

# Flyteffektivitet i engineer-to-order produksjon med FORRIDGE prinsipper



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ACT, Mo i Rana, 15.11.2024

# Erlend Alfnes



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## Hvem jeg er:

- Professor i Produksjonsledelse ved NTNU
- Leder av Advanced Production Management Systems sin interessegruppe “Operations Management in Engineer-to-Order Manufacturing”
- Leder av GEMINI senteret “Kundetilpasset produksjon”
- Leder av masterprogrammet “Global Manufacturing Management”
- Tidligere seniorforsker i Logistikk ved SINTEF
- Doktor Ingeniør (Ph.D) med tittel: “Enterprise Reengineering – A Strategic Framework and Methodology”

## Mitt fag:

Mitt arbeid bidrar til at bedrifter oppnår konkurransevne gjennom bedre produksjonsledelse og digitalisering. Målet er å utvikle nye **metoder, modeller og teknikker** som gjør det mulig for produksjonsledere å **modellere, analysere** og ta **beslutninger** som forbedrer produksjons- og logistikkprosesser. Mine nåværende forsknings- og utviklingsaktiviteter er innenfor tre områder:

**1) produksjons- og logistikkstrategi, 2) planlegging og styring, og 3) lean og quick response produksjon** (nylig har fokus også vært sirkulære verdikjeder)

## Noen samarbeidspartnere:

Brunvoll, Siemens, Pipelife, Ulstein, Ekornes, Quarts Corp, Kongsberg Maritime, Cardiff University

## Masteremner:

ERP og PLM systemer, Produksjonsstrategi, Produksjonslogistikk

## Veiledning:

50+ Masterstudenter, 8 PhD studenter

# Engineer-to-order manufacturing

**“Traditional”, MTS manufacturing**



**ETO manufacturing**



**Manufacturing operations where the technical specification and design is part of the order fulfillment process**

# ETO - Sales and specification process

The screenshot shows the DynaMaker web application interface for configuring a spiral staircase. The browser address bar shows the URL: `deployed.dynamaker.com/applications/doHp0Ju8A2i/`.

**Left Sidebar (Settings):**

- Grundmått: Steg per varv (Slider: 16 to 20, set to 18)
- Orientering: Vänstersvängd (Dropdown menu)
- Ytterradie: 1000 mm (Input field)
- Höjd på våning: 3000 mm (Input field)
- Plattformssidor (Toggle button)

**Central 3D Model:** A 3D rendering of a spiral staircase with a platform. A watermark for "abc SOLUTIONS" is visible in the background.

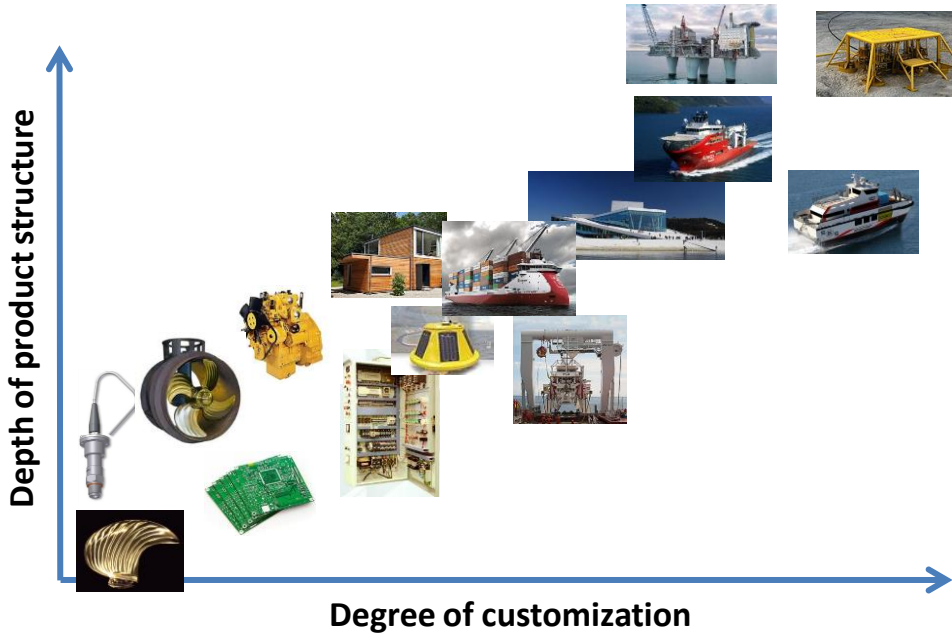
**Right Sidebar (Specifications):**

- Steghöjd: 188 mm
- Antal steg: 15
- Steg per varv: 18
- Fri höjd: 2850 mm
- Markvinkel: 300.0°
- Antal våningar: 1
- Giltig lösning: Ja

Powered by DynaMaker

From engineer-to-order to mass customization?  
Using parametric configurator

# Depth of product structure vs. customization





### Exploring systemic factors creating uncertainty in complex engineer-to-order supply chains: Case studies from Norwegian shipbuilding first tier suppliers

Erlend Alfnes<sup>a,\*</sup>, Jonathan Gosling<sup>b</sup>, Mohamed Naim<sup>b</sup>, Heidi C. Dreyer<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, Norway

<sup>b</sup> Cardiff Business School, Cardiff University, Cardiff, UK

### Reararticulating supply chain design and operation principles to mitigate uncertainty in the Norwegian engineer-to-order shipbuilding sector

Erlend Alfnes<sup>a,\*</sup>, Jonathan Gosling<sup>b</sup>, Mohamed Naim<sup>b</sup>, Heidi C. Dreyer<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, Norway

<sup>b</sup> Cardiff Business School, Cardiff University, Cardiff, UK

ARTICLE INFO

ABSTRACT

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Keywords:  
Innovate  
Uncertainty  
Complexity  
Redesign  
Soft systems

«2D-CODP» + «The uncertainty circle»  
A method to classify product groups and identify contributing factors to uncertainty that inhibit efficient and effective flow for a product group

times with poor capacity availability. A change programme is suggested to reduce uncertainty requiring primary consideration of process and control aspects before addressing demand-side and then supply-side changes. The findings are evaluated by independent interviews indicating that the method and tools adopted have validity, and that the findings are commensurate with wider industry expectations.

Keywords:  
Uncertainty reduction  
Innovate to order  
Redesign to order  
Replication research  
Supply chain

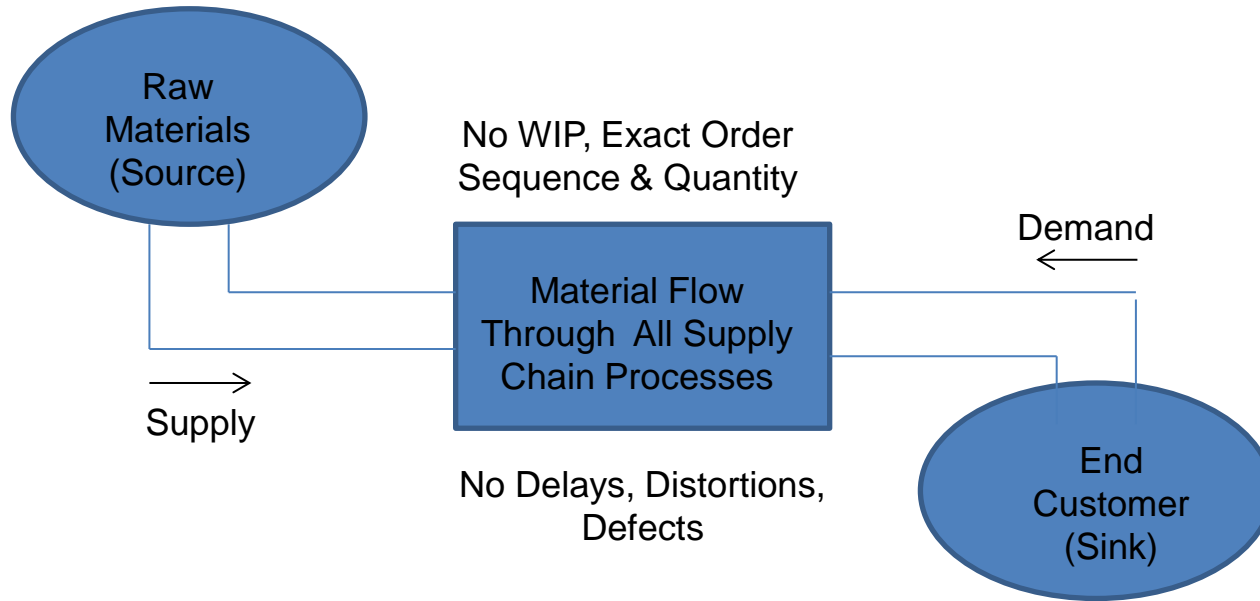
«FORRIDGE principles and tactics»  
a set of principles and tactics to mitigate uncertainty and enable efficient and effective flow

the significance of different facets for the two types of order replication in a manufacturing construction by showing the application of a conceptual replication research design in an operations management context. Further research is required to test the principles in other ETO-intensive sectors.

# Outline

- Flow theory - FORRIDGE principles and tactics
- Toolkit
  - 2D framework for product classification
  - Uncertainty Circle
  - Risk matrix
  - Methodology to identify uncertainty sources, and to map principles and tactics against the uncertainty sources
- Our studies in engineer-to-order equipment suppliers
- Conclusions

# The Vision of Smooth and Seamless Flow

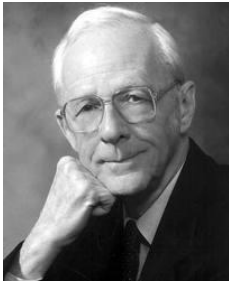


*All players think and act as one, so the supply chain is seamless with both information and material flows fully integrated, based on the concept of smooth material flow (Childerhouse and Towill 2003)*

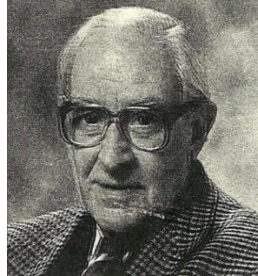


# FORRIDGE

## Principles for the design and operation of supply chains



Jay Forrester



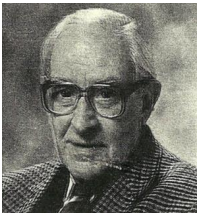
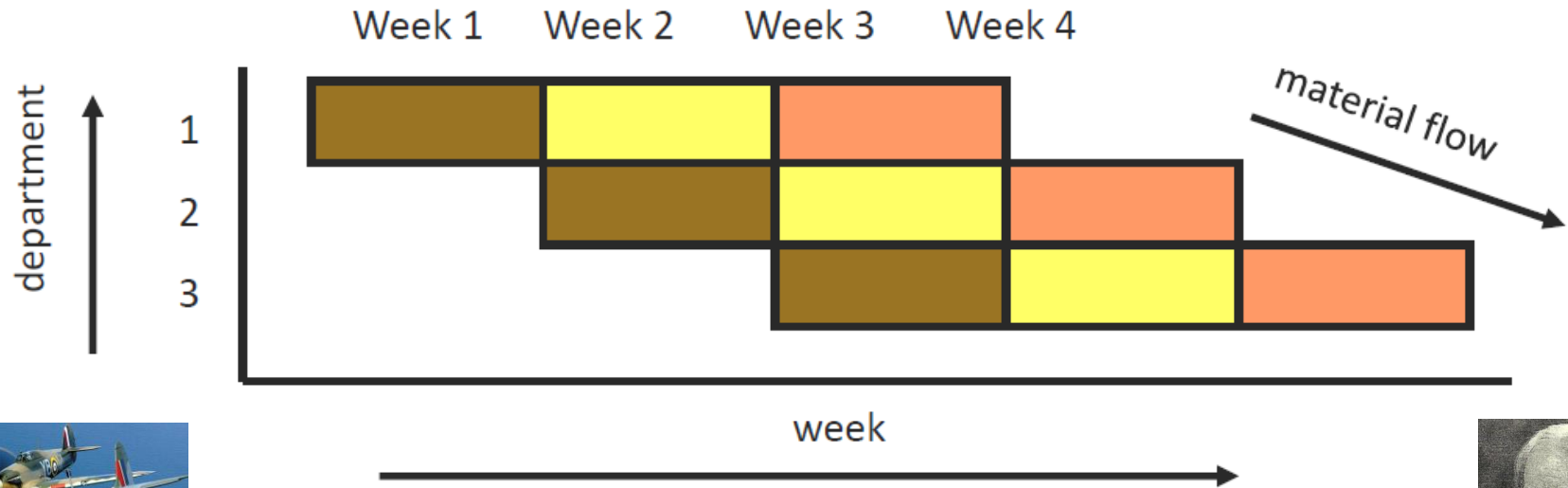
Jack Burbidge



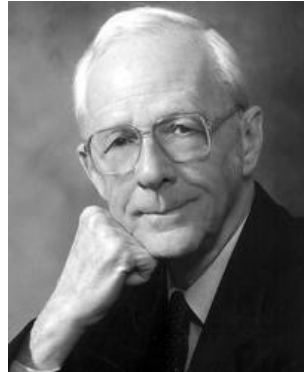
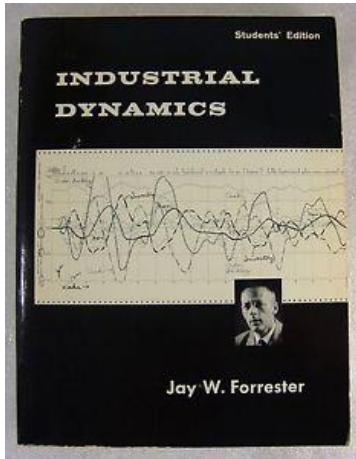
Denis Towill

LEAN? "Apparently **Japanese** led, the associated roots of present good practice on material flow can be traced back in the USA to Jay **Forrester** and in the UK to John **Burbidge**". (Dennis Towill, 1994)

# Periodic Batch Control



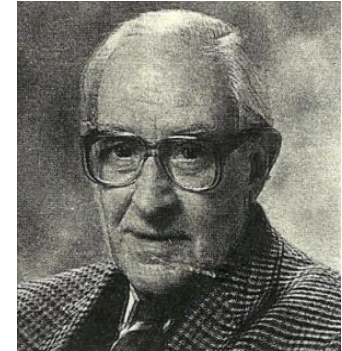
# “1961 and all that: The influence of Jay Forrester and John Burbidge on the design of Modern Manufacturing Systems” (Dennis Towill, 1994)



## THE "NEW APPROACH" TO PRODUCTION



by JOHN L. BURBIDGE,  
A.M.I.Mech.E., M.I.Prod.E., M.B.I.M.



Mr. Burbidge is well known as a writer on Production Control and for his outspoken criticism of Batch Quantity Analysis. Educated at Wellington School, Somerset, and Cambridge University, he entered industry as a student apprentice with The Bristol Aeroplane Company. Since then he has had 25 years of practical experience in management, in posts as varied as Shop Manager, Chief Inspector, Chief Planner, Sales Manager, General Manager, Works Director and Managing Director. He has an equally wide experience of different products, including aero-engines, marine engines, agricultural machinery, printing machines, cars, wire, tractors, steel house frames, and plastics.

Mr. Burbidge, who is now a consultant in Industrial Engineering and Management, is the author of a book, "Standard Batch Control", and has also written a text book of Production Control which will be published shortly.

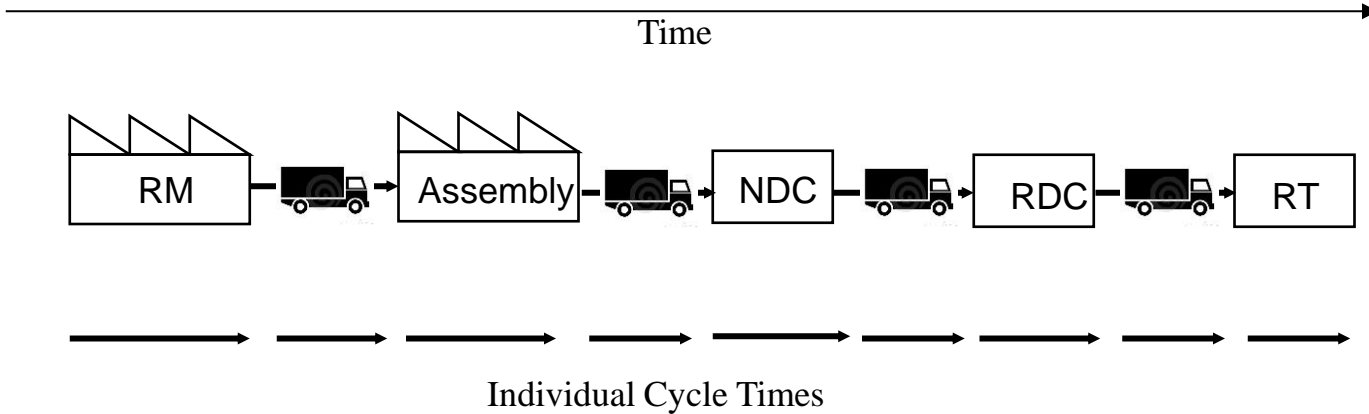
To production historians of the future, the 20th century will be known as the "Age of Waste". An age when much of the wealth invested in production was stored away covered in the form of stock, an age when a large part of the labour force was wasted on the superfluous processing of administrative paper work, and an age in which most of the production capacity was left unused for long periods, due to our failure to control the demand cycle.

Production has reached a stage where normal evolution along traditional lines, only increases the waste. It has reached a point where substantial progress is only possible if we can find a new approach.

This Paper describes a possible approach. It advances the use of high batch frequency line flow, for all types of product and for all levels of output. Such systems are already in use in mass production. It is here advanced that they have a universal value, irrespective of the volume, or type of product.

The Paper attempts to show that the New Approach is both theoretically sound and practicable. It describes the material flow system, which is "Fundamental". Part II shows how material flow is related to the economics of production. Part III shows how our general philosophy of management needs to permeate the status quo and, finally, Part IV develops the philosophy of the "new approach", and describes how it can be, and has been applied in practice.

As reviewed in the paper the ground rules for effective manufacturing system design were co-incidentally established in 1961. Jay Forrester showed that medium period demand amplification was a system dynamics phenomenon which could be tackled by reducing and eliminating delays and the proper design of feedback loops. In parallel, via his "rules to avoid bankruptcy" and "laws of manufacturing systems", John Burbidge showed that short period demand amplification was due to multi-phased, multi-period ordering policies.



## Time Compression Principle

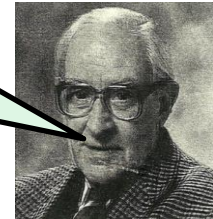
*Design for time compression across chain activities*

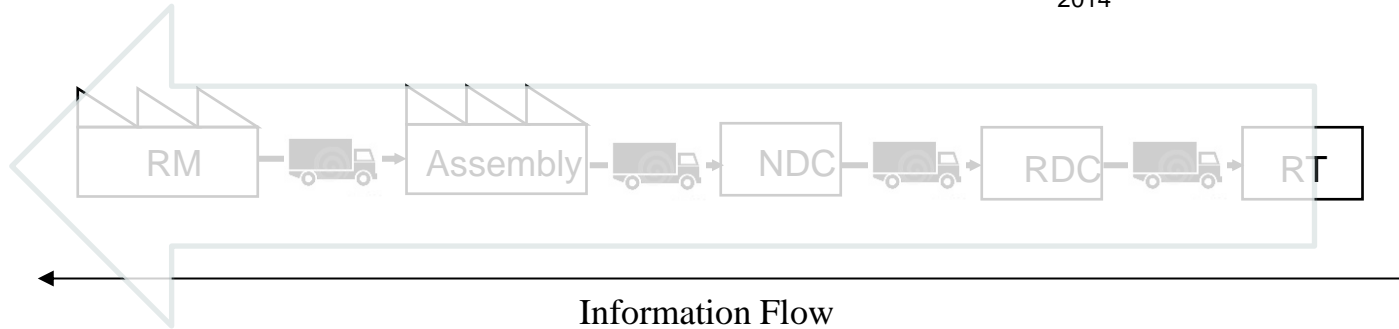
Every activity in the chain should be undertaken in the minimum time needed to achieve task goals



Faster order handling to improve stability and reduction of system time delays

Minimize the material throughput time





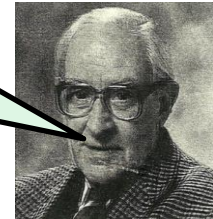
## Information Transparency Principle

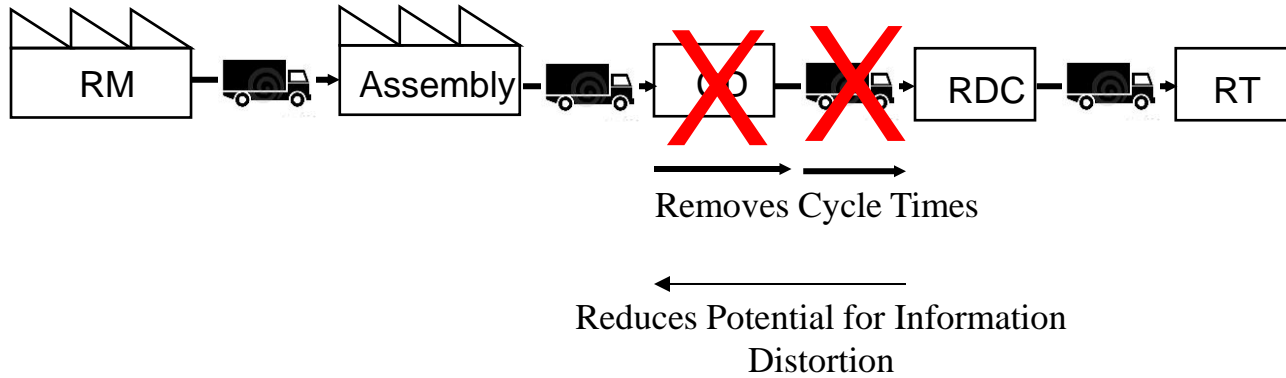
*Design to enable real time information transparency across chain activities.* Up-to-the minute data free of 'noise' and bias should be accessed by all members in the system



Ensure appropriate design of information-feedback systems and loops for transparency

Don't rely on long term forecasts and promote 'connectance'





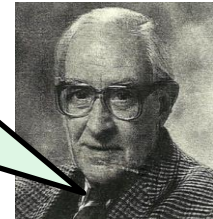
## Echelon Elimination

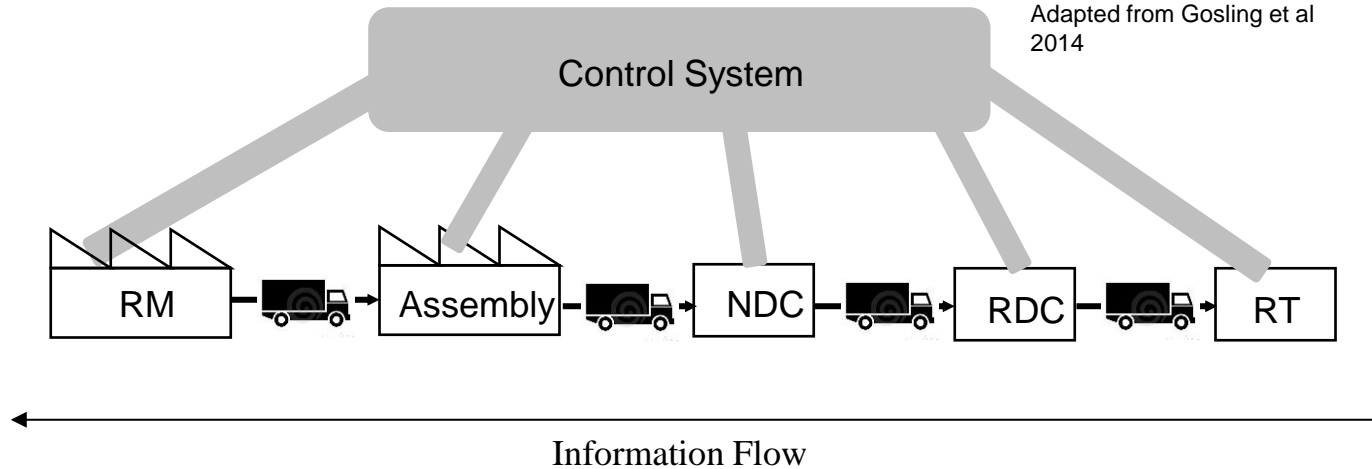
*Design the minimum number of echelons appropriate to the goals of the supply chain. Reduce complexity of material flow where possible*



Eliminate distributor level to reduce demand amplification

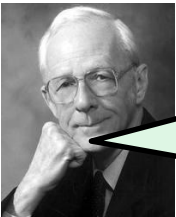
Efficiency is inversely proportional to the complexity of its material flow system





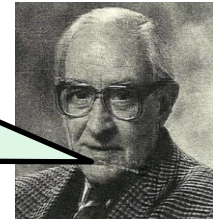
## Control System Principle

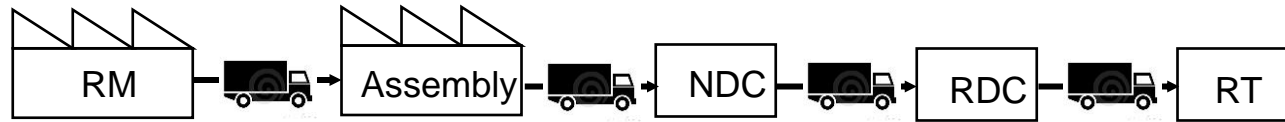
*Design a Decision Support System for Integrated Control.* There is a need to select the most appropriate control system best suited to achieving user targets and taking unnecessary guesswork out of the system.



Change inventory policy to adjust the level of inventories and in-process orders

Only make in one period those components you need for assembly in the next period





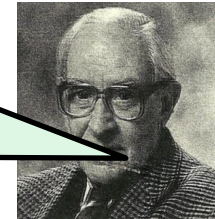
## Synchronization Principle

*Decisions, information and orders are co-ordinated and related to discrete points in time . There is continuous ordering synchronised throughout the chain.*



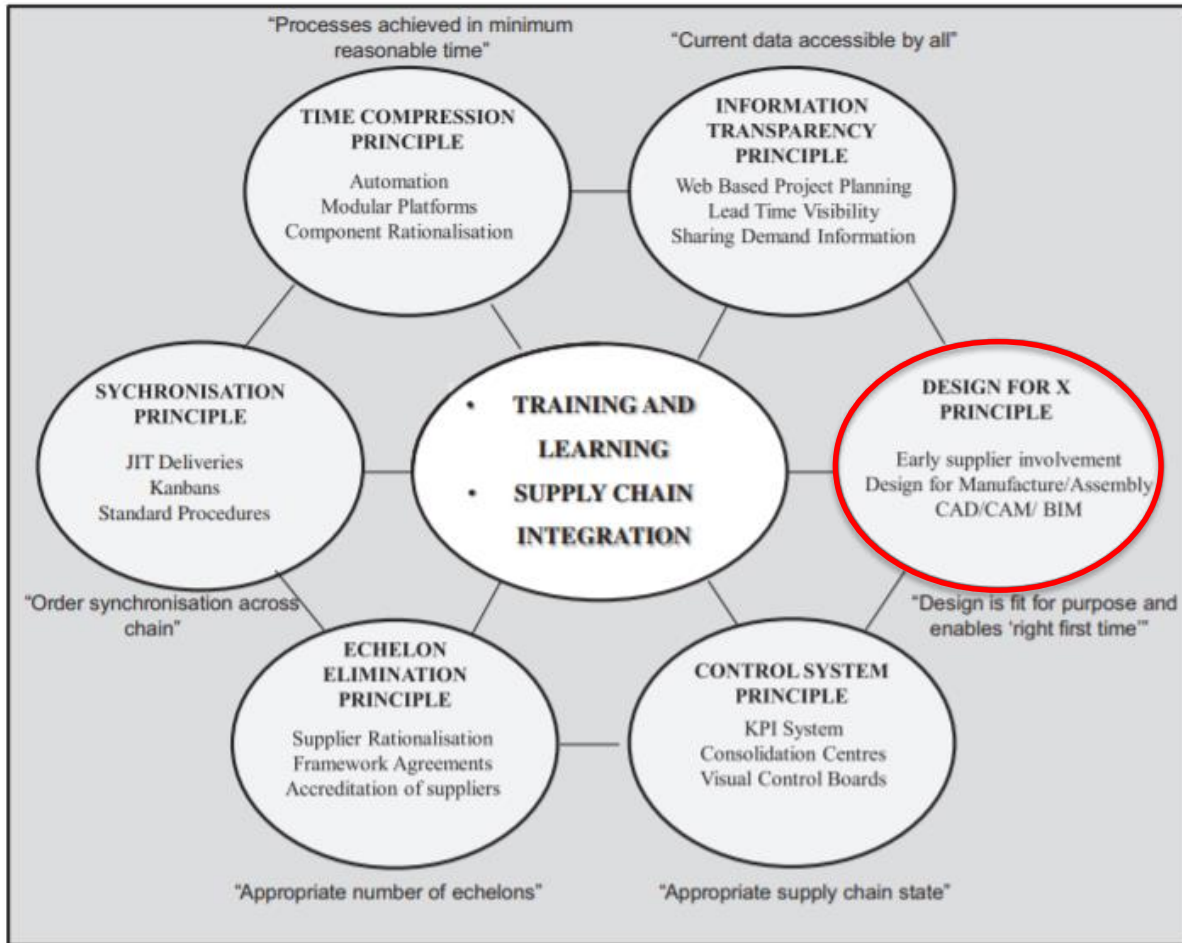
Events should be synchronized, so that orders and deliveries are visible at discrete points in time.

Use the shortest planning period and only take deliveries from suppliers in small batches as and when needed





FORRIDGE  
principles and  
tactics for  
construction  
supply chains  
(Gosling et. al,  
2015)



# Equipment Suppliers to Yards

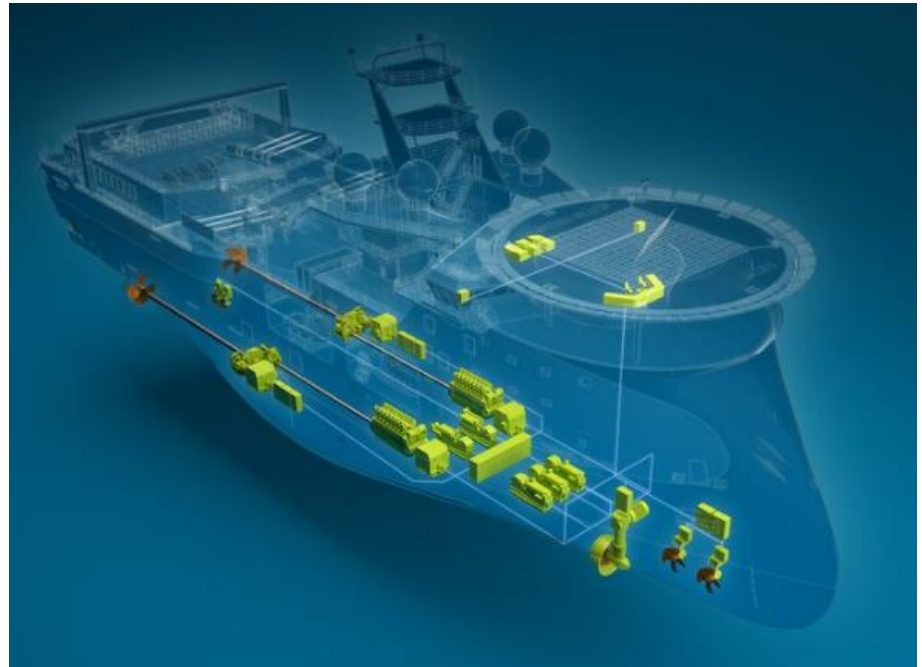
## Engineer-to-order manufacturing

### MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT

Cranes | Winches | Propellers |  
Engines | etc

### ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT

DP | Software | Specialised  
hardware | Bridge equipment |  
Sensors | etc



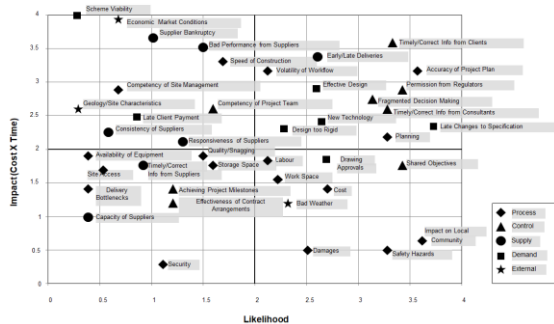
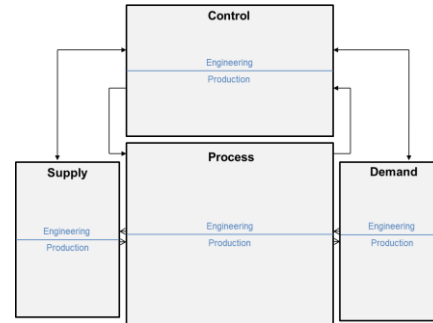
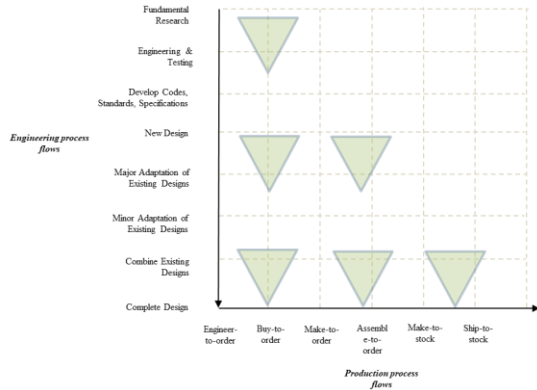
# Engineer-to-order manufacturing and uncertainty



Highly customized manufacturing such as ETO is characterized by a high level of uncertainty in specification, design, planning, purchasing, and production

Supply chain uncertainty can be defined as “**situations in the supply chain in which the decision maker does not know definitely what to decide** as he is indistinct about the objectives; lacks information about or understanding of the supply chain system or its environment; lacks information processing capabilities; is unable to accurately predict the impact of possible control actions on supply chain behavior; or, lacks effective control actions” (van der Vorst and Beulens 2002).

# Mapping and analysis tools

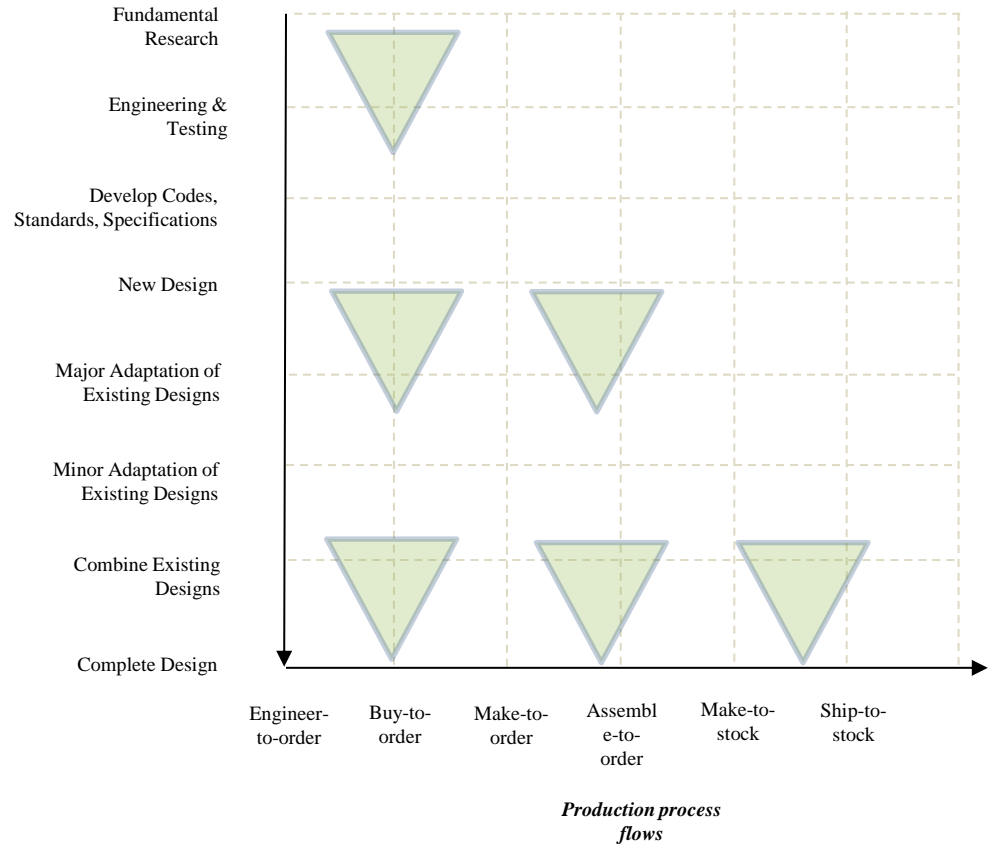


Principles	ITO tactics	Uncertainty type				
		Specific ation	Supply chain relation manage ment	Enginee ing lead time	Supplier lead times	Product structu res
P1 Time compressio n	Pre-design analysis					
	Agile methods					
P2 Control system	Centralised cross-disciplinary project team					
	Risk-sharing contracts					
P3 Synchroni sation	Design integration events					
	Knowledge transfer between projects					
P4 Information transparenc y	Cross-disciplinary innovation events					
	Early customer and supplier involvement					
P5 Echelon elimination	Prototyping					
	Computer-aided modelling and simulation					
P6 Design for X						

# A 2-dimensional approach to classify decoupling positions across both engineering and production dimensions

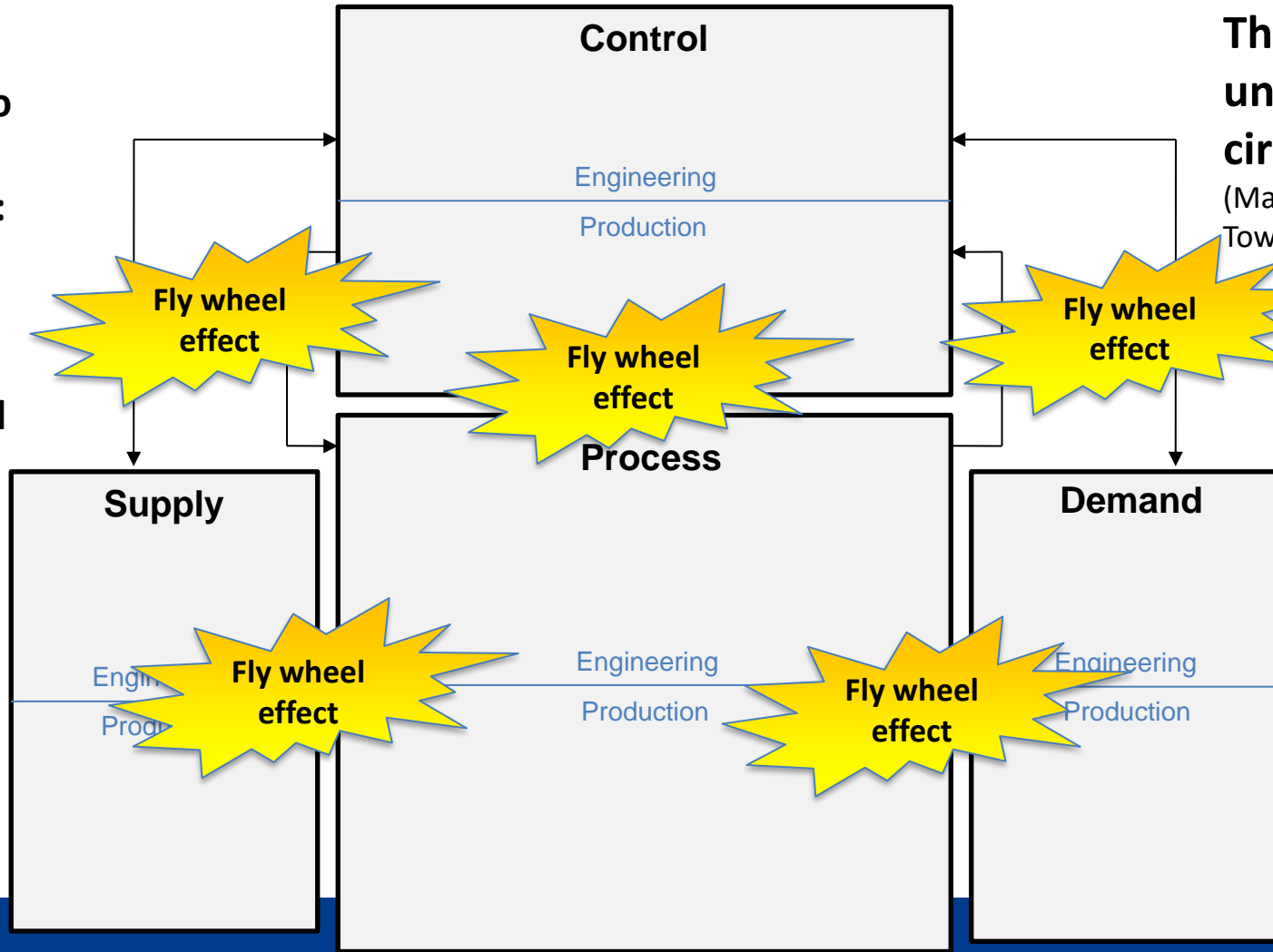
(Canvas et. al. 2019)

*Engineering process flows*



**A stepwise approach to achieve integration:**  
1) Process  
2) Supply  
3) Demand and Control jointly

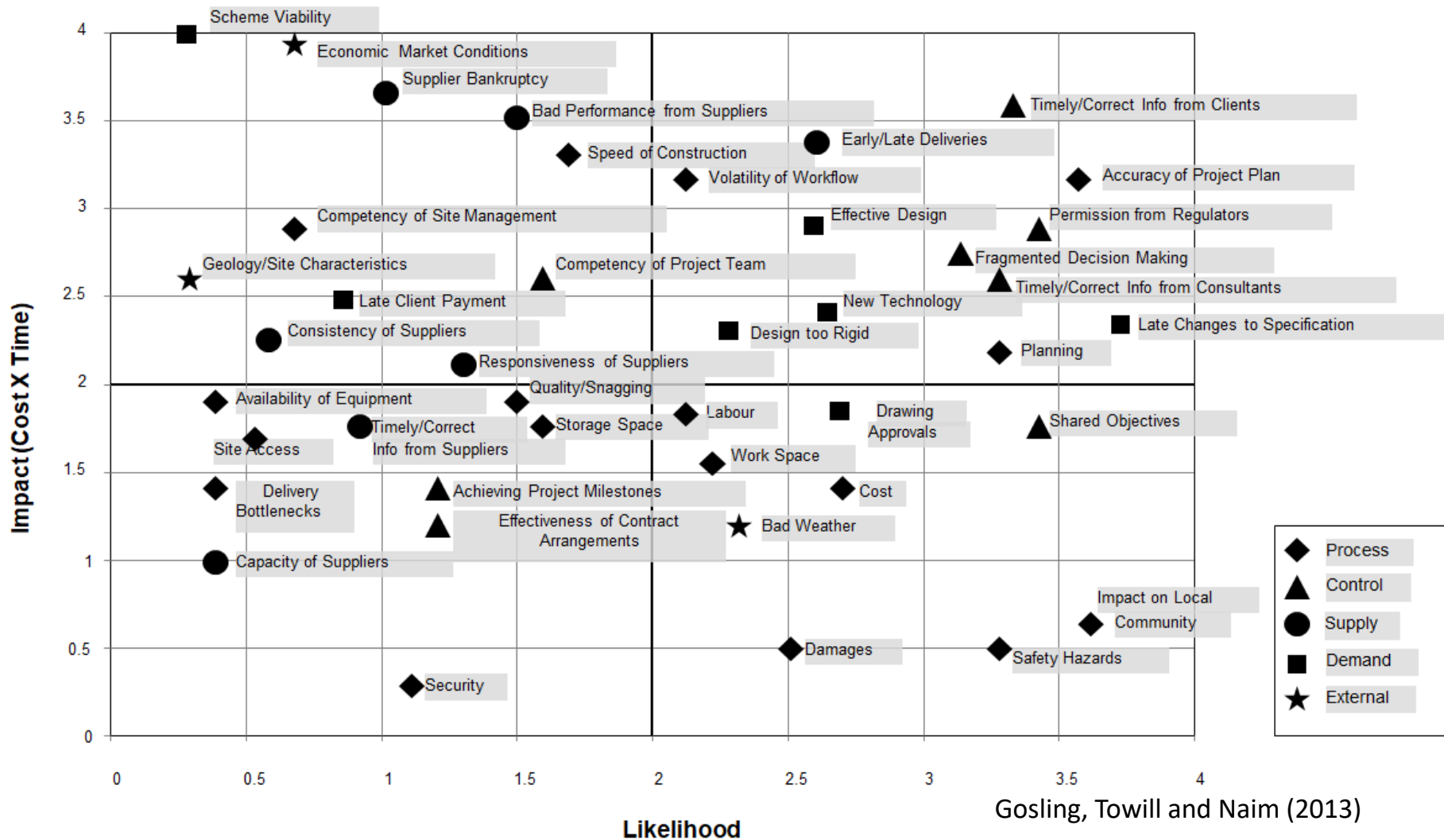
(Mason-Jones and Towill, 1998):



**The uncertainty circle**

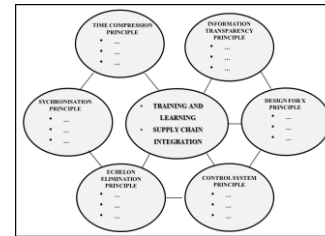
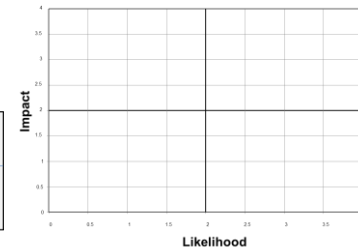
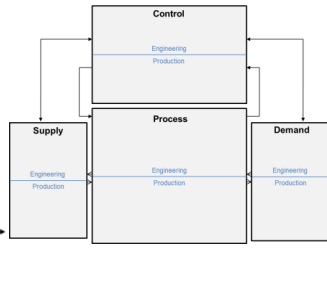
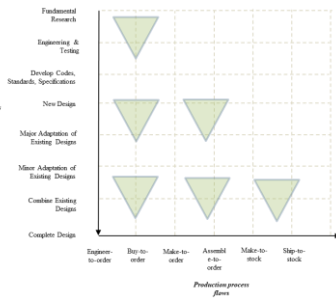
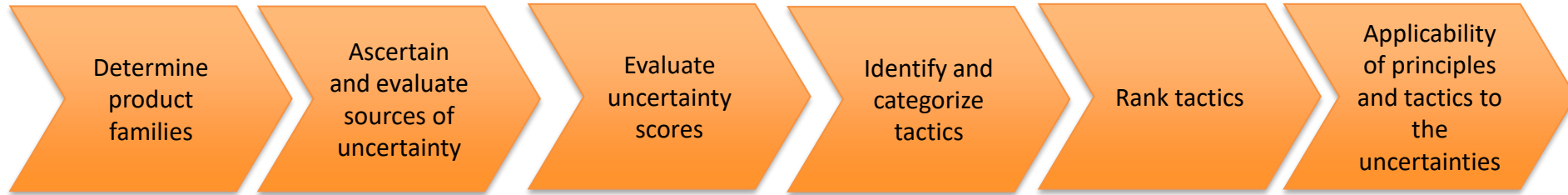
(Mason-Jones and Towill, 1998)

Adapted to ETO



# Methodology - how we identified uncertainty sources, and mapped principles and tactics against the uncertainty sources

Structured workshops with suppliers in the ship building industry



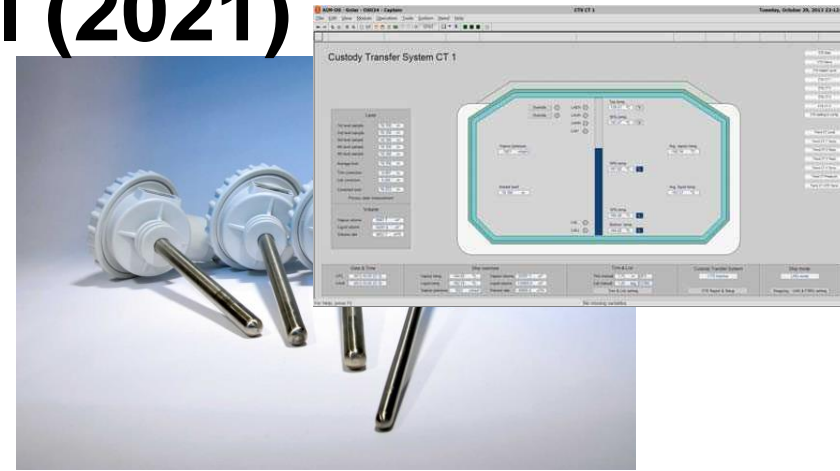
Principle	Time Compression	Information Transparency	Design for X	Control System	Resilient Adaptation	Synchronization
Business Model Innovation						
Product Development						
Supply Chain						
Customer Relationship						
Human Resources						
Information Systems						
Manufacturing						
Logistics						
Finance						
Marketing						
Legal						
Other						



# First study Alfnes et al (2021)



Energy capture and storage



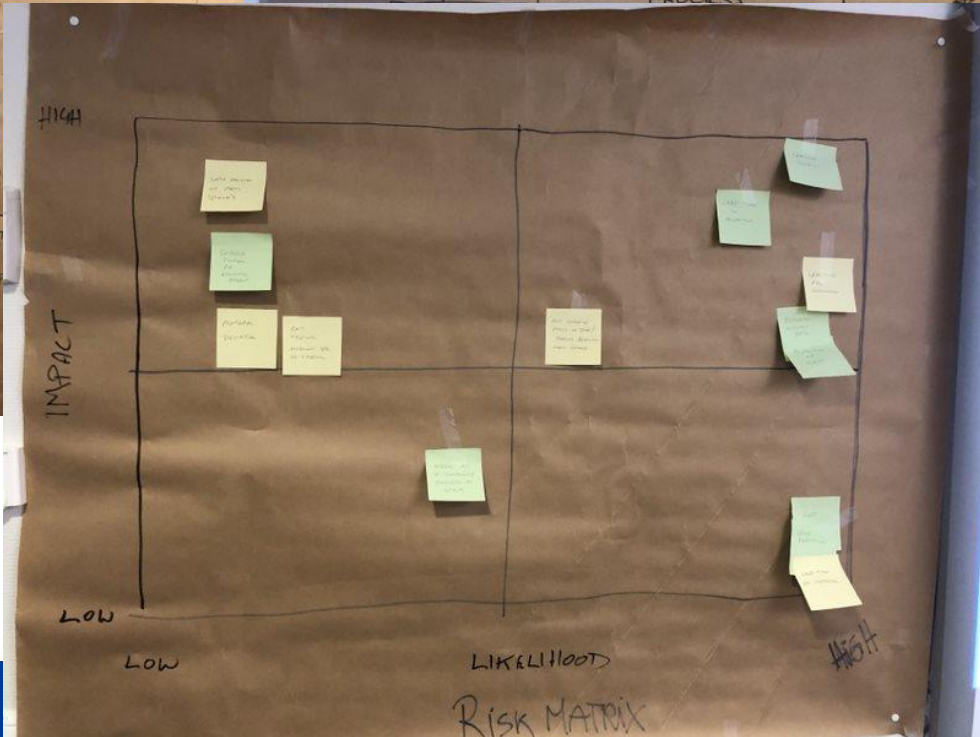
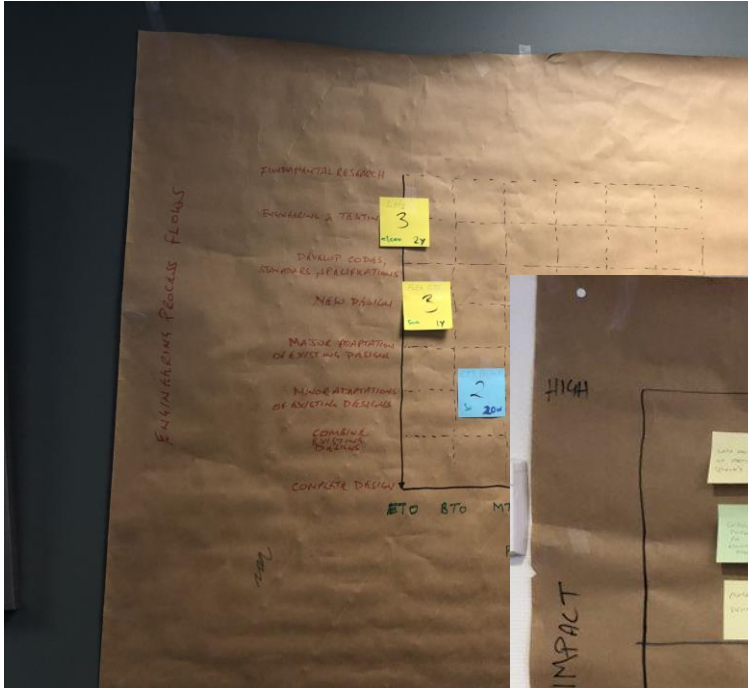
Monitoring and Transfer Systems



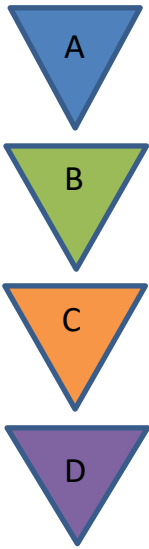
Cylinder and accumulators



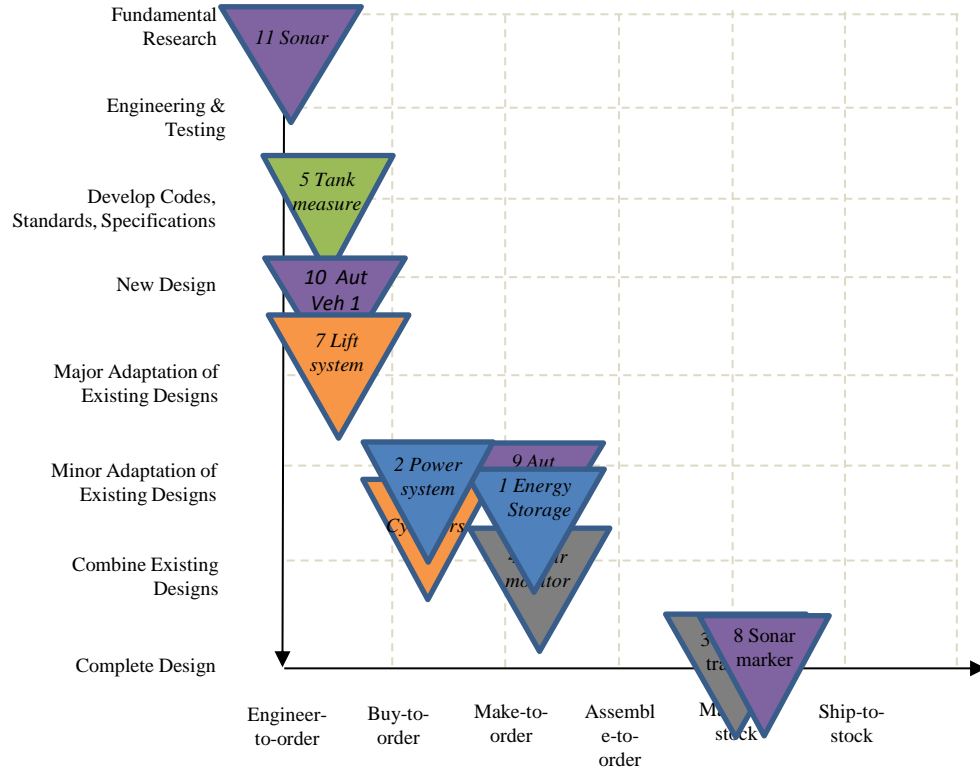
Autonomous unmanned vehicles



*Italics signify those used for follow up activities*



*Engineering process flows*



*Production process flows*

Alfnes et. al 2021:

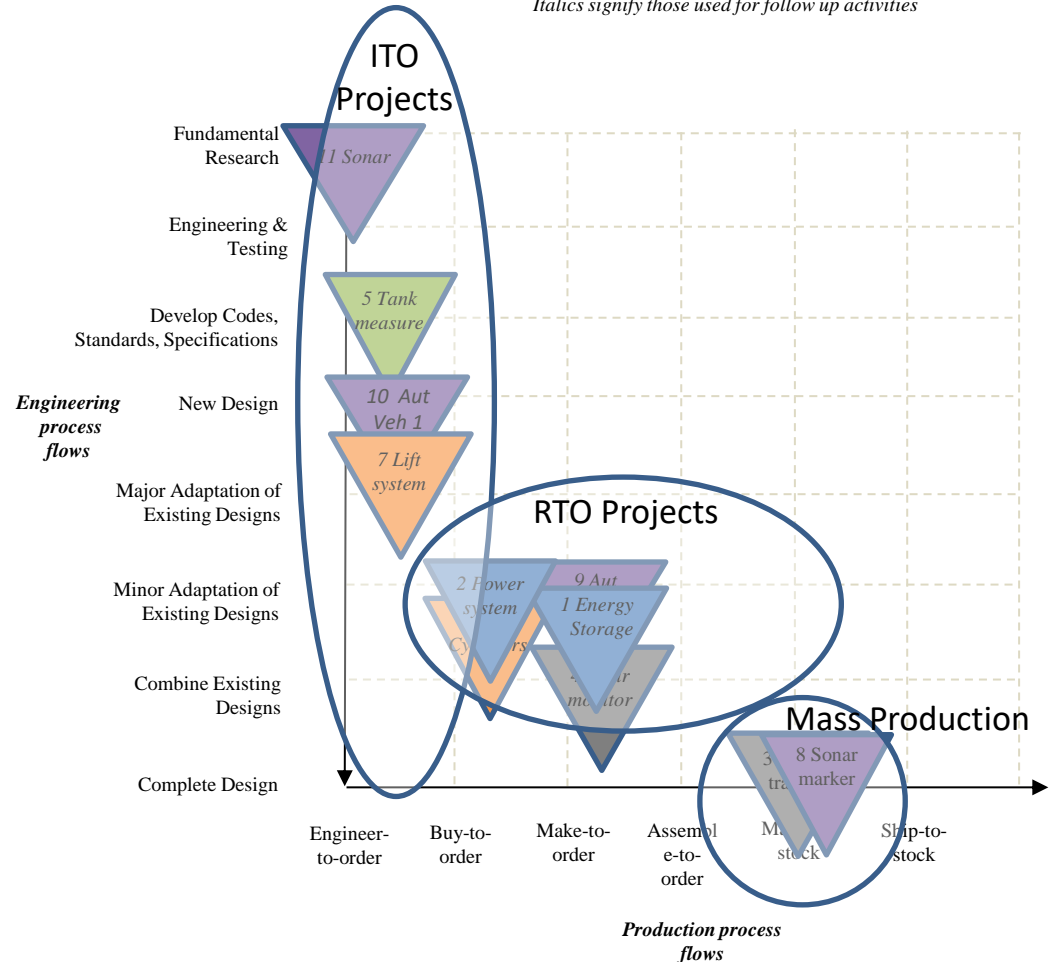
### ITO projects

- Thousands of engineering hours
- performed in close collaboration with R&D personnel and technical specialists.
- to develop unique and premium-priced solutions for the customer.

### RTO projects

- minimum number of engineering hours
- are competing in a price-sensitive market by offering slightly customized designs

*Italics signify those used for follow up activities*

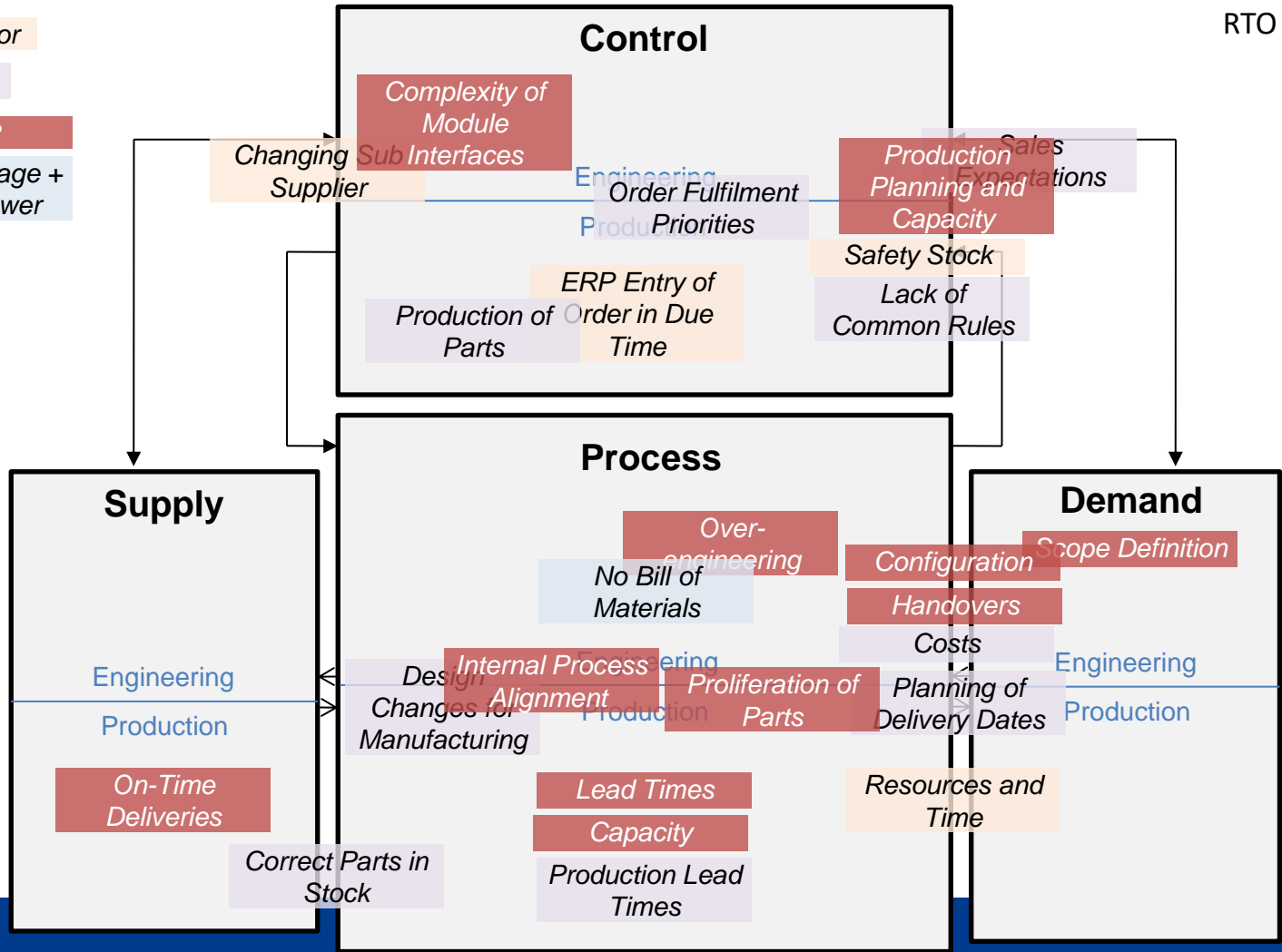


= 4 Wear Monitor

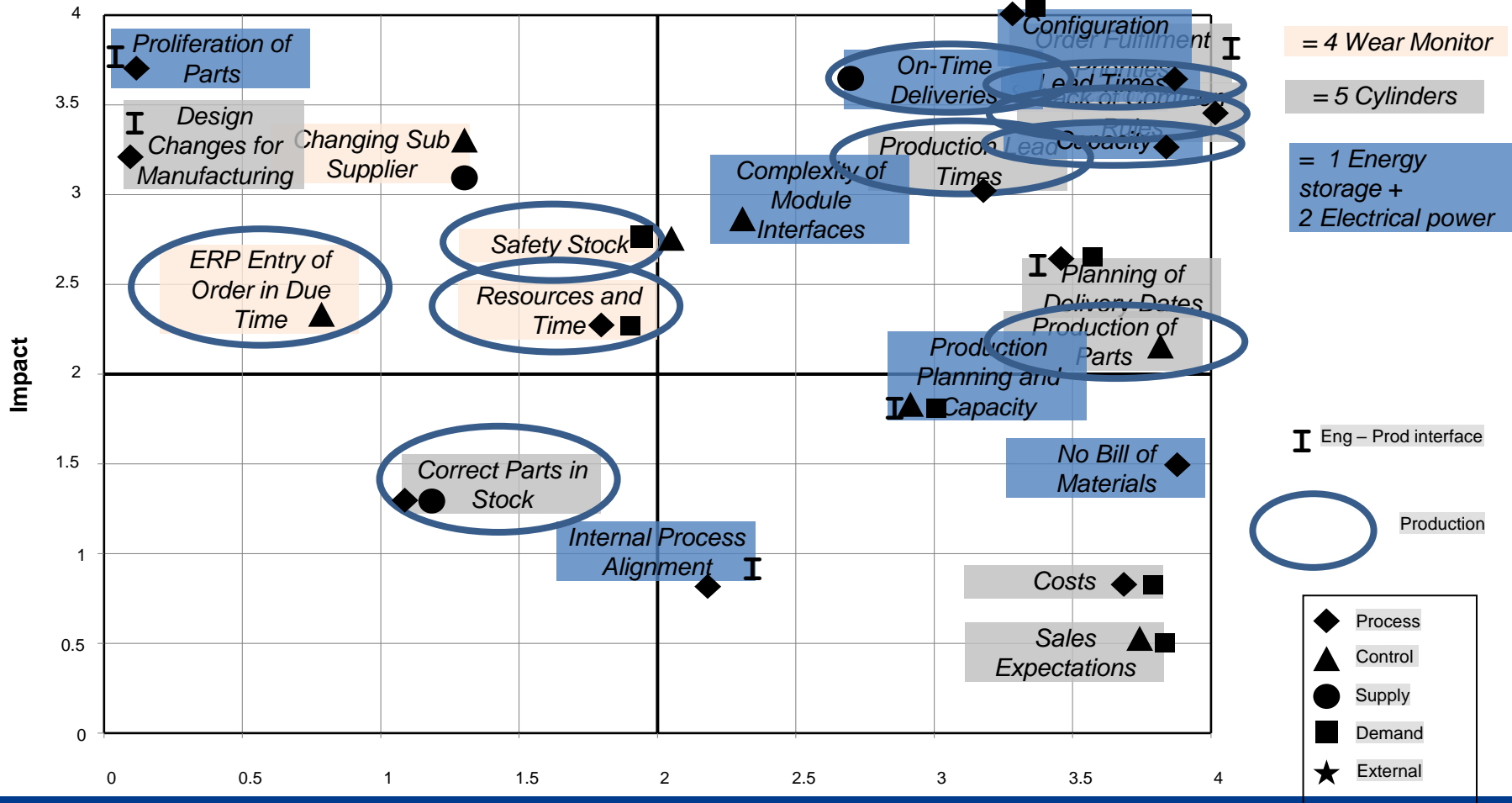
= 6 Cylinders

= 9 Vech 2

= 1 Energy Storage + 2 Electrical power



# Reengineer to order Systems



# Second study Alfnes et al (2023)

- A Ship cranes
- B Power technology
- C Propulsion systems
- D Ship interior
- E Lightning systems
- F Sensor systems
- G Engine systems
- H Hydraulic systems
- I Winch systems
- J Sewage treatment systems



# TOP 5 uncertainties

RTO Uncertainties	Cases									
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
Specification	***	*	**	***	**	***	***	***	***	*
Supplier lead times	**	***	*	*	**	**	***	***	**	***
Cross-functional coordination	***	*	***	**	***	**	**	**	**	*
Production capacity	-	***	**	-	***	-	-	*	*	***
Configuration	**	-	-	-	**	-	*	*	*	*

\*\*\*Highly important \*\* Important \* Less important - Not important.

ITO uncertainty sources	Cases									
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
Specification	***	***	*	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Relationship management	***	**	***	***	**	**	**	**	***	***
Engineering lead times	*	***	***	**	*	*	***	***	***	***
Supplier lead times	**	*	*	**	*	*	*	**	*	**
Product structure	**	*	**	-	*	-	*	*	*	*

\*\*\*Highly important \*\* Important \* Less important - Not important.

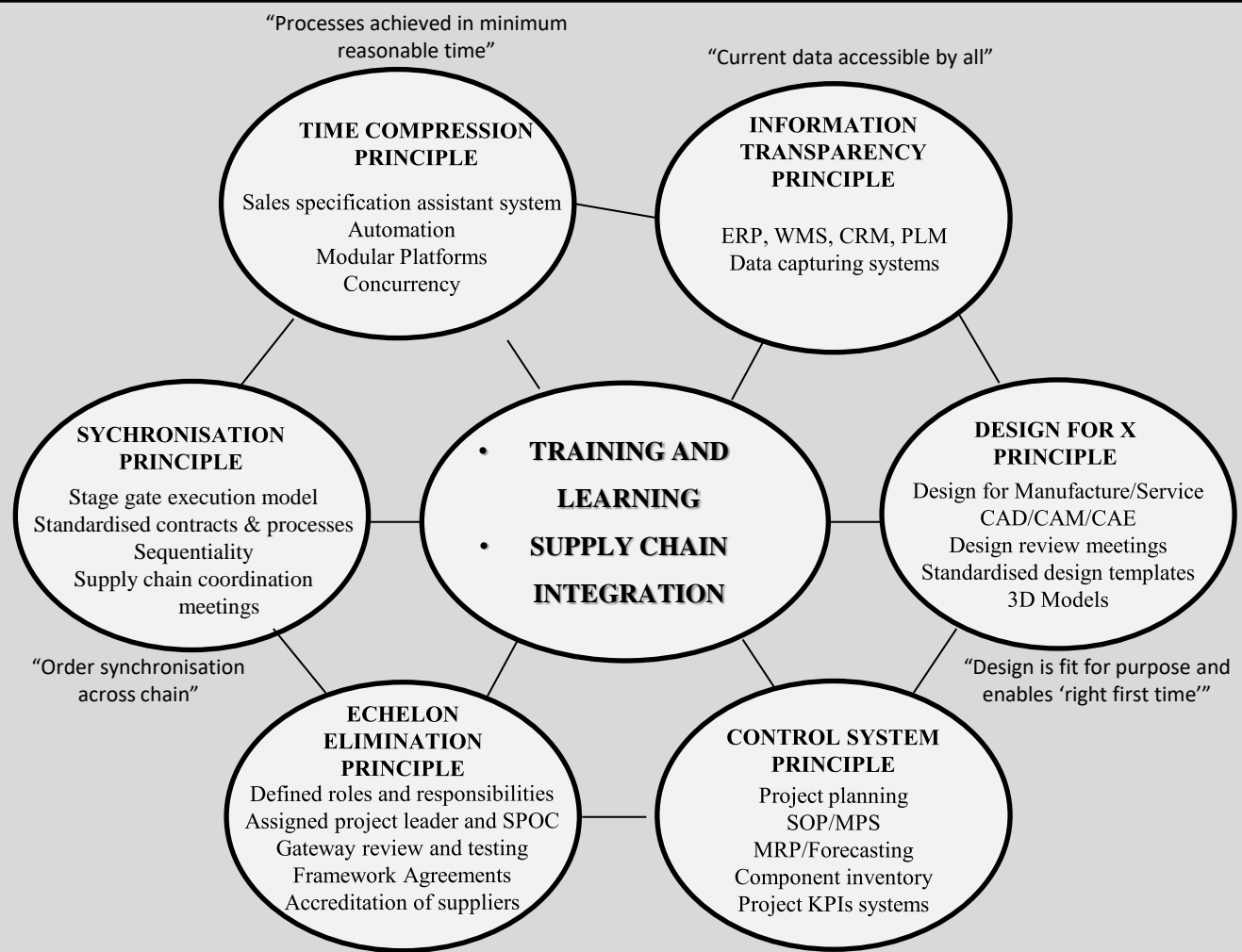
## Specification is the most important uncertainty source:

**RTO:** A major concern being that unclear customer requirements and technical complexity make it challenging to decide the right price on the design adjustments requested by the customer for these mature products

**ITO:** The high level of innovation, customisation and complexity makes it difficult to capture customer requirements and understand technological challenges at an early stage



**FORRIDGE**  
 principles and  
 the identified  
 tactics for ship  
 building RTO  
 supply chains



Principles	RTO tactics	Uncertainty type				
		Specifica tion	Cross func. Coordina tion	Supplier lead times	Productio n capacity	Configur ation
P1 Time compression	Product specification assistant system	■				■
	Automation				■	■
	Modular platforms	■				■
	Component inventory			■	■	
	Subcontracting				■	
P2 Control system	Sales & operations planning		■	■	■	
	Material requirement planning		■			
	KPI systems		■			
P3 Synchroni sation	Stage gate execution model		■			
	Standard contracts and procedures	■	■			
	Supply chain coordination meetings		■		■	
P4 Information transparenc y	Enterprise resource planning systems		■	■	■	■
	Product lifecycle management systems	■	■			
	Forecasting		■		■	
	Project planning system		■		■	
P5 Echelon elimination	Defined roles and responsibilities in projects		■			
	Handover review and testing	■	■			
	Framework agreements		■	■		
	Accreditation of suppliers		■			
P6 Design for X	Design for manufacturing/service	■	■	■	■	
	CAD/CAM		■			
	Product templates	■	■			■

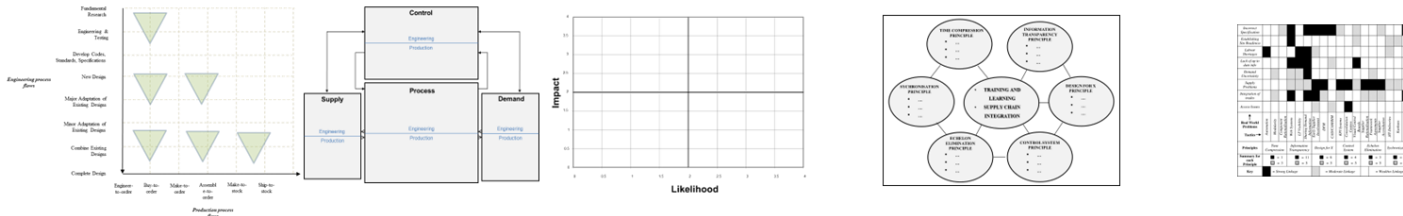
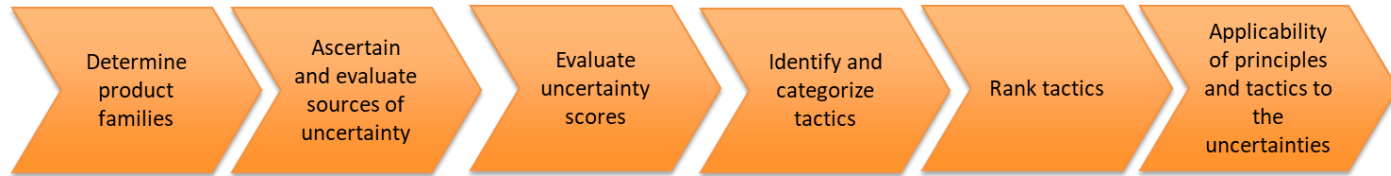
## Map principles and tactics against uncertainty sources

Principles	ITO tactics	Uncertainty type				
		Specifica tion	Supply chain relation manage ment	Engineeri ng lead time	Supplier lead times	Product structur es
P1 Time compression	Pre-design analysis	■	■	■		■
	Agile methods					
P2 Control system	Centralised cross-disciplinary project team		■	■	■	
P3 Synchroni sation	Risk-sharing contracts	■	■		■	
P4 Information transparenc y	Design integration events	■		■		
	Knowledge transfer between projects	■	■	■		
P5 Echelon elimination	Cross-disciplinary innovation events	■	■	■	■	
P6 Design for X	Early customer and supplier involvement					■
	Prototyping		■	■		■
	Computer-aided modelling and simulation					■

FORRIDGE	Construction Suppliers Tactics (Gosling et. al. 2015)	Ship building Suppliers – RTO Tactics	Ship building Suppliers – additional tactics for ITO
P1 Time compression	Automation Modular Platforms Component Rationalisation	Automation Modular Platforms Product specification assistant system Component inventory Subcontracting	Predesign analysis Agile methods
P2 Control system	KPI system Consolidation Centre Visual Control Boards	KPIs systems Sales & Operations Planning Material Requirement Planning	Centralised interdisciplinary project team
P3 Synchronisation	JIT deliveries Kanbans Standard procedures	Stage gate execution model Supply chain coordination meetings Standardised contracts and processes	Risk sharing contracts
P4 Information transparency	Web based project planning Lead time visibility Sharing demand Information	Project planning system ERP systems Product Lifecycle Management systems Forecasting	Design integration events Knowledge transfer between projects
P5 Echelon elimination	Supplier Rationalization Framework Agreements Accreditation of suppliers	Defined project roles and responsibilities Handover review and testing Framework Agreements Accreditation of suppliers	Cross disciplinary innovation events
P6 Design for X	Early supplier involvement Design for Manufacture/Assembly CAD/CAM/BIM	Design for Manufacturing/Service CAD/CAM Product templates	Early customer and supplier involvement Prototyping Computer-aided engineering modelling and simulation

# Conclusions

- The FORRIDGE principles provide a “system based” and slightly alternative perspective to flow efficiency (did not come from Toyota, and include no Japanese words.....)
- The principles remains the same, but the tactics vary between industry sectors
- The methodology provide the means to arrange a set of structured workshops to:
  - identify product families,
  - map uncertainty sources for each family,
  - and to define the principles and tactics to improve the flow for each family



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