



**IMA CASE
COMPETITION**



Become a Towering Tree

— — **Cost Reduction & Efficiency Improvement**
Long-term Development

Team : Sailing

Number : HN20221886



CleanTech Co.



01

Overview

02

Center Strategies

03

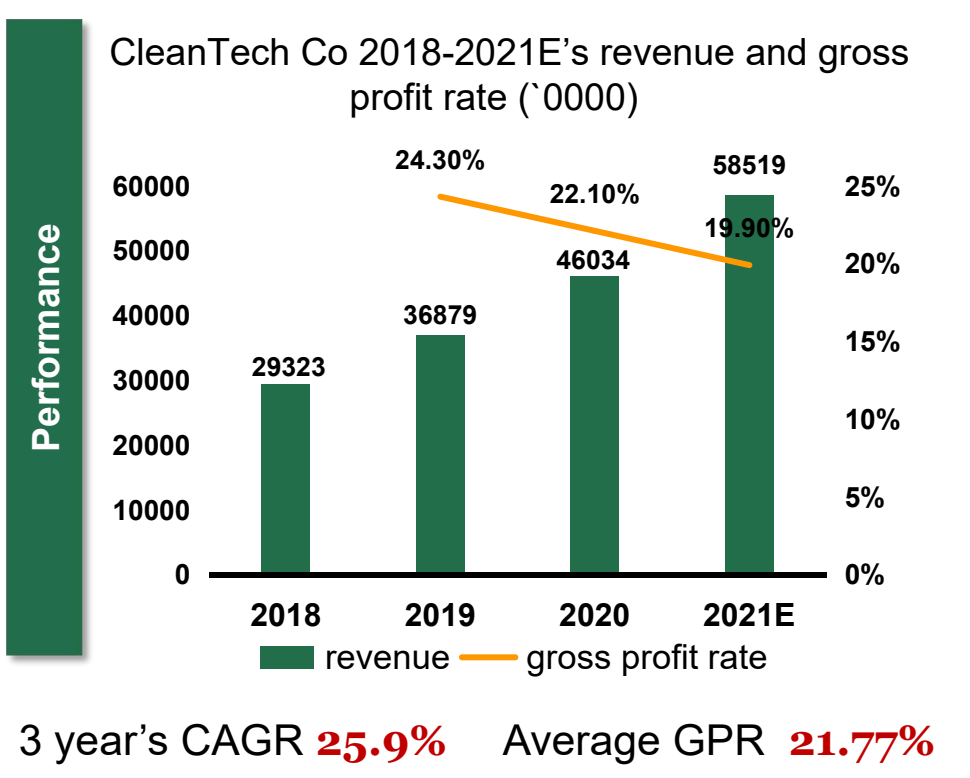
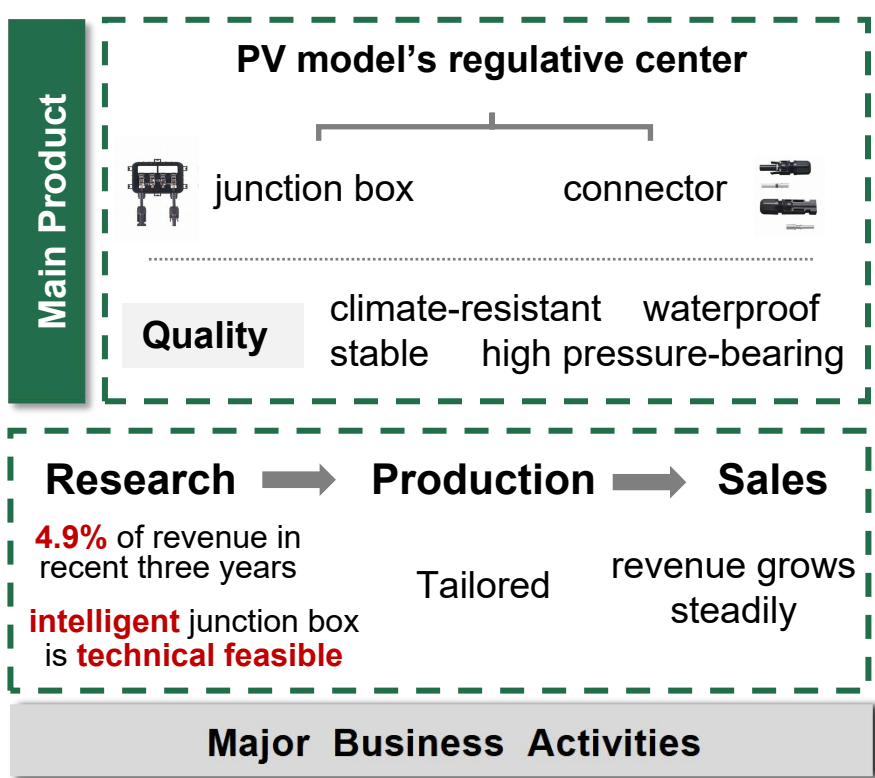
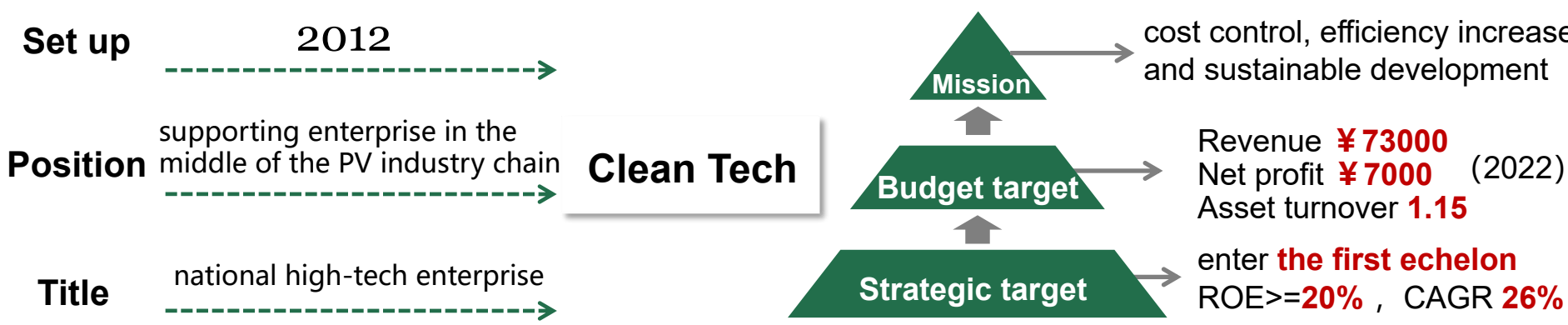
Budget Management for
Tech Center

- Distinguish R&D's two stages
- Analysis of ¥ 5m
- Suggestions for budgets



01

Overview





02

Center Strategies



Introduction

Realistic dilemma

- **Sea freight** increase
- **Time** of sea shipping extend
- Cost of **temporary employment** increase
- **Subsidies** in the photovoltaic industry **decline**



Cost
Income



Raw material(80% of total cost) 5% total cost 4%
Sale price 2%



Profit margin 2%

To achieve budget target



Revenue **¥ 73000**
Net profit **¥ 7000**



**Control cost &
Increase efficiency**

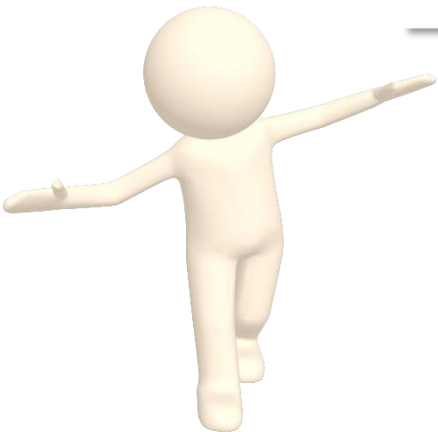
To achieve strategic objective



Enter **the first echelon**



**Insist on long-term
development**





Production Center: Measures Taken to Reduce Costs and Improve Efficiency that Can Work in a Relative Shorter Time

Strengthen the Maintainance of Equipment

- Try best to achieve **zero failure**



- ✓ Form the **appropriate notion** — zero failure can be achieved
- ✓ Production personnel **cooperate with** maintainance personnel



The equipment **never has** problems



In the process of management of equipment, you can **decide when to overhaul** to ensure that the equipment maintainance will **not interrupt** the production process

- Reduce the **downtime**

- ✓ Arrange the maintainance time in **non-production time**

- Implement total production maintainance(**TPM**)

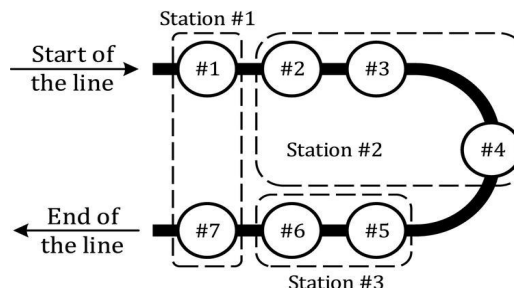
- ✓ Let production personnel participate in the **maintainance work**

Improve the space utilization rate of factory

- Place equipment **compactly**

- ✓ **eliminate** conveyor belt production line
- ✓ **integrate** the separated workstations into the mian production production line
- ✓ **reduce** handling distance

- Build a **U-shaped** production line

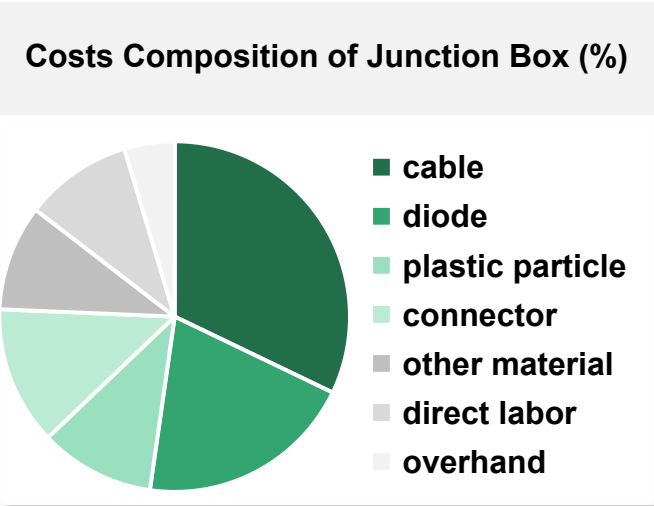
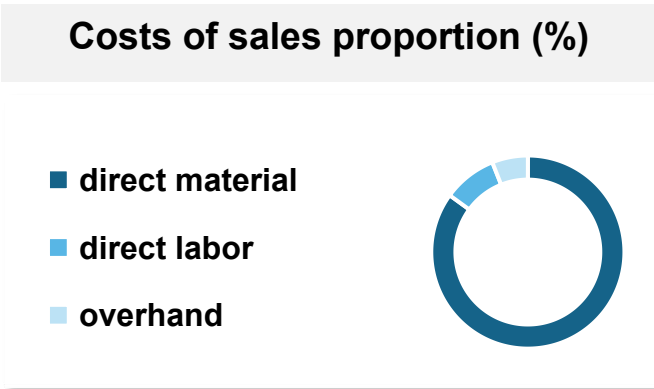


save **half** of space needed

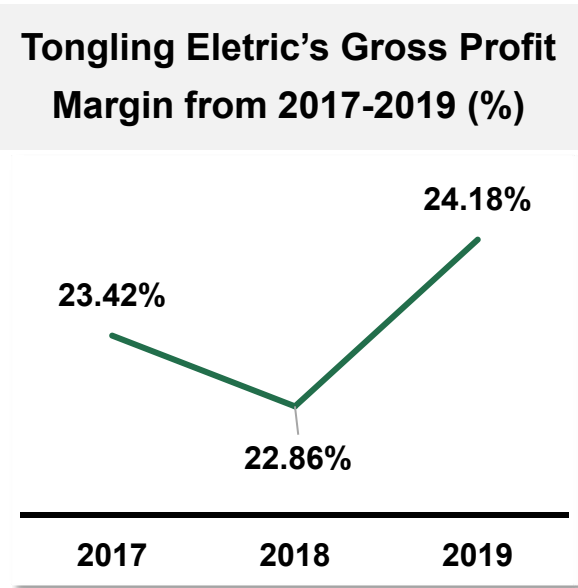


venue rent





The main costs of a junction box are from cables, consisting **30%-40%**



Tongling Ltd actively **expanded upstream** from 2017, purchasing raw materials like tinned skeins to **produce cables**, important part of junction boxes

+

Tongling Ltd achieved **more than 70%** cables produced by self-owned production line until June 2021

home-made vs outsourced → **GPM** ↑ **3%**

Upward Integration

Produce Raw Material by CleanTech Co

On top of *cables*, CleanTech Co can purse to produce *junction box body, junction box cover, conductive metal items* and so on by itself

✓

improve **vertical integration** of product production

✓

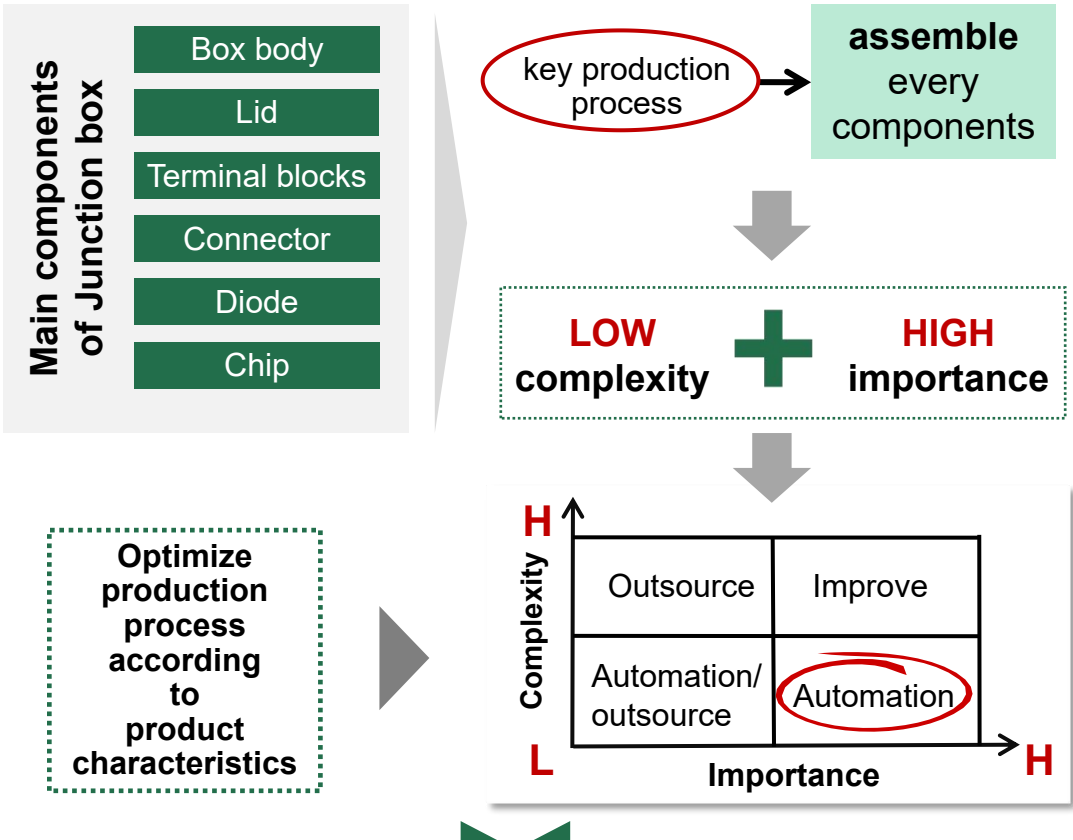
strengthen the **control of costs**

✓

increase the **GPM** of products



Production Center (Continue efforts in future): Promote the Automatic Transformation of Production Line

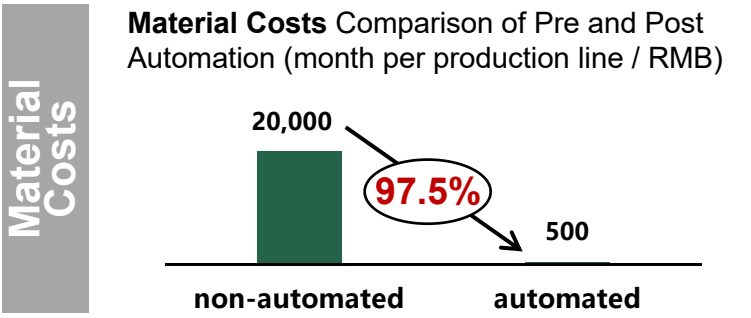
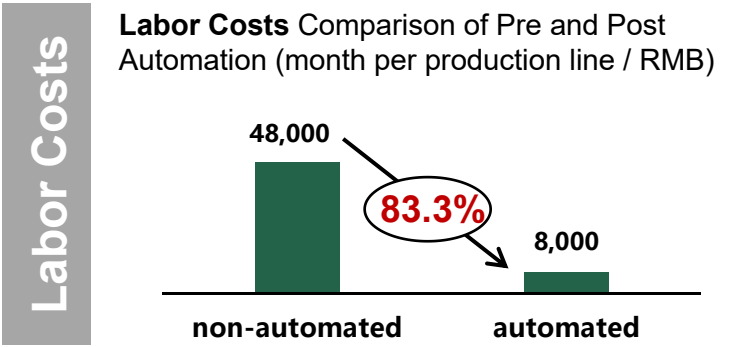
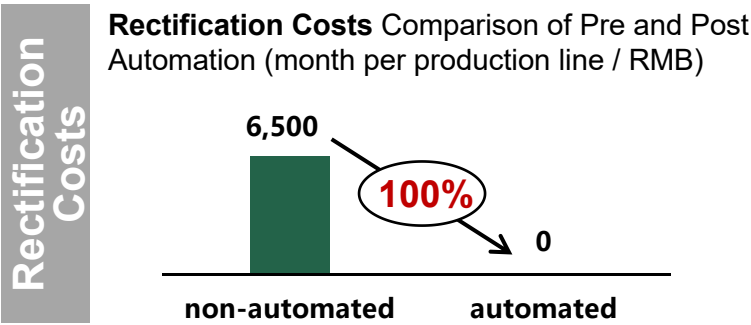


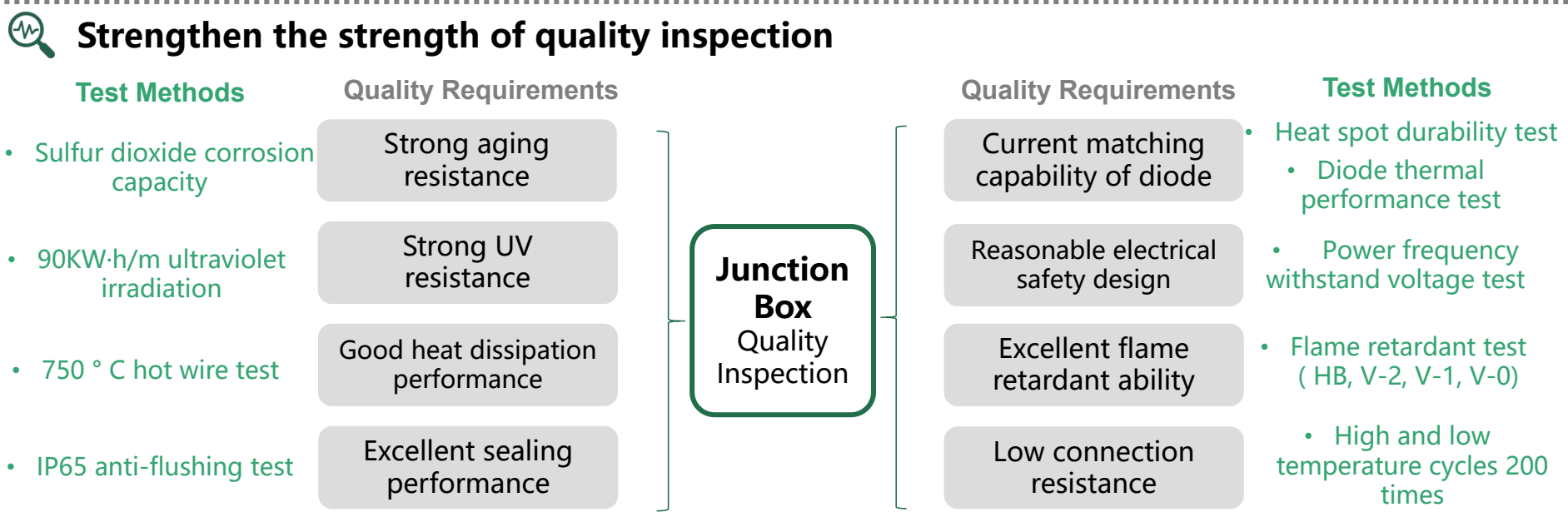
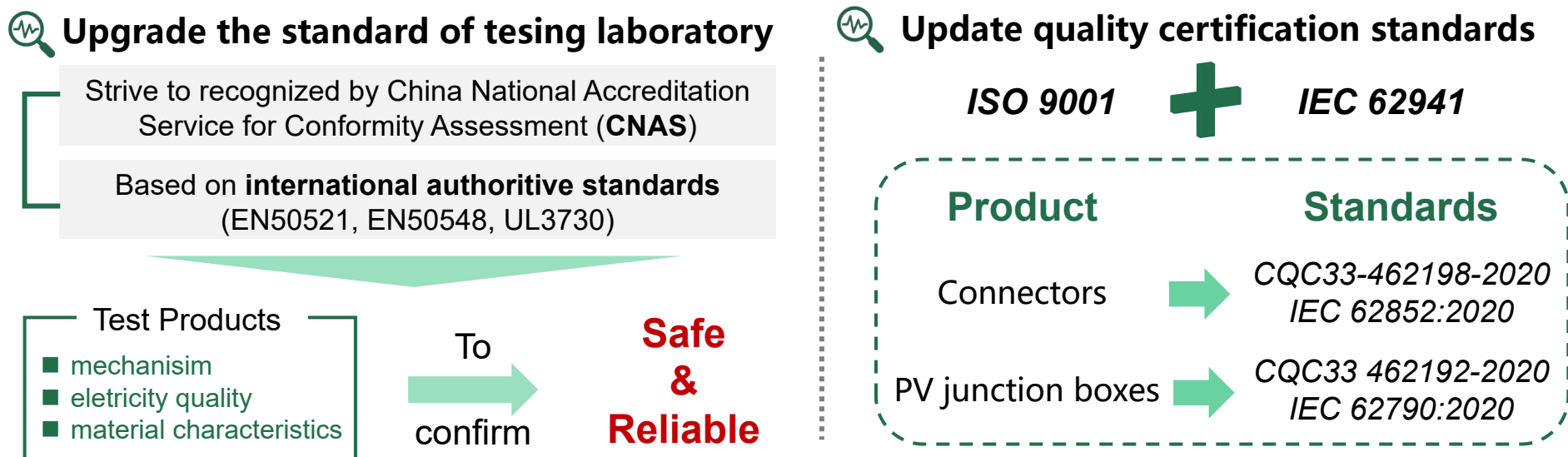
Automated assembly line



- ✓ reduce the number of labors needed for **assembly** link and **welding** link
- ✓ improve the **quality** of key assembly procedures

Predictive Benefits Analysis





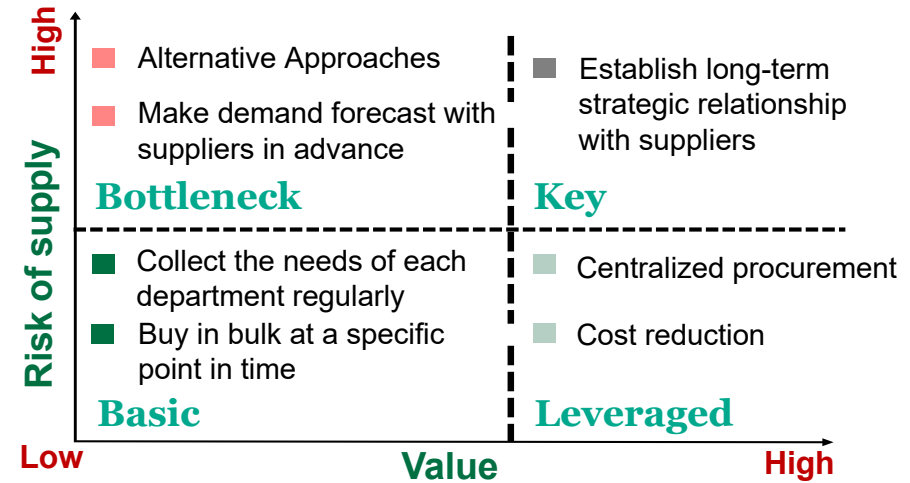


Supply Chain Center: Procurement Process Control + Suppliers management

(Be Effective in a Relative Shorter Time)

Procurement Control

◆ Customize different procurement strategies



◆ Strengthen cost control and supply continuity

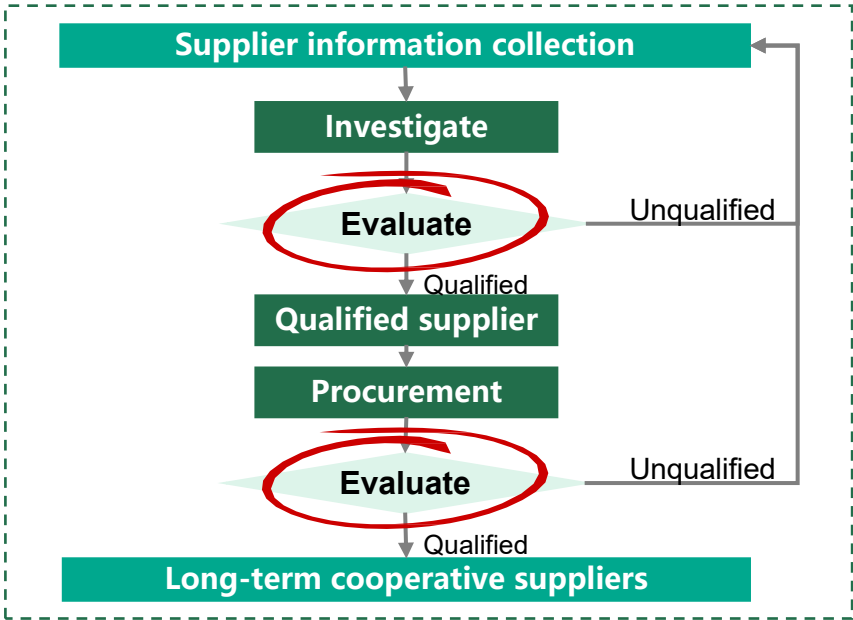
- Purchasing volumes:**
 - Producing according to sales
- Purchasing Unit Price:**
 - Lock cost by confirming with suppliers in advance
 - Reduce fluctuation by using derivatives, like future
- Supply continuity**
 - Strengthen purchasing plan and stocking strategy

◆ Performance Management

| Item | Sub-item | Weight | Score |
|-------|-----------------|--------|-------|
| Staff | Punctuality | 0.4 | 25 |
| | Accuracy | 0.4 | 25 |
| | Cost | 0.1 | 25 |
| | Professionalism | 0.1 | 25 |

Suppliers management

◆ Optimize supplier management process



◆ Expand the range of supplier choices



✓ Exhibition



✓ Existing stakeholders



✓ open tendering

◆ Performance Management

| Item | Sub-item | Weight | Score |
|----------|-------------|--------|-------|
| Supplier | Punctuality | 0.4 | 25 |
| | Quality | 0.4 | 25 |
| | Technology | 0.1 | 25 |
| | Service | 0.1 | 25 |



Supply Chain Center(Continue efforts in future):Internal and external information sharing + Information integration and analysis

Internal and external information sharing



• Optimize the Intranet

- **Measure:** Share material demand and inventory warning
- **Benefit:** Reduce inventory surplus and improve product competitiveness

• Establish efficient extranet

- **Measure:** Share orders with 3PL and customers
- **Benefit:** Reduce transaction costs between firms

Information integration and analysis

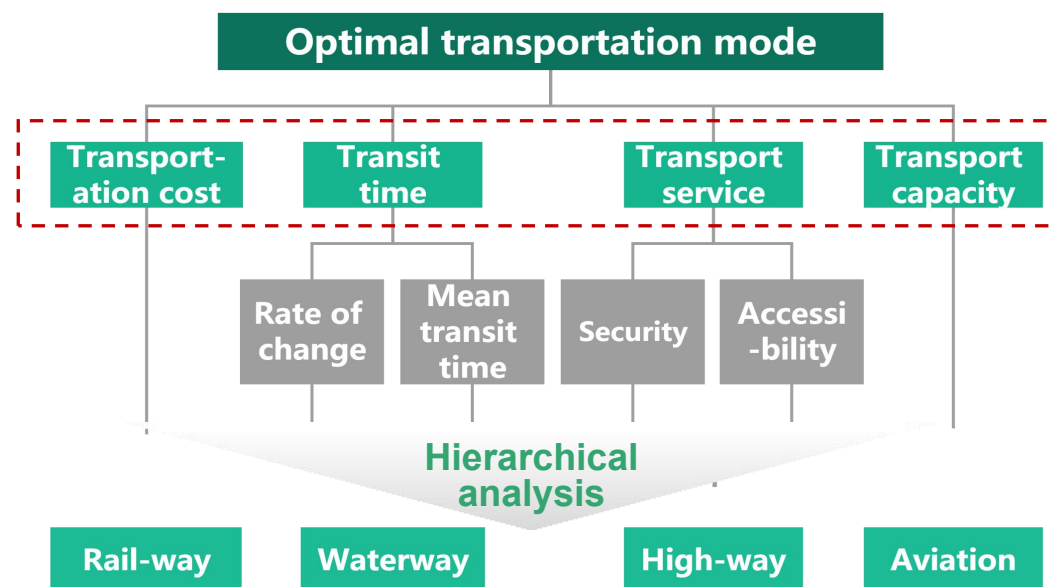
➤ Visualization of storage



➤ Build an Automated Warehouse

- ✓ Number of workers **79%**
- ✓ Land area **87%**

➤ Choose a reasonable mode of transportation





Market Center: Optimize Management of Domestic Market + Strengthen Management of Current Customers

📍 Optimize mgt of domestic market



- Divide domestic market into **six parts**
- Learn local specified **weather conditions**
- Adjust junction box to make it **more suitable** for every region

(E.g. strengthen climate-resistance, sun-proof, water-proof)



Improve degree of **satisfaction**

🏢 Strengthen mgt of current customers

Satisfy **differentiated** demand

- Communicate with main customers regularly
- Satisfy **the PV module manufacturers'** differentiated demand resulted from the fierce competition
- Increase customers' loyalty

Strengthen mgt of **trade receivables**

Considerations of customers' **credit rating**

financial conditions

% of sales revenue

Customers

historical trading
duration

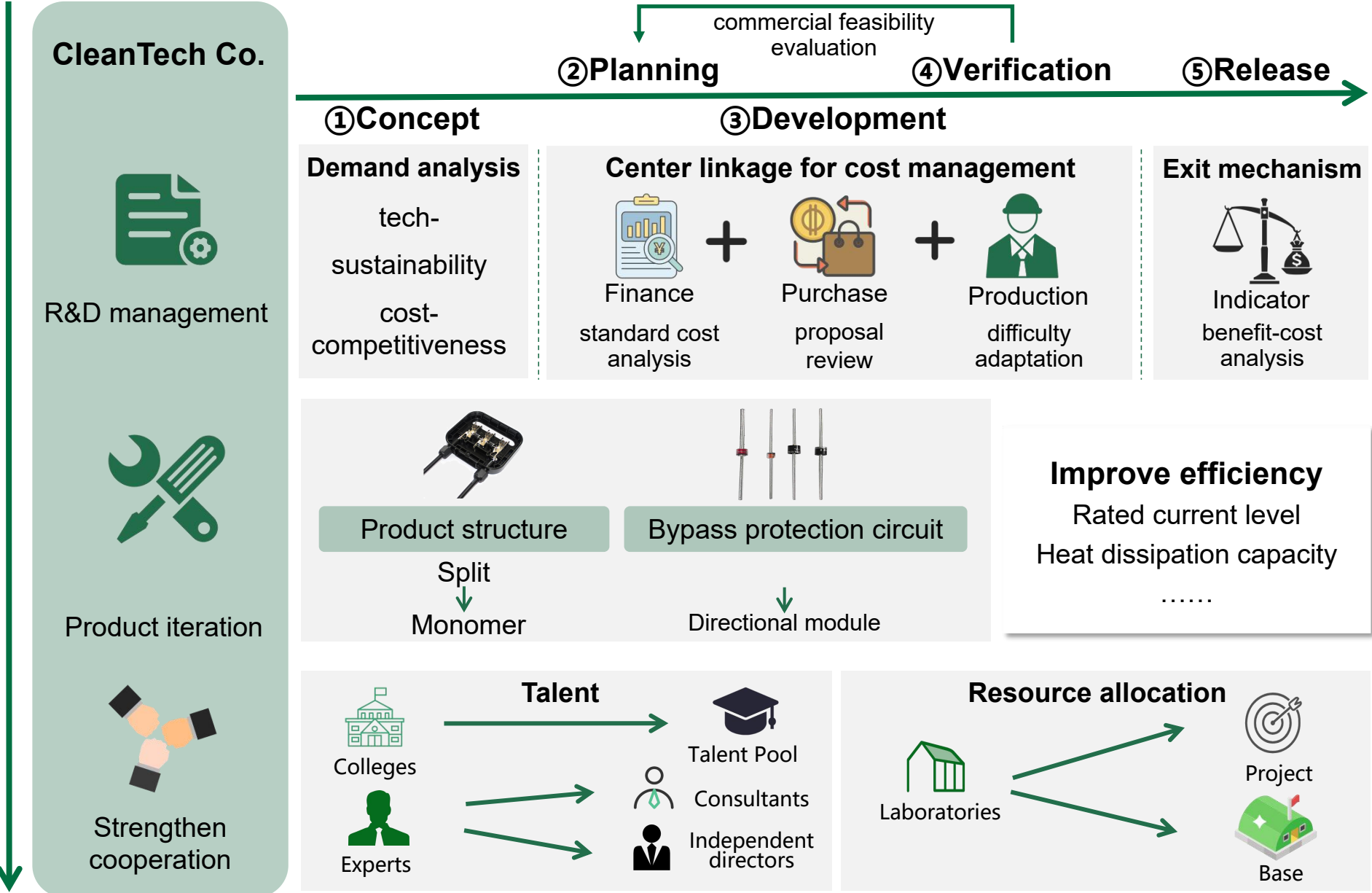
payment habits

Arrange sepecified person to **collect TR**

- ✓ classify customers according to **credit rating**
- ✓ require payment to be made within **1-4 months (PV industry's convention)**
- ✓ chase **overdue** receivables timely
- ✓ **update** credit rating regularly

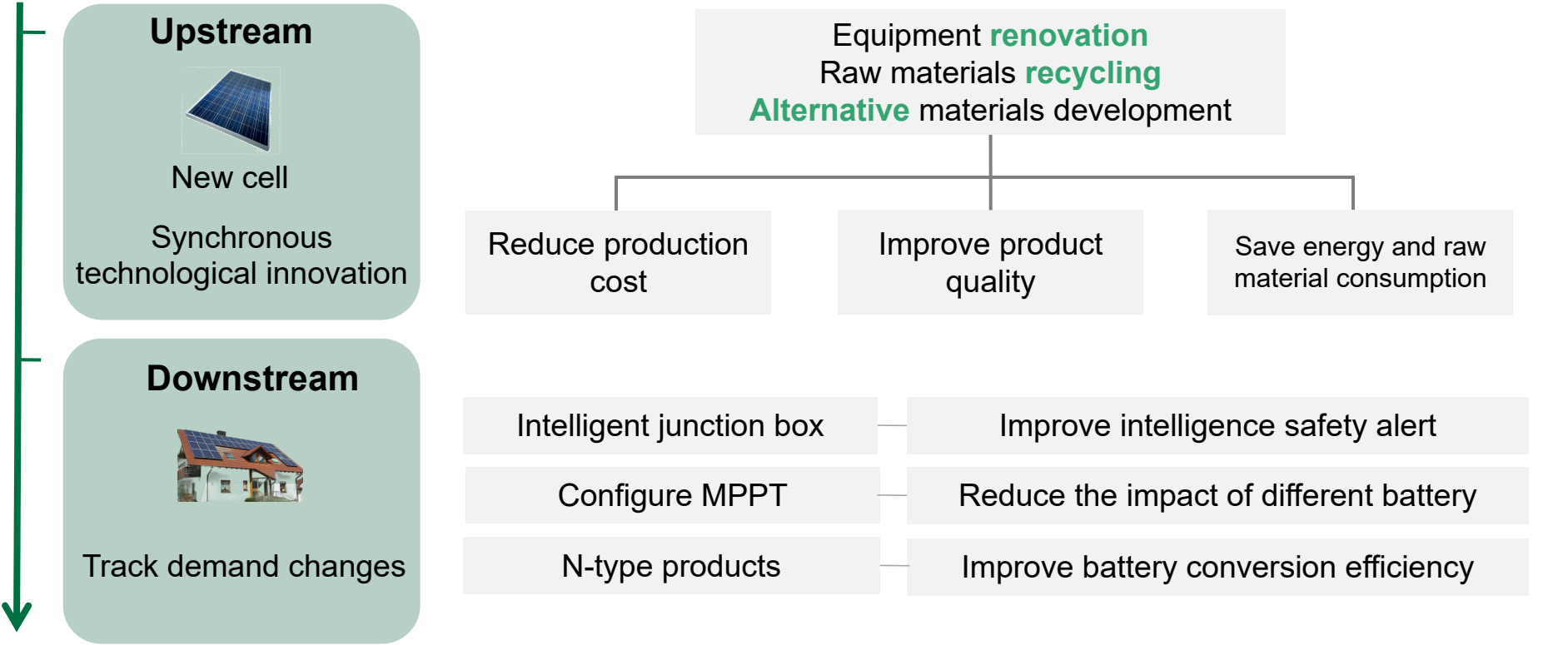


Technique Center: Development Process Standardization to Reduce Costs + Strengthen External Cooperation





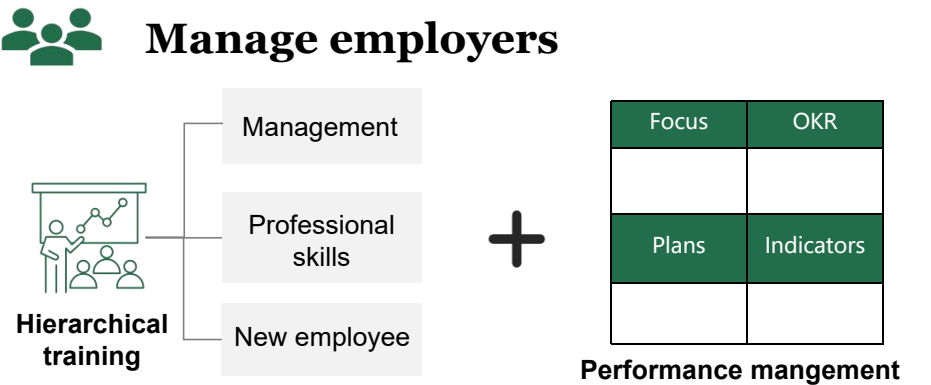
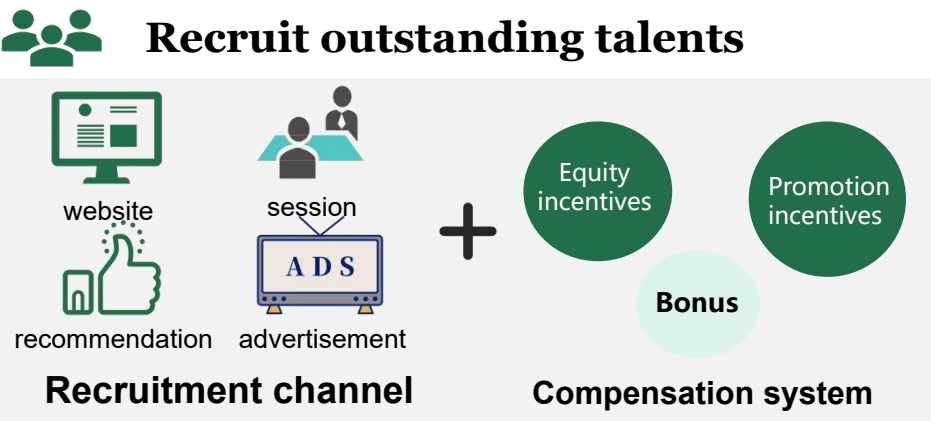
Technique Center: Industry Convergence to Improve the Efficiency of PV Conversion



| Measures | Aging of effect | Effect |
|------------------------|-----------------|--|
| R&D management | Short-term | Avoid high cost loss ; Shorten development cycle Reduce product changes after production |
| Strengthen cooperation | Long-term | Form complementary advantages on talents and equipment |
| Industry Convergence | Long-term | Improve product performance Improve customer loyalty |

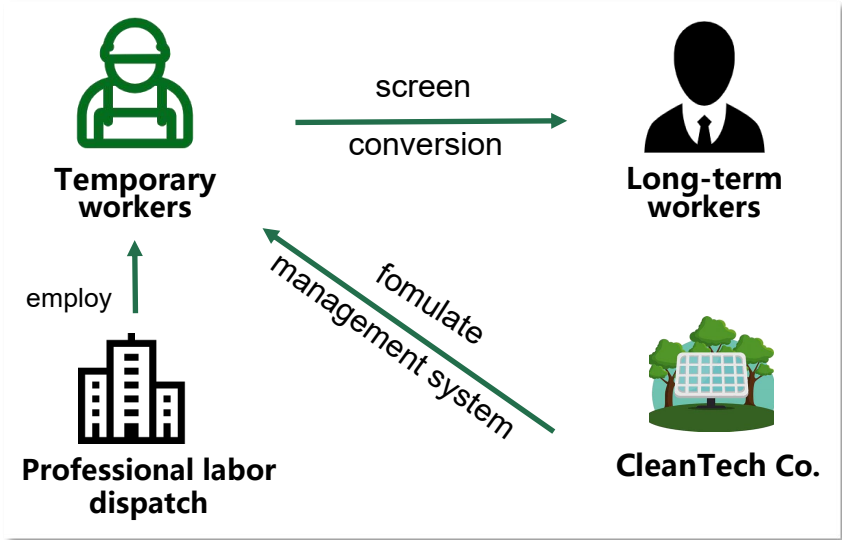


Personnel Administration Center: Improve the Personnel Management System



Reduce the risk of temporary employment

Employers need to **choose formal institutions, cooperative employment, signed formal contracts**, to ensure the quality of work.



Summary—Implications

- ✓ **Reduce** temporary labor costs
- ✓ **Reduce** turnover rate
- ✓ **Improve** production efficiency
- ✓ **Enhance** sense of belonging



Financial Center: Operating, Investing and Financing Measures in Short-term

Operating Reasonable tax planning

Set-up stage

- ✓ Transfer part of the business to **low-tax areas**

Procurement stage

- ✓ **Take advantage of time difference** between purchasing and receiving raw materials
- ✓ A reasonable **delay in payment**

Sales stage


- ✓ Prepaid or outsourced **freight**
- ✓ Split up to enjoy **small-scale tax benefits**

Internal accounting stage

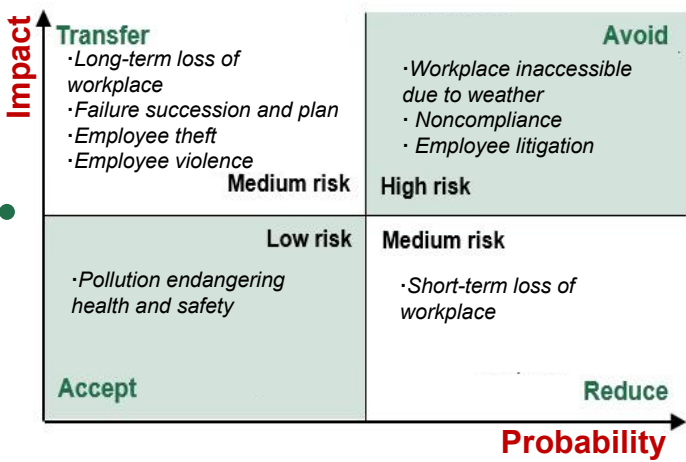
- ✓ Select an appropriate method of **issuing inventory**
- ✓ **Accelerate depreciation** to reduce current income

Investing Investing project control

Project management

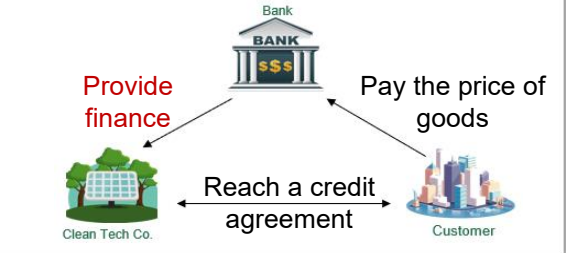
- (1) **Pre-invest information collect**
<Pre-invest Background Investigate>
 - (2) **Project evaluation**
Visualize evaluation results
- 
- (3) **Project implementation**
<Project Settlement Sheet>

Risk control

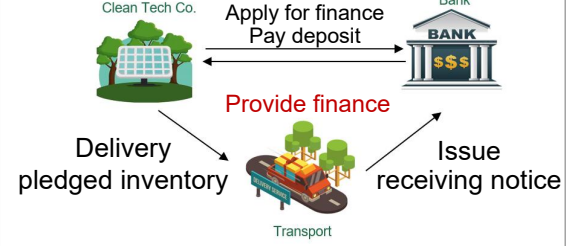


Financing Supply chain finance

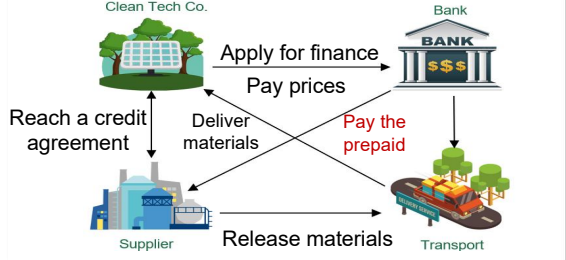
Account receivables finance



Inventory finance

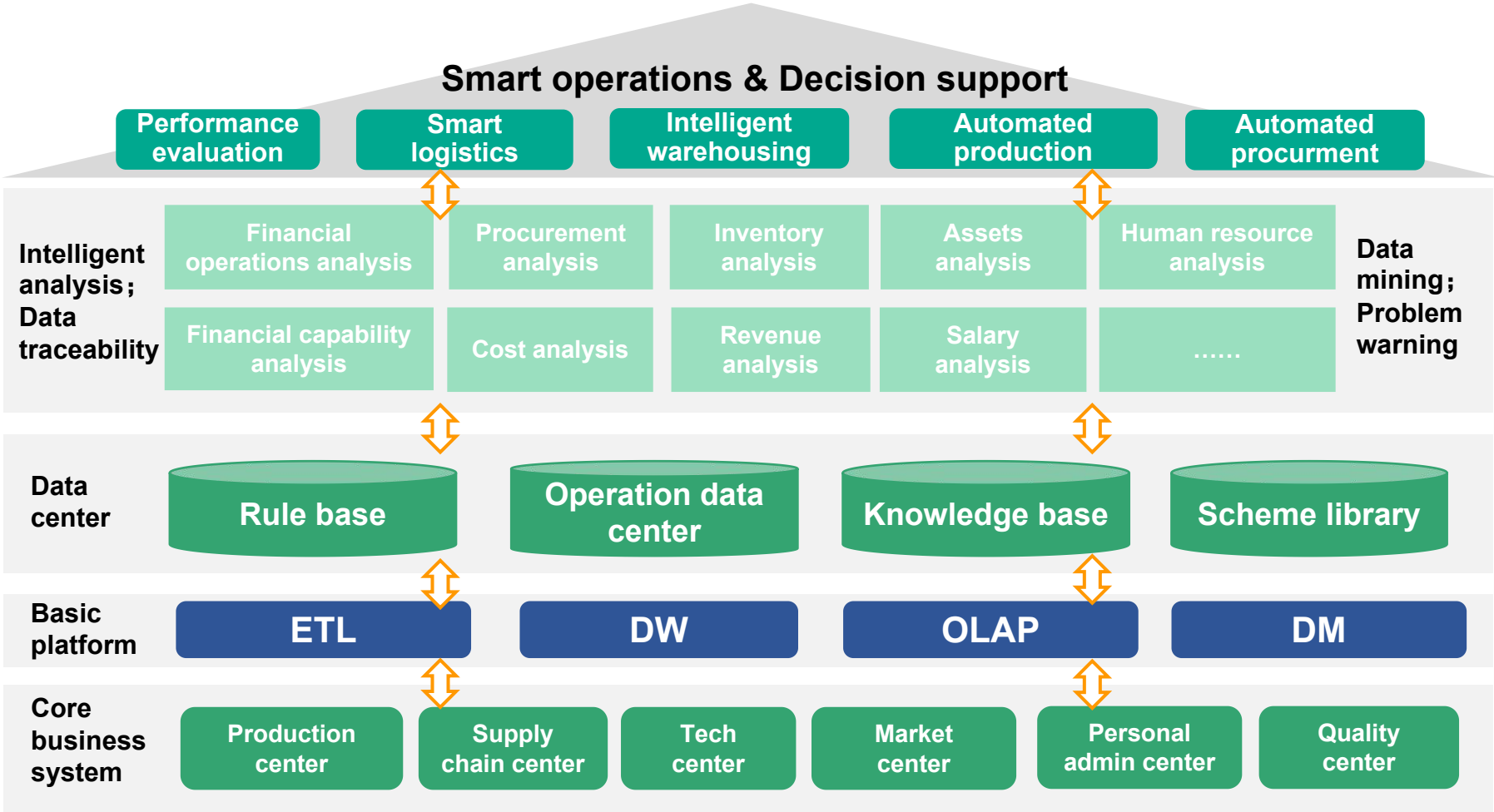


Account prepaid finance





Financial Center: the Integration of Business and Finance



As the **hub** of decision-making information, the financial department links the economic decision-making of all departments

Eg: production + supply chain+ financial ➡ control of raw material purchase price



03

Budget Management for Tech Center

Technology Development VS Product Development

Technology Development

It refers to the **substantial improvement** for processes or systems of production or management by using knowledge gained from **research and experience** internally or **importing technology** externally.

Product Development

It refers to the process of **upgrading current products** or **designing, conceiving and realizing new products**, based on **market needs**, industry environment and other aspects.



Main point: The change of **Perceived Value** of a product or service to **Customers**

What is **Perceived Value**

The judgment of a product or service by consumers ideas of what is taken and what is given.

Usage value

Exchange value

Esteem value

.....

Who are **Customers**

A customer becomes a consumer when he or she uses the goods or services

Internal customer

External customer



If **change**, then it' s **product** development
If **not change**, it' s **technology** development

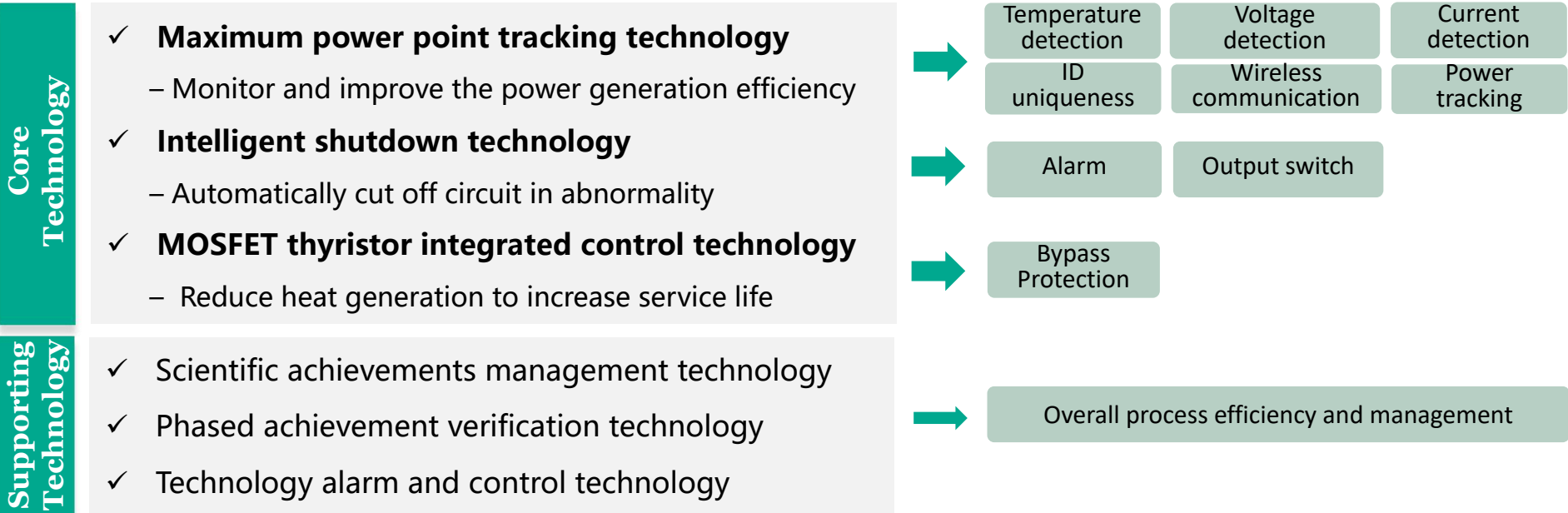
Technology Development VS Product Development

| Characteristics | | Technology development | Product development |
|--------------------------------|--|---|--|
| | | Money → technology | Technology → money |
| Target | | Improve production capabilities for multiple market segments | Achieve the financial goals ; deliver product on time ; satisfy needs of one market segment |
| Certainty | | Exploratory, uncertain | Certain, predictable |
| Objects | | Equipment, material, energy resource, production process | Product |
| Risk | | High technology risk | Low technology risk; high commercial risk |
| Team member | | Technician | Cross-department team |
| Project establishment criteria | | Applied in the future to form strategic leverage of differentiation advantages | Achieve profits or fit into strategy |
| Success criteria | | Can be used for product development/production improvement | Met customer requirements and achieved sales expectations |
| Management focus | | | |
| | | Cost | Quality |
| | | Security | Efficiency |
| | | Excellence & Professionalism | Customer needs |

Functional advantages of intelligent junction box

| Product types | Bypass Protection | Temperature detection | Voltage detection | Output switch | ID uniqueness | Wireless communication | Current detection | Alarm | Power tracking |
|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------|------------------------|-------------------|-------|----------------|
| Traditional | √ | × | × | × | × | × | × | × | × |
| Normal intelligent | √ | √ | √ | × | √ | √ | × | √ | × |
| Fully-intelligent | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ |

Technology development in junction box



Product development in junction box

- ✓ **Intelligent control chip**
–Through three main functions, improving life cycle of junction box, reducing cost of cables, wiring and other materials



The Necessity of an Increment of ¥ 5 m in R&D Development: Seize market opportunity and maintain long-term competitiveness



Distributed PV installation becomes main force

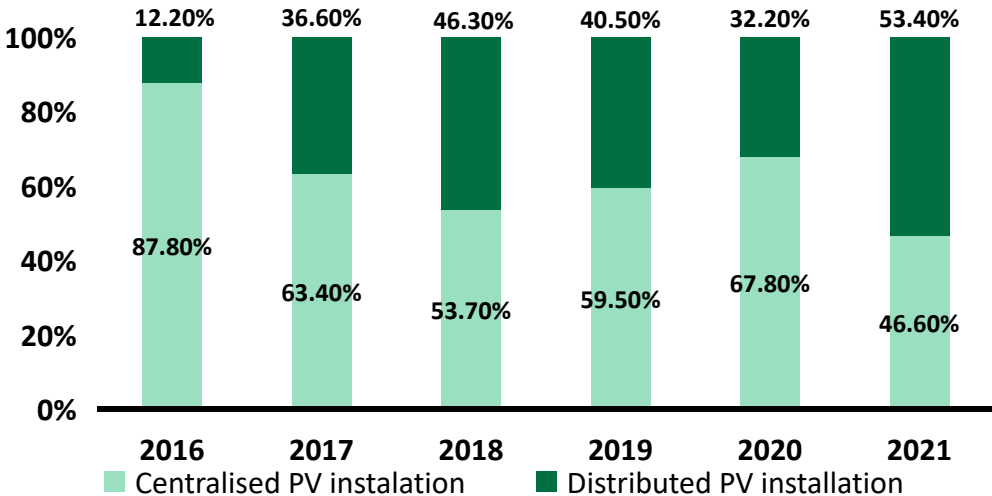
- Distributed PV installation, with **lower initial investment** comparing to centralized PV installation, is attracting more downstream manufacturers.
- **High security requirements** of distributed PV installation making intelligent junction box more applicable, which owns the advantages of **MPPT**, **intelligent shutdown** and **low calorific value**



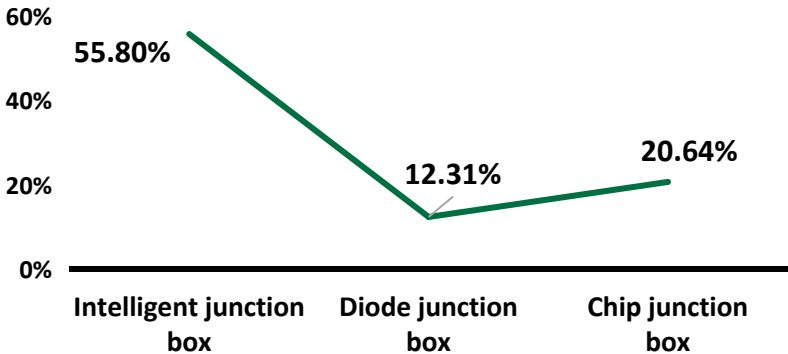
Excellent profitability

- Benchmarking one of the first enterprises in the industry to start the development and pilot sales of intelligent junction boxes and finding it **gains more profits** than the ordinary one at the user end.

2016-2021 China PV Installations Proportion



2021 Gross Profit Margin in Different Kinds of Junction Boxes



Policy promotes intelligent modules

Intelligent photovoltaic industry innovation and development action plan (2021-2025)



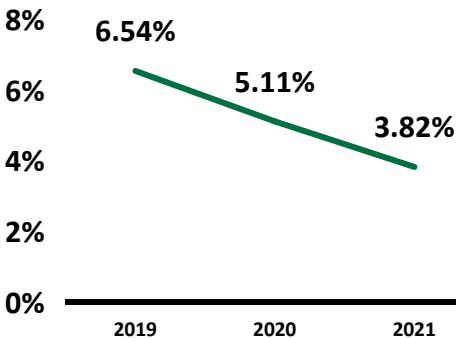
Allocation of R&D investment: Forecast R&D investment of Clean Tech Co. in 2022

R&D Investment = R&D expensed amount + R&D capitalized amount

R&D expensed amount

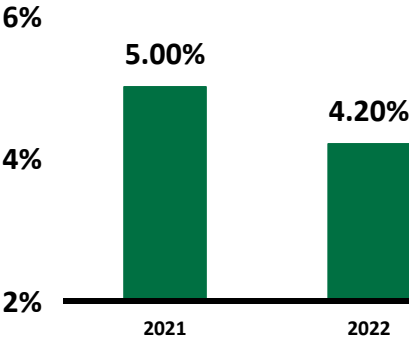
✓ Determine the R&D expense rate of Clean Tech Co. in 2022

2019-2021 R&D Expense Rate of QC Solar



R&D expense rate growth
= **-16.02%**

2021-2022 R&D Expense Rate of Clean Tech Co.



R&D expense rate in 2022
= **4.20%**

R&D expensed amount
= **730m** * 4.20%
= **30.66m**

R&D capitalized amount

- ✓ Referring to several comparable companies Tongling Electric and JSHT
- ✓ There is no capitalized R&D investment in recent years

R&D expensed amount = **0m**

Conclusion

Total R&D investment in 2022 (without additional investment of ¥ 5m) = ¥ **30.66m**



Allocation of R&D investment: Sharing investment between two product series & Sharing investment within junction box

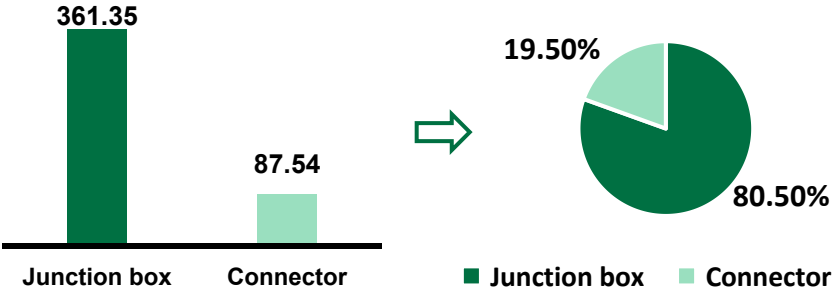
Sharing investment between two products Junction box & Connector

Distribution idea

- According to **costs of sales** of two main product series referring to the most similar comparable company QC Solar in reality
- **Allocating the initial R&D** investment between **junction box** and **connector**

The First Half of the Year 2022
Costs of Sales of Main Products
in QC Solar (¥ m)

Proportion of Investment
in Junction Box
and Connector



| | Junction box | Connector |
|----------------------|--------------|-----------|
| R&D Investment(¥ m) | 24.68 | 5.98 |

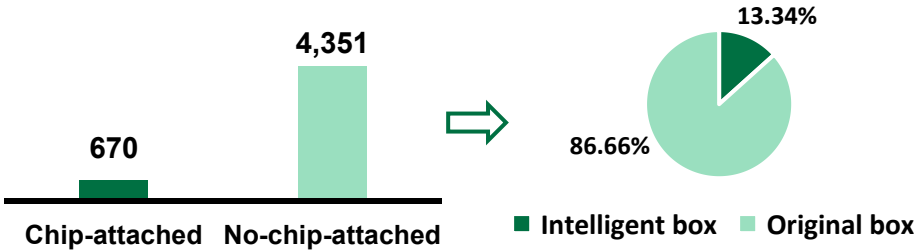
Sharing investment within junction box Original products & Intelligent products

Distribution idea

- According to the **sale volumes** of chip-attached and no-chip-attached junction box referring to comparable company Tongling Electric
- **Allocating ¥24.68 m** between **intelligent junction box** and **original junction box**
- **Input ¥5m** new investment into **intelligent box**
- Ensuring **competitiveness of original box** and **development of intelligent box**

2021 Sales Volumes of Chip-
Attached and No-Chip-Attached
Junction Box in Tongling Electric (m)

Proportion of Investment
in Intelligent Box
and Original Box



| | Intelligent | Original |
|----------------------|-------------|----------|
| R&D Investment(¥ m) | 8.29 | 21.39 |



Allocation of R&D investment: Sharing investment between two stages & Expenses control

Sharing investment between two stages: Technology & Product development

Distribution idea

- **Allocating ¥ 8.29m** between **technology development** and **product development** of intelligent junction box
- Maintain **profitability** of overall junction boxes
- The expensed proportion in the technology development stage is **significantly higher** than that in the product development stage.



- ✓ **60%** to technology development stage
- ✓ **40%** to product development stage



| | Technology development | Product development |
|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| R&D Investment(¥ m) | 4.97 | 3.32 |

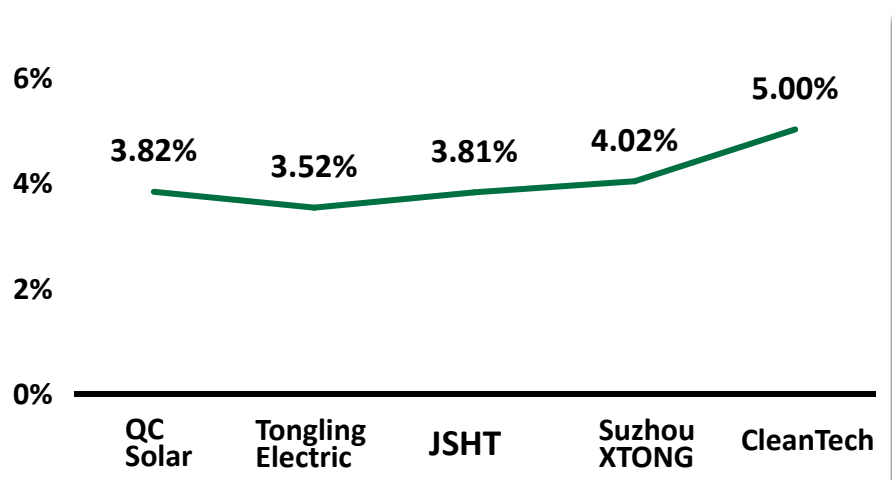
Expenses control: Managing expensed investment amount

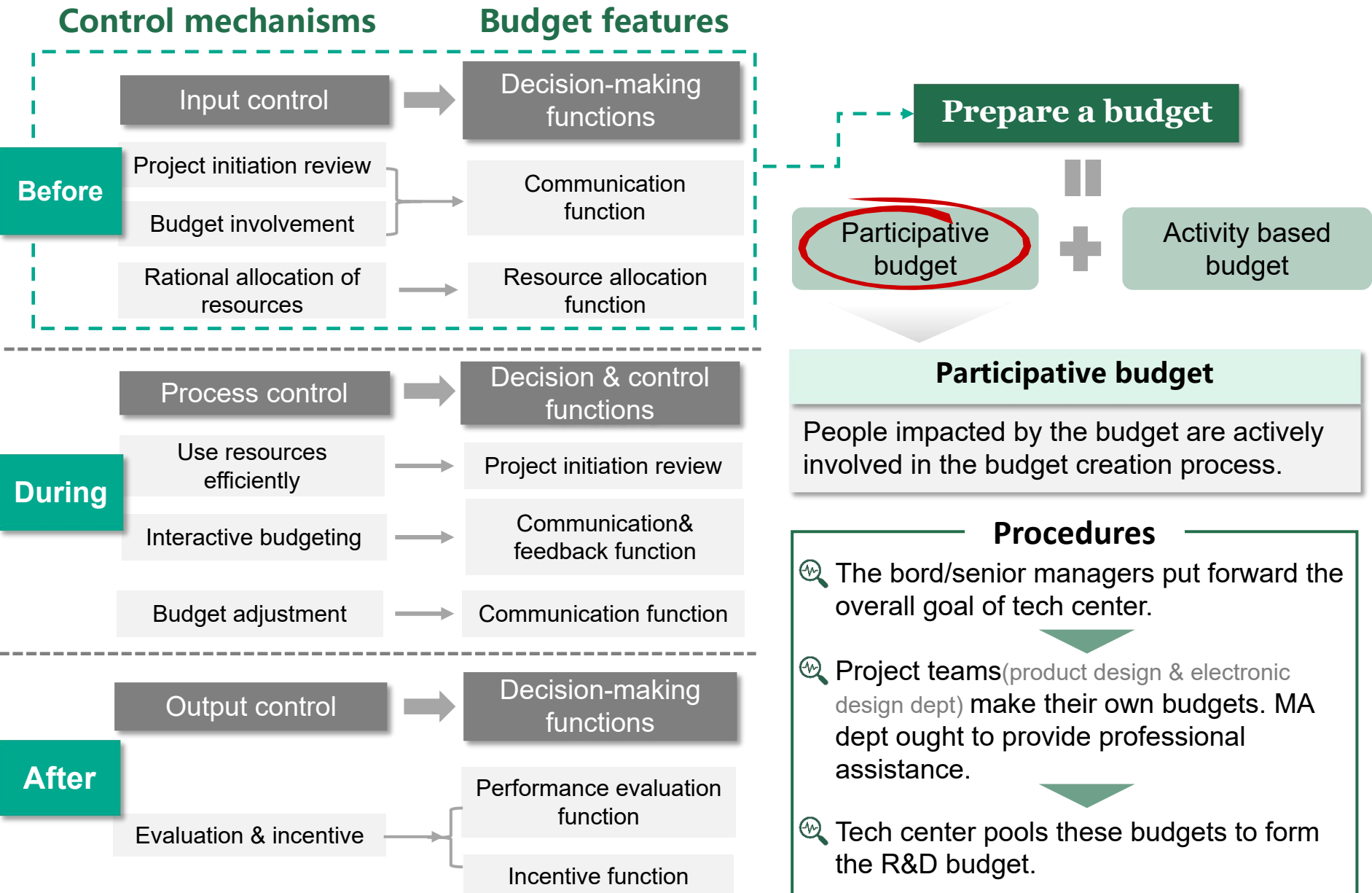
Distribution idea

Maintaining the R&D expense rate ranging from **3.50%~5.00%** if the **actual R&D investment above ¥ 30.66 m**, referring to the data from Clean Tech Co. and from several comparable companies in reality in 2021.



2021 R&D Expense Rate in several companies





Activity Based Budget

Activity based budget

What

Activities are thoroughly analyzed to predict costs and to achieve the optimal allocation of resources.

Why

Overcome difficulties caused by the high degree of uncertainty and non-standardization of R&D activities.

How

①Identify **main activities & cost drivers**

②Aggregate costs

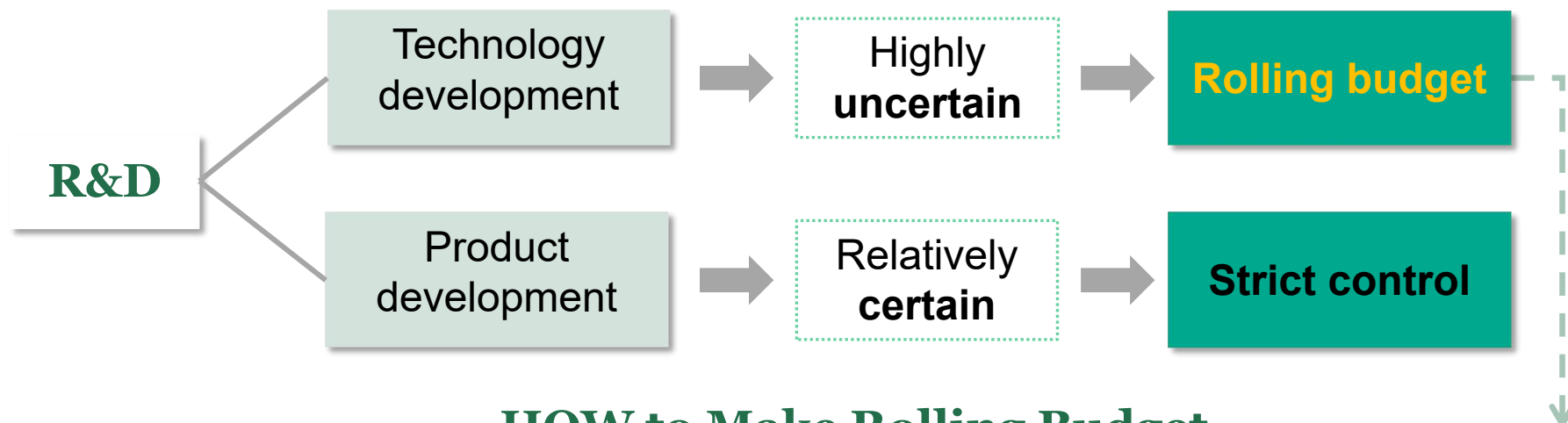
③Allocate costs based on cost drivers

| Technology development | | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Stage | Technical concept formation | Technical concept research | Technical concept landing | Acceptance of technological achievement |
| Main activity | Proposal put forward | Feasibility research | Dismantling key tech's, R&D | Review , determine further management |
| Cost driver | Numbers of proposal put forward | Budget size | Human resource input & machine hour | Human resource input |

| Product development | | | |
|---------------------|--|------------|--|
| Stage | Definition | Design | Develop |
| Main activity | Set-up the team, approve business plan | Design | Develop MVP(minimum value product), user review & feedback |
| Cost driver | Labor hour | Labor hour | Number of MVP |



Intermediate Control for Technology Development: Rolling Budget



HOW to Make Rolling Budget

- ✓ Pre-set important **time nodes**.
- ✓ Provide **budget buffer period** after each node to supplement and adjust budgets.
- ✓ Prepare **detailed** budget for **next** period and relatively rough budgets for the other.
- ✓ After implementing each detailed budget, the **dynamic information** and **variance** should be included in a new round of budgeting.
- ✓ Implement the **new detailed budget**.

ATTENTION: Strike a balance between flexibility and control

Competition,
tech, resource
environment

R&D budget
targets

Business strategy,
Management and
R&D goals

Planning stage

Rolling staging (execution phase)

Closing stage

Project initiation
stage

Development
stage

Laboratory
stage

Pilot stage

Expanding
test

Acceptance
phase

Prepare
budgets
(detailed)

Prepare
budgets
(rough)

Prepare
budgets
(rough)

Prepare
budgets
(rough)

Prepare
budgets
(rough)

Prepare
budgets
(rough)

supplement

executive

adjust

Prepare
budgets
(detailed)

supplement

adjust

Prepare budgets
(detailed)

executive

Dynamic
information
& variance

executive

Success or
not

Yes

Dynamic
information
& variance

Success or
not

Yes

Conduct the rest like this.
Keep the budget rolling
from project initiation to
completion.

No

No

Terminate and transfer resource

Third weekend of every month

- ✓ Managers of **tech center** and **financial center** meet
- ✓ **Specific progress estimation** for current month based on accumulated progress
- ✓ To ensure target progress will be achieved

End of every month

Budget detailed table

- ✓ Formed by **financial center** and **technology center**
- ✓ To present **project progress**, **financial expense progress** and **payment progress** for the next month

Every Tuesday

Expense analysis table

- ✓ Formed by **financial center**
- ✓ To **alarm** progress control and delayed work

End of every month

Variance analysis report

- ✓ Formed by **managing accounting department**
- ✓ To compare **actual results** with **budget of progress and expenses** for the month
- ✓ To summarize **differences**, clarify **causes** and **continuous improvement**

Every month

Intermedia control on strict budget

Actual accumulated expenses occurred

Budget accumulated expenses not occurred

Payment
Approval

Expenses
Accrual

Expenses
Allocation

Expenses
Allocation

Comparing with estimated budget at beginning of the year

Variance analysis

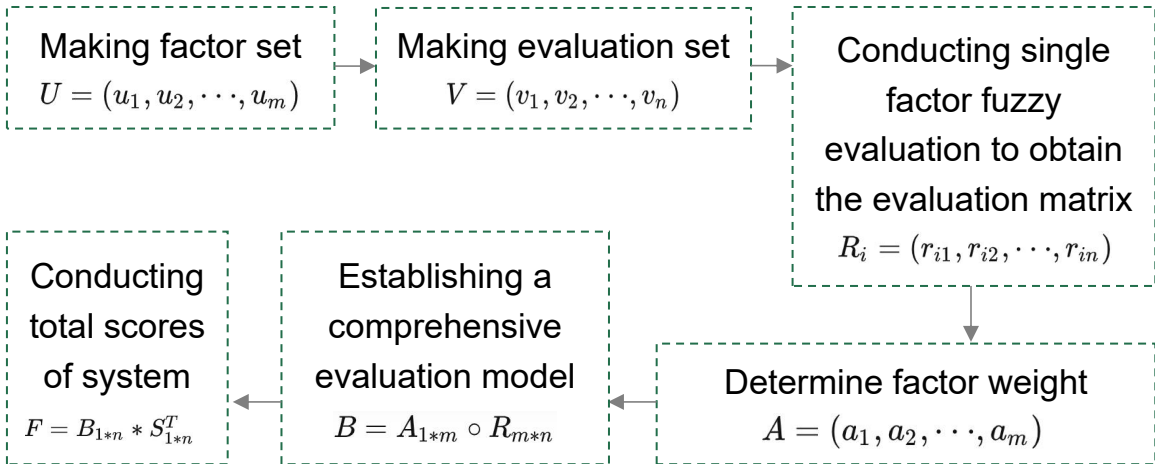
Performance evaluation function

Determining evaluation index

| Primary index | Secondary index | Tertiary index |
|--|------------------------|---|
| Performance evaluation system based on budget management | Budgeting | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Budget preparation basisBudget editing data |
| | Budget implementation | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Budget implement attitudeBudget execution time |
| | Implementation results | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Financial indexNon-financial index |
| | Continuous improvement | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Adjustment proceduresEvaluation direction |

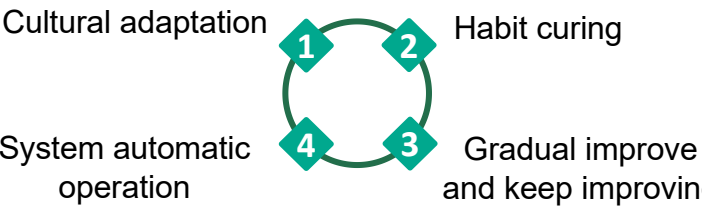
Fuzzy comprehensive evaluation method

✓ Converting qualitative evaluation into quantitative evaluation



Incentive function

Four stages of incentive based on performance evaluation



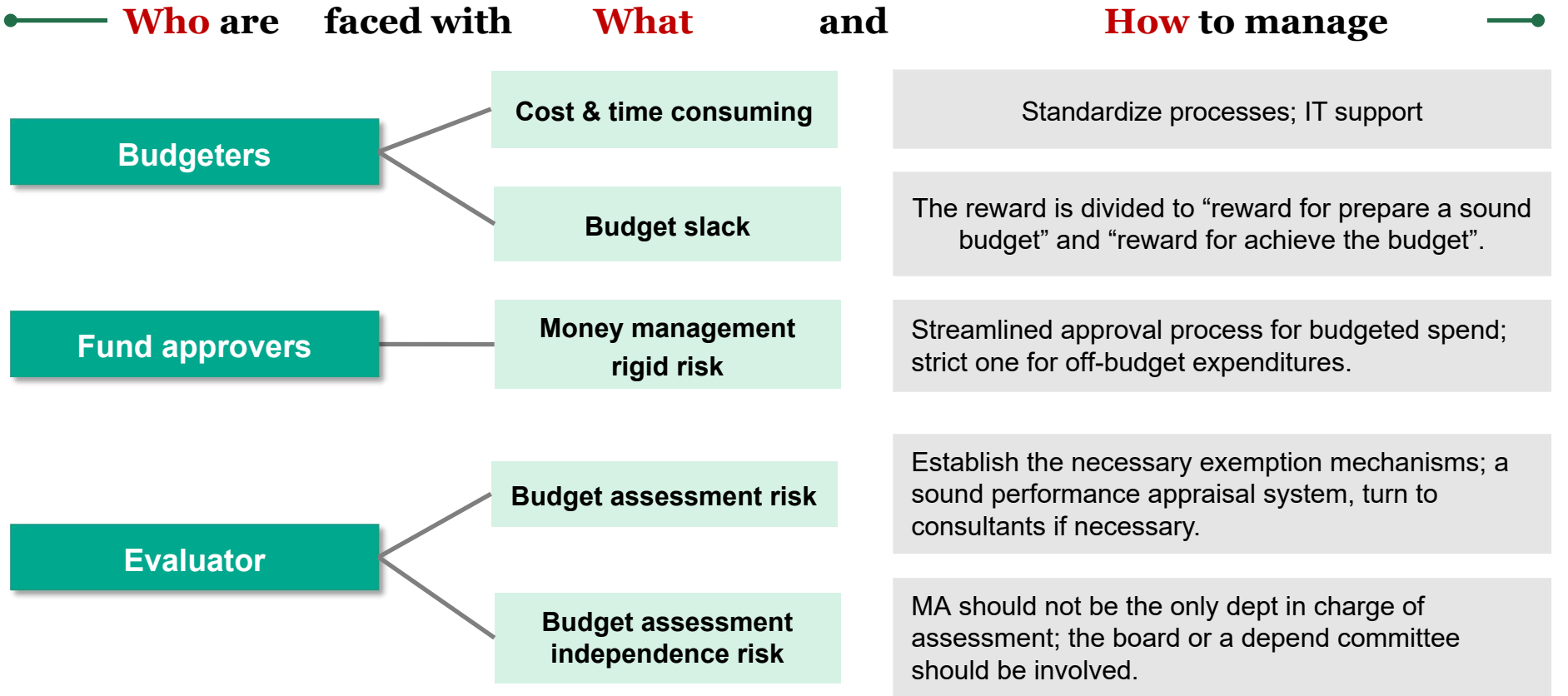
Basic principles

- ✓ Enterprise first
- ✓ Following the principle of market
- ✓ Positive reward principle
- ✓ Based on demand
- ✓ Fairness and impartiality
- ✓ Moderate reward and punishment



Measures

| | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|
| Target incentive | target responsibility system |
| Respect incentive | value orientation |
| Participation | management and advice |
| Honour incentive | attitude and contribution |
| Care incentive | daily work and life |
| Competition | survival of the fittest |



| | ABB budget | Rolling budget | Strict budget |
|------------------|--|--|--|
| ATTENTION | | | |
| Budget Risks | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Selection for cost drivers is arbitrary• Inconvenient to manage and control | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lagging information due to bills in transit• Lack of cooperation of other divisions• Lack of executive force from heavy jobs | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deviation from reality• Lack of flexibility |



THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION !



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Appendix

Appendix 1 : Detailed illustration of predictive benefits analysis

➤ Rectification costs

non-automated: RMB5000-RMB8000 (month per production line)

automated: the rectification costs can be ignored

➤ Labor costs

non-automated: 3 person * 2 shifts = 6 persons' costs = RMB48000 (month per production line)

automated: 1/2 person * 2 shifts = 1 person's cost = RMB8000 (month per production line)

➤ Material costs

non-automated: RMB20000 (month per production line)

automated: RMB500 (month per production line)



Appendix

Appendix 2 : Detailed illustration of allocation of R&D investment

➤ Forecast R&D investment of Clean Tech Co. in 2022

1. Determine the R&D expensed amount

(1) Determine the R&D expense rate of Clean Tech Co.

(i) Calculate the expense rate growth of the most comparable company QC Solar.

$$\sqrt{\frac{3.82\%}{6.54\%}} - 1 = -16.02\%$$

(ii) Calculate the R&D expense rate in 2022 based on the result from (1) and R&D expense rate of 5.00% in 2021.

$$5.00\% * (1 - 16.02\%) = 4.20\%$$

(2) Ensure the target revenue in 2022 = ¥ 730m

(3) Calculate the R&D expensed amount in 2022 = ¥ 730m * 4.20% = ¥ 30.66m

2. Determine the R&D capitalized amount

Considering several companies in reality, there is no capitalized R&D investment in recent years.

The R&D capitalized amount in 2022 = ¥ 0m

Conclusion: Total R&D investment (without additional investment of ¥ 5m) = ¥ 30.66m



Appendix

Appendix 2 : Detailed illustration of allocation of R&D investment (¥ m)

➤ Sharing R&D investment between two product series: Junction box and Connector

According to the **costs of sale** of two kinds of product in QC Solar, the most comparable entity.

$$\begin{array}{l} 30.66 \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Junction box: } 30.66 * 80.50\% = \mathbf{24.68} \\ \text{Connector: } 30.66 * 19.50\% = \mathbf{5.98} \end{array} \right. \end{array}$$

➤ Sharing R&D investment within junction box: Original products and Intelligent products

We assume that additional 500m will be input into intelligent box, and 80% of the remaining to intelligent box too.

$$\begin{array}{l} 24.68 \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Intelligent junction box} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} 5 \\ 24.68 * 13.34\% = 3.29 \end{array} \right\} \mathbf{8.29} \\ \text{Original junction box} \quad \mathbf{24.68 * 86.66\% = 21.39} \end{array} \right. \end{array}$$

➤ Sharing R&D investment between two stages: Technology and Product development

We assume that 60% of investment will be input into technology development, while the 40% to product development.

$$\begin{array}{l} 8.29 \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Technology development: } 8.29 * 60\% = \mathbf{4.97} \\ \text{Product development : } 8.29 * 40\% = \mathbf{3.32} \end{array} \right. \end{array}$$