

# Corporate Social Responsibility in Due Diligence:

why current due diligence standard practice is inadequate'



#### **Presentation overview**

Overview of Due Diligence Process

Corporate Social Responsibility

➤ Linking Due Diligence and CSR

Case Study



#### Transactional scenarios

Transactions - buying, selling, merging a business or business assets

- > To increase share value through
  - access new markets and increased market share;
  - achieve competitive size and operational synergies



#### Transactional scenarios

- > Two scenarios:
  - Property transactions (owner)
    - investment banks
    - short-term hold
  - Transfer of property and ongoing operations (owner/operator)
    - corporations
    - long-term hold



### Due diligence

'focus on tangible issues'

- > assessment of BUSINESS RISK:
  - > accounting & financial
  - ➤ legal tax & pension
  - > environmental
  - >HR, IT & Insurance
- > 6-8 week process
- different advisors review different aspects



### Factors that affect posttransaction integration

- Insufficient integration of due diligence
- Personnel issues and cultural clashes
- > Poor communications
- Systems integration

Acquirer has 3-6 months to effect the changes that can really make an impact to value

'mainly intangible issues'



## Due diligence standard practice is inadequate!

Traditional due diligence is based on analysis of tangible (accounting-based) factors

#### BUT

- ➤ Intangible factors can account for 80-85% of market value
  - ➤ Corporate values and behaviour
  - ➤ Stakeholder capital (relationships)
  - Human capital (workplace, employee quality)
  - > Environmental sustainability



# Material issues affecting liability and ongoing performance

**Profit/Growth** 

**Investor relations** 

**Expenses** 

Legal compliance

Labour productivity

Governance

**Innovation** 

**Future legislation** 

Health & safety

Labour and government relations

Bribery & Corruption

Reputation

**Human rights** 

**Product impact** 

**Community relations** 

Supply chain

Emissions, effluent, waste

Historical Contamination

**Energy usage** 

Raw materials

Water usage

**Transport** 

Land use & biodiversity

Financial/Economic

Social

**Environmental** 



### Key Areas of Regulation

- ➤ European Union more than 40 pieces of major legislation planned 2000-2010
  - > Air
  - ➤ Climate Change
  - > Industrial controls
  - Waste and producer responsibility
  - > Water



## CSR Screening in Due Diligence

- CSR issues may represent significant off balance-sheet liabilities
- General disclosure clauses in sales/purchase agreements require identification of all materialities
- ➤ Inferences regarding management quality



## thodology for CSR Screening

- Corporate governance and business ethics
- Reputation and stakeholder relations
- ➤ Innovation, R&D
- > Environmental, health & safety
- > Social
- Product stewardship and supply chain
- National and international regulatory developments



## Methodology for CSR screening

- Company and all subsidiaries
- Multi-lingual, literature-based search
- Public information





### Methodology for CSR screening

- Over 36,000 information sources accessed:
  - company reports and press releases
  - business, trade journals and periodicals
  - media reports, including local newspapers
  - global prosecution database
  - government information
  - NGOs, trade unions, industry associations
  - specialist and individual sites



### Methodology for CSR screening

- Deliverables:
  - overview of risks and opportunities
  - performance relative to sector benchmark
  - back-up of all data cited
- Completed in 10 working days



# Case Study: Acquisition of manufacturing operations

- acquisition of publicly traded German subsidiary
- > two alternative portfolios
- manufacturing, distribution and sales
- wanted off balance sheet information



# Case Study: Acquisition of manufacturing operations

- Environmental -both companies identified SD initiatives in annual reports
  - > significant differences in:
    - implementation and performance wrt water and energy usage, waste management
    - future liabilities wrt EU legislation



# Case Study: Acquisition of manufacturing operations

#### Social

- > significant differences in:
  - reputation at a local level with community and suppliers
  - Company A had ongoing liability associated with Human Rights
  - transparency

#### Management Systems

- comparison of overall approach indicated Company A had a consistent long-term approach while Company B was constantly 'reinventing' itself
- > inferences wrt management quality



### **Summary & benefits**

- holistic approach to due diligence
- identifies off balance sheet risk that may represent significant ongoing liability
- confirmation of underlying value
- blueprint for post-transaction integration
- can be done within timeframe (or prior to) due diligence

