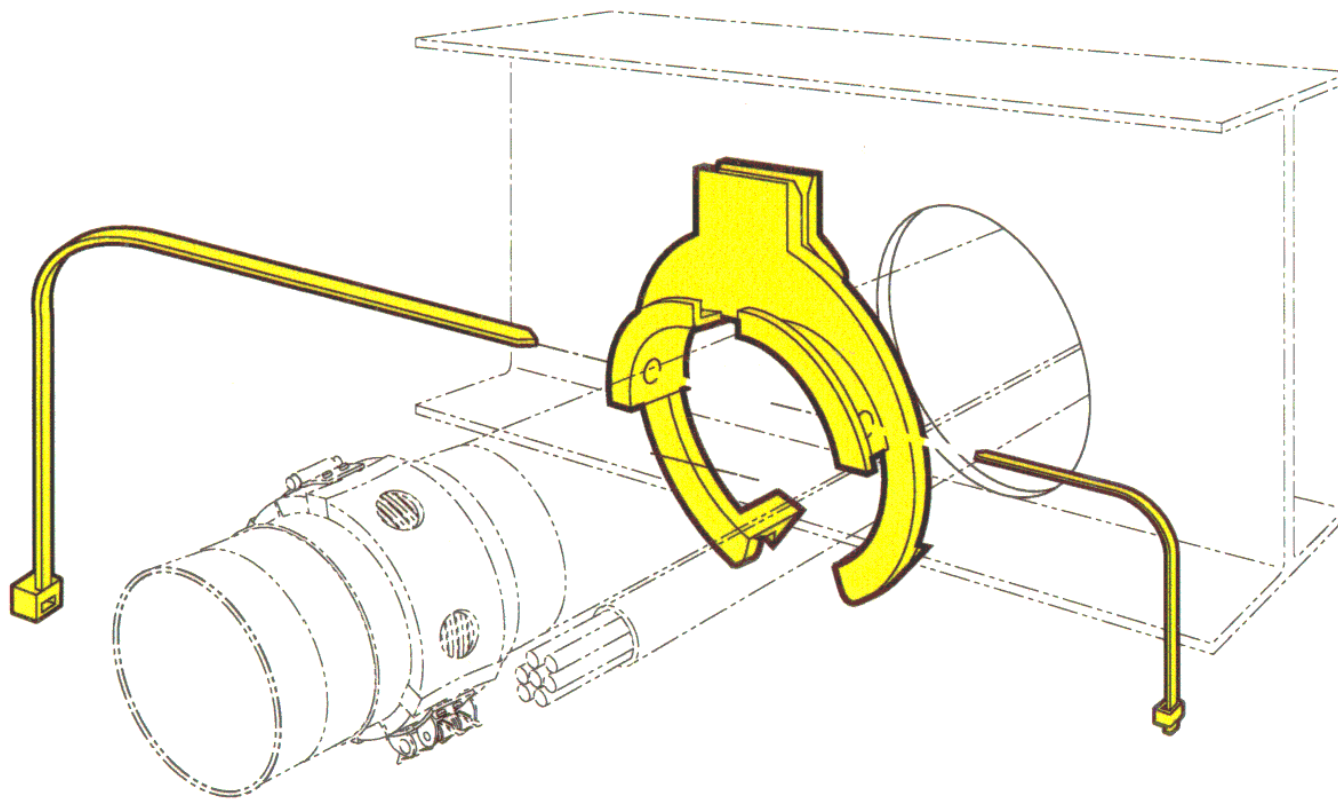


Market Feasibility

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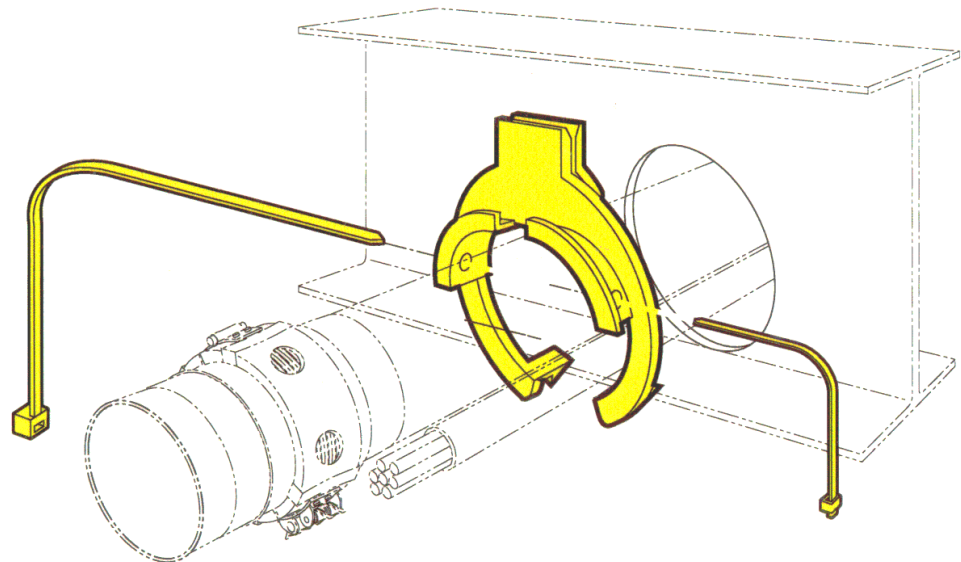
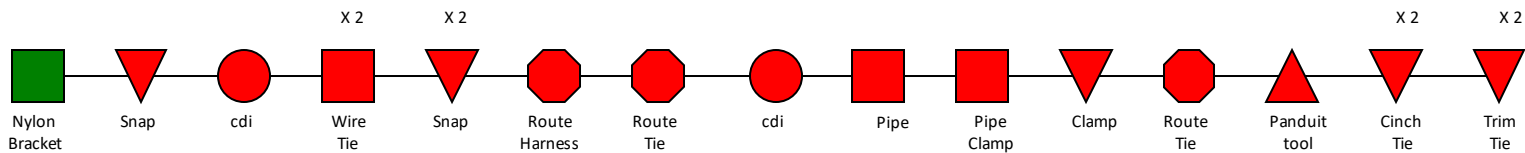
# Revamped Lean Design

## *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

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# 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 market

**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)

# Value Chain

*Example – Wind energy industry*



## Materials

- Steel
- Cast iron
- GFRP
- CFRP
- Fiber glass
- Aluminum
- Copper
- Carbon fiber
- Rubber
- Wood epoxy
- Ferrite
- Brass
- Ceramics
- Magnets
- Concrete



## Components

- Rotor/blades
- Controls
- Generator and Power Electronics
- Gearbox
- Tower



## Manufacture

- OEM
- Manufacturing equipment providers
- Turbine assembly tooling



## Logistics and Operations

- Project development
- Siting services
- Transportation
- Construction



## End-Use

- Operations
- Maintenance
- Repair

Market Feasibility

# Value Chain Assessment

## *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



# Value Chain Assessment

## *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?

# Value Chain Assessment

*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?

# Value Chain Assessment

*Translate your core competency into a unique proposition!*



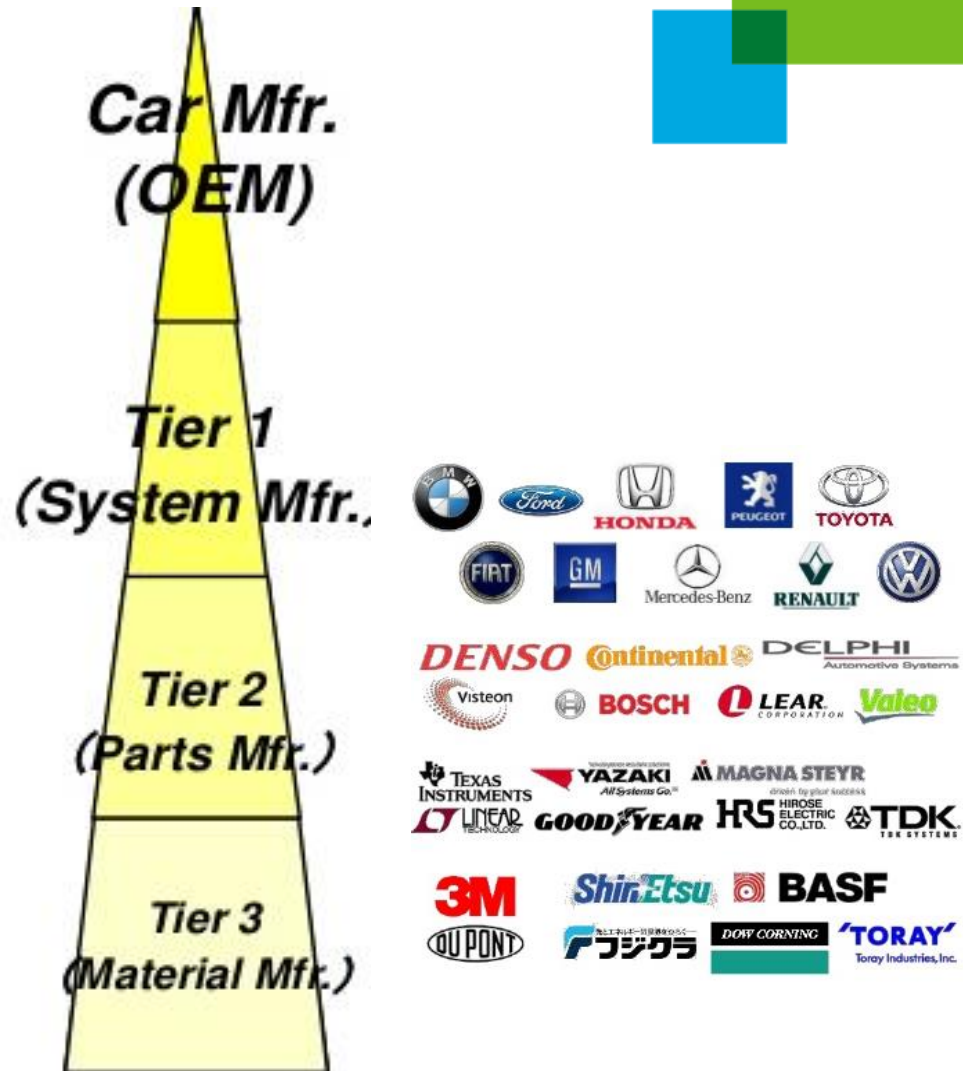
- ☐ Based on the unique value chain, what does my company offer?
- ☐ What is unique about my product?
- ☐ Do I have unique intellectual property?
- ☐ Who has the most to gain or loose by me entering the market?
- ☐ What is my value proposition? And to whom?
- ☐ Who in the value chain has “pain” that 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?

# Supply Chain

*Example* - Automotive

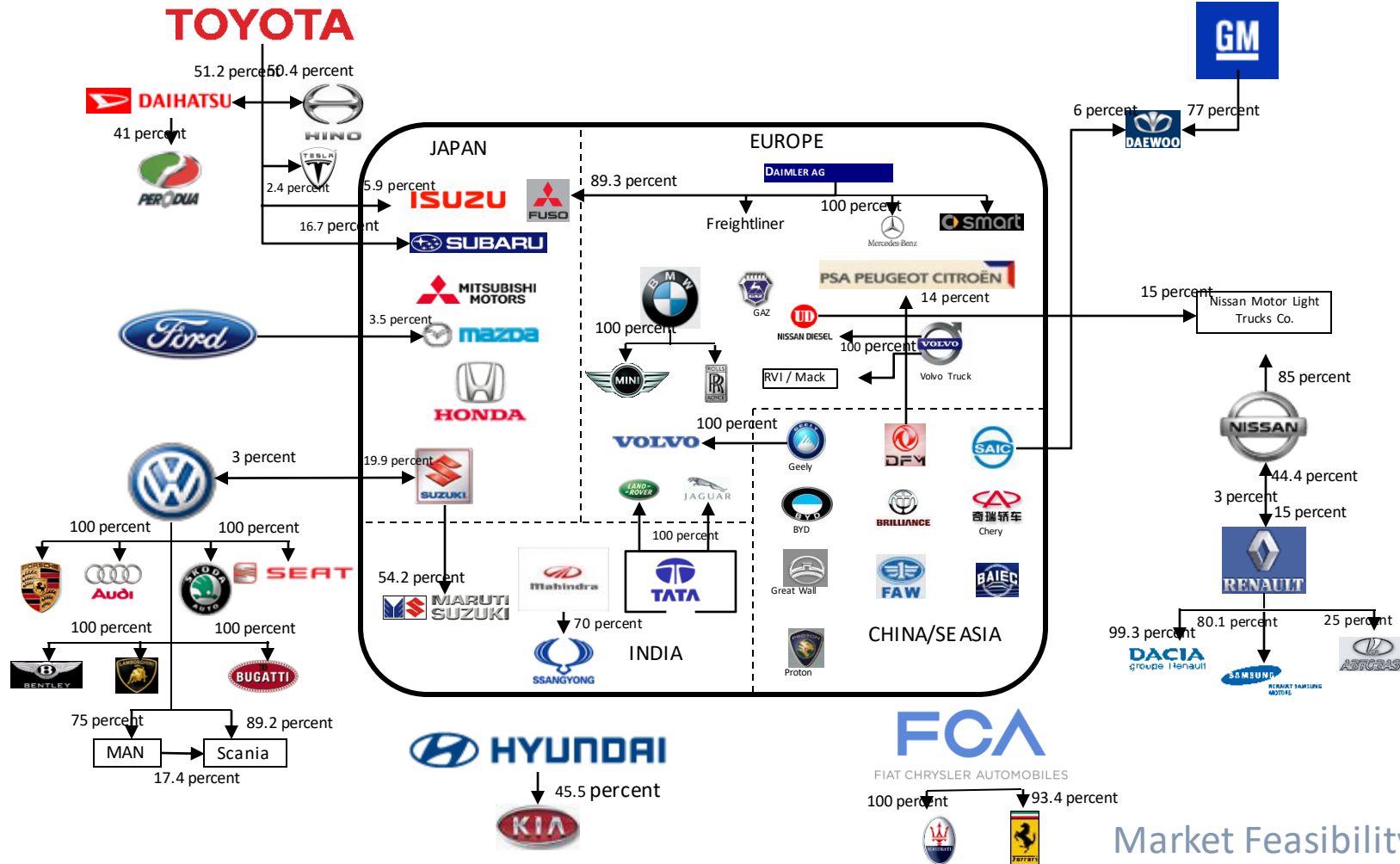
## Industry Structure:

- 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



# Supply Chain

*Example - Auto manufacturing game board*



Market Feasibility

# Workflow Process

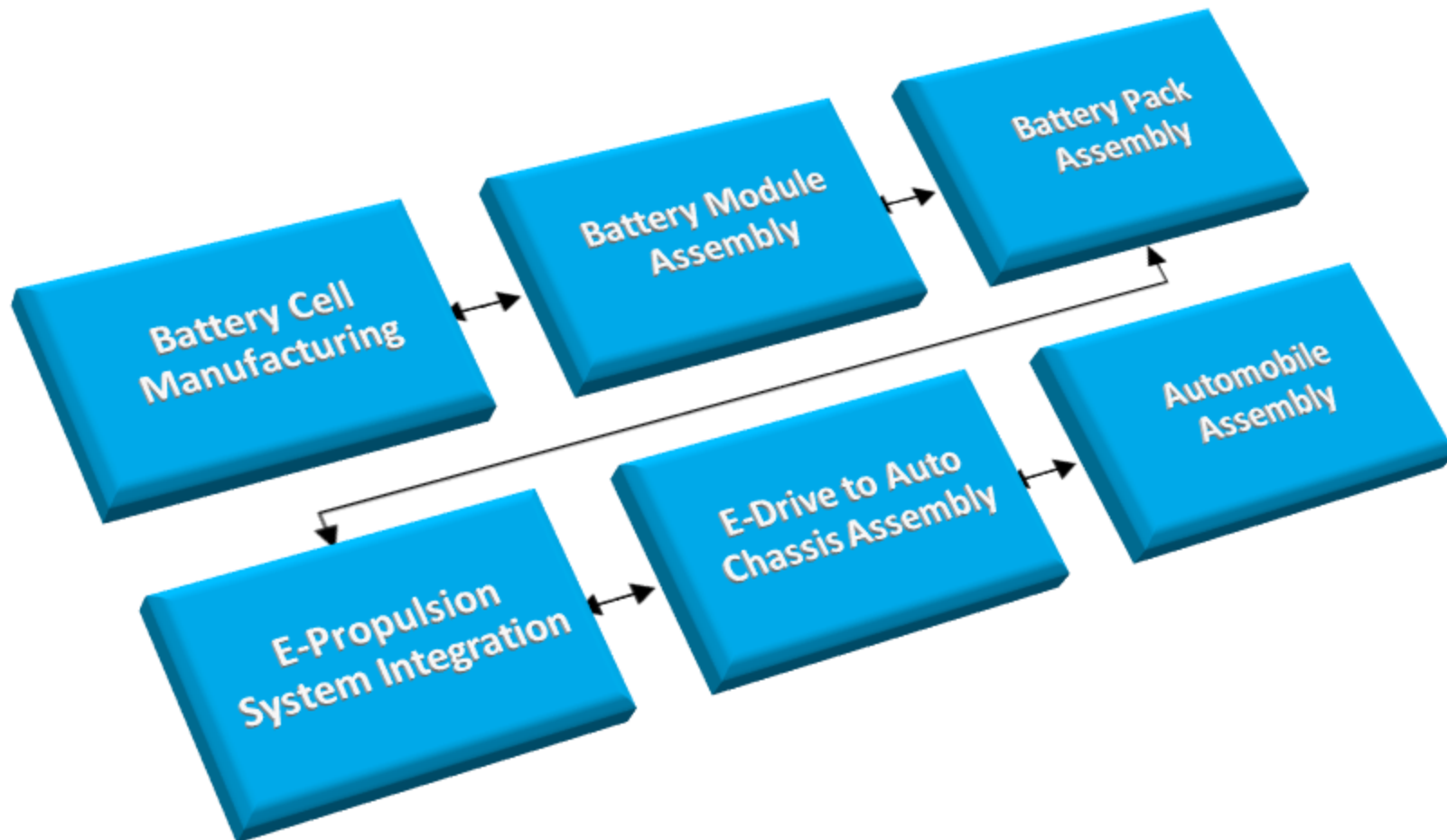
## *Key questions*

- 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?



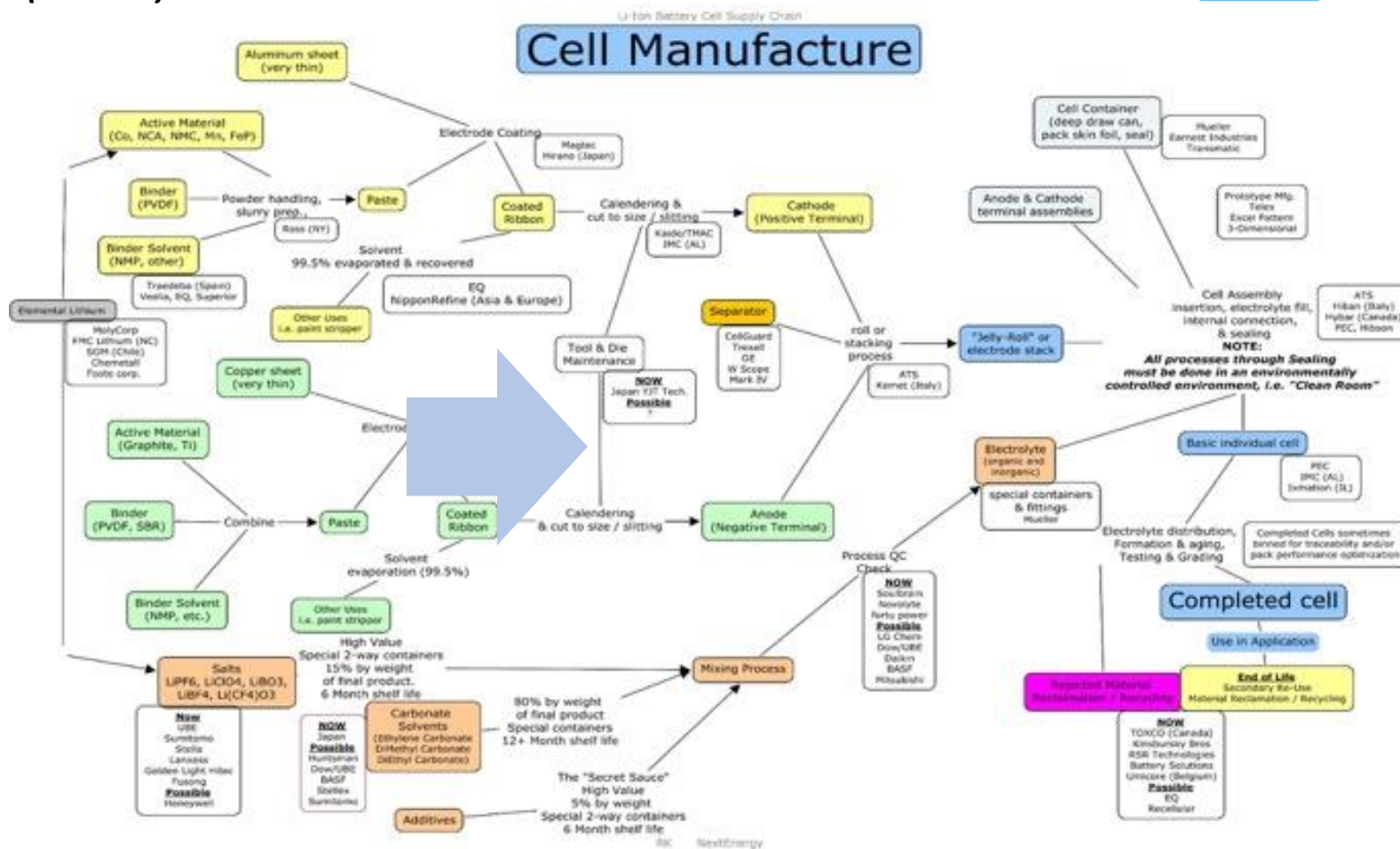
# Workflow Process

*Example - Lithium ion battery manufacturing*



# Workflow Process

*Example - Lithium ion battery manufacturing (cont.)*



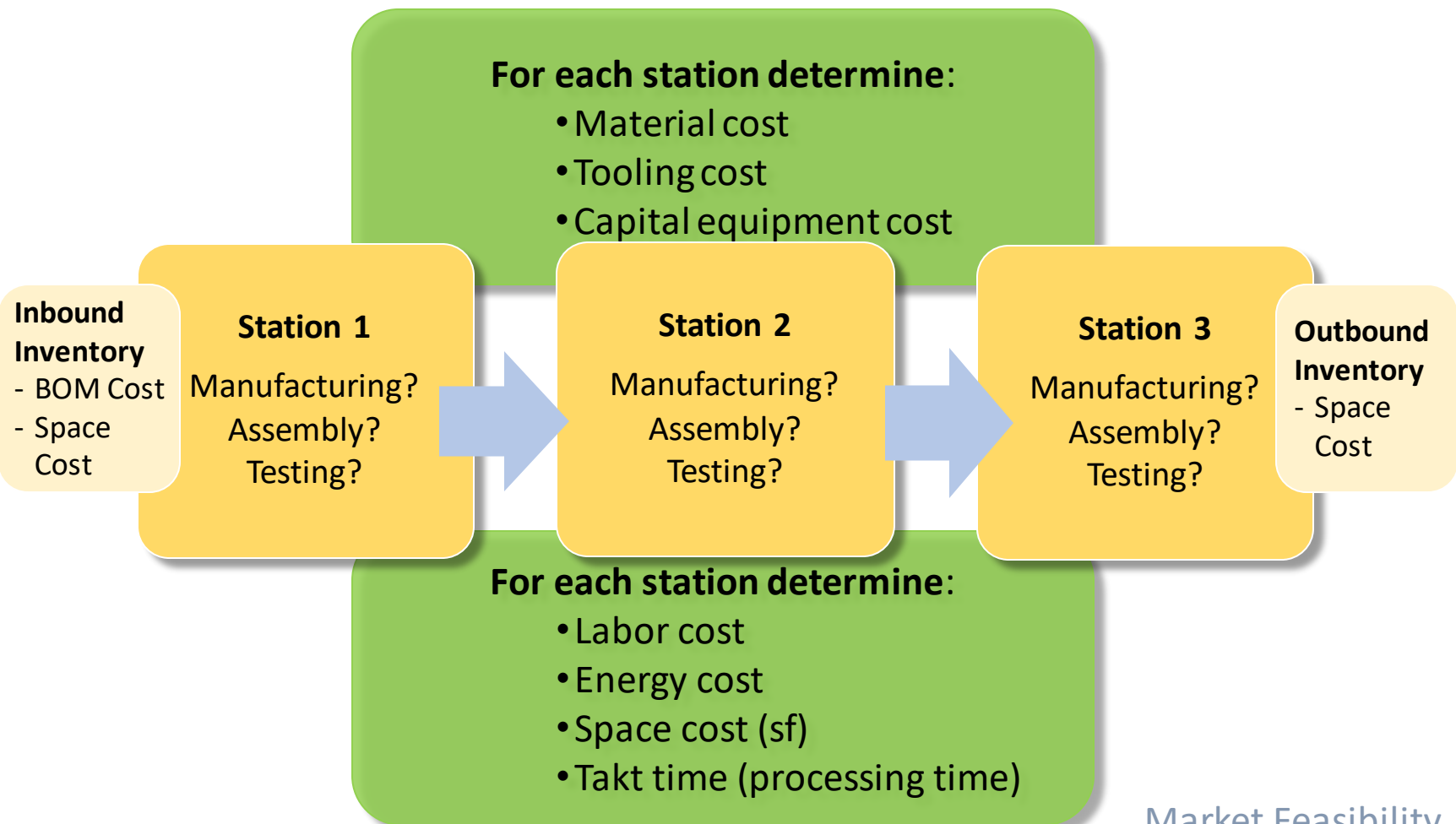
Market Feasibility

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# Workflow Process To Pro Forma

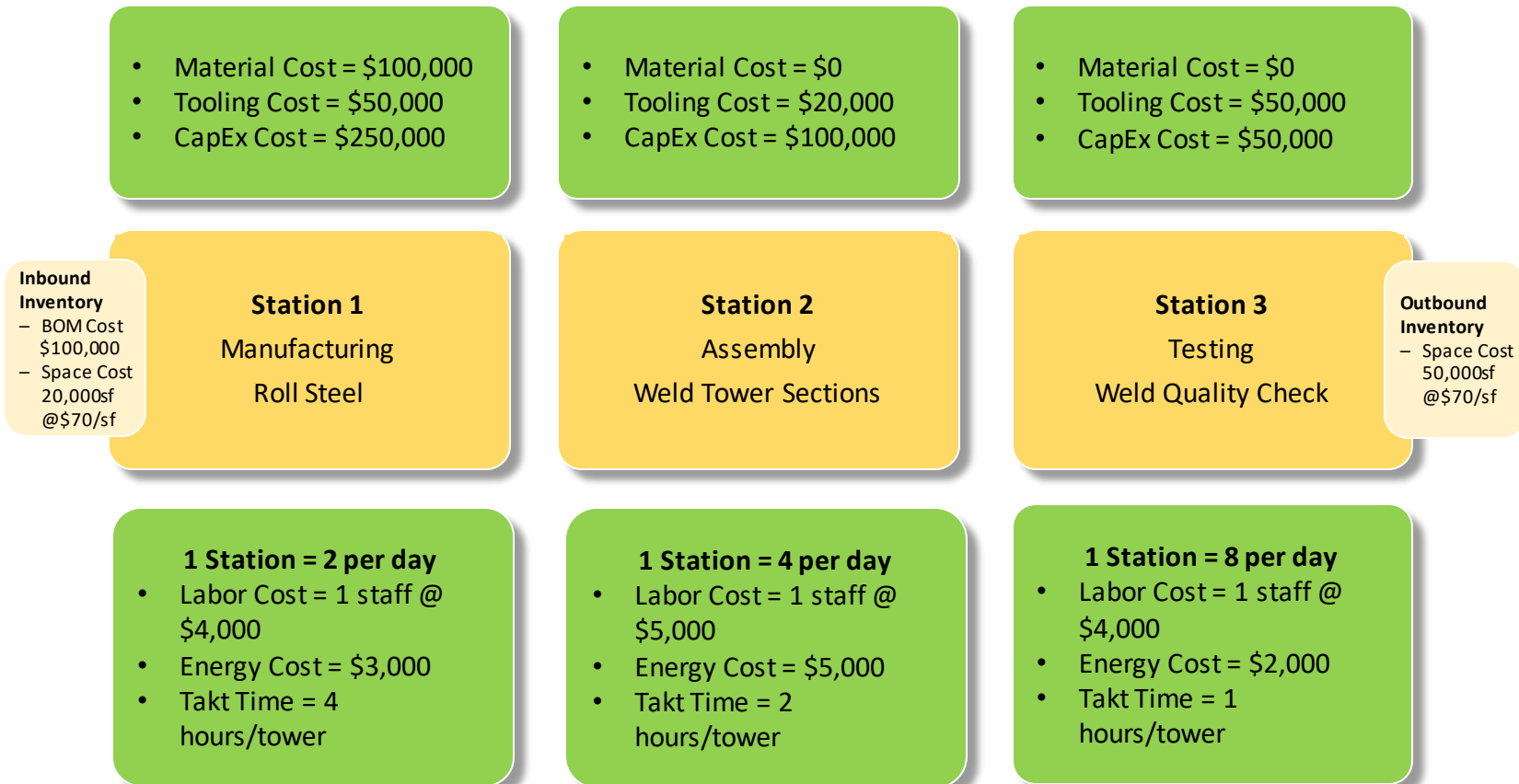
*Exercise – General production*



Market Feasibility

# Workflow Process To Pro Forma

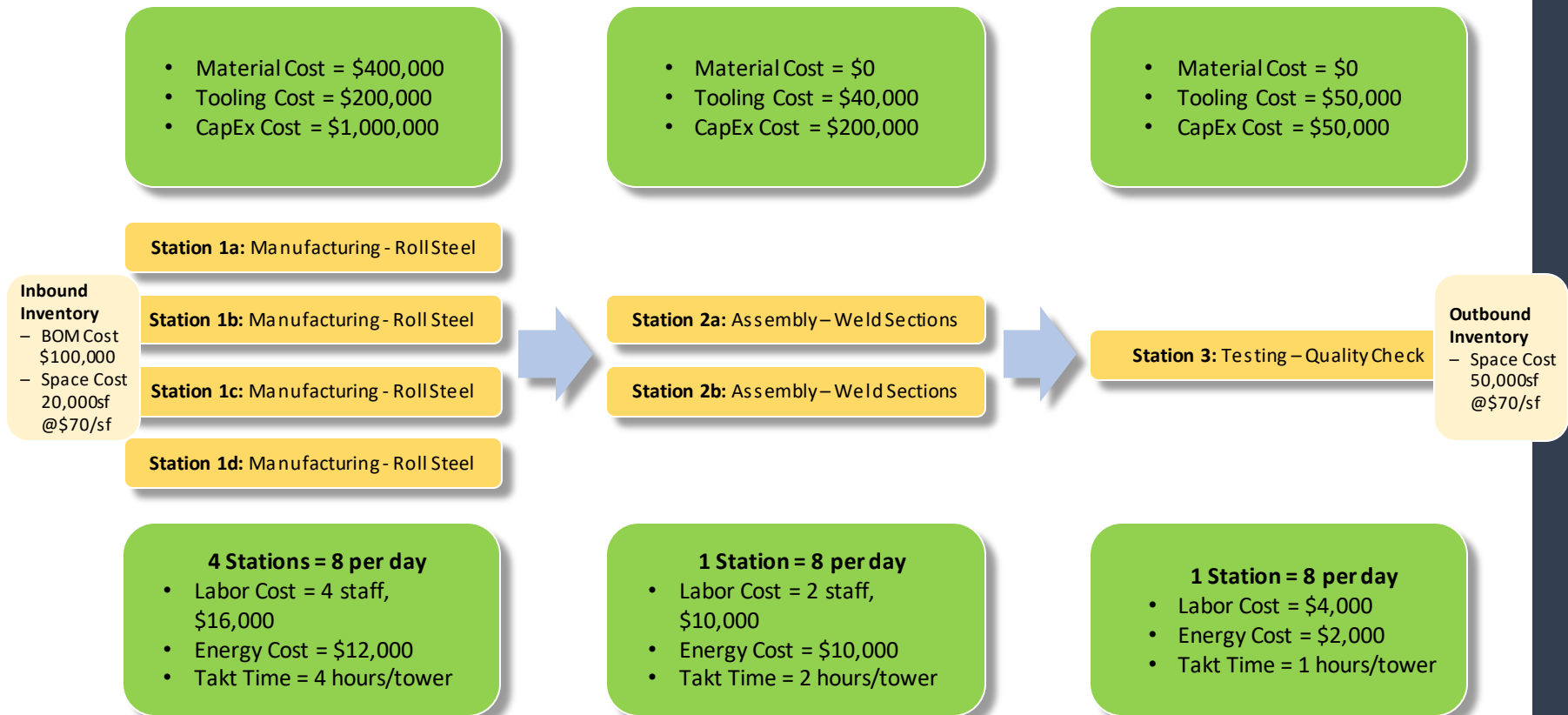
## Exercise – Wind tower production



# 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)



Market Feasibility

# Manufacturing Pro Forma

## Exercise



Current product volume = X per month

- Inventory Cost = SX
- Material Cost = \$X
- Tooling Cost = \$X
- CapEx Cost = \$X

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- Material Cost = \$X
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- Inventory Cost = SX
- Material Cost = \$X
- Tooling Cost = \$X
- CapEx Cost = \$X

**Inbound Inventory**  
- BOM Cost  
- Space Cost

**Station 1**

?

**Station 2**

?

**Station 3**

?

**Outbound Inventory**  
- Space Cost

**1 Station = X per day**

- Labor Cost = X staff @ \$X
- Energy Cost = \$X
- Takt Time = X hours/tower

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- Takt Time = X hours/tower

# Manufacturing Pro Forma

## Exercise - (cont.)



New higher scaling product volume = X per month

- Inventory Cost = SX
- Material Cost = \$X
- Tooling Cost = \$X
- CapEx Cost = \$X

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- Material Cost = \$X
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