## STARTUP-STARTUP ACQUISITION CONSIDERATIONS CHECKLIST

## **Key Definitions**

Term	Definition

Dосиме	ents / Actions	EXPLANATIONS	STATUS/COMMENTS	COMPLETED
Compa	ny Research – To Review			
1.	Strategic fit	Alignment of voice, mission statement, integration necessary, process timeline, and expected costs/savings, revenue enhancements		
2.	Product, service, tech differences/synergies	Clear identification of target company enablement and determination of cost savings ex post acquisition		
3.	Key people (acqui-hire) potential;	Management org structure, employee DD, and KYC (culture fit), labor disputes; likelihood of retention ex post closing		
4.	Competitive Landscape DD	Technologies that could make the company's current technology or manufacturing processes obsolete; advantages/disadvantages of the company's products and technologies		
5.	Market share of target company	Competitive threat and business line extension		
6.	Identification a potential alternative acquisition	Mitigate against risk of offer declination		
7.	Employee/Target Company DD	Employment and consulting agreements, loan agreements, schedule of compensation, employee benefits, management incentive plan, actuarial reports, layoffs and resultant severance costs ex post acquisition		
Comme	ercial Diligence – To Review			
8.	M&A Broker hire	Oversee related tasks to deal, including analysis/valuation, objectives, pre-qualifying incoming offers, closing process, etc.		
9.	Data room access	Registration documents, financial, operational, cap table		
10.	Top 20 customers and percentage of the total sales/revenue	Probability existing customers will remain ex post acquisition; customer concentration issues/risks		
11.	Customers satisfaction with target company (Customer calls)			

DOCUME	NTS / ACTIONS	EXPLANATIONS	STATUS/COMMENTS	COMPLETED
12.	Warranty issues with current or former customers			
13.	Customer backlog			
14.	Sales terms/policies and unusual levels of returns, exchanges, refunds, or complaints			
15.	Sales people compensation/financial incentives to employees ex post close			
16.	Seasonality/cyclicality in revenue and working capital requirements			
17.	Licensure timeline accelerations and capital savings			
18.	Management team DD and KYC	Key to culture fit		
19.	Customer concentration issues/risks			
Financia	l DD – To Review:			
20.	Target company's annual, quarterly, and monthly financial statements for the last three years	Insights into target company's financial performance and condition; clear documentation of liabilities, both current and contingent		
21.	Audited financial statements and duration of audit			
22.	Target Valuation			
23.	Share Price conversion			

DOCUME	NTS / ACTIONS	Explanations	STATUS/COMMENTS	COMPLETED
24.	Margins analysis of target company	Determine whether margins of target company are growing/contracting		
25.	Assumptions behind financial projections	Evaluate whether the underlying assumptions behind the company's projections are reasonable and believable		
26.	Growth vs. burn balance and current capital commitments	Evaluate projections for the current year compared to the board- approved budget for the same period		
27.	Normalized working capital necessary to continue running target company			
28.	"Working capital" definition of target company vs. acquirer	Definitional differences can result in a large variance of the dollar number		
29.	Condition of assets and liens thereon/debt commitments and repayment schedule			
30.	Aging of accounts receivable and related issues			
31.	Appropriateness of capital and operating budgets and deferments of necessary capital expenditures			
32.	EBITDA (and any adjustments to EBITDA) calculations			
33.	Sufficient financial resources	Needed to both continue operating in the ordinary course and cover its transaction expenses between the time of diligence and the anticipated closing date of the acquisition		
Technol	ogy DD – To Review			
34.	Domestic and foreign patents (and patents pending)	Review registered and common law trademarks and service marks		

DOCUME	NTS / ACTIONS	EXPLANATIONS	STATUS/COMMENTS	COMPLETED
35.	Appropriate measures to protect IP (including confidentiality and invention assignment agreements)	Must also review if any material exceptions from such assignments (rights preserved by employees and consultants)		
36.	Copyrighted products/materials used, controlled, or owned by the target			
37.	Infringements on IP rights of any third party/vice versa			
38.	Involvement in any IP litigation/disputes			
39.	Technology in-licenses and value to business			
40.	Historical incorporation of open-source software into products, and open-source issues			
41.	Other liens or encumbrances on the company's IP			
Materia	l Contracts – To Review			_
42.	Guaranties, loans, and credit agreements			
43.	Customer and supplier contracts			
44.	Agreements of partnership or joint venture; limited liability company or operating agreements			

DOCUME	NTS / ACTIONS	EXPLANATIONS	STATUS/COMMENTS	COMPLETED
45.	Contracts involving payments over a material dollar threshold			
46.	Settlement agreements			
47.	Past acquisition agreements			
48.	Equipment leases			
49.	Indemnification agreements			
50.	Employment agreements			
51.	Exclusivity agreements			
52.	Agreements imposing any restriction on the right or ability of the company to compete			
53.	Real estate leases/purchase agreements			
54.	License agreements			
55.	Powers of attorney			
56.	Franchise agreements			
57.	Equity finance agreements			
58.	Distribution, dealer, sales agency, or advertising agreements			
59.	Non-competition agreements			

DOCUMENTS / ACTIONS	EXPLANATIONS ST	TATUS/COMMENTS	COMPLETED
60. Union contracts and collective bargaining agreements			
61. Contracts the termination of which would result in a material adverse effect on the company			
62. Any approvals required of other parties to material contracts due to a change in control or assignment			
Legal DD – To Review:			
63. Filed or pending litigation, together with all complaints and other pleadings			
64. Litigation settled and terms of settlement			
65. Claims threatened against company			
66. Consent decrees, injunctions, judgments, or orders against the company			
67. Attorneys' letters to auditors			
68. Insurance covering any claims, together with notices to insurance carriers			
69. Matters in arbitration			
70. Pending or threatened governmental proceedings against the company			

DOCUME	NTS / ACTIONS	EXPLANATIONS	STATUS/COMMENTS	COMPLETED
71.	Potentially speaking directly to the company's outside counsel			
Tax DD -	- To Review:			
72.	Historical tax returns			
73.	Government audits/correspondence or notice form regarding filed tax return			
	Tax sharing and transfer pricing agreements			
75.	Allocation of acquisition purchase price issues			
General	Corporate Matters – To Review:			
76.	Charter documents (certificate of incorporation, bylaws, etc.)			
77.	Good standing and (if applicable) tax authority certificates			
78.	List of subsidiaries and their respective charter documents			
79.	List of jurisdictions in which the company and its subsidiaries are qualified to do business			
80.	List of current officers and directors			
81.	Lists of all security holders (common, preferred, options, warrants)			

DOCUME	NTS / ACTIONS	EXPLANATIONS	STATUS/COMMENTS	COMPLETED
82.	Stock option agreements and plans, including both standard documents and any deviations therefrom			
83.	Warrant agreements			
84.	Stock sale agreements/appreciation rights plans and related grants			
85.	Agreements granting restricted stock units			
86.	Stockholder and voting agreements			
87.	Stock-related preemptive rights, registration rights, or co-sale rights			
88.	Agreements restricting the payment of cash dividends			
89.	Evidence that securities were properly issued in compliance with applicable securities laws			
90.	Recapitalization or restructuring documents			
91.	Agreements related to any sales or purchases of businesses			
92.	"No-shop" or exclusivity obligations			

DOCUMENTS / ACTIONS	EXPLANATIONS STATUS/Co	OMMENTS COMPLETED
93. Rights of first refusal or first negotiations in connection with a sale of the company or its business		
94. Minutes of stockholders' meetings since inception, including written consents to action without a meeting		
95. Minutes of board of directors and any board committees since inception, including written consents to action without a meeting		
96. Environmental DD		
97. Property DD		
98. Governmental Regulations, Filings, and Compliance with Laws DD		
Related Party Transactions – To Review:		
99. Any direct or indirect interest of any officer, director, stockholder, or employee of the company in any business that competes with or does business with the company		
100.Any agreements with any officer, director, stockholder, or employee that is entitled to compensation		

DOCUMENTS / ACTIONS	EXPLANATIONS	STATUS/COMMENTS	COMPLETED
101.Any agreements where any officer, director, stockholder, or employee has an interest in any asset (real estate, intellectual property, personal property, etc.) of the company			
Marketing Arrangements – To Review:			
102. Sales representative, distributor, agency, and franchise agreements of the company			
103. Standard company sales forms or literature, including price lists, catalogs, purchase orders, etc.			
104.All other agreements related to the marketing of the company's products			
105.Press releases concerning the company (or any partnership or joint venture involving the company or any subsidiary)			
106.Sales representative, distributor, agency, and franchise agreements of the company			
Disclosure Schedule – To Review:			
107. Disclosure schedule accurately ties into the representations and warranties set forth in the acquisition agreement			
108.All material contracts and amendments listed with dates and counterparties			

DOCUMENTS / ACTIONS	EXPLANATIONS	STATUS/COMMENTS	COMPLETED
109.All contracts listed in the disclosure schedule contained in data room			
110.All patents issued and pending summarized and listed			
111.Important contracts affected by a change in control	Timing of when consents will be obtained from counterparty		
112.Removal of liens plan at closing			
113. Unusual employment agreements or severance arrangements			
114.Properly listed outstanding capital stock, options, and warrants			
115.Any material matters in disclosure schedule that are inconsistent with statements previously made on behalf of the company			
116.Internal inconsistencies of disclosures/statements in disclosure schedule			

## Timeline [NOTE: first prepared on \_\_\_\_\_]

Date	Expectation
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