Role Report

As the person who came up with the project idea and the person who has taken charge as “Project Manager,” I have taken full responsibility with my team in order to make sure the project prototype is delivered in as good of condition as possible. With this project, I had to make myself realize that we had to deliver something that functioned but didn’t have to be the final form of our product. Companies go through dozens of prototypes before they decide on their final version. While this project is just one prototype of many that could be formed, I believe that I used to my position as the project manager in order to make it as cost efficient and useful as possible.

Besides coming up with the project idea, I also coordinated all of our meeting times and places. Thing was important as having only one leader allows for less disputes. If you give people a meeting place and a time, they will most likely be there. As for my group, they always showed up without hesitation and ready to work. Whenever we were coming up with the product idea and getting the design process requirements finished, we chose to work at the Science Library. This allowed the group to discuss ideas while still researching what would work best for our situation. It wasn’t’ until we went to class that an idea actually came to me. Dr. Manning expressed a situation that he faced quite often and when we researched it, we found that there was quite a large group of people who faced the same problem. This problem came with the fact that people in wheelchairs often get soaked whenever trying to transition from their car to the chair in the rain. This situation was perfect because we could not only implement hardware and software implications making it meet the computer systems requirement, but it was also an issue that had not been addressed and could possibly hold a market. As the project manager, the things I mentioned were very important in choosing the project. It doesn’t make sense to tackle an issue that has already been solved even if it isn’t the best version. I think fixing a problem that hasn’t been dealt with holds more precedence.

As we began to design the project, I realized that this simple umbrella contraption would prove to be quite expensive to build. The parts that were needed including the motor would have cost the group more than we could afford. That caused me to make the executive design to builder a smaller prototype that could represent the bigger idea at hand. This was to preserve not only the funds of the group, but the materials we had to work with. I wanted to design the box has cost efficiently as possible when built small or big. The issue comes that parts bought individually tend to cost more than when bought in bulk. We used stuff that we already had to prove some concepts, but we did have to get some software components such as the remote control module as well as logic boards and forward/reverse motor modules. These parts take time to come in, so it really hurt the group when we had to wait for them to arrive.

As the project manager, we made sure that all the group had access to the labs at Driftmier as well as made sure that everyone helped get the materials that were needed. It took us several weeks to build the project, but we managed to make a prototype that we were proud of. Our lack of experience within this field of work posed some troubles, but we worked as a group in order to assess and fix them while staying on track and on time.

Overall, I was very impressed with my role in the group and learned how to be responsible and take leadership within a group. This opportunity taught me the importance of a schedule within a project and how deviating from it can hard the whole group. In terms of how I could have improved myself, I think I should have educated myself on the parts and software more than I had. In the end, the project turned out great, and my teammates and I were proud which is a success in my book.