# **Chemical Product Design**

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# **PART VIII. Concept Selection**



### Procedure



# **Concept Selection Process**

### Prepare the Matrix

- Criteria
- Reference Concept
- Weightings

### Rate Concepts

- Scale (+, -, 0) or (1 5)
- Compare to Reference Concept or Values

### Rank Concepts

- Sum Weighted Scores

### Combine and Improve

- Remove Bad Features
- Combine Good Qualities

### Select Best Concept

- May Be More than One
- Beware of Average Concepts

#### Reflect on the Process

-Continuous Improvement

# Example: Reusable Syringe



## Example: Reusable Syringe

### **Concept Screening**

Selection Criteria	А	В	С	D	Е	F	G	Ref.
Ease of Handling	0	0	-	0	0	-	-	0
Ease of Use	0	-	-	0	0	+	0	0
Number Readability	0	0	+	0	+	0	+	0
Dose Metering	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	0
Load Handling	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0
Manufacturing Ease	+	-	-	0	0	-	0	0
Portability	+	+	-	-	0	-	-	0
PLUSES	3	2	2	1	2	2	2	
SAMES	4	3	1	5	5	2	3	
MINUSES	0	2	4	1	0	3	2	_
NET	3	0	-2	0	2	-1	0	
RANK	1	3	7	5	2	6	4	
CONTINUE ?	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	

#### **Concept Variants**

# Example: Reusable Syringe

### Concept Screening

		Concepts							
		Α		DF		E		G+	
		(reference) Master Cylinder		Lever Stop		Swash Ring		Dial Screw+	
Selection Criteria	Weight	Rating	Weighted Score	Rating	Weighted Score	Rating	Weighted Score	Rating	Weighted Score
Ease of Handling	5%	3	0.15	3	0.15	4	0.2	4	0.2
Ease of Use	15%	3	0.45	4	0.6	4	0.6	3	0.45
Readability of Settings	10%	2	0.2	3	0.3	5	0.5	5	0.5
Dose Metering Accuracy	25%	3	0.75	3	0.75	2	0.5	3	0.75
Durability	15%	2	0.3	5	0.75	4	0.6	3	0.45
Ease of Manufacture	20%	3	0.6	3	0.6	2	0.4	2	0.4
Portability	10%	3	0.3	3	0.3	3	0.3	3	0.3
	Total Score	2.75		3.45		3.10		3.05	
	Rank		4		1		2		3
	Continue?	Ν	10	Dev	elop	Ν	10	Ν	10

# Strategies for Concept (Idea) Screening

### Subjective

- Ex) "safe" or "more wearable"

### Objective

- Ex) Filter life time or battery capacity

### A more effective strategy – grade ideas using

#### - Scientific maturity

Prefer designs based on scientific knowledge that we already have and understand

#### - Engineering ease

Prefer designs that imply straightforward engineering like that already used in established manufacturing

#### - Minimum risk

Don't want to take unnecessary chances. At least, we want to know what our chances of success are

#### - Low cost

May want a rough estimate of the relative cost of our concepts (ideas).

#### - Safety

Want to identify which products are inherently safer or more dangerous than our benchmark

#### - Low environmental impact

Will tend to choose products that causes less pollution

# Improving the Idea Screening Process

### Choice of the Benchmark

- Benchmark will be an existing product with the greatest market share
- What we expect as a new product from competitors
- What we hope we can make as the best of the existing type of product

#### Have Different Groups Score the Ideas

- One obvious group are other individuals in marketing who are outside our core team

- Another group are the lead users of current products

### Sensitivity Analysis of the Weighting Factors

- Change the weighting factors within sensible limits to see

# **Chemical Industry Example**

#### **Concept Screening Matrix for Printing Chaucer's Canterbury Tales**

Selection	Weighting	Illuminated	Printed
Criteria	Factor	Manuscript	Chaucer
Quality	0.4	5	1
Cost	0.4	5	6
Quantity	0.2	5	8
Total Score		5	4.4

Note: This matrix could be one developed by William Caxton, in 1476.

#### **Concept Screening Matrix for Home Oxygen Supply**

Selection Criteria	Weighting Factor	Gas Cylinders	Hollow-Fiber Membranes	PSA	
Convenience	0.4	5	8	8	•
Noise	0.3	5	4	2	
Cost	0.3	5	7	7	
Total Score		5	6.5	5.9	

*Note*: Both membrane and PSA score better than cylinders delivered containing oxygen. However, no single process stands out compellingly.