

Category: Business Skills

Example: Create priority list for developing new processes

Situation: A large plant with in-house R&D group performing molding, assembly, and other secondary processes.

		Physical Features desired by Styling / Design & Cost-driven Capabilities desired by plant						
		A	B	C	D	E	F	
Manufacturing Processes available "in the world" or within R&D Capabilities of the Company	1							Sum row correlation scores
	2							
	3							
	4							
	5							
	6							

Image 1: Sample of Matrix Correlating Design Features to Processes

Problem: Desired Styling / Design features not producible at the plant with present technology; plant also had scrap / cost issues with some processes. Many new manufacturing technologies existed or could be developed, but the on-site R&D group had limited resources. Needed to develop priority list.

Action:

1. Classified desired features and costly processes into categories to make problem manageable (e.g., molding, assembly, decorating, etc.)
2. Identified which processes could conceivably contribute to any of these features or processes
3. Survey matrices filled out by both Design Engineers in Technical Center and Manufacturing Engineers in plant
4. Compiled survey results

Result:

1. Matrices showed a few technologies would impact a significant number of desired features / processes; a typical Pareto result
2. Wrote report on findings; report distributed to plant, Design group, and R&D group management
3. Many recommendations were taken and these identified processes were targeted for development by co-located R&D group