The recommended approach to achieve these aims is to widen the scope of the study by considering various aspects of quality and even the managers of the various aspects of the manufacturing processes and their influence on the overall business strategy. Thus, the major interfaces are identified. These are listed as follows:

- The inter-relationships of functions within the manufacturing processes and their influence on the overall business strategy.
- The external factors, which are predominantly generated by market forces, and the internal ones emanate from process improvements and their associated component re-design requirements.

All these new concepts are possible by the use of computers and programmable logical controllers (PLCs) to control the operating systems. Ideas for production control are developed and the question is posed as to whether computers or PLCs should be used; what pitfalls to look for; types of communications and networks to use; and the necessary planning and management systems to adopt. By implementing such ideas, investment will be diverted to productive assets, and the manufacturing engineer will become more fully recognised when he understands this strategic approach to manufacturing.

This book will enable the engineer to get started in developing the new strategy by providing him with check-lists on manufacturing, data availability, feasibility and planning studies. It will show him how to implement the programmes of action to achieve his goals. Above all, the book gathers together the most important ideas for the manufacturing engineer and covers their influence on the total business activities.