







#### Intensity of Competition

- Classical economical thinking argues that if there are many players in a market, then there is a lot of competition.
- It is about <u>intensity</u> of competition, not about the <u>number</u> of players.
  - -One measure is whether the aggregate share of the top players is increasing: I.e., instead of being a multi-polar market, it is becoming bi- or tri- polar.
  - -Another measure is whether price increases to the consumer are lower, or at best, equal to inflation.
  - A third measure is whether the consumer gets a disproportionate amount of innovation and consumer news.



• Unilever and Nestle compete fiercely in icecream and together, their global marketshare is inching up.

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#### **New Product Entry Strategies**

#### Reactive

· Defensive Imitative

Second but Better

- - Entrepreneurial
- Responsive

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- Acquisition

## **Reactive Strategy**

#### Defensive

- Guards against competitive new products <u>after</u> they have been successful by making changes in existing products.
- Ex.: · Zenith operated less modern facilities, and defended its existing business. Reacted to new IC color TV sets by promoting "hand crafted." Time to develop new poduction facilities.
- Datril entered as: "Same ingredients as Tylenol but less Expensive".
- Pre-emptive Defense: Tylenol's offensive reaction to Nuprin (Ibuprofen). Tylenol responded with more aggressive promotion; reduced price; and use of flanker brands.

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- of-use, power and compatibility.
- You may choose to not attack head-on but identify a niche where it can provide unique benefits











#### Acquisitions - A key strategic action

- Over \$1.95 Trillion spent worldwide in 2004
- Over 30,000 worldwide

## Love's labor lost

"Acquisitions are, like second marriages, a triumph of hope over experience...with even higher failure rates than the liaisons of Hollywood stars"

Economist (2000)

#### Acquisitions - Bad for the wallet, on average

- Acquisitions "do not create superior post-acquisition performance for acquiring firms" (*King et al. 2004*)
- If returns to acquisitions are so poor, why do managers acquire in the first place?
- Explanations include:
  - Agency theory
  - Hubris (Roll 1986)

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Hubris



Many managers were, apparently, overexposed in impressionable childhood years to the story in which the imprisoned, handsome prince is released from the toad's body by a kiss from the beautiful princess. Consequently, they are certain that the managerial kiss will do wonders for the profitability of the target company.





## This research

- Measures acquisition success using *long-term* financial returns
  - We find great variance in acquisition success
- Introduces a *firm specific*, marketing-based determinant of acquisition success: *product capital* 
  - Firms with high product capital make smarter acquisitions
- Highlights, in the acquisitions context, the importance of a variable that is central to business strategy: *Innovation*

## Innovation and Acquisition: Product Capital

- Marketing-based determinant of acquisition success: *product capital*
  - Firms with high product capital make smarter acquisitions
  - Highlights, in the acquisitions context, the importance of a variable that is central to business strategy: *Innovation*
- *Def*: Product development and product support assets created by current and past investments by a firm.
  - Product support assets: devoted to the promotion of consumer adoption of new products.
  - Product development assets: devoted to the creation, development, and improvement of new products.

#### Data overview

- 238 acquisitions
- Panel of 56 acquirers in the pharmaceutical industry (US and European)
- 10 year period: 1992-2002
- Pharmaceuticals is an ideal empirical context:
  - Acquisitions are frequent
  - Product development and product support investments vary considerably

Measuring performance

**1. LCAR:** long-term cumulative abnormal returns during the [1, T] post-event horizon

$$\mathbf{LCAR}_{\mathbf{pT}} = \sum_{t=1}^{t-1} (\mathbf{R}_{i,t} - \mathbf{R}_{p,t})$$

**2. BHAR:** buy-and-hold long-term abnormal returns during the [1, T] post-event horizon

$$\mathbf{BHAR}_{pT} = \prod_{t=1}^{t=T} \left( l + \mathbf{R}_{i,t} \right) - \prod_{t=1}^{t=T} \left( l + \mathbf{R}_{p,t} \right)$$

Descriptive Statistics							
Measure of firm performance	N. Obs	Overall Mean (%) [p-value]	Std.Dev. (%)	Mean: Bottom Quartile (%)	Mean: Top Quartile (%)		
Long-term cumulative abnormal returns: One year following acquisition [LCAR <sub>12</sub> ]	238	5.09 [0.06]	40.94	-35.56	50.50		
Long-term cumulative abnormal returns: Two years following acquisition [LCAR24]	226	4.70 [0.18]	52.88	-53.54	65.32		
Long-term buy-and-hold abnormal returns: One year following acquisition [BHAR <sub>12</sub> ]	238	4.65 [0.15]	49.17	-42.07	59.69		
Long-term buy-and-hold abnormal returns: Two years following acquisition [BHAR24]	226	-0.75 [0.85]	63.30	-71.19	75.77		









#### Why do some acquisitions do better than others?

- An Answer: Product Capital
- Successful firms emphasize innovation in
  - Selection
  - Deployment

## Reactive vs. Proactive Selection of Appropriate Strategy

Need to examine:

- A Growth opportunities
- **B** Protection for the innovation
- C Scale of the market
- D Strengths of competitors
- E Position in product/distribution system









## **Opportunity Matrix**

- + 3. Product Development  $(E_m N_p)$ This strategy is consistent with the notion of :
- "building on our strength" and
- expanding in the areas of our skill and knowledge in distribution and production.
  - Netscape Communicator
  - McDonald's McNuggets
- Go into a market get sales from the innovators, and then get out before the big players move in!

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# **Opportunity Matrix**

- 4. Diversification
  - Some choose to diversify into N<sub>m</sub> N<sub>p</sub>
  - although diversification can be successful, it is not without problems.
    - E.g., a major firm moved from the aerospace market to transit vehicles and suffered.
       They lost \$40 \* 10<sup>6</sup> on a contract to supply the Washington, DC metro with railcars!
    - Flow Technology has moved from pressure pumps for cutting to using pumps for food safety!

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#### **Opportunities Matrix Summary**

If  $E_p$ - $E_m$  are to be the primary growth vehicles (cell 1),

- · the organization is best at distribution and production
- · (and growth rate aspirations are not high)
- ===> <u>Reactive Product Strategy</u> may be most successful.

Here product development is used only to defend exisiting products!

If the organization wants growth and has skill in R & D and Marketing, a <u>Proactive Strategy</u> would have the potential to help meet its overall organizational needs (cells 2,3,4).

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# B. Protection for the Innovation

- Types of innovation protection
  - Patents
    - ex.- Polaroid
  - Protection may also be granted by markets, to first to enter products that are good and achieve a predominant position.
  - Software; Ethical Drugs
  - patent protection is weak in most industries. Imitation was rapid, 60% of patented innovations within 4 years.
  - If you cannot achieve good protection, you may be better off in a Reactive mode.

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# C. Scale of the Market

Market size and margin are important

- Easier to be proactive in:
- <u>large markets</u> with <u>economies of scale</u> in production and distribution or marketing.
  - Each Cookware maker faced a small market and did not expend efforts in developing nonstick material. Waited for a materials supplier (DuPont).







- E. Position in Production/Distribution Matrix
- Best strategy depends on position and relative power, etc. within the product/distribution systems.
- Usually producers are the innovators in consumer goods.
- The Internet may be changing the whole equation!

	Sources of Advantage						
	e.g., Skills: Resources:	R & D, Marketing, Production-Prior Work Experience Capital, Production Facilities, Brand Name, Distribution Access					
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#### Key Results in the PC Software Industry

- The major effects on <u>long-term performance</u> come from:
- Magazine Coverage gained; and
- Competitive Position (value and quality) achieved during entry period)!
- <u>Timing</u> though significant and important (in both markets) was not as strong a predictor!
- Magazine Coverage is affected by early entry (however differently for the two product categories!).

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#### Sources of Advantage

#### Negative impact on Quality

• Results are Contrary to expectations!

#### Reasons?

- -Smaller Firms are better able to tailor their products to state-of-the-art hardware;
- Larger firms have substantial investments in software making them reluctant to adapt;
- -large bureaucracies slowing down innovation

#### Other Key Lessons

• In Software markets where basic features and evaluative criteria are quickly established high levels of Market Exposure (Magazines; Adv.) during entry leads to better long-term performance.

-Ex: WordPerfect, MS Word had 100,000 sample disks in PC World

- Heavy Exposure alone is not enough. -Need to pay attention to competitive positioning (quality & value) -Ex: WordStar had most citations at entry; but had average q&v.
- Large Established Firms need to worry about
  -Their ability to develop and maintain high quality products
  -Also, they usually enter later
  - -They have old products that they do not wish to cannibalize Ex: IBM and WANG with Word Processors; IBM with DBMS;