

Cost Saving Strategies: Using a Project Planning Process That Can Integrate Capital and Operational Spending Into a Nanofabrication Business Plan

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ABSTRACT

AGI will show how a project planning process that includes a business case analysis for Nanofabrication buildings can help with many of the design, construction and operational decisions for the buildings. The typical building project often focuses only on capital costs and timing. Items such as the costs of the equipment, cost of the building, and a general timeline are often considered. However, how the building design can affect the equipment start up process and ongoing operating costs are often overlooked. Items such as facilities cost, equipment maintenance, consumables, product yield, and personnel need to be considered to realistically evaluate the alternatives. Based on the desired outputs of the model and the amount of data available there are three levels at which the model could be developed. AGI will illustrate several examples using our proprietary software programs CARME, Pluto, and Jupiter which have been successfully used to calculate varying levels of detail for operational costs. By using these models, tradeoffs can be evaluated to optimize the long and short term costs of running a facilities and building product.

Attendees will learn how to use the three models to analyze the income and expenses for a Nanofabrication Operation, how to use these analyses to make decisions on design, construction and operational strategies, and how to forecast product costs under a variety of circumstances.

1 INTRODUCTION

Developing an in-depth business plan that considers all the details of both capital and operational costs is critical to the success of a Nanofabrication start-up. Overlooking some of these details can cause significant cost surprises as the start-up proceeds. A good cost model can allow quick analysis of several what-if scenarios and identify what the best solutions are.

1.1 The Need for Models

The typical manufacturing startup or expansion requires a capacity study and cost model to establish tool set, facility space, staffing and material requirements. These need to be rolled up as product costs and overall project budget.

The typical research center also needs to determine both start up and operating costs for the center, including facilities and campus services, equipment, consumables, and personnel.

1.2 How to Use a Model

Metrics to analyze product and project costs for various manufacturing scenarios allow the user to determine scale up strategies for the required resources.

Metrics to analyze the income and expenses for research centers, how to use these analyses to make decisions on design, construction and operational strategies, and how to determine hourly recharge rates or cost per unit under a variety of circumstances.

1.3 Why do Models?

A good model can be used to quickly review and revise options. It will enable the user to understand which variable have the most significant impact. The model can be used to plan capital, facility size, and staffing levels. Using the model you can forecast necessary spending and predict the cost per unit. Some examples of the basic unit in this case include per device, per square inch, or per research hour.

1.4 Typical Levels of Detail

The usefulness of a model is often determined by how much data is available or can be forecast. The better the data input into the model, the better the output.

The basic model is more typical for a high level view of a 'concept' project, such as building a lab to be used for research. Often the specific process or products are not well defined until the center is well under construction and the actual researchers who will use the facility have obtained necessary grants or funding.

The complex model is used for a detailed view of a well defined or specific project application such as building specific memory devices or microprocessors. Details such as specific tools, throughput and process cycle times are already well understand or can be forecast.

The mid level model is effective for operations that fall between these two. All have a place in the modeling world. Choosing the right approach means considering what is known and what is not known when building the model. The

next three sections will explain the difference between these types.

2 A BASIC COST MODEL - CARME

CARME was designed to provide a high level view for applications such as University Laboratories and Research and Development Centers.

2.1 CARME Model Inputs

To build a successful CARME model you will need to provide:

- Equipment set
 - Generic tool type
 - Estimated cost per tool
- Total square footage
 - How big is the lab going to be?
- Materials per month or year
 - Estimated usage of the gases and chemicals for the lab
- Headcount in total
 - What is the forecast staffing?
- User hours per month or year
 - How will the lab be used?
 - Who will be using it?
 - Charge by tool usage?
 - Charge by lab space usage?
 - Charge by personnel support required?

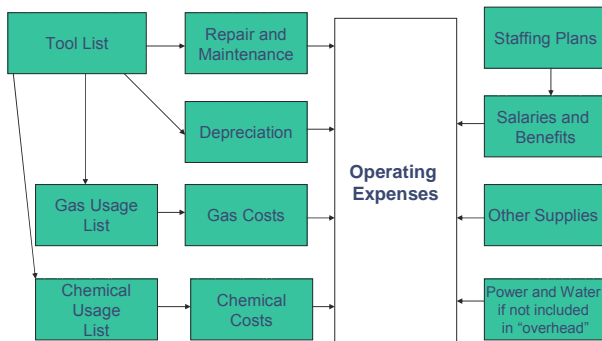


Figure 1 – CARME Data Flow

2.2 Developing The CARME Model

The CARME model works very well for a center that is preliminary research based. It uses a relatively simple database. It requires much less time investment to develop when compared to a complex model.

The output of the model will be a high level operation plan. It will provide cost per user hour or unit produced. It will also allow the user to input various funding source options.

The assumptions in the model include a list of the items that are the basis of the model such as usage hours, cost ratios, inflation rate, and overhead. These items need to be reviewed and updated as the operation becomes better defined.

2.3 CARME Model Specifics

- Tool List
 - Depreciation
 - Repair and Maintenance
 - This lists the original price of the tools used in the operation.
 - A tool's original price drives the depreciation (based on the year of purchase and the number of years the tool is depreciated over). The model allows for equipment charged to other projects that do not add to the calculated depreciation.
 - Repair and Maintenance costs are also calculated using a historical percentage of original cost, inflation, and considering any vendor contracts.

Repair and Maintenance Forecast									
Tools linked to tool list									
Item #	Equipment Description	Original	yr r&m %	yr purchased from depreciation	years under warranty	year 1 yr r&m	year 2 yr r&m	year 3 yr r&m	
101-01	Scanning Electron Microscope	\$ 380,000	2.0%	1	1	\$ -	\$ 7,828	\$ 8,083	
101-19	Microscope	\$ 10,000	3.0%	1	1	\$ -	\$ 309	\$ 318	
101-99	Spectroscopic ellipsometer	\$ 180,000	3.0%	1	1	\$ -	\$ 5,562	\$ 5,729	
101-99	Sputter	\$ 18,000	3.0%	1	1	\$ -	\$ 556	\$ 573	
103-49	TEM - Transmission Electron Microsc	\$ 379,000	2.0%	1	1	\$ -	\$ 7,807	\$ 8,042	
103-99	Scanning Acoustic Microscope	\$ 300,000	2.0%	1	1	\$ -	\$ 6,180	\$ 6,365	
103-98	Microscope	\$ 10,000	3.0%	1	1	\$ -	\$ 309	\$ 318	
104-05	Surface plasmon resonance spectrom	\$ 80,000	3.0%	1	1	\$ -	\$ 2,761	\$ 2,804	
104-11	Optical Table (48" x 96")	\$ 50,000	3.0%	1	1	\$ -	\$ 1,545	\$ 1,591	
104-90	UV/VIS/Near IR spectrometer	\$ 40,000	3.0%	1	1	\$ -	\$ 1,236	\$ 1,272	
106-52	X-Ray Photoelectron Spectrometer	\$ 660,000	2.0%	1	1	\$ -	\$ 13,596	\$ 14,004	
106-77	X-Ray Diffractometer	\$ 250,000	2.0%	1	1	\$ -	\$ 5,150	\$ 5,305	
106-01	SIMS - Secondary Ion Mass Spectrom	\$ 1,000,000	2.0%	1	1	\$ -	\$ 20,600	\$ 21,218	
107-44	Hall Measurement System	\$ 900,000	2.0%	1	1	\$ -	\$ 10,300	\$ 10,609	
107-60	AFM2 - Atomic Force Microscope	\$ 180,000	3.0%	1	1	\$ -	\$ 5,562	\$ 5,729	
107-61	AFM1 - Atomic Force Microscope	\$ 180,000	3.0%	1	1	\$ -	\$ 5,562	\$ 5,729	
108-19	FTIR	\$ 20,000	3.0%	1	1	\$ -	\$ 618	\$ 637	
108-32	Microscope	\$ 10,000	3.0%	1	1	\$ -	\$ 309	\$ 318	
108-45	Oven/Bake	\$ 15,000	3.0%	1	1	\$ -	\$ 462	\$ 474	
108-95	Quartz crystal microbalance	\$ 30,000	3.0%	1	1	\$ -	\$ 927	\$ 955	
109-09	Optical Table (48" x 96")	\$ 50,000	3.0%	1	1	\$ -	\$ 1,545	\$ 1,591	
109-99	NFSC Microspectrometer	\$ 30,000	3.0%	1	1	\$ -	\$ 927	\$ 955	
120-01	SEM - Scanning Electron Microscop	\$ 1,100,000	2.0%	1	1	\$ -	\$ 22,660	\$ 23,340	
120-02	FIB - Focused Ion Beam etching	\$ 1,200,000	2.0%	1	1	\$ -	\$ 24,720	\$ 25,402	
120-03	Mask Aligner	\$ 300,000	2.0%	1	1	\$ -	\$ 6,180	\$ 6,365	
120-09	Microscope 1	\$ 10,000	3.0%	1	1	\$ -	\$ 309	\$ 318	
120-28	E-beam Lithography	\$ 3,000,000	2.0%	1	1	\$ -	\$ 61,800	\$ 63,654	
120-30	NSOM - Near Field Scanning Optical	\$ 185,000	3.0%	1	1	\$ -	\$ 5,717	\$ 5,888	
120-49	AFM 3	\$ 198,000	3.0%	1	1	\$ -	\$ 6,118	\$ 6,302	
123-04	Mask Aligner	\$ 30,000	3.0%	1	1	\$ -	\$ 927	\$ 955	
123-05	DUV Aligner	\$ 280,000	2.0%	1	1	\$ -	\$ 5,974	\$ 6,153	
123-18	Thickness measurement	\$ 18,000	3.0%	1	1	\$ -	\$ 556	\$ 573	
123-54	Resist Spin Coater	\$ 67,100	3.0%	1	1	\$ -	\$ 2,073	\$ 2,128	
123-61	Stress Measurement	\$ 30,000	3.0%	1	1	\$ -	\$ 927	\$ 955	

Figure 2 – CARME Tool R&M Data

- Gas Usage
 - Gas Costs
 - Estimates of the total gas usage for the operation
 - This number drives an annual usage and an annual cost for each gas.
- Chemical Usage
 - Chemical Costs
 - Estimates of the total chemical usage for the operation
 - This number drives an annual usage and an annual cost for each chemical.
- Staffing Plans
 - Salaries and Benefits
 - List the annual staffing plan for the operation.
 - It also lists the average salary for each of the positions.
 - The model also allows for headcount that does not have to be funded by the center.
- Other supplies
 - All supplies (other than gas and chemicals) are accounted for.
 - Electricity is based on estimated usage and rates.
 - DI Water is based on cost of operating the DI water system.
 - Minor facilities work is charged to the center.

- Major facilities work is funded through the site facilities operation.

2.4 CARME Model Output

- Rates and Income Statement
 - Rolls up all the costs and determines an hourly equipment and tool charge rate for both internal and external users.
 - Graphs of the internal and external rates are provided.
 - A combined income statement is also provided.

PROJECTED EXPENSES	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
PAYROLL					
Salaries					
R&M	\$ 200,000	\$ 257,500	\$ 371,315	\$ 437,091	\$ 450,204
All Others	\$ 222,500	\$ 327,025	\$ 419,056	\$ 524,509	\$ 562,754
Total Salaries	\$ 422,500	\$ 584,525	\$ 790,371	\$ 961,600	\$ 1,012,958
Benefits @ 23% of Salaries	\$ 97,175	\$ 134,441	\$ 181,785	\$ 221,168	\$ 232,980
TOTAL PAYROLL	\$ 519,675	\$ 718,966	\$ 972,156	\$ 1,182,768	\$ 1,245,938
SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS					
Repair and Maintenance	\$ -	\$ 382,904	\$ 394,391	\$ 406,223	\$ 418,410
Supplies and Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 963,255	\$ 1,048,765	\$ 1,142,502	\$ 1,245,279	\$ 1,357,989
TOTAL SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS	\$ 963,255	\$ 1,431,669	\$ 1,536,894	\$ 1,651,502	\$ 1,776,399
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 1,482,930	\$ 2,150,635	\$ 2,509,049	\$ 2,834,270	\$ 3,022,337
Depreciation	\$ 64,000	\$ 64,000	\$ 64,000	\$ 64,000	\$ 64,000
TOTAL DIRECT COSTS	\$ 1,546,930	\$ 2,214,635	\$ 2,573,049	\$ 2,898,270	\$ 3,086,337
TOTAL EQUIPMENT COSTS (R&M+DEP)	\$ 264,000	\$ 704,404	\$ 829,706	\$ 907,314	\$ 932,613
TOTAL LAB USE COSTS (All Other Items)	\$ 1,282,930	\$ 1,510,231	\$ 1,743,343	\$ 1,990,956	\$ 2,153,724
Estimated total use hours	11,500	20,000	28,000	35,500	40,000
Estimated internal use hours	10,000	17,000	24,000	31,000	35,000
Percent of Total Hours- Internal	87%	85%	86%	87%	88%
Portion of Equipment Costs	\$ 229,565	\$ 598,743	\$ 711,177	\$ 792,302	\$ 816,036
Portion of Lab Use Costs	\$ 1,115,591	\$ 1,283,696	\$ 1,494,294	\$ 1,738,581	\$ 1,884,508
INTERNAL HOURLY RATE- EQUIPMENT USE	\$ 22.96	\$ 35.22	\$ 29.63	\$ 25.56	\$ 23.32
INTERNAL HOURLY RATE- LAB USE	\$ 111.56	\$ 75.51	\$ 62.26	\$ 56.08	\$ 53.84

Figure 3 – Typical CARME Rate Calculations

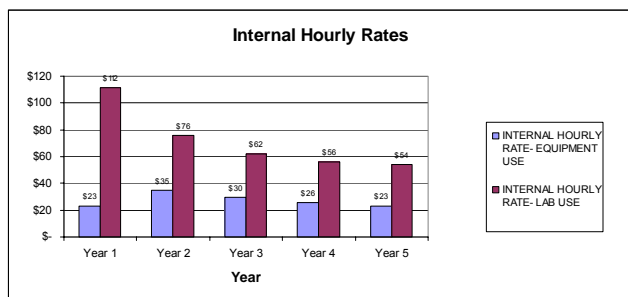


Figure 4 – CARME Rate Output Graph

2.5 CARME has been used to determine the following:

- Reasonable tool set to provide for the lab vs. providing space for tools provided by programs
- Importance of negotiating long term service contracts at time of tool purchase, within capital budgets, to avoid operating cost impact during early years of the center's operation
- Realistic ramp of user hours and the impact on hourly cost
- Need for subsidizing certain staff or equipment with specific funding

3 MID LEVEL MODEL – PLUTO

Pluto is utilized for planning a green site, factory expansion, product configuration options or a feasibility study when only conceptual or preliminary data is available. It is useful for start-ups who have many ideas but not many

specific details. It is often used to determine whether the focus should be on facilities, materials, equipment, or labor to minimize costs.

3.1 Model Inputs

- Tools and Equipment
- Basic Process Flow, Yields
- Total square footage and facilities projected cost by clean class.
- Expected Cost Units (Panels, Wafers Devices, Sq. meters)
- Headcount in total
- Custom algorithms for critical cost or capacity analysis.
- Demand plan
- Process Steps

3.2 Developing the Model

- Some research
- Small Database Size
- Time Investment-Few weeks
- Excel based

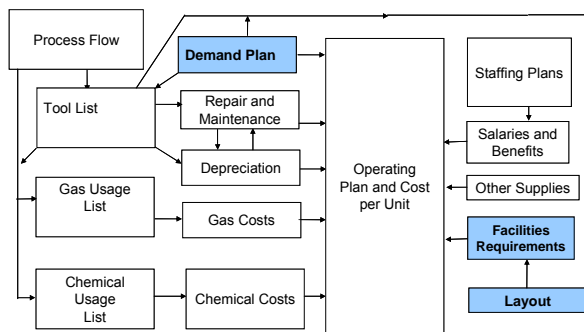


Figure 5 – Pluto Data Flow

3.3 Model Outputs

- Cost per unit forecast
- Large Cost Drivers
- Major Constraints
- High level operation plan
- Depreciation costs
- Funding sources options

PROJECTED EXPENSES	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
MATERIALS (INCLUDES SUBSTRATES)	\$ 6,939,714	\$ 7,147,906	\$ 7,362,342	\$ 7,563,213	\$ 7,810,709
GAS AND CHEMICAL COSTS	\$ 1,338,137	\$ 1,379,311	\$ 1,420,690	\$ 1,463,311	\$ 1,507,210
PAYROLL					
Total Salaries	\$ 910,000	\$ 937,300	\$ 955,419	\$ 994,382	\$ 1,034,213
Benefits	\$ 209,300	\$ 215,579	\$ 222,046	\$ 228,708	\$ 235,589
TOTAL PAYROLL	\$ 1,119,300	\$ 1,152,879	\$ 1,187,465	\$ 1,223,090	\$ 1,269,802
EQUIPMENT COSTS					
Repair and Maintenance	\$ -	\$ 375,294	\$ 386,563	\$ 398,150	\$ 410,094
Depreciation	\$ 3,068,742	\$ 3,068,742	\$ 3,068,742	\$ 3,068,742	\$ 3,068,742
TOTAL EQUIPMENT COSTS	\$ 3,068,742	\$ 3,444,036	\$ 3,455,305	\$ 3,466,892	\$ 3,478,836
FACILITY COST	\$ 637,497	\$ 656,622	\$ 676,321	\$ 696,610	\$ 717,568
SUPPLIES AND EXPENSES	\$ 39,500	\$ 40,885	\$ 41,908	\$ 43,183	\$ 44,488
TOTAL COSTS	\$ 13,083,889	\$ 13,761,438	\$ 14,084,019	\$ 14,416,277	\$ 14,788,503
Substrates out per year	64,182	66,194	72,205	74,211	76,217
COST PER SUBSTRATE	\$ 203.86	\$ 206.80	\$ 195.06	\$ 194.26	\$ 193.04
COBT PER WATT	\$ 36.34	\$ 35.98	\$ 34.78	\$ 34.63	\$ 34.62
COST PER SQUARE METER OF 8GLAR CELL	\$ 1,172.28	\$ 1,160.43	\$ 1,121.95	\$ 1,111.69	\$ 1,113.61
Estimated Non-Recurring Expenses					
Equipment Cost	\$ 11,845,440	Depreciated over 5 years			
Equipment Installation Cost	\$ 1,776,816	Depreciated over 5 years			
Cleanroom Support Equipment Cost	\$ 1,421,453	Depreciated over 5 years			
Building Cost	\$ 2,994,622	Depreciated over 20 years			
TOTAL Estimated Non-Recurring Expenses	\$ 18,038,331				

Figure 6 – Sample Pluto Output

- Compared costs of 1, 2, and 3 shift staffing versus capital investment for extra tools at bottlenecks
- Compared 'in house' space costs versus leasing 'outside' space for expansion

5 SUMMARY

Cost models are a useful part of the planning process. They can be used to:

- Establish / benchmark recharge rates and costs.
- Determine whether to focus on facilities, materials, equipment or labor for further cost analysis.
- Clearly analyze bottlenecks and how to break them.
- Justify and propose complex staff and equipment funding plans over time.
- Respond to capacity / cost inquiries from potential users
- Create annual operating budget and modify based on measured results.
- They are useful not only for Manufacturing, but also useful for "Center," "Foundry" and "Shared" user facilities.