R&D Project Management in the Chemical Industry



The following collection of PowerPoint[®] Charts is intended to further clarify and supplement the relevant specialist publications on the subject matters dealt with. This collection in no way is used for any commercial purposes, but as learning material for students.

Selected sources for in-depth studies of the respective subject matters are given in some lists of references.

The chemical-technical target components, formulas, deadlines, data, project structures and action plans shown in project examples P1-P3 are widely with a practical orientation, but yet purely fictitious. They are solely used for a clear illustration of the particular topic and for learning purposes.

The names of all persons with project functions are solely fictional. Matches with the names of other people would be purely coincidental. R&D Project Management in the Chemical Industry

The Subject Matter



Innovations: Characteristics, Measures for its Promotion, Process Variants.

- Three Examples for Innovation Projects (Chemistry and Technology):
 - 1. Highly Elastic Clear Coats for the OEM Automotive Sector.
 - 2. Nitrilase Catalyzed Synthesis of a Chiral Hydroxy-Carboxylic Acid.
 - 3. New Metal-Organic Frameworks for the Adsorptive Storage of Gases.
- Projects, Target Systems, Project Management in R&D.
- Appropriate Organization and Effective Structure Planning of R&D Projects.
- Project Flow Planning, Milestones, the Stage-Gate[®]-Process, Network Diagrams.
- Effective Implementation and Control of R&D Projects, Trend Analyses.
- Success Risks: Identification, Classification and Treatment.
- Recruitment and Lead of Project Staff: Chemists (m/f/d) – Team Players, Pacemakers and Executives in Projects.
- Project Manager (m/f/d): Tasks, Leadership Functions and Personality Profile.
- The Systematic Evaluation of Individual R&D Projects.
- R&D Strategy: The Planning of a Project Portfolio.



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Product and Process Improvements are Permanent Tasks Within the Own Company!

"Progress is achieved not by satisfaction but by dissatisfaction with the existing situation!"

"The best way to foresee the future is to shape it!"

(According to Peter F. Drucker)



Focused Investments in Research and Development will Generate Long-Term Innovation Successes in Growth Markets, Resulting in Sustainably Effective Contributions to Earnings.







Goal-Oriented, Systematically and Sustainably Practised Research and Development Activities.

- Targeted allocation of externally carried out contract research activities to first-class competence centers and technical institutes.
- Cooperations with excellent university-research groups / other top research groups (e. g. at MPIs).
- Strategic research alliances with pilot customers, having proved competence in the target market (Ideally: Market- and technology leadership).







The Systematic Screening and Evaluation of "Windows of Chances" in the Chemical Industry:

Internal Signals

- Unexpected reaction courses.
- Unpredictable catalytic effects.
- Failed experiments (temperature-, time control, reactants: Quantity ratios, purity of products).
- Incongruences, unwanted formation of by-products.
- Chemical-technological "weak points": Sustancial need for process improvements.

The Systematic Screening and Evaluation of "Windows of Chances" in the Chemical Industry:

External Signals

- Changes in the population structure: demographic changes, effects of migration.
- "Landslides" in the markets, transformations in industries that are interlinked.
- Paradigm shift, other general perceptual patterns for chemistry (products) or genetic engineering (products).
- Legislation: Environmental policy plans.
- Research results from other specialist disciplines.







Stimulants for a Steadily "Flowing" Creativity:

1	Regular exchange of ideas with (natural) scientists (m/f/d) and technicians (m/f/d) from <i>other</i> disciplines.
2	Avoidance of rigid thought patterns basing on one's own knowledge for upcoming solutions to complex problems.
3	Actively bringing about one's own paradigm shift by self experiencing different "customer worlds", directly on site.
4	Careful analysis of the development processes for key innovations from other industries.
5	Regular visits to concerts, theater performances, museum exhibitions and other cultural events.
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Largely Renunciation of "Killer Phrases" (X) !

- X "We have never done it in this way!"
- X | "That will never pay off ..."
- X |"We have already thought of that before now!"
- X | "Many made vain attempts for it ..."
- X "The company XY has previously come with such plans into a financial imbalance!"
- X | "That may be theoretically correct, but ..."
- X | "At first, you have to draw up the details for that ..."
- X | "For this, we today lack the resources!"
- X "My boss will certainly never allow that!"
- X | "Did you already take into account, that ..."

nnc	vations: Measures for its Promotion	
Largely Renunciation of "Killer Phrases" (X) !		
X	"If it were that simple, the competitors would have done that a long time ago!"	
Χ	"This is a great idea, but"	
Χ	"This is not possible with our organization!"	
Χ	"We currently have no time for that!"	
Χ	"Not any customer will be interested in that!"	
Χ	"There's a lot of bureaucracy within it!"	
Χ	"Our daily business has absolute priority!"	
Χ	"Until we have finished, the market has changed!"	
X	"First of all, we have to wait for the opinions from the other managers (m/f/d) of specialist departments!"	







Strategic Influence Factors in the Chemical Industry.

Triad	(O, L, S)
0	Organization of Research and Development
L	Lab Equipment (Devices, Technology, Chemicals)
S	Qualified Staff (Non-Tariff / Tariff Employees)

















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Three Questions: Early and Clear Answers to *all* of these Questions are Effective Drivers of Innovation!





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The "Avoidance of Errors" in the Innovation Process.

"Innovation Management - The Ten Most Common Mistakes". Lecture given by Jürgen Hauschildt at the Institute for Business Management, University of Münster, July 2004.

01 Innovation is not seen as a solution to a market problem.

02 The degree of innovation is insufficiently determined.

03 The striven innovation is not defined holistically.

04 The own innovation capacity is overestimated.

05 The goals are set too rigidly, technical goals dominate.

06 Within the innovation process, creativity is unfolded in an uncontrolled manner.

07 The resistance against the innovation is underestimated.

08 There are no promoters for the innovation, it finds no encouragement.

09 Cooperation with market partners is either lacking or imperfect.

10 The innovation processes are controlled with instruments of routine action.








Clear Coat: From Dissolved Coating Resin to Duromer.

Standard Clear Coat: Liquid film \rightarrow Cured Film (T[†]; Catalyst)







Innovations: Prerequisites for Market Success With the Process Variant Explained Here and its Characterization.





technical customer service.





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Waterborne OH-Polyurethane-Dispersion, Structural Section (Idealized):





Innovations: Prerequisites for Market Success with the Process Variant explained here and its Characterization.

- "Correct" identification and translation of future production and market requirements.
- Own ability to "push" innovation onto the market against resistances.

Technology Leap

Own, basic R&D work for the effective exploitation of clearly new products and procedures. Consistency with the company market strategy is necessary.





LED-UV lamps (AlGalnN) for curing.

Strategy: Increase of the market share for clear lacquers.





Innovations: Prerequisites for Market Success with the Process Variant explained here and its Characterization.







coating of high-performance glass fibers with optimized refractive indices (Fiber optic cables, FOC). Planned cooperation with an optoelectronics firm. Target markets: Fiberglass coatings of optical waveguides for medical technology and sensor technology.









Light Waves: Analog-Digital-Conversion, Amplitude Modulation:







Step-Index Profile, Functional Principle: "Deduction" of the Scattered Light by Means of the "Primary Buffer Coating".











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Primary Coatings of High Performance Glass Fibers.

"Primary Buffer Coating": UV-Curable Polysiloxane-Acrylate.




- High technical competence.
- Transdisciplinary thinking and acting.
- Effective global information management and active "Technology-Scouting".

Imitation Concept

2nd-follower strategy:
Rapid transformation and adaptation of leading technologies
from *other* industries ("Best
Practice Solutions"), especially
for the own market.





Adaptation of the hitherto developed technology for the production of scratch-resistant coated lenses made of plastics (Successful application in the ophthalmic lens industry).









M: Market Attractiveness

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T: Technology Position



Four-Layer Automotive Coating (OEM), 2015.

Base Coat: Color Shades According to the Given Trends.





Four-Layer Automotive Coating (OEM), 2020.

Individual Coating Structures for Different Pilot Customers:



- Competent, customeroriented technical team.
 - Speed, flexibility, effective information management.
 - Presence in very specific regional markets and their requirements.



Customized innovations for niche markets to meet special customer requirements. No exclusivity.





Examples: Buttons of gear levers or cockpit panels in luxury limousines from exclusive automakers.



- Excellent and unique, in each case complementary technical competencies.
- Close partner relations, mutual trust, contractual fidelity.

Exclusive Partnership

Joint R & D work in the form of a contracted joint venture. Use of the respective, highly specialized competences of both partners. Strict exclusivity!





ler AG and Dürr AG (as from ~ 1994).

Targeted exchange of scientists, technicians and engineers among all partners involved.

Powder Slurry: Steric and Electrostatic Stabilisization of the Water-Suspended, Micronized Resin Particles.

















tor components.

















in a clean room.

This material was previously used for coating reflectors for car headlights.



UV-Curable Varnish, Negative Resist.

Amino Siloxanes, Adhesion Promoters for Metal-OH-Surfaces:







M: Market Attractiveness





- Sound knowledge of the state of science.
- "Watertight" cooperation agreement with a clear contract of later rights of use.
- Own, active marketing, own (regulatory) toxicology.



Fundamental and long-term collaborative work with universities or scientific institutes. Exploration of new substances, systems, processes.




proval procedures and market introduction.

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Strobilurins, a Highly Fungicidal Substance Group.

Substances, Extracted from a Fungus, Growing on Pinecones.



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