

SECOND-SOURCING TECHNOLOGY

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In consumer product manufacturing, it is normal to 'second-source' components, i.e. have more than one supplier for a given component. The only requirement is that products from both sources behave similarly in defined function.

On a broader, DSH approach, it would make good sense to 'second-source' whole technologies, e.g. from USA and from Japan. The same constraints would apply.

COMMITTEES

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Committees are perhaps both a device for 'distributed decision making' and a device for 'distributed [and hence diluted] blame allocation'.

Committee structures are certainly not the only feasible management control structure.

There may be a useful outcome in examining such matters with the same apparatus used to consider distributed computing - or any other distributed function.

GEL BEDS

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Water beds have many advantages, but the very fluid nature of the water medium leads to some disadvantages (wave motions etc).

It might be better to replace the kerosene water by a gel. An easy way would be to inject a few packets of 'polycell' wallpaper glue on the line. The gel should slow down vibrations and yet still leave the shape-accommodating features desired.