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Business Plan: Progressive Consulting company. Please copy or save to your disk and use as an example in developing your own business plan . If you would like to read a series of articles jump to Web Marketing . For additional business aid s click on The Practical Tools of Consulting 1. 0 Executive Summary 1. Progressive Consulting will be formed as a consulting company specializing in marketing of high technology products in internat ional markets. Its founders are former marketers of consulting services, personal computers, and mar ket research, all in international markets. They are founding Progressive Consulting to formalize the consulting services they offer. turers a reliable, high quality alternative to inhouse resources for business development, market de velopment, and channel development on an international scale. A true alternative to in house resourc es offers a very high level of practical experience, know how, contacts, and confidentiality. Client s must know that working with Progressive Consulting is a more professional, less risky way to develo p new areas even than working completely in house with their own people. Progressive Consulting must also be able to maintain financial balance, charging a high value for its services, and delivering an even higher value to its clients. Initial focus will be development in the European and Latin Ame rican markets, or for European clients in the United States market. 1.3 Keys to Success *Excel lence in fulfilling the promise completely confidential, reliable, □trustworthy expertise and informa tion. □ _*Developing visibility to generate new business leads. □ _*Leveraging from a single pool of exp ertise into multiple revenue generation opportunities: retainer consulting, project consulting, mark et research, and market research published reports. 22.0 Company Summary 22. Progressive Consulting is a new company providing high-level expertise in international high-tech business development, ch annel development, idistribution strategies, and marketing of high tech products. It will focus initi ally on providing two kinds of international triangles: I *Providing United States clients with deve lopment for European and Latin American markets. I *Providing European clients with development for t he United States and Latin American markets. I state the United States on people and consulting wor k in related markets, □such as the rest of Latin America, and the Far East, and similar markets. As □i t grows it will look for additional leverage by taking brokerage positions and representation positi ons to create percentage holdings in product results. 22.1 Company Ownership Progressive Consul ting will be created as a California C corporation based⊡in Los Angeles County, owned by its princip al investors and principal operators. As of this writing it has not been chartered yet and is still considering alternatives of legal formation. 2 2. 2 Startup Summary 2 Total start up expense (including legal costs, logo design, stationery and related expenses) come to \$73,000. Start up assets re quired include \$3,000 in short term assets (office furniture, etc.) and \$1,000,000 in initial cash t o handle the first few months of consulting operations as sales and accounts receivable play through the cash flow. The details are included in the table. Start-up Plan □Start-up Expenses□Legal□ \$ \$3,000 Brochures 1,000 Stationery etc. \$5,000 □ Consultants □ \$5,000 □ Insurance □ \$350 □ Expensed equipment □ \$3,000 Other \$1,000 □Total Start-up Ex pense \$18,350 Start-up Assets Needed Cash requirements \$25,000 Start-up inventory \$0 Other Short-term Assets \$7,000 Total Short-term Assets \$32,000 □ Long-term Assets WORD DOCUMENT HAS NO NUMBER HERE Capital Assets **\$**0 □Total Assets □ \$32,000 Total Startup Requirements: \$50,350 □ Left to finance: □ \$0 Start-up Funding Plan \$2 \$20,000 □ Other □ 0,000 Investor 2 \$50,000 Short-term b \$10,000 Total investment \$5,000 Short-term loans orrowing□Unpaid expenses□ \$0□Interest-free short-term loans□ \$0□Subtotal Short-term Borrowing□ \$5,000 □ Long-term Borrowing □ \$0 □ Total Borrowing □ \$5,000 □ □ □ Loss at start-up □ (\$23,000)□Total Equity□ \$27,000 □ Total Debt and Equity □ \$3 □□2. 3 Company Services□□□Progressive offers expertise in channel distribution, 2,000 channel development, □ and market development, sold and packaged in various ways that allow clients □ t o choose their preferred relationship: these include retainer consulting relationships, project base d consulting, relationship and alliance \Box brokering, sales representation and market representation, p roject-based \Box market research, published market research, and information forum events. $\Box \Box \Box 2$. 4 Compan y locations and facilities $\Box \Box \Box$ The initial office will be established in A quality office space in th 1. Retainer consulting: we represent a client company as an extension of its business development an d market development functions. This begins with complete understanding of the client company's situ ation, objectives, and constraints. We then represent the client company quietly and confidentially, □ sifting through new market developments and new opportunities as is □ appropriate to the client, repr esenting the client in initial talks with possible allies, vendors, and channels. ulting: Proposed and billed on a per-project and per-milestone basis, project consulting offers a cl ient company a way to harness our specific qualities and use our expertise to solve specific problem

s, develop and/or implement plans, develop specific information. 223. Market research: group studie s available to selected clients at \$5,000 per unit. A group study is packaged and published, a complete study of a specific market, channel, or topic. Examples might be studies of developing consumer channels in Japan or Mexico, or implications of changing margins in software. 23.2 Competitive C omparison 21. The competition comes in several forms: 21. The most significant competition is no cons ulting at all, companies choosing to do business development and channel development and market rese arch in-house. Their own managers do this on their own, as part of their regular business functions. Our key advantage in competition with in-house development is that managers are already overloaded with responsibilities, they don't have time for additional responsibilities in new market developmen t or new channel development. Also, Progressive can approach alliances, vendors, and channels on a co nfidential basis, gathering information and making initial contacts in ways that the corporate manag , etc. These are essentially generalists who take their name- brand management consulting into speci alty areas. Their other very important weakness is the management structure that has the partners se lling new jobs, □and inexperienced associates delivering the work. We compete against them as □ experts in our specific fields, and with the guarantee that our clients will have the top-level people doin g the actual work. $\Box \Box \Box \Box$. The third general kind of competitor is the international market research $\Box c$ ompany: International Electronic Data Corporation (IEDC), Dataquest, \Box Stanford Research Institute, et c. These companies are formidable competitors \Box for published market research and market forums, but c annot provide the kind of high-level consulting that Triangle will provide. competition is the market-specific smaller house. For example: Nomura Research in Japan, Select S.A. . de C.V. in Mexico (now affiliated with IEDC). vidual case. 0 0 03. 3 Sales Literature 0 0 The business will begin with a general corporate brochure e stablishing the positioning. This brochure will be developed as part of the start-up expenses. terature and mailings for the initial market forums will be very important, with the need to establi sh a high-quality look and feel for... ...[truncated because this plan is provided for purposes of i llustration only] cipals of the business. The real core value is professional expertise, provided by a combination of experience, hard work. and education (in that order). □ *We will turn to qualified professionals for free-lance back-up in market research and presentation and report development, which are areas that we can afford to contract out without risking the core values provided to the clients. ology □ Progressive Consulting will maintain latest Windows and Macintosh □ capabilities including: □ □ □* 1. Complete Email facilities in Internet, Compuserve, America Online, and Applelink, for working wit h clients directly through email delivery of drafts and information. 2 *2. Complete presentation faci lities for preparation and delivery of multimedia presentations on Macintosh or Windows machines, in formats including on-disk presentation, live presentation, or video presentation. I *3. Complete des ktop publishing facilities for delivery of regular retainer reports, project output reports, marketi ng materials, market research reports. 2 3.6 Future Services 2 1.1 In the future Progressive will broa den the coverage by expanding into coverage of additional markets (e.g. all of Latin America, Far Ea st, Western Europe) and additional product areas (e.g. telecommunications and technology integration). We are also studying the possibility of newsletter or electronic newsletter services, or perhaps special on-topic reports. chnology manufacturers of computer hardware and software, services, networking, who want to sell int o markets in the United States, Europe, and Latin America. These are mostly larger companies, and oc casionally medium-sized companies. in larger corporations. These are marketing managers, general managers, sales managers, sometimes c harged with international focus and sometimes charged with market or even specific channel focus. Th ey do not want to waste their time or risk their money looking for bargain information or questionna ble expertise. As they go into markets looking at new opportunities, they are very sensitive to risk rations: our most important market segment is the large manufacturer of high-technology products, su ch as Apple, Hewlett-DPackard, IBM, Microsoft, Siemens, or Olivetti. These companies will be calling on Progressive for development functions that are better spun off than managed in-house, and for ma rket research, and for market forums. Itimedia, and some related high growth fields, Triangle will be able to offer an attractive developm ent alternative to the company that is management constrained and unable to address opportunities in new markets and new market segments. erized and disorganized, thousands of smaller consulting organizations and individual consultants fo r every one of the few dozen well-known companies. consulting is a disorganized industry, with pa rticipants ranging from major international name brand consultants to tens of thousands of individual Is. One of Progressive's challenges will be establishing itself as a 'real' consulting company, posi tioned as a relatively risk free corporate purchase. $\Box \Box \Box 4$. 2. 1 Industry Participants $\Box \Box \Box$ The consult ing 'industry' is pulverized and disorganized, thousands of smaller consulting organizations and ind ividual consultants for every one of the few dozen well-known companies. the few well established major names in management consulting. Most of these are organized as partn erships established in major markets around the world, linked together by interconnecting directors and sharing the name and corporate wisdom. Some evolved from accounting companies (e.g. Arthur Ander son, Touche Ross) and some from management consulting (McKinsey, Bain). These companies charge very high rates for consulting, and □ maintain relatively high overhead structures and fulfillment structur

es based on partners selling and junior associates fulfilling. At the intermediate level are some fu nction specific or market specific consultants, such as the market research firms (IEDC, Dataquest) or channel development firms (ChannelCorp, Channel Strategies, ChannelMark). ting is little more than contract expertise provided by somebody looking for a job and offering cons ulting services as a stop-gap measure while looking. 2 2 Distribution Patterns 2 2 Consulting is sold and purchased mainly on a word-of-mouth basis, with relationships and previous experience be ing by far the most important factor. □□□The major name-brand houses have locations in major cities a nd major markets, and executive-level managers or partners develop new business through industry ass ociations, business associations, and chambers of commerce and industry, etc., even in some cases so cial associations such as country clubs.
□□ The medium-level houses are generally area-specific or fu nction specific, and are not easily able to leverage their business through distribution. Competition and Buying Patterns ient level is trust in the professional reputation and reliability of the consulting firm. 224. 2. 4 Main Competitors 227 The high-level prestige management consulting: 25trengths: international loca tions managed by owner-partners with a high⊟level of presentation and understanding of general busin ess. Enviable reputations which make purchase of consulting an easy decision for a manager, despite the very high prices. Weaknesses: General business knowledge doesn't substitute for the specific mar ket, channel, and distribution expertise of Triangle, focusing on high-technology markets and produc ts only. Also, fees are extremely expensive, and work is generally done by very junior-level consult ants, even though sold by high-level partners. D D *The international market research company: D D Str engths: International offices, specific market knowledge, permanent staff developing market research information on permanent basis, good relationships with potential client companies. U Weaknesses: market numbers are not marketing, not channel development or market development. Although these comp anies compete for some of the business Triangle is after, they cannot really offer the same level of business understanding at a high level. D = *Market specific or function-specific experts D = Strengt hs: expertise in market or functional areas. Triangle should not try to compete with Normura or Sele ct in their markets with market research, or with ChannelCorp in channel management. the inability to spread beyond a specific focus, or to rise above a specific focus, to provide actui al management expertise, experience, and wisdom beyond the specifics. ition is no consulting at all, companies choosing to do business development and channel development and market research in- house. Strengths: no incremental cost except travel; also, the general work is done by the people who are entirely responsible, the planning done by those who will implement. Weaknesses: most managers are terribly overburdened already, unable to find incremental resources in time and people to apply to incremental opportunities. Also, there is a lot of additional risk in m arket development and channel development done in house from the ground up. Finally, retainer-based antenna consultants can greatly enhance a company's reach and extend its position into conversations that might otherwise never hanve taken place. 1014.3 Market Analysis 101As indicated by the illus trations, we must focus on a few thousand well-chosen potential customers in the United States, Euro pe, and Latin America. These few thousand high-tech manufacturing companies are the key customers fo r Progressive. Customers Growth rate 5.000 □U.S. High Tech□ 10% European High Tech 1,000□ 15% Latin America 35% Other □ 250□ 10,000 🗆 2%□ Latin America, and in limited product segments: personal computers, software, networks, telecommunic ations, personal organizers, and technology integration products. The target customer is usually a m s with the general positioning of Triangle as high-level expertise. \$5,000 per day for project consulting, \$2,000 per day for market research, and \$10,000 per month an d up for retainer consulting. Market research reports should be priced at \$5,000 per report, which w ill of course require that reports be very well planned, focused on very important topics very well presented. The annual sales projections are included here in the following table. Sales Forecast Sales 1995 1996 1997 □Retainer Consulting□



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plan hy pothetical company please copy save your disk example developing your business plan would like read series articles jump marketing additional aids click practical tools consulting executive summary pr ogressive consulting will formed company specializing marketing high technology products internation al markets founders former marketers services personal computers market research international marke ts they founding progressive formalize services they offer mission offers high tech manufacturers re liable high quality alternative inhouse resources development market development channel development international scale true alternative house resources offers very level practical experience know co ntacts confidentiality clients must know that working with progressive more professional less risky d evelop areas even than working completely house with their people must also able maintain financial balance charging value services delivering even higher value clients initial focus 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structures partners sell ing junior associates fulfilling intermediate function such firms iedc dataquest firms channelcorp s trategies channelmark kinds little more than contract somebody looking offering stop measure while p atterns sold purchased mainly word mouth basis relationships previous being factor brand houses have locations cities executive partners associations associations chambers commerce cases social associ ations country clubs medium houses generally area function easily able leverage buying patterns elem ent purchase decisions made trust reputation reliability firm main competitors prestige strengths lo cations managed owner understanding enviable reputations which make purchase easy decision manager d espite prices weaknesses knowledge doesn substitute triangle focusing only fees extremely expensive generally done junior though sold strengths offices knowledge permanent staff permanent good relatio nships potential weaknesses numbers although compete after cannot really offer same understanding fu nction experts strengths functional should compete normura select channel corp weaknesses inability s pread beyond rise above provide actual wisdom beyond specifics significant choosing incremental cos t except travel done entirely responsible planning done those implement terribly overburdened alread y unable find incremental resources time apply incremental there risk ground finally antenna greatly enhance reach extend position conversations might otherwise never hanve taken place analysis indica ted illustrations must thousand chosen potential customers europe thousand manufacturing customers g rowth rate strategy three geographical limited segments personal computers networks telecommunicatio ns personal organizers integration target customer usually manager larger corporation occasionally o wher president sized period pricing strategy priced upper edge what bear competing pricing fits positioning should month should priced report which course require planned focused topics presented fore cast forecast monthly included appendix annual projections included here following table forecast st rategic cost strategic cost strategic alliances writing alliances smith jones possibilities given co ntent existing discussions given background prospective might talking siemens olivetti others apple computer would local vendors beginning printaform team depends founders themselves little back grow take help plus graphic editorial organizational structure managed structure taken mainly smith begin ning assume ralph sampson least probably smith jones strong partner paris organization flat beginnin g each founders reponsible strong partner team requires means easily leveragable common mode make wh ile associates fulfill necessarily involved fulfillment core proposition personnel still tentative i nvolve strong editorial graphic person good staff support person manager secretary later more staff resumes attachment personnel detailed monthly personnel first year appendices annual estimates here table editorial graphic secretarial subtotal financial conservative financial strategy capital futur e assumptions section summarizes assumptions average collection days entirely invoice mainly days av erage payment invoices present interest rates assumptions collection days payment interest rate long rate payment percent credit burden indicators chart summarizes benchmarks unfortunately increase sh ow decline performance collection gross margin break break monthly units break average unit sale uni t fixed projected profit loss detailed forma income statement first year appendices annual estimates forma income statement gross margin gross margin percent operating advertising promotion public rel ations travel miscellaneous payroll expense leased equipment utilities insurance depreciation rent p ayroll burden contract operating profit before taxes taxes incurred profit projected flow flowEssay essays, termpaper, term paper, 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