WORKING WITH TURKISH HI-TECH COMPANIES: LESSONS LEARNED AND HOW TO SUCCEED

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OUTLINE

- Introduction to Global Technology Capital Partners (GTCP)
- History of working with Turkish high technology companies
- Case study
- Lessons learned
- How to succeed
- GTCP "Turkish Opportunity" program

INTRODUCTION TO GTCP

- •GTCP is a global private equity investment and M&A advisory firm based in San Francisco, California.
- •Investment focus on corporate and university spin-offs, recapitalizations, roll-ups, and international expansion.



- •Advises corporations on buy-side and sell-side acquisitions
- GTCP's principals have completed over 50 financing transactions totaling more than \$300 million and have completed over \$150 million of technology acquisitions

HISTORY OF WORKING WITH TURKISH HIGH TECHNOGY COMPANIES

- GTCP principals have been tracking Turkish high technology star-ups and markets for over 4 years
- First real engagement started in summer 2005
- Currently actively working with two Turkish high-technology start-ups
- GTCP sees this as a differentiator and an untapped potential



CASE STUDY: "COMPANY X"

- Company X is based in Istanbul, Turkey
- Seed capital provided by Cisco Systems
- Obtained over US\$1Million Venture Capital financing from a prominent Turkish Venture Capital Firm
- Developed one of the best voice over internet technology according to Cisco
- Sold to 70 customers in 20 countries





COMPANY X: WHAT IS GOOD!

- Developed a product at 1/10th the cost of their US competitors
- Best of class technology
- Developed an excellent relationship with a US\$130B US company
- Sold its product in 20 countries



COMPANY X: WHAT IS NOT SO GOOD!

- Well funded competitors in the US catching up fast
- Almost no US market presence
- Undercapitalized; trying to grow organically
- Cannot tap into international financial resources
- Need to find strategic alternatives



Working with GTCP to fund their growth through strategic alternatives

Has full backing of its venture capital investors

LESSONS LEARNED

- Turkish entrepreneurs are excellent in technology development
 -But, they need a lot of help with international marketing and sales
- Companies tend to underestimate how much money it will take to build a company
- Well, where is the management team??? How can I shake your hand if you are in Turkey?
- Having the greatest product does not do much good, business partners are still looking for "business" (revenues, working sales channel, senior management at the helm)

WHAT SHOULD TURKISH START-UPS DO TO SUCCEED?

- Get help for international sales and marketing
- Relocate the company in US, leaving technical development in Turkey
 - for further investment
 - to tap into a huge localized market
 - to do any kind of business in the US
- Build a company, not a product
- Be aggressive with creating and protecting intellectual property

GTCP "TURKISH OPPORTUNITY" PROGRAM

- Establish US operations
 - Incorporation, Office
 - Recruit key staff, including executives
- Financing for expansion
 - Syndicate financing with top tier US venture capital firms
- Establish US sales and marketing
 - Set up marketing, sales and support organization
- Advise on the exit: sell to or merge with a US corporation
 - Sale of company, licensing of technology, sale of Intellectual Property

