



## An Introduction to Outsourcing

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# Objectives

- Introduce to outsourcing
- Introduce various cost definitions and demonstrate how they are applied in outsourcing strategies.
- Demonstrate how break-even analysis is used within an outsourcing context to determine outsourcing decisions .
  - Consider the non-financial issues associated with outsourcing strategies



### **Outsourcing Strategy**

**Outsourcing Strategy** is a strategic decision making process where a company considers at what point it is more appropriate to make a product (or service) within their own company (in-house) or, whether it is better for another company to make the product (or service) for them.







# Outsourcing

- The outsourcing strategy will define the supply chain system and configuration.
- Decisions can be based:
  - Financially
  - Qualitatively
  - Mixture of financial and qualitative analysis
- Applying outsourcing can depend on position of product in product life cycle





# **Outsourcing and PLC**

- Introduction risk of outsourcing can be high if product does not take off.
- Growth risk lessens as volumes increase
- Maturity Low risk
- Decline what do you do for your next product and how do you close off the existing arrangement?

When do you switch to Outsourcing? Sometimes you do not have a choice



# **Break-Even Analysis**



• Break-Even Analysis

The volume where revenues equal total costs or costs associated with two alternative processes are the same.





# **Break-Even Analysis**

- Break-even analysis is used to compare processes by finding the volume at which two different processes have equal total costs.
- Break-even point is the volume at which total revenues equal total costs.
- Variable costs (vc) are costs that vary directly with the volume of output.
- Fixed costs (Fc) are those costs that remain constant with changes in output level.



# Break-Even Analysis can tell you...

- If a forecasted volume is sufficient to break even (make or buy point)
- How low variable cost per unit must be to break even given current prices and sales forecast.
- How low the fixed cost need to be to break even.
- How price levels affect the break-even volume.





## **Types of Costs**

- Fixed Costs
- Variable Costs







# **Cost Definitions**

#### Fixed Costs

 Expenses such as rent that remain constant over a wide range of output volumes.

#### Variable Costs

 Expenses such as material and direct labour that vary proportionately with changes in output.



#### Cost of Capital

- Usually expressed as a percentage rate, it reflects the cost of the money invested in a project.
- Comparisons:
  - The cost of borrowing money to finance the project.
  - Interest lost on short-term loans.
  - Opportunity cost of forgoing one of several other projects that require funding.













# Break-Even Analysis (cont'd)

- Make or Buy cost (Assumptions)
  - The selling price per unit is constant.
  - Variable costs per unit remain constant.
  - Fixed costs remain constant.







# Break-Even Analysis (cont'd)

- Choice of Processes
  - Used to choose from among alternative processes a company can use.
  - Break-even point is defined as that volume where we are indifferent with respect to the costs of the alternative processes.









# **Types of Economic Decisions**

- Purchase of new equipment or facilities
- Replacement of existing facilities or equipment
- Make-or-buy decisions
- Lease-or-buy decisions
- Temporary shutdown or plant abandonment decisions
- Addition or elimination of a product or product line





# Assumptions of Cost-Volume Analysis

- 1. One product is involved
- 2. Everything produced can be sold
- 3. Variable cost per unit is the same regardless of volume
- 4. Fixed costs do not change with volume
- 5. Revenue per unit constant with volume
- 6. Revenue per unit exceeds variable cost per unit





# **Cost-Volume Analysis**

- FC Fixed cost
- VC Total variable cost
- v Variable cost per unit
- TC Total cost
- TR Total revenue
- R Revenue per unit
- Q Quantity or volume of output
- Q<sub>BEP</sub> Break-even quantity
- P Profit
- CM Contribution Margin

- TC = FC + VC
- VC = Q x v
- TR = R x Q

$$P = TR - TC$$
$$= R \times Q - (FC + v \times Q)$$
$$= O(R \cdot v) - FC$$

$$CM = R - v$$

$$Q = P + FC / R - v$$

$$Q_{BEP} = FC / R - v$$



## Make or Buy Example

A company is considering buying in a new product from a supplier at £200 per unit. To produce 'in house' the fixed cost per year would be £100,000, and the total variable costs would be £100 per part.

What would be the break even-point in terms of volume and cost for the make or buy decision ?

Q = FC / (R - v) = 100,000 / (200-100) = 1,000 products



### Make or Buy Example

















Quantity (patients) ( <i>Q</i> )	Total Annual Cost (£) (100,000 + 100 <i>Q</i> )	Total Annual Revenue (£) (200 <i>Q</i> )
0	100,000	0
2000	300,000	400,000



# Make or Buy Exercise

A company is considering buying in a new product from a supplier at £350 per unit. To produce 'in house' the fixed cost per year would be £130,000, and the total variable costs would be £80 per part.

What would be the break even-point in terms of volume and cost for the make or buy decision ?





# **Time to do Exercise 1**



(The answer is shown later in this slideshow so do not move forward until you have given the exercise a go)





## Make or Buy Example

Q = FC / (R - v) = 130,000 / (350-80)

= 482 products

482 products x £350 = £168560







# **Time to do Exercise 2**



(The answer is shown later in this slideshow so do not move forward until you have given the exercise a go)





#### Make In House

- Cost considerations (less expensive to make the part)
- Productive use of excess plant capacity to help absorb fixed overhead (using existing idle capacity)
- Need to exert direct control over production and/or quality
- Better quality control
- Design secrecy is required to protect proprietary technology
- Unreliable suppliers
- No competent suppliers available
- Desire to maintain a stable workforce (in periods of declining sales)
- Quantity too small to interest a supplier
- Control of lead time, transportation, and warehousing costs
- Greater assurance of continual supply
- Provision of a second source
- Political, social or environmental reasons



#### Buy in Part

- Lack of expertise
- Suppliers' research and specialized know-how exceeds that of the buyer
- cost considerations (less expensive to buy the item)
- Small-volume requirements
- Limited production facilities or insufficient capacity
- Desire to maintain a multiple-source policy
- Indirect managerial control considerations
- Procurement and inventory considerations
- Brand preference
- Item not essential to the firm's strategy



#### Major Elements of 'Make' Decision

- Incremental inventory-carrying costs
- Direct labour costs
- Incremental factory overhead costs
- Delivered purchased material costs
- Incremental managerial costs
- Any follow-on costs stemming from quality and related problems
- Incremental purchasing costs
- Incremental capital costs





#### Major Elements of 'Buy' Decision

- Purchase price of the part
- Transportation costs
- Receiving and inspection costs
- Incremental purchasing costs
- Any follow-on costs related to quality or service







Thank you for watching, now have a go at the multiple choice questions.



If you have any questions then please contact me on ant42@aber.ac.uk

