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A cost-based methodology for evaluating product platform commonality sourcing decisions with two examples

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major cost drivers is introduced and applied to both examples. Based on the evidence from the examples presented in this paper, there appears to be little financial or functional benefit to develop product platforms that share common components or subsystems when these products are being manufactured offshore; however, even when considering outsourcing, platform-based product development principles can still yield tangible improvements in production costs over the life of the product.

Keywords:

Product platform Product family Commonality Outsourcing Production costs

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