NOVA INCORPORATED: CASE C RESULTS OF A WORLDWIDE MARKET RESEARCH STUDY

Working Paper #704

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NOVA INCORPORATED: Case C Results of A Worldwide Market Research Study

As much as anything, it had been the Born Again Marketing Task Force report that had convinced John Fisher of the urgency of revamping Nova's marketing strategy and logistics systems. The market survey of current U.S. customers concluded that Nova was unlikely to gain market share through price reductions because competitors could simply match them. It found, however, that U.S. customers were very sensitive to improvements in product quality and delivery reliability. And if improvement in these dimensions could be achieved, they would be difficult for competitors to duplicate.

The recommendation that emerged from the Marketing Task Force in 1991 was a plan to prune the product line to 10 products by dropping 12 low volume parts that constituted just 5% of total sales. The task force proposed that Nova hold current prices on the modified product line and guarantee that defect free product would be shipped FOB from regional warehouses to any customer location on 24 hour notice with an average fill rate of 99%. They felt that if manufacturing and distribution could deliver on the marketing guarantee, Nova could quickly reacquire the market share that the company had lost over the past 12 years.

While Fisher realized that the task force's market data had been informally compiled and that it reflected only the market conditions in the United States, he believed that the task force recommendations were directionally correct. He therefore embraced their proposal, making their recommendations corporate goals for 1992. At the same time, however, he contracted with a market research firm, Market Opinion

Associates (MOA), for a worldwide study of Nova's current and potential customer base.

The MOA market survey was recently completed and a summary of preliminary data has been received. These data derive from personal interviews and questionnaire responses from users in all current key customer accounts, from a sample of smaller Nova accounts, and from large customers of Nova's key competitors. Four important new facts were uncovered. First, there are five service areas of major importance to customers. Second, not all customers consider the same areas of service to be most important. Third, customers in different regions of the world have different service concerns. Fourth, service performance for the same area of service are different in different parts of the world.

The five types of service identified as most important by the study are:

- 1. Price (net of all discounts).
- 2. Timeliness and consistency of service (rapid and reliable resupply times).
- 3. Range of product line.
- 4. Technical assistance available both before and after sale.
- 5. Product quality as measured by reliability, durability and functionality.

Data corresponding to these five categories were collected from each of Nova's sales regions and are presented here in the Appendix. Because of the large number of respondents in North America and Europe, data from these regions were subdivided by large volume customers and medium and small volume customers. Two types of questions were asked. The first type was associated with the relative importance of each service area to the responding company. The second asked for a rating of Nova's

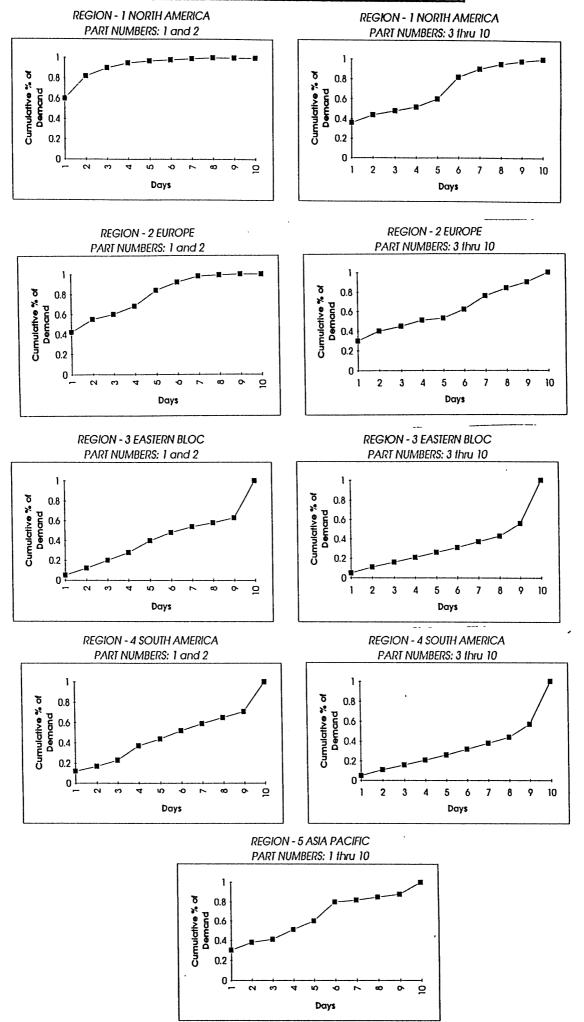
current performance in each area of service. The scales used by the respondents are shown below.

SCALE	IMPORTANCE RATING	PERFORMANCE RATING		
1	Critically Important	Exceptional		
2	Very Important	Good		
3	Important	Neutral		
4	Somewhat Important	Needs Improvement		
5	Irrelevant	Unacceptable		
6	Don't Know	Don't Know		

Each service was rated as being Very Important through Irrelevant by each company, while performance was rated as Exceptional through Unacceptable. The numbers in the summary tables of the Appendix are the percentage of respondents in each category.

The Survey also showed that timeliness-of-service-required differs by region and by part number. Part numbers 1 and 2 had more stringent requirements for service in almost all markets. The following graphs show how long customers are willing to wait following the placement of an order. The graphs show the percentage that want one day service (next day), two or less days service, etc. Hence, for example, for part numbers 1 and 2 in Region 1, 60% of the demand must be satisfied in one day, 83% by the end of the second day, 92% by the end of the third day, 97% by the end of the fifth day, and 100% by the end of the sixth day.

CUSTOMER DUE DATE LEAD TIMES



ASSIGNMENT

Review the data and summarize the key observations from the MOA market survey for John Fisher.

Appendix

(Respondent Ratings of Service Importance and Performance)

REGION 1 - NORTH AMERICA

WHAT LARGE COMPANIES VALUE

RATING

SERVICE TYPE

_	Critical		Important			Don't Know	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Price	5%	25%	53%	11%	6%	0%	
Timeliness	68%	22%	10%	0%	0%	0%	
Variety	41%	17%	26%	11%	5%	0%	
Tech Asst	35%	26%	11%	6%	22%	0%	
Quality	92%	8%	0%	0%	0%	0%	

HOW LARGE COMPANIES PERCIEVE OUR SERVICE

RATING

Exceptional Neutral Unacceptable Don't Know 1 2 3 4 5 6 Price 65% 21% 4% 0% 0% 10% 19% 42% **Timeliness** 9% 15% 4% 11% Variety 73% 11% 4% 1% 1% 10% Tech Asst 71% 17% 2% 1% 0% 9% Quality 79% 15% 3% 0% 0% 3%

SERVICE TYPE

WHAT MEDIUM and SMALL SIZED COMPANIES VALUE

RATING

SERVICE TYPE

_	Critical		Important			Don't Know
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Price	14%	31%	52%	3%	0%	0%
Timeliness	59%	23%	17%	1%	0%	0%
Variety	44%	21%	29%	5%	1%	0%
Tech Asst	47%	32%	8%	9%	4%	0%
Quality	95%	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%

HOW MEDIUM and SMALL SIZED COMPANIES PERCEIVE OUR SERVICE

RATING

	Exceptional		Neutral		Unacceptable Don't Know		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Price	32%	23%	6%	4%	1%	34%	
Timeliness	5%	11%	14%	29%	3%	38%	
Variety	38%	21%	3%	2%	1%	35%	
Tech Asst	52%	14%	6%	2%	0%	26%	
Quality	74%	11%	1%	0%	0%	14%	

REGION 2 - EUROPE

WHAT LARGE COMPANIES VALUE

RATING

SERVICE TYPE

	Critical		Important			Don't Know
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Price	12%	23%	56%	8%	1%	0%
Timeliness	64%	27%	8%	1%	0%	0%
Variety	35%	14%	36%	8%	7%	0%
Tech Asst	42%	23%	26%	5%	4%	0%
Quality	92%	7%	1%	0%	0%	0%

HOW LARGE COMPANIES PERCEIVE OUR SERVICE

RATING

SERVICE TYPE

	Exceptional		Neutral		Unacceptable	Don't Know
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Price	44%	15%	4%	7%	3%	27%
Timeliness	2%	14%	19%	32%	2%	31%
Variety	58%	9%	3%	0%	0%	30%
Tech Asst	52%	13%	7%	2%	0%	26%
Quality	64%	17%	6%	0%	0%	13%

WHAT MEDIUM and SMALL SIZED COMPANIES VALUE

RATING

SERVICE TYPE

	Critical		Important			Don't Know
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Price	21%	27%	47%	5%	0%	0%
Timeliness	48%	32%	16%	4%	0%	0%
Variety	40%	23%	27%	8%	2%	0%
Tech Asst	52%	27%	10%	1%	0%	0%
Quality	91%	8%	1%	0%	0%	0%

HOW MEDIUM and SMALL SIZED COMPANIES PERCEIVE OUR SERVICE

RATING

Unacceptable Don't Know Exceptional Neutral 2 4 1 3 5 6 Price 27% 20% 7% 6% 1% 39% 3% 16% 11% 22% 5% 43% **Timeliness** 22% 34% 5% 1% 0% 38% Variety 19% 7% 2% 0% 41% 31% Tech Asst 21% 1% 0% 0% 18% 60% Quality

REGION 3 - EASTERN BLOC

WHAT COMPANIES VALUE

RATING

SERVICE TYPE

	Critical		Important			Don't Know
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Price	32%	29%	38%	1%	0%	0%
Timeliness	19%	27%	24%	19%	11%	0%
Variety	37%	24%	32%	10%	7%	0%
Tech Asst	61%	30%	9%	0%	0%	0%
Quality	82%	11%	6%	1%	0%	0%

HOW COMPANIES PERCEIVE OUR SERVICE

RATING

	Exceptional		Neutral		Unacceptable Don't Know		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Price	17%	22%	6%	3%	1%	51%	
Timeliness	29%	19%	4%	0%	0%	48%	
Variety	42%	8%	6%	1%	0%	43%	
Tech Asst	25%	19%	14%	8%	2%	32%	
Quality	77%	2%	0%	0%	0%	21%	

REGION 4 - SOUTH AMERICA

WHAT COMPANIES VALUE

RATING

SERVICE TYPE

_	Critical		Important		Irrelevant	Don't Know
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Price	41%	27%	28%	4%	0%	0%
Timeliness	17%	26%	28%	22%	7%	0%
Variety	31%	33%	28%	6%	2%	0%
Tech Asst	65%	27%	7%	1%	0%	0%
Quality	86%	10%	3%	1%	0%	0%

HOW COMPANIES PERCEIVE OUR SERVICE

RATING

	Exceptional		Neutral		Unacceptable Don't Know		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Price	27%	19%	10%	2%	0%	42%	
Timeliness	33%	18%	4%	1%	0%	44%	
Variety	47%	7%	6%	2%	0%	38%	
Tech Asst	35%	22%	12%	3%	2%	26%	
Quality	82%	1%	0%	0%	0%	17%	

REGION 5 - ASIA PACIFIC

WHAT COMPANIES VALUE

RATING

SERVICE TYPE

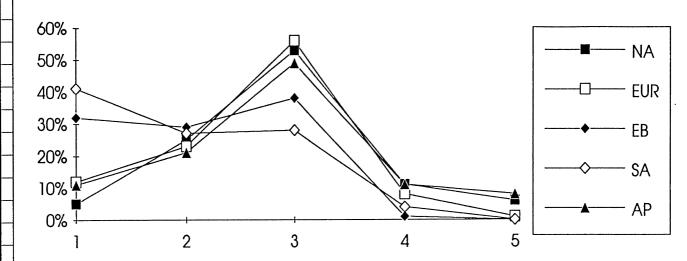
	Critical		Important		irrelevant	Don't Know
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Price	11%	21%	49%	11%	8%	0%
Timeliness	71%	23%	6%	0%	0%	0%
Variety	43%	14%	31%	10%	2%	0%
Tech Asst	40%	27%	15%	3%	15%	0%
Quality	97%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%

HOW COMPANIES PERCEIVE OUR SERVICE

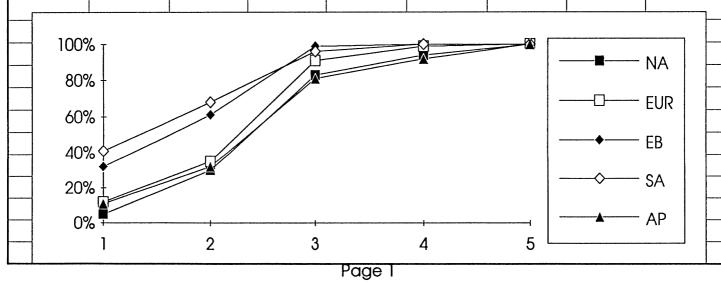
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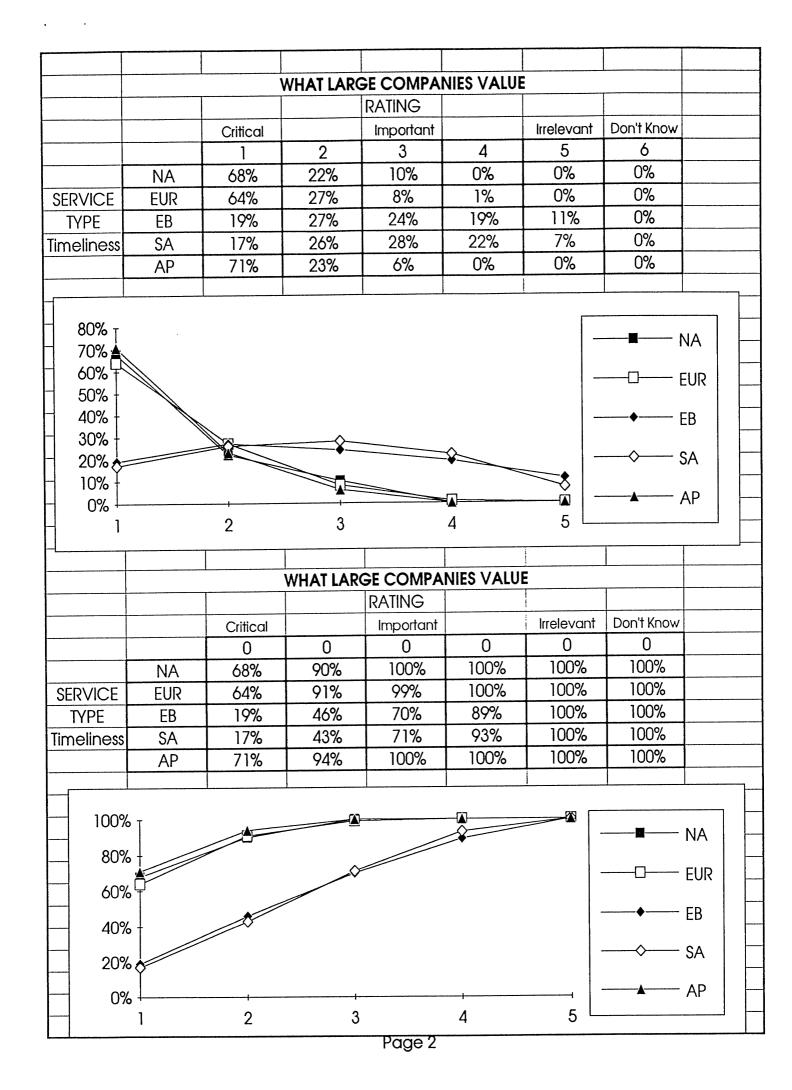
	Exceptional		Neutral		Unacceptable	Don't Know
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Price	57%	12%	4%	1%	0%	26%
Timeliness	13%	15%	10%	36%	1%	25%
Variety	59%	9%	5%	0%	0%	27%
Tech Asst	68%	11%	4%	2%	0%	15%
Quality	75%	10%	5%	1%	0%	9%

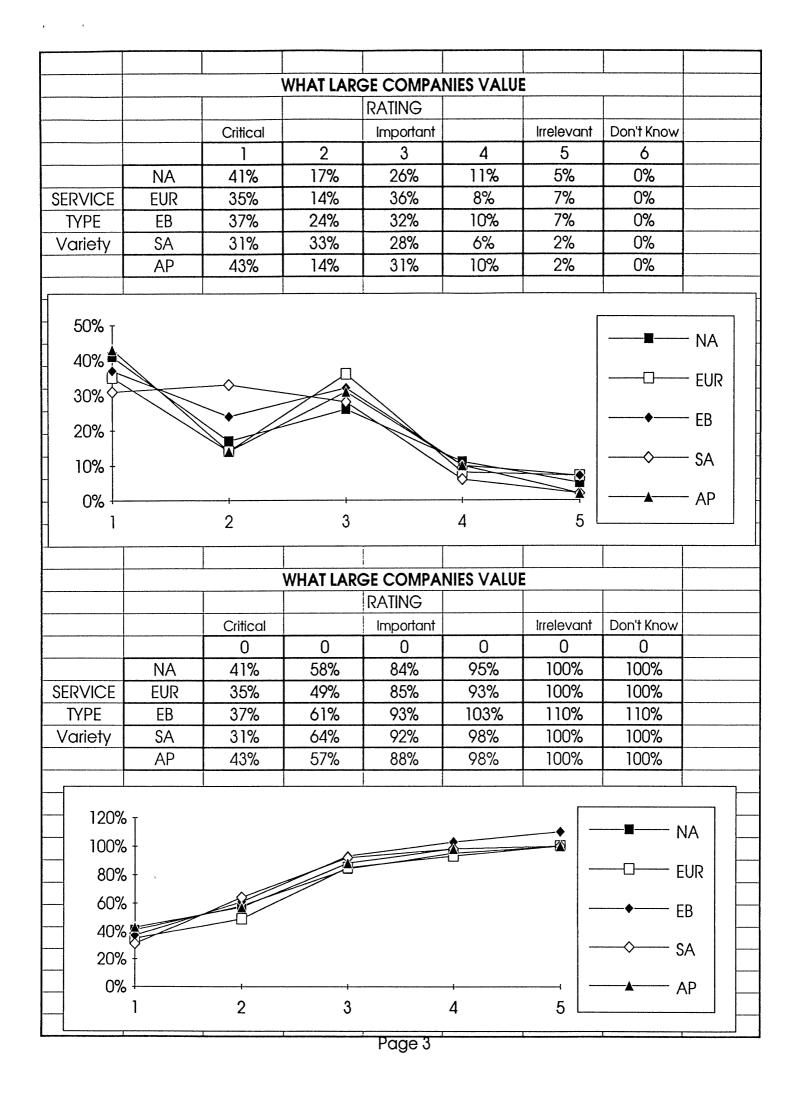
	WHAT LARGE COMPANIES VALUE										
				RATING							
		Critical		Important		Irrelevant	Don't Know				
		1	2	3	4	5	6				
	NA	5%	25%	53%	11%	6%	0%				
SERVICE	EUR	12%	23%	56%	8%	1%	0%				
TYPE	EB	32%	29%	38%	1%	0%	0%				
Price	SA	41%	27%	28%	4%	0%	0%				
	AP	11%	21%	49%	11%	8%	0%				

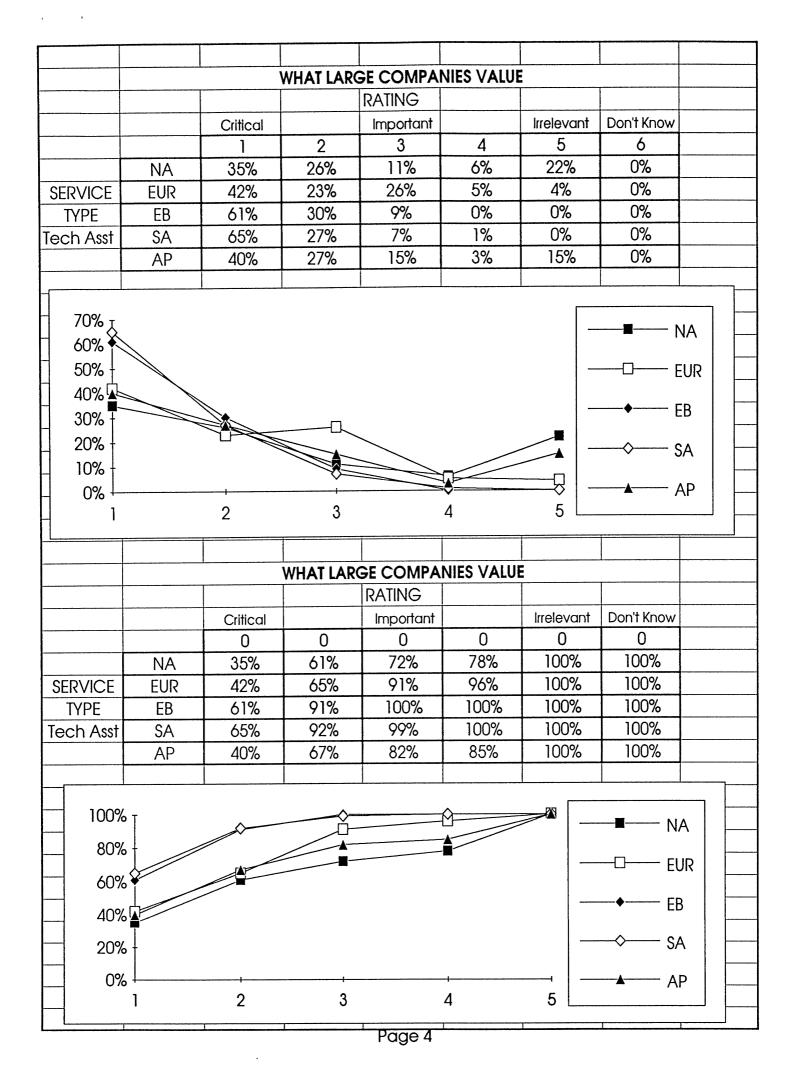


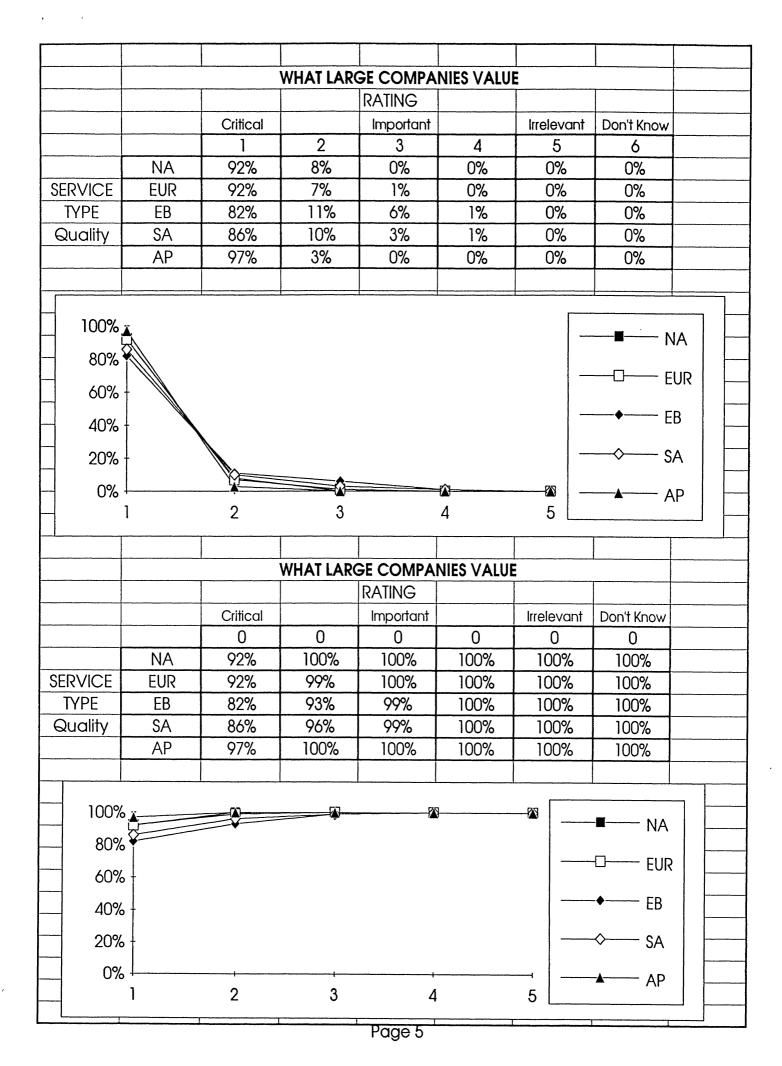
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		Critical		Important		Irrelevant	Don't Know				
		0	0	0	0	0	0				
	NA	5%	30%	83%	94%	100%	100%				
SERVICE	EUR	12%	35%	91%	99%	100%	100%				
TYPE	EB	32%	61%	99%	100%	100%	100%				
Price	SA	41%	68%	96%	100%	100%	100%				
	AP	11%	32%	81%	92%	100%	100%				
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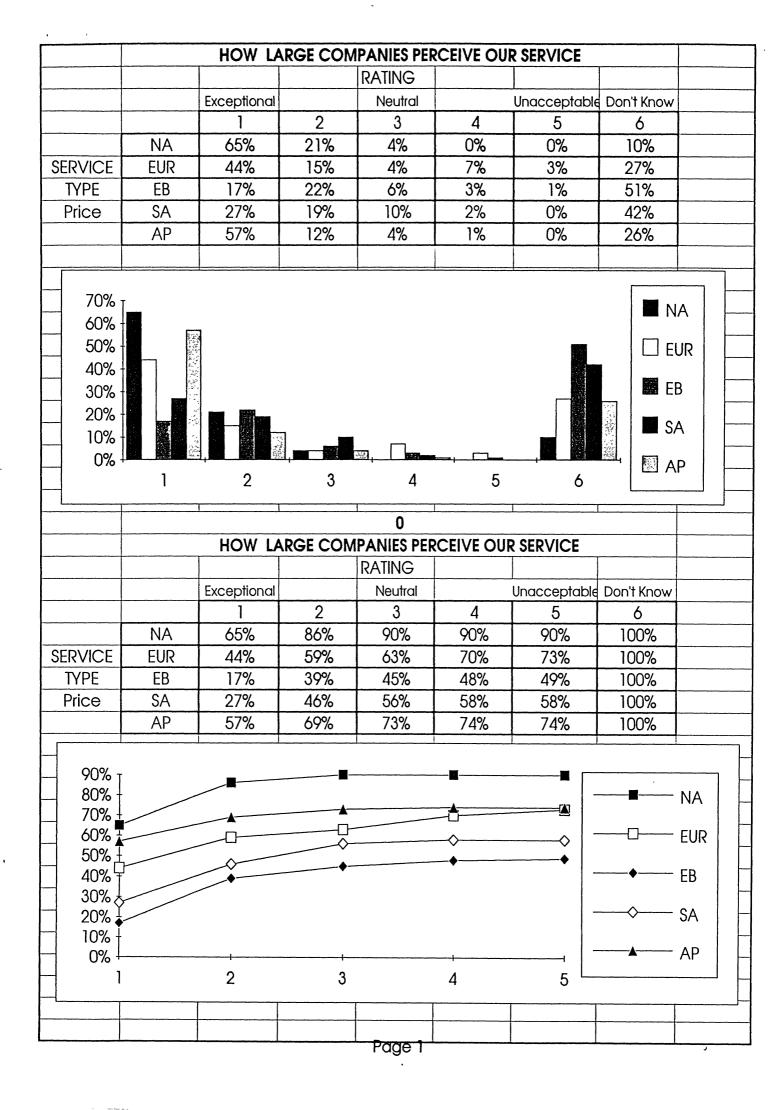


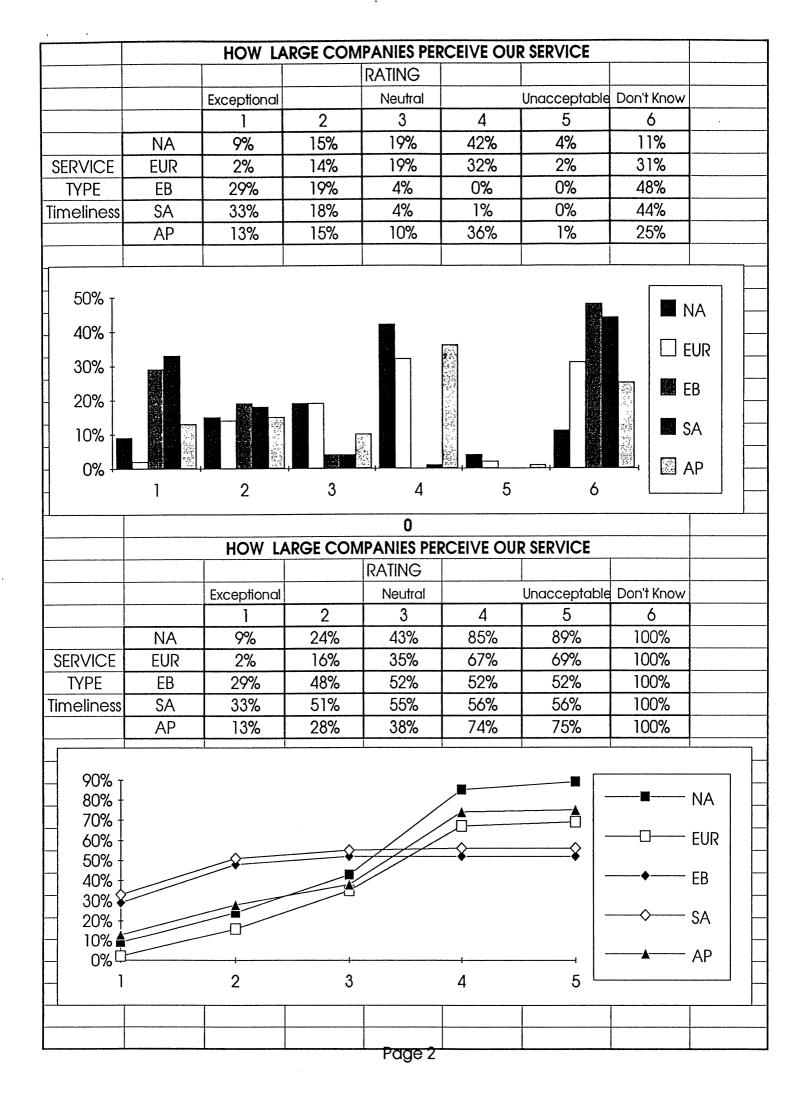


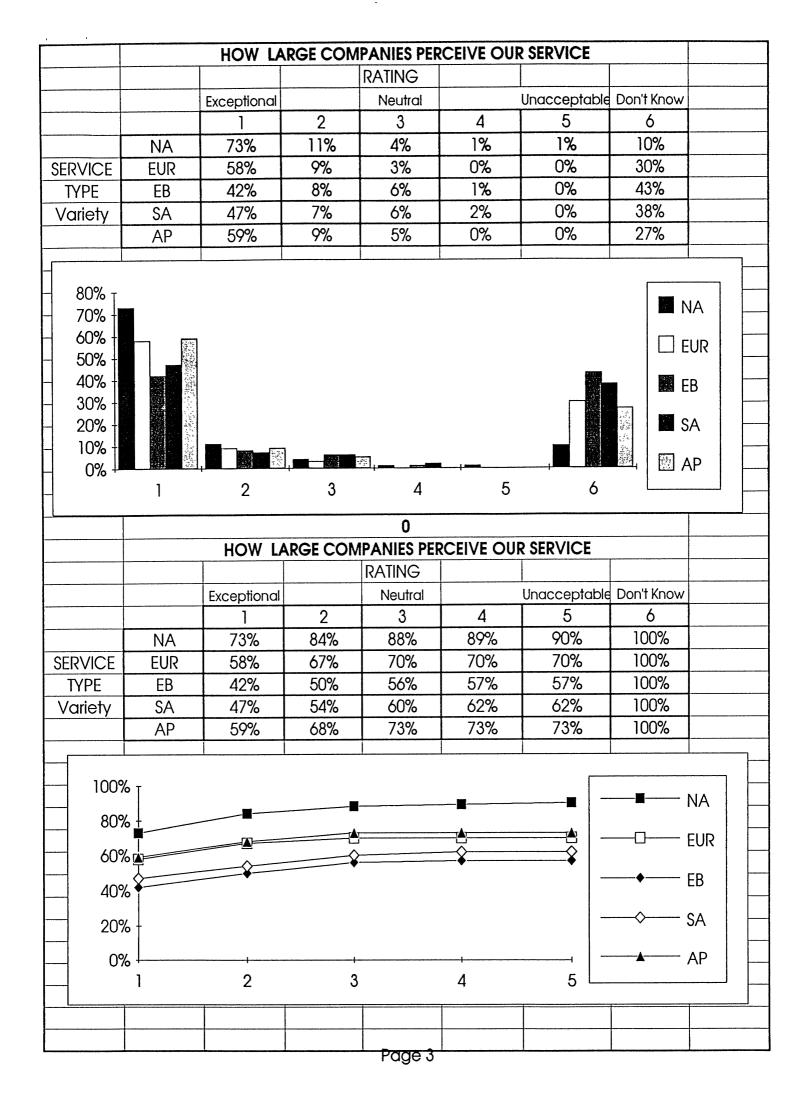


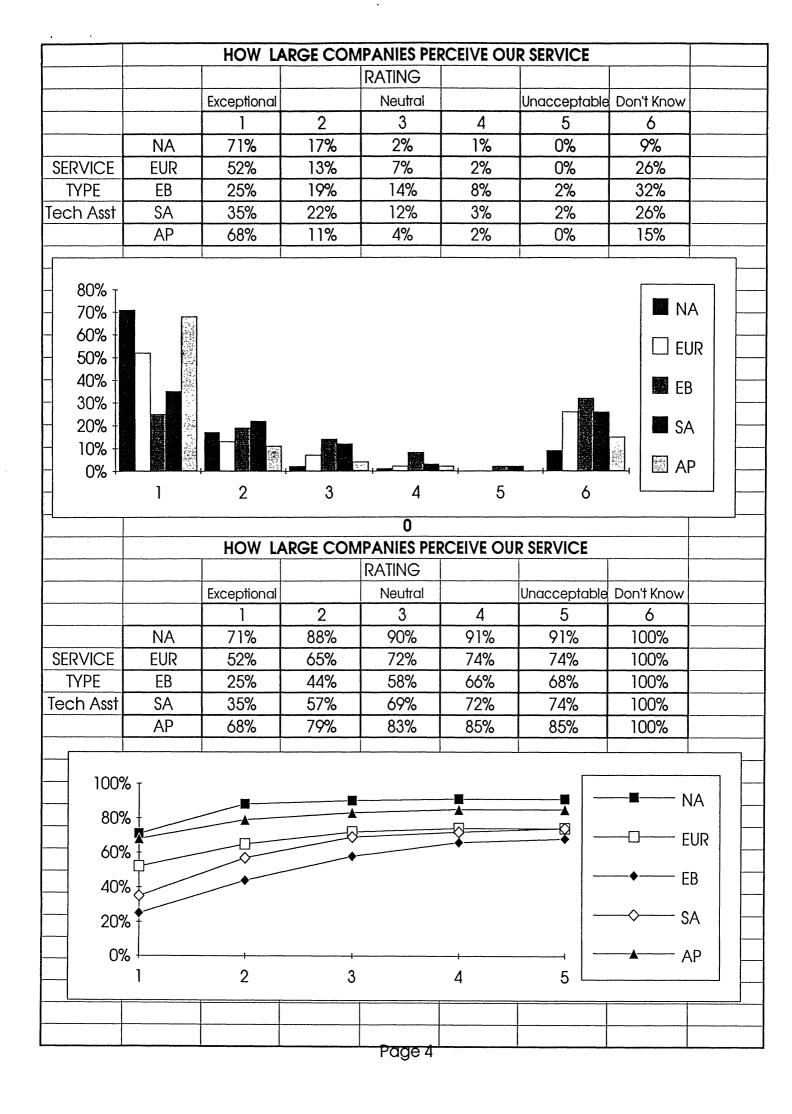


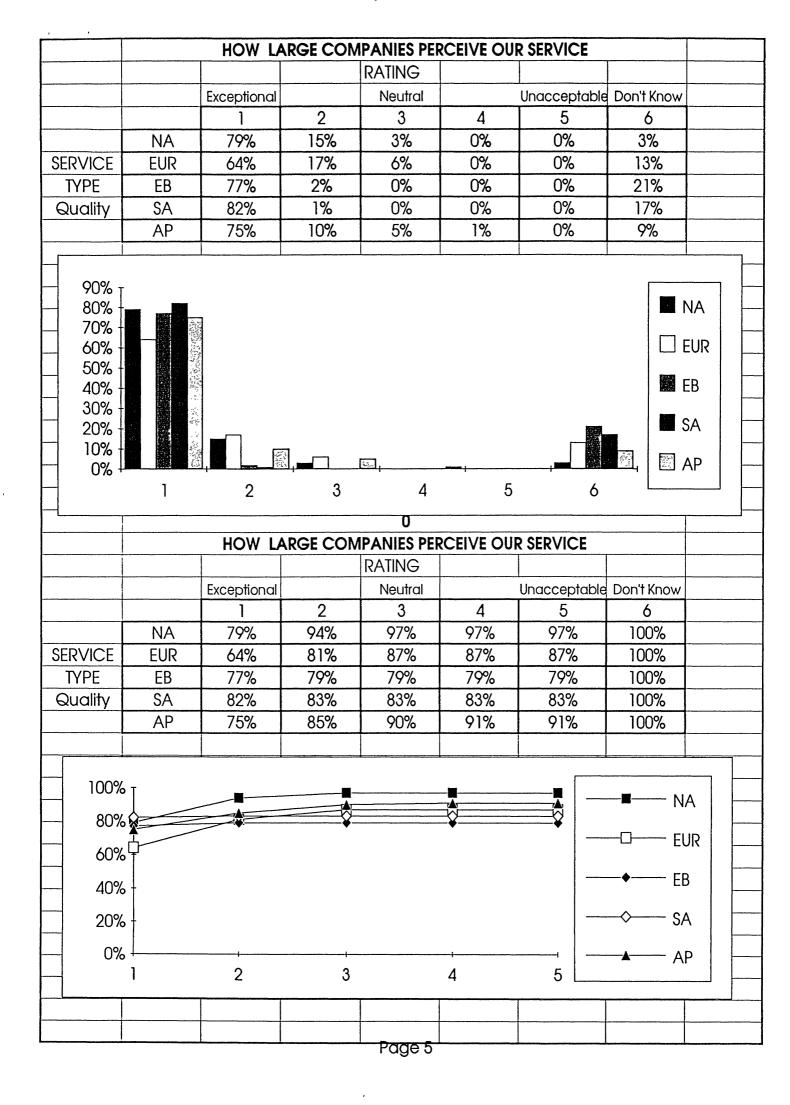


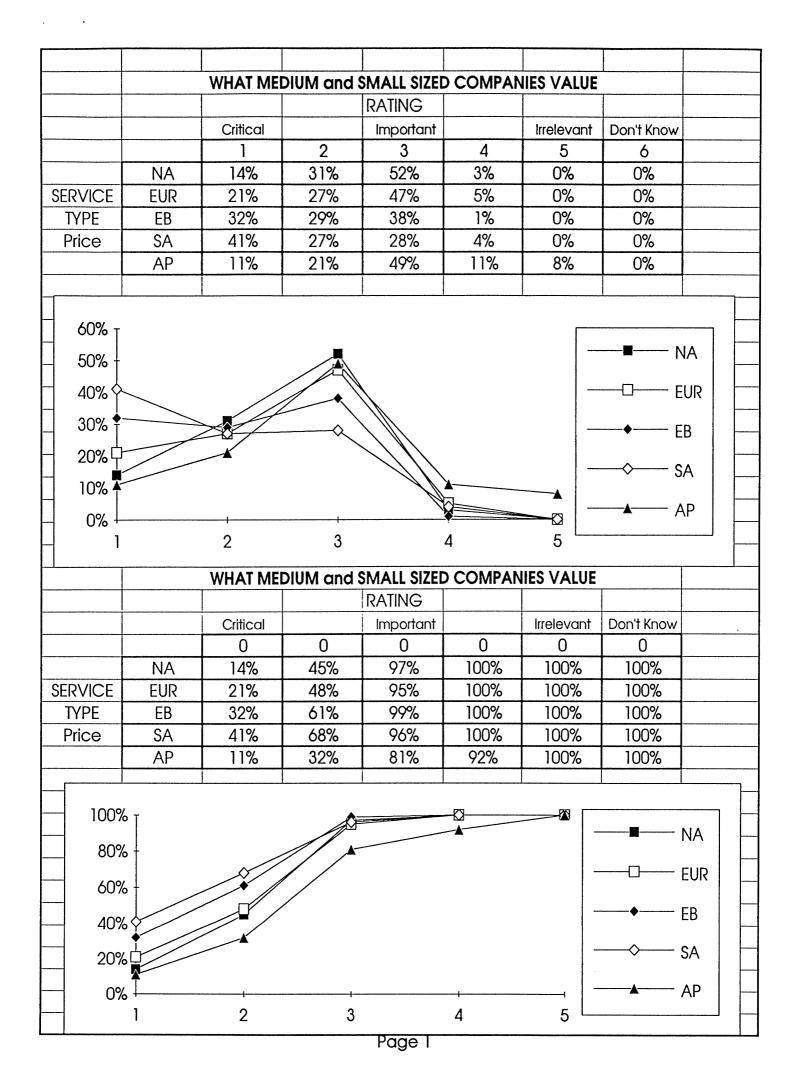












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TYPE	EB	19%	27%	24%	19%	11%	0%	
	SA	17%	26%	28%	22%	7%	0%	
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	NA	59%						
	EUR	48%	80%	96%	100%	100%	100%	
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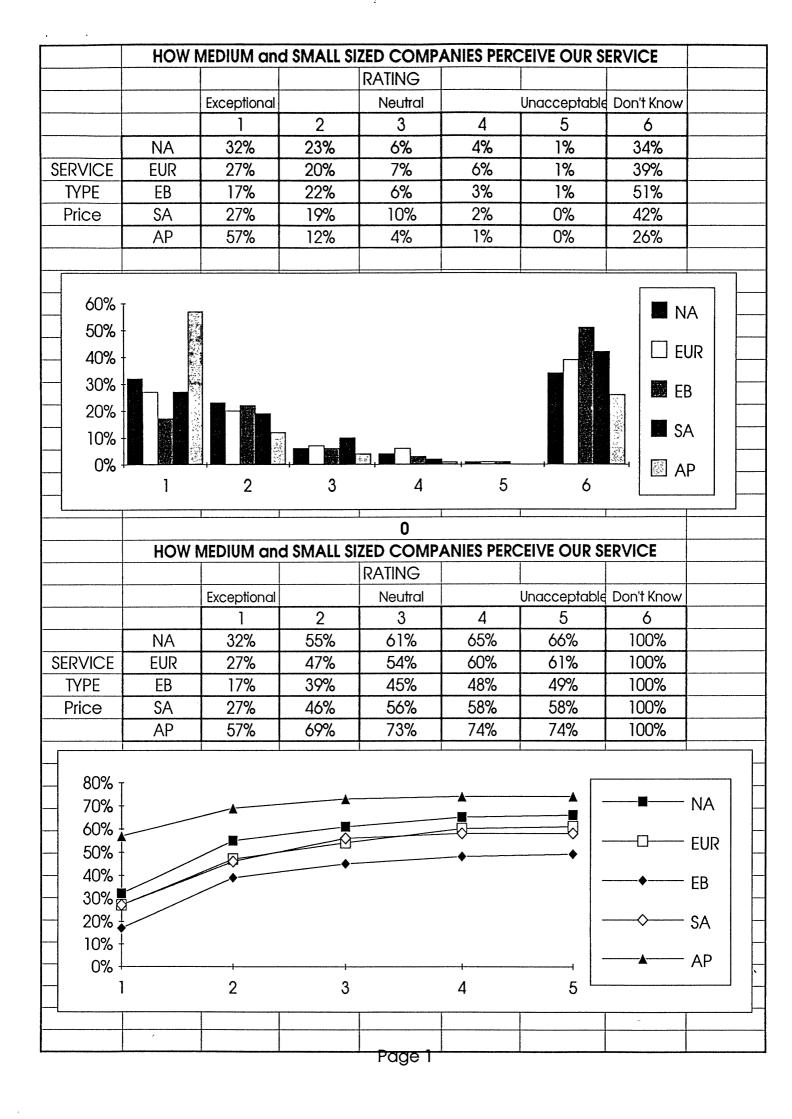
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		1	2	3	4	5	6	
	NA	44%	21%	29%	5%	1%	0%	
SERVICE	EUR	40%	23%	27%	8%	2%	0%	
TYPE	EB	37%	24%	32%	10%	7%	0%	
Variety	SA	31%	33%	28%	6%	2%	0%	
	AP	43%	14%	31%	10%	2%	0%	
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SERVICE	EUR	40%	63%	90%	98%	100%	100%	
TYPE	EB	37%	61%	93%	103%	110%	110%	
Variety	SA	31%	64%	92%	98%	100%	100%	
	AP	43%	57%	88%	98%	100%	100%	
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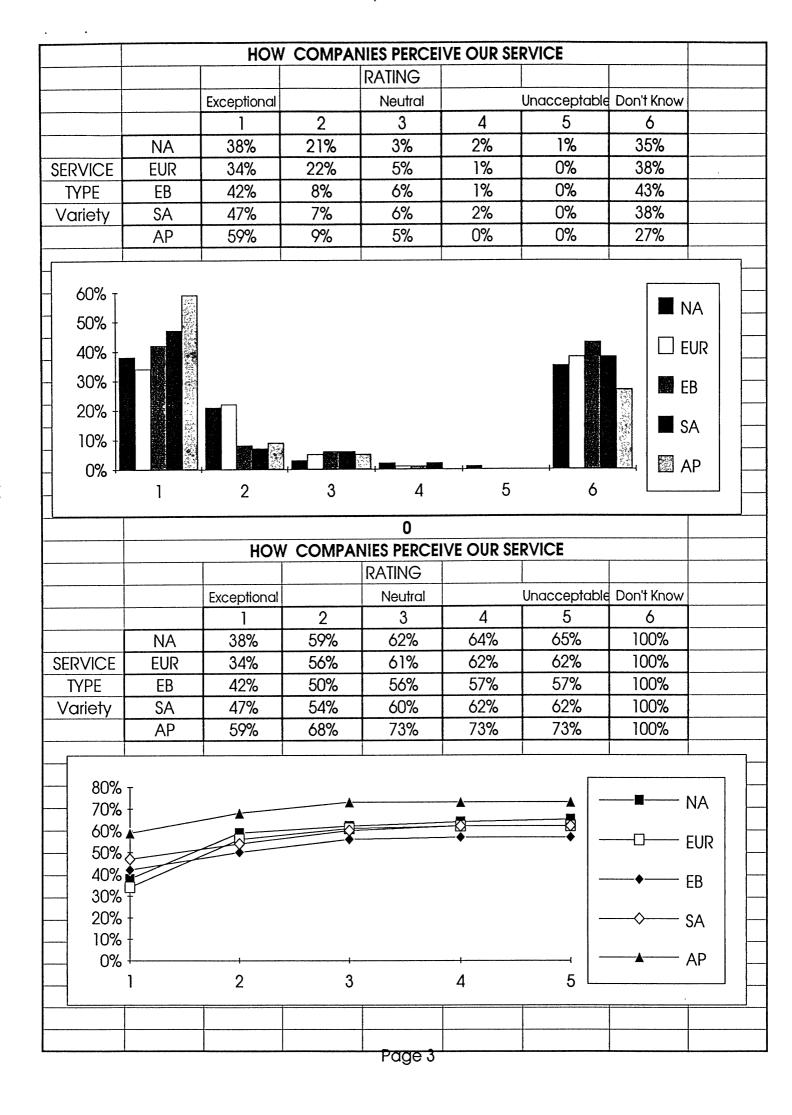
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	NA	47%	32%	8%	9%	4%	0%
SERVICE	EUR	52%	27%	10%	1%	0%	0%
TYPE	EB	61%	30%	9%	0%	0%	0%
Tech Asst	SA	65%	27%	7%	1%	0%	0%
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SERVICE	EUR	52%	79%	89%	90%	90%	90%
TYPE	EB	61%	91%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Tech Asst	SA	65%	92%	99%	100%	100%	100%
	AP	40%	67%	82%	85%	100%	100%
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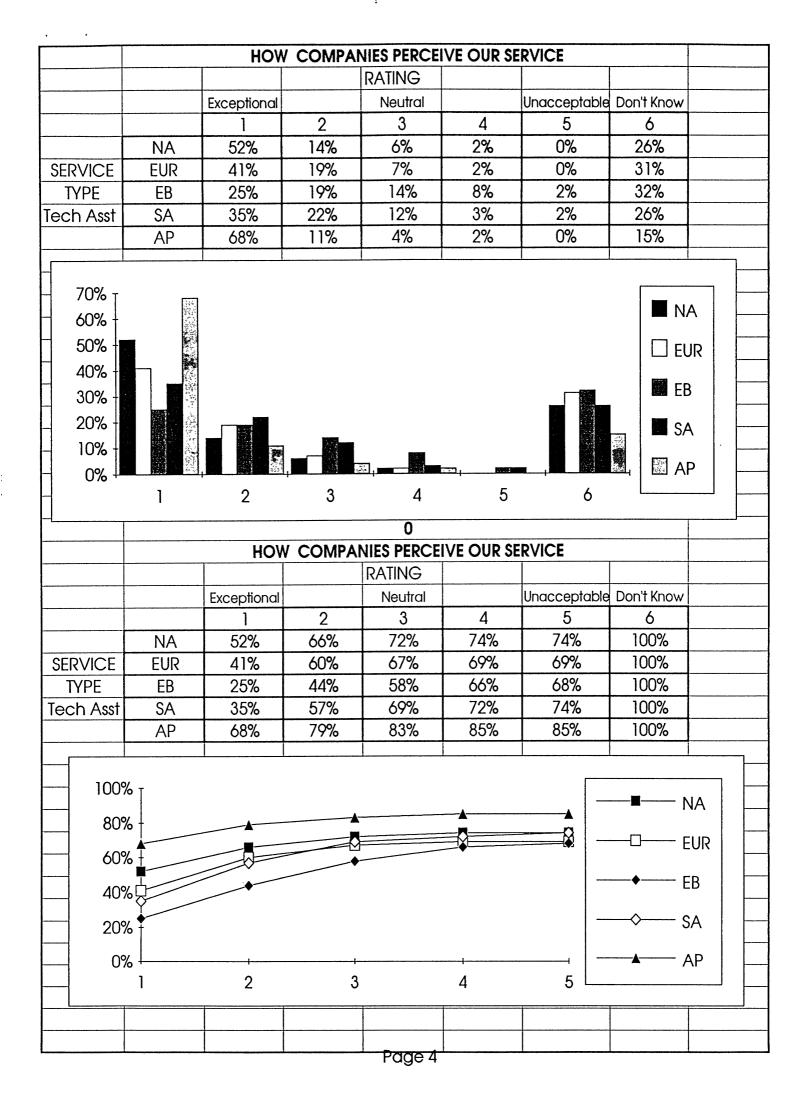
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				RATING				
		Critical		Important		Irrelevant	Don't Know	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	
	NA	95%	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
SERVICE	EUR	91%	8%	1%	0%	0%	0%	
TYPE	EB	82%	11%	6%	1%	0%	0%	
Quality	SA	86%	10%	3%	1%	0%	0%	
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		Critical		Important		Irrelevant	Don't Know	
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	NA	95%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	.,
SERVICE	EUR	91%	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%	
TYPE	EB	82%	93%	99%	100%	100%	100%	
Quality	SA	86%	96%	99%	100%	100%	100%	
	AP	97%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	
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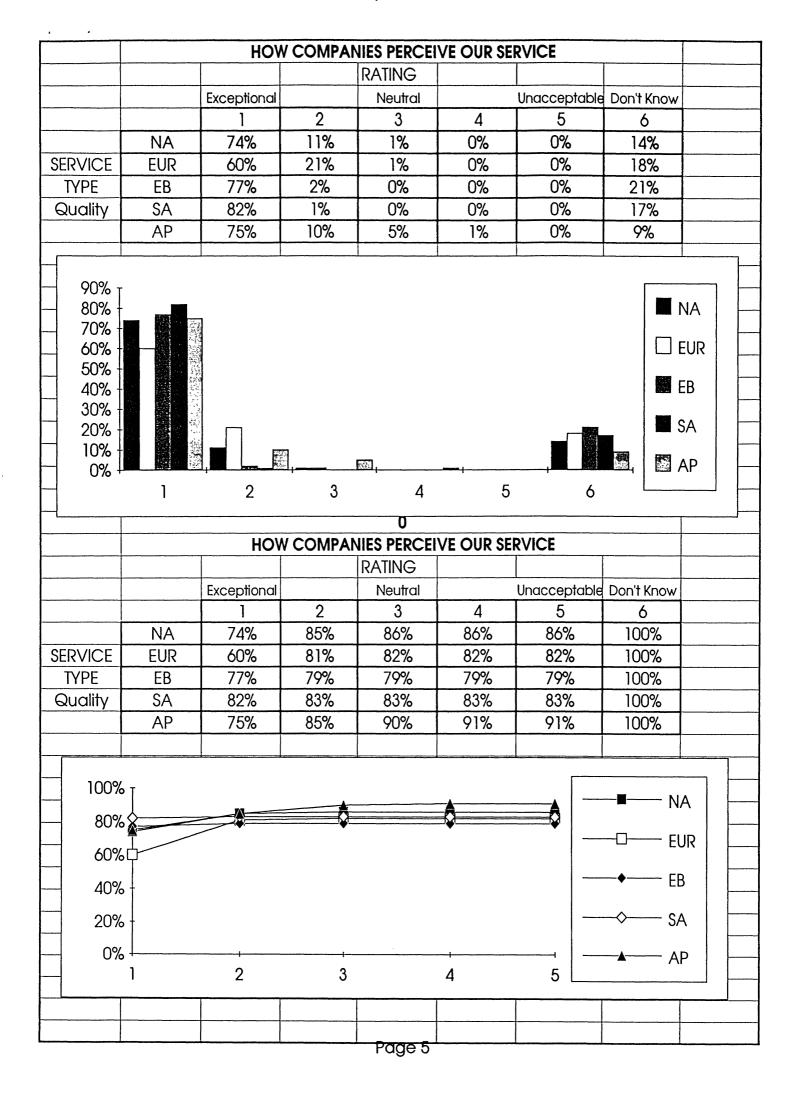
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	HOW	MEDIUM and	d SMALL SI	ZED COMP	ANIES PERC	CEIVE OUR SI	RVICE	
				RATING				
		Exceptional		Neutral		Unacceptable	Don't Know	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	
	NA_	5%	11%	14%	29%	3%	38%	
SERVICE	EUR	3%	16%	11%	22%	5%	43%	
TYPE	EB	29%	19%	4%	0%	0%	48%	
Timeliness	SA	33%	18%	4%	1%	0%	44%	
	AP	13%	15%	10%	36%	1%	25%	
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				RATING				
		Exceptional		Neutral		Unacceptable	Don't Know	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	
	NA	5%	16%	30%	59%	62%	100%	
SERVICE	EUR	3%	19%	30%	52%	57%	100%	
TYPE	EB	29%	48%	52%	52%	52%	100%	
Timeliness	SA	33%	51%	55%	56%	56%	100%	
	AP	13%	28%	38%	74%	75%	100%	
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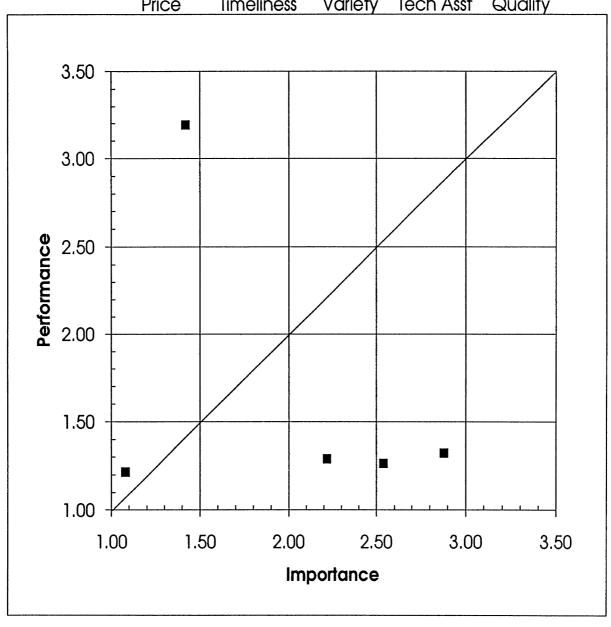






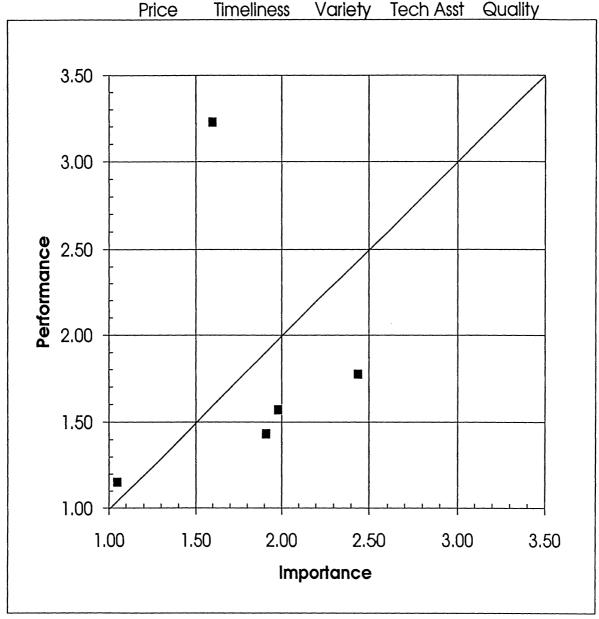
REGION 1 - NORTH AMERICA

Importance	2.88	1.42	2.22	2.54	1.08
Performance	1.32	3.19	1.29	1.26	1.22
Gap	-1.56	1.77	-0.93	-1.28	0.14
	Price	Timeliness	Variety	Tech Asst	Quality



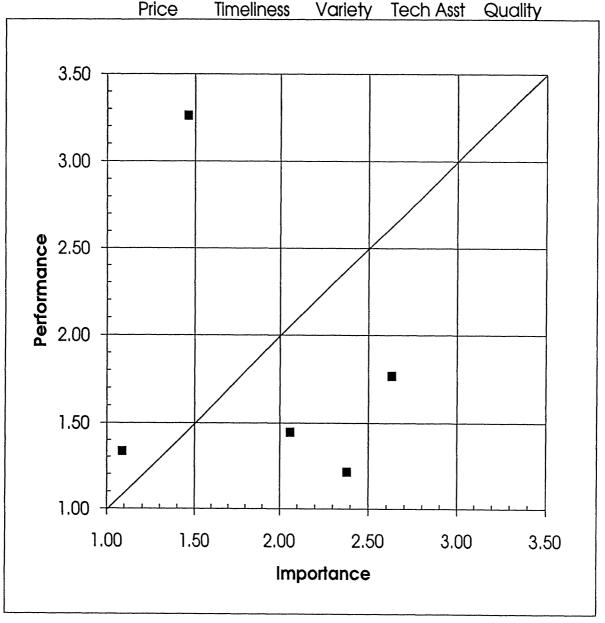
REGION 1 - NORTH AMERICA (Med-Sml)

Importance	2.44	1.60	1.98	1.91	1.05
Performance	1.77	3.23	1.57	1.43	1.15
Gap	-0.67	1.63	-0.41	-0.48	0.10
	Price	Timeliness	Varietv	Tech Asst	Quality



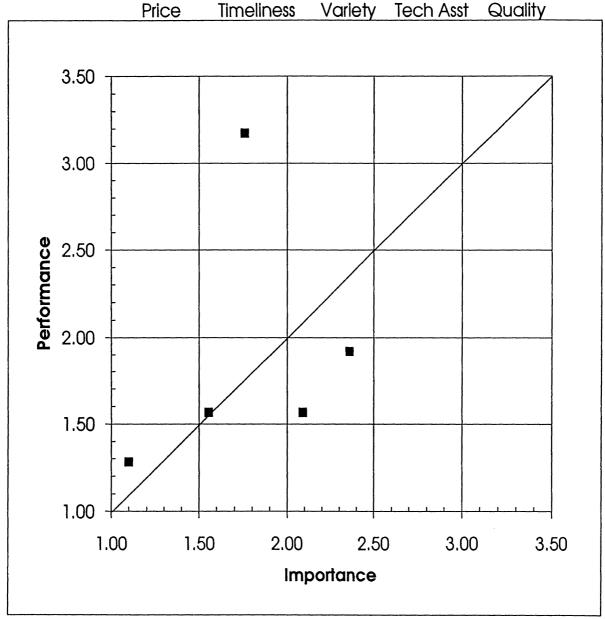
REGION 2 - EUROPE

Importance	2.63	1.46	2.38	2.06	1.09
Performance	1.77	3.26	1.21	1.45	1.33
Gap	-0.86	1.80	-1.17	-0.61	0.24
	Price	Timeliness	Variety	Tech Asst	Quality



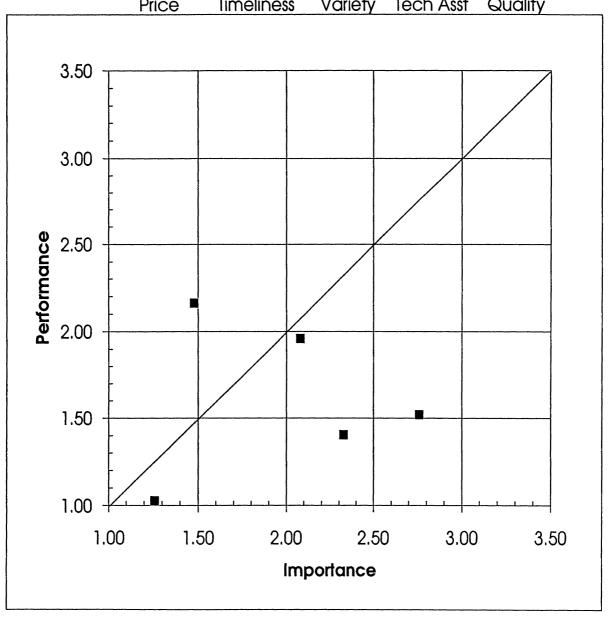
REGION 2 - EUROPE(Med-Sml)

Importance	2.36	1.76	2.09	1.56	1.10
Performance	1.92	3.18	1.56	1.57	1.28
Gap	-0.44	1.42	-0.53	0.01	0.18
	Price	Timeliness	Variety	Tech Asst	Quality



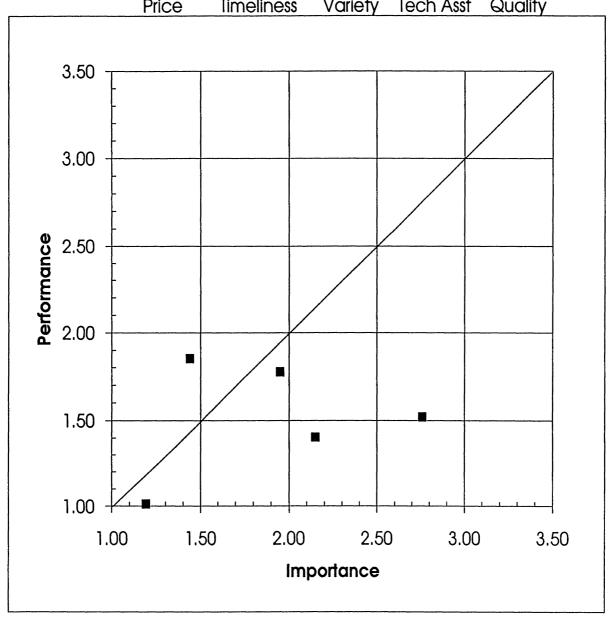
REGION 3 - EASTERN BLOC

Importance	2.08	2.76	2.33	1.48	1.26
Performance	1.96	1.52	1.40	2.16	1.03
Gap	-0.12	-1.24	-0.92	0.68	-0.23
	Price	Timeliness	Variety	Tech Asst	Quality



REGION 4 - SOUTH AMERICA

Importance	1.95	2.76	2.15	1.44	1.19
Performance	1.78	1.52	1.40	1.85	1.01
Gap	-0.17	-1.24	-0.75	0.41	-0.18
	Price	Timeliness	Variety	Tech Asst	Quality



REGION 5 - ASIA PACIFIC

Importance	2.84	1.35	2.14	2.26	1.03
Performance	1.31	2.96	1.26	1.29	1.25
Gap	-1.53	1.61	-0.88	-0.97	0.22
	Price	Timeliness	Varietv	Tech Asst	Quality

