行政院國家科學委員會專題研究計畫 成果報告

台灣太陽能產業之產品策略

研究成果報告(精簡版)

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摘要

近年來,全球環保意識高漲與能源短缺,已喚起人類思考新的替代能源,而太陽能便成為能源 產業中的新興產業,但太陽能電池的製造成本居高不下,且在功率轉換效率上卻偏低,因此技術的 提升與產品策略的運用對於太陽能產業便是相形的急迫且重要。台灣在過去十幾年的努力下,已成 功的發展半導體與 TFT-LCD 產業,而太陽能產業的製程與此兩大產業技術原理相似,且相較於其 製程更為單純,故在此兩大產業製造程序與技術的穩固基礎上,台灣便可因全球化的再生能源之需 求與本身技術之優勢,取得更有利的發展空間。目前對於台灣太陽能產業的研究多專注於整體產業 策略與定性式的分析,但卻在太陽能產業的產品策略卻顯少著墨與探討。而產品策略所涵蓋範圍甚 廣,且複雜性與不確定性極高,多種策略產品可增加計畫成功的機會。因此本計畫的研究成果,將 有助於太陽能廠商以有效系統化的方法,提出最佳的產品策略方案。

本計書利用詮釋結構模式分析(ISM)找出太陽能產品策略關鍵因子之關聯性與回饋關係。同 時,考量專家對於評比時所產生語意之模糊性,加入模糊理論(Fuzzy Theory)之概念,整合出一套 完整之模糊網路分析(FANP)評估模型,來構建產品策略問題的定性與定量的評估模式,並配合不 同產品策略之利益、成本、機會和風險(BOCR)等重要構面,找出適合太陽能廠商之產品策略。本 研究計書之成果發展出完善的產品策略評估模式,有助於業者在太陽能產業供應鏈內之產品研發、 製造及行銷更加深入之了解。運用本研究的具體成果,除了更貼近實務面外,更能確保台灣太陽能 廠商在產品策略發展上的成功。

關鍵字: 太陽能電池;產品策略;模糊網路程序分析法;優勢、機會、成本、風險 (BOCR)

Abstract

With natural resource scarcity and environmental protection, the use of renewable energy has become a promise for offering clean and plentiful energy. Photovoltaic (PV) solar cell is one of the emerging renewable energy applications; however, it suffers a large difficulty in high production cost with low conversion efficiency currently. Hence, an urgent pressure to upgrade technology and to formulate product strategy is evident in the solar cell power industry. In order to prosper PV silicone solar cell power industry, this research develops a conceptual model to help analyze suitable strategic products. Interpretive structural modeling (ISM) is used to determine the interdependence among criteria first, and fuzzy analytic network process (FANP) with and benefits, opportunities, costs and risks is applied next to calculate the priorities of strategic products. The empirical study shows that the conceptual model can effectively and precisely handle such a complicated problem and can lead to an outstanding performance result.

Keywords: Photovoltaic (PV) Solar Cell Industry; Fuzzy Analytic Network Process, FANP; Interpretive Structural Modeling (ISM)

1. Introduction

Photovoltaic (PV) solar cells are semiconductor devices that transfer sunlight directly into electricity by converting the energy of the light to electrons in the atoms of the cell. The converting process is called the PV effect, and it is done without the use of either chemical reactions or moving parts (Milliken et al., 2007). With the policies of many countries in promoting the PV solar cell industry, the industry has grown tremendously, and the global production capacity of silicon solar cell increased from 52MWp in 2000 to 4.60GWp, 6.3GWp, 9.1GWp, and 12.0GWp in 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008, respectively (Hirschman and Schmela, 2006; Wang, 2008). Even though PV systems can offer cleaner and plentiful energy, the major obstacle they face is that their energy cost is still too high (Hoffmann, 2006). The most commonly used solar cell today is made from crystalline silicon, but the main trend of solar cell industry is toward the PV silicon thin-film solar cell because of its potential reduction of production costs, low material consumption, lower energy consumption and a shorter energy payback time (Duke et al., 2005). The crystalline silicon material and energy consumption for making a PV silicon thin-film solar cell is only 1/10 of that for a traditional solar cell. However, solar radiation conversion efficiency (currently less than 12%), product stability (different absorption rates for lights with different wavelengths), and lifetime (deformation after extensive sun exposure) for PV silicon thin-film solar cells all need to be enhanced (Jager-Waldau, 2004; van Sark et al., 2007; Chen and Lin, 2008). In addition, thin-film technologies also face a wide range of problems from the lack of knowledge of basic material properties, the availability issues of production technologies to the legal concerns about patent infringements and the possible market perspectives. Compared with Japan, US or Europe, Taiwan government has an urgent pressure to formulate product strategies because its technologies are still behind those countries and its initial investment costs are very high. However, Taiwan has a great potential since its production capacity in semiconductor, flat panel display (FPD), and conventional PV solar cell industries, which are highly related to this emergent market, all have large shares in the world's markets. Accordingly, a plan to design product strategy for PV silicone thin-film solar cell power industry in Taiwan is necessary. In addition, firms within a manufacturing network are forced to integrate and collaborate with each other in order to develop new strategies, capacities and capabilities in a global competitive environment (Storey and Emberson, 2006). Thus, in this study, the product strategy will be considered from the perspective of a PV silicone thin-film solar cell power industry.

Product strategy involves decisions about target market, product mix, project prioritization, resource allocation and technology selection. With a tremendous degree of complexity and uncertainty, multiple strategic products are usually selected to increase the possibility of having a few successful projects (Balbontin et al., 2000). In essence, it is a set of strategic decisions to ensure that the right markets and products are pursued (Urban and Hauser, 1993). To facilitate the prosperousness of the PV silicone solar cell power industry, this research develops a conceptual model, using fuzzy analytic network process (FANP) with interpretive structural modeling (ISM) and benefits, opportunities, costs and risks (BOCR), to help analyze suitable strategic products for the thin-film solar cell power manufacturing network.

2. A conceptual model for selecting suitable strategic products

Because of fierce competition and limited resources, most companies today can only focus on a certain part of the production process, such as research and design, components production, assembly production, packing and testing, transportation and distribution, marketing and sales. With the industrial value chain being divided into tiny segments, each company can only concentrate on its specialized field and needs to share its capabilities to solve problems with partners or competitors to obtain the maximum benefits of the production network (Wiendahl and Lutz, 2002). In addition, a major process accompanying the inter-firm activities is the significant knowledge flow that takes place among the firms, and it is regarded as an important engine for innovation (Choi et al., 2008). Firms within the manufacturing network share a particular body of compound core capabilities, complementary assets and capability to learn (Kash and Rycoft, 2000). The core competitiveness of the firms is not just the advantages in capital, capacity and capability (Storey and Emberson, 2006; Heimeriks et al., 2009), but also in innovation and inspiration (Nonaka and Takeuchi, 1995). Accordingly, the product strategy for PV silicone thin-film solar cell power industry should be considered from the perspective of the manufacturing network.

Network resources contain both tangible properties such as financial capitals, core equipments, complementary technologies, and human resources, and intangible properties like patents, trademarks, and brand loyalty. Mutual trust, inter-organizational structure, working processes, and specific control systems are network capabilities. Distinctive competencies are the capabilities to integrate and coordinate network resources to produce superior performances (Barney, 1991; Mahoney and Pandian, 1992; Spear and Bowen, 1999). However, based on distinctive competencies and dynamic environments, a company in the manufacturing network needs to select a set of product strategies to achieve competitive advantages (Hawkins, 2004; Hill and Jones 2007). Distinctive competencies contain two constructs: network resources and network capabilities. Dynamic environments can be analyzed from four constructs: internal strengths and weaknesses, and external opportunities and threats. In order to help select a suitable product strategy, a conceptual model is built up and is as shown in Fig. 1.

Fig. 1. Strategic products leading to competitive advantages.

3. A FANP model with ISM and BOCR for evaluating strategic products

A systematic FANP model incorporated with ISM and BOCR is proposed to help analyze the suitable strategic products from the perspectives of a large firm in a PV silicone solar cell power manufacturing network. The model is comprised of five phrases, as shown in Fig. 2, and the respective steps are described here.

Phase I: Construction of a PV silicone solar cell product strategy evaluation network.

*Step 1***.** Form a committee of experts in the PV silicone solar cell industry and define the problem for selecting suitable strategic products.

Fig. 2. Flowchart of the proposed model.

- *Step 2.* Construct a control hierarchy for the strategic product evaluation problem.
- *Step 3.* Decompose the strategic product evaluation problem into a network with four sub-networks.

Phase II: Determination of the interdependence among criteria.

Step 4. Establish an adjacency matrix which shows the contextual relationship among the criteria under each merit. In Phase II, ISM is adopted to determine the interdependence among the criteria.

The adjacency matrix \mathbf{D}_m is presented as follows:

$$
\mathbf{D}_{m} = x_{1}^{m} \begin{bmatrix} x_{1}^{m} & x_{2}^{m} & \cdots & x_{n}^{m} \\ 0 & \pi_{12}^{m} & \cdots & \pi_{1n}^{m} \\ \pi_{21}^{m} & 0 & \cdots & \pi_{2n}^{m} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & 0 & \vdots \\ x_{n}^{m} \begin{bmatrix} \pi_{11}^{m} & \pi_{12}^{m} & \cdots & 0 \end{bmatrix}
$$
\n(1)

Step 5. Develop the reachability matrix and check for transitivity. The initial reachability matrix H_m

is calculated by adding \mathbf{D}_m from step 4 with the unit matrix I:

$$
\mathbf{H}_m = \mathbf{D}_m + I \tag{2}
$$

The final reachability matrix \mathbf{H}_{m}^{*} is under the operators of the Boolean multiplication and addition (i.e., $1\times0=0\times1=0$, $1+0=0+1=1$), and a convergence can be met:

$$
\mathbf{H}_m^* = \mathbf{H}_m^b = \mathbf{H}_m^{b+1}, \quad b > 1 \tag{3}
$$

Step 6. Determine the interdependence among criteria under each merit. Based on H^* , the interdependence among criteria under merit m can be depicted.

Phase III: Calculation of priorities of the merits.

- Step 7. Employ a questionnaire to collect experts' opinions on the importance of strategic criteria and the importance of merits to strategic criteria.
- **Step 8.** Determine the priorities of the strategic criteria.
- Step 9. Determine the importance of each merit to each strategic criterion.
- **Step 10.** Determine the priorities of the merits.

Phase IV: Calculation of product strategy priorities under the four merits.

- **Step 11.** Employ a questionnaire to collect experts' opinions on the importance of criteria, the interdependence among criteria and the expected performance of product strategies.
- **Step 12.** Calculate the relative priorities in each sub-network.
- Step 13. Form an unweighted supermatrix for each merit sub-network. Based on the procedure of ANP proposed by Saaty (1996), the priorities obtained from Step 12 are used to form an unweighted supermatrix for merit m :

Merit *m* Criteria Product strategies

\n
$$
\mathbf{M}_{m} = \begin{bmatrix}\n\text{Merit } m \\
\text{Criteria} \\
\text{Froduct strategies} \\
\mathbf{0} & \mathbf{W}_{\text{CC}} \\
\mathbf{W}_{\text{CC}} & \mathbf{0} \\
\mathbf{W}_{\text{PC}} & \mathbf{I}\n\end{bmatrix}
$$
\n(4)

- **Step 14.** Calculate weighted supermatrix for each merit sub-network.
- **Step 15.** Calculate the limit supermatrix and obtain the priorities of product strategies under each merit sub-network.

Phase V: Calculation of final priorities of the product strategies.

Step 16. Calculate overall priorities of the product strategies by synthesizing priorities of each product strategy under each merit from Step 15 with the corresponding normalized weights b, o, c and r from Step 10. There are five ways to combine the scores of each product strategy under B, O, C and R (Saaty, 2003).

Additive:

 $P_i = bB_i + oO_i + c(1/C_i)$ Normalized $+r(1/R_i)$ Normalized (5)

where B_i , O_i , C_i and R_i represent the synthesized results of product strategy *i* under merit B , O , C and *R*, respectively, and *b*, *o*, *c* and *r* are normalized weights of merit B, O, C and R, respectively.

Probabilistic additive

Multiplicative priority powers

$$
P_i = bB_i + oO_i + c(1 - C_i) + r(1 - R_i)
$$
\n⁽⁶⁾

Subtractive

 $P_i = bB_i + oO_i - cC_i - rR_i$ (7)

(8)

$$
P_i = B_i^b O_i^o [(1/C_i)_{\text{Normalized}}]^c [(1/R_i)_{\text{Normalized}}]^r
$$

Multiplicative

$$
P_i = B_i O_i / C_i R_i
$$
 (9)

4. A practical investigation for strategic products in industry

In order to examine the practicality of the proposed conceptual model, the PV silicon thin-film solar cell power industry in Taiwan is used as an example. The purpose of the control hierarchy in Fig. 3 is to calculate the priorities, b, o, c and r, of the four merits. The BOCR network has the same goal as the control hierarchy does, and the purpose of this network is to calculate the priorities of the product strategies. A set of questionnaire is completed by the experts to generate the priorities of the four merits and to collect experts' opinions on the importance of criteria, the interdependence among criteria and the expected performance of product strategies.

Fig. 3. Control hierarchy.

The BOCR network, as shown in Fig. 4, has the same goal as the control hierarchy does, and the purpose of this network is to calculate the priorities of the product strategies. A set of questionnaire is completed by the experts to generate the priorities of the four merits and to collect experts' opinions on the importance of criteria, the interdependence among criteria and the expected performance of product strategies.

Fig. 4. The BOCR network.

The final ranking of the product mixes is calculated by the five methods, additive, probabilistic additive, subtractive, multiplicative priority powers and multiplicative, to aggregate the scores of each alternative under B, O, C and R. The results are as shown in Table 1.

5. Conclusion

From empirical demonstration, the conceptual model with a fuzzy analytic network process (FANP), interpretive structural modeling (ISM) and benefits, opportunities, costs and risks (BOCR) can effectively and precisely handle the complicated product strategy problem and lead to an outstanding result. From the practical view of the manufacturing industry, the outcome of strategic products analysis is the instrument for receiving supports from central authorities. In addition, official policy planners not only represent central authorities to show their points of views, but also utilize the model to design their development

plan.

Table 1.

Final priorities of product mixes.

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成果報告自評

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98 年度專題研究計畫研究成果彙整表

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