

# Case Study Module 5 Update: Relaxing Travel (continued)

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On many projects there are “Make-or-Buy” decisions, and this one is no different. Although you will not be actually “making” anything, you will need to choose between purchasing the home office equipment yourselves (make), or contract with a supplier for the equipment (buy). There are good and bad issues with either way you go with this. The easiest and perhaps the quickest way to acquire the components needed would be to go to a local retail outlet and purchase them. Even if they don't have six of everything that you need, they should be able to get it within a week. However, if you choose to contract with a supplier, you may be able to get the components at a lower price, and you might also have an option to lease them for a specific period and replace them with new and improved versions at the end of the lease. However, the contracting options involves contacting various vendors, preparing Requests for Quotes (RFQs) and/or Requests for Proposals, evaluating responses, and awarding contracts. This can be time consuming and you might not end up better off than you would if you just went to a retailer and purchased the items on your own. You will need to evaluate this.

You like to look at all angles, so you will need to create a Request for Proposal. Once you decide on a supplier, you will need to draw up a contract with them as well.

At this point, you should be also thinking about the quality of your project. According to the author of our text, “Quality means making sure that you build what you said you would and that you do it as efficiently as you can. And that means trying not to make too many mistakes and always keeping your project working toward the goal of creating the right product” (Watt, 2014. p.158) One way to do that is to set out a Quality Management Plan which should help to keep you on track in this vital area. Another way to graphically look at possible issues with the project, and which ones could be most detrimental, is to rank them using a Pareto Chart.

### Reference:

Watt, A. (2014). *Project management* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). Victoria, BC: BC Campus.