What do Investors Look for in a Business Plan?

Boston Entrepreneurs' Network -- 11/01/2005

Joe Caruso

Bantam Group Common Angels Walnut Ventures

Executive Summary & Presentation

- What is the problem you intend to solve?
- How big is the opportunity?
- Who has the problem?
- How do people deal with it now?
- How will your presence change things?
- How Much \$\$ Needed? Now.....Eventually
- How big do you get? How Quickly?
- Exit?

Problem you are solving

- What IS the problem?
 - Be Specific
 - Avoid buzzwords (unless it's a deep technical issue)
- Ask listener to repeat back to you

How big is the opportunity?

Be Realistic

• 2% of \$10B opportunity?

• 20% of \$500M opportunity?

Channels must be appropriate

Who has the problem?

- Find people for whom the need is *compelling*
- Later, can serve less urgent needs

How do they deal with it now?

There is ALWAYS an alternative solution

Competition

How will the world change with your presence?

- How will peoples' lives change?
- Is a behavior change required?



How much \$\$ needed Now?Eventually?

- Goldilocks problem
 - \$5-\$10M requires big opportunity
 - \$0-\$2M tough to find
 - The more money raised, the bigger the exit required

How Big Do You Get?

- Put thought into the numbers
- Show you understand the critical factors
- Don't just throw up \$10M, \$20M, \$40M

Exit?

IPO



Don't count on it

Acquisition most likely

Good Luck



Joe Caruso – Bantam Group – caruso@bantamgroup.com