

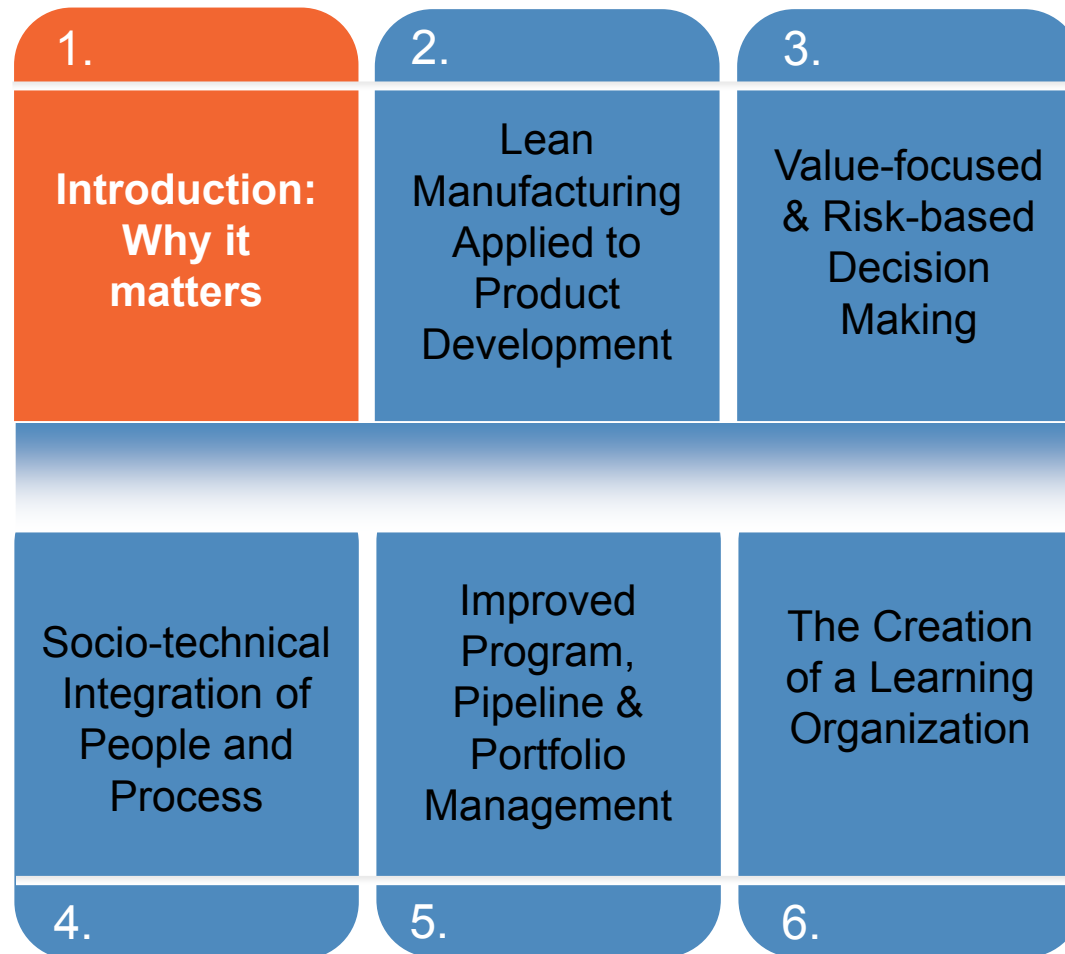
# Principles and Characteristics of Lean Product Development Systems

**Geert Letens**

Royal Military Academy, Belgium  
IIE/SEMS Immediate Past-President



# Outline



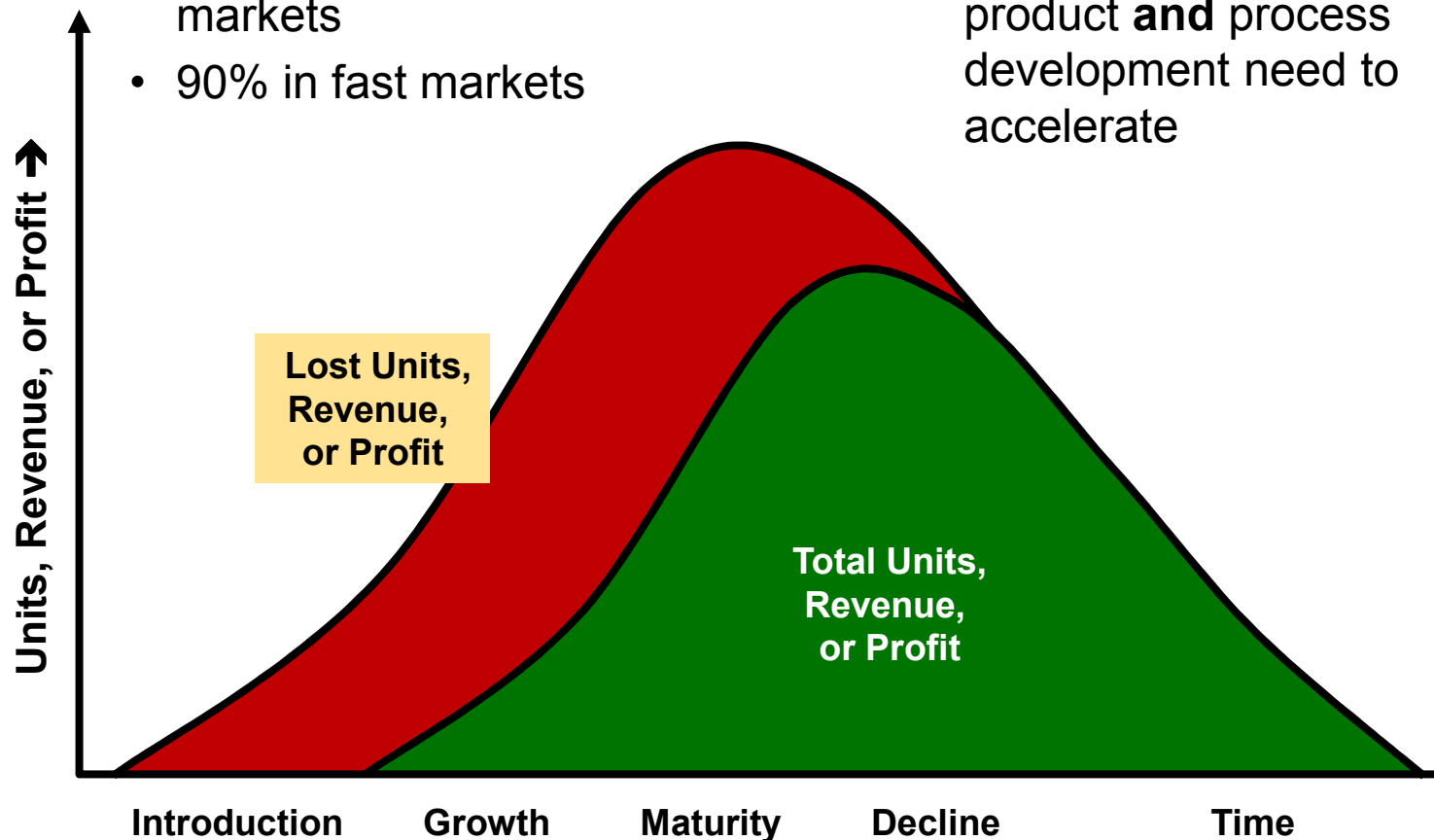
# We are living in a world of opportunities and challenges



- Characteristics of the global environment
  - Many potential customers with fast changing needs
  - Competitors introduce new products to meet these customer's needs
- A focused strategic orientations seems essential
  - Product leadership
  - Operational excellence
  - Customer intimacy

# Fast Product and Process Development is Key for the Success of Organizations

- Time to Market accelerates
  - 12 Month delay =
    - 50% revenue loss in slow markets
    - 90% in fast markets
- The product market life decreases
  - Which implies that both new product **and** process development need to accelerate

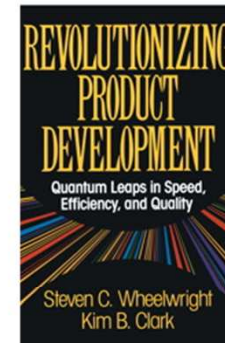
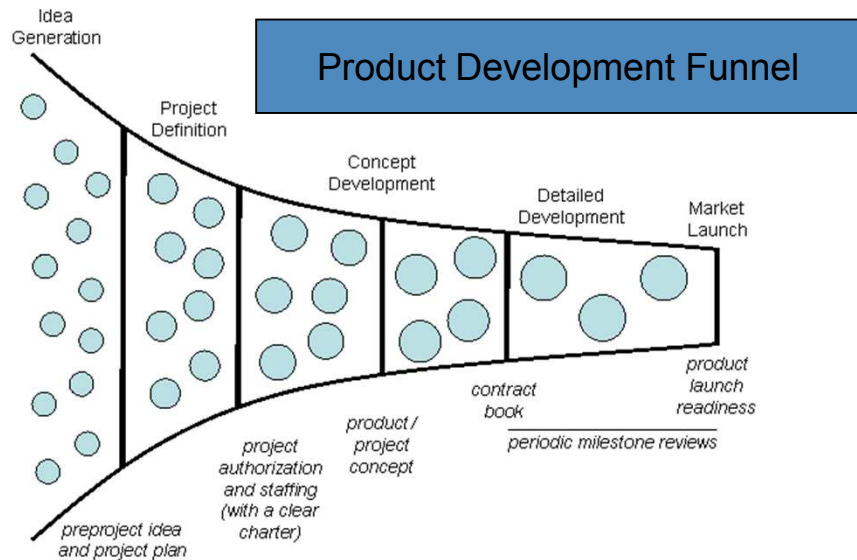


# Companies are Not Necessarily Good at This

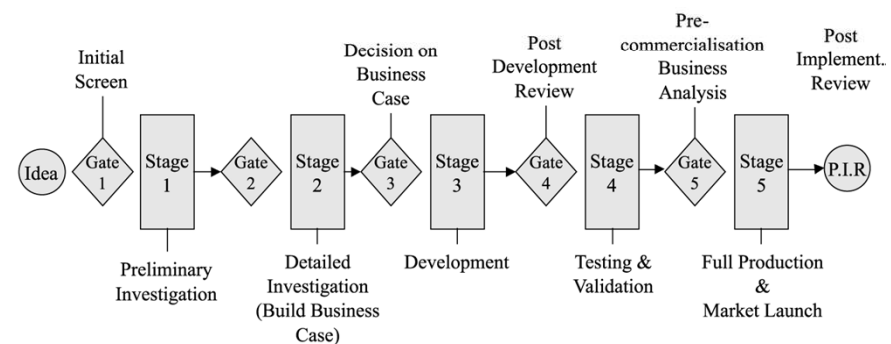
- Over 60% of all new product development efforts are terminated before they ever reach the marketplace.
- Of the 40% that do make it, more than half fail to become profitable or are removed from the market.
- Hasty development decisions can lead to:
  - Quality loss
  - Additional costs
  - Slow market introduction
- Challenges include
  - Continuously changing customer requirements
  - Accelerated learning
  - Knowledge retention

Bart Huthwaite, The Lean Design Solution (2004)

# Traditional Product & Process Development Approaches are Under Pressure

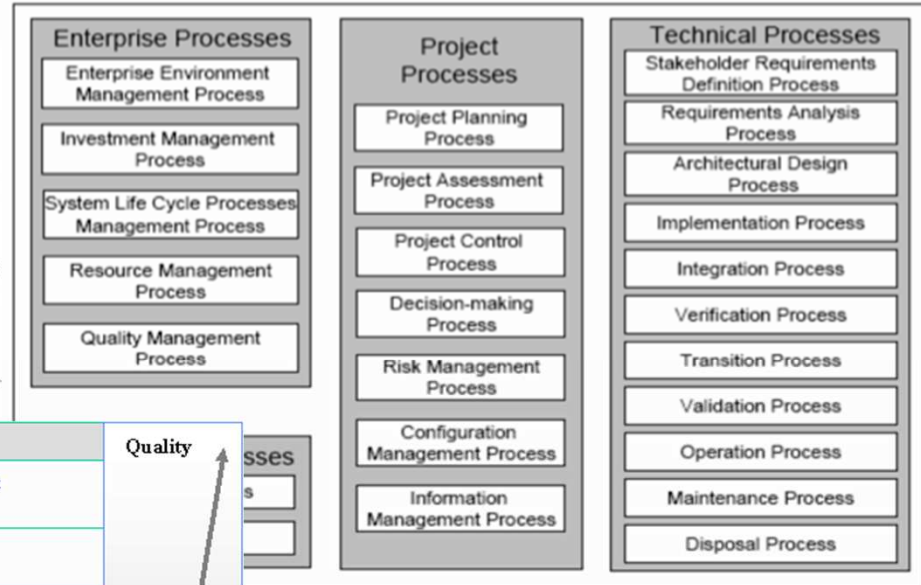


## Stage Gate System



Source: Cooper (1994)

# Traditional Product development approaches are under pressure

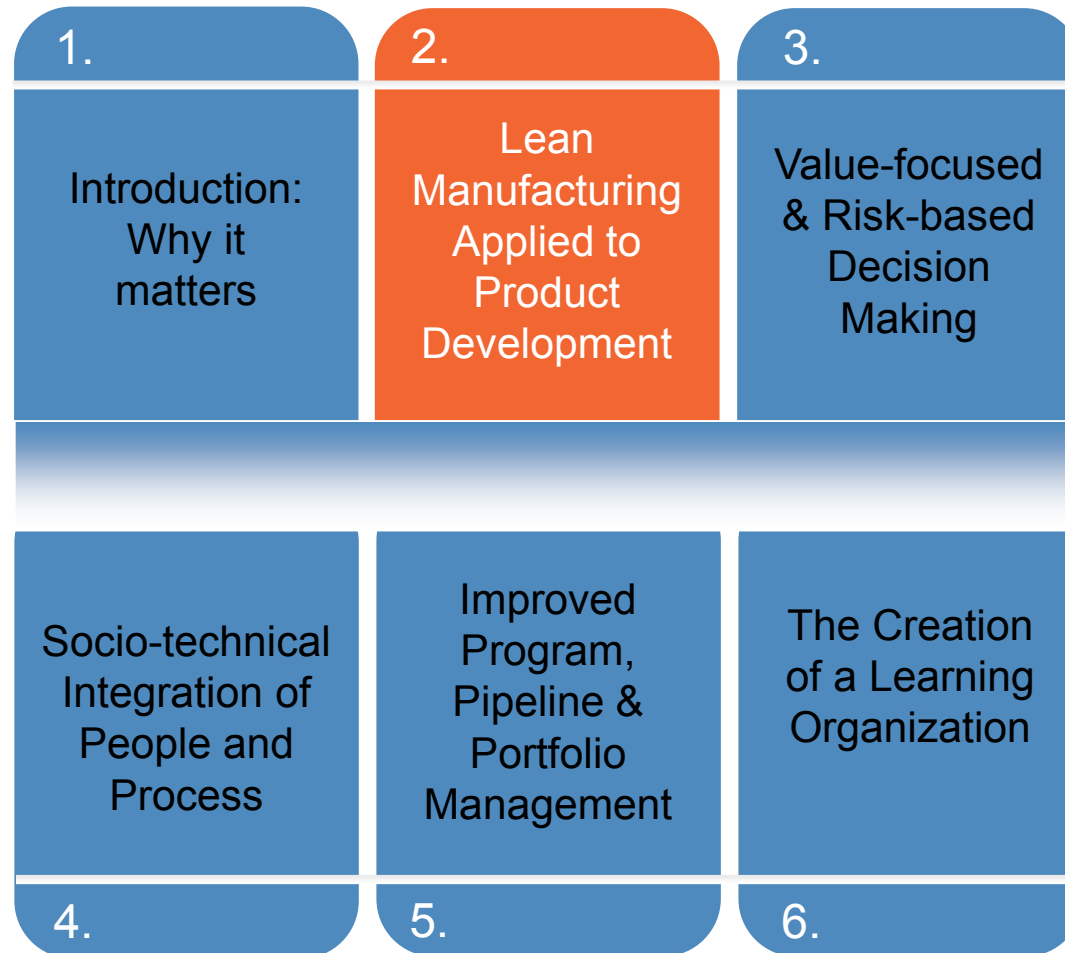


## Capability Maturity Models Integrated

Maturity Level	Focus	Process Areas	Quality ↑
5 Optimizing	Continuous Process Improvement	Organizational Innovation and Deployment Causal Analysis and Resolution	Risk & Rework ↓
4 Quantitatively Managed	Quantitative Management	Organizational Process Performance Quantitative Project Management	
3 Defined	Process Standardization	Requirements Development Technical Solution Product Integration Verification Validation Organizational Process Focus Organizational Process Definition Organizational Training Integrated Project Management Risk Management Integrated Supplier Management Integrated Teaming Decision Analysis and Resolution Organizational Environment for Integration	
2 Managed	Basic Project Management	Requirements Management Project Planning Project Monitoring and Control Supplier Agreement Management Measurement and Analysis Process and Product Quality Assurance Configuration Management	
1 Initial			

## ISO 15288 – Systems Engineering Life Cycle Processes

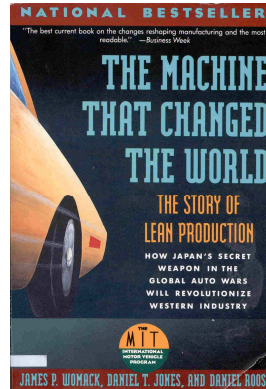




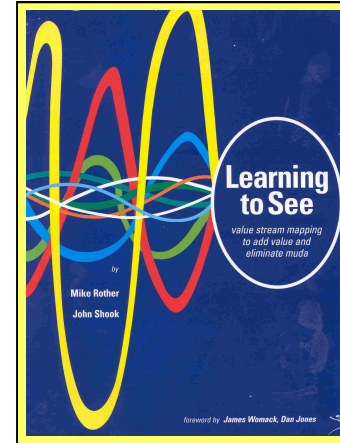


# Evolution of Lean

Taiichi Ono and Eiji Toyoda – Toyota Production System (1949)



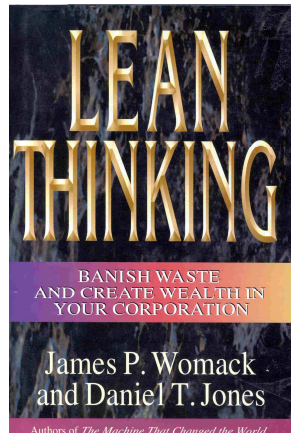
Five Principles of Lean Thinking: Value, Value stream, Flow, Pull, Perfection



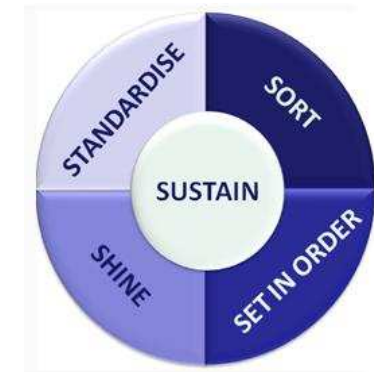
Various tools have been proposed to reduce waste and create flow: 5S, SMED, Kanban



Term “Lean Production” created by Womack, Jones and Roos at the book “The Machine that Changed the World” (1990)



Value Stream Mapping: Systems Perspective that supports the identification of waste (DOWNTIME)



Automotive

Production

Office

Service

Healthcare

Product Development

# Case Study Environment

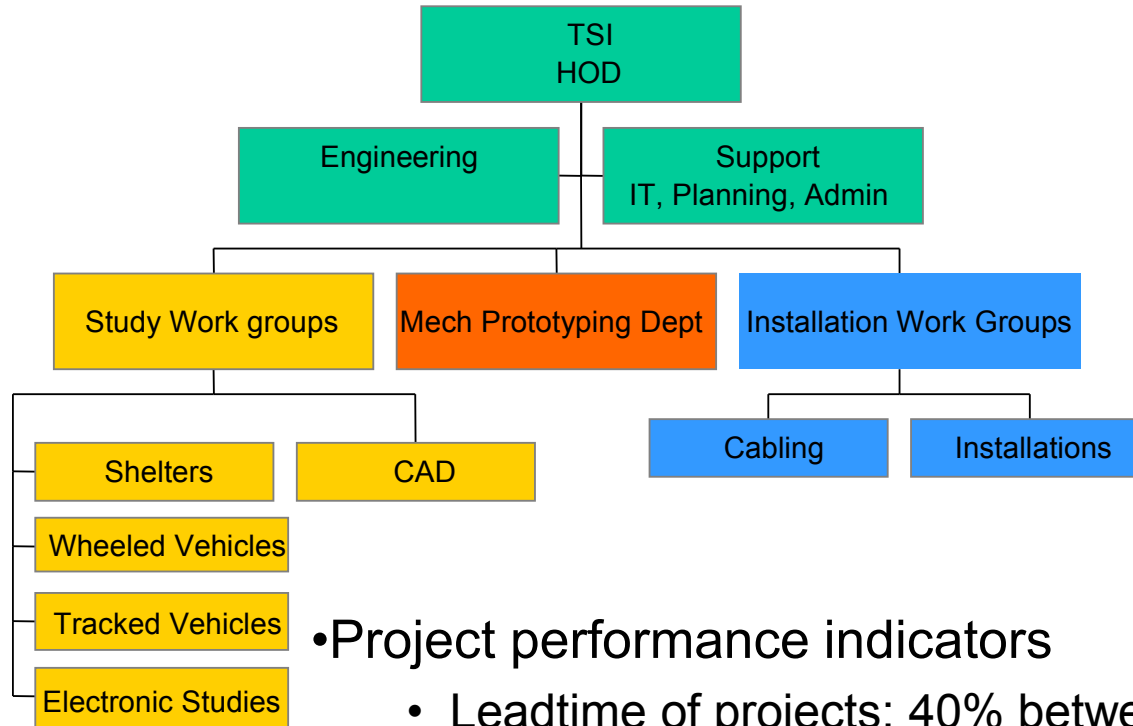


- Department of Technical Studies and Installations of the Belgian Armed Forces
  - Design and installation of Communication and Information Systems (CIS) in military vehicles
  - Radio-transmitters, satellite communication systems, GPS, etc.
  - 74 personnel, 82 ongoing projects
  - Poor performance on project lead time
  - Threat of outsourcing

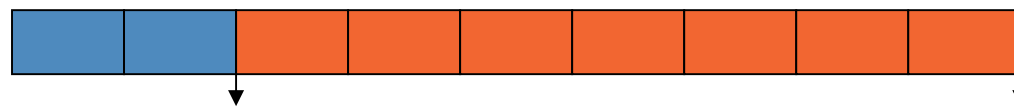


- Integrated Transformation Effort
  - Initial improvement initiative focussed on a complex and critical installation project
  - Roll-out of new process to other projects after initial success.

# Department Structure and Functional Groups



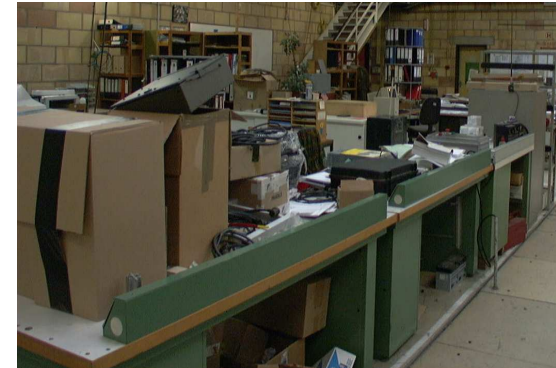
- Project performance indicators
  - Leadtime of projects: 40% between 3 and 9 years
  - Workload: 80% less than 800 man hours



LPDS ▪ 11

800 hours

3 years



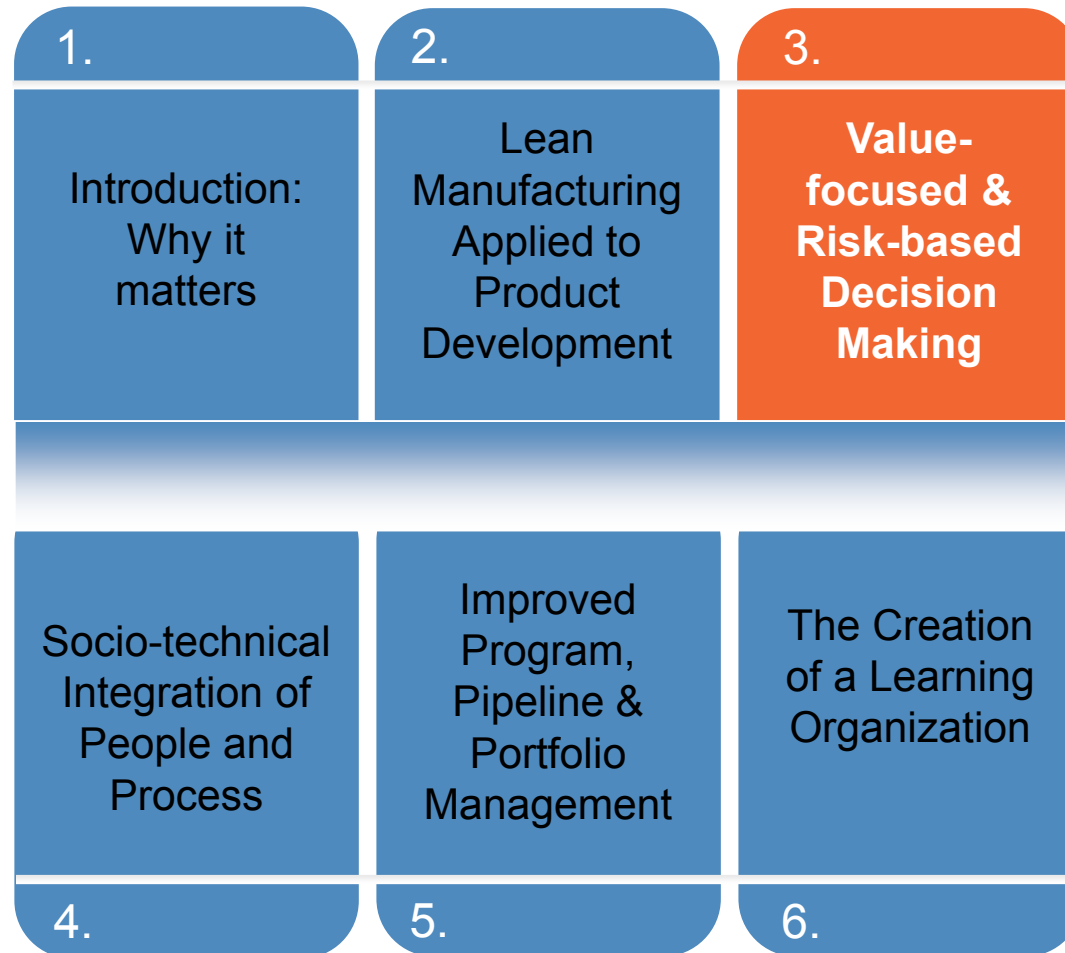
Waiting: at least 78%!

# There is Plenty of Waste in Product Development

<p><b>Defective products/not meeting user requirements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unreliable data/information (equipment, user info)</li> <li>Wrong participants/user representatives</li> <li>Artificial feedback</li> </ul>	<p><b>Transportation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Of materials from customer to development site</li> <li>Of personnel between sites and department</li> <li>External transfer of official documents</li> </ul>
<p><b>Overproduction</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creation of redundant/unnecessary deliverables</li> </ul>	<p><b>Inventories</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Too much WIP for engineering and project manager</li> <li>Leading to too many parallel activities</li> </ul>
<p><b>Waiting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feedback and decision</li> <li>User and stakeholder meetings</li> </ul>	<p><b>Motion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inefficient layout of department</li> <li>Lacking department meeting room</li> <li>Searching for people, materials, information</li> </ul>
<p><b>Not taking advantage of employee creativity:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of feedback from end-user and external and internal stakeholders</li> </ul>	<p><b>Excess Process design</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inefficient meetings</li> <li>Supporting IE and IT tools not understood</li> </ul>

Additional illustrations:  
 "Value Stream Analysis and Mapping for PD",  
 R. Millard, MS Thesis, MIT, June 2001

20-40% of PD effort "pure waste"  
 60-80 % of *tasks* idle at any given time



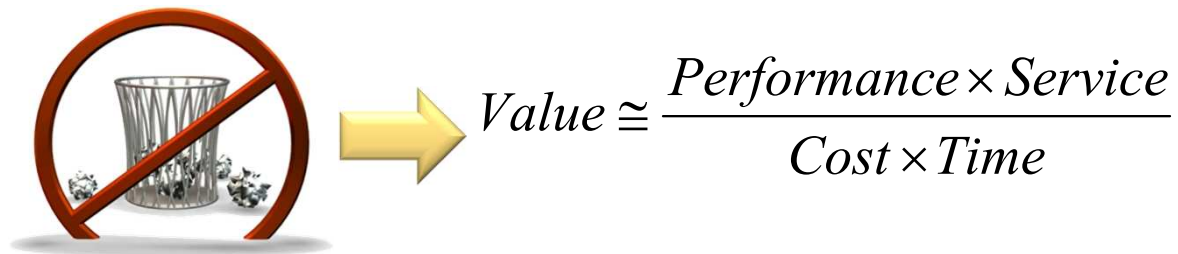
# Dangers of Eliminating Waste in Product Development



Thunder horse

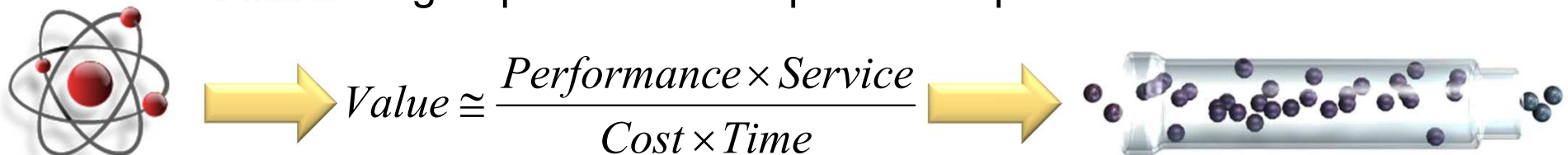
# Lean Trap in Product Development

- The problem:
  - Applying the **classical** lean approach (**‘eliminate waste’**) is dangerous
    - Essential development activities such as analysis and testing could be classified as ‘waste’ or ‘non-value added’
- LPD improvements require a direct, rather than indirect (waste-focused) (Reinersten, 1999; Haque and James-Moore, 2004; Baines et al., 2006)
  - This implies adding activities that support the **definition of value** as a first priority



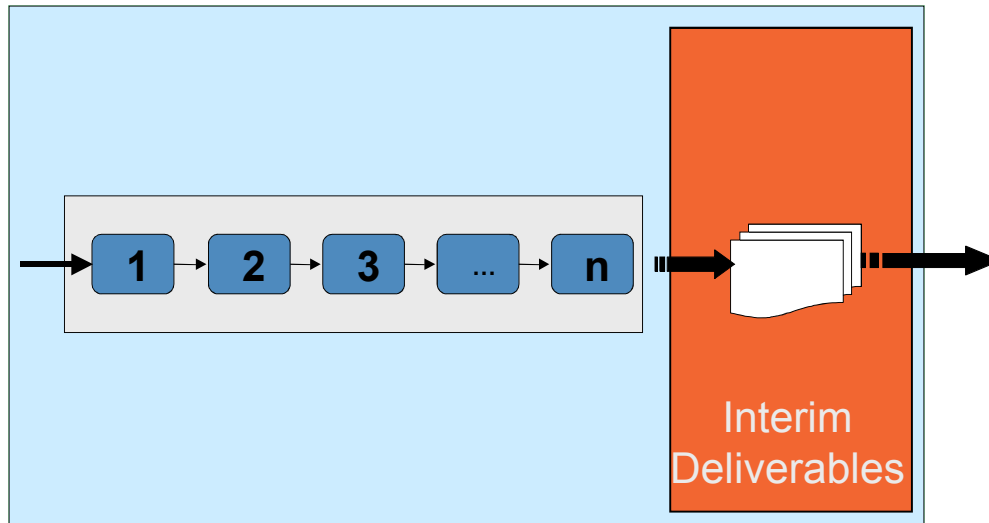
# The Identification of Value

- To support the identification and creation of Value, Browning introduced the “Atoms of Value” concept:
  - Atom of value are a set of activities that lead to valuable interim deliverables
  - These atoms of value
    - increase stakeholder value
    - by enhancing performance and reducing risks
- A Lean product development process consists of a chain of atoms of value that optimize the overall value of the development process
  - Find the right “product development recipe”





# Atoms of Value (Browning)



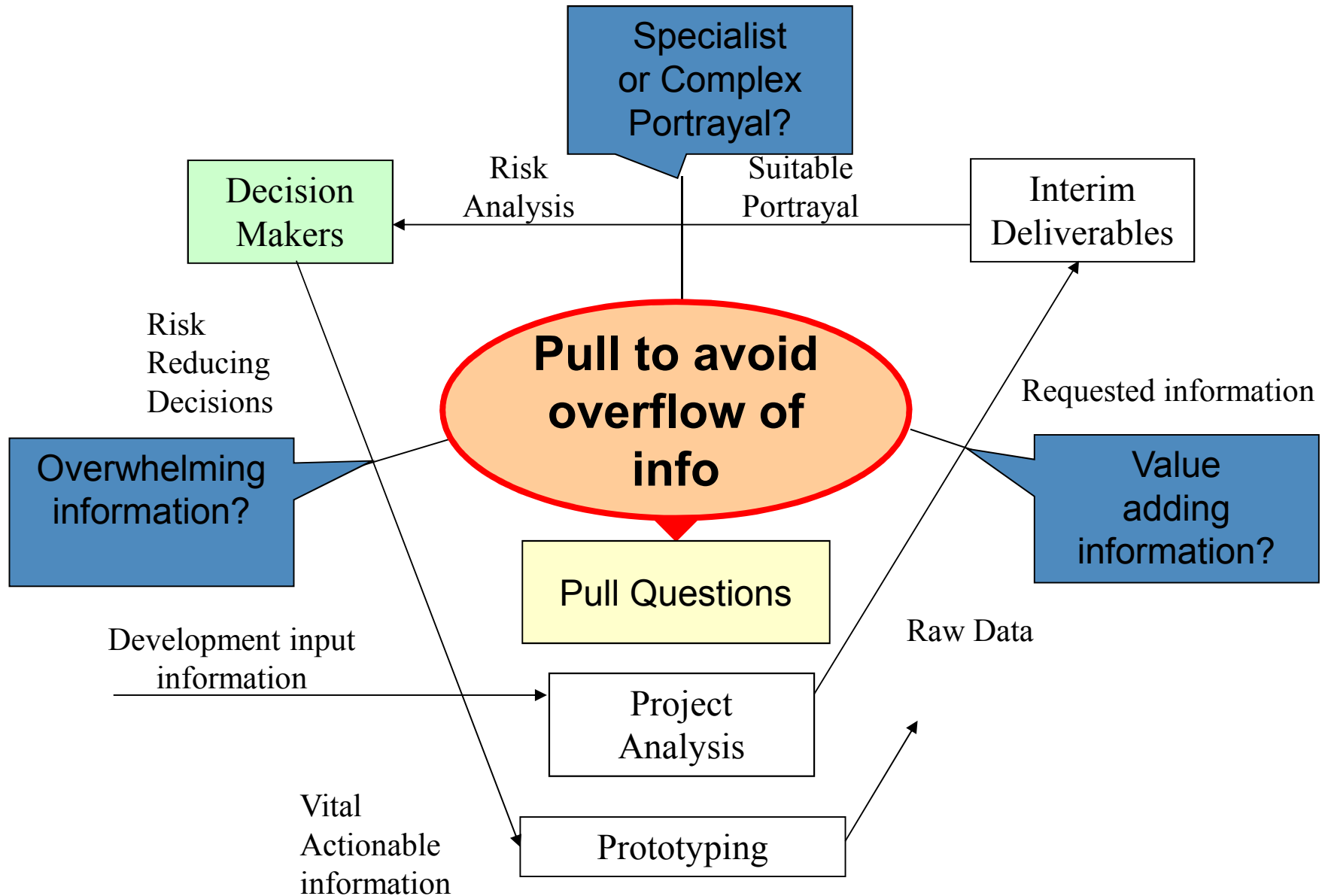
Increase stakeholder value  
by enhancing performance  
and reducing risks

- Atoms of Value
  - Development activities that lead to valuable interim deliverables

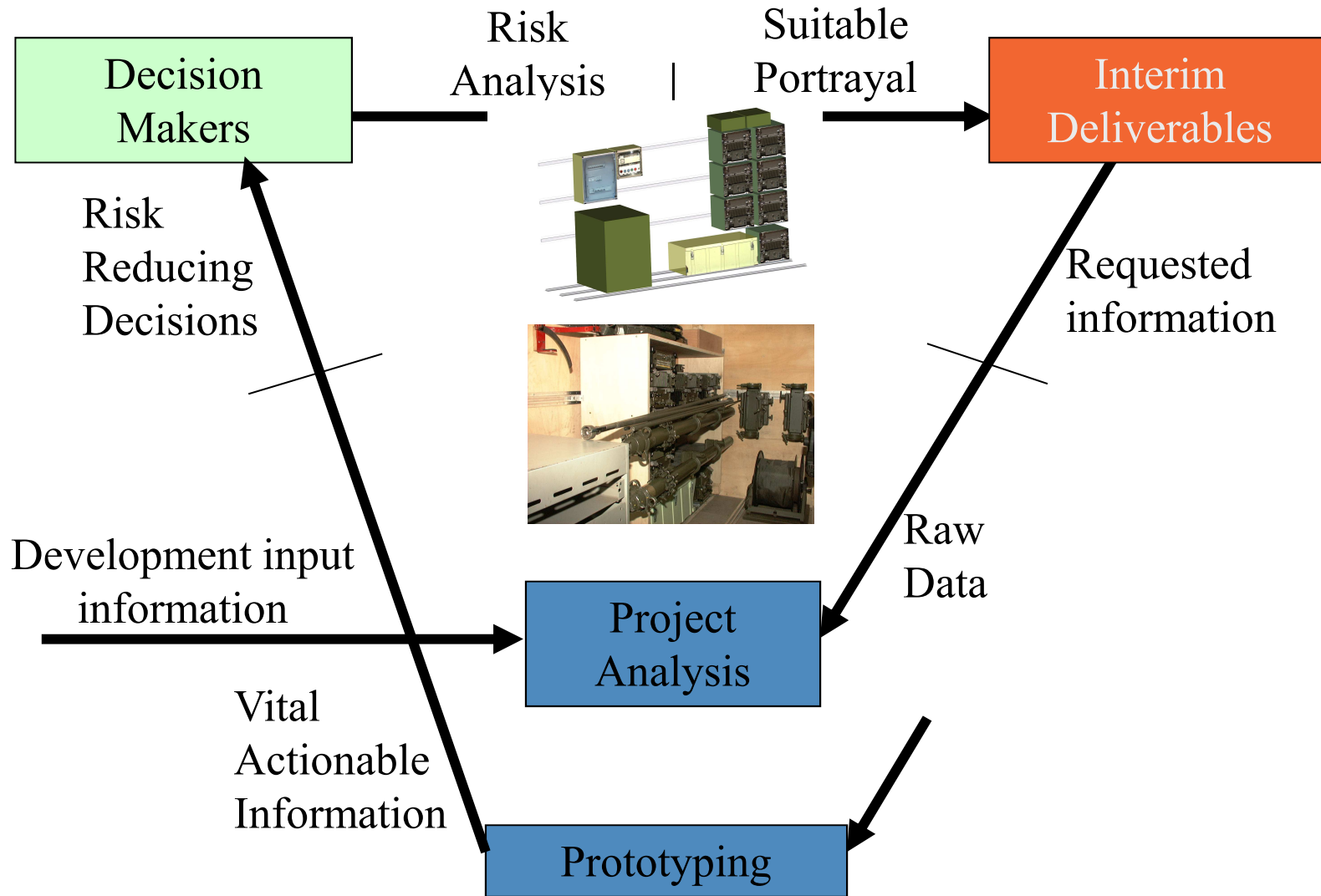


Mind the ISO/CMMI Trap!

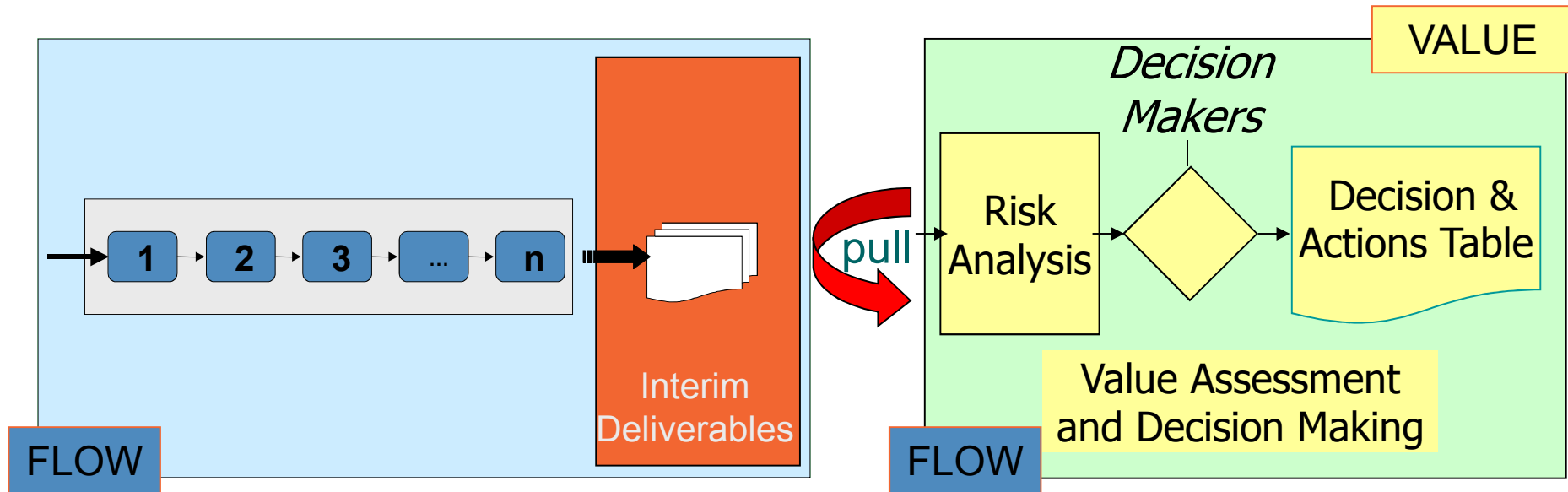
# Product Development Push



# Pull-based Product Development



# The Lean Atom of VALUE (LAVA) Model



- Atoms of Value (Browning):

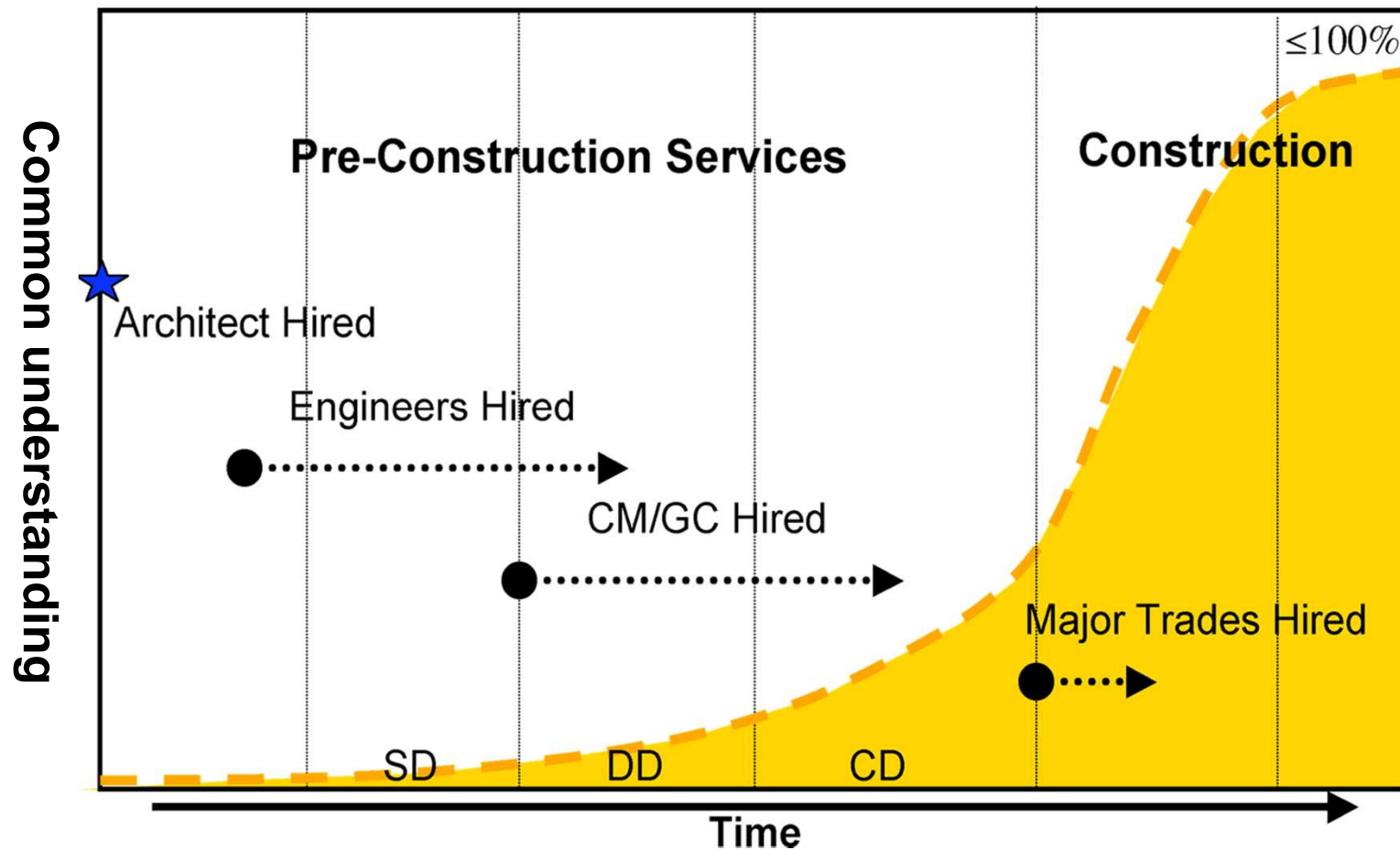
- Development activities that lead to valuable interim deliverables

- Lean Atoms of VALUE:

- Include the decision making process that define value and reduces risk
- Uses pull thinking to identify the appropriate interim deliverables
- Acknowledges the need to create flow in execution and decision making

# Increase the Level of Common Understanding

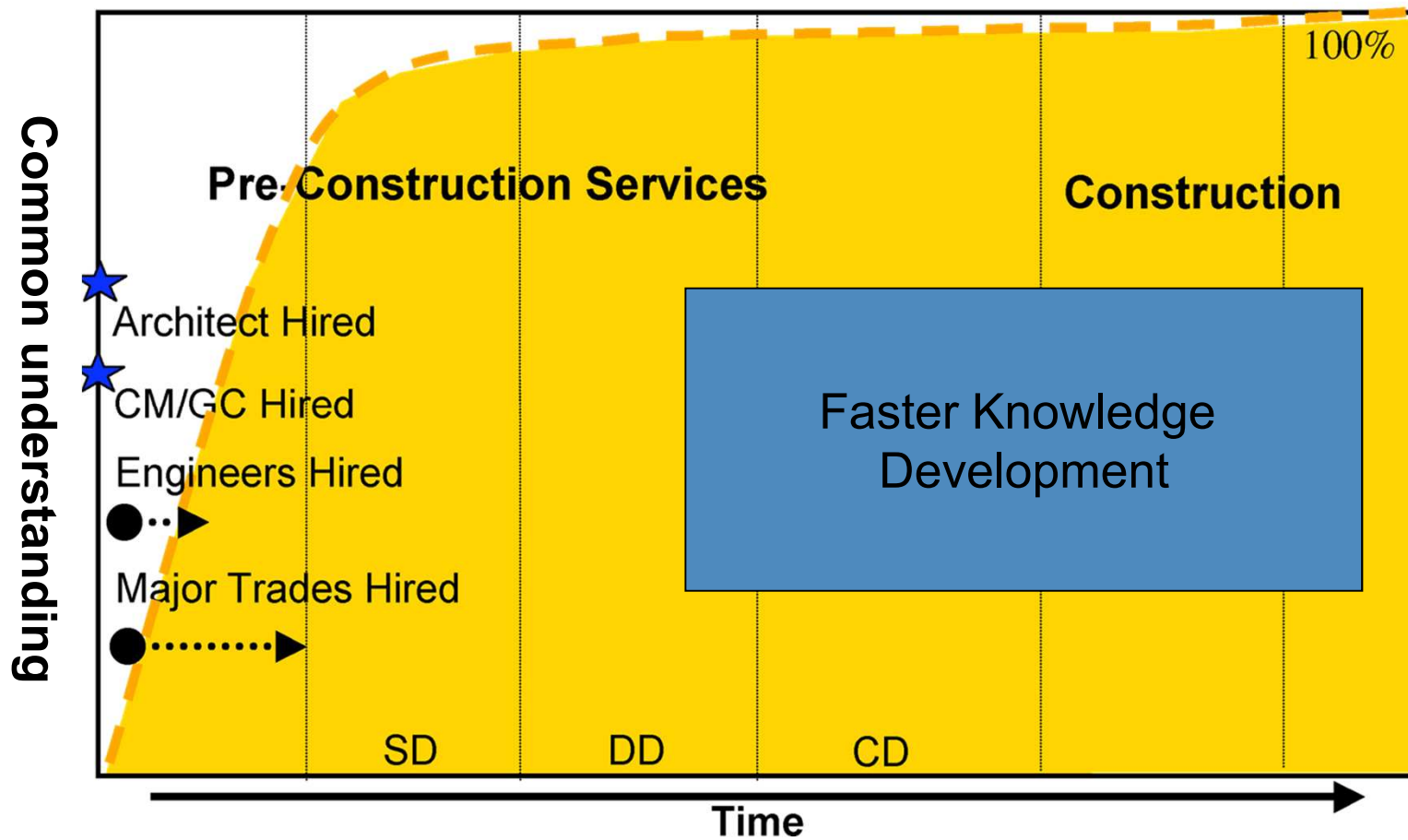
## Traditional Product Development



Source: McDonough Holland & Allen PC - Lean Construction Institute

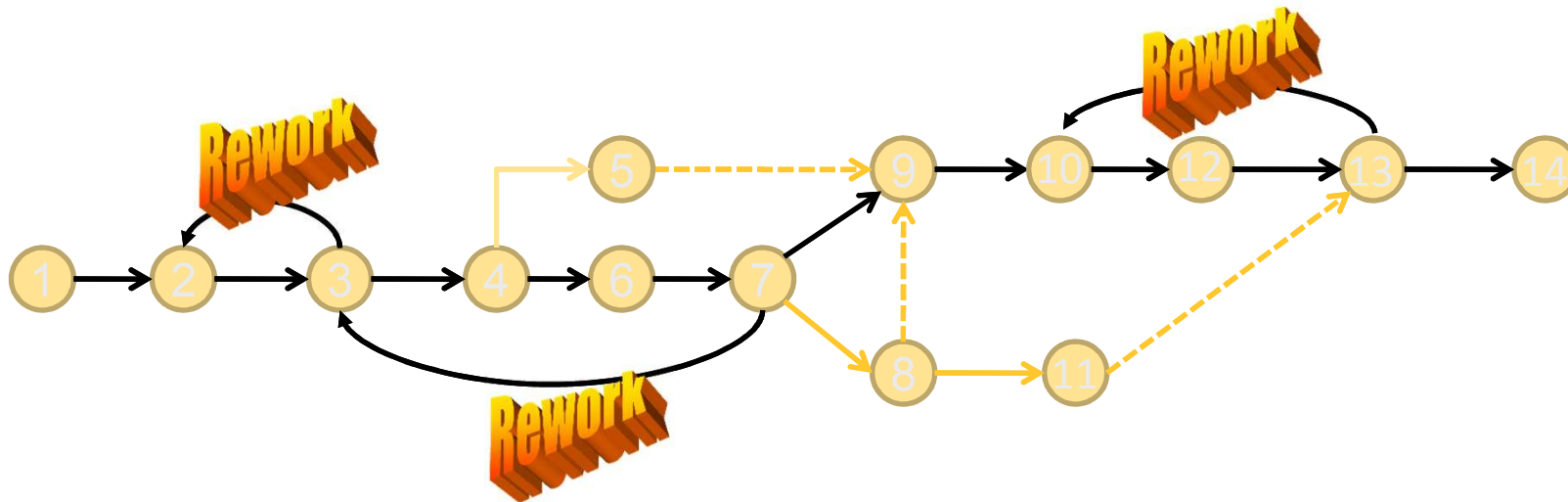
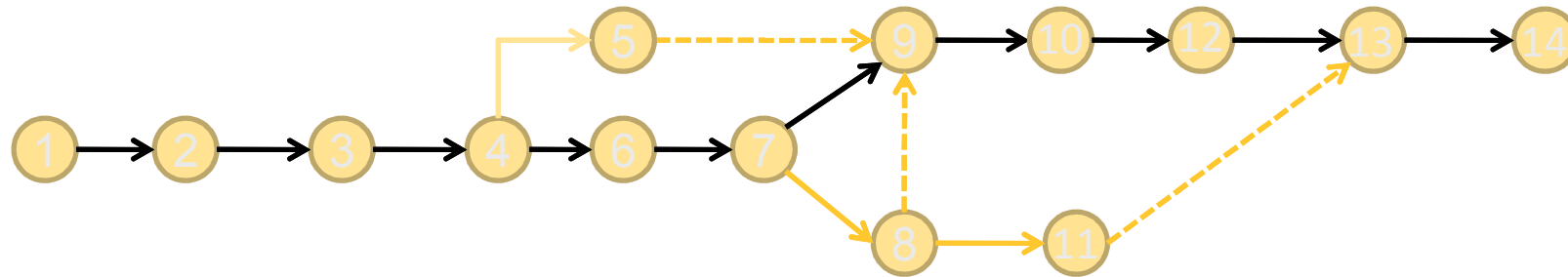
# Increase the Level of Common Understanding

## Lean Product Development



Source: McDonough Holland & Allen PC - Lean Construction Institute

# The Importance of Rework



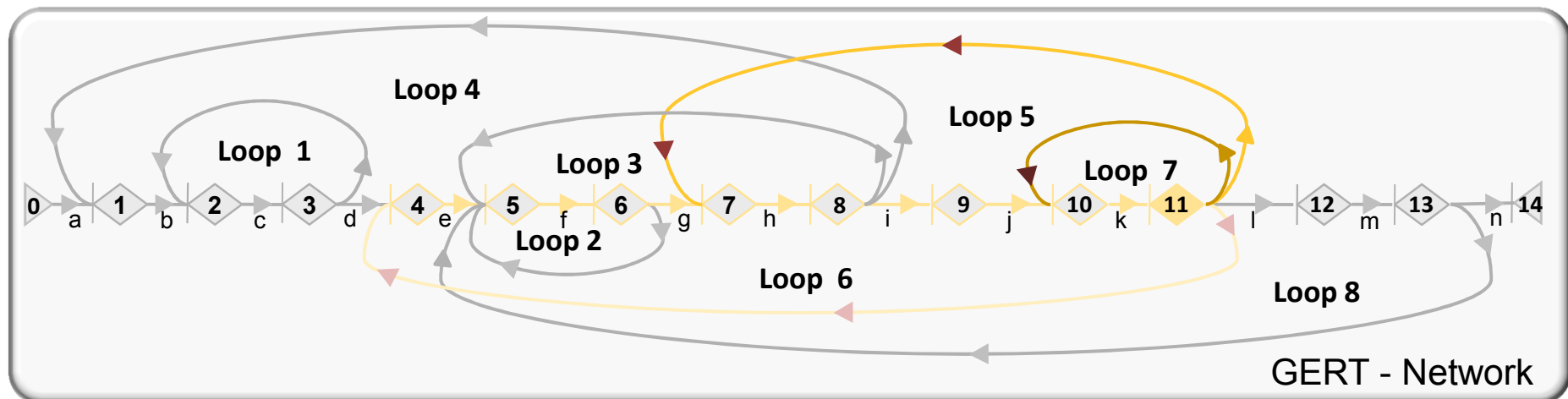
AOA-network diagram

# Assessing Loop Criticality

- **Occurrence:** network conditional probability
- **Severity:** contribution of loop *i* in project lead time
- **Detection:** loop location along the project path

Knowledge Evolution

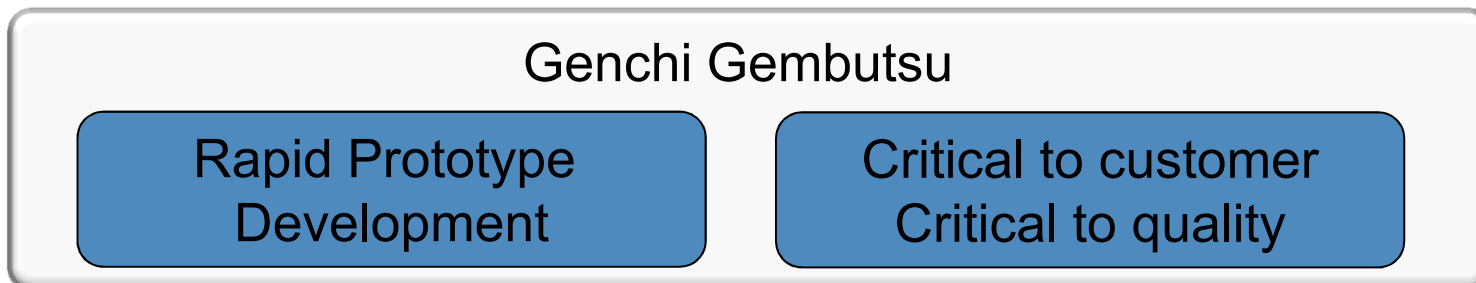
Risk-based  
decision making



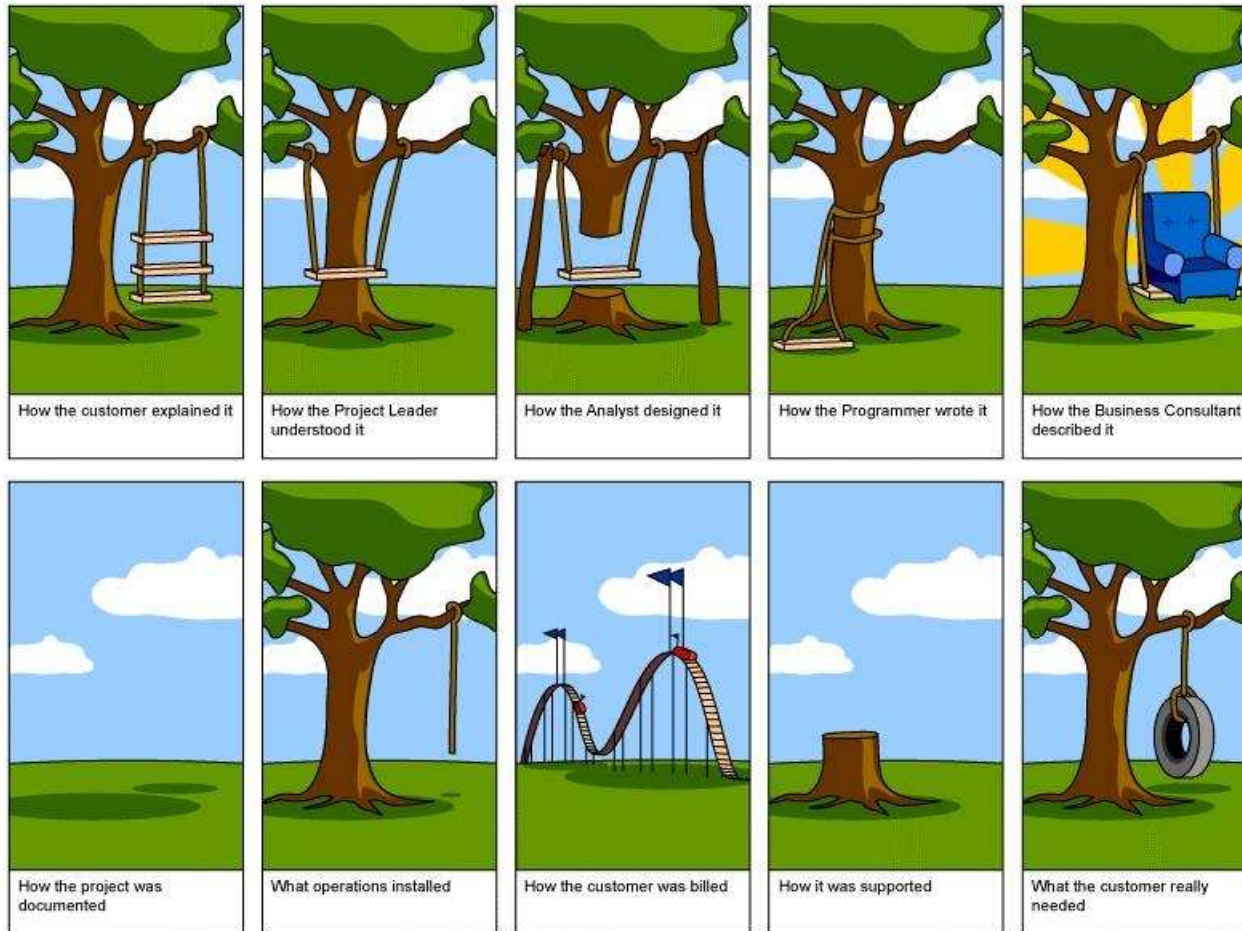


# Knowledge development through Front-Loading

- Front-loading definition:
  - Frontloading is the shifting of identification and solving problems to earlier phases of the PD process (Thompke and Fujimoto, 2000).
- Front-loading approaches:
  - Project-to-project knowledge transfer
  - Rapid problem-solving cycles through technology leverage
  - Earlier starts of problem-solving cycles through supplier relationships
  - Optimal partitioning of iteration loops (Design Structure Matrix)



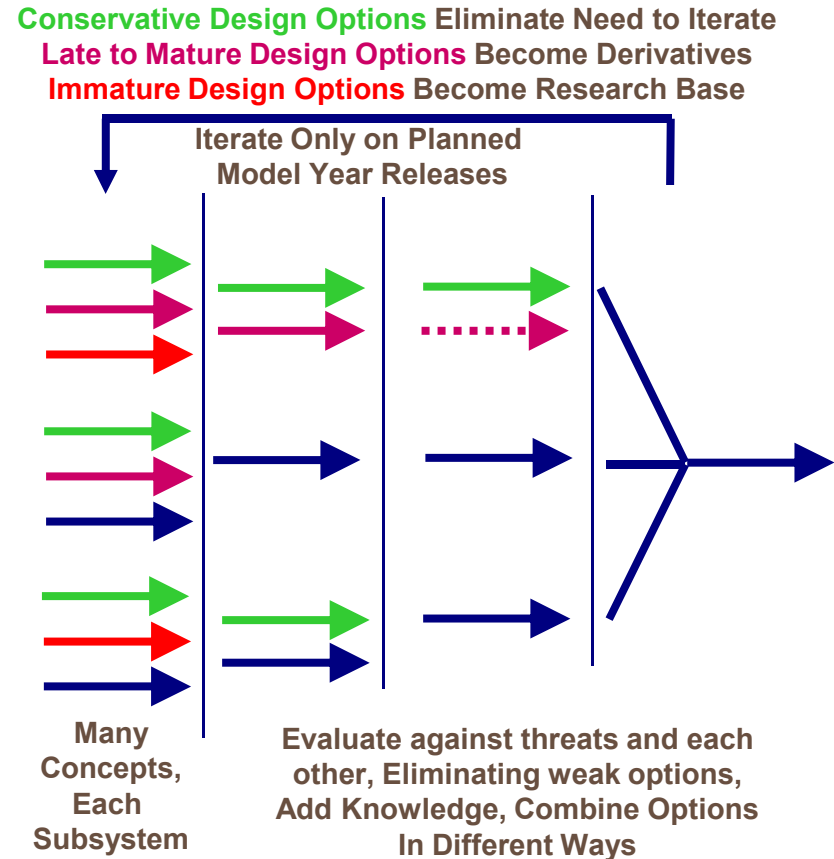
# Convergent Decision Making



- Involving many stakeholders in early stages increases discussion and facilitates timely conflict identification
- Stakeholder management is a must: *Nemawashi*
- This implies the use of convergent decision making techniques
  - Alternatives comparison
  - Set-based Concurrent Engineering

# Set-based Concurrent Engineering

- A broad range of alternatives are narrowed down until a superior solution is found
- Design information is gathered from different functional groups. The overlap between these perspectives creates a range from which to develop sets
- Front-loading of this information minimizes risk of future engineering changes and rework
- Potential solutions are developed in parallel until the last responsible moment for a decision

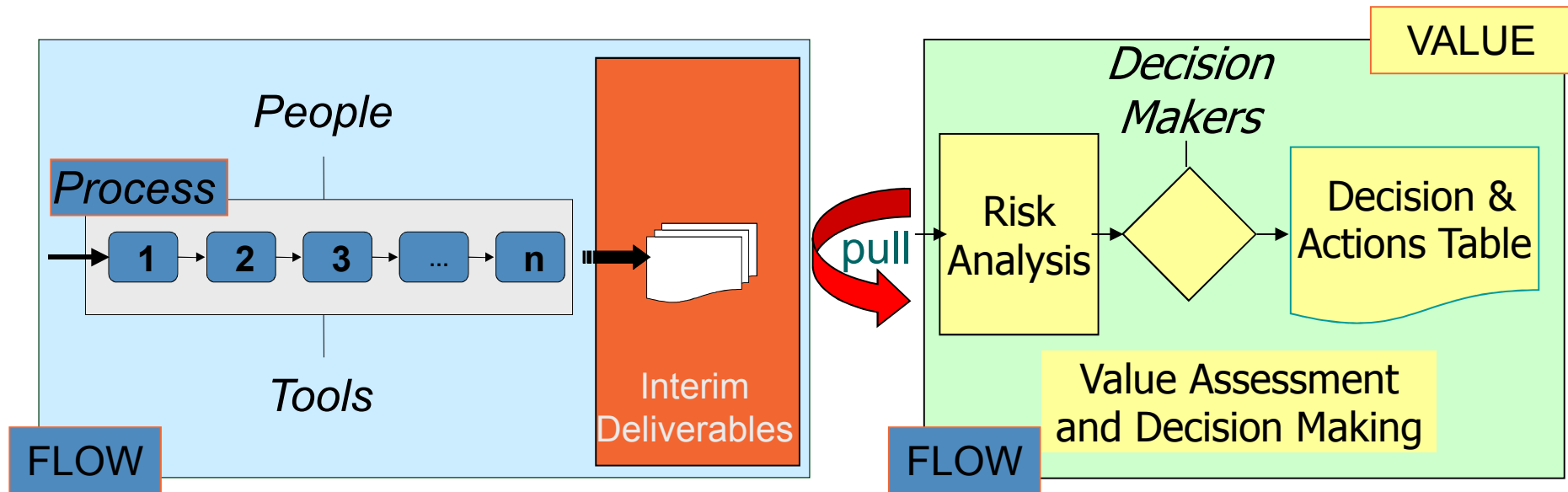


**Reduces risk through redundancy, robustness, and knowledge capture  
To eliminate waste early in the product design**

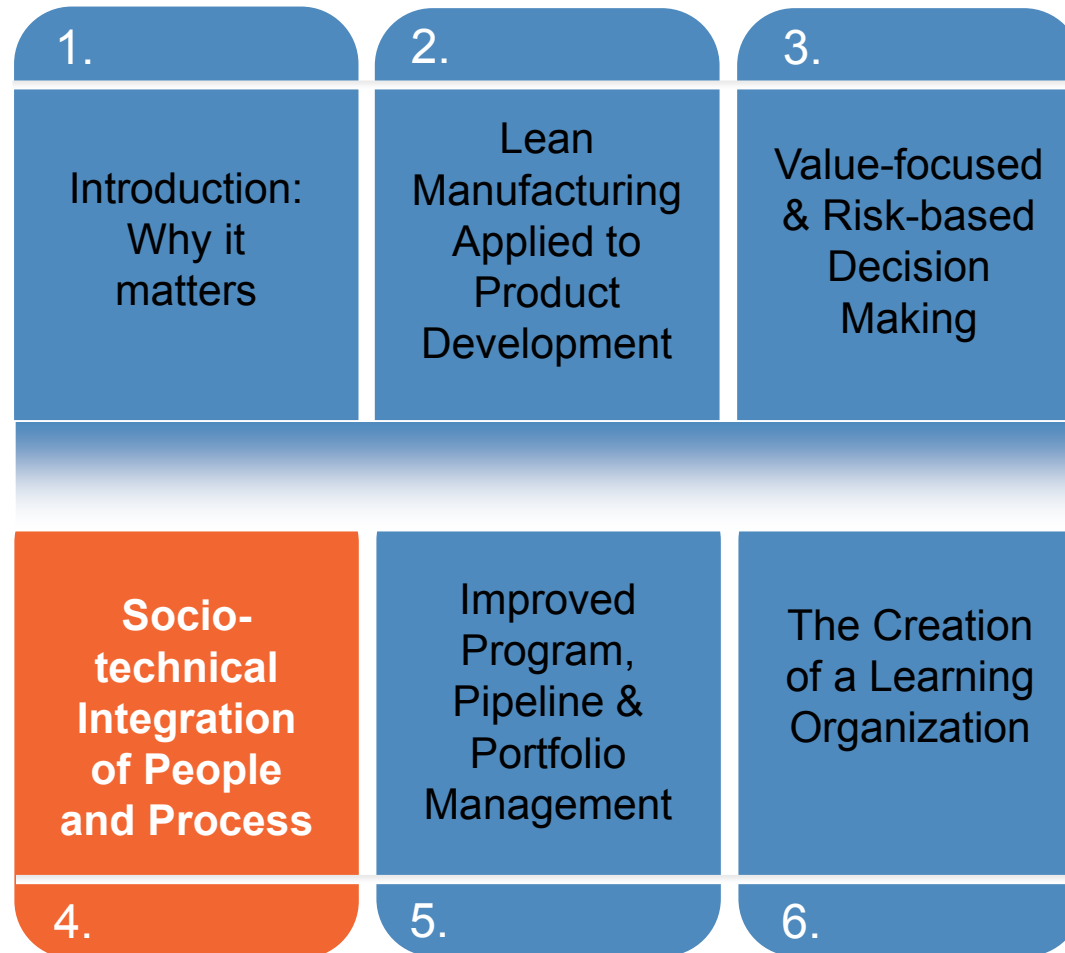
# Other Supporting Techniques

- Value Analysis and Value Engineering
- Function Analysis System Technique
- Quality function deployment
- Choosing by Advantage
- Decision mapping
- Design Structure Matrix
- Trade off curves
- Design For Manufacturing, Assembly, Testing

# Characteristics of LAVAs

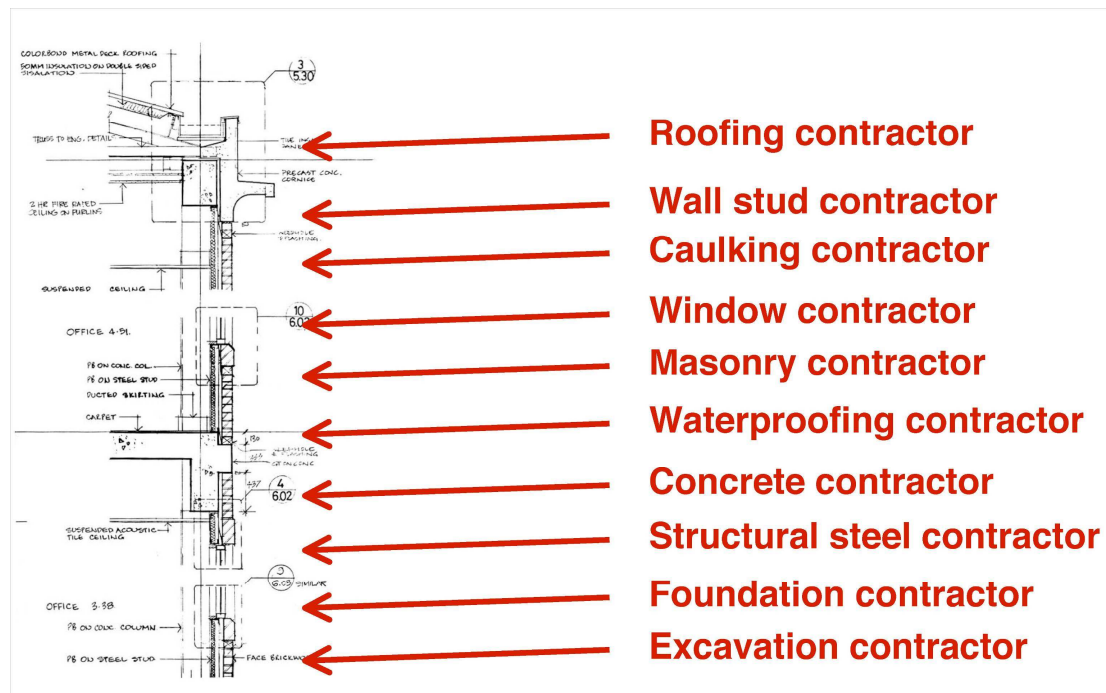


- People:
  - Concurrent team
- Process:
  - Only required steps
- Tools & guidelines
  - Virtual Prototypes, Mockups: Enabling suitable portrayal of interim deliverables
- Interim Deliverables:
  - Facilitating Risk Analysis and Value Identification
- Decision makers
  - Balance importance of different stakeholders
- Decision & Actions Table
  - Lean documentation (A3-Reports)



# Socio-technical dimensions of LPPD

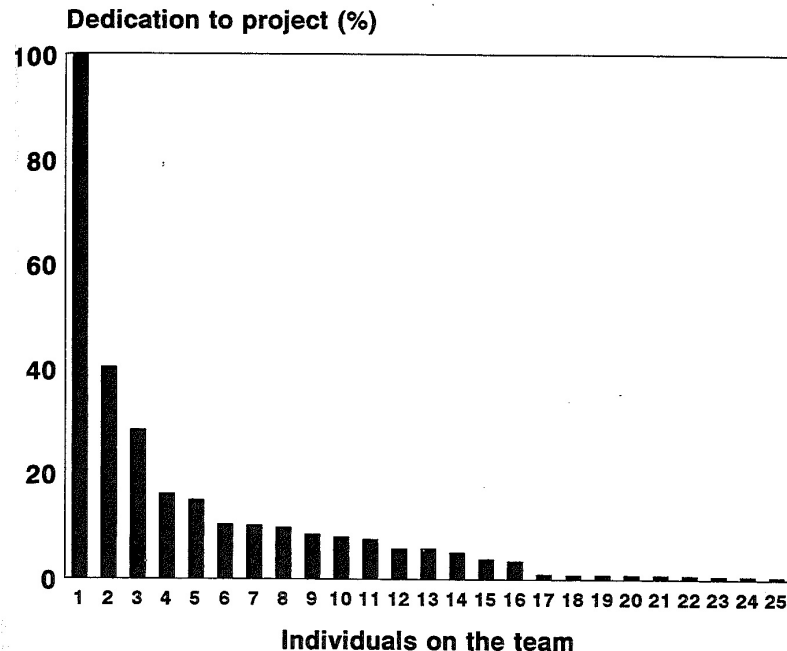
## Buildings Leak at the Intersection of Contracts



Source: McDonough Holland & Allen PC – Lean Construction Institute

- Successful LPPD is more than the application of tools the successful application of Lean tools
- It implies the creation of project and functional teams
  - Communication
  - Trust
  - Shared identity
- The creation of a learning environment

# Development Kaizen Events

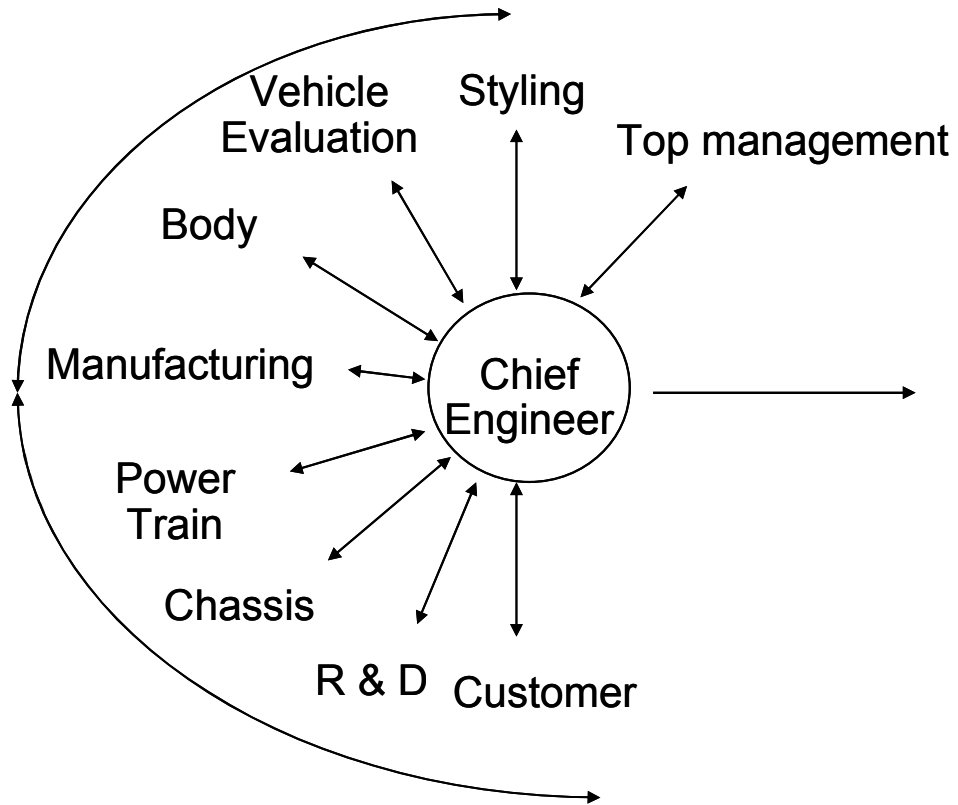


Staffing with many specialists that have low dedication to the project

- Definition:
  - Cross-functional concurrent teams
  - That works together on the creation **and** assessment of focused interim deliverables
  - For a short period of time: typically one to three weeks
  - In a shared location
- Benefits:
  - Focus: minimal interruptions
  - Continuous communication - reduced reporting overhead
  - Improved ownership creates a team identity
  - Optimize transfer of knowledge
  - Fast delivery **and** fast decision making: no delays at the decision gates



# This implies strong leadership



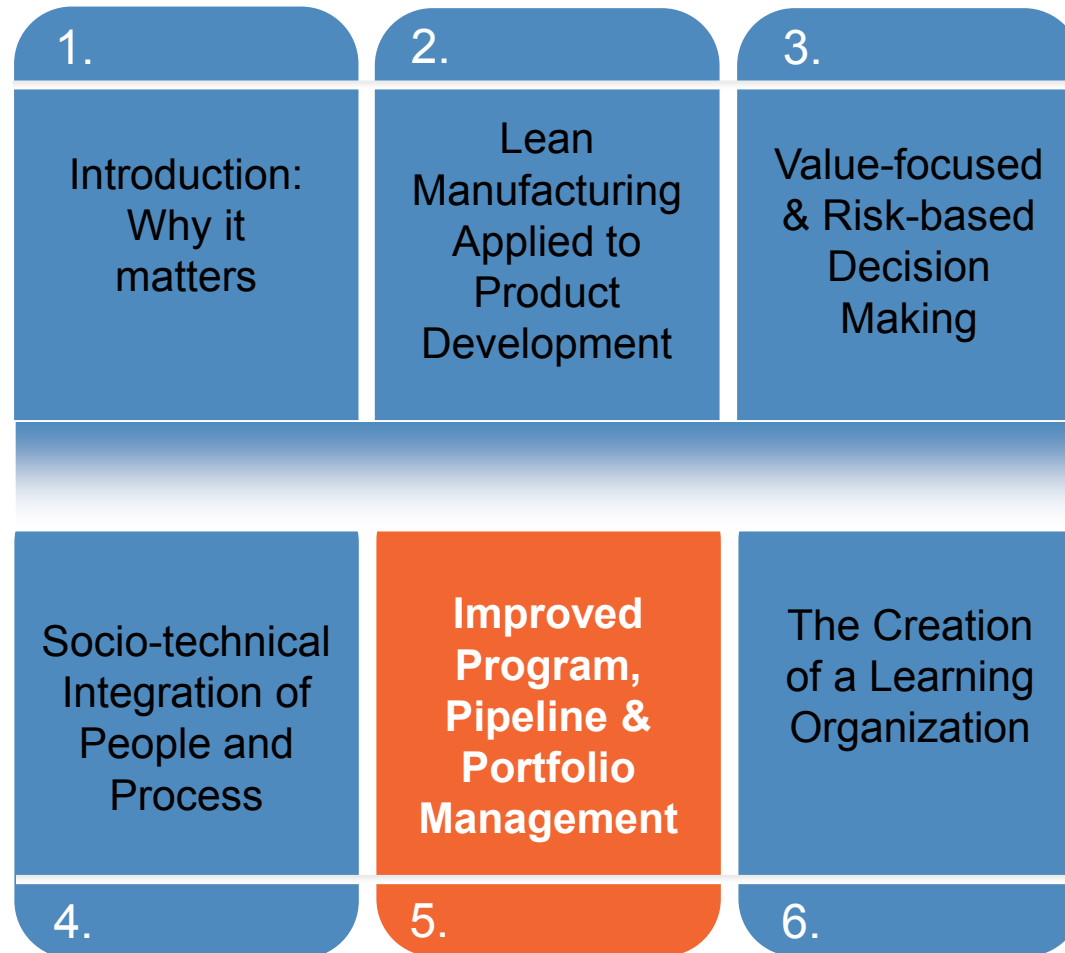
- Chief Engineer (CE) integrates everything
  - product plan
  - concept
  - design architecture
  - targets and specifications
  - schedule
  - budget
  - drawing approval
- He is judged on corporate objectives
  - Profit
  - Share
  - Learning

# CE at Toyota: Leadership by expertise

- Technical expertise: Minimum 20 years experience as engineer
  - Deep grasp of engineering fundamentals (communication with any engineer)
  - Assignment outside original area of expertise (ability to adapt and learn quickly)
- System design skills and attitudes; strong personalities
  - Assignment(s) as assistant chief engineer (integration experience)
  - “Push very hard — but know when to stop”
- Communication skills and knowing the company

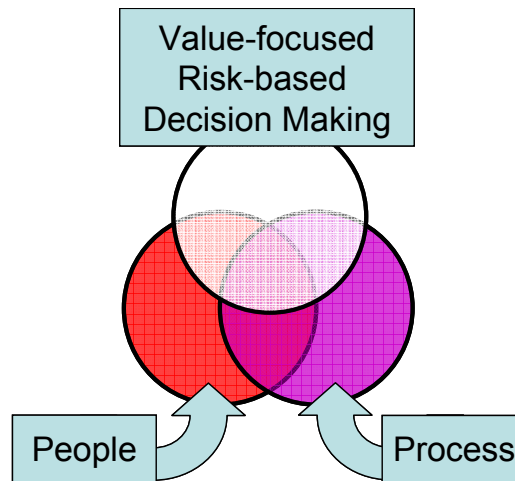
This implies sound career planning

Liker, 2006



# Top 10 Problems in Product Development Organizations

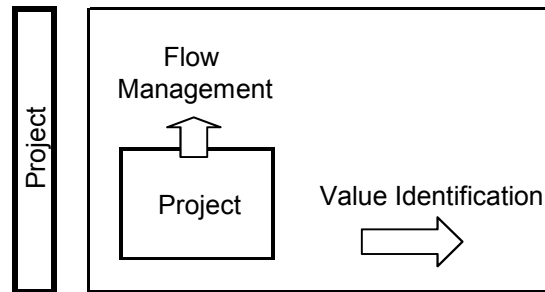
- Poorly defined product requirements
- Gold plating, analysis paralysis
- Late consideration of manufacturability
- Too many meetings
- Poor communication across functional barriers



- Chaotic environment: constant interruptions
- Lack of resources: bottlenecks
- No prioritization of projects/tasks
- Email avalanche
- Disruptive changes to product requirements

Source: Lean Product Development Guidebook – Mascitelli

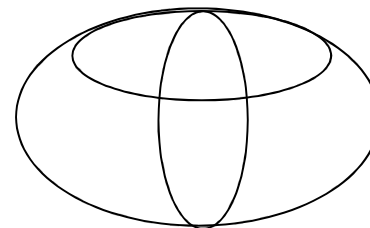
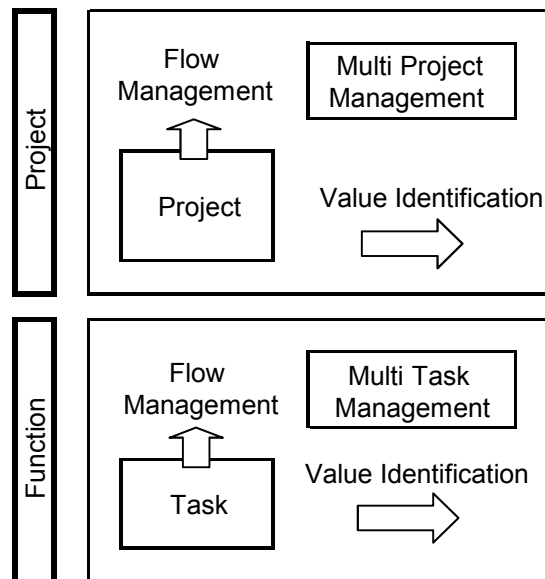
# Single Project versus Multi-project Management



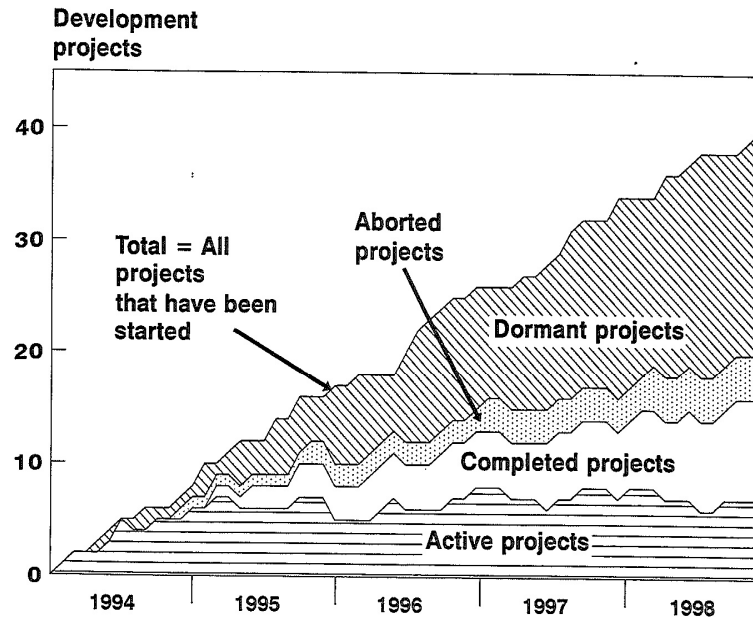
- An important part of the lean product development literature seems to focus on the single project level only
  - Value, concurrent engineering, leadership of the Chief Engineer
- The overall success of organizations is determined by the overall performance of multiples projects
  - Portfolio management
  - Multi-project management
  - Functional constraints

# Multiple Projects in Matrix Organizations

- At Toyota, functional specialists build knowledge about one function for several year (Haque and James-Moore, 2004)
- They maintains a functionally-based organization but with impressive integration that manages product development as a system (Sobek, Liker and Ward, 1998)



# Problems related to Multi-project Management

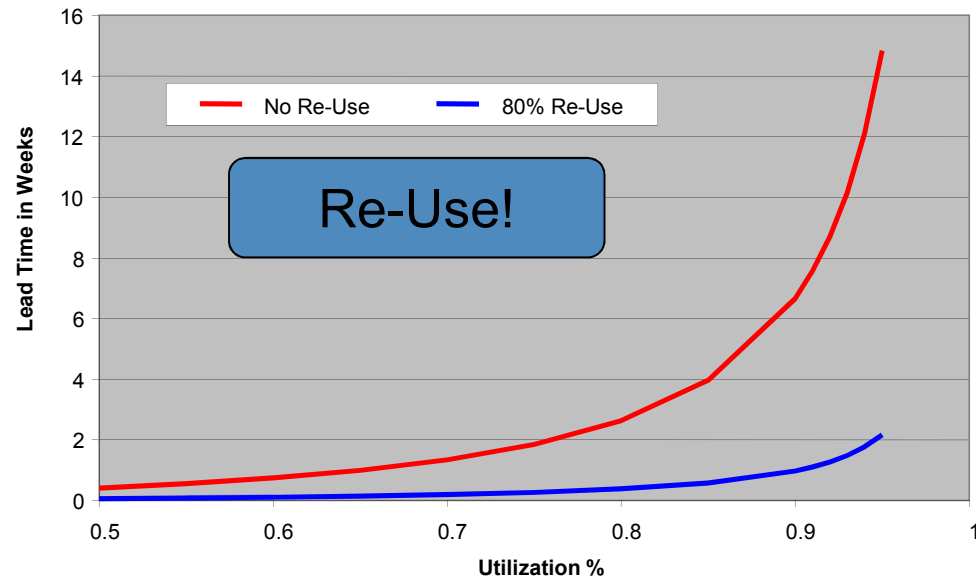
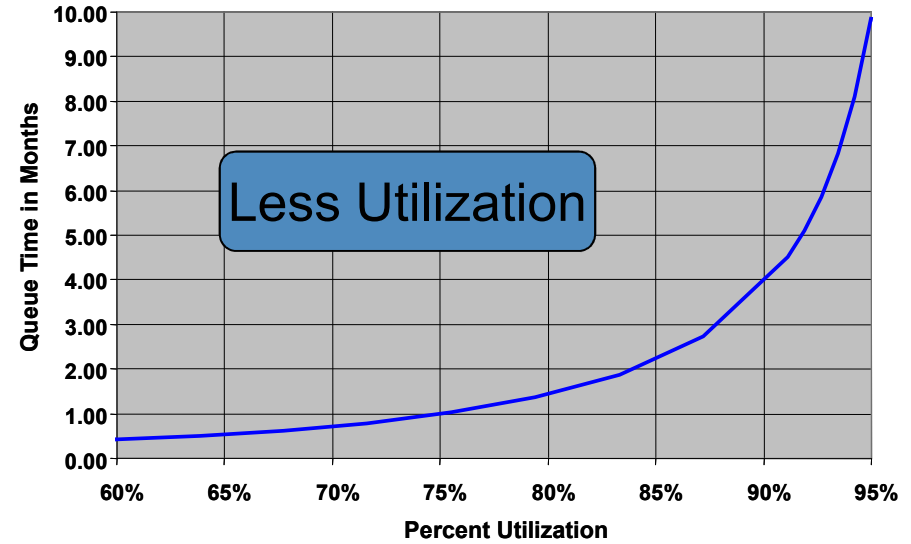
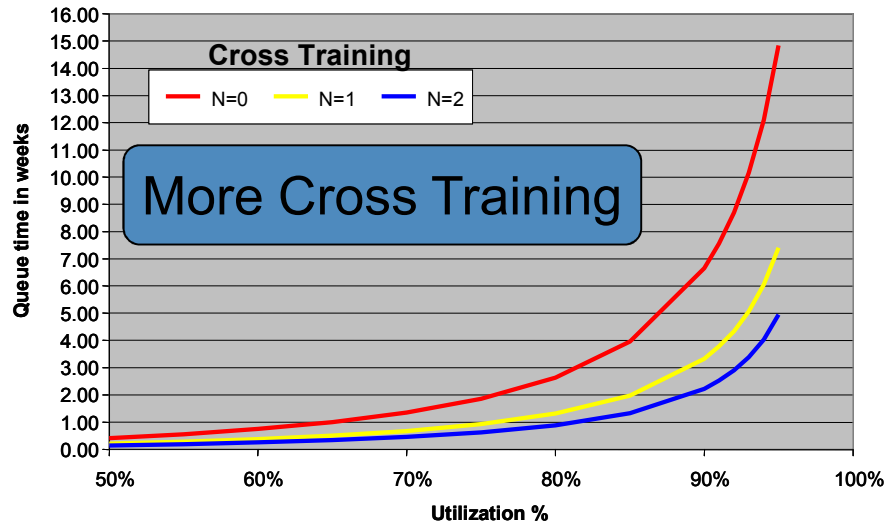


- Little's law:

$$\text{PD Lead Time} = \frac{\text{No. of Projects In Process}}{\text{Avg. Completion Rate}}$$

- Projects in Progress depends on:
  - Task Time Variation (>50%!)
  - Utilization % (of Engineers)
  - Cross training

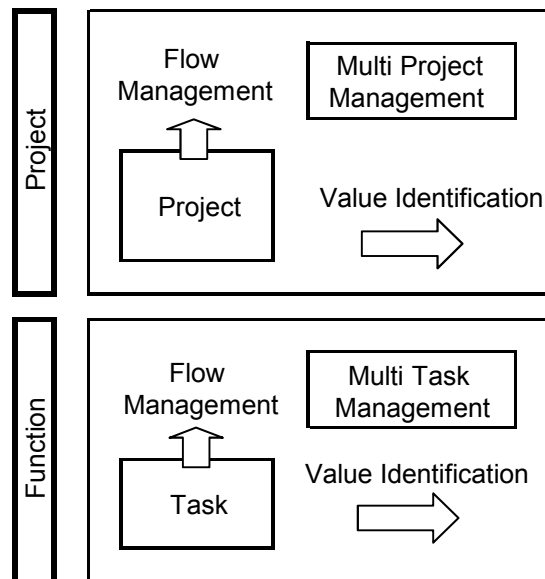
# Strategies to reduce WIP



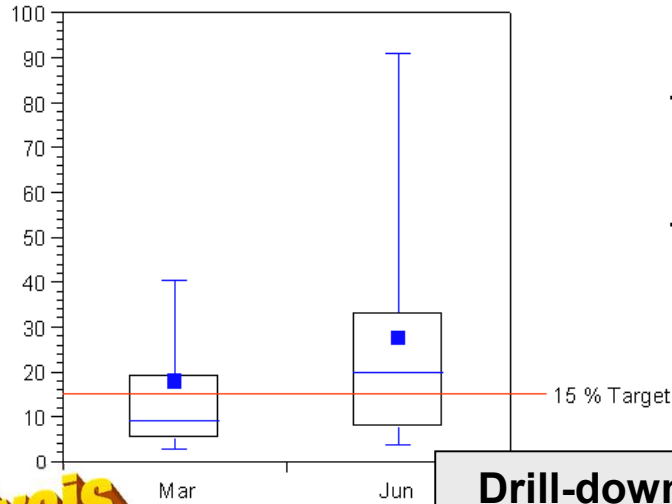


# Optimizing value and flow from a functional and project perspective

- Bottleneck Management – Critical chain (Goldratt, 1997)
- Managing functional queues (Reinertsen, 1997; Mascitelli 2007)
  - 5S
  - SMED
  - Resource pull
- Prioritization and coordination of multiple projects (Cusumano and Nobeaka, 1998)



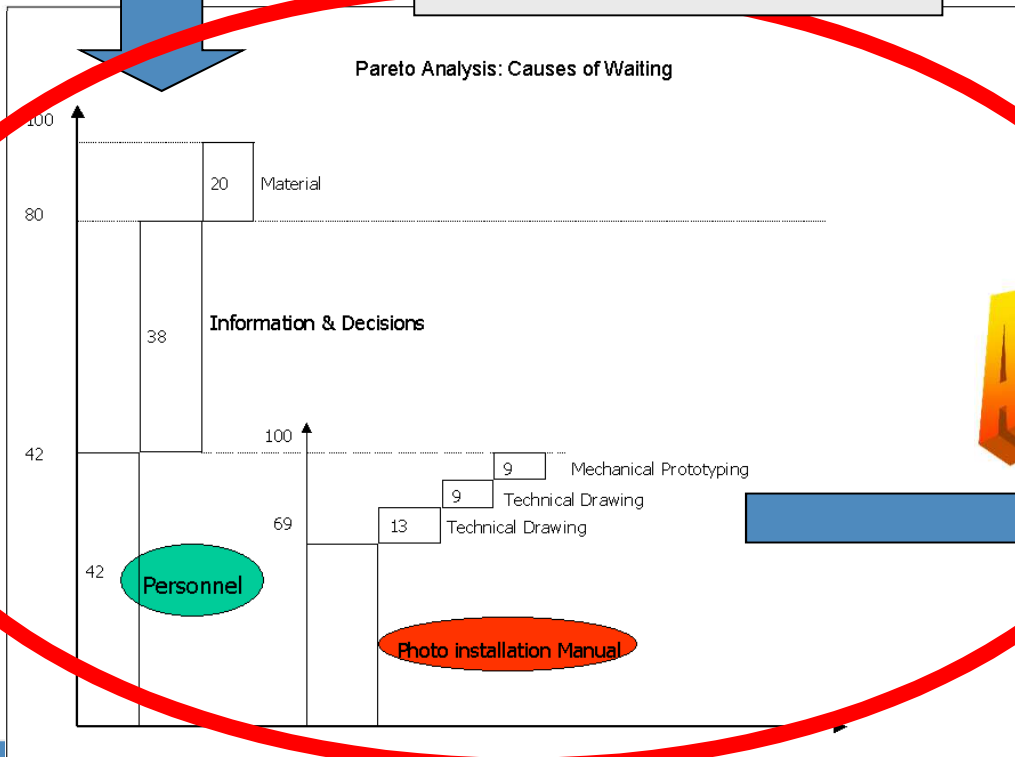
Effort/Leadtime Ongoing Projects



- Visualize functional queues to prioritize day-to-day activities
- Pull cross-trained resources to temporal bottlenecks

**Analysis**

**Drill-down Analysis to Identify and Eliminate Constraints**



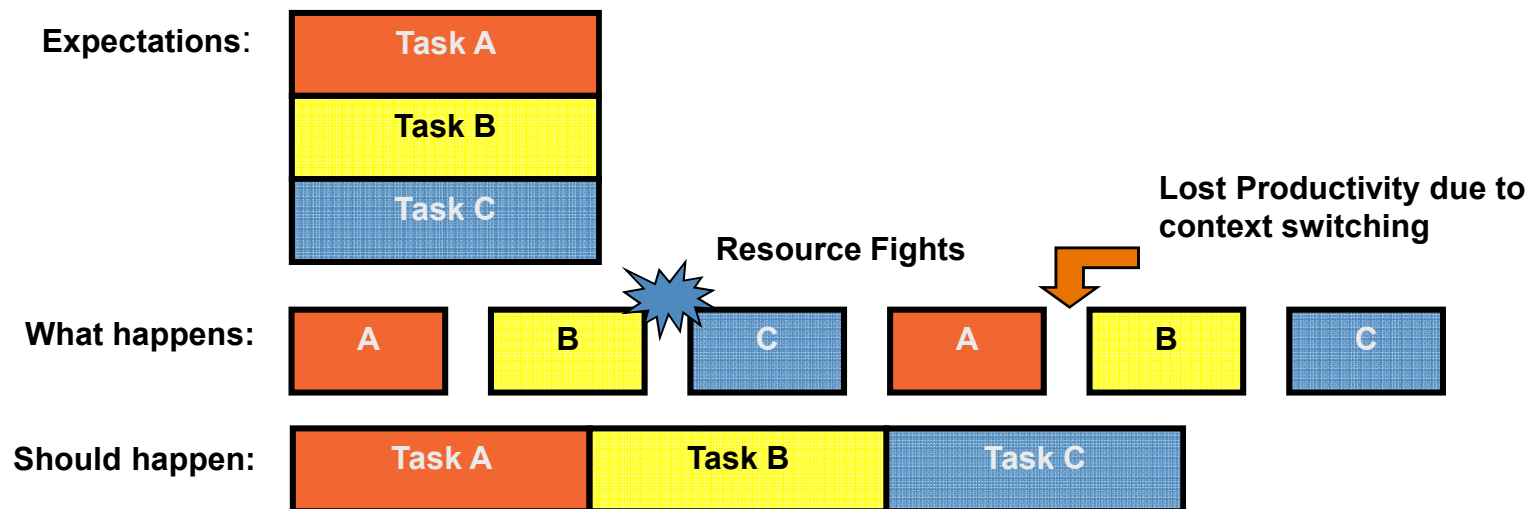
- Optimize functional constraints:
  - 5S
  - Standard Work

**Action**

**Focused initiative to eliminate bottleneck: TOC - Goldratt**

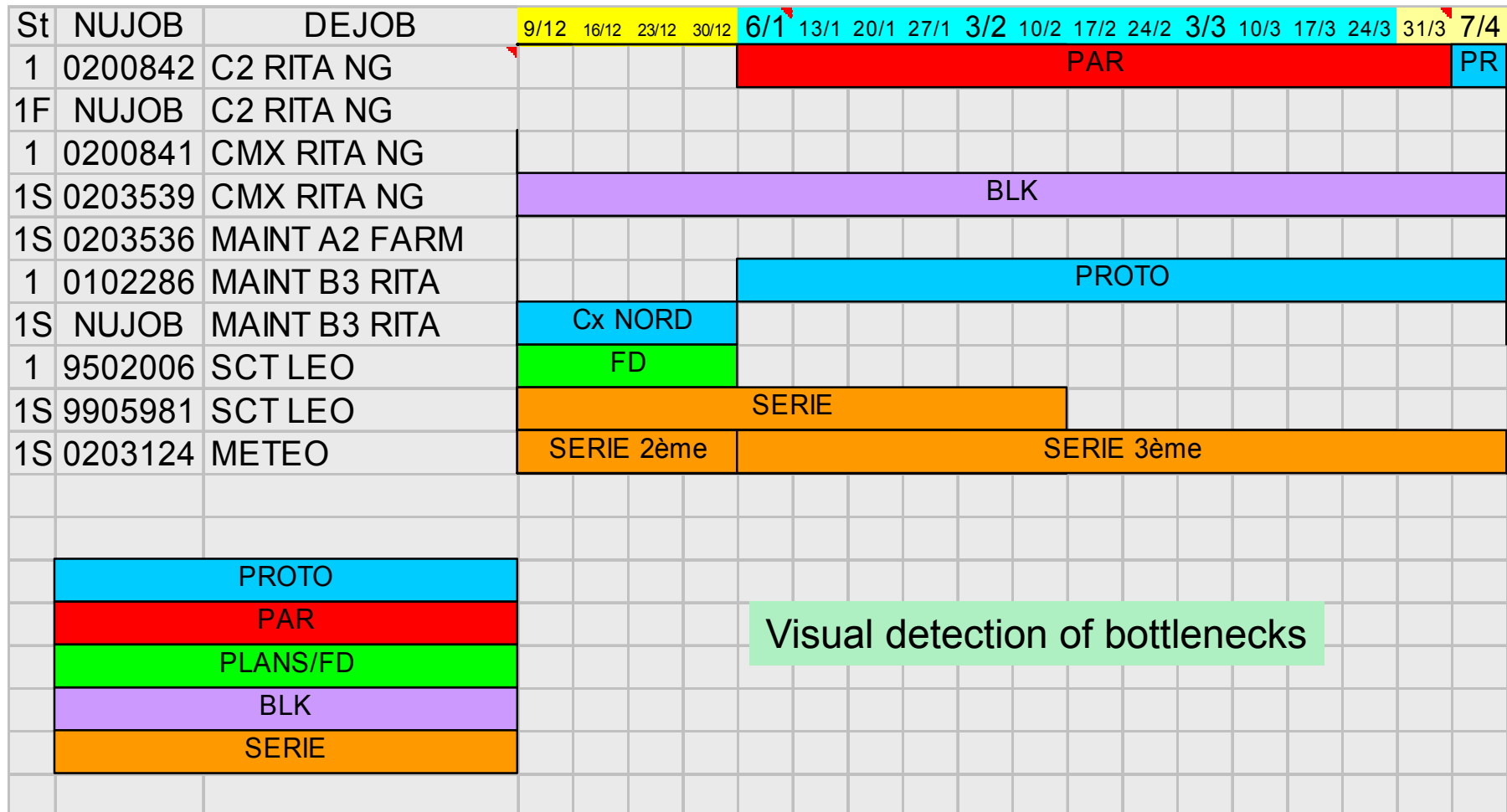
# Lean Pipeline Management

- Multitasking can become an insidious generator of waste



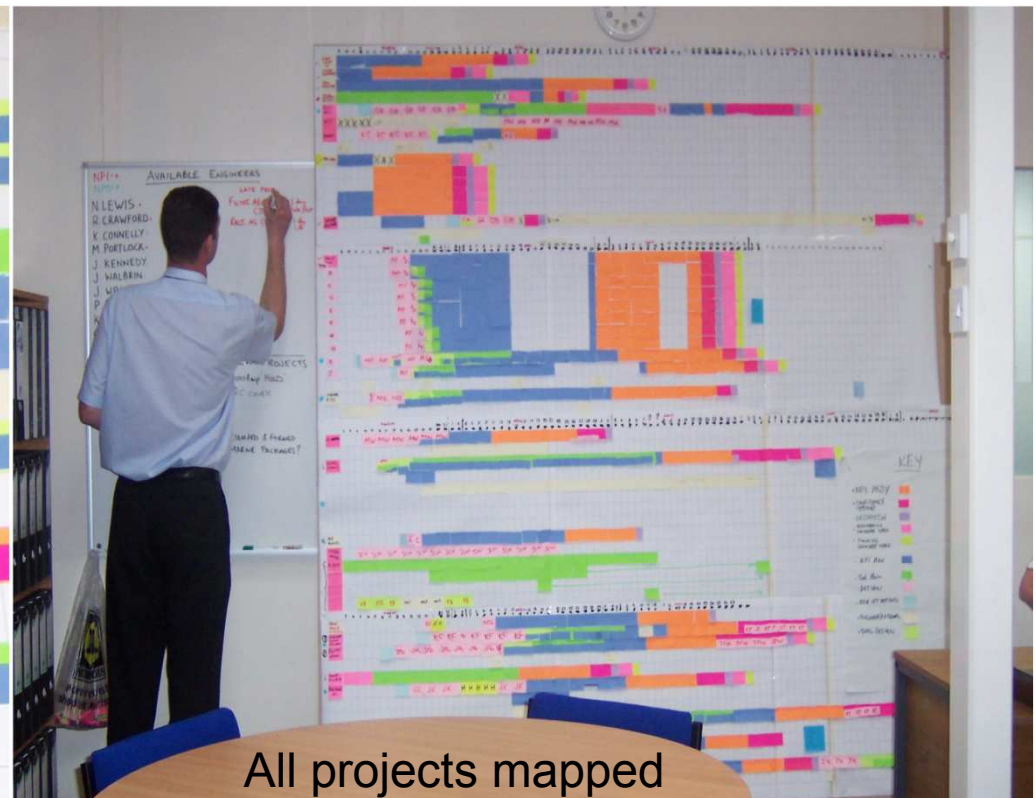
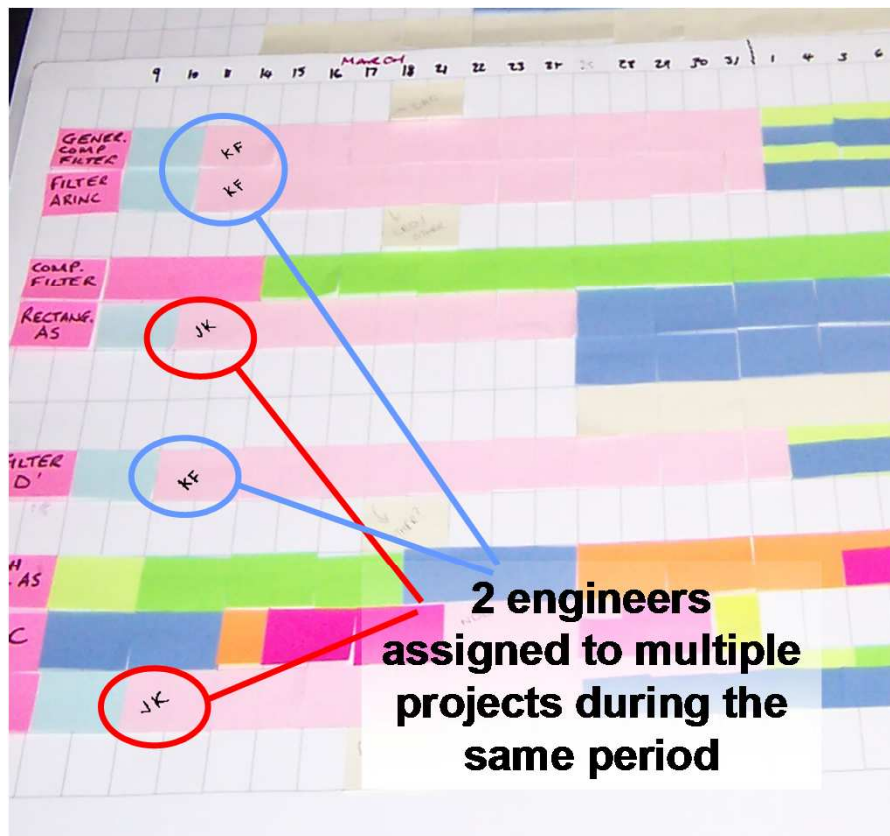
- Rough-cut capacity plan to manage constraints:
  - External : facilitate customer and supplier contacts
  - Internal : Coordinate at:
    - Project Level: avoid push of non-prioritized activities
    - Functional Level: pull excess resources

# Master Project & Development Schedule Trimester Planning



# Knowledge Innovation Visible Planning

Pipeline priorities need to be established based on resource allocations

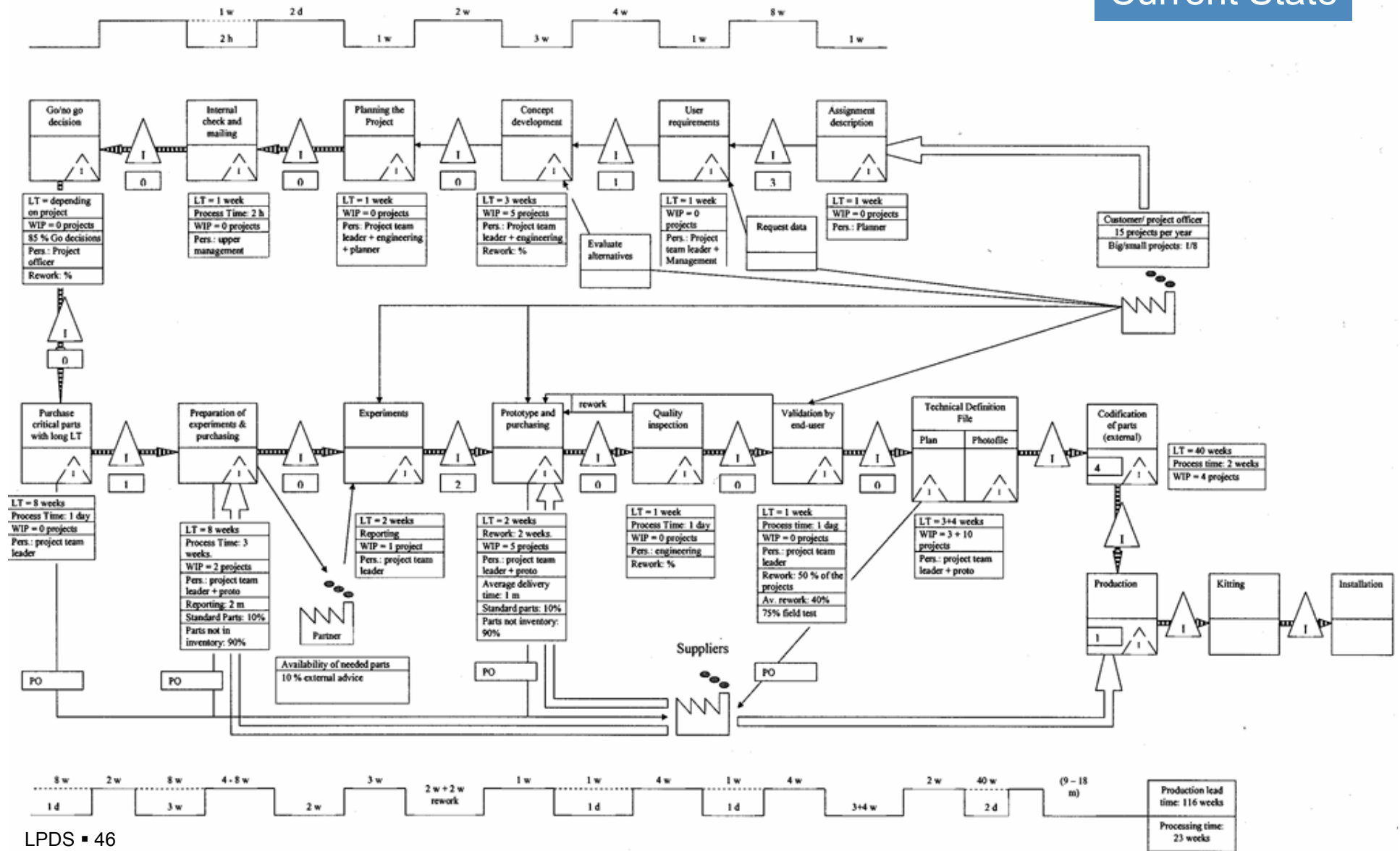


- Year 1 Result: **Average** lead times fell 56%, OTIF reached 89%

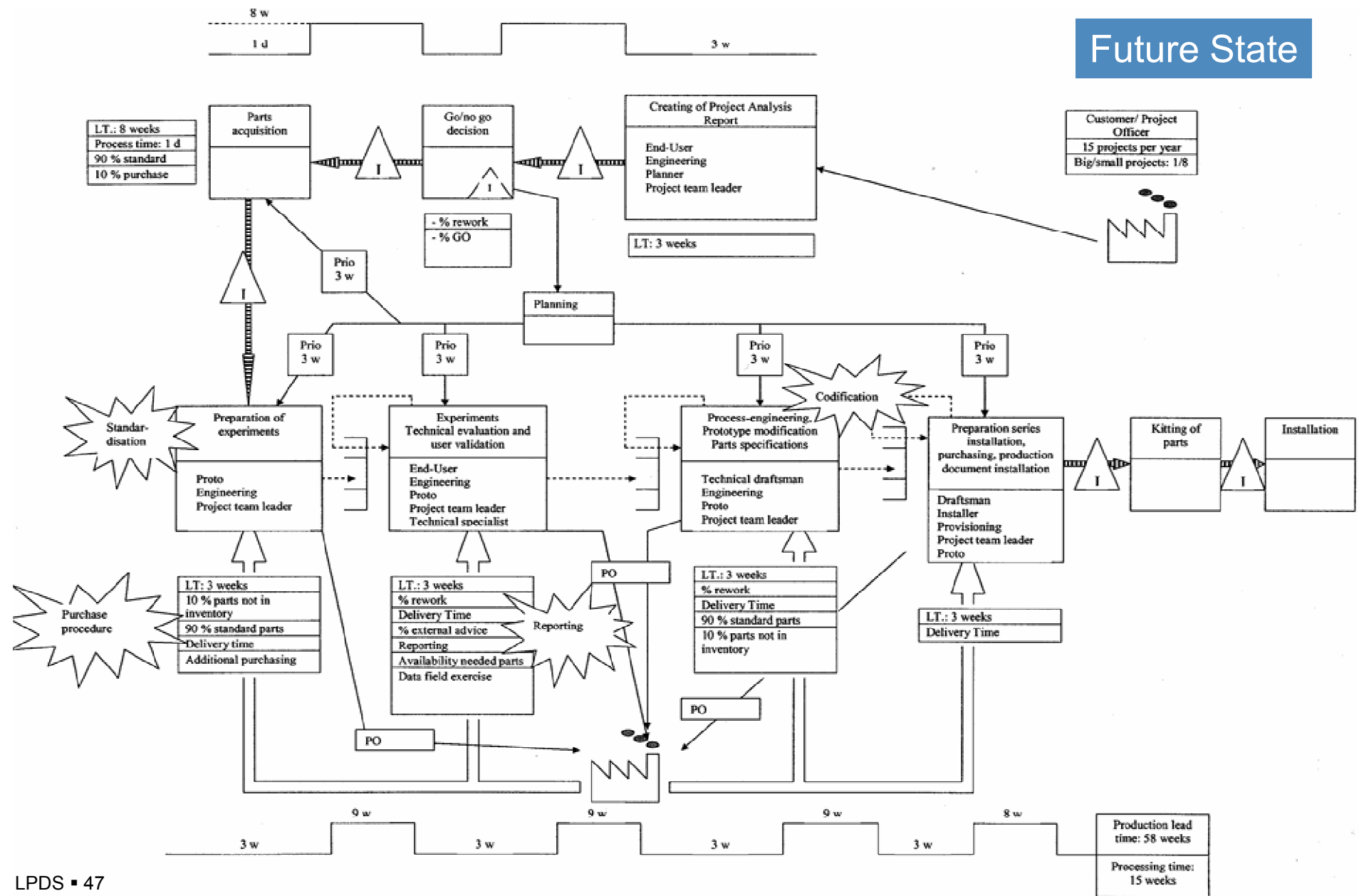
sapartners

# Value Stream Mapping of the Project Pipeline

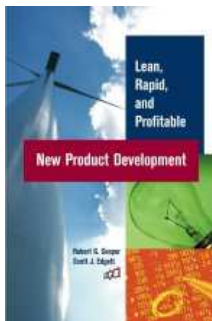
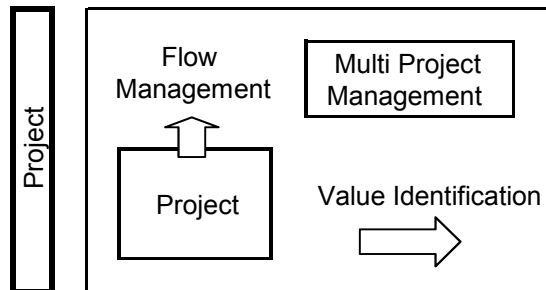
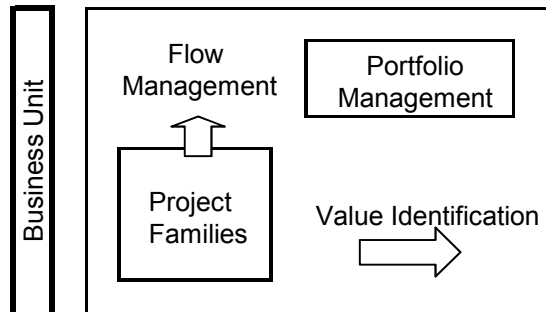
Current State



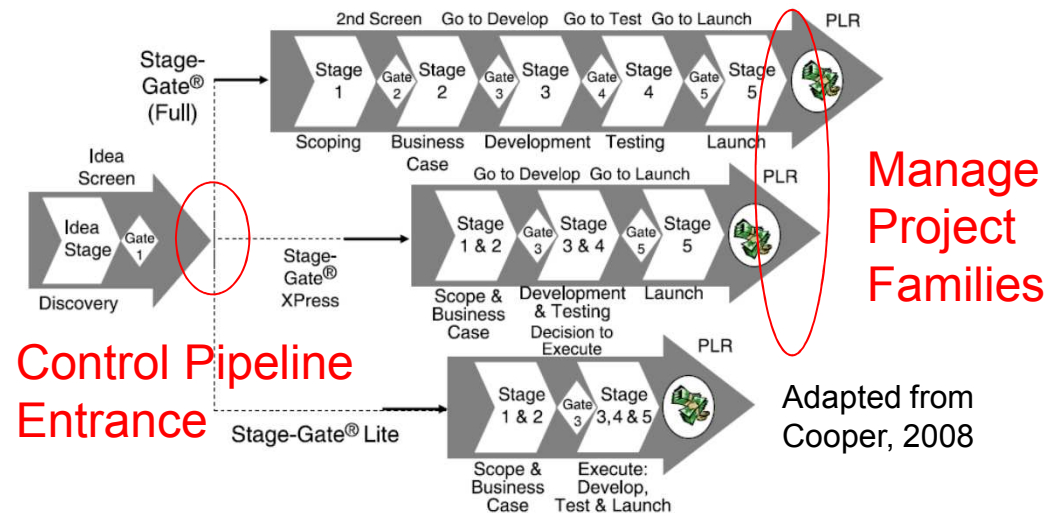
# Value Stream Mapping of the Project Pipeline



# Improved Product Development at the Business Level



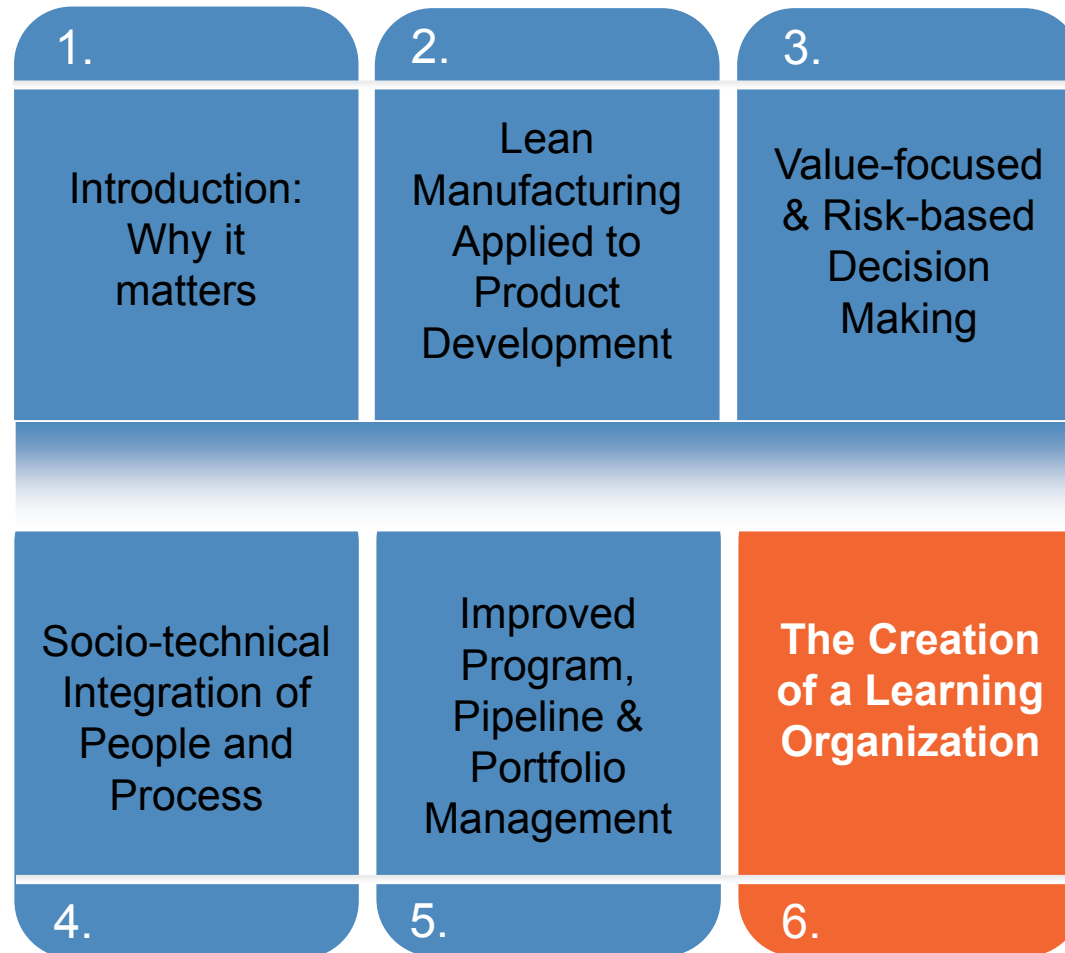
- Cooper (2008):
  - Families of stage gate systems to manage a diversity of new product development projects with various risks



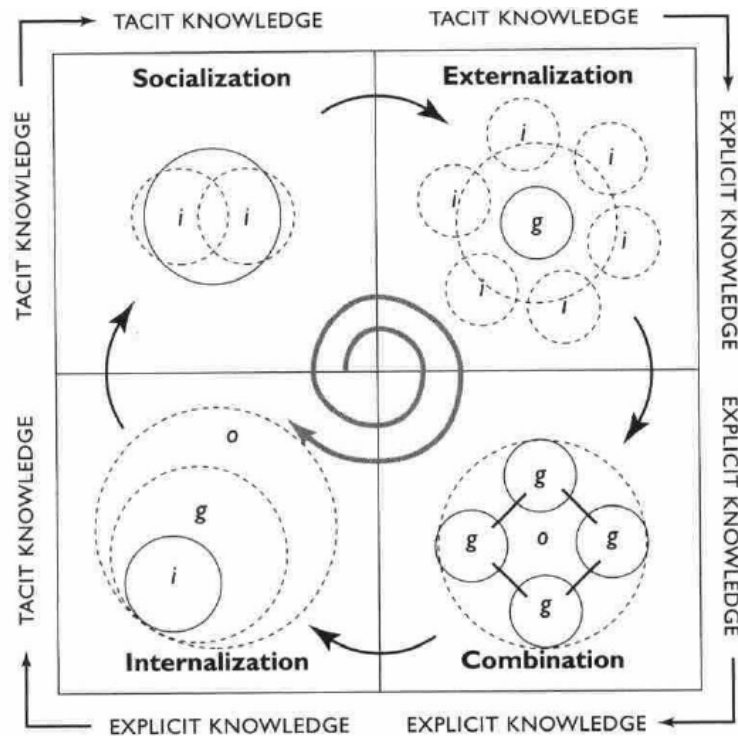


# Portfolio Management

- Create a valuable portfolio that determines long-term success:
  - Improved project selection:
    - Less is more (Mandelbaum and Schwerer, 1996)
    - Define value from a resource-constrained business perspective
      - Find ways to overcome political pressures
      - Front-end loading: increase investment in early market and feasibility analysis
  - Enable long-term thinking:
    - Build relationships with customers and suppliers to further optimize flow and value
    - Planning of critical resources - pull strategic resources and knowledge to the organization



# Knowledge Management Cycle



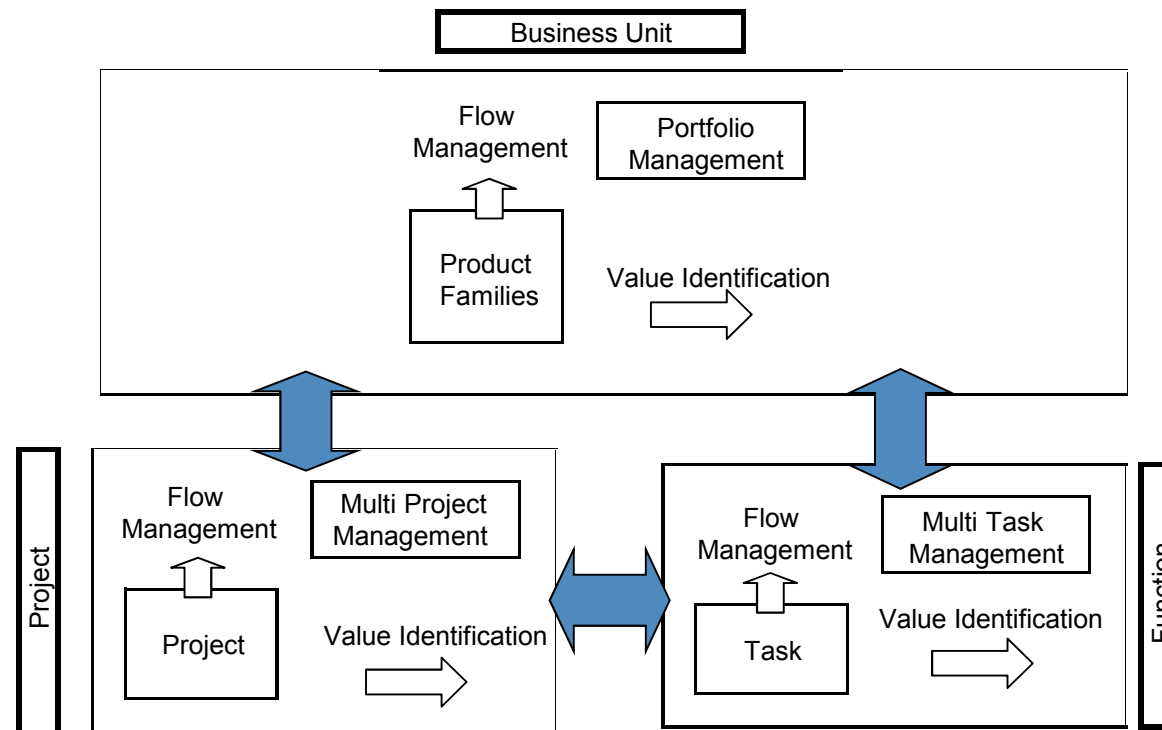
- A sole focus on externalization through the storing of lessons learned in a database is ineffective
- Data-mining techniques should be used to further improve knowledge combination
- Social systems need to be defined to address internalization and socialization

**It may be simple, but.....**

*It's not easy.....*

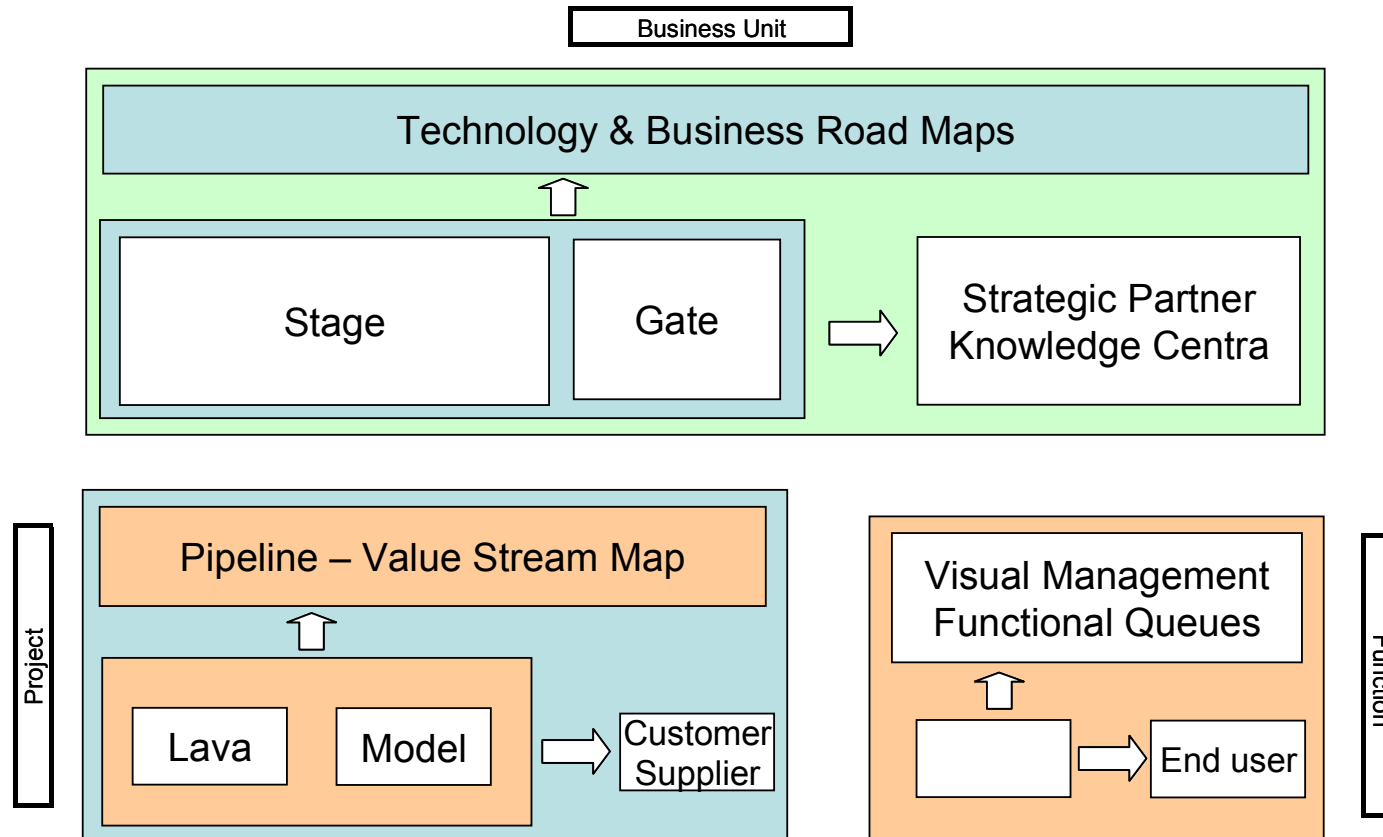
Future research is needed!

# 1. Investigate the role of systems thinking to manage the lean principles at multiple levels



Additional research is needed to further validate and refine the conceptual framework

## 2. Clarify the use of existing tools from various disciplines within the overall framework



Identify potential best practices

Develop the framework into an assessment tool

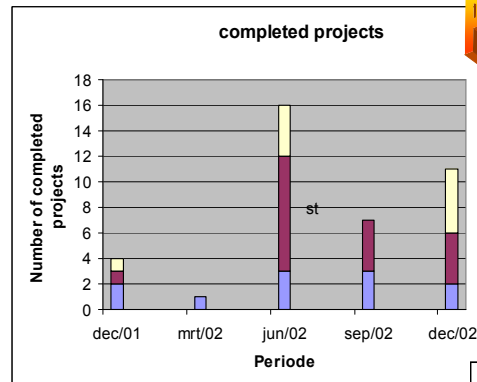
Learning to see the whole LPD system

# 3. Study the dynamics of LPD systems

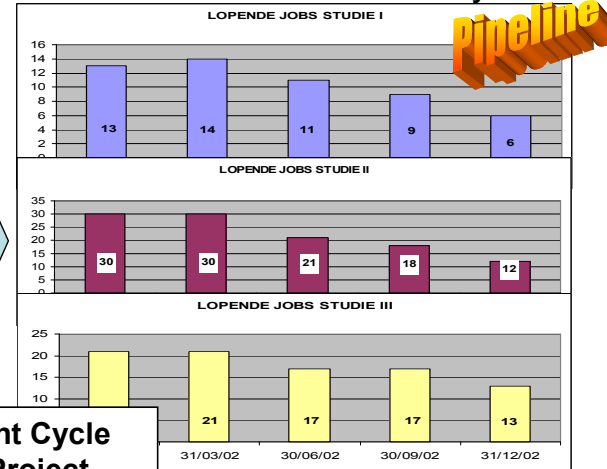
ERM Doubled turnover compared to 2001

DM

Reduced inventory



**Portfolio**

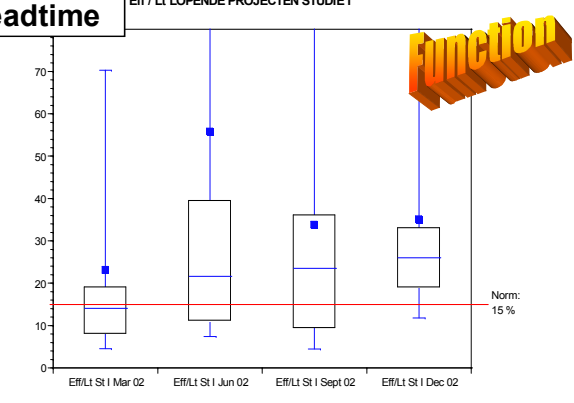
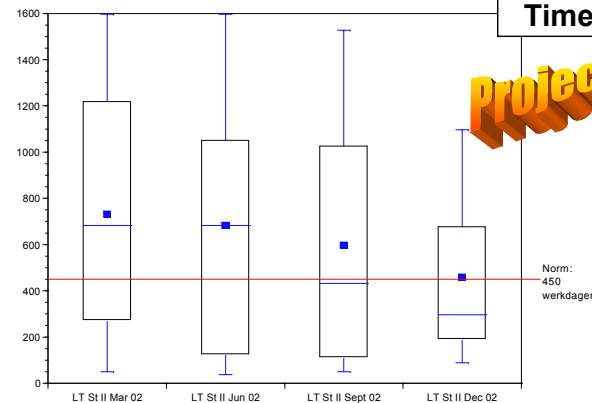


**Pipeline**

**Improvement Cycle  
Between Project  
Turnover-Project  
Inventory-Waiting  
Time-Project Leadtime**

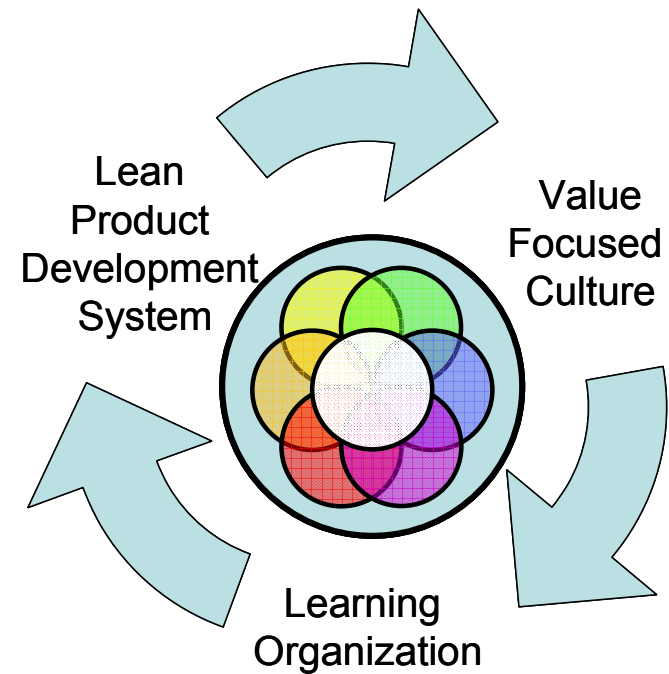
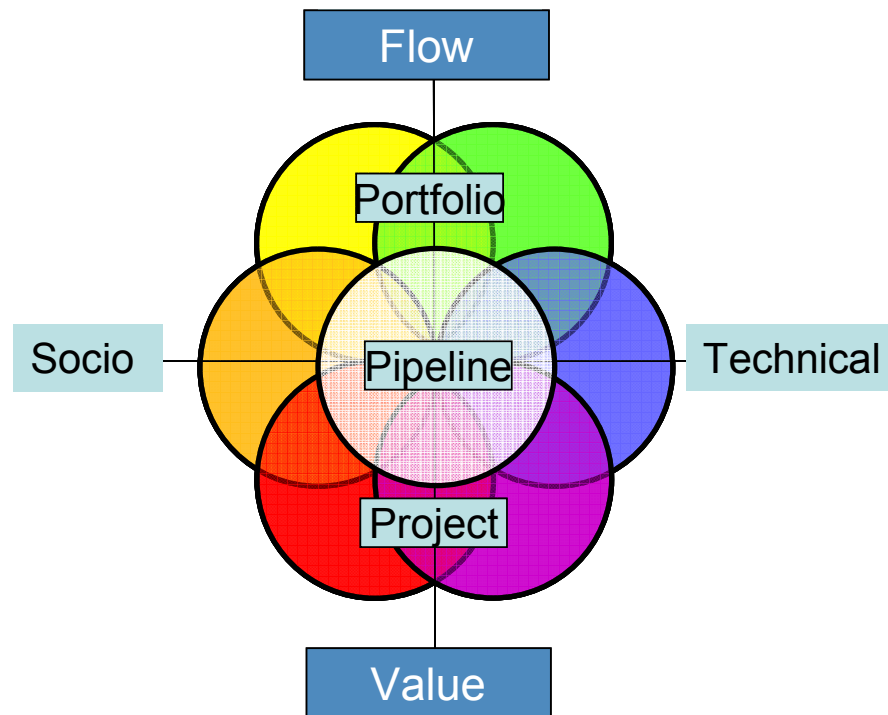
ERM Reduced Leadtime

Less waiting



Study role of performance measurement to optimize LPD systems

# Questions?



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