

# Introduction to project management

*Part I / Concept, methods, resource and time  
management*

Yves Bellouard

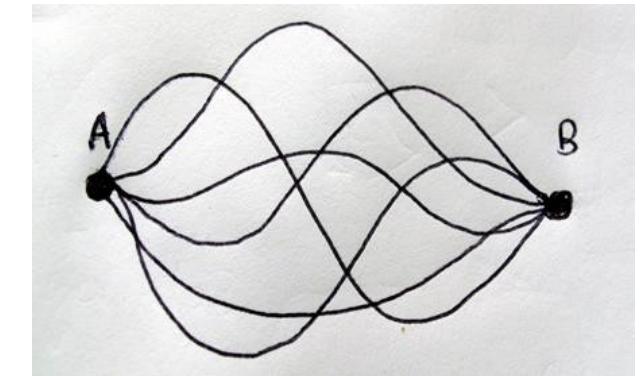
**EPFL**

# What is a project?

“A project is a **temporary endeavor** undertaken to **create a unique product, service or result.**

The temporary nature of projects indicates a **definite beginning and end.**

The end is reached when the project's **objectives** have been achieved or when the project is terminated because its objectives will not or cannot be met, or when the need for the project no longer exists.“



**Attributes:**  
unique, novelty,  
uncertainty, sponsor and  
project manager, clear  
deliverables, limited in time.

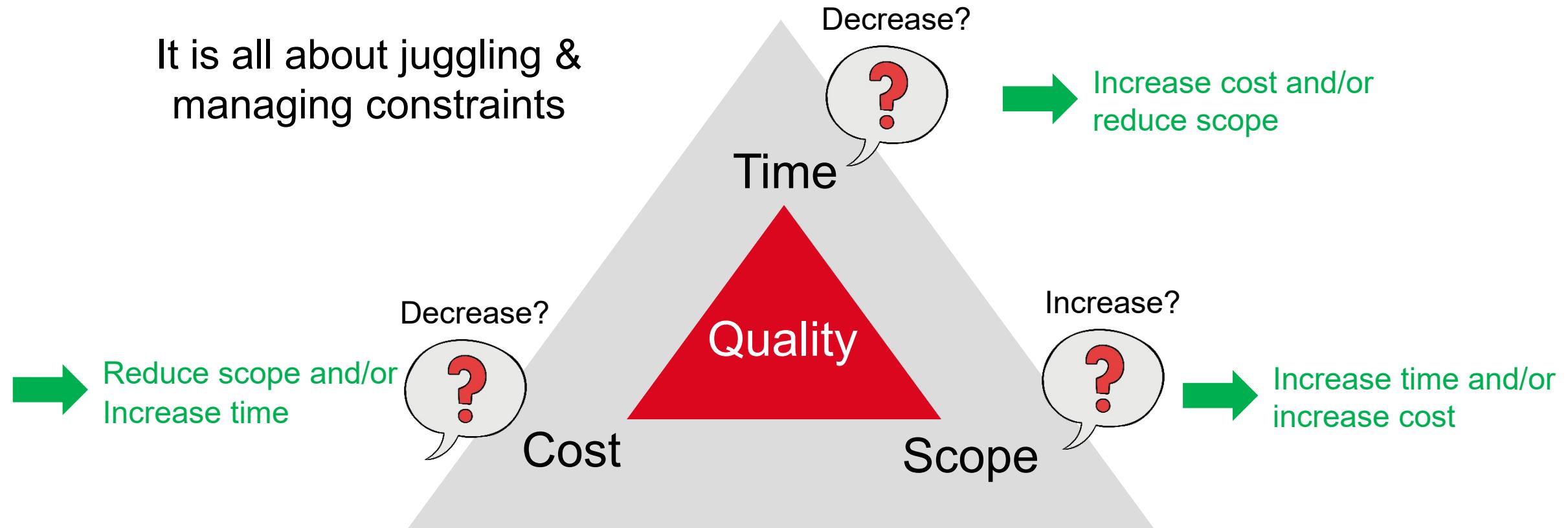
**Not a project:** repetitive and operational work (e.g. production), tasks.

# Product development as a project management: key definitions

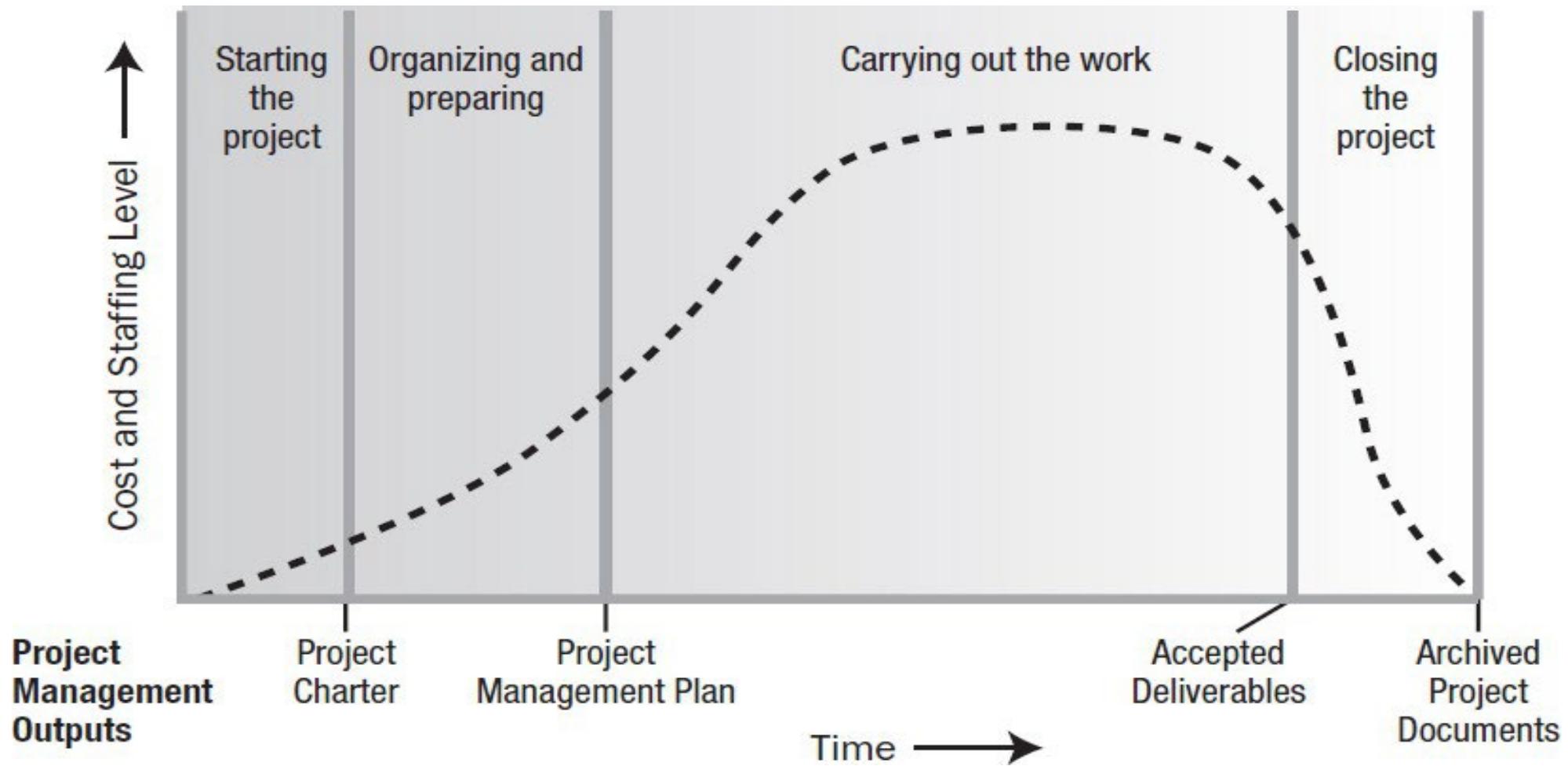
- **Objectives**: statement of scope (project charter), product specification, business case
- **Means and resources**: sponsor, project manager, project team,
- **Planning and milestones**: delivery dates, release, demonstrations, go-to-market
- **Constraints**: time-to-market, budget, cost target, quality, resources, risks
- **Deliverables**: e.g., design reviews, gates, prototypes, user / service / production / sales documentation, pre-series, series production

# Time, Cost, Scope: an interdependent triangle...

It is all about juggling & managing constraints

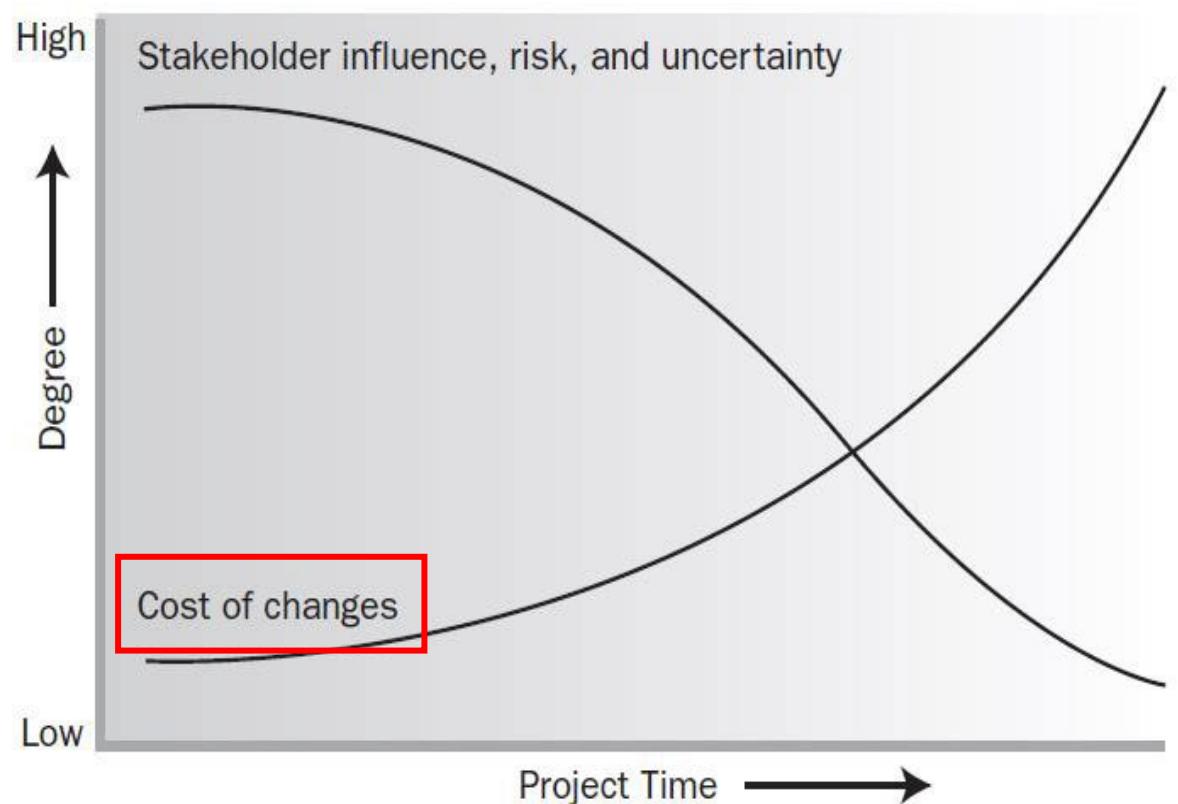


# Project will vary in size and complexity during their life-time



# Flexibility decrease as cost increase

- Stakeholder **influence, risk and uncertainty** greatest at project start
- Ability to influence final characteristics of product without significant cost impact is high at project start and **decreases drastically with project progress**
- Take the opportunity to **reduce project risk** early to limit cost of changes



# Project governance and main roles

**Sponsor** (senior management, project promoter and facilitator)



appoints Steering Committee, mitigates major conflicts

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**Steering committee:**

assigns project team; validates project plan, organization, change of specifications, planning, budget; guarantees periodic project follow-up



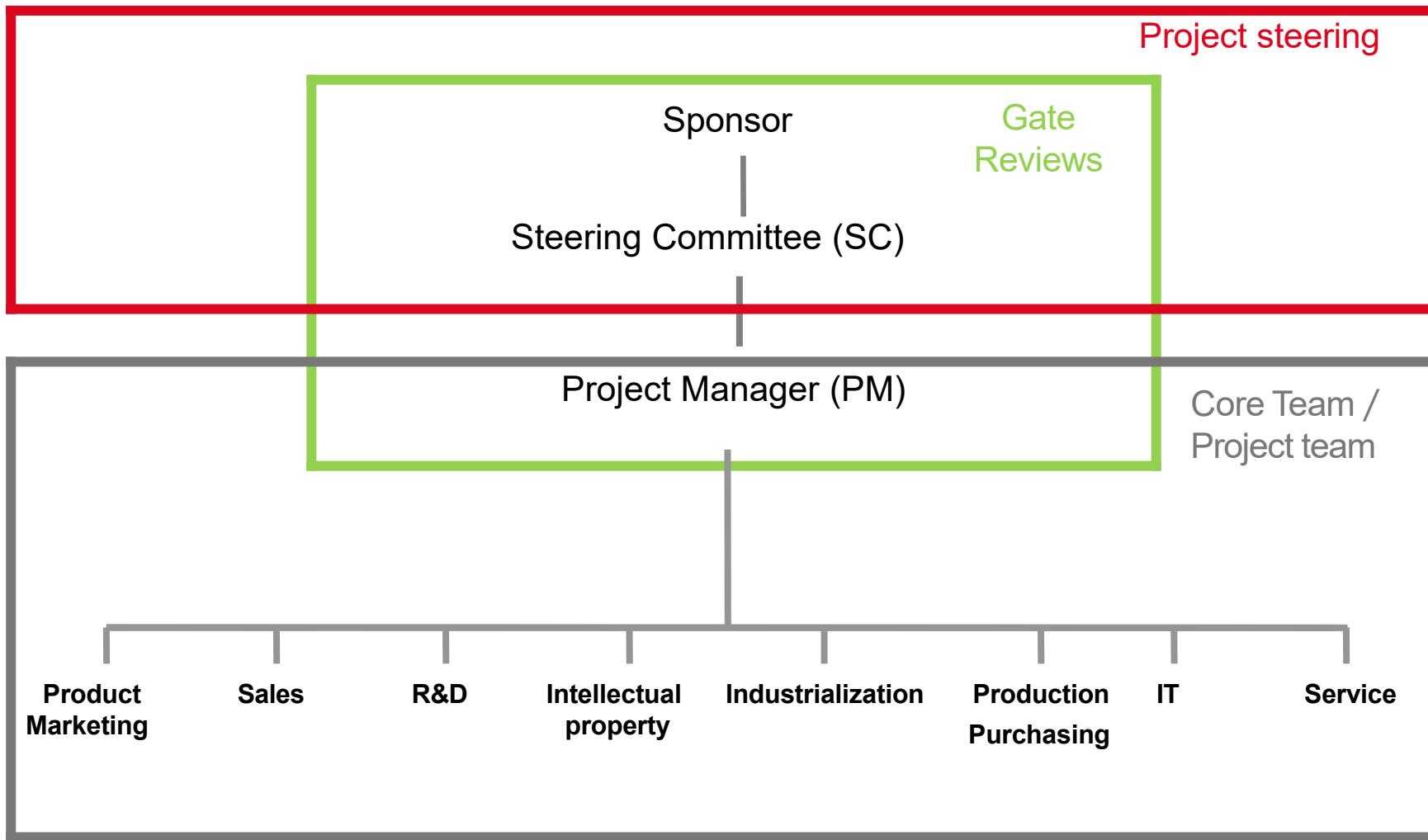
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**Project manager (PM):**

defines project organization, plans activities & resources, leads project team, ensures timely release of deliverables within budget, takes care of communication (up & down)

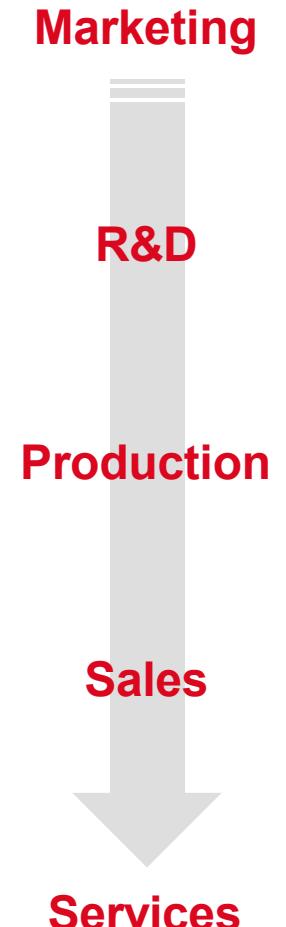


# Governance



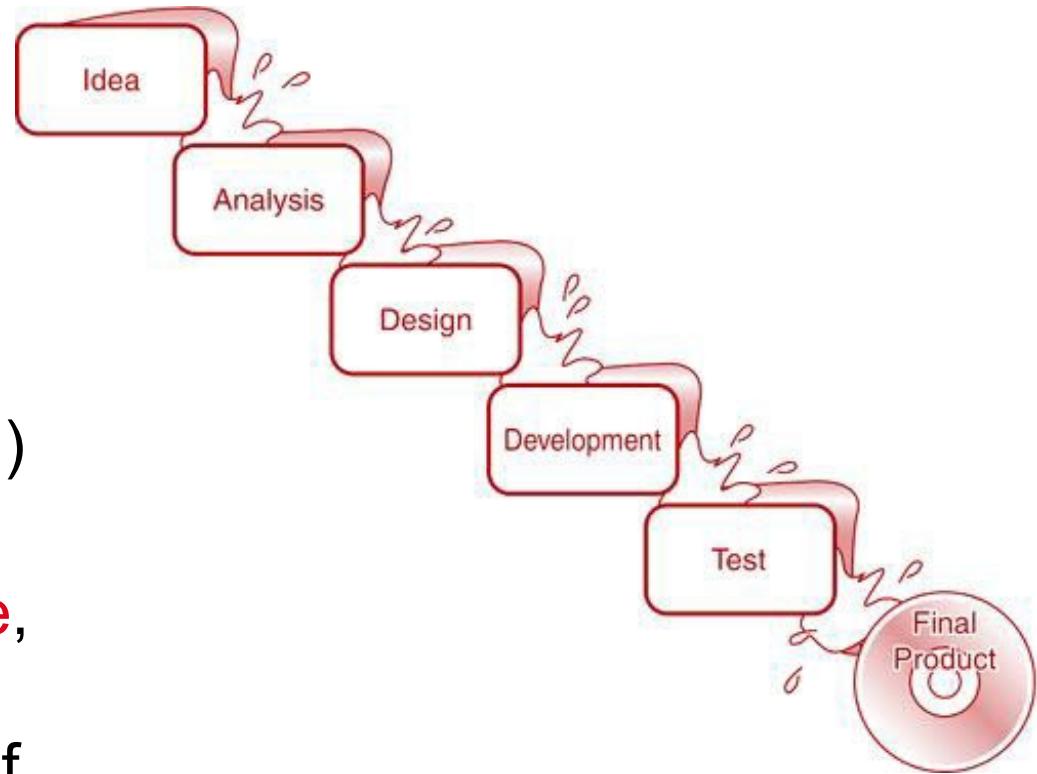
# How to get from idea to market ?

1. Collect & **identify ideas** (customers, technicians, sales & marketing, R&D, etc.)
2. Select & **prioritize ideas**
3. Analyze **market needs**, business opportunities
4. Define **customer requirements**, product scope
5. Identify & verify **technical solutions** (prototypes)
6. Do **planning**, workload, time, resources
7. Develop **general concept, detail design**, production concept
8. On **pre-series**: validate solution, ensure quality, industrialize
9. Set-up & launch **production**, sales & services



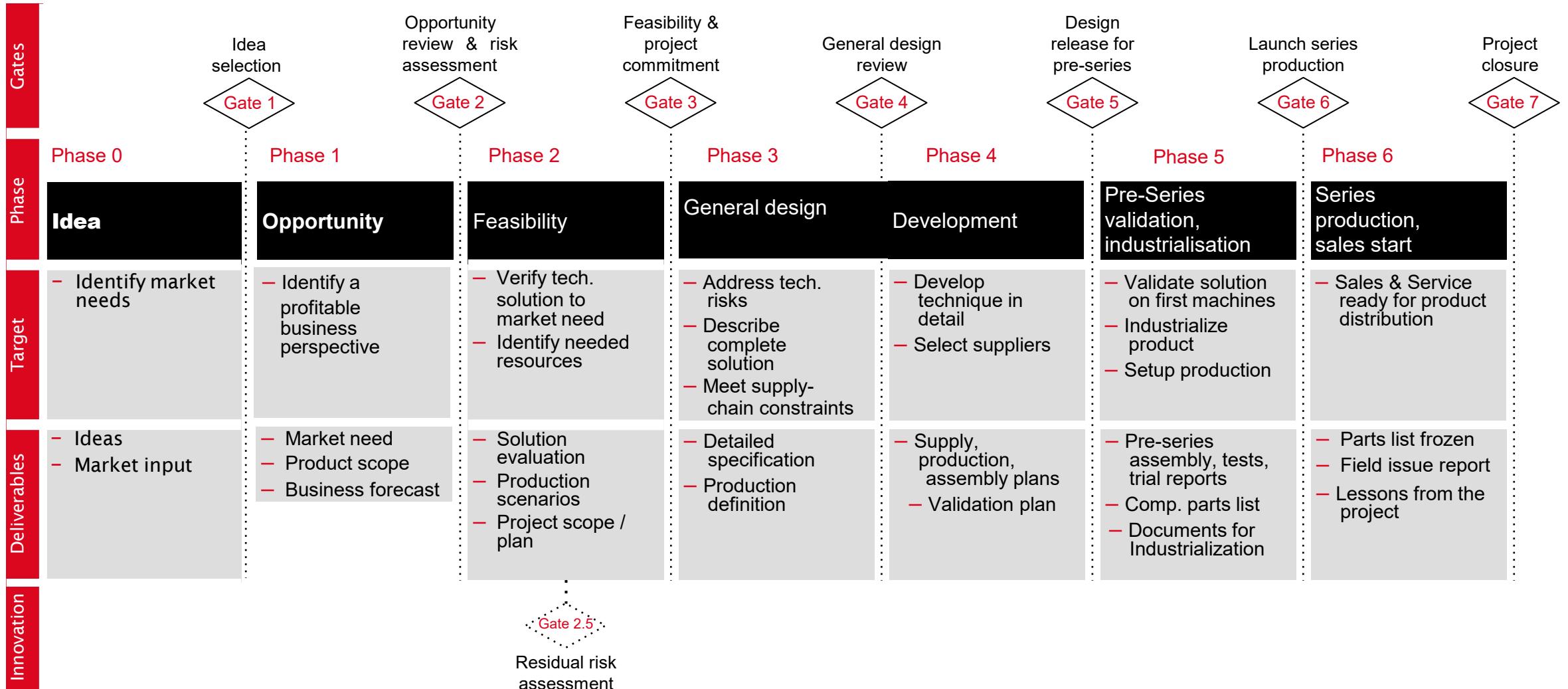
# Phase and Gate or waterfall model

- Product Development Process is usually based on **Phase and Gate model** (also called **waterfall**)
- Project is **divided** into stages or phases, separated by formal Gates (Sponsor, SC, PM)
- At each Gate, a Steering Committee **decides if project shall continue to next phase**, based on available information, including business case, risk analysis and availability of necessary resources



Value Identification		Value Realization	
Phase 1	Gate Feasibility	Phase 2	Gate Selection
Front-End Loading			
		Phase 3	Gate Definition
		Phase 4	Gate Execution
		Phase 5	Gate Operations
		Execution	Optimization

# Example of Product Development Process



# Small vs large companies

## Small companies

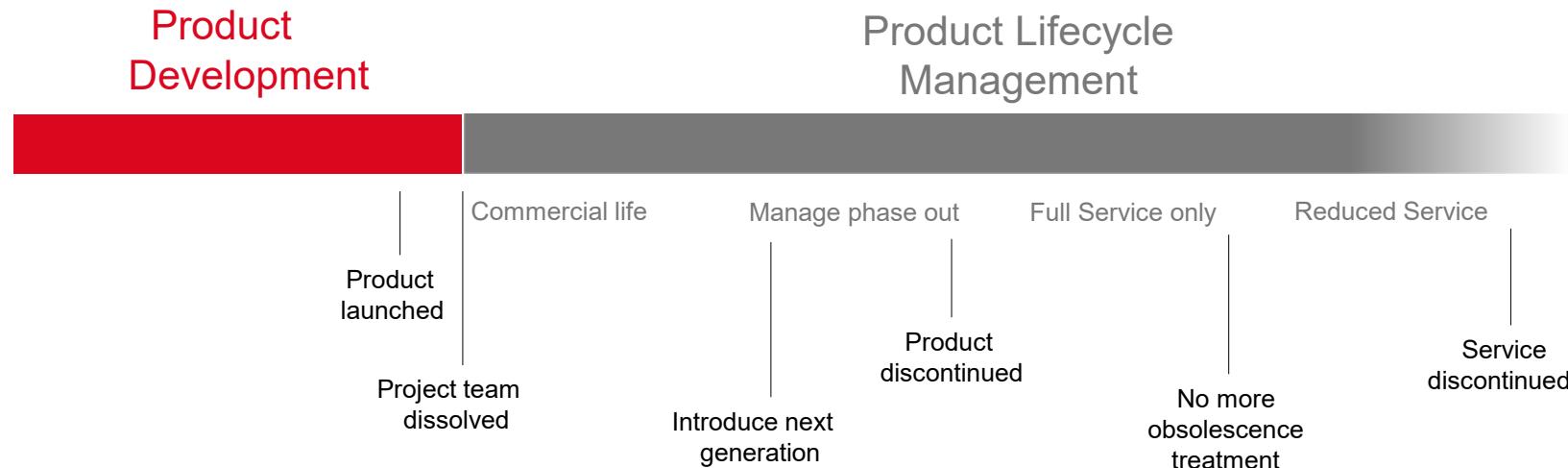
- Start-up and SMEs usually have little if **no formal process** to guide them through product development
- Organizations are **very fast in decision making process** but **unstructured** and face changing priorities

## Large companies

- Rely on **internal framework** and process to guide NPD and describe how new product ideas are brought to market
- Organizations are **well structured**, priorities change less frequently, but tend to be **slower in decision-making process** as more people are involved

# What after the project ?

- Product development process covers only development phase until product is **launched and stable**
- Product development process is followed by **Product Lifecycle Management** during commercial life, until service is fully discontinued



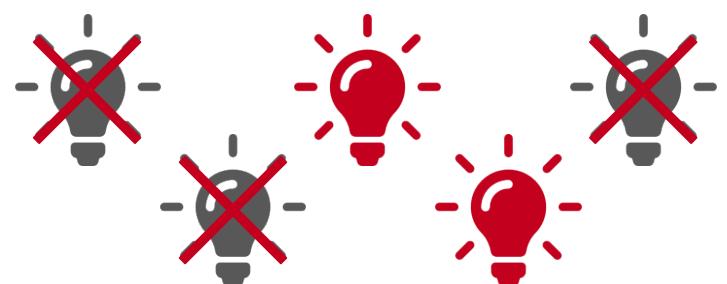
# Scope management



# Success factor

Project success depends a lot on **relevance of project objectives** definition

- Be sure to aim at the **right target!**
- Be critical to extensively define **project perimeter** (in-scope, out of scope)
- Do not freeze ideas to quickly, keep **different options** in mind



# Scope management: Methodology

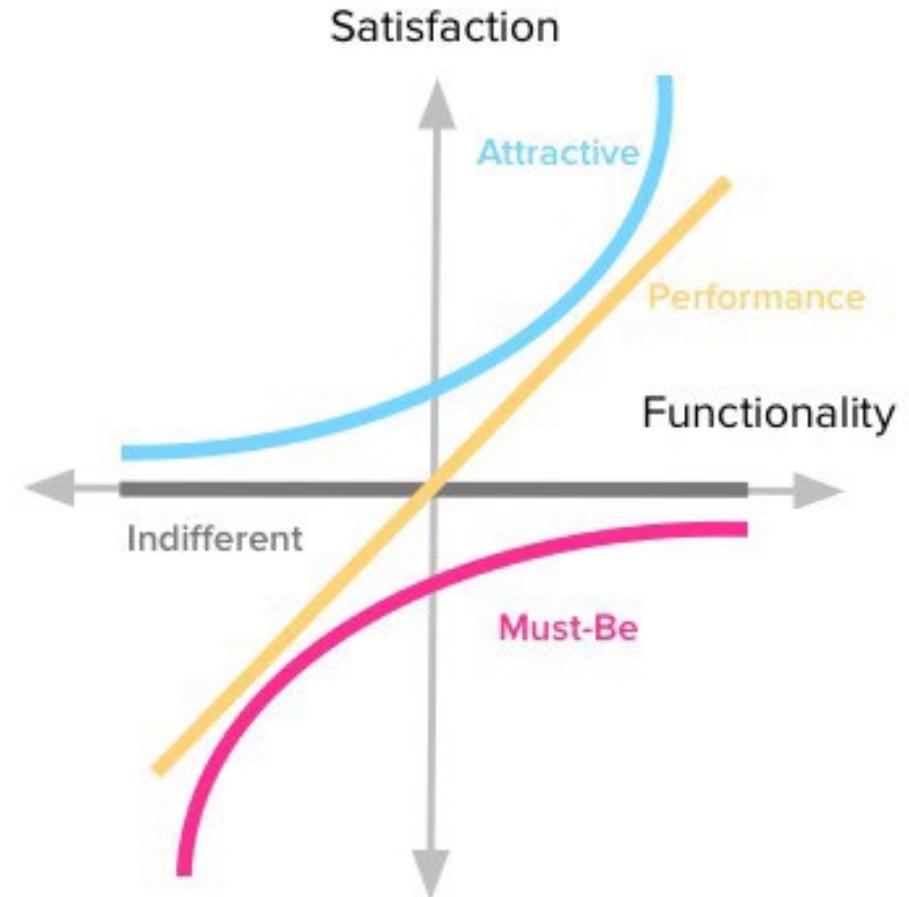
A **project scope** ('**product development**') is defined using following sequence and later validated by major company's stakeholders (e.g. marketing, sales, R&D, production, service) and possibly by customer(s):

1. **Capture customer needs**, e.g. with **Voice of Customer**
2. **Define what product will do** with **Product requirements**
3. **Define project contours** with **Project Scope Statement**
4. **Decompose project** into smaller parts with **Work Breakdown Structure**

# Voice Of the Customer – Kano model for products features

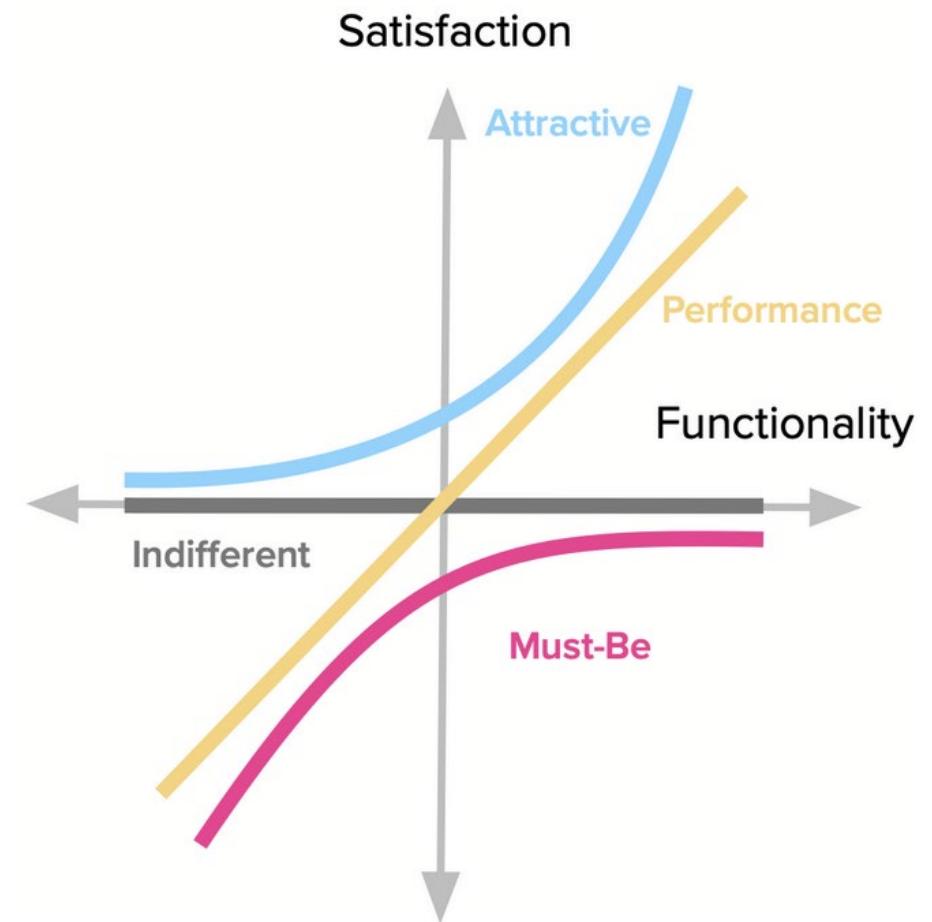
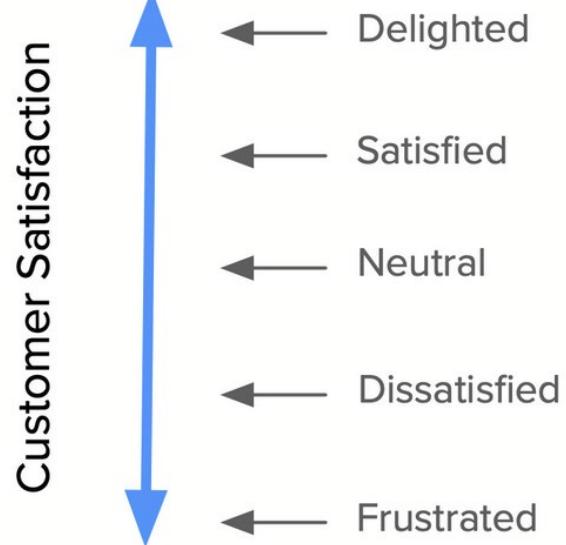
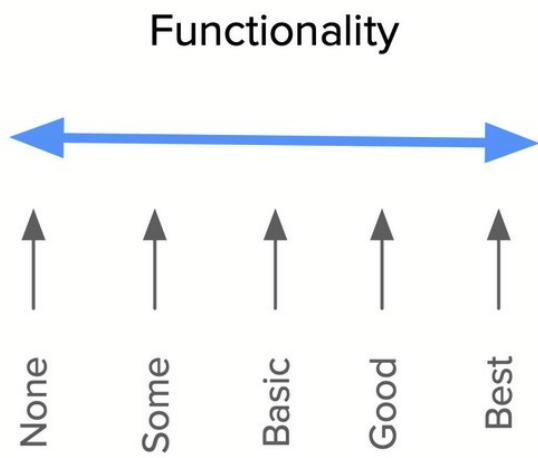
狩野紀昭 *Kanō Noriaki*

- **Indifferent**: features towards customers feel indifferent, independently of the functionality. Don't lose time developing them
- **Performance**: features which behave intuitively as satisfaction is a linear function of functionality
- **Must be**: so basic that customers fail to mention them, until they are not performed. Highly dissatisfying if missing functionalities
- **Attractive**: unexpected features difficult to discover as they go beyond customer's expectations. Their absence doesn't dissatisfy, their presence excites



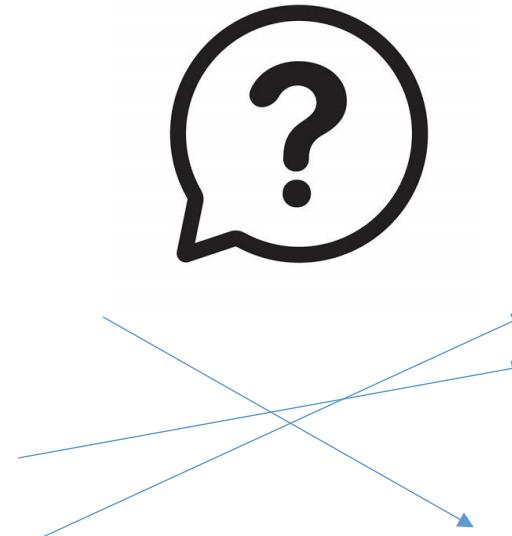
<https://foldingburritos.com/kano-model/>

# Kano's model



Let's try! Which category would you classify these product features?

- Dishwashing liquid color
- Smartphone battery
- Bluetooth compatibility
- First iPhone touchscreen
- Internet speed
- Gift in hotel
- Water in hotel room
- Car door noise



- Indifferent
- Performance
- Must be
- Attractive

# Product requirements ('Cahier des charges')

Consulting all company departments, define **functional product specification** by listing:

- Product **functions** with targetted **performance levels**
  - **Marketing attributes**
    1. D = differentiator (goes beyond what competition is offering)
    2. P = parity (performance at par with competition)
    3. B = basic (expected requirements)
  - **Priority**
    1. M = must have (key differentiators that enable business case)
    2. N = nice to have (can be descoped if needed or sold as options)
    3. F = future product evolutions (out of scope)

# Scope Statement

## BOBST PROJECT SCOPE STATEMENT

Project Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Prepared: \_\_\_\_\_

### Project Objectives:

*Project objectives are progressively elaborated from the project objectives outlined in the Project Charter.*

### Project Deliverables:

*Project deliverables are progressively elaborated from the project description, the product characteristics, and the product requirements in the Project Charter.*

### Product Scope Description:

*Product Scope is progressively elaborated from the project description and the project requirements in the Project Charter.*

*Describes the characteristics of the product/module/system to be developed. These characteristics are split according to the segmentation below. If required the segmentation can be changed. Needs, not solutions, have to be defined. The scope document needs to be sufficiently detailed for getting approval. If required, it can further be detailed in specification documents (i.e. mechanical, electrical, software).*

1. HARDWARE FUNCTIONS
2. SOFTWARE FUNCTIONS
3. EMBEDDED SOFTWARE FUNCTIONS
4. APPLICATIVE FUNCTIONS
5. AUTOMATION FUNCTIONS
6. PROCESS FUNCTION
7. OPTIONS AND ACCESSORIES
8. PENDING PROBLEMS TO BE FIXED FROM PREVIOUS PRODUCT GENERATIONS

### Requirements:

*The conditions or requirements (performance) that must be met or possessed by the product/module/system/ service to be developed are described below. They are split in sections, which can be omitted or replaced by others.*

1. THROUGHPUT, SPEED
2. QUALITY
3. RELIABILITY
4. AVAILABILITY
5. AUTONOMY

**Project Scope Statement** clearly and succinctly describes **what a project is** and **is not** intended to accomplish

- Product scope description
- Project assumptions
- Project deliverables
- Project acceptance criteria
- Project constraints
- Project exclusions
- Project rules and process

# Work Breakdown Structure (WBS)

- The WBS is a **deliverable-oriented hierarchical decomposition** of a project into smaller components
- The WBS is used to turn complex projects into **manageable entities**
- The WBS is designed to help break to **estimate and supervise** projects deliverables
- Allow to then define **dependencies diagram**, then **schedule**

## Advantages

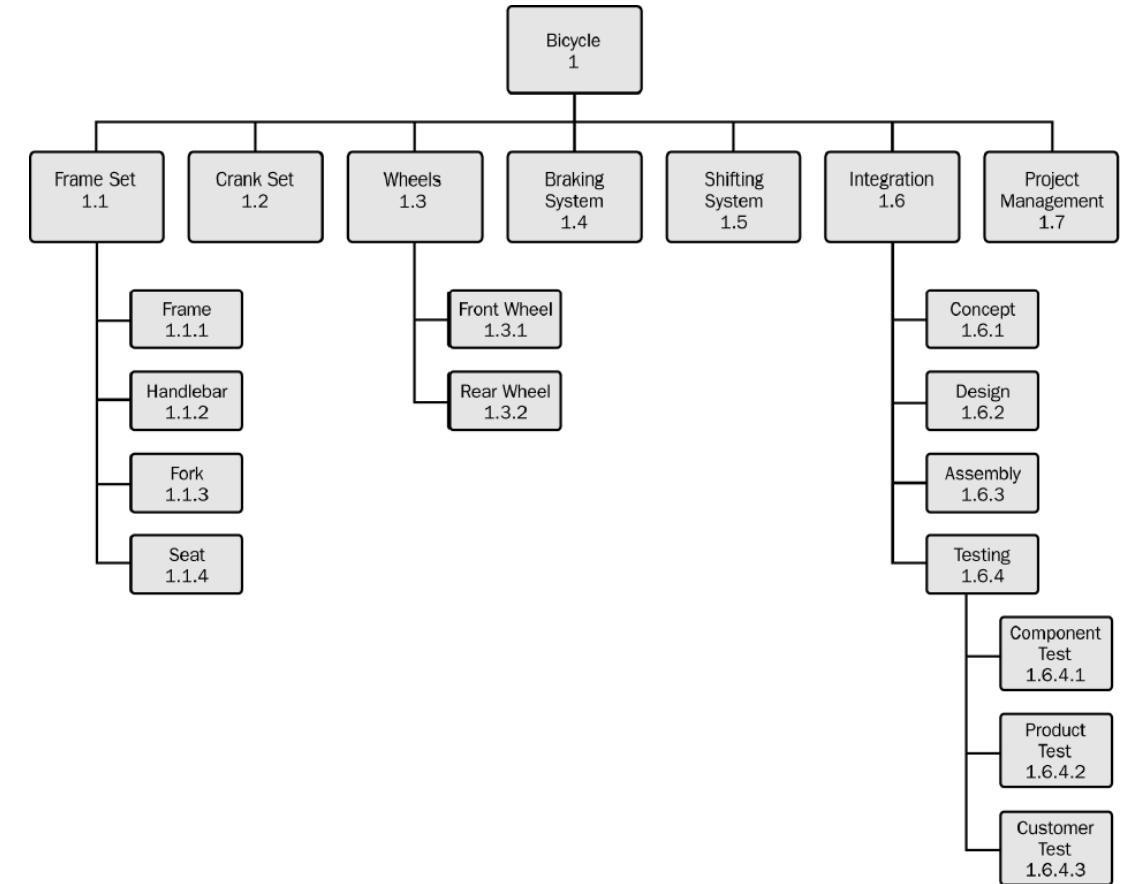
- Assists with accurate project organization
- Helps assigning responsibilities
- Helps defining deliverables
- Allows for more accurate estimation of cost, risk and time
- Helps explain the project scope and status to stakeholders

## History

- Introduced by the US Navy in 1957 to support the development of the Polaris missile program
- Described since 1987 by PMI for non-defense applications



# WBS structure example for a bike development

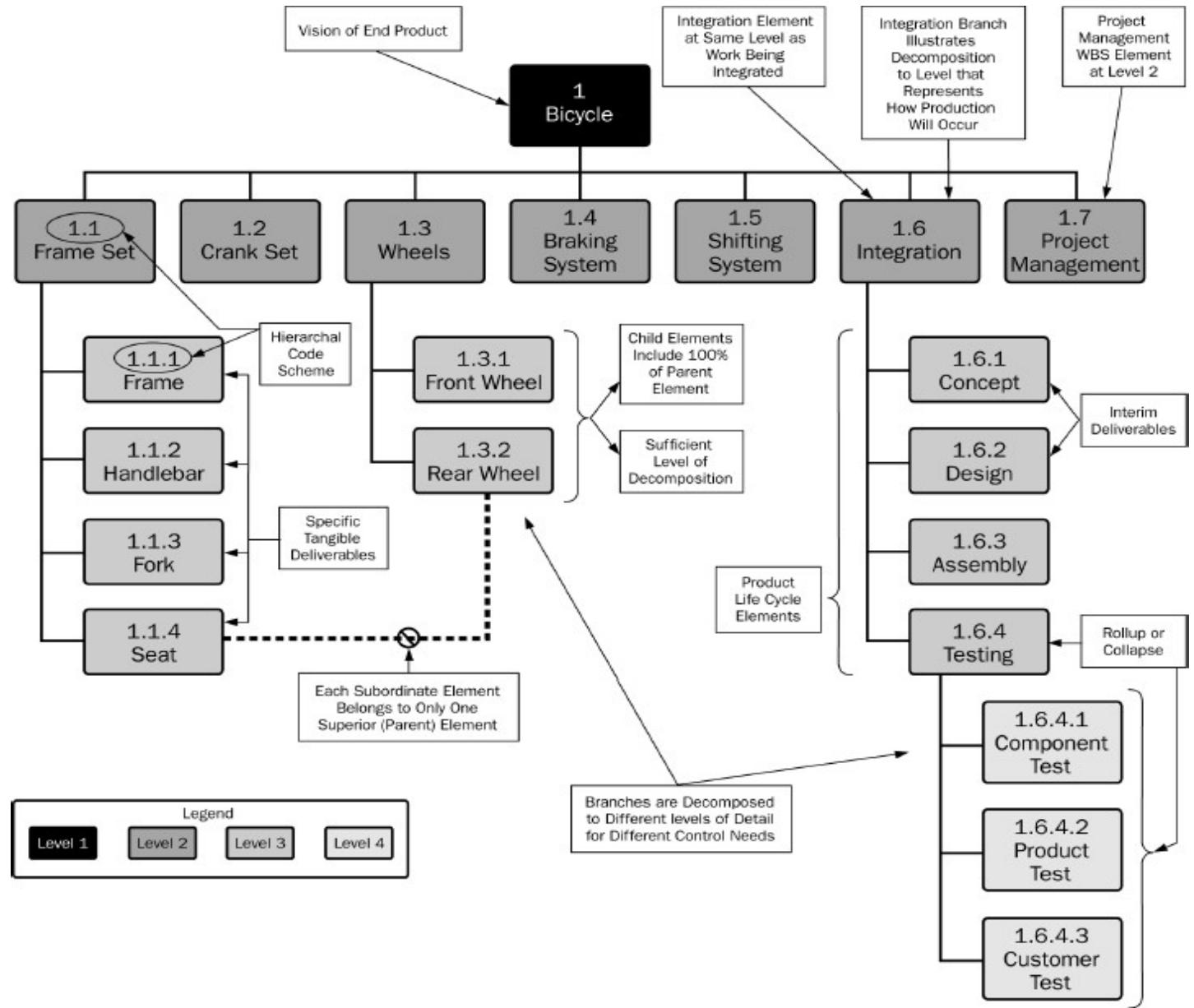


- At lowest level are **work packages** describing deliverables or work components

# Rules to follow when creating a WBS

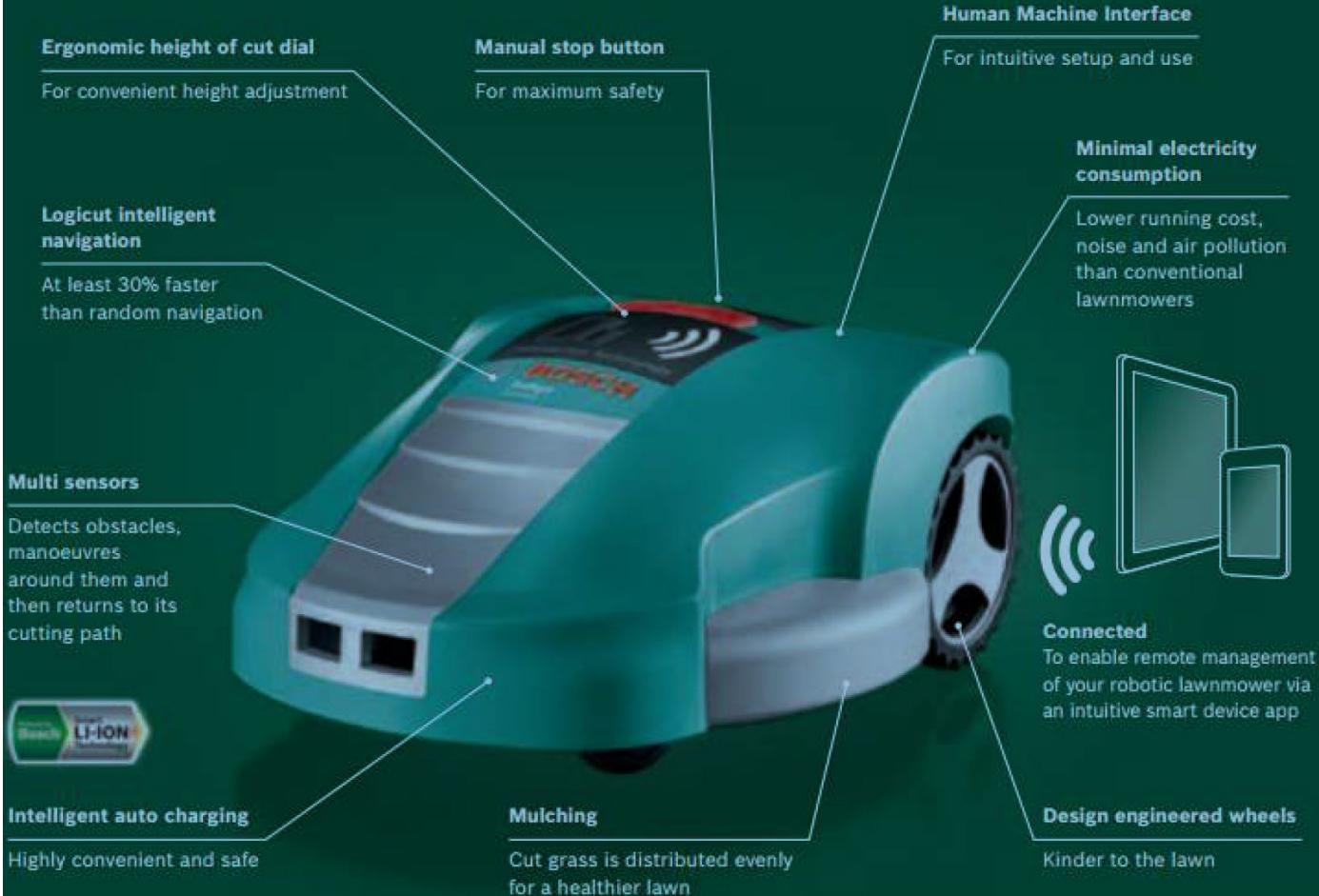
- Lowest level of WBS are work packages describing deliverables. A work package groups all activities where work to achieve the deliverable can be estimated, scheduled and monitored
- 100% rule - WBS must include 100% of work defined by the project scope and must capture all deliverables – internal, external, interim – in terms of the work to be completed, including project management
- Mutual exclusivity - no overlap in scope definition between different elements of the work breakdown structure
- Plan outcomes or results, not actions
- Use coding scheme - reused in project planning tool

# In detail how does it looks like ?



# Exercise

Your company plans to release new generation of connected autonomous electric lawn mower. As a project manager, you have received the following functional specifications from Marketing. Now you need to **define project WBS**

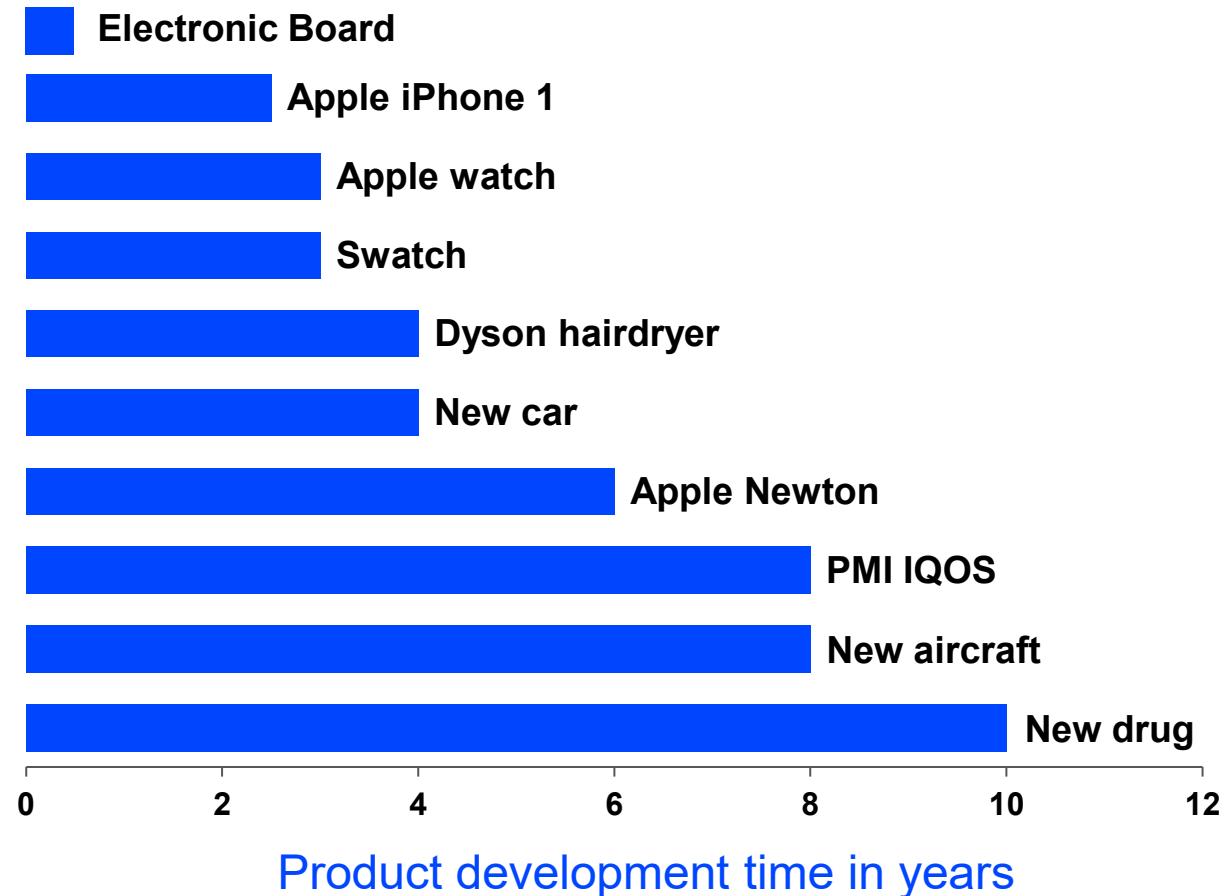


## Time management



# Introduction

- Product development time depends on the type of industry
- Projects with longer development time are more difficult to manage
- Time-to-market being critical for companies, development time tends to decrease



# Methodology for planning creation

- Use **WBS structure** to create planning structure, starting from project deliverables contained at lowest level of WBS
- For **each deliverable**, as described in WBS dictionary, project team identifies all activities required to produce that deliverable and estimates effort. Organize interactive session to investigate alternatives, detect potential risks, assess team's level of confidence
- Sequence activities in **logical order** (activity sequencing). Certain activities can only be started when others have been completed
- Assign resources to each activity; in case of conflict, change sequence
- Determine **critical path**, include **project buffer** after risk analysis, estimate project duration

# Main standard certifications and institutes

**PMI** - Project Management Institute, USA based professional organization, now recognized worldwide with 250 chapters in over 70 countries

- CAPM, Certified Associate in Project Management
- PMP, Project Management Professional
- PgMP, Program Management
- Management Professional



**IPMA** - International Project Management Association. Based in Switzerland, its members are national project management organizations such as AFITEP in France, GPM in Germany, APM in the UK, SMP and SPM in Switzerland

- Level D: Certified Project Management Associate
- Level C: Certified Project Manager
- Level B: Certified Senior Project Manager
- Level A: Certified Projects Director



**APMG** - Association for Project Management Group (UK)

- PRINCE2 Foundation
- PRINCE2 Practitioner



# Time management: estimate an activity

- For each **work package**, estimate effort for each task (e.g. using 3-point estimates (PERT))
- Identify and **keep track of assumptions** made during activity estimation

**Mechanical support 1.3**

WP 1.3 Mechanical support		MOYEN 50%	OPTIMISTE 20%	PESSIMISTE 80%	(4+1+1)/6	Cash-out	Fait par	Estimé par	Remarque
	ACTIVITY								
P3	<b>sous-total P2</b>								
<b>Lighting module</b>									
• Définir forme et composants mécanique Lighting Module	6	4	12	7			MTR	MLY/MTR	
• vérifier aspects dilatation thermique	6	4	12	7			FPI	MLY/MTR	
<b>Miroirs &amp; Vitre</b>									
• Calculer la forme et les tolérances pour les miroirs	80	80	80	80			FPI	MLY/MTR	
• Définir fixation miroir	8	8	8	8			MTR	MLY/MTR	
• Rechercher fournisseurs injection & métallisation	16	4	32	17			MTR	MLY/MTR	
<b>Thermal dissipation (air cooling)</b>									
• Recherche partenaire et analyse concept global	12	8	24	13			FPI	MLY/MTR	
• Définir forme du radiateur, débit wr circuit d'air après étude thermique du partenaire	12	8	24	13			FPI	MLY/MTR	
• finir température de travail du radiateur	4	2	8	4			FPI	MLY/MTR	
• Rechercher ventilateur et définir sa fixation	4	2	8	4			MTR	MLY/MTR	
• sign interface entre les deux PCBs et le radiateur	8	4	16	9			MTR	MLY/MTR	
<b>Structure mécanique de base</b>									
• Définir structure mécanique de modules qui porte cartes, miroirs, glass, radiateurs	40	40	80	47			MTR	MLY/MTR	
• Utiliser étude pour miroirs	16	8	32	17			MTR	MLY/MTR	
• Réaliser étude pour refroidisseur	16	8	24	16			MTR	MLY/MTR	
• Créer dessins de détails	60	40	100	63			MTR	MLY/MTR	
P4	<b>sous-total P4</b>								
• Suivi fabrication pièces pour Lighting module	8	8	8	8			MTR	MLY/MTR	
• Suivi fabrication miroirs et vitre	8	8	8	8	CHF 10'000.00		MTR	MLY/MTR	Moule à réaliser
• Suivi fabrication refroidisseurs	8	8	8	8	CHF 2'000.00		MTR	MLY/MTR	
• Assemblage général	16	8	24	16			MTR	MLY/MTR	Assemblage d'un système à 10 modules
• Corriger les dessins (structure, miroirs et vitre, refroidisseurs)	20	15	40	23			MTR	MLY/MTR	
P5	<b>sous-total P5</b>								
• Suivi fabrication et corriger pièces pour Lighting module	8	4	16	9			MTR	MLY/MTR	
• Au besoin correction miroirs et vitre	6	4	12	7			MTR	MLY/MTR	
• Suivi fabrication et correction refroidisseurs	6	4	12	7			MTR	MLY/MTR	
• Assembler le tout	24	8	32	23	CHF 3'000.00		MTR	MLY/MTR	Prix des retouches
• Corriger les dessins (structure qui tient le tout, miroirs et vitre, refroidisseurs)	20	15	40	23			MTR	MLY/MTR	
• Suivi première série	20	15	40	23			MTR	MLY/MTR	
• Documentation & introduire dans SAP	24	16	40	25			MTR	MLY/MTR	
<b>Total</b>	456	333	740	483	CHF 15'000.00				

# Activity estimation techniques

- **Expert judgment** (top-down) use knowledge from people who have performed similar activities, e.g. *colleagues, experts, outsourcing firm*
- **Analogous estimating** (top-down) use estimates from previous similar projects to estimate duration and cost of given activity or entire project (e.g. *800-1200h for new electronic board*)
- **Parametric estimating** (top-down) – linear extrapolation, finding metrics in activity (e.g. *10 new parts to design, on average 3 drawing per part and 10 hrs per study, total 300 hrs*)
- **3-point estimates (PERT)** (bottom-up) from engineers who will perform the work

Note: Top-down estimations best suited in early project phase

Bottom-up (cross-checked with top-down) estimates better suited later in project lifecycle

Group Decision Making techniques is useful for improving duration estimates

# Estimated an activity

Complexity depends with number of parts, so compare similar products !

- **Airbus A380**: 4 million parts, with 2.5 million parts numbers produced by 1,500 companies from 30 countries
- **Car**: 1'800 large-level parts, total of about 30'000 parts
- **Bike**: 890 parts
- **ROLEX caliber 1570**: 150 parts
- **SWATCH**: 51 parts
- **ALESSI Roost egg cup**: 1 part



# The 3-point estimate (PERT) method

Illustration (for a simple task): how long will it take to drive from Lausanne to Geneva airport (60 km)?

- **Best case**: no traffic, 40 minutes
- **Realistic**: moderate traffic, 50 minutes
- **Worst case\***: heavy traffic, need to fill in car tank, 80 minutes

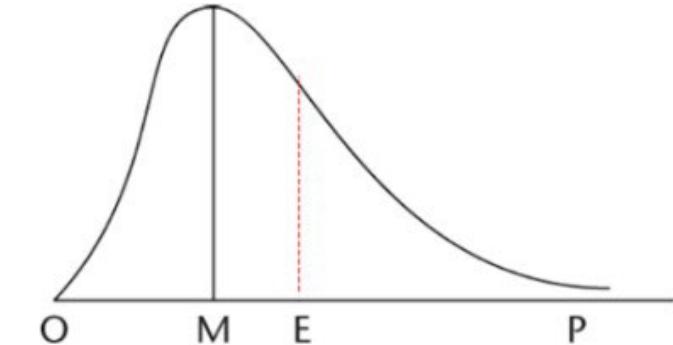


***Risk analysis will consider additional potential problems:***

- *flat tire (low probability, impact 30' delay and extra cost 100\$)*
- *accident ahead (moderate probability, impact 30'-60' delay)*
- *car crash (low probability, impact 3hrs delay, extra cost 5'000\$)*

# PERT method:

- Ask resources for **Optimistic (O)**, **Most likely (M)** and **Pessimistic (P)** task durations
- **Estimated Activity Duration**  
 $EAD = (P + 4M + O) / 6$
- **Enter EAD or 3 values (O, M, P) in project planning tool**
- Standard deviation  $SD = (P - O) / 6$
- Variance  $VA = SD^2$
- *Geneva example: O = 40', M = 50', P = 80', => EAD = 54'*



O: Optimistic  
P: Pessimistic  
M: Most Likely

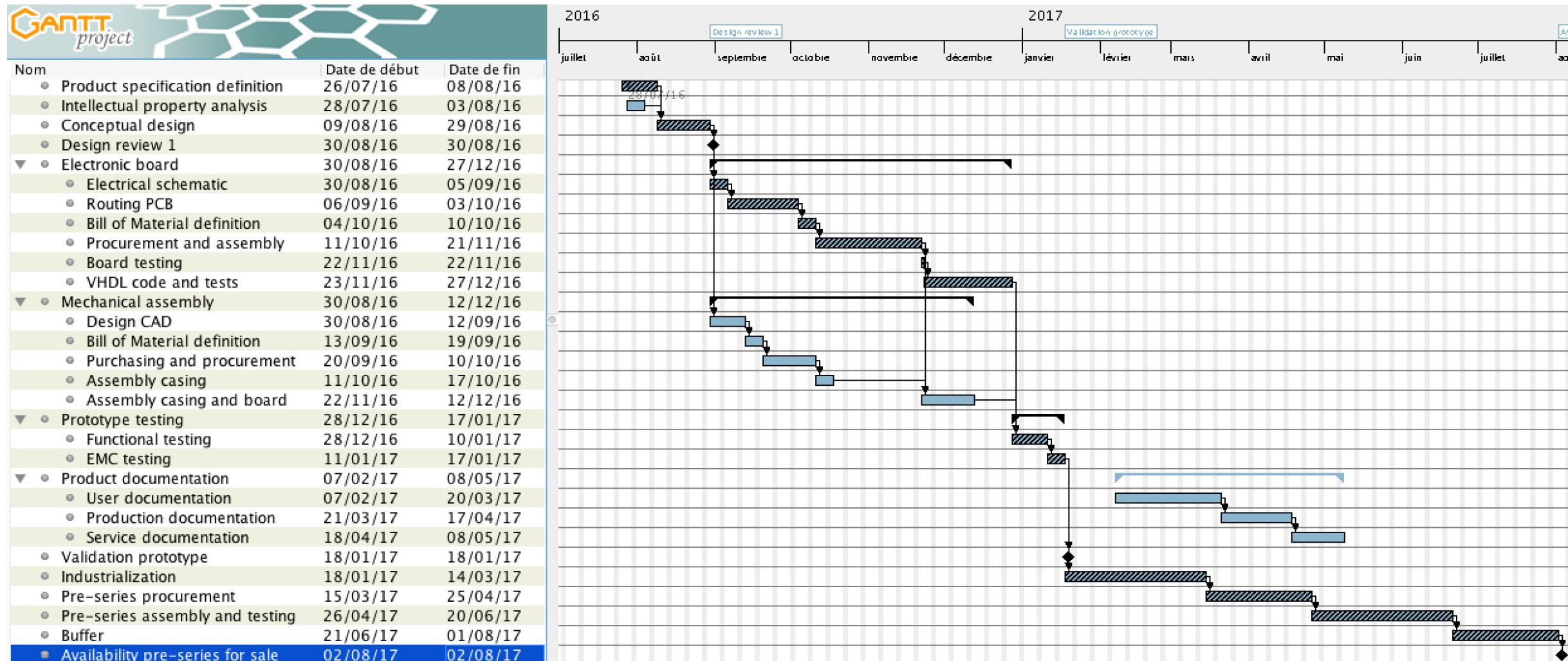
$$E = \frac{O + 4M + P}{6}$$

# Activity estimation

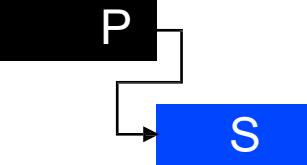
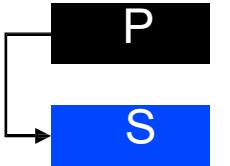
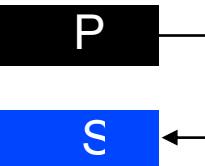
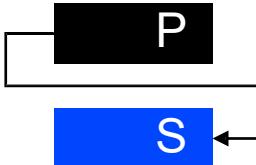
After a first iteration, **challenge** estimations given by project team members:

- Activities **sufficiently** well understood?
- **Clear** deliverables?
- **Unnecessary padding** (= extra buffers) included?
- **Technical solutions** selected?
- **Missing** activities or work packages?
- **Risks** identified and communicated?

# Gantt diagram → Must be done with the WBS! (use same reference)



# How to sequence activities using dependencies?

Diagram	Ab.	Name	Definition	Example
	FS	Finish to start	Predecessor must finish before Successor can start	<i>You must finish cooking before that the dinner can start</i>
	SS	Start to start	Predecessor must start before Successor can start	<i>Actor start playing after that the camera started recording</i>
	FF	Finish to finish	Predecessor must finish before Successor can finish	<i>Integration test must be finished to finish the acceptance test</i>
	SF	Start to finish	Predecessor must start before Successor can finish	<i>Road excavating must start before line painting can be completed</i>

# Resource allocation

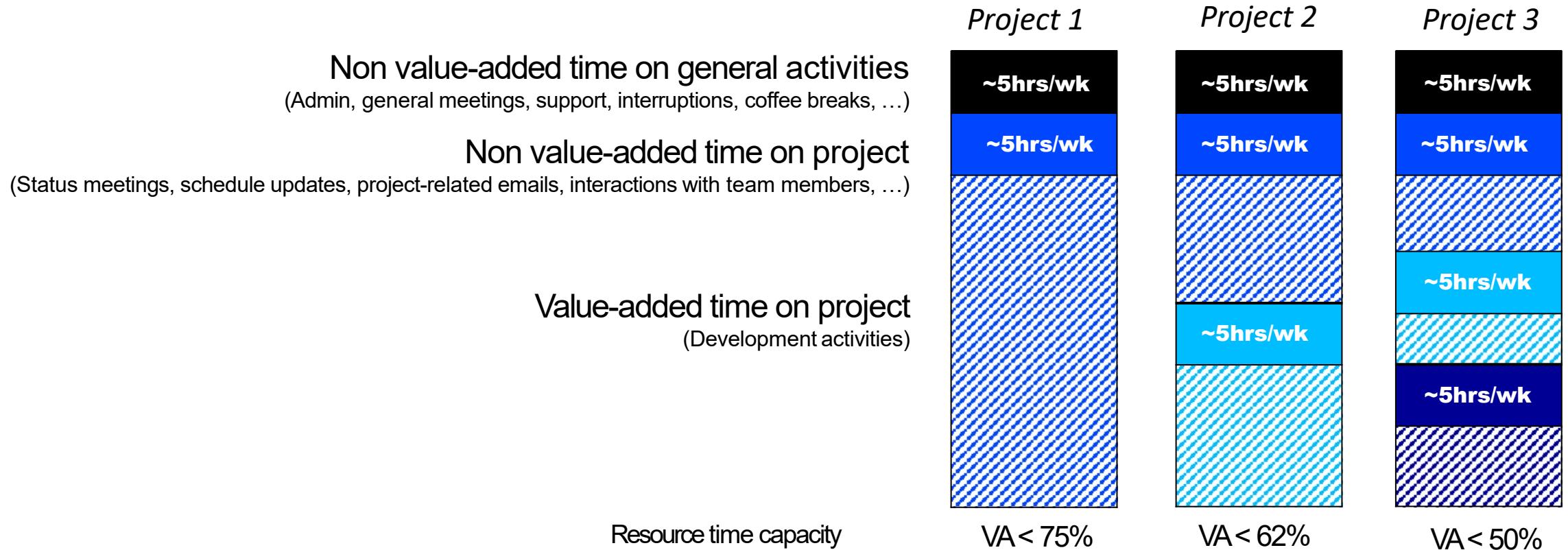
- Determine what **resources** are required (**people, equipment, material**)
- Define which **competencies** are required (type, skill, previous experience, languages, affinities with other team members) and match with **available resources**
- Check **resources availability** (work on other projects or activities, vacation, number of projects per resource) and **motivation**
- Fix **availability** level (e.g. maximum 80%). Without vacation and holidays, a 100% availability level corresponds to about 2000h / year. At 70% availability it gives 1'400h/year/resource

# Schedule optimization / Progress tracking

- Define and **communicate** milestones to help team focus on clear objectives } *During the Friday weekly meeting!*
- Save initial baseline in planning tool to monitor delays over time
- Perform frequent resource leveling to avoid peaks } *During the Friday weekly meeting!*
- **Identify critical path**, or sequence of activities that determines project duration = '*the longest sequence of tasks in project plan that must be completed to meet deadline*'. Any delay on critical path will cause project to be delayed

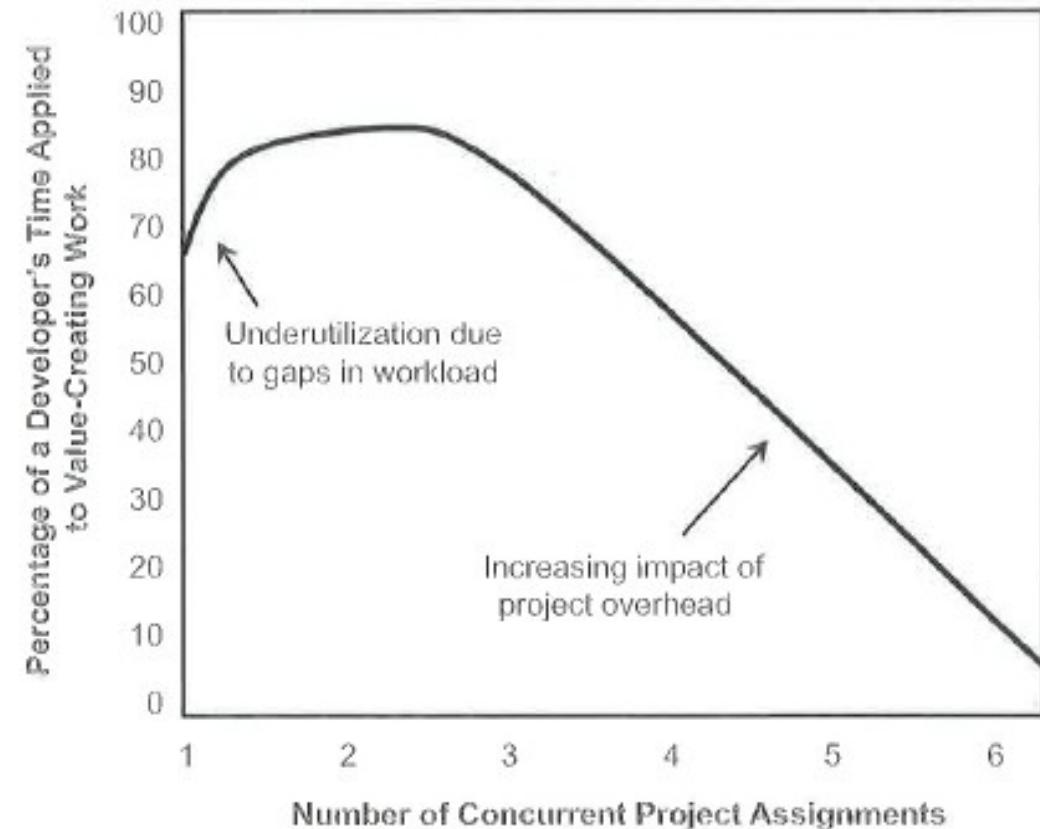
# Resource allocation

Maximum 2 major or 3 minor projects per staff member because  
'multi-tasking between projects introduces additional efficiency waste!



# Resource allocation

- Maximum 2 major or 3 minor projects per developer
- 1 project / resource offers **fastest option**, but not always most optimum capacity (resource may sit idle waiting for teammates inputs)
- Large and complex projects allow for some internal **level-loading of resources**, while smaller projects must be externally level-loaded



# Schedule optimization

- **Update** project schedule on regular basis (e.g. monthly / In this course: weekly!).
- **Monitor** deviations and correct them with schedule compression techniques
  - i. **Crashing**: add additional/more experienced resources (internal or external) on an activity
  - ii. **Fast tracking**: parallelize activities. It adds risk to project, as some work may have to be redone.
  - iii. **Descope project by removing content**, e.g., nice-to-have features.
  - iv. **Outsource activities** or subproject to external supplier (cash out increase)
  - v. **Plan overtime** or postpone vacation, but only on exceptional basis. Use it as a possible risk Response.
- Major deviations, if unavoidable, shall be communicated to steering committee

# Credits

- PMI management principles
- Slides adapted from Alexandre Pauchard lectures