University of Essex

Synputer Project Status Update

This report provides a comprehensive status update on the Synputer project, addressing the challenges faced, the updated requirements, and a detailed project plan with budget considerations.

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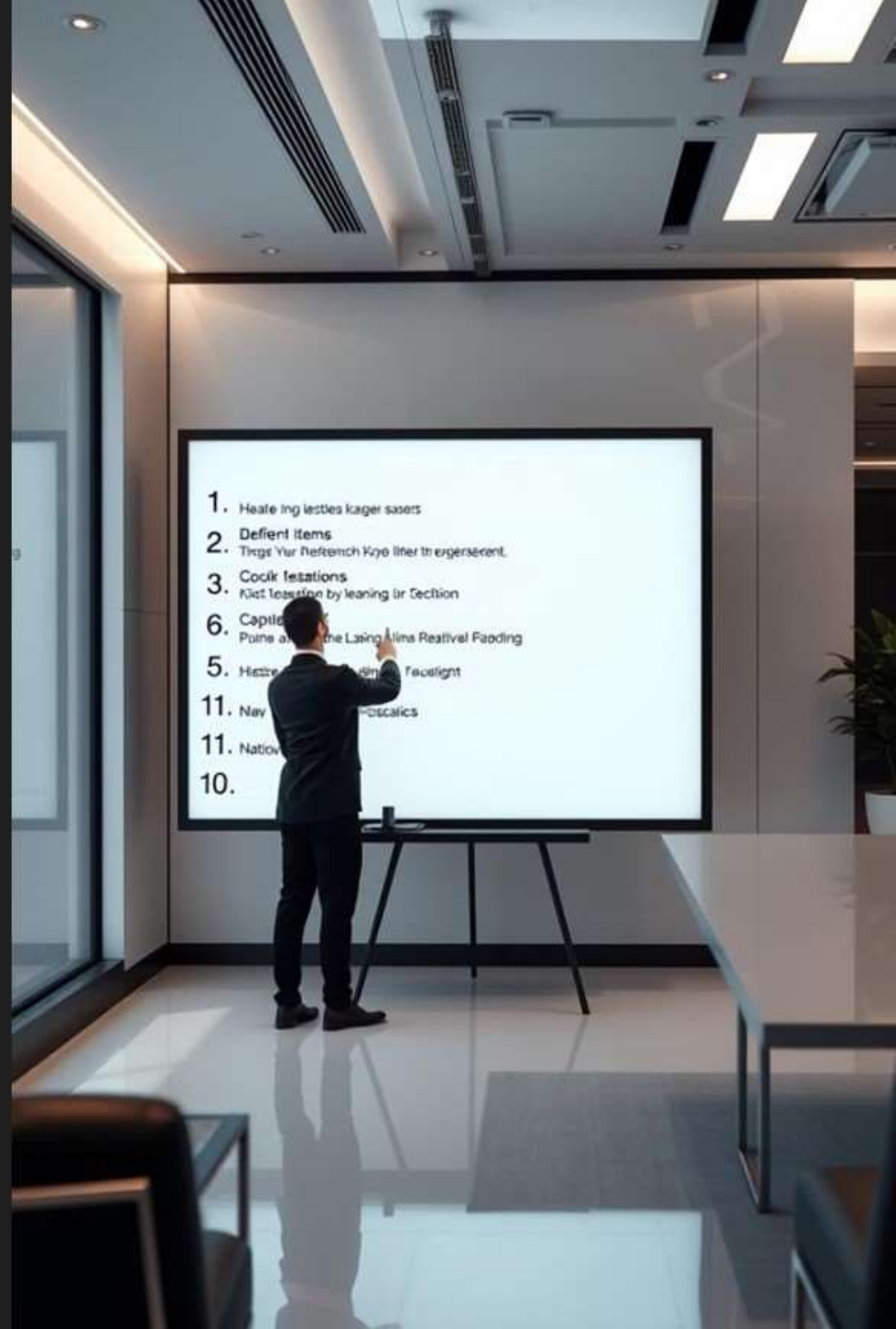
Agenda

- Project Overview
- Current Status and Key Milestones
- Updated Requirements
- Project Timeline Overview
- Budget and Cost Analysis
- Proposed Solutions for EDC and Market Demands
- Risk Management and Challenges
- User Acceptance Testing and Final Implementation
- Conclusion and Next Steps



Project Overview

Original Scope

Cost-efficient and portable Synputer system.

Changes Introduced

Shifted to desktop units with enhanced specs.

Key Challenges

EDC's requirements, time/cost limitations, stability issues.

Current Status

1

Evaluation Phase

A number of Synputer devices have been produced and are in the evaluation phase.

2

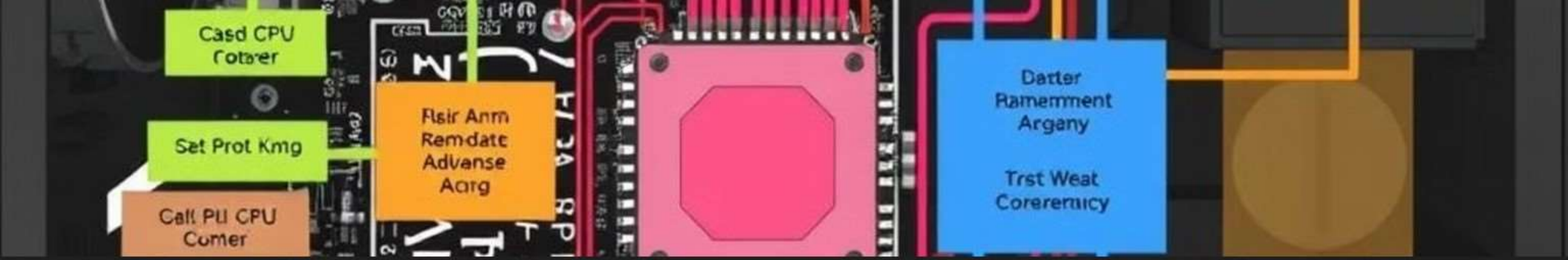
EDC Feedback

Feedback from EDC has highlighted several critical areas where the current specifications do not meet their requirements.

3

System Modifications

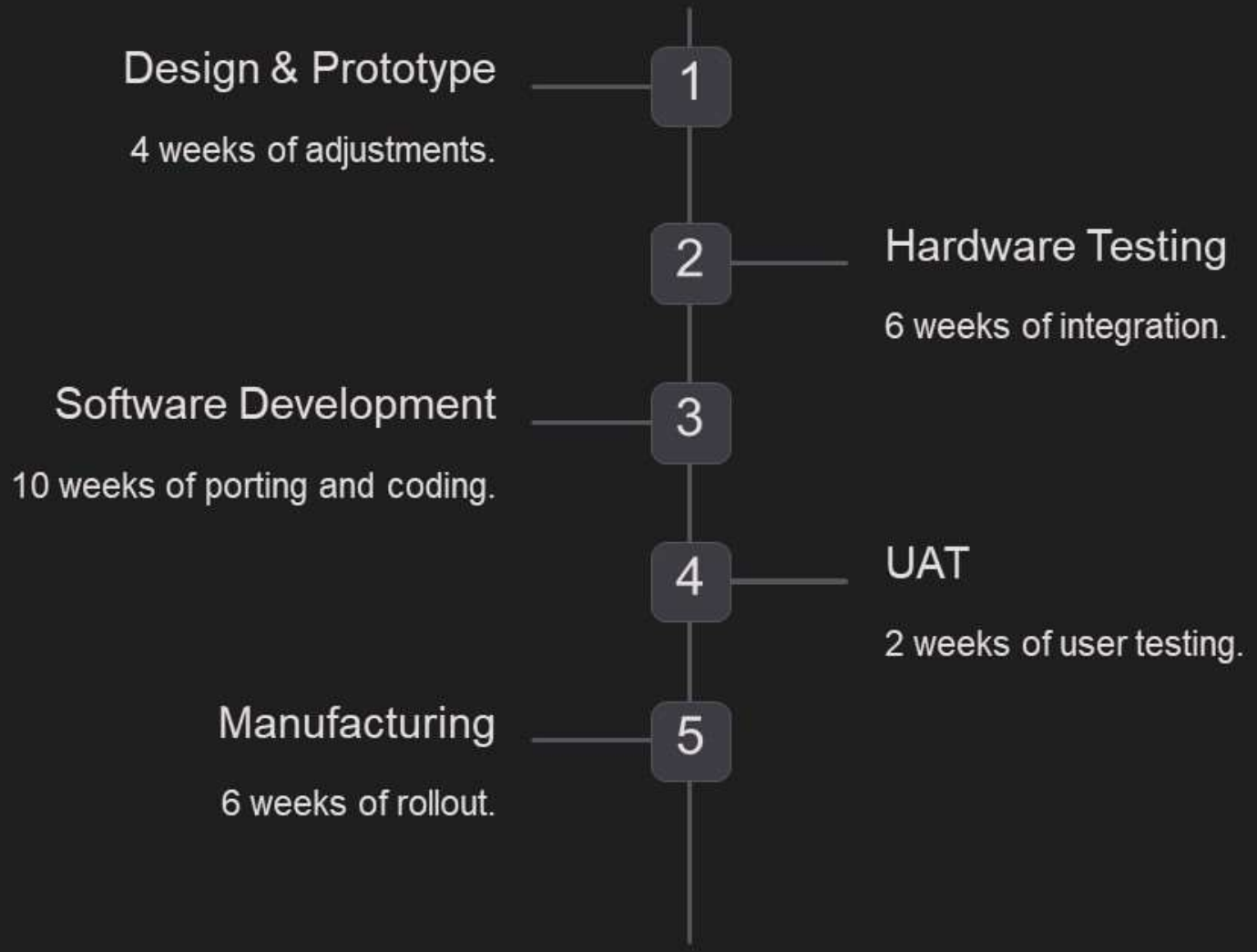
This report outlines the necessary changes to the system specifications, the associated costs, and the timeline for implementation.



Updated Requirements

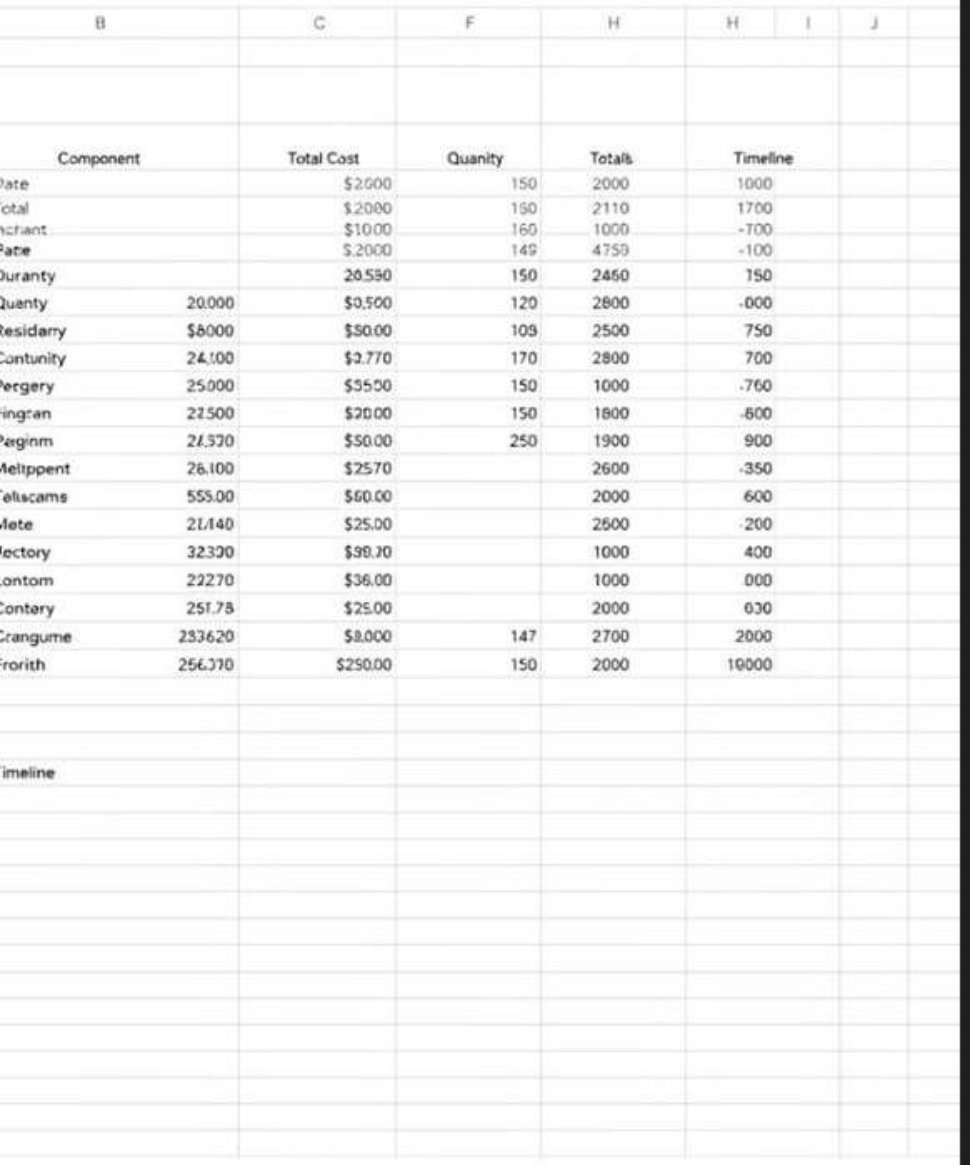
Requirement	Specification	Justification
OS	MccOS with GUI	Align with EDC's needs
CPU	68000 (from 68008)	Performance boost, EDC compatibility
Memory	512KB RAM	Support multitasking and GUI
Storage	SCSI or Floppy	Industry-standard compatibility
Keyboard	External connector	Flexibility for custom keyboards
Expansion	2 serial, SCSI, ULA	Networking and future-proofing

Project Timeline



Sprint Breakdown

- Sprint 1: Hardware adjustments focusing on CPU upgrade and memory expansion.
- Sprint 2: Software porting and integration of MccOS with GUI capabilities.
- Sprint 3: System integration and comprehensive testing for stability and performance.



B	C	F	H	H	I	J
Component		Total Cost	Quanity	Totals	Timeline	
Date		$2.000	150	2000	1000	
Total		$2080	150	2110	1700	
Inchant		$10.00	160	1000	-700	
Date		$.2000	149	4759	-100	
Duranty		20.550	150	2450	150	
Quanty	20.000	$0.500	120	2800	-000	
Residarry	$8000	$50.00	109	2500	750	
Contunity	24.100	$2.770	170	2800	700	
Pergery	25.000	$3550	150	1000	-760	
Pingran	22.500	$20.00	150	1800	-600	
Peginm	24.570	$50.00	250	1900	900	
Meltppent	26.100	$2570		2600	-350	
Teliscams	555.00	$60.00		2000	600	
Mete	21.140	$25.00		2600	-200	
Pectory	32330	$98.70		1000	400	
Lontom	22270	$36.00		1000	000	
Contary	251.78	$25.00		2000	030	
Crangume	233620	$8.000	147	2700	2000	
Frorith	256.070	$250.00	150	2000	10000	
Timeline						

Budget and Cost Analysis

Component	Cost per Unit	Quantity	Total Cost
CPU Upgrade	£50	3000	£150,000
Memory (512KB)	£25	3000	£75,000
SCSI Drive	£30	3000	£90,000
External Keyboard Connector	£10	3000	£30,000
Software Licensing (MccOS/GEM)	£25	3000	£75,000
Development & Engineering Costs	-	-	£60,000
Total Estimated Costs			**£480,000**

Pricing Considerations

- The base price for the Synputer is set at **£399.99**, and we need to manage production costs to ensure profitability while adhering to this price point.
- Finding ways to reduce development or manufacturing expenses is critical to avoid raising the price.

Proposed Solutions

EDC Version

Industry-standard with robust features.

General Market

Standard base model with optional upgrades.

Compatibility

Emulation for old systems, satisfying existing users.

System Options

Two Distinct Systems

Develop one system tailored for EDC and another for Synputer Computing.

Single Unified System

Create a single system that meets the core requirements of both companies, marketed under different names/badges.

Risk Management and Challenges

Production Delays (High)

Implement parallel hardware testing and software development.

Cost Overruns (Medium)

Conduct thorough cost analysis and bulk purchasing.

System Stability (High)

Invest in extensive testing phases and EM interference solutions.

Market Shift to GUI Systems (Medium)

Accelerate GUI development and engage with stakeholders for feedback.

Resolving EDC's Needs

Upgraded Specifications

The enhanced Synputer features industry-standard CPU, expanded RAM, and a contemporary OS with a user-friendly GUI, ensuring a functional and intuitive system for EDC staff.

Legacy Support

The SynEM emulator maintains backward compatibility with existing applications, safeguarding prior system investments and enabling seamless upgrades for enterprises relying on older software.

Improved User Experience

By addressing the technical requirements and user needs of EDC, the Synputer delivers a robust and user-friendly solution that facilitates easier adoption and increased productivity.

Resolving EDC's Needs

Tiered Product Structure

Offering a base model with competitive features, along with optional add-ons, allows us to cater to a diverse user base, from casual consumers to demanding business clients.

Brand Reputation

Emphasizing our commitment to quality, performance, and customer satisfaction helps us retain existing customers and attract new ones, further strengthening our market position.

Responsive to Trends

Market research and customer feedback enable us to identify emerging trends and preferences, empowering us to refine our product offerings and marketing strategies effectively.

Conclusion

In conclusion, we have identified the necessary modifications to the Synputer system to meet both EDC's requirements and the broader market demands while maintaining our advertised price of £399.99. The following next steps will ensure we remain on track:

1. Complete the system redesign by February 1984.
2. Begin full production of the modified units by March 1984.
3. Conduct User Acceptance Testing (UAT) scheduled for April 1984.
4. Officially launch the upgraded model in June 1984.