## **Working with corporates**

**SMEI Academy Session** February-March 2018

## **Overview**

• Open innovation, an opportunity to access corporates



- Collaboration as a process to be managed for building trust.
- A clear strategy is key for fit and will affect terms, Day 2 Workshop negotiation and results.

# Introduction



## SMEI: End to End Value Chain Coverage



## SMEI: End to End Value Chain Coverage



**Collaboration with corporates** 



# Open Innovation



## **CI: Virtuous Circle for R&D**





Source: Henry Chesbrough

## **OI: The Virtuous Circle Broken**





Source: Henry Chesbrough

## **OI: The Virtuous Circle Broken**



# Inbound OI: Filling gaps with external technology



#### Source: Henry Chesbrough



Source: Henry Chesbrough

## **Open Innovation**

At every stage in the development cycle



Corporations are coming to realize how partnering – with universities, suppliers, government bodies, distributors and customers – can represent the most cost effective way to secure and leverage the broad range of skills and competencies that a new product/value proposition launch is likely to demand.

## Crowdsourcing

The most far-reaching example of open innovation



## Crowd + Outsourcing



WIKIPEDIA The Free Encyclopedia amazon beta mechanical turk

## The Future is Already Here, But Not Always Visible

20th Century Organization Mantra Of Operational Excellence

Competition for same product efficiently with lowest cost

Huge investments done in IT and move to low cost labour locations

Planning capabilities key for success

21st Century Organization Mantra Of <u>Entrepreneurship &</u> Innovation

Operational Excellence necessary but not sufficient

Members of organization empowered to develop new business models and products

Ongoing need to understand and adapt to new technologies, trends and customers needs

Understanding risk, accepting failure, applying a portfolio approach and connecting to external network keys for success

## Challenges at corporates



WHERE AUTO SUPPLIERS ARE MAKING PRIVATE MARKET BETS 2014 - 2017 YTD (10/31/2017) **BSH Hausgerate - Water Heater** The Yield Technology Sol WaveOptic Albertini Cesari Antava Technolog BOSCH Fagham Systems Unwired Technolog MadCan Advanced Scientific Concepts - ASCar Division XMOS Cadna Rubber Company EntryMile DELPHI wimento Group Tula Technology DigiLen Zonar System FlyBy Media Quanergy Systems loosier Racing Tire **Ontinental** Quantum OTA Keys LeddarTech ve Sobware Busines Konrad Hol HERE Maps Red Bend Software Argus Cyber Security Verte Medical Solutio **MAGNA** Philips - HUD and Electronic Components Busin HARMAN Symphony Teleca NEXT Canada Techform Group of Companies BOCO Bang & Olufsen - Automotive Car Audio Business

90 investments or acquisitions since 2014 (including multiple follow-ons to one company), with 30 deals made in 2017.

Bosch VC is top player, followed by Continental.

**CBINSIGHTS** 



One of the most active areas for investment was in Auto Tech, with a total of 7 deals involving aerospace corporates. Outside this category corporates have participated in IIoT, industrial data platforms and drone companies.





Investments span e-commerce, connectivity & networks, virtual reality, IoT platforms, financial software, voice interfaces, microprocessors, and big data platforms.

**Corporate Venture Examples** 



A majority of the corporates invested in biofuels or alternative energy production. Included as well several big data platforms, some focused on the energy sector.

Many portfolios include at least one strictly oil and gas-focused company that could offer strategic value to their core business.





## Intangible assets (IP) growth in importance

COMPONENTS of S&P 500 MARKET VALUE



The components of S&P market value data for the start of 2015 reveals the implied intangible asset value of the S&P 500 grew to an average 84% by January 1, 2015 a growth of four percentage points over ten years.



# Open nnovation **Mondragon Corporation**

### **MONDRAGON** Corporation

## **Open innovation & business promotion**



28 MONDRAGON HUMANITY AT WORK inanzas ustria stribucio nacimient

Source: Mondragon

#### WHAT IS MONDRAGON?

#### A GROUP OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS COOPERATIVES



MONDRAGON is a group made up by autonomous independent cooperatives. We are the leading business group in the Basque Country and one of the big players in Spain. Key Word for the Corporation: PEOPLE, WORK, COOPERATION And INNOVATION + SOLIDARITY



#### WHAT IS MONDRAGON?

ONE OF THE BIGGEST BUSINESS GROUP IN SPAIN

# KEY DATA<br/>2016Among the<br/>first 10

MONDRAGON

**73.635** employees.

companies in Spain.

**12.033** million € of total revenue.

**5.132** million € of sales in the Industry Area.

**3.573** million € in International sales.

**268** businesses and cooperatives.

#### WHAT IS MONDRAGON?









activities



Well-known TRADEMARKS with FIRST-CLASS customers



Active Groups for New Ventures

#### **New Ventures working groups**



1. Industry 4.0. 2. New Materials 3. Sustainability

> Areas of Interest for Collaboration

#### 1. Industry 4.0.

#### 1.1. industrial IoT

From "sensors" to "data analytics" (included solutions in (\*)cybersecurity and (\*)interoperativity)

#### **1.2. Cybersecurity**

- Integrative Engineering
- Diferential solutions

#### **1.3. Metallic Additive** Manufacturing

- Design software
- Metallic poder
- Machines development

#### 2. New Materials

## 2.1. New materials for car industry

Main focus:

- Weight reduction
- Cost reduction

2.2. Automation of processes using new materials (for example: composites)

#### 3. Sustainability

3.1. Energy harvest

**3.2. Waste treatment scolutions** 

### Areas of Interest for Collaboration

#### **NEW VENTURES**



## Financial instruments


#### **CONTRIBUTIONS:**

- Average contribution per project: 1,5 2M€.
- Co-investment with public and private investors.

#### **TARGET COMPANIES:**

- Companies with less than 2 years' life.
- Companies focused on projects of the MONDRAGON ecosystem and External Projects if they are interested for the Group.
- Excluded: quoted companies, companies with arms activity, those which do not respect human rights or damage the environment.

### MONDRAGON START UPS

The fund will focus mainly on the **development phases of Technology Transfer projects**, which are usually related to those **in between Seed and Startup Stage and those that will reach the Early Stage thanks to the Technological Development and its first-time market entry.** 





### DEAL FLOW Investment stage

### Origin

- A Project from MONDRAGON's environment (divisions, cooperatives, New Business Development Centres, University, etc.).
- A Project with a technology generated in the environment (Spin off, EBT, ...).
- Projects from entities with a Framework Agreement signed.
- European Projects approaching the market.

#### Product, Services, Proof of Concept (PoC)

- A Product that will solve a problem or a real market need.
- A Product that will contribute differential factors based on their innovation (novel).
- A Product with the Minimum Viable Product (MVP) developed or in development phase, but with the technological landmarks identified.
- It will be interesting the existence of a "Proof of Concept" (PoC), based on a patent or a software.
- Existence of a prototype.



- That generates competitive advantages
- With real market feedback regarding to the MN
- With a defined initial commercial strategy, with identified potential customers and first market contrasts.

### DEAL FLOW Targets

#### **Business Plan**

Deep and contrasted market analysis, competition and the stage of the technology.
Maximum period of access to the market: 24-28 months.



- Project manager with 100% dedication.
- Alignment with shareholders / investors.
- A team capable of adapting to any change.
- The participation of the entrepreneurs team in the round will be highly recommended.



- Contributions linked to landmarks / milestones.
- That requires maximum contributions of the fund mainly of 500,000 € and with total financial needs to reach the market up to 1,5-2M €.
- Co-investment.

.

• Alignment with investors offering agreed disinvestment options.

## DEAL FLOW Targets

Deadline

Companies with less than 2 years of life (the exceptions of this requirement will be Projects that come from Technology Centres, R+D Centres or Universities.



#### **Open innovation & business promotion**



23

Finanzas Industria Distribución Conocimiento



## Open nnovation Iberdrola

#### Iberdrola at a glance

US

AVANGRID\*

- 3<sup>rd</sup> largest wind energy producer
- Electricity and gas distributor in New York, Maine, Connecticut and Massachusetts, through eight regulated companies

#### UNITED KINGDOM



N°1 wind energy producer,

with transmission and distribution

networks in Scotland, Wales and England

	550
MEXICO • N° 1 private electricity producer	
BRAZIL MEOENERGIA** • Energy leader in Brazil and Latin American	

#### EUROZONE

- IBERDROLA
- N° 1 wind energy producer in Europe and Spain
- · Emissions: 70% less than the sector average
- Presence in Spain, Portugal, France and Germany

### Innovation report Letter from chairman Innovation strategy

## Innovation Report

2014-2015

#### Letter from the Chairman



I am plenned to present to pero a new edition of the Bandroly. Instantion Bajant, which detaution the resen initiatives and project orchestulan sharing 2014 and 2015 in the bald of research, development oref irresention (RED&I).

tuneto-bellamore &

The fiberiarile group since termentions on in introduct version and for guaranteening the contractedity, efficiency and competitiveness of the company. One offering in MDMs rises to aphenics sparseting conditions, response solely and endous the anticonnected legant of care articities.

During 2014-2015, use investments in MDMs musto-G290 million, which represents more than 12% in 2015 compensated to the previous year. As a ready of our personnel correlations of the herms, meanwhile and management correlation for herms, meanwhile and management correlation frameworks, the hermalnet management correlation frameworks, and the semantic second on the mean terms of the management correlation of monotonic provided with the second basets in function.

The company sem alian encogeneed in the internationalization company of the 2015 Hardward for forwards and on an Davige Award conferent law the Sparial Macintry of the Conservational Company and Company and Company and the second and an analysis of the basis of a hald und inconstruction industrial program.

Optimize operating conditions Improve safety Reduce the environmental impact

#### **€370 million investment** during 2014-2015



### Innovation report Letter from chairman Innovation strategy

#### Letter from the Chairman



 am plasmed to present to pro-a new oddiso of the fand-toka transmission flagment, which describes that make initiations and projects understates during 2014 and 2015 in the field of research, development and investmine (REDIA).

Cale Andre Terms 1

The Rendrole group view innovation on a strategic variable first constitutes for main tool for guaranteeing file strationality, efficiency and competitioneous of the company. Our efforts is REDE ones to spherice spectring conditions, improve solidy and reduce the environmental impact of our activities.

Chang 2014-2015, our investments in RADAL interto 6370 million, which regresses means from 17% in 2015 compared to the previous year. As a reach of our permanent convoltent to homon, eccentric and management central interaction, therefore was recognized as far near interaction power utility in Spain and Inarth in Surapa according to the European Contentiation's ranking.

The company was also recognized in the internationalisation sategory of the 2015 National Immediated and American Association and Statistical Systems Space (Ministry of the Economy and Compatitionesis after approximing Beneficial's worldwide wind Immediation on the basis of a India and increase international statistics.

#### Perseo, our Corporate Venture Capital

programme, dedicated to investing in innovative technologies and businesses that ensure the sustainability of the energy model.



#### In 2015 we launched the **Supplier Innovation**

#### **Programme**, centred on three lines of action:

- 1. providing access to the financing mechanisms,
- 2. driving the joint creation of companies (spin-offs with suppliers)
- 3. Fostering innovative purchases to small and mediumsized enterprises.

### Innovation report Letter from chairman Future trends

#### Letter from the Chairman



1 are plasmed to present to pro-move oddisos of the facebolic transmission disparel, which describes the reasis initiatives and projects undertaken during 2014 and 2015 in the field of research, development and invocation (REDA).

Cale Andre Terms 1

The Rendrole group view instruction to a strategic workshift for constitutes the main tool for guaranteeing the scatterability, efficiency and competitionesss of the company. Our efforts is REDE size to specific providence to an efforts, improve solidy and reduce the molecumental input of our activities.

During 2014 2015, nor investments in REDE runte 6370 million, which represents more than 17K in 2015 compared to the previous year. As a reach of our parameter convoltant to human, economic and management control instruction, bootholds was recognized on the next instruction, power offly in Spain and hurth in Europe according to the Foregroup Contentiation's ranking.

The comparing was also recognized in the intervolocolluction category of the 2015 Network benessing and Davign Award confermed by the Special Ministry of the Learnery and Compatitioness after approximg Exercicles's workbacks wind leadership on the bosis of a ladid and invocative industrial project. R&D&i will remain a key factor for successfully undertaking the new stage of growth at our company.

#### We expect to **invest €24,000 million** in our

strategic markets during the period comprising 2016-2020 in a favourable scenario for developing clean and efficient energy sources to meet the global emissions reduction targets committed in the Paris Climate Conference.

HERENAL CONTRACTOR AND

#### Innovation at Iberdrola

- Entrepreneurial and Start-up ecosystem
- Supplier innovation program
- Digital innovation





## Entrepreneurial and Star-up ecosystem Young entrepreneurs programs



Six institutions of excellence have been selected in a first phase, which also cover all the

geographies in which IBERDROLA is operating.



The participants of this program, are part of the .....

#### **IBERDROLA Universities COMMUNITY**

A global community that fosters collaboration, entrepreneurial culture and knowledge transfer

Programs to foster and promote entrepreneurship developed with key universities

## Entrepreneurial and Star-up ecosystem Acceleration programs



Partnering with key incubators and accelerators worldwide to gain access to new disruptive technologies and innovative businessess Entrepreneurial and Star-up ecosystem Corporate Venture Capital



Funding start-ups and internal entrepreneurial initiatives

#### Entrepreneurial and Star-up ecosystem Corporate Venture Capital



50 M€ invested in technology to generate new sustainable core business Entrepreneurial and Star-up ecosystem Corporate Venture Capital



**O&M** Technologies

#### **Distributed Energy Resources**





**Customer Focused Solutions** 

#### **Deal flow Target**

#### Supplier innovation program

- Supplier as key strategic partner
- 17,900 suppliers
- 9,884 M€ purchase in 2016 of equipment, material and services\*
- 32.000 M€ investment
   planned for 2018-2022



<sup>1</sup>Excluding Corporate investments <sup>2</sup>Including hydro

\*excluding energy and fuel

## Supplier innovation program **Examples**





#### **Digital transformation**

Digitalization added value potential in electric utilities



World Economic Forum White Paper



## Digital transformation Investment up to 2017



Assets

- Digitalization of generation assets management
- Digitalization of HV and MV network
- Smart meters installation

#### Systems

- Energy operation
- Cybersecurity

#### Clients

- Invoicing, pricing and call center automatization
- Personalized services
- Web, apps, social network

## Digital transformation Investment forecast 2017-2020



#### Assets

- Digitalization LV network
- Smart meters installation
- Big data O&M and life span optimization

#### Systems

- Energy operation (Mexico)
- Cybersecurity

#### Clients

- Invoicing, pricing and call center automatization
- Hyper personalized services (big data)
- Multichannel development

## Digital transformation **Examples**



Renewable energy central operations (CORE)

## Digital transformation **Examples**





Infrastructure inspection by drones



AR/VR Simulation O&M mobile apps

## Digital transformation **Examples**



## **Cooperation** and Colaboration

### Innovation Acceleration with SMEI Phase III

### **SMEI USPs**

Access to pool of best-inclass SMEs Independent Market Place

SME USPs

Early Capital Efficiency Creativity & Agility Motivation Tech & Market Testing Access to external insights

**Innovation Accelerator** 

Value co-creation



### **Corporate USPs**

Later Capital Efficiency Brand Sales & Marketing Production & Distribution

## Potential benefits for a SME

- Support
- Association
- Ability to test market, technology, scalability...
- Learning opportunities for company, team and existing investors
- PR exposure
- Branding recognition
- Low- or no-cost
- Competitive differentiator
- Compatible with existing investment/funding streams
- Can be exited with little damage or costs (plan!)

Refining technology, value proposition and scale up

Terms of de deal

Dependency / Independency / FTO



### Managing collaboration

How does business collaboration work in practice?

Business relationships are a marathon not a sprint



## Formalising your partnership

Written agreement outlining the scope, scale and objectives

Formal Contract vs. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)? (level of engagement/investment)

- If the venture represents only a modest commitment on your part, you might opt for a simple MOU.
- If it's a substantial investment in capital and/or resources and especially if there is no history (current working relationship) with the business partner, then a more formal contract might be appropriate.



## Formalising your partnership

Written agreement outlining the scope, scale and objectives

- Ensure that each of the parties is clear on what to expect, and what is expected of them
- Determine SMART goals (Specific; Measurable; Achievable; Realistic, and Time-based)
- Set milestones and metrics should be defined, to keep the relationship or project on track
- Draw up a confidentiality or Non Disclosure Agreement (NDA) to protect your IP and other sensitive corporate information.

(https://www.iprhelpdesk.eu/library/fact-sheets?field\_tags\_tid%5B%5D=141)



## Working together

It's all about how you work together in practice

- You should appoint a suitably qualified project manager for your venture together
- Continuity of personnel is crucial...so choose your initial team wisely
- Launch a 'kick off' meeting to determine that the partners are 'on the same page' with regard to the project's objectives, the plan and allocation of resources
- Schedule regular review meetings, to ensure the project remains on track



### Exit strategy

How both of you might exit gracefully from the business relationship

- Be sure to include a suitable 'get out' clause in your collaboration agreement
- Schedule an End-of-Project Review Meeting



## Case studies Introduction

### SMEs ↔ Corporate Collaboration Spectrum



## SME <-> Collaboration SpectrumAnalysisPartnership<br/>ModelClass of<br/>InitiativeMarket<br/>Timing

# Increasing Commitment

Partnership Model	Class of Initiative	Market Timing	Total Cost of Initiative
Exploratory Workshop	Open Innovation	Creating the Gap	€15-25k
Testing & Using Startup's Products		Proactive	€20-50k
License SME's IP			€100k-1M
Collaborate with SME's Team			€500k-5M
Acquire SME's Product Line	Corporate Venturing		€1-10M
Acquire SME's Market Share		Closing the Gap - Reactive	€10-100M
Acquire SME's Revenue	M&A		€100M-???B


#### Corporate partnering

Happening today, for one SME

## UK-based high performance computing company

**Current discussions** 

#### **Investment:**

Softbank

Apple

Sony

Huawei

**Corporate partnering:** 

Sony

Huawei

Microsoft

Google

### The Journey

#### Investment, Team and Tech Readiness

Date	Funding	Tech	Objective
2008	Start Up funding €350,000 from Angels, plus additional grants.	Bench demo – Proof of Principle	Move to Proof of Concept and market research and validation. Core team.
2014	Series 0 - €1,300,000 mainly Angels/Angel syndicates plus DARPA and EU projects	POC and two new applications defined. Demonstrator shown.	Develop prototype system for genomics application with institutional partner. Small R&D team.
2016	Series 0 - €4,000,000 from VC, Angels and Angel syndicates, plus UK Govt grant	PCI board and electronics and drivers, new apps	US office, production-ready systems, new validated apps and middleware. R&D and management team.
2018	Series A - €50,000,000 VC? Corporates?	Worldwide marketing, production of core systems, R&D for miniaturisation and custom components, specialist middleware, large team expansion	

### **Getting connected**

#### How to get and keep major corporates' attention

Start early: high quality PR, social media postings, and website

Tell a story – in instalments: start with tech and its potential, then add apps and users and the benefits (value propositions), then show maturity and potential of solutions

Sony – connected via supply chain, as potential component supplier, then development partner, then investor

Huawei – via technology scouting. Tech interest, switched to investment proposal, now both

Apple – via US lawyers used for IP and licensing advice. Tech interest, especially miniaturisation

Google – via US HPC show

Microsoft – via potential VC investor and AI expert

### Push for fast decisions

#### SMEs need early yes/no – so ask for the order!

Sony: difficult to connect with investment team, so clear request made that Sony only as a component supplier was not of interest

Huawei: three visits from R&D teams – two EU, one China. Made sure agenda with Chinese visit included investment. Afterwards, email requesting typical investment procedure and amounts, and also connections to other EU firms they had invested in. All granted within two days!

Followed up with China visit (also to major conference)

Google: initial conference call with Tech Engineering Senior Director. Immediate referral to Cloud team

Microsoft: initial contact with WW Azure tech boss, and fast connection to ventures arm



#### Demands – could you cope?

#### **Corporates require detailed responses**

#### Huawei

14/04/2015 - initial meeting with technical director EU after enquiry at conference

21/04/2015 - NDA signed

Communications and updates - but tech not mature enough... then demonstrator shown

06/2017 - meeting in Manchester with technology department

07/2017 - meeting with EU investment team - followed by email requesting Huawei to supply typical investment amounts and reference of other EU investments

17/11/17 - Met with President of CRI lab in London. In depth technical discussion on tech, deep learning opportunities and demo. Questions on volume manufacturing, plus overview of what Huawei can offer in terms of expertise. Asked if we would flexible over valuation.

21/11/17 - Due diligence questions from investment team ahead of providing statement of intent

23/11/17 - Request for next meeting from technical team...

Huawei can now download tech data, patents, grant applications, financial and full business plan all under NDA...

3/1/18 - Multi-channel technical and investment call to China. Co-operation manager to be introduced to discuss how the joint development would work. Mentioned they were still aiming to complete investment process by end of Q1.

11/1/18 - 1to1 call requested by the investment lead. Wanted to know if we had "enough information from Huawei to make a decision" on investment. Also pressed for what the breakdown between cash and resource looked like for the £50m Series A. Stated he needed to simplify the deal structure to present to the board in early February. We discussed the simplest route would be direct investment and potential acquisition.

18/1/18 - Technical email discussions re evaluation timeline

20-23/1/18 - Further email discussions about deal structure with investment contact

27/1/8-2/2/18 - Email discussions with investment and technical teams. Acquisition/investment plan being put together by Huawei. Requesting access to cloud-based deep learning model first, ahead of testing the hardware in their services shortly after. We have made clear we cannot send them a system but they can send an engineer to us, or we can potentially send a delegation with a system in the coming weeks.

Plus also need to maintain support for Google, Sony, Microsoft, Softbank, Apple and more - at CTO/CEO level

### Information exchange

#### **Corporates require data, connections, responses**

- Initial NDAs usually simple but can constrict freedom to operate
- Essential to understand Corporates' real agenda
  - Customer? Exclusive? Channel? Or create dependency?
  - Investor? Close or distant? Veto over others investing?
  - Acquirer? Independence or take-over? IP or company?
  - Just looking?
- This all takes time: agree timescale but prepare for delays
- Who is your manager? High level, with sign-off, or not? Check his/her reporting structure and position in organisation chart
- Be fast to respond, and clear and complete in all communications



## Case studies Building material Start-up

## South-Europe waste/environmental services start-up

#### Industry

- € 3,000 mill. market
- 95% of market within 5 multinationals
- 73 plants within Europe



#### Start-up.

Proprietary technology that allows the re-use of lefts overs from production & market use product recycling Advantages:

- Higher production output.
- Less emissions.
- Less Energy consumption.

## Promising kick off.... but poor implementation...

#### ....result in change in strategy in 2016

- Re-focused on corporate needs.
- Open deal, subject to negotiation.
- Attract interest as high as possible within organization. Prioritize business VS technical/R&D
- Open to various corporates to compete.
- Stage by Stage / Long term approach.

#### **Process overview**



#### Conclusions

- Understand the corporate.
- Prioritize business (P&L) to technology (R&D).
- Consistency during process builds trust.
- Competitive process better than stand alone negotiation.
- Not an easy, not a short process. Ups & downs.
- Planning with "exit" in mind.



#### CVC PERSEO investing in ATTEN2 Company

Development and production of **optical tech-based sensors** capable to **perform** real time analysis of critical equipment condition.

Originally developed for lubricating oils, the technology is now been expanded to other fluids circulating within machinery.

Main applications:

- Wind turbines
- Vapor / Gas turbines
- Other machinery

Niche market competing with:

- Laboratory Analysis (condition monitoring
- Kittiwake, UK (€23 m / 11 employees)
- Gastops, Canada (€17 m / 100 employees)



Source: Internal research

#### CVC PERSEO investing in ATTEN2 Results / Potential



- Capital to cope with product development and sales
- Improve market perception / association with leader company
- (Potential) client (wind turbines), but same homologation process as any other supplier

# Workshop

 $\mathbf{O}\mathbf{O}$ 

### Purpose of this Workshop

To develop a typical Corporate Collaboration strategy and tactics for an SME – either one of the participants' firms, or an example

- Go through the next six slides to gain the basics of developing an effective collaboration activity
- Each group then creates a plan of action on a few slides, using the headings from the next slide
- Each group quickly presents its plan
- Discussions of likely outcomes, observations, experiences

#### **Open Innovation Model**

What's the business – how the company creates and delivers value for a specific customer group

- What could it gain from collaboration/cooperation? Upside/downside?
- How to find a corporate partner? What is the starting point? Candidates? What resources/time/effort should it allocate?
- What objectives are reasonable to set? For the SME? For the corporate?
- How to manage the activities milestones, outcomes, money?
- What does success look like? Money? Markets? Trade Sale? Knowledge? Help! It's all gone wrong – how to exit?

# Assess Readiness for corporate partnership

How far is your product from being validated to a point of selling ?

What are your goals for the next several years ?

What are the assets and skills you need and what is the best way to obtain them ?

Do your attitudes and business style mix with corporates?

Is your team ready to team with a large firm ?

Can you scale by other means?

Will your existing investors support this partnering?

Is your IP fully protected – including background and future 'forks'?

Have you considered any ethical issues?



### Identify mutual benefits

Identify the needs of the corporate – Political, Economic, Social and Technical

Understand fit between their and your strategic objectives

ideally - have no more than three core goals

Goals must be SMART - that is: Specific; Measurable; Achievable; Realistic, and Time-based

Each of the parties is clear on what to expect - and what is expected of them

Each partner - and ideally the assigned personnel within each firm - signs off on the tasks for which they will be responsible

### Potential risks

Do a due diligence on potential partners:

What is their track record in working with SMEs?

How do they share the benefits of the collaboration ?

How do they solve problems and conflicts ?

Who will they appoint as a manager ? What level, competences, and sign-off?

Are they willing to sign a Memorandum of Understanding – an outiine agreement – before the deal? Is there an 'exit' for both of you?

Have you the capacity if everything goes very well - and if your technology and/or people can't deliver? Are there any warranties (guarantees on performance/quality/milestones...) required?

### **Negotiation Partnership**

Must lead to beneficial outcome for both partners

Your early stage discussions with your new partner should

- foster a mutual understanding of the ground rules, expectations and objectives of the alliance
- identify any disconnects in operating styles or intentions

Licensing agreement

- Whatever form your agreement takes, it should describe the basic rules for managing the collaboration and, importantly, the processes for resolving problems when they occur
- Any contract should address specific legal issues in particular, how any necessary funding will be provided, the IP that each party is bringing to the project, and which firm will ultimately own the results of the collaboration (and any IP originating therein)

# Monitor and manage your partnership

Define checklists and scorecards – keep to the agreed plan and goals!

Ongoing evaluations

- to 'step back' from the day-to-day management and running of the project
- to critically appraise your progress
- to identify potential pressure points or concerns

If all the partners are open and candid during meetings, minor disagreements - such as issues of mistrust, or perceived lack of commitment - can be solved immediately, eliminating conflict and disruption

#### Collaboration tools

Choose a solution that offers the functionality you need today, and into the future - eliminating the need to switch providers, migrate data and learn new software, later on

Your alliance will thrive in an environment of mutual understanding, respect and cooperation. Anything else will lead to disharmony and failure!

#### **Open Innovation Model**

What's the business – how the company creates and delivers value for a specific customer group

What could it gain from collaboration/cooperation? Upside/downside?

How to find a corporate partner? What is the starting point? Candidates? What resources/time/effort should it allocate?

What objectives are reasonable to set? For the SME? For the corporate? How to manage the activities – milestones, outcomes, money?

What does success look like? Money? Markets? Trade Sale? Knowledge?

Help! It's all gone wrong – how to exit?

# Presentations

# Conclusions

#### Connecting with corporates 1

- Improve your salesmanship: focus on what you can do for the corporate, not what they can do for you.
- Understand their pain-points and motivations.
- Don't emphasise only ideas, but present your business case, customer acquisition, growth model etc



## Listen

#### 2

- Listen and learn: too many corporates report SMEs 'hearing what they want to hear', ignoring hurdles and interpreting polite interest as meaningful engagement.
- If a company says it is not interested, try to understand why (e.g. timing? need? price?).
- For corporate accelerators, research the people involved (give priority to programmes run by entrepreneurs).
- For procurement, ask about their buying cycle, qualifying criteria and process (it is a 'red flag' if they won't share this).
- For other collaborations, understand likely stage-gates, and ensure you're talking to the right person/department who is empowered to make decisions. The route to a 'yes' may be different from the route to 'no'

### Relationships

- 3
- Network, network: find champions within the firm but be careful about opening multiple conversations which confuse their processes.
- Remember a large corporate can offer much more than moneymarket knowledge and introductions may be even more valuable. Don't be afraid to ask.

## Trust

- Build trust: expect to develop rapport for several months pre-deal, and anticipate that the relationship may be 'reset' when people change roles!
- Don't abuse the trust placed in you by over-using the corporate's name or leaking privileged information.
- Don't over-promise: be honest about your stage of development, and realistic about what you can't do. You will get to a deal faster.

## IP agreement

- Take a balanced approach to IP: be clear about who will own IP coming from collaborative work, and take steps to protect your IP if this is core to your business (e.g. co-develop Apps but hold on to the API/algorithm).
- But avoid becoming paranoid: most firms don't want to steal your idea and, more often than not, the idea itself is a very small part of the finished product.

## Disruption

#### 6

- Consider your language and look: VC's may welcome 'disruptive innovation' but corporates usually don't.
- Incremental innovation (which preserves processes) is an easier sell than radical innovation.
- Consider that informal dress and over-familiarity may be interpreted as a lack of professionalism. Professional attitudes instil confidence that you can deliver.

## Timing

- Be realistic about timing: SMEs massively underestimate timescales until deals are finalised, and are often surprised by how slow corporates move.
- Get on their radar early.



## One or many

#### 8

- Don't put all your eggs in one basket: nurture other options till the deal is actually done, and beware of offering exclusivity too early.
- Avoid becoming a bespoke consultancy for one firm, as this creates dependency.
- Be especially cautious of being sucked into free or discounted work.
- But don't 'chase the ball' either: pursuing every opportunity dilutes effort and weakens your strategy; sometimes it is better to decline to partner.

### Exits

#### 9

• Know when to quit: many SMEs are accidentally killed by corporates – judging when to cut your losses, and how far from your path to deviate, is crucial.

### Conclusions

Open innovation –parter with corporates never so easy...(?).

Corporates, a good partner, (but):

- To refine the technology, the value proposition, the market opportunity and to scale up.
- But risk of dependency / independency / FTO / IP roundabout
- Terms of the deal are key.

Clear strategy & project roadmap.

- To build and negotiate terms of cooperation.
- To have a clear idea of the expected results
- To detect the corporation that best fit

## Conclusions (2)

Formalizing

- Formal Contract vs. MOU
- Ensure expected results and smart goals, metrics and milestones.
- NDA

Working together

- Managing the process
- Long term build trust

### Conclusions (3)

Use Corporate open innovation structures for accessing corporates...including SME instrument phase 3 support...

#### You are the STARS OF EUROPE, a pre selected and financed by EU exclusive Group of companies with high growth potential....