



#### WHAT'S VENTURE CAPITAL?

- Venture Capital: financial capital provided to earlystage, high-potential, high risk, growth startup companies
- VC fund makes money by owning equity in companies it invests in
- Important source of funding startups that don't have access to other capital
- Entails high risk and returns for investor
- Angel investors: individuals who want to help other entrepreneurs get their businesses off the ground and earn a high return on their investment

#### **MECHANICS OF VENTURE CAPITAL**

# The Stages in Venture Capital Investing

- Seed: First stage of venture capital financing. Comparatively modest amounts of capital provided to inventors or entrepreneurs to finance the early development of a new product or service
- 2. Early Stage: For companies that are able to begin operations but are not yet at the stage of commercial manufacturing and sales. Supports a step-up in capabilities.
  - Start-Up: Supports product development and initial marketing. Start-up financing provides funds to companies for product development and initial marketing.
  - First Stage: Capital is provided to initiate commercial manufacturing and sales.

## **MECHANICS OF VENTURE CAPITAL**

#### The Stages in Venture Capital Investing

- 3. Formative Stage: Financing includes seed stage and early stage.
- 4. Later Stage: Capital provided after commercial manufacturing and sales but before any initial public offering. The product or service is in production and is commercially available. The company demonstrates significant revenue growth, but may or may not be showing a profit.
  - Third Stage: Capital provided for major expansion.
  - Expansion Stage: Financing refers to the second and third stages.
  - Mezzanine (Bridge): Finances the step of going public and represents the bridge between expanding the company and the IPO
- 5. Balanced-stage: Financing refers to all the stages, seed through mezzanine.

### CHARACTERISTICS OF VENTURE CAPITAL

- Illiquid
- Long-term commitment
- Difficulty determining market values
- · Limited historical risk and return data
- Entrepreneurial/management mismatches
- Fund manager incentive mismatches
- Lack of knowledge of the competitors
- Vintage cycles
- Extensive operations analysis and advice may be required

### ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF VC

## Advantages

- Provides funding needed
- Allow entrepreneurs to build company with OPM
- Venture capitalist: source of information, provide resources and contacts, expertise, experience
- Value-added service: Mentoring, Alliances, Facilitate exit

## Disadvantages

- Longer timetable, ie. 3-5 years = seek elsewhere (NOT VC)
- Securing a deal with VC can be a long and complex process
- Must pay fess (legal and accounting)
- Giving up part ownership
- Creates financial pressure (generate cash for payments of capital, interest and dividends)
- Agree to certain restrictions
- Under great scrutiny
- Control, Intrusion, Pricing

# **OBTAINING FUNDING**

- Apply to various Venture Capital Organizations by presenting a business plan and giving a formal pitch
  - ex: Canada's Venture Capital & Private Equity Association (CVCA)
    Venture Capital Corporation
    National Venture Capital Association (NVCA)
- Network; get a good lawyer and accountant which can be excellent sources of introductions
- Use investment portals to your advantage. GetCapital.org is a great resource for connecting entrepreneurs with investors.
- Internet and eBusiness can help building your business; use to access investors online