

Engineering 145 Session #2 Silicon Valley and Entrepreneurship

Professor Randy Komisar
Stanford University

STANFORD
TECHNOLOGY
VENTURES PROGRAM



Fenwick
FENWICK & WEST LLP

TECHNOLOGY VENTURES

Copyright © 2008 by the Board of Trustees of Stanford University and STVP.
This document may be reproduced for educational purposes only.

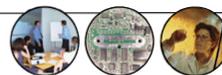


1

Agenda

1. Admit and Waiting List - Emily & Austin
2. Discussion of Stanford and Silicon Valley - Randy
3. Key Frameworks and Models for Technology Entrepreneurship - Randy
4. Opportunity Analysis Project - Ann and Anand (Chi-Hua)
5. Team Formation - Ann and Anand

TECHNOLOGY VENTURES



2

First, A Look at Stanford University



TECHNOLOGY VENTURES



3

Early Years: Fred Terman and HP



- Professor Terman brought Hewlett and Packard together at Stanford
- In 1939, the two decided to “make a run for it ourselves” and founded HP at a now-famous garage in downtown Palo Alto

Source: John Hennessy
TECHNOLOGY VENTURES



4

Another Golden Age: Early 1980s

- Many new technologies as radical innovations
- Emergence of John Hennessy as another Terman
- Very productive era ...



TECHNOLOGY VENTURES



5

1990s: The Internet



- Two EE students in a trailer
- Use of Yahoo on and off-campus explodes
- Form independent company

Source: John Hennessy
TECHNOLOGY VENTURES



6

2000s

- Two students dissatisfied with Net search
- They work furiously in their spare time to develop a better way
- They form a company to exploit the opportunity others had left behind

Google™

TECHNOLOGY VENTURES



7

Stanford's Role in Silicon Valley

- Interaction with industry as just discussed
- Research funding and overall creativity
- Silicon Valley as a nearby planting ground for ideas
- Students as inventors, disseminators, and workforce
- Encouraging entrepreneurship on campus ...



TECHNOLOGY VENTURES



8

Other Factors in Silicon Valley's Success

- Its talent pool and social networks
 - ✓ Loyalty to the technology with a unique openness
 - ✓ Highly skilled and motivated
 - ✓ Diverse (highly multicultural)
- Its many early adopters of new technology
- Its services infrastructure with many suppliers for outsourcing

TECHNOLOGY VENTURES



9

Even More Factors in Silicon Valley's Success

- Its venture capital industry that provides more than financing (e.g., assembling teams)
- Its entrepreneurial spirit or DNA
 - ✓ Role models that demonstrate both confidence and paranoia
 - ✓ OK to fail, learn from it, and then try again
 - ✓ Flat organizational structures and meritocracy
 - ✓ OK to talk and partner across company boundaries about common issues and challenges

TECHNOLOGY VENTURES



10

Questions for Discussion

1. What could go right (and wrong) in Silicon Valley in the coming 10 years?
2. Where do you plan to live to start your career next year and why?

References for Stanford and Silicon Valley Content:
President John Hennessy of Stanford University;
James Gibbons of Stanford University; John Doerr of Kleiner Perkins;
John Chambers of Cisco; Annalee Saxenian and Homa Bahrami of UC Berkeley

TECHNOLOGY VENTURES



11



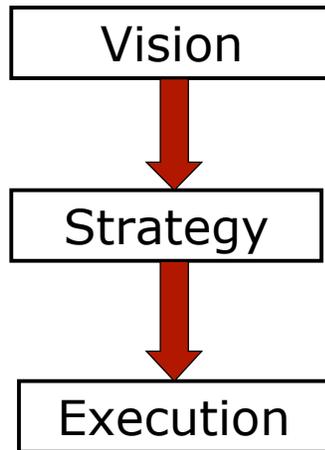
© 2003 Mark P. Rice, Babson

TECHNOLOGY VENTURES



12

Key Framework #1: Dorf and Byers



TECHNOLOGY VENTURES

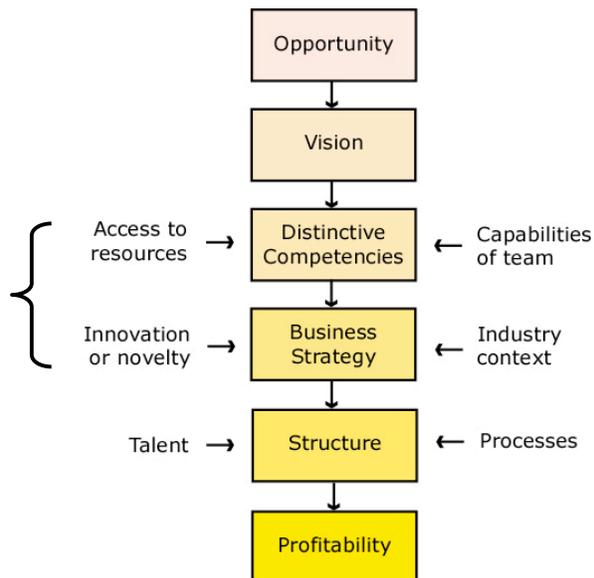


13

Vision:

Strategy:

Execution:



Reference: Dorf and Byers (Figure 7.1)

TECHNOLOGY VENTURES



14

Fundamental Questions: Vision

What do the founders wish to achieve with the business?
What is our shared vision and goals?
Where do we want to go and what business are we in?



Example: what business are they really in?

- Yahoo ... Internet Directory?
- Palm ... Organizers?
- Google ... Search?

TECHNOLOGY VENTURES



15

Fundamental Questions: Strategy



Do we have the right strategy?
Who is going to buy?
What are we selling?
Why are we better?

Fundamental Questions: Execution



Can we do it?
What resources are needed?
What is the blueprint for growth?
Can we adapt?

Reference: Steven Brandt

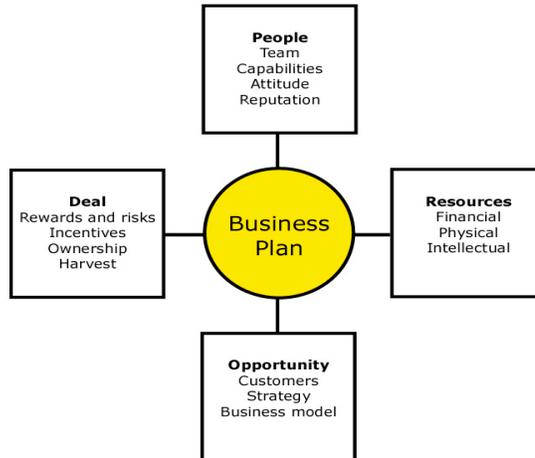
TECHNOLOGY VENTURES



16

Key Framework #2: Sahlman's Concept of Fit

Context (economy, regulatory, industry)



Reference: Sahlman

TECHNOLOGY VENTURES



17

Framework #3: Dynamics of the Start-Up Game

(1) Founding:

An entrepreneur begins with a vision and shares of stock in the new venture.

Entrepreneur trades stock for ideas, money, and people

Value has been successfully created.

(2) Seed Stage:

- Venture capitalists provide money in return for stock
- Employees join via friends & associates in return for cash salary and stock options
- Ideas become intellectual property which represents the initial value in the company

A race against time to create value and reduce risk

(4) Exit Stage:

- IPO or M&A
- Entrepreneur, investors, and employees can cash in stock for money
- A viable company has been created or expanded
- Each entrepreneur continues to build the company, retires, or starts the game again

Further growth is delayed until milestones are reached and risk of failure is reduced

(3) Growth Stage:

More money, ideas, and people are obtained, but for much less stock than in the earlier stage due to lower risk

Company balances earning cash, taking investment, and spending cash to create value

Reference: Start-Up by Jerry Kaplan

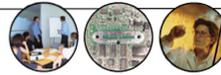
Framework #4: Komisar's "3 Questions Every Venture Capitalist Wants to Know"



1. Big Market?
2. Winning Strategy?
3. Excellent Team?

Reference: Randy Komisar

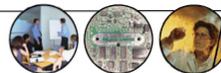
TECHNOLOGY VENTURES



19

Opportunity Analysis Project Overview

TECHNOLOGY VENTURES



20

Team Formation



TECHNOLOGY VENTURES

