Structuring and Leveraging Strategic Arrangements



Agenda

- What are Strategic Relationships?
- Why enter into Strategic Relationships?
- General Framework and Common Issues
- Closer look at certain Strategic Relationships
- Questions and Answers (But Don't Wait!)
- Objective: <u>Consider</u> Strategic Relationships as an alternative approach

Strategic relationships abound!



A Rose is a Rose...

- "Joint Venture"
- "Partner"
- "Strategic Alliance"

BUT, Words/Terms matter!



Use Third Party Assets

- Marketing/reseller Marketing Resources
- Out-License Various Resources
- In-License Technology
- Joint Development
 - Technology
 - Capital
 - Resources (e.g., lab, people, expertise)

Strategic Alliance Headlines - Credibility

kWantera to Form Technology Alliance with GE Renewable Energy

October 21, 2015

Fiserv Partners with InvestEdge to Expand Reporting Capabilities for the Wealth Management Industry

Thorley inks \$215M Hasbro deal

Philips, Immunetrics ink bioinformatics development deal

Potential Benefits of Strategic Relationships

- Non-dilutive
- Potentially faster/cheaper
- Exploit third party assets fewer mistakes



Two Flavors of Strategic Relationships

Separate Entity





Example

NEWS

PNC and Perot team up for online bill presentation, payment system

Operation to employ 41 here in its first year

Reason for Entity Alliances

- Liability (marketing a new product)
- Value in enterprise (e.g., BillingZone)
- Deeper relationship
- Tax
- Accounting (consolidation)

Reason for Contractual Alliances

- Lower investment Cost
- Easier to begin relationship
- Easier to exit
- Shorter duration



"Sign here to indicate you have no idea what you've signed for."

Cautions

- Remember the little person on your shoulder
- Consider the future of the business (e.g., reseller/branding) – Don't mortgage the future
- Consider
 - Time
 - Cost
 - Risk







- What is each party contributing?
- What is each party NOT contributing?
- Exclusive vs. non-exclusive rights



- Who is operating?
- Who makes decisions? (Who decides who decides?)
- What if additional resources are necessary?
- How are proceeds allocated?
- Who gets paid for operating?



- When is the Strategic Relationship terminated?
- Cause/No cause
- Who gets which assets upon termination (e.g., intellectual property; developments; customers; trademark)?
- Buy/Sell



Avoid disputes – You Can't Afford Them!!



Avoid Disputes

- Clear understandings
- Information Exchange/Meetings
- Align interests/Identify different interests
- Quality partners
- Consider escalation/mediation
- Ask the "What if's"
- Build in Exits



Dispute Resolution

- Where does the fight occur?
 - Venue
 - Forum
 - Arbitration v. Court
 - 1 arbitrator v. 3 arbitrators
- Governing Law
- Who pays for the fight?
- What happens during the fight?



Remedies

- Termination (out-license)
- Damages/Liquidated Damages
- Injunctive Relief (e.g., reseller)



Assignment – Common Issue

- Unknown assignees
- Protect against competitors
- Permit assignment in sales
- Bankruptcy





- Sales Rep never takes title
- Benefits to Company
 - Leverage third party sales force/marketing team
 - Maintains goodwill/trademark of company
- Benefits to Third Party
 - Use already existing sales force add another product

- Special considerations
 - Sales effort
 - Exclusivity (territory and product)
 - Company
 - Sales Representative
 - Limit Representations
 - Not an agent (can't bind company)
 - Protect goodwill use of trademark/trade name

- Consideration/Payment
 - Amount per sales
 - Costs and expenses
- Termination
 - Notice
 - Company short
 - Sales Rep long
 - Cause no cause
 - There may be laws
 - Avoid franchise characterization

- Post-Termination
 - Post-termination commissions ("Tails")
 - Post-termination rights/obligations (<u>e.g.</u>, noncompete)
 - Customer list
 - Confidentiality
- Dispute
 - Termination is final only remedy is damages



- Remarketing/Distribution
- OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturers)
- VAR (Value Added Reseller)

- Lose/diminish value of goodwill
 - Trademark use (mandatory and control)?
- Changes to product/service
 - Control
 - Liability
 - Warranties
- Payment
 - Verification
 - Reports
 - Incentive to pay (interest/penalty/pay for audit)

- Special Considerations (continued)
 - Pricing of Products and Services
 - Potential of undercutting
 - Minimum pricing (pay attention to anti-trust considerations)
 - Combination products
 - Inventory Control
 - Technology (see licenses)

- Termination
 - Notice
 - Carry-over inventory
 - Reliance
 - Trademarks
- Post-Termination obligations



Out-Licenses



Accelerate development and/or commercialization

Biogen Idec and Knopp Neurosciences Announce License Agreement for Late-Stage ALS Drug Candidate

- Keys to Grant
 - Identify the technology with specificity
 - Territory
 - Field of Use
 - Exclusivity (Note: Clarity re: exclusivity as to Licensor)
 - Transferability
 - Term

- Commitment of Licensee
 - Milestones/performance
- Royalties
 - Amount
 - Royalty-Base
 - Minimums
 - Joint Products

- Improvements/Developments
 - Licensee improvements/Licensor improvements
 - Rights to use
 - Licensor
 - Licensee
 - Obligation to pay royalties on Developments
 - Licensee
 - Licensor



- Term of royalty obligation
 - Consider survival beyond life of patents
- Intellectual property prosecution and infringement
 - Who prosecutes? Who pays?
 - Protect the base intellectual property
 - Who can sue? Who benefits?

In-Licenses



- Similar Issues
- Reasons
 - Critical asset
 - Develop more than 1 product
- Remember the "Shoulder Person"
 - Pay attention to Termination
- Improvements are key

Development Agreement

- Quality
- Confidentiality (NDA, Use)
- Ownership of intellectual property
 - Background technology
 - Developments/improvements





- Critical as to what is being contributed (and what is not)
 - Intellectual property
 - Cash
 - Technology
 - Lab/people
- Background technology v. new technology
- License v. transfer

- Operation
 - Decision-making Typically a "Steering Committee"
 - What is being developed?
 - Who is on the steering committee?
 - How are decisions made?



- Ownership/Use of Development
 - Identify improvements/development/How do you know?
 - Use/commercialization
 - Royalties
 - Intellectual Property Prosecution
 - Intellectual Property Enforcement

- Joint Ownership of Patents \rightarrow 1 +1 < 2
 - Each owner can exploit patent
 - Each owner can grant non-exclusive licenses
 - No right to grant exclusive licenses
 - No obligation to "Pay Over"
 - Need other owner to enforce patent



- Alternatives to Joint Ownership
 - Vest technology in one party, with a license
 - Allocate by field of interest/use
 - Place technology in an entity
 - Express agreements
- Royalty-Base
 - What is the base?
 - How are derivatives handled?
 - Reporting, etc.



Conclusion

 Pursue, consider and exploit Strategic Arrangements