Christine Nazarenus tried to retain her optimism. Thirteen had always been a lucky number for her, but Friday, the thirteenth of July, 2001, had the earmarks of being the unluckiest day of her life. She was more than disappointed. She was shattered. Yet she knew that she had hard facts, not just gut feel, that offering images and products on the World Wide Web was the wave of the future. She was sure that the management team she had put together had the creativity and skills to turn her vision into reality. Managing her own company had seemed the obvious solution, but she hadn't counted on how overwhelming the start-up process would be. Now, two years later, she was trying to figure out what went wrong and if the company could survive.

It had been so clear on day one. Archived photographs and images had tremendous value if they could be efficiently digitized and catalogued. Sports promoters and publishers had stores of archived information, most of it inaccessible to those who wanted it. Owners and fans represented only part of the untapped markets that the Internet and digital technology could serve. She had conceived a simple business model: digitize documents using the latest technology, tag them with easy-to-read labels, and link them to search engines for easy retrieval and widespread use. But over the ensuing months, so many factors affected the look, feel and substance of the company that Artemis Images would become.

So many things seemed outside her control that she wondered how she could have been so sure of herself back in February of 1999. Enthusiastically, Chris had approached a number of friends and acquaintances to help in the formation of a new "dot.com" company that seemed a sure bet. Frank Costanzo, a former colleague from Applied Graphics Technologies (AGT), shared Chris's enthusiasm, as did long-time friend George Dickert. George, in turn, contacted Greg Hughes, who was enrolled in a Business Planning course. Grateful for the opportunity to help launch a real company, Greg took the idea and honed it as part of a class assignment. The plan was a confirmation of Chris's confidence in the venture. But as she looked over the original plan, she knew there was a lot of work yet to do. Greg understood the business idea, but he didn't understand the work involved to actually run a business. George and Frank understood digital technology and project management, but, like Chris, had never launched, much less worked for, a start-up company. Chris knew that she had the technology and talent she needed

and felt confident that the four friends could construct a business model that would put Artemis ahead of the current image providers. Greg's business plan looked like the perfect vehicle to appeal to investors for the funds they needed to proceed.

#### The Business Idea

In 1999, Chris had been working for three years as VP-Sales out of the Colorado office of AGT, a media management company that provided digital imaging management and archiving services for some of the largest publishers and advertisers in the world. AGT had sent Chris to Indianapolis to present a content management technology solution to the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Corporation (IMSC) as it prepared marketing materials for the 2001 Indy 500. IMSC is the host of the 80-plus-year-old Indy 500, the largest single-day sporting event in the world, NASCAR's Brickyard 400, the second-largest single-day sporting event in the world, and other events staged at the track. Chris's original assignment was a clear one: IMSC needed to protect its archive of photographs, many of which had begun to decay with age. The archive included five million to seven million photographs and dynamically rich multimedia formats of video, audio, and in-car camera footage.

Chris discovered that the photo archives at IMSC were deluged with requests (personally or via letters) from fans requesting images. She was amazed that a relatively unknown archive had generated nearly \$500,000 in revenues in 1999 alone. Further discussions with IMSC researchers revealed that requests often took up to two weeks to research and resulted in a sale of only \$60 to \$100. However, IMSC was not in a position, strategically or financially, to acquire a system to digitize and preserve these archives. Not willing to leave the opportunity on the table, Chris asked herself, "What is the value of these assets for e-commerce and retail opportunities?" Without a doubt, IMSC and some of her other clients (Conde Nast, BBC, National Motor Museum) would be prime customers for digitization and content management of their collections.

Chris knew that selling photos on the Internet could generate substantial revenue. She conceived of a business model where the system would be financed through revenue-sharing, rather than the standard model where the organization paid for the system up front. IMSC was interested in this arrangement, but it was outside the normal business practices of AGT. AGT wanted to sell systems, not give them away. They couldn't see the value of managing other organizations' content.

As Chris told the story, her visit to the archives at IMSC was her *Jerry Maguire* experience. In the movie, Jerry is sitting on the bed when everything suddenly becomes clear and now he must pursue his dream. Like Jerry, Chris believed so passionately that her idea would bear fruit that when AGT turned down Chris's request for the third time, she quit her job to start Artemis Images on her own.

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<sup>© 2002</sup> by Joseph R. Bell, University of Northern Colorado, and Joan Winn, University of Denver. Published in Entrepreneurship Theory & Practice, 28(2) Winter 2003. The authors wish to thank Chris Nazarenus and the staff of Artemis Images for their cooperation in the preparation of this case. Special thanks to Herbert Sherman, Southampton College, Long Island University, and Dan Rowley, University of Northern Colorado. This case is intended to stimulate class discussion rather than to illustrate the effective or ineffective handling of a managerial situation. All events and individuals in this case are real, but some names may have been disguised.

When AGT was not interested in Chris's idea of on-site digitization and sale of IMSC's photo archives, Chris was not willing to walk away from what she saw as a gold mine. She contacted her friends and colleagues from AGT. Swept up in the dot.com mania, Chris named her company "e-Catalyst." e-Catalyst was incorporated as an S-corporation on May 3, 1999, by a team of four people: Christine Nazarenus, George Dickert, Frank Costanzo, and Greg Hughes. (See Exhibit 1 for profiles of these partners.) Expecting that they would each contribute equally, each partner was given a 25 percent interest in the company. Chris fully expected them to work as a team, so no formal titles were assigned, largely as a statement to investors that key additions to the team might be needed and welcomed. As another appeal to potential investors—and to broaden the team's expertise—Chris and George put together a roster of experts with content management, systems and technology experience as their first advisory board. Greg's professor and several local business professionals agreed to serve on the board of advisors, along with an Indy 500 winning driver-turned-entrepreneur, and Krista Elliott Riley, president of Elliott Riley, the marketing and public relations agency that represented Indy 500 and

## EXHIBIT 1 Artemis Images management team 1999-2000.

Christine Nazarenus, 34, was formerly vice president of national accounts for AGT, one of the top three content management system providers in the world securing million dollar deals for this \$500 million company. She is an expert in creating digital workflow strategies and has designed and implemented content management solutions for some of the largest corporations in the world including Sears, Conde Nast, Spiegel, Vio, State Farm, and Pillsbury. Ms. Nazarenus has extensive general management experience and has managed a division of over one hundred people. Chris holds a BA in communications from the University of Puget Sound.

George Dickert, 32, most recently worked as a project manager for the Hibbert Group, a marketing materials distribution company. He has experience with e-commerce, Web-enabled fulfillment, domestic and international shipping, call centers and CD-ROM. He has overseen the implementation of a million-dollar account, has managed over \$20 million in sales, and has worked with large companies including Hitachi, Motorola, ON Semiconductor, and Lucent Technologies. Mr. Dickert has an MBA from the University of Colorado. George and Christine have been friends since high school.

Frank Costanzo, 40, is currently a senior vice president at Petersons.com. Petersons.com has consistently been ranked as one of the top one hundred sites worldwide. Mr. Costanzo is an expert in content management technology and strategy and was previously a vice president at AGT. Mr. Costanzo has done in-depth business analysis and created on-site service solutions in the content management industry. He has worked on content management solutions for the world's top corporations including General Motors, Hasbro, Bristol-Meyers Squibb, and Sears.

Greg Hughes, 32, is currently a senior sales executive with one of the largest commercial printers in the world. Mr. Hughes has 10 years' sales experience and has sold million-dollar projects to companies like US West, AT&T, R. R. Donnelly, and MCI. His functional expertise includes financial and operational analysis, strategic marketing, fulfillment strategies and the evaluation of start to finish marketing campaigns. Mr. Hughes has an MBA from the University of Colorado.

Le Mans Sports Car teams and drivers. Chris felt confident that her team had the expertise she needed to launch a truly world-class company.

Chris and George quit their jobs and took the challenge of building a company seriously. They contacted one of the Rocky Mountain region's oldest and most respected law firms for legal advice. They worked with two lawyers, one who specialized in representing Internet companies as general counsel and one who specialized in intellectual property rights. With leads from her many contacts at AGT, Chris contacted venture capitalists to raise money for the hardware, software licensing, and personnel costs of launching the business.

The dot.com bust of 2000 did not make things easy. Not wanting to look like "yet another dot.com" in search of money to throw to the wind, Chris and her team changed their name to Artemis Images. Artemis, the Greek goddess of the hunt, had been the name of Chris's first horse as well as her first company, Artemis Graphics Greeting Cards, her first entrepreneurial dabble at the age of 16. Chris had always been enthralled with beautiful images.

### Artemis Images's Niche

In her work at AGT, Chris had observed that many organizations had vast stores of intellectual property (photos, videos, sounds and text), valuable assets often underutilized because they exist in analog form and may deteriorate over time. Chris's vision was to preserve and enable the past using digital technology and the transportability of the World Wide Web. Chris envisioned a company that would create a digitized collection of image, audio and video content that she could sell to companies interested in turning their intellectual property into a source of revenue.

Publishers and sports promoters were among the many organizations with large collections of archived photos and videos. Companies like Boeing, General Motors, and IMSC are in the business of producing planes, cars, or sporting events, not selling memorabilia. However, airplane, car, and sports fans are a ready market for photos of their favorite vehicle or videos of their favorite sports event.

Proper storage and categorization of archived photos and videos is complex and expensive. In 2000, the two common solutions were to sell the assets outright or to set up an in-house division devoted to managing and marketing them. Most organizations were unwilling to sell their assets, as they represented their priceless brand and heritage. Purchasing software and hiring specialized personnel to digitize and properly archive their assets was a costly proposition that lay beyond the core competence of most companies. Chris's work with AGT convinced her that there were literally thousands of companies with millions of assets that would be interested in a company that would digitize and manage their photo and video archives.

Chris understood a company's resistance to selling its archives, and the high cost of obtaining and scanning select images for sale. However, she also understood the value to an organization of having its entire inventory digitized, thus creating a permanent history for the organization. She proposed a revenue

sharing model whereby Artemis Images would digitize a client's archives but would not take ownership. Instead, her company would secure exclusive license to the archive, with 85 percent of all revenue retained by Artemis Images and 15 percent paid to the archive owner. She expected that the presence of viewable archives on the Artemis Images website would lure buyers to the site for subsequent purchases.

The original business model was a "B2C" (business-to-consumer) model. Starting with the IMSC contract, Artemis Images would work with IMSC to promote the Indy 500 and draw the Indy race fans to the Artemis Images website. Photos of the current-year Indy 500 participants—and historical photos including past Indy participants, winners, entertainers, celebrities (e.g., Arnold Palmer on the Indy golf course)—would be added to IMSC's archived images and sold for \$20 to \$150 apiece to loyal fans. A customer could review a variety of photo options on the Artemis website, then select and order a high-resolution image. The order would be secured through the Web with a credit card, the image transferred to the fulfillment provider, and a hard copy mailed to the eager recipient. The website was sure to generate revenue easier than IMSC's traditional sales model of the past.

Having established the model with IMSC content in the auto racing market, Chris and George built the business plan around obvious market possibilities that might appeal to a wider range of consumers and create a comprehensive resource for stock photography. Since the Artemis Images team had prior business dealings with two of the three largest publishers in the world, publishing was the obvious target for future contracts. Future markets would be chosen similarly, where the Artemis team had established relationships. These markets would be able to build on the archive already created and would bring both consumer-oriented content and saleable stock images. Greg made a list of examples of some industries and the content that they owned:

- Sports: images of wrestling, soccer, basketball, bodybuilding, football, extreme sports
- Entertainment: recording artists, the art from their CDs, movie stars, pictures of events, pictures from movie sets
- Museums: paintings, images of sculpture, photos, events
- Corporations: images of food, fishing, planes, trains, automobiles
- Government: coins, stamps, galaxies, satellite imaging

As Chris and George worked with Greg to put together the business plan, they began to see other revenue-generating opportunities for their virtual-archive company. Customers going to IMSC or any other Artemis client's website would be linked to Artemis Images's website for purchase of photos or videos. Customer satisfaction with image sales would provide opportunities to sell merchandise targeted to specific markets and to syndicate content to other websites. For motor sports, obvious merchandise opportunities would include T-shirts, hats, and model cars. For landscapes, it might be travel packages or

hiking gear. Corporate customers might be interested in software, design services, or office supplies. Unique content on Artemis Images's website could be used to draw traffic to other companies' sites. Chris and her team planned to license the content on an annual basis to these sites, creating reach and revenues for Artemis Images.

Another potential market for Artemis Images lay in the unrealized value of the billions of images kept by consumers worldwide in their closets and drawers. These images were treasured family heirlooms which typically sat unprotected and underutilized. Consumers could offer their photographs for sale or simply pay for digitization services for their own use. If just 10% of the U.S. population were to allow Artemis Images to digitize their archive and half of these people ordered just one  $8" \times 10"$  print, Artemis Images could create a list of 25 million consumers and generate revenues of approximately \$250 million. Because images suffer no language barriers, the worldwide reach of the Internet and the popularity of photography suggested potential revenues in the billions.

Working together on the business plan, the Artemis team brainstormed ways they could attract customers to the Artemis Images site by providing unique content and customer experiences. A study by Forrester Research analyzed the key factors driving repeat site visits and found that high-quality content was cited by 75 percent of consumers as the number one reason they would return to a site. The Artemis team wanted to create a community of loyal customers through additional unique content created by the customers themselves. This would include the critical chats and bulletin boards that are the cornerstone of any community-building program. Artemis Images could continuously monitor this portion of the site to add new fan experiences to keep the experience "fresh." Communities would be developed based on customer interests.

As the company gained clients and rights to sell their archived photos and videos, Artemis would move toward a "B2B" (business-to-business) model. Chris and George knew marketing managers at National Geographic, CMG World Wide, the BBC, Haymarket Publishing (includes the Formula 1 archive), Conde Nast, and International Publishing Corporation. These large publishers controlled and solicited a wide range of subject matter (fashion, nature, travel, hobbies, etc.) yet often had little idea of what existed in their own archives or had difficulty in getting access to it. Finding new images was usually an expensive and time-consuming proposition. Artemis Images could provide the solution. For example, Conde Nast (publisher of Vogue, Bon Appetit, Conde Nast Traveler, House & Garden, and Vanity Fair) might like a photo for its travel magazine from the National Geographic archives. They would be willing to pay top dollar for classic stock images, given the number of viewers who would see the image. Price-per-image was typically calculated on circulation volume, much like royalty fees on copyrighted materials. Similarly, advertising agencies use hundreds of images in customer mockups. For example, an agency may desire an image of a Pacific island.

Qtr

Q#

Qtr

~

Otr

Qtr 3

Qtr 2

Qtr 1

Onsites (cumulative)

2002 Otr 1

2003

If Artemis Images held the rights to Conde Nast and National Geographic, there might be hundreds of Pacific island photos from which to choose. As with the B2C concept, a copy of the image would be transferred through the Web with a credit card or on account, if adequate bandwidth were available (only low-resolution images would be available to view initially), or via overnight mail in hard copy or on disk.

The transition from B2C to B2B seemed a logical progression, one that would amass a large inventory of saleable prints and, at the same time, draw in larger per-unit sales. The basic business model was the same. Artemis would archive photos and videos that could be sold to other companies for publication and promotion brochures. Chris and George expected that this model could be replicated for other vertical markets including other sports, nature, entertainment, and education.

While the refocus on the B2B market seemed a surer long-term revenue stream for the company, both B2B and B2C were losing favor with the investing community. Chris and George refocused the business plan as an application service provider (ASP). With the ASP designation, Artemis Images could position itself as a software company, generating revenue from the licensing of its software processes. In 2000, ASPs were still in favor with investors.

Artemis Images's revenue would come from three streams: (1) sales of images to businesses and consumers, (2) syndication of content, and (3) sales of merchandise. Projected sales were expected to exceed \$100 million within the first four years, with breakeven occurring in year three. (See Exhibits 2, 3, and 4 for projected volume and revenues.)

To implement this strategy, Artemis Images, Inc., needed an initial investment of \$500,000 to begin operations, hire the team, and sign four additional content agreements. A second round of \$1.5 million and a third round of \$3 million to \$8 million (depending on number of contracts) were planned, to scale the concept to 28 archives and over \$100 million in assets by 2004. (See Exhibit 5 for funding and ownership plan.)

# The Content Management Industry

According to GISTICS, the trade organization for digital asset management, the content management market (including the labor, software, hardware, and physical assets necessary to manage the billions of digital images) was projected to be a \$2 trillion market worldwide in the year 2000 (1999 Market Report). Content could include images, video, text and sound. Artemis Images intended to pursue two subsets of the content management market. The first was the existing stock photo market, a business-to-business market where rights to images were sold for limited use in publications such as magazines, books, and websites. Deutsche Bank's Alex Brown estimated this to be a \$1.5 billion market in 2000. Corbis, one of the two major competitors in the digital imaging industry, estimated it to be a \$5 billion market by 2000.

EXHIBIT 2 Anticipated sales volume and on-site operations

Volumes 2001													
	Jan-01	Feb-01	Mar-01	Apr-01	Feb-01 Mar-01 Apr-01 May-01 Jun-01 Jul-01 Aug-01	Jun-01	Jul-01	Aug-01	Sep-01	Sep-01 Oct-01 Nov-01	Nov-01	Dec. 01	7040
Consumer Photos	0	0	7,500	7,500	27,000	9,000	9,000	22.500	18 000	0000	10101		10tal
Stock Photos	0	0	0	3,750		5,250		7.500	0000				000,001
Subtotal	0	0	7,500	11,250	1	31,500 14,250	1 .	30,000	27,000	-	15,000	007,11	08,230
Licensing Deals	0	0	0	0	0			200100	000,′,≃	007,01	000,01	05,/50	204,750
Merchandise Orders	0	0	6,000	6,000		21,600 7,200	7,200	18,000	14,400	14,400 7,200 3,600	3,600	18.000	109 200
Volumes 2002													,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,
	Jan-02	Feb-02	Feb-02 Mar-02 Apr-02	Apr-02	May-02 Jun-02	Jun-02	Jul-02	Aug-02	Sep-02	Oct-02	Oct-02 Nov-02	Dec-02	Total
Consumer Photos	12,000	15,000	15,000 15,000 15,000	15,000	54,000	18,000	54,000 18,000 18,000	45,000	36,000	36,000 18,000	000 6		300,000
Stock Photos	6,000	7,500	9,000	10,500	12,000	12,000 15,000	15,000	15.000	15.000	15.000 15.000		15,000	150,000
Subtotal	18,000	22,500	22,500 24,000 25,500	25,500	66,000	66,000 33,000 33,000	33,000	00009	51.000	51.000 33.000	24,000	60,000	150,000
Licensing Deals	∞	6	01	11	12	13	14	15	, 41	14	16	2,000	000,000
Merchandise Orders	9,600	12,000	12,000 12,000 12,000	12,000	43,200	43,200 14,400 14,400	14,400	36,000	28,800	28.800 14.400	7 200	36,000	961
Volumes 2003												,	7,000
	Jan-03	Feb-03	Mar-03	Apr-03	Feb-03 Mar-03 Apr-03 May-03 Jun-03 Jul-03	Jun-03		Aug-03		Sen-03 Oct-03 Nov-03 Dec 03	N <sub>0,y</sub> -03	Dec 03	[
Consumer Photos	24,800	31,000	31,000	31,000	31,000 31,000 31,000 111,600 37,200	37,200		93.000		37.200 18.600	18 600	03 000	Loran
Stock Photos	17,000	21,250	25,500	29,750	34,000	34,000 42,500	42.500				12,000	72,000	425,000
Subtotal	41,800	52,250	56,500	60,750	145,600	79,700	79,700	60,750 145,600 79,700 79,700 135,500 116,900 79,700	116 900	79 700		135 500	1 045 000
Licensing Deals	16	16	16	16	16	. 16	16	16	16	16		16.15	153,300 1,043,000
Merchandise Orders 15,600	15,600	19,500	19,500	19,500	70,200	70,200 23,400 23,400	23,400	58,500		23,	11,700	58,500	390.000
ONSITE OPERATIONS (by quarters)	ONS (by	quarters)											
V													

EXHIBIT 3 Projected monthly revenue stream

Parcolar   Parcolar	Revenues 2001	
Revenues 2002   Jan-O2   Feb-O2   Mar-O2   Apr-O2   May-O2   Jul-O2   Jul	Consumer Photos Stock Photos Subtoral Syndication Merchandise Total	Jan-01         Feb-01         Mar-01         Apr-01         May-01         Jun-01         Jul-01         Aug-01         Sep-01         Oct-01         Nov-01         Dec-01           0         \$         0         \$         149,925         \$         139,730         \$         179,910         \$         449,775         \$         159,800         \$         179,910         \$         449,775         \$         159,800         \$         149,775         \$         449,775         \$         159,800         \$         149,775         \$         449,775         \$         1462,500         \$         1,687,500         \$         1,687,500         \$         1,687,500         \$         1,687,500         \$         1,687,500         \$         1,642,410         \$         1,687,600         \$         1,574,775         \$         1,709,820         \$         1,642,410         \$         1,642,410         \$         1,642,410         \$         1,642,410         \$         1,642,410         \$         1,642,410         \$         1,642,410         \$         1,642,410         \$         1,642,410         \$         1,642,410         \$         1,642,410         \$         1,642,410         \$         1,642,410         \$         1,642,410 </td
Nov-Oz.   Peb-Oz.   Peb-	Revenues 2002	31,265,077 \$ 1,743,108 \$ 1,884,487 \$ 1,804,743 \$1,850,288 \$ 2,488,942 \$ 14,393,468
	Consumer Photos Stock Photos Subtotal Syndication Merchandise Total Revenues 2003 Consumer Photos Stock Photos Subtotal Syndication Merchandise Total	Jan-02         Feb-02         Mar-02         Apr-02         Jun-02         Feb-02         Aug-02         Sep-02         Oct-02         Nov-02         Dec-02         Total           \$ 239,880         \$ 299,880         \$ 299,880         \$ 199,880         \$ 19,640         \$ 359,820         \$ 19,640         \$ 359,820         \$ 19,640         \$ 359,820         \$ 19,640         \$ 359,820         \$ 19,640         \$ 359,820         \$ 19,640         \$ 359,820         \$ 19,640         \$ 359,820         \$ 19,640         \$ 359,820         \$ 19,640         \$ 359,820         \$ 19,640         \$ 359,820         \$ 19,640         \$ 359,820         \$ 10,000         \$ 1,11,000         \$ 1,11,000         \$ 1,11,000         \$ 1,11,000         \$ 2,250,000

Summary profit and loss stater	nent								_	
	20	00	200	01	20	002		2003		Total
Revenues	\$	0	\$14,39	3,468	\$40,3	97,000	\$10	7,668,800	\$1	62,459,268
Cost of sales	\$	0	\$ 5,18	86,454	\$11,3	98,800	\$ 30	0,457,520	\$	47,042,774
Gross profit	\$	0	\$ 9,20	07,014	\$28,9	98,200	\$ 7	7,211,280	\$1	15,416,494
Operations Operations	\$ 439	9,847	\$13,62	23,571	\$27,1	09,143	\$ 4	7,078,657	\$	88,251,217
Net income before tax		9,847)	(\$ 4,41	6,556)	\$ 1,8	89,057	\$ 30	0,132,623	\$	27,165,277
Taxes (38%)	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0	\$ 10	0,322,805	\$	10,322,805
Net income	(\$ 439	9,847)	(\$ 4,41	6,556)	\$ 1,8	89,057	\$ 1	9,809,818	\$	16,842,472
Summary balance sheet										
Assets	20	00	20	01	20	002		2003		
Cash and equivalents	\$ 42	8,020	\$ 4,49	0,768	\$ 4,9	58,270	\$ 2	1,508,477		
Accounts receivable	\$	0	\$ 2,48	38,942	\$ 4,9	36,217	\$ 1	1,789,487		
Inventories	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0	•	
Prepaid expenses	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0		
Depreciable assets	\$	0	\$.	0	\$	0	\$	0		
Other depreciable assets	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0,		
Depreciation	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0	,	
Net depreciable assets	\$	0	, \$	0	\$	0	\$	0		
Total assets	\$ 42	8,020	\$ 6,97	79,710	\$ 9,8	94,487	\$ 3	3,297,964		
Tickilisian and conital										,
Liabilities and capital  Accounts payable	\$ 36	7,867	\$ 1,83	36,113	\$ 2,8	61,833	\$	5,589,379	•	
Accrued income taxes	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0	\$	866,113		
Accrued payroll taxes	\$	0	\$	. 0	\$	0	\$	0		
Total liabilities		7,867	\$ 1,83	36,113	\$ 2,8	861,833	\$	6,455,492		
					¢10.0	000	¢ 1	0,000,000		•
Capital contribution	•	0,000		000,000		000,000		0,000,000		*
Stockholders' equity	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0	\$			
Retained earnings	(\$ 43	9,847)	•	56,403)	•	967,346)		6,842,472		•
Net capital	\$ 6	0,153	\$ 5,14	43,597		)32,654		6,842,472		
Total liabilities and capital	\$ 42	8,020	\$ 6,9	79,710	\$ 9,8	894,487 ————	<u>\$3</u>	3,297,964		

Source: e-Catalyst Business Plan, February 28, 2000.

Projected Plan	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Exit
Financing assumptions:					
2003 Revenues	\$110,000,000				
2003 EBITDA	\$ 30,000,000				
2003 Revenue growth rate	40%				
2003 Valuation	\$440,000,000				
Valuation/revenue	4				
Valuation/EBITDA	14.67				
Round 1 Financing	\$ 500,000				
Round 2 Financing	\$ 1,500,000				
Round 3 Financing	\$ 3,000,000				
Round 4 Financing	\$ 5,000,000				
	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Exit
	Oct-00	1-Jan	1-Mar	1-Jun	3-Dec
Number of shares outstanding					
otal number of shares outstanding prior of financing	6,000,000	7 200 000	0.000.000	11.050.000	
thares issues this round		7,200,000	9,000,000	11,250,000	11,250,000
otal number shares outstanding after	1,200,000	1,800,000	2,250,000	1,406,250	1,406,250
nancing	7,200,000	9,000,000	11,250,000	12,656,250	12,656,250
aluations		•			•
remoney valuation	\$2,500,000	\$6,000,000	\$12,000,000	\$40,000,000	\$440,000,000
mount of financing	\$ 500,000	\$1,500,000	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 5,000,000	0
ostmoney valuation	\$3,000,000	\$7,500,000	\$15,000,000	\$45,000,000	\$440,000,000
rice per share	\$0.42	\$0.83	\$1.33	\$3.56	\$34.77
esulting ownership					
ounders	83.33%	66.67%	53.33%	47.41%	47.41%
ound 1 investors	16.67%	13.33%	10.67%	9.48%	9.48%
ound 2 investors	0.00%	20.00%	16.00%	14.22%	14,22%
ound 3 investors	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	17.78%	17.78%
ound 4 investors	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	11.11%
otal	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
due of ownership					
unders	\$2,500,000	\$5,000,000	\$ 8,000,000	\$21,333,333	\$208,592,593
ound 1 investors	\$ 500,000	\$1,000,000	\$ 1,600,000	\$ 4,266,667	\$ 41,718,519
und 2 investors	\$ 0	\$1,500,000	\$ 2,400,000	\$ 6,400,000	\$ 62,577,778
und 3 investors	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 8,000,000	\$ 78,222,222
und 4 investors	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 48,888,889
tal	\$3,000,000	\$7,500,000	\$15,000,000	\$40,000,000	\$440,000,000
back to investors	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	
Holding period (years)	3.25	3	2.75	2.5	
Times money back	83.44	41.72	26.07	9.78	
Internal rate of return (IRR)	290%	247%	227%	149%	

Source: e-Catalyst Business Plan, February 28, 2000.

Commercially produced images were also in demand by consumers. Industry insiders believed that this market was poised for explosive growth in 2000, as Web-enabled technology facilitated display and transmission of images directly from their owners to individual consumers. The archives from the Indianapolis Motor Speedway was an example of this business-to-consumer model. Historically, consumers who bought from the archive had to visit the museum at IMSC or write a letter to the staff. Retrieval and fulfillment of images then required a manual search of a physical inventory, a process which could take as long as two weeks. Web-based digitization and search engines would reduce the search time and personnel needed for order fulfillment and allow customers the convenience of selecting products and placing orders on-line. The *Daily Mirror*; a newspaper in London, had displayed its archived images on its own website and had generated over \$30,000 in sales to consumers in its first month of availability. IMG, a sports marketing group, placed a value of \$10 million on the IMSC contract.

### Competition

There were a variety of stock and consumer photo sites ranging from those that served only the business-to-business stock photo market to amateur photographers posting their pictures. Most sites did not offer a "community," the Internet vehicle for consumer comments and discussion, a powerful search engine, and ways to repurpose the content (e-greeting cards, prints, photo mugs, calendars, etc.). In addition, the archives available in digital form were limited because other content providers worked from the virtual world to the physical world versus the Artemis Images model of working from the physical world to the virtual world. Competitors had problems with integrated digital workflows and knowing where the original asset resided due to the distributed nature of their archives. They scanned images on demand, which severely limited the content available to be searched on their websites.

Chris and Greg evaluated the five major competitors for their business plan:

www.corbis.com: Owned by Bill Gates with an archive of over 65 million images, only 650,000 were available on the Web to be accessed by consumers for Web distribution (e-greeting cards, screen savers, etc.). Only 350,000 images were available to be purchased as prints. The site was well designed and the search features were good, but there was no community on the site. The niche Corbis pursued was outright ownership of archives and scanning on demand. Corbis had recently acquired the Louvre archive, for a reported purchase price of over \$30 million.

www.getty-images.com: An archive of over 70 million images. In 1999, this site was only a source to link to their other wholly owned subsidiaries, including art.com. There were no search capabilities, no community. This website functioned only as a brochure for the company. Like Corbis, Getty was focused on owning content and then scanning on demand.

www.art.com: A good site in design and navigation, this site was a wholly owned subsidiary of Getty and was positioned as the consumer window to

Stock photo market

a portion of the Getty archive. Similar to Corbis, customers were able to buy prints, send e-greeting cards, etc. Despite the breadth of the Getty archive, this site had a limited number of digitized images available.

www.mediaexchange.com: Strictly a stock photo site targeted toward news sources, the site was largely reliant on text. It was difficult to navigate and had an unattractive graphical user interface.

www.thepicturecollection.com: Strictly a stock site offering the *Time* photo archive, this site was well designed with good search capabilities. Searches yielded not only a thumbnail image but a display of the attached locator tags, or metadata.

www.ditto.com: The world's leading visual search engine, ditto.com enabled people to navigate the Web through pictures. The premise was two-fold: deliver highly relevant thumbnail images and link to relevant Web sites underlying these images. By 2000, they had developed the largest searchable index of visual content on the Internet.

Exhibit 6 shows a comparison of Artemis Images to the two major players in the stock photography market, Getty and Corbis. This table illustrates only revenues from stock photo sales and does not include potential revenue from consumer sales, merchandise, advertising or other potential revenue sources.

According to its marketing director, Corbis intended to digitize its entire archive, and was in the process of converting analog images into digital images, with 63 million images yet to be converted. While Getty and Corbis were established players in the content industry, they were just recently feeling the effects of e-commerce:

- In 1999, Corbis generated 80 percent of its revenues from the Web versus none in 1996.
- Getty's e-commerce sales were up 160 percent between 1998 and 1999.
- 34 percent of Getty's 1999 revenues came from e-commerce versus 17 percent in 1998.

#### Strategy

Artemis Images intended to provide digitization and archive management by employing a professional staff who would work within each client-company's organization, rather than in an off-site facility of its own. Chris's model was to provide digitized archive services in exchange for (1) exclusive rights to market the content on the Internet, (2) merchandising rights, and (3) promotion of Artemis Images's URL, effectively co-branding Artemis Images with each client-partner. Chris envisioned a software process that would be owned or licensed by Artemis, and which could be used for digitizing different archive media, such as photos, videos, and text.

Chris and George expected Artemis Images to partner with existing sellers of stock photography and trade digitizing services for promotion through their sales channels. Artemis Images would pursue these relationships with traditional

Stock photo market						
	Artemis Images	Artemis Images	Artemis Images	Artemis Images	Getty	Corbis
	Indy Archive 2000*	2000	2001	2002	1999	1999
Archive size	5,000,000	5,000,000	50,000,000	95,000,000	70,000,000	65,000,000
Cumulative number of images digitized	345,600	345,600	6,796,800	21,542,400	1,200,000	2,100,000
% digitized**	7%	7%	14%	23%	1.71%	3.2%
# of image sales needed to hit revenue target	0	0	151,484	623,493	1,646,667	666,666
% of archive that must be sold to hit revenue target***	. 0	0	0.30%	0.16%	2.35%	1.00%
Revenues***	0	0	\$22,722,600	\$93,523,950	\$247,000,000	\$100,000,000
Revenue per image in archive	0	0	\$0.45	\$0.98	\$ 3.53	\$ 1.54
Revenue per digitized image	0	0	\$3.25	\$4.30	\$205.83	\$47.62

<sup>\*</sup>Artemis Images had already secured an exclusive content agreement from the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Corporation.

sales and marketing techniques. Sales people would call on the major players and targeted direct mail, trade magazine advertising and PR would be used to reach the huge audience of smaller players. In addition, content partners were expected to become customers, as they were all users of stock photography.

As Artemis Images gained clients, the company would have access to some of the finest and most desirable content in the world. Chris knew that the workflow expertise of the management team would put them in a good position to provide better quality more consistently than either Corbis or Getty. This same expertise would allow Artemis to have a much larger digital selection, with a website design that would be easily navigable for customers to find what they needed.

Using on-site equipment, the client's content would be digitized, annotated (by attaching digital information tags, or metadata) and uploaded to the corporate hub site. Metadata would allow the content to be located by the search

<sup>\*\*</sup>Estimates based on scanning 1,920 images a day per scanner, 2 scanners per archive. As scanning technologies improve, the throughput numbers were expected to go up.

<sup>\*\*\*</sup>The percentage of the Artemis Images archive that needed to be sold to hit revenues projections varied between 0.03% and 0.22%, as compared to an actual 2.35% for Getty and to 0.6% for Corbis.

<sup>\*\*\*\*</sup>The Artemis Images revenue numbers were based on selling a certain number of images at \$150 per image; \$150 was the minimum average price paid for stock photographs. Corbis was privately held; this figure was an estimate.

Cheever winning the Indy 500 would have tags like Indy 500, Eddie Cheever, win photo, 1998, etc. Therefore, a customer going to the website and searching for "Eddie Cheever" would find this specific photo, along with the hundreds of other photos associated with him. The Artemis corporate database was intended to serve as the repository for search and retrieval from the website.

The traditional content management strategy forced organizations to purchase technology and expertise. Artemis Images's model intended to alleviate this burden by exchanging technology and expertise for exclusive web distribution rights and a share of revenues. The operational strategy was to create an infrastructure based on installing and operating digital asset management systems at their customers' facilities to create a global digital archive of images, video, sound and text. This would serve to lock Artemis Images into long-term relationships with these organizations and ensure that Artemis Images would have both the historical and the most up-to-date content. Artemis Images would own and operate the content management technology, with all other operational needs outsourced including Web development, Web hosting, consumer data collection, and warehousing and fulfillment of merchandise (printing and mailing posters or prints). Artemis Images would scan thousands of images per day, driving down the cost per image to less than \$2.00, versus the Corbis and Getty model of scan-on-demand, where the cost per image was approximately \$40.00. The equipment needed for both the content management and photo production would be leased to minimize start-up costs and ensure greater flexibility in the system's configuration.

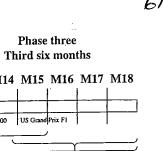
The original plan was to purchase and install software and hardware at their main office in Denver, Colorado, contract with a Web development partner, and set up the first on-site facility at Indianapolis Motor Speedway Corporation. The Denver facility would serve as a development lab, to create a standard set of metadata to be used by all of their partners' content. This consistency of annotation information was intended to allow for consistent search and retrieval of content. Artemis Images's goal was to build a world-class infrastructure to handle content management, consumer data collection, and e-commerce. This infrastructure would allow them to amass a large content and transaction volume by expanding to other market segments. Developing their own structure would ensure standardization of content and reduced implementation time. Outreach for news coverage and the development of community features would be negotiated concurrently. The time line in Exhibit 7 illustrates the Artemis Images development plan.

# **Financial Projections**

Revenues were expected to come from four primary sources:

Consumer photos: IMSC's archive sold approximately 53,000 photos in 1999 to a market limited to consumers who visited the archive or wrote to its staff. Artemis Images based its projected sales on an average of

### Three phases of development



Phase one First six months	Phase two Second six months	Third six months
M1 M2 M3 M4 M5 M6	M7 M8 M9 M10 M11 M12	M13 M14 M15 M16 M17 M18
	Daytona 500 Indy 500°	Brickyard 400 US Grand Prix FI
Order equipment  -Pindur Systems -Noritsu -Servers/Storage/etc.  Use building site  Contracts -IMS -Pindar -XOR Hire team Lease office space	Website up "soft launch" 3 new archives  Website launch Disney Delphi 200  Direct mail & advertising campaigns for B2B content	3 new archives  Continuing Ramp-up of Direct Mail/Marketing and Advertising
Secure 3 new archive agreements	Full time Hire sales teams for 2001 (refer to Organization Chart in appendix)	Assessment of archive: -Revenue streams -B2B -B2C -Audio -Video
Technical team training & system configuration	*}} other IRL Races in season	•

Phase one

This phase was intended to take Artemis Images from initial funding to operationally being ready to sell images and take orders. The three main components included establishing the on-site facility at IMSC, construction and testing of the website and establishing the fulfillment operations. Phase one assumed money was in the bank.

Phase Two	

This phase assumed that three additional archives had been secured and implemented, at least one of which would include breadth of content. Focus would be sales and ramping up revenues. B2B and B2C marketing strategies were to be executed and evaluated. Toward the end of Phase two three more archives would be secured.

Phase Three	
Phase Three	

Phase three continued to build more archives and breadth of content. Marketing and sales would continue to be core focus for revenue development. Audio and video content assessed based on the state of market and technology (e.g., bandwidths) and a decision would be made on timing to enter this market.

# **EXHIBIT 7** Artemis Images development time line.

Source: e-Catalyst Business Plan, February 28, 2000.

15,000 images sold per archive in 2001, increasing to 20,000 images per archive in 2003. Price:  $$19.99 (8" \times 10")$ .

Stock photos: Stock photos ranged in price from \$150 to \$100,000, depending on the uniqueness of the photo. Competitors Getty and Corbis, two of the leaders in this market, sold 2.35 percent and 0.6 percent of their archive, respectively. Based on an average selling price of \$150, Getty generated approximately \$6.00 in revenue for each image in its archive; Corbis generated approximately \$1.85. Artemis Images constructed financial projections based on sales of 0.30 percent of its archive in 2001 and 0.16 percent of its archive in 2002. Artemis Images's margin was based on a return of \$0.20 per image in its archive for 2001, increasing to \$0.60 per image in 2003.

Syndication: The team's dot.com experience led them to believe that websites with exclusive content were able to syndicate their content to other websites. They anticipated that Artemis Images would generate revenues of \$100,000 per year from each contract for content supplied as marketing tools on websites. Existing companies with strong content had been able to negotiate five new agreements per week for potential annual revenues of \$5 million.

Merchandise: According to America Online/Roper Starch Worldwide, approximately 30 percent of Internet users regularly make purchases. Artemis Images used a more conservative assumption that only 1 percent of unique visitors would make a purchase. Estimates of the average purchase online varied widely, ranging from Wharton's estimate of \$86.13 to eMarketers's estimate of \$219. The Artemis Images team viewed \$50 per purchase as a conservative figure.

Chris and George felt confident that Artemis Images would be able to reach the revenue projections for number of photos sold. IMSC's archive had sold approximately 53,000 photos in 1999, an increase of 33 percent over 1998. These sales had been generated solely by consumers who had visited the archive in person, estimated at 1 million people. In other words, one out of every 28 possible consumers actually purchased an image. Chris and George assumed that if even one out of 160 unique visitors to the website purchased a photo, the Artemis website would generate 42 percent more than IMSC's 1999 figures (see Exhibit 6 for projected sales volume). Chris and George believed that this projection was reasonable in light of the fact that IMSC did not market its archive and significant publicity and advertising would accompany Artemis Images's handling of the archive. As breadth of content and reach of the Web increased, 2002 revenues should easily be double those of 2001.

Since the team previously had configured and sold content management systems, they were familiar with the costs associated with this process, including both equipment and personnel. They carefully conducted research to stay abreast of recent improvements in technology and intended to be on the lookout for cost reductions and process improvements.

#### The Launch: Problems from the Start

Chris dove into the Artemis Images project with a vengeance. Having secured a five-year contract for exclusive rights and access to the IMSC archive, she found a dependable technician who was eager to relocate to Indianapolis to start the scanning and digitizing process. A reputable, independent photo lab agreed to handle printing and order fulfillment. Chris's visit to the Indy 500 in May 2000 was a wonderful networking opportunity. She met executives from large companies and got leads for investors and clients. She secured an agreement with a Web design company to build the Artemis Images site, careful to retain ownership of the design. She contacted over 100 potential venture capitalists and angel investors.

Personally, she was on a roll. Financially, she was rapidly going into debt. Frank and Greg, legal owners of the company, had long since contributed ideas, contacts, or legwork to the Artemis Images launch. While confident that his work on the business plan would appeal to investors, Greg viewed the start-up company as a risk to which he was unwilling to commit. Likewise, Frank decided to hold onto his job at Petersons.com, a unit of Thompson Learning, until the first round of investor funding had been secured. Frank continued to offer advice, but he had a wife and two preschool-age children to support.

Each meeting with a potential funder resulted in a suggestion on how to make the business more attractive for investment. Sometimes they helped, sometimes they just added to Chris's and George's frustration. Beating the bushes for money over two years was exhausting, to say the least. The lack of funds impacted the look and feel of the business and severely strained relationships among the founding partners. Heated discussions ensued as to the roles that each was expected to play, the reallocation of equity ownership in the company, and the immediate cash needed to maintain the Indianapolis apartment and pay the scanning technician and Web developers, not to mention out-of-pocket expenses needed to manage and market the business.

Chris and George appealed to their families for help. George's father contributed \$5,000. Chris's mother tapped into her retirement, mostly to pay Chris's mortgage and to fund Chris's trips to potential clients and investors in London, New York, and Boston. By May 2001, Chris's mother's contribution had exceeded \$200,000. A \$50,000 loan from a supportive racing enthusiast provided the impetus for Artemis Images to reorganize as a C-corporation. All four original partners had stock in the new company, but Chris held the majority share (66 percent), George held 30 percent, and Frank and Greg's shares were each reduced to 2 percent. Financial projections were revised downward (see Exhibit 8).

The site was officially launched on May 18, 2001. It was beautiful. Chris held her breath as she put in her credit card late that evening when the site went live. The shopping cart failed and the order could not be processed. Chris knew she was in trouble.

XHIBIT 8 Revised pro forma financial summary 2001

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ummary Profit and Loss State	ment		-	· <u>-</u>	
	2001	2002	2003	2004	Total
Revenues	\$ 5,312*	\$373,779	\$2,294,116	\$4,735,400	\$7,408,607
Cost of sales	\$ 1,700	\$ 43,368	\$ 265,312	\$ 564,480	\$ 874,860
Gross profit	\$ 3,612	\$330,411	\$2,028,804	\$4,170,920	\$6,533,747
Operations	\$52,499	\$328,550	\$1,235,363	\$2,035,430	\$3,651,842
Net income before tax	(\$48,887)	\$ 1,861	\$ 793,441	\$2,135,490	\$2,881,905
Taxes (38%)	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 283,638	\$ 811,486	\$1,095,124
Net income	(\$48,887)	\$ 1,861	\$ 509,803	\$1,324,004	\$1,786,781
ımmary Balance Sheet				, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	
isets	2001	2002	2003	2004	
Cash and equivalents	\$45,113	\$ 78,260	\$ 675.347	\$2,615,573	
Accounts receivable	\$ 0	\$ 13,610	\$ 222,950	\$ 462,200	
Inventories	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	*5.
Prepaid expenses	\$ 0	* \$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	
Depreciable assets	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0.	
Other depreciable assets	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ . 0	
Depreciation	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	
Net depreciable assets	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	
Total assets	\$45,113	\$ 40,574	\$ 898,297	\$3,077,773	
abilities and capital					
Accounts payable	\$ 4,000	\$ 12,355	\$ 61,882	\$ 105,868	
Accrued income taxes	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 283,638	\$1,095,124	
Accrued payroll taxes	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0.	\$ 0	
Total liabilities	\$ 4,000	\$ 12,355	\$ 345,520	\$1,200,992	•
Capital contribution	\$90,000 <sup>†</sup>	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000	•
Stockholders' equity	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	,
Retained earnings	(\$48,887)	(\$ 61,781)	\$ 462,777	\$1,786,781	
Net capital	\$41,113	\$ 28,219	\$ 552,777	\$1,876,781	
Total liabilities and capital	\$45,113	\$ 40,574	\$ 898,287	\$3,077,773	

es: \*Approximately two-thirds of these transactions were executed by Artemis staff and friends to test the website. hris's mother's contribution to her daughter for mortgage and living expenses is not included.

#### The Crash

From the first, the website had problems. The Web development contract stipulated that the website for the Indy 500 would go live by May 8, 2001, to coincide with the month-long series of events held at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway leading up to the Indy 500 on May 27. However, the Web development took longer than anticipated, and the site was first operational on May 18. Having neglected to test the Web interface properly, serious failures were encountered when the site was activated. The site went down for 24 hours, only to face similar problems throughout the following week, again shutting down on May 27. More technical difficulties delayed the reactivation of the site until May 31, after the Indy racing series had ended.

Throughout June, consumer traffic was far less than originally anticipated. The site was not easily navigable. The shopping cart didn't work. Yet the Web builder demanded more money. Fearful of a possible lawsuit, investors stayed away. The crash of the dot.coms added kindling to the woodpile. Chris and George started to rethink their original business model. They were held hostage, as they owned no tangible assets.

Website tracking data indicated that between May and July there had been at least \$40,000 worth of attempted purchases. Chris read through hundreds of angry e-mails, and tried manually to process orders. Orders which were successfully executed resulted in spotty fulfillment. Many photos ordered were never shipped, were duplicated, or were incorrectly billed. At the same time, she tried to negotiate with the software developers' demand for payment and keep alive a \$250,000 investment prospect.

On July 9, 2001, the Web development company threatened an all-or-nothing settlement. They wanted payment in full for the balance of the contract even though the sites didn't work. Absent full payment, they would shut down the sites within the week. The investor offered to put up 80 percent of the balance owed on the full contract to acquire the code to fix it. The company refused. On Friday, July 13, Chris had to tell IMSC that in less than 48 hours the sites would be shut down. The investor took his \$250,000 elsewhere.

On Tuesday, July 17, Chris called an emergency meeting with George. George had had enough. The stress was affecting his health, his relationships, and his lifestyle. He believed that his family had already contributed more money than he had a right to ask. He was putting in long hours with no money to show for his efforts. His girlfriend had been putting pressure on George to quit for some time. Now he had run out of reasons to stay.

Chris was devastated. How could she face the people in Indianapolis? It was hard for her to come to grips with having let them down. Having put so much of herself into this venture, she wasn't sure she could let go. At the same time, she wasn't sure how to go on.

Chris reflected, "At one time, I defined success by my title, my salary, and my possessions. Working for AGT, I had it all. I started Artemis Images because I really cared about IMSC and making the Indy motorsports images available

to its fans. Now, I realize that there is a profound satisfaction in building a company. I can see my future so clearly, but living day to day now is so hard. And I'm still enthralled with beautiful images."

#### **Questions**

- 1. Discuss why Chris started her company. What was the opportunity?
- 2. What is your evaluation of the team's qualifications for this business?
- 3. Discuss the division of ownership among the team.
- **4.** Evaluate the business model for Artemis. Is it strong and will the firm be profitable?

# SIRTRIS PHARMACEUTICALS: LIVING HEALTHIER, LONGER

"You can live to be a hundred if you give up all the things that make you want to live to be a hundred."

Woody Allen

One Saturday in February 2007, Dr. David Sinclair and Dr. Christoph Westphal co-founders of Sirtris Pharmaceuticals, a Cambridge, MA-based life sciences firm, navigated the company's narrow hallways and cramped offices to a conference room for their regular weekend strategy planning session.

When they reached the conference room, Sinclair and Westphal reviewed their activities during the past week. Sinclair, who was an associate professor of pathology at Harvard Medical School and co-chair of Sirtris's Scientific Advisory Board, had had interviews with Charlie Rose, the *Wall Street Journal*, and *Newsweek*. Westphal, who was Sirtris's CEO and vice chairman, had closed a \$39 million round of financing, bringing the total amount of invested capital in the company to \$103 million.

Sinclair and Westphal were riding a wave of interest generated, in part, by their company's promising research into age-related diseases, such as diabetes, cancer, and Alzheimer's. The company's research into disease, however, only partly explained its appearance on the covers of *Scientific American*, Fortune, and the Wall Street Journal. According to their suggestive headlines—"Can DNA Stop Time: Unlocking the Secrets of Longevity Genes" (Scientific American), "Drink wine and live longer: The exclusive story of the biotech startup searching for anti-aging miracle drugs" (Fortune) and "Youthful Pursuit: Researchers seek key to Antiaging in Calorie Cutback" (Wall Street Journal)—Sirtris was hoping to develop drugs that could treat diseases of aging, and in so doing had the potential to extend the lifespan of human beings<sup>1</sup>.

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Leonard Guarente and David Sinclair, "Can DNA Stop Time: Unlocking the Secrets of Longevity Genes," Scientific American, March 2006; David Stipp, "Researchers seek key to antiaging in calorie cutback," Wall Street Journal, October 30, 2006. David Stipp, "Drink Wine and Live Longer: The exclusive story of the biotech startup searching for anti-aging miracle drugs," Fortune, February 12, 2007. See Appendix for cover of the Wall Street Journal article.

Professor Toby Stuart and Senior Researcher David Kiron, Global Research Group, prepared this case, with advice and contributions from Alexander Crisses (MBA 2008). HBS cases are developed solely as the basis for class discussion. Cases are not intended to serve as endorsements, sources of primary data, or illustrations of effective or ineffective management.