

A GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING YOUR BUILDERS DEVELOPMENT VEHICLE

An important part of any builder whether existing or new is that they are physically testing what they are creating at every stage and you are not being sold a set of drawings only. This is what we at Casmin Group call “vapour wear” as it doesn’t physically exist. A development vehicle or “prototype” as they are often called is the test bed for the first full production vehicle and should go through a range of tests

Enclosed below is a check list that we put together for your convenience. These are some of the areas that Casmin Group review before agreeing to work with a new vehicle builder.

1) STARTING POINT

- Is the development vehicle built from scratch?
- Is it their own design?
- Engineering work – is this in house or are they working with established engineering companies?

2) DESIGN CONCEPT

- How has this been developed and what is the builder trying to achieve?
- If based on a vehicle from a previous era, do they have rights/an agreement to recreate the design or is it different enough that they don’t need to?
- Is it going to be functional? This might seem like a silly question but simple things like being able to get in and out of the vehicle can sometimes get lost between design and engineering teams.

3) TECHNOLOGIES USED

- Are they using another companies chassis as a base? E.G. Lotus engineering sell their platform technology to other companies as a way of recovering development costs.
- What materials is the vehicle going to be made from, traditional (steel/aluminium) or composites such as carbon fibre?
- How are they proposing to mate the chassis to the bodywork if different materials?

4) POWER TRAIN

- What will power this vehicle? An EV (electric) or an ICE (internal combustion engine)?
- Where is the power train coming from or are they building one themselves?
- If the powertrain is ICE is this from a development company or an existing production engine available on the market?

5) ASSEMBLY

- Where are all the parts coming from for your vehicle?
- Designing the vehicle on a computer is one thing, who will be completing final assembly of the vehicle?
- What is the time frame for building the vehicle? This can vary from a few months to a year and a half with our current builders. It is worth checking.

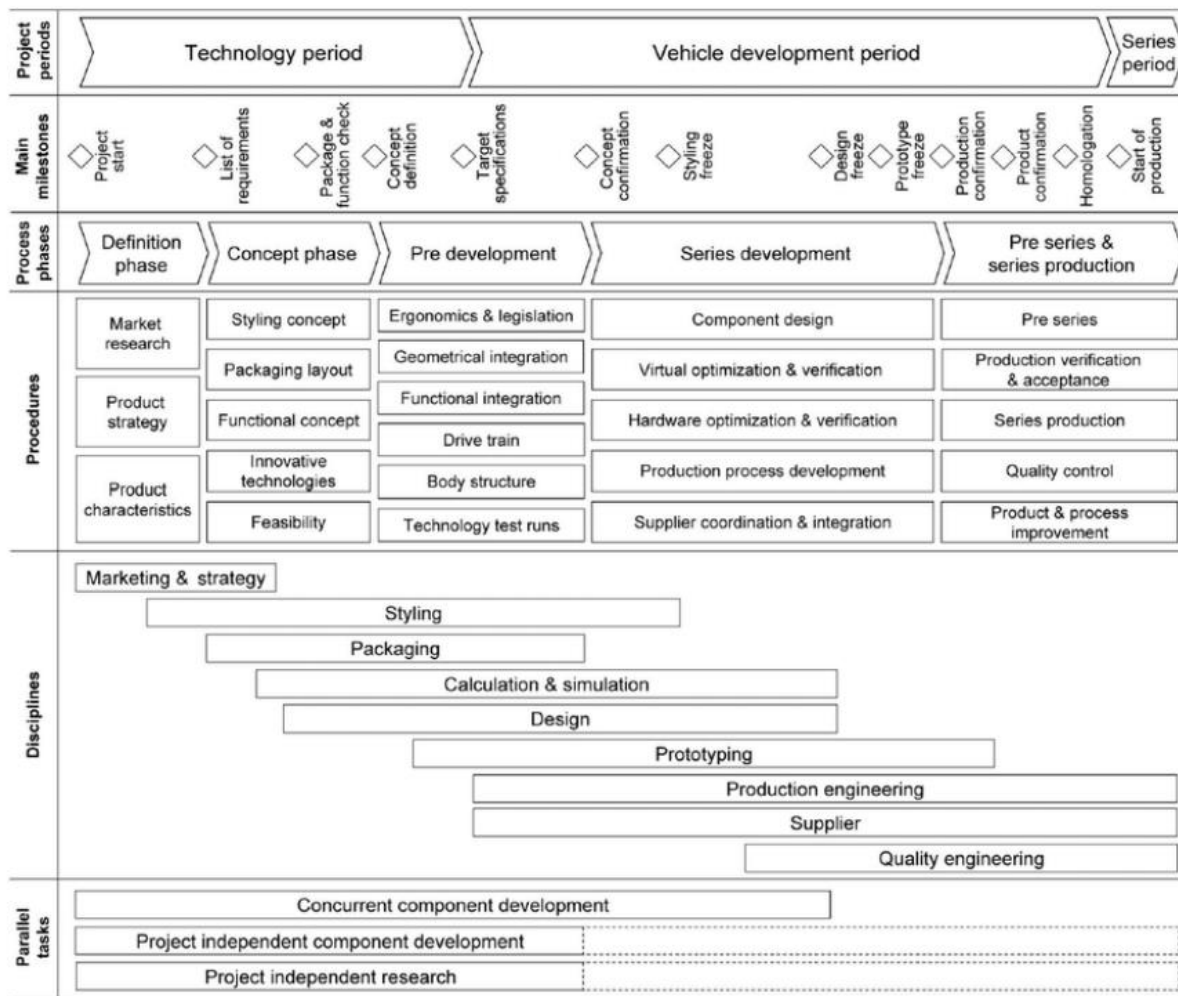
6) WHAT STATUS IS THE DEVELOPMENT VEHICLE

- How far long the development phase are they?
- Can you try out the prototype (track or road)?
- When will the prototype be signed off?
- When will they be ready to make their first production vehicle?

RESOURCES

A) VEHICLE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

These are some of the key stages and headings a builder should follow in preparation to deliver a production vehicle to you the customer.



For more information, please contact us at:

ian@casmingroup.com or nick@casmingroup.com