

Problem Formulation and Project Plan

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Overview

- **Introduction**
- **Need Statement**
- **Goal**
- **Objectives**
- **Timeline**
- **Quality Function Deployment**
- **House of Quality**
- **Conclusion**

Introduction

- **Client: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**
 - **P3: People, Prosperity, and the Planet Award**
 - **Research, design, and develop solutions to real world challenges involving the overall sustainability of human society**

Need Statement

Current solar water heaters are too expensive and it takes a long period of use to make them financially sensible, therefore current solar water heater designs are financially impractical over a short period of use.

Project Goal

- **Design a low cost solar water heater that is efficient enough to produce a quick financial return**

OBJECTIVES

- **Heats Water**
- **Weather Proof:**
 - **Systems typically outside**
 - **Withstands the elements to reduce cost**
 - **Average storms**
 - **Average exposure to elements**
 - **Water doesn't freeze in the system**

OBJECTIVES

- **Low Initial Cost:**
 - **Current consumer SWH systems in the US \$5000-\$10,000**
 - **Focused on performance**

OBJECTIVES

- **Low Initial Cost:**
 - **Cost multipliers that will be considered:**
 - **Quality of materials used**
 - **Quantity of materials used**
 - **Complexity of the design**
 - **Difficulty of construction**
 - **More skill and tools required**
- 
- The diagram consists of a large right-facing curly bracket on the right side of the list. To the right of the bracket is a thick black arrow pointing upwards. To the right of the arrow is the text 'Initial cost'.

OBJECTIVES

- **Quick Financial Return:**
 - **Break-even Cost is met within reasonable time period (2 Years)**
 - **Minor sacrifices in performance in order to significantly reduce cost (%/USD)**

OBJECTIVES

- **Easily Implemented into Current Heating Systems**
 - **Works with gas and electric water heaters**
 - **Easily buildable and installable with do-it-yourself level knowledge of plumbing and construction**

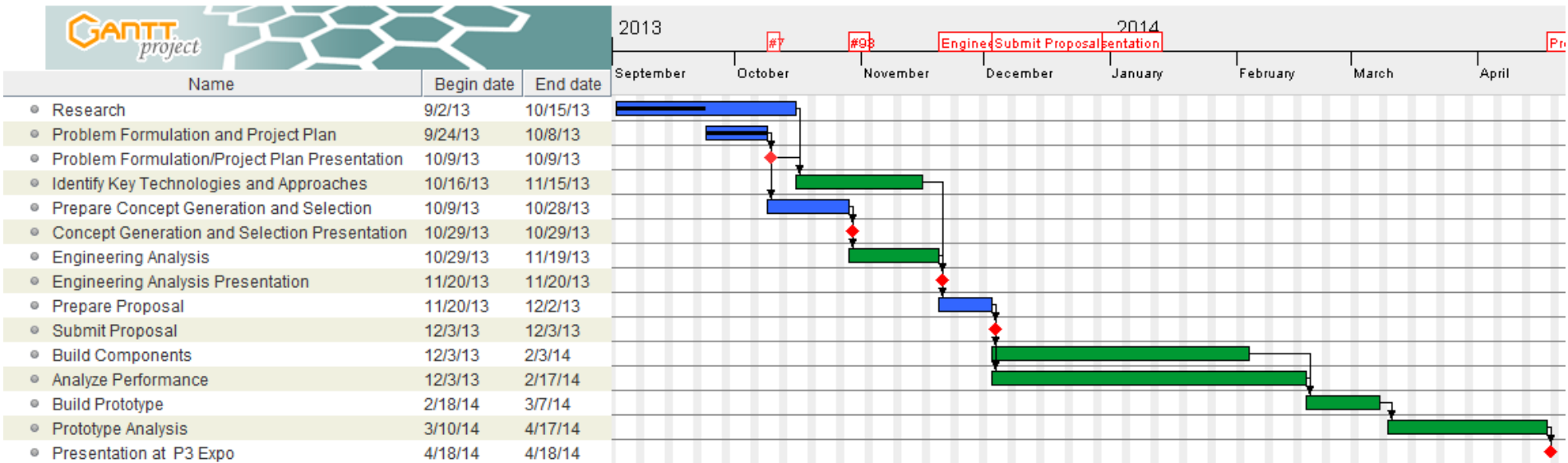
OBJECTIVES

- **Low Maintenance Cost:**
 - **Simultaneously and easily maintained with the current water heating system**

OBJECTIVES

- **Safe operation:**
 - **Safe in home operations**
 - **Meets all governments safety requirements**
- **Suitable system size:**
 - **Reasonable system volume for implementation**

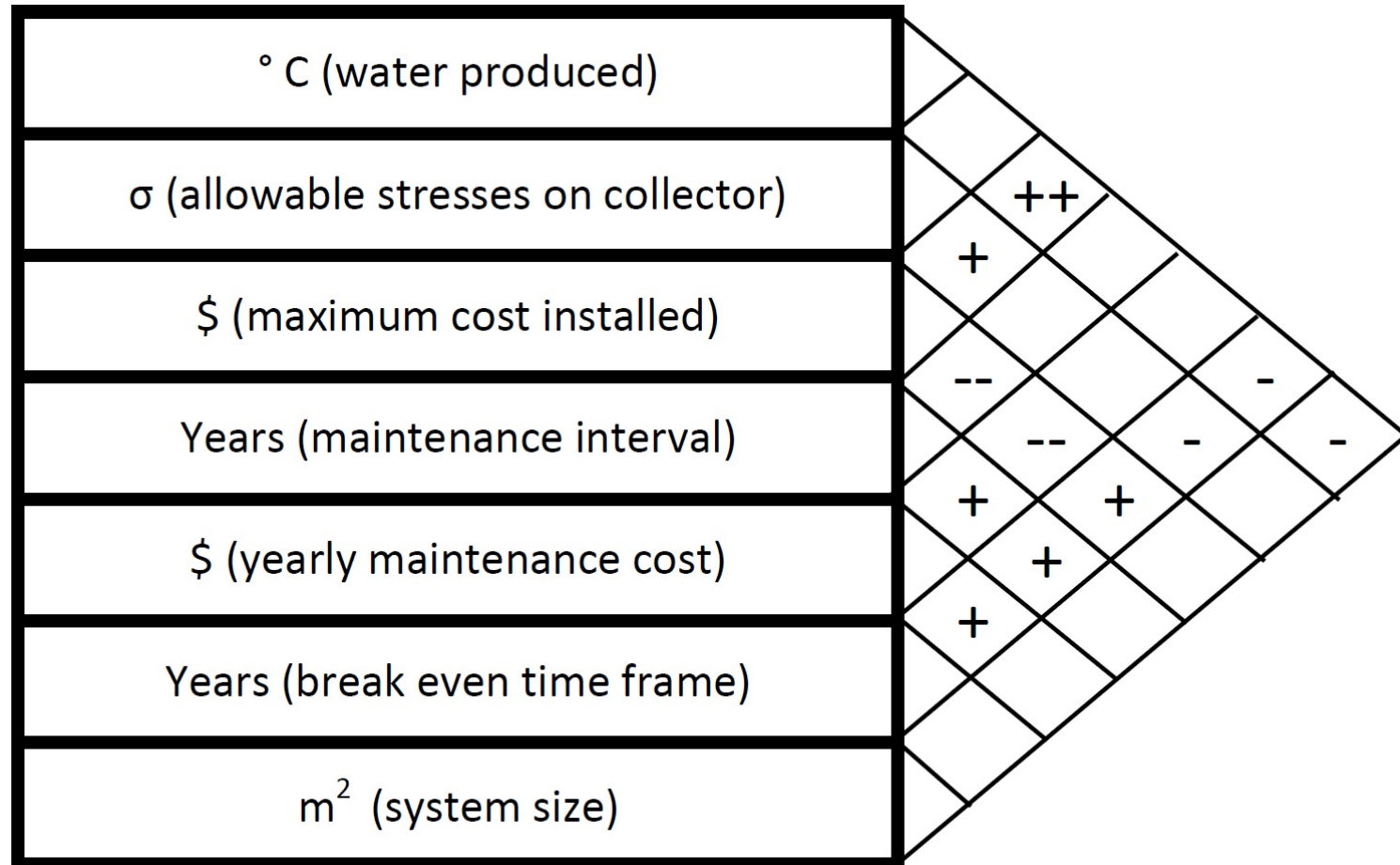
Timeline



Quality Function Deployment

| | | Specifications | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------|----------------------|----------|-------|
| | | Weighted Importance | Volume | Material Strength | Temperature | Cost | Efficiency | Weight | Heat Transfer | Pressure | Force |
| Obejectives | 1. Heats Water | 10 | | | 9 | 9 | 9 | | 9 | | |
| | 2. Weather Proof | 3 | | 9 | | | | 1 | | | 9 |
| | 3. Low Initial Cost | 10 | | 1 | 9 | 9 | 3 | | | | |
| | 4. Low Maintence | 9 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 3 | | 3 | 3 | |
| | 5. Quick Financial Return | 10 | | 9 | 1 | 9 | 9 | | 9 | | |
| | 6. Implement Into Current Systems | 9 | 3 | | 1 | | 1 | | 3 | 9 | 3 |
| | 7. Safe Operation | 3 | 1 | 3 | 3 | | | | | | 1 |
| | 8. Sensible System Size | 3 | 9 | | | 3 | | 9 | | | |
| | 9. Easy to Use | 1 | | | | | 3 | | | | 1 |
| Score | | | 66 | 163 | 217 | 360 | 249 | 30 | 234 | 108 | 58 |
| Relative Weight | | | 0.18 | 0.45 | 0.60 | 1.00 | 0.69 | 0.08 | 0.65 | 0.30 | 0.16 |
| Unit of Measure | | | m ³ | kPa | °C | \$ | % | kg | W/(m ² K) | Pa | N |
| Technical Target | | | < 27 | | > 38 | < 300 | | | | <101325 | |

House of Quality



Conclusions

- **Need: Better SWH**
- **Goal: Quick Financial Return**
- **Objectives**
- **Timeline**
- **QFD**
- **House of Quality**

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