

OSEM OXFORD SPIN-OUT EQUITY MANAGEMENT



Funding Innovation – What Investors look for The Benefits & Pitfalls of Strategic Investors

Chris Saunders – Founder & CEO Navetas



A technology innovation company delivering unique products and data services to help consumers visualise, understand and reduce their energy consumption to save money and live more sustainably.



Disaggregation Technology – energy measurement by appliance from the meter point



Online whole house electricity & gas monitoring with accurate tariff price comparison and switching



VC backed:

2008 Post Money Valuation £4M – Raise £3M 2010 Post Money Valuation £16M – Raise £4M

A cutting edge technology that had many challenges:

- Data gathering
- Test & validation
- Appliance identification
- Drawing on latest unproven AI techniques

..... led to delay in commercialisation of technology led to pressure from VC investors



Investment Challenge



2011

Demonstrate

Market demand Technology asset value Credibility in technology performance

Challenge

Pre-revenue Risk of reduced company valuation Ongoing technology risk

.... a further VC investment round could not deliver the company potential



What we looked for in a Strategic Investor:

- Business need
- Route to market
- Available capital to invest

What we wanted to avoid:

- Restricting market opportunities
- Restricting future exit

Strategic Investor Pitfalls



Examples of strategic investment in our field that we wanted to avoid:

<u>Onzo</u>

- 2008 Scottish & Southern Energy (SSE) invested £1M for 24.5% equity
- Agreed exclusive supply agreement
- Initially a good deal, but volumes declined
- 2012 SSE acquired ONZO products
- ONZO energy systems remains independent

<u>Alertme</u>

- 2010 British Gas (BG) investment of £5.7 for 16% equity
- Delivered excellent route to market through BG
- Other UK utilities refused to do business





Strategic Investor Preferences



- A partner that serves our end customers, not an end customer
- A strong brand in our industry
- Geographically strong where Navetas is weak

Time consuming process Management commitment Work with the business in preference to VC arm

Companies Navetas worked with to secure a Strategic Investor:

- Panasonic
- Texas Instruments
- Schneider Electric
- Sensus



- Sensus Inc. \$1B US smart metering and communications company serving utilities
- Requirement for Navetas patented technology to:
 - Differentiate their offering
 - Enhance product margins
 - Develop data services
- US exclusive technology license granted
- Access to Navetas management and expertise





2012 Post Money Valuation £33M - £5M raise

- Route to market in the US
- Built credibility and confidence in technology
- Demonstrated the value of Navetas product
- Harmonised shareholder rights e.g. anti-dilution, capital distribution
 waterfall
- Didn't restrict sales channels
- Didn't restrict future exit
- Strengthened Board



Securing a Strategic Investor takes time and is built on trusted relationships as much as on company offering:

Sensus was the first company to visit Navetas back in 2008!!

"Choose the right one and get the terms right!"