

Valuing Startups

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Value Definition

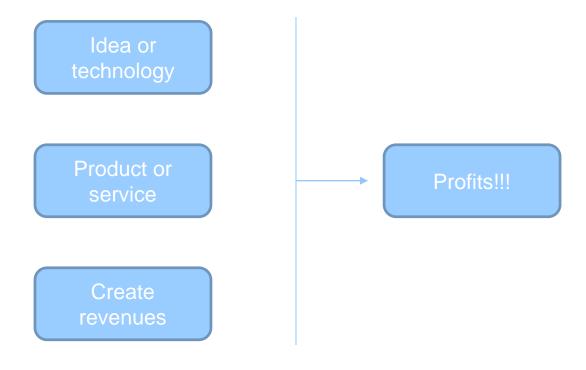
 Business value = value of all future benefits accruing to the owners in today's dollars

Valuation Principles

- Value is at a point in time
- Value is future-oriented
- Market dictates the rate of return

Value Creation

Where does value come from?



- Operating companies
 - Future benefit is earnings/cash flow
 - Capitalized earnings/cash flow
 - Multiply earnings by factor
 - Factor is the inverse of rate of return
 - Rate of return reflects risk

| Business Value | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----------|--|--|--|--|
| | | Co. A | | | | |
| Maintainable net earnings | | \$100,000 | | | | |
| Capitalization rate (price earnings multiple) | 20% | 5 x | | | | |
| Share value | | 500,000 | | | | |

Investment Spectrum:

Rate of return (ROR)

| Risk | | | | | | | \ |
|-------------|----------|--------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| | | Gov't | Corporate | Public | Private | Venture | Angel |
| Savings a/c | GIC | Bonds | Bonds | Companies | Companies | Capital | Investors |
| 0.1% | 1.5 - 2% | 2 - 3% | 3 - 4% | 5 - 8% | 14 - 20% | 20 - 25% | 25 - 40% |

| Business Value | | | | | | |
|---|--------------|--------------|--|--|--|--|
| | <u>Co. A</u> | <u>Co. B</u> | | | | |
| Maintainable net earnings | \$ 100,000 | \$ 100,000 | | | | |
| Capitalization rate (price earnings multiple) | 20% 5 x | 40% 2.5 x | | | | |
| Share value | 500,000 | 250,000 | | | | |

Startups

- Revenues timing?
 - Stage of development
 - Research required
 - Regulatory approvals
 - Sales force
- Profitability timing?

Startups

- Cash flow considerations
 - Capex equipment, furniture, vehicles ...
 - Physical space
 - Upfront lease costs
 - Leasehold improvements
 - Working capital
 - Burn rate!!

Startup Valuations

- Discounted cash flow (DCF)
 - Overall best approach for valuing
 - What if:
 - Early stage development
 - Pre-revenue
 - Timing of profitability uncertain

Startup Valuations

- Other methodologies:
 - Venture capital method
 - Expected ROR at exit
 - Berkus method
 - Assess \$ value to key startup criteria
 - Scorecard method
 - Assess criteria value is relative to average startup value
 - Risk factor summation method
 - Assess risks of criteria relative value

Michael H Marks



"Based on our calculations and years of hard work, Molly and I believe the price of our business should be based on our revenues right about there!"