
ENET

Understanding Term Sheets and Valuation

March 1, 2011

Bill McCullen
LaunchCapital
Director, Boston Office

Outline

- Introduction to LaunchCapital
- Valuation Methodology
- Valuation Considerations for Early Stage Companies

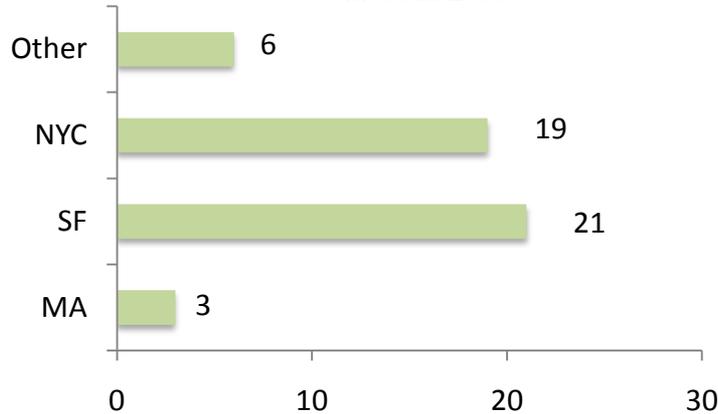
LaunchCapital Overview

- Established in February '08 to address the early stage funding gap
 - Large VCs focused on later stage and bigger deals
 - At that time, the gap was acute on the East coast as few institutional investors specialized in seed stage
 - Over 60 investments in 3 years
- Great time for investing in capital efficient businesses
 - Cost of starting a business had dropped
 - Opens the door to successful investments at lower value exits
- Goal to diversify across several parameters
 - Geography – 3 offices open in Spring/Summer '08
 - Industry – industry agnostic, focus on the business model
 - Deal type – from pre-seed/tech transfer to small Series A, lead or follow, level of activity
- Typical investment in \$50k to \$250k range

Changing Landscape - Explosion of Seed Funds in 2H09 and 2010

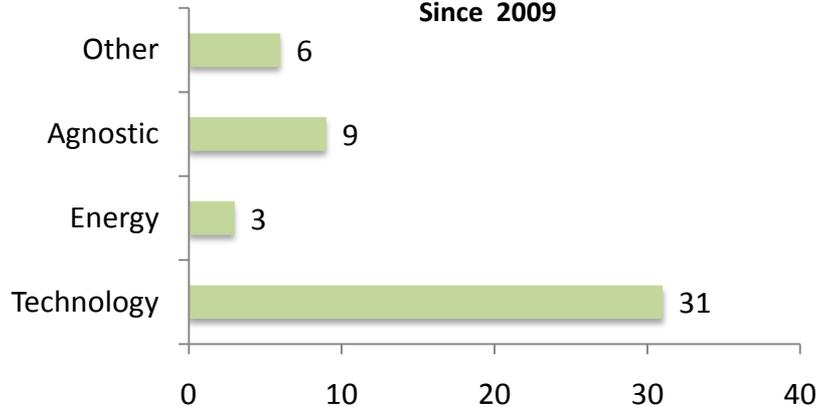
New Seed VCs by Location

Since Jan 2009



New Seed VCs by Industry

Since 2009



Plus:

- Emergence of Angel List (1000 angel investors)
- Larger VCs also syndicating seed rounds (KPCB, CRV, Greylock, Sequoia, Accel, GC, etc.)

Valuation Methodology

- It all depends on the stage of investment
- Late-Stage is heavy on data – Quantitative
- Early stage is highly subjective – Qualitative

Valuation Methodology – Late Stage

- **Comparable Company Valuation**
 - Publicly traded or known private
 - Multiple based – sales, EBITDA or perhaps UTMV or other users data
 - Challenge – finding true comparable companies (markets, business model, stage/growth rate etc.)
- **Comparable Transaction Valuation**
 - Again, multiple based
 - Challenge - Finding relevant data
 - Valuation not revealed for many private transactions
 - Things changes in 2008-2009
- **Discounted Cash Flow**
 - One data point with sensitivity
 - Challenge - Assumption driven (growth rate, discount rate, etc.)

Valuation Methodology – Early Stage

- Often Pre-revenue or even Pre-product
- Very Subjective with influence from
 - Team – have they done it before, successful exit?
 - Traction – is the product done?, any early customer traction
 - Market – size, competitive position, barriers to entry
 - IP – absolute necessity for some businesses (e.g. life sciences, medical devices), less important for others
 - Future capital needs
- Largest Influencer is the team
 - Early stage start-up with first time entrepreneur is a price taker
 - Experienced entrepreneurs often have more pricing power

Valuation - Considerations

- Pure Valuation (e.g. pre-money) is One Consideration
- More Important is Post Money Ownership Stake
 - Pre-Money is one component
 - Equally important is how much does one raise
 - Need at least 12 months plus some cushion and a sense of key milestones to be reached with the round
- To Maximize Ownership
 - Bootstrap as long as possible to demonstrate traction in the market
 - Look for non-dilutive sources of capital
 - Create demand for your deal

Valuation - Conclusion

- Valuation Methodology Varies with Stage
- Early Stage Valuation is Qualitative
- In the End, Valuation is Less Important than Finding the Right Investor
 - Compatible
 - Relevant Industry Experience
 - Deep Network that you can leverage