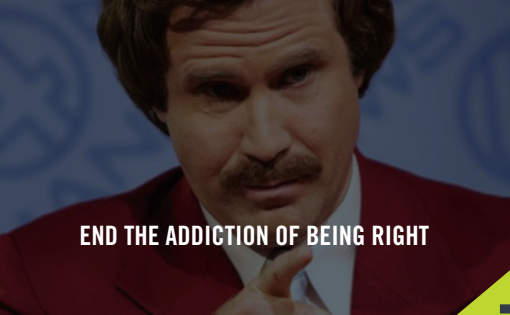


# SURVIVAL GUIDE

NIKE   
GROWTH  
BOARD







END THE ADDICTION OF BEING RIGHT



NEW BOUNDARIES & PERMISSIONS



OUTSIDE IN

## THE MINDSET SHIFT



DO VS. SAY



NET NEW LEARNING



END SUCCESS THEATER



DRIVE PRODUCTIVE FAILURE



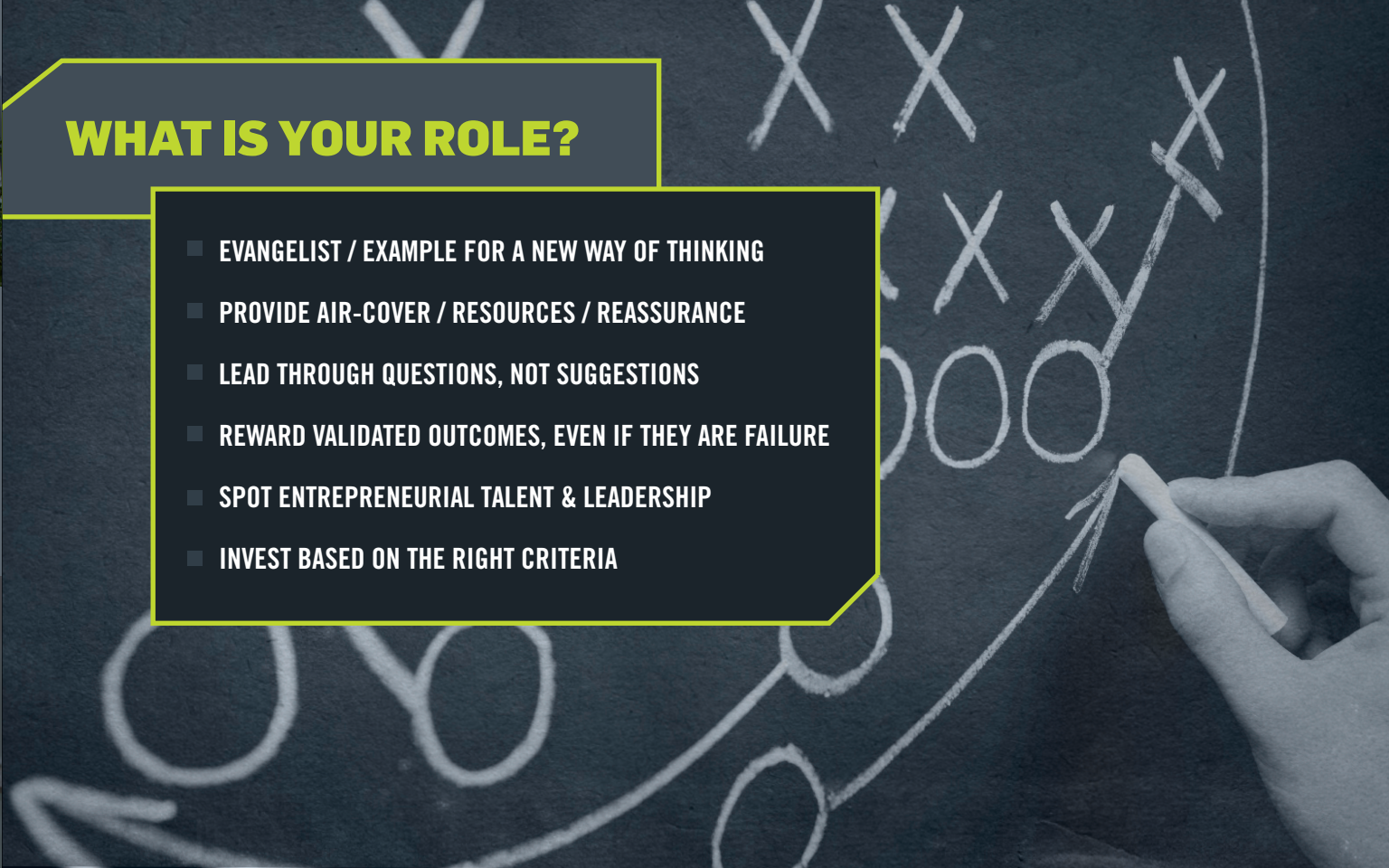
CAPTURE NEW ECONOMIC OXYGEN



KILL ZOMBIES



MILESTONE FUNDING



## WHAT IS YOUR ROLE?

- EVANGELIST / EXAMPLE FOR A NEW WAY OF THINKING
- PROVIDE AIR-COVER / RESOURCES / REASSURANCE
- LEAD THROUGH QUESTIONS, NOT SUGGESTIONS
- REWARD VALIDATED OUTCOMES, EVEN IF THEY ARE FAILURE
- SPOT ENTREPRENEURIAL TALENT & LEADERSHIP
- INVEST BASED ON THE RIGHT CRITERIA



## DO'S & DON'TS

SERVING ON A  
GROWTH BOARD  
REQUIRES A CHANGE  
IN MINDSET & FOCUS



### DO:

- BE OPEN & FLEXIBLE
- FIGHT THE “ADDICTION TO BEING RIGHT”
- EVALUATE THE OPPORTUNITY BY A NEW SET OF METRICS
- FOCUS ON THE CUSTOMER VALIDATION NOT YOUR OWN BIASES

### DON'T:

- DON'T ASK FOR A REAM OF “BUSINESS AS USUAL” METRICS
- DON'T DISMISS SOMETHING BECAUSE THAT IS NOT HOW YOU DO IT CURRENTLY
- DON'T THINK YOU KNOW MORE ABOUT A CUSTOMER'S PROBLEM THAN THEY DO



# LENSES



**EXTREME FOCUS**  
ON A SINGLE CUSTOMER PROBLEM



**PAINKILLERS**  
VS. VITAMINS



**10X OPPORTUNITY**  
VS. INCREMENTAL GROWTH



**PROPRIETARY GIFT**  
LEVERAGES CORE BUSINESS ADVANTAGES



**PERMANENCE**  
CREATES CUSTOMER STICKINESS

**NIKE**  
**GROWTH**  
**BOARD**





A man in a dark suit and tie is shown in profile, looking towards a woman on the left. The woman is wearing a light-colored basketball jersey with the number 14. The background is dark and out of focus.

## SPONSOR ROLE

**OPPORTUNITY AREA SPONSORS ARE STARTUP ADVISORS WHO PROVIDE ADVICE, INTRODUCTIONS, LEVERAGE, AND BACKING TO THE TEAM.**

1

### ADVICE

ON THE TEAM'S PITCH - HAS THE TEAM CLEARLY IDENTIFIED A CUSTOMER PROBLEM WORTH SOLVING, AND SHOWN THE MARKET POTENTIAL FOR SOLVING IT?

2

### INTRODUCTIONS

TO INTERNAL TEAMS AND EXTERNAL COMPANIES WHO HAVE LOOKED AT THE SAME - MAKE YOUR TEAMS SMARTER.

3

### LEVERAGE

IN PUSHING THROUGH RESOURCE CONSTRAINTS - TEAMS ARE OPERATING OUTSIDE BUSINESS AS USUAL AND NEED ALL THE SUPPORT THEY CAN GET.

4

### EVALUATING

START-UP PITCHES AND DECIDING CONCEPTS TO PROGRESS TO GROWTH BOARD EVALUATION.

5

### BACKING

ON DEAL DAY THAT THEY ARE 100% BEHIND THE TEAM'S PITCH.

6

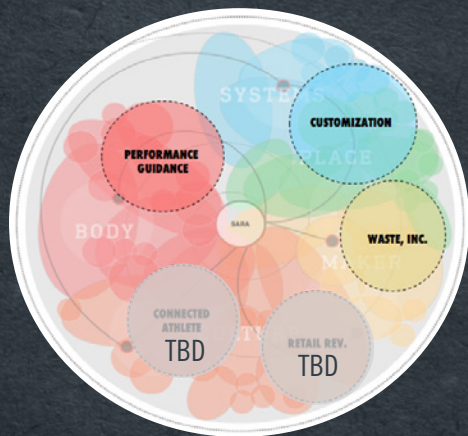
### FEEDBACK

NOT STEERING LETS THE STARTUP TEAMS DRIVE, AND GIVES BEST SENSE OF WHAT ELSE YOU'RE SEEING THAT COULD BE HELPFUL TO THEM.



# GROWTH O/S PIPELINE

## OPPORTUNITY AREAS



WORLD BUILDING +  
WOW & PRE-WOWS  
CORPORATE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

## GENERATE



POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS

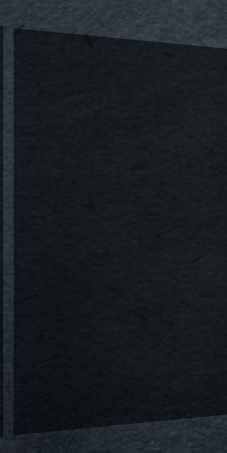
## VALIDATE



VALIDATE I  
CUSTOMER FRICTION

VALIDATE II  
SOLUTION

VALIDATE III  
BUSINESS MODEL



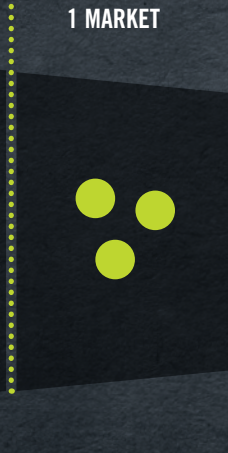
SEARCH FOR SHOULD

## LAUNCH



LAUNCH I  
1 CUSTOMER  
1 MARKET

LAUNCH II  
# CUSTOMERS  
1 MARKET

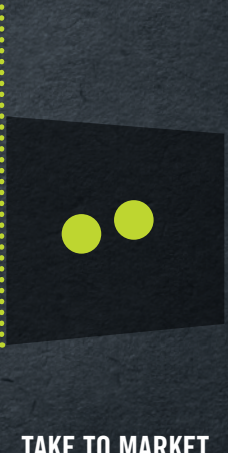


FIGHT FOR TRACTION

## SCALE



TAKE TO MARKET  
AT SCALE





# DECISIONS



## KILL

CUSTOMER PROBLEM INVALIDATED



## ADVANCE

CUSTOMER PROBLEM & SOLUTION VALIDATED



## RE-VALIDATE

CUSTOMER VALIDATION INCONCLUSIVE



## PIVOT

CUSTOMER PROBLEM VALIDATED  
SOLUTION INVALIDATED



## PAUSE

CUSTOMER PROBLEM VALIDATED  
SOLUTION VALIDATED  
MARKET INCONCLUSIVE



## RETURN TO CORE

INCREMENTAL PROBLEM &/OR  
SOLUTION VALIDATED

## VALIDATE I PROBLEM



### TOP ASKS

- What action / behavior / insight with the customers surprised you most?
- Would you bet your career on solving this Problem?
- Do you think we have unfair advantages in pursuing a Solution to this Problem?

- What is the Customer Problem Hypothesis?
- How do customers solve for this Problem today?
- Can you define the target customer for this Problem?
- How painful is this Problem for this customer? (Economic impact of unmet need/Problem)
- What frictions do customers experience today regarding this Problem?
- How will your Solution address the customer Problem?
- Why is your Solution better than the current way customers address this Problem?
- What metric shows you validated the Problem?
- What do you want to learn next and what are you asking from us?



## VALIDATE II SOLUTION



### TOP ASKS

- Do you have insights from your experiments that the validation is repeatable?
- Do you have evidence that the experiments (customer actions) have volume (in behavior) and in market (TAP)?
- Do you feel your Solution has qualities that create “radical differentiation?”
- Do you feel the team had boundaries (implicit or explicit) around the experiments that limited their learning?

- Was the Customer Problem Validated?
- What experiments did you run and what were the results?
- What were the critical assumptions for the experiments?
- What outcomes of the experiments did you expect and what were you surprised about?
- What new information have you learned about the Customer Problem?
- Has your target customer changed? If so, why and to which segment?
- Why does your Solution solve the Customer Problem?
- What features of the potential Solution resonated most?
- Do customers believe your Solution solves the Problem significantly better than current Solutions today?
- What was the “ask” of your customers? What percentage of customers enacted on the ask?
- What do you want to learn next and what are you asking from us?

## VALIDATE III BUSINESS MODEL



### TOP ASKS

- What new functions (financing, partners, IP, etc.) are needed to create this new economic model?
- Does this model pull from a new or existing budget within the customer?
- Does the customer buy this offering as a product or a service, or a new framework of value?
- Does the unit of revenue align with a new value (outcome) for the customer? Or one they currently have/understand?
- How much of our commercial advantage is with the team vs. the model innovation?

- Can you fully describe your revenue model & key assumptions?
- What are your initial customer acquisition strategies? How will you measure success?
- What else have you learned about your Solution in validating the Business Model?
- Have you identified potential partners or companies for acquisition?
- What channels will you use to deliver your Solution to paying customers?
- What did you validate about your business model? Invalidate?
- How do you plan to launch the Solution?
- Is there a timeframe for launching the Solution?
- What kind of technical investment is required for launch?
- What do you want to learn next and what are you asking from us?



# KEY METRICS

## GB PORTFOLIO

### INVESTMENT THESIS

Opportunity Areas  
X-Categories

### INVESTMENT CRITERIA

Metric Benchmarks  
Funding Criteria

### DISTRIBUTION

Solutions/Stage/Opp. Area  
Solutions/Stage/X-Category  
Funding

### VALUE

X-Category (Idea/Seed)  
Valuation (Launch/Grow)

### FINANCIAL RETURNS

Revenues  
Top-line Growth  
Funding Efficiency:  
NPI Cost vs. Baseline

### TALENT

Entrepreneur Cycles

## GROWTH O/S

### PORTFOLIO GROWTH

# of Ideas  
Increase of ideas per stage  
Increase of ROI

### PORTFOLIO SUCCESS RATE

% Funded  
% Killed  
% Pivoted  
% In Market

### LEARNING VELOCITY

Execs On-boarded  
Exec Co-Sponsors  
Dedicated Entrepreneurs  
Phase Cycle Time  
Ideas Advanced Rate  
Time to "Kill"  
Time in Seed  
Time to First Revenue



**VALIDATE**



**LAUNCH**



**SCALE**

## PRODUCTS

\$ FROM PRODUCTS SOLD

# of Problem/Solution Iterations  
# of Prospects  
# of Interviews Conducted  
Exchange of Value  
Cost of Learning

Same Store Sales Growth  
Gross Margin  
Burn Rate  
Revenue  
Valuation

Brand perception  
Distribution Sales Growth  
# of Product Lines  
Gross Margin

Market Share  
Revenue  
Valuation

## SERVICES

\$ FROM SERVICES SOLD

# of Problem/Solution Iterations  
# of Prospects  
# of Interviews Conducted  
Exchange of Value  
# of Pilots  
Cost of learning

Pilot Conversion  
Retention  
WoM  
CAC

LTV  
Gross Margin  
Burn Rate  
Revenue

LTV  
Utilization  
Efficiency Rating (ER)  
CAC  
Repeat Business

Gross Margin  
Organic Growth  
Revenue  
Valuation



## SOLUTION TEAM DESIGN

### STARTUP CO-FOUNDER COMMERCIAL LEAD

- BRINGS DOMAIN EXPERTISE
- LEADS CUSTOMER DISCOVERY, INCLUDING SOURCING AND SETTING UP INTERVIEWS WITH STAKEHOLDER / CUSTOMERS
- MANAGING AND REPORTING THE TEAM'S PROGRESS TO EXECUTIVE SPONSOR AND GROWTH BOARD

### INNOVATION MANAGER PROJECT "DOER"

- SERVES AS PROJECT MANAGER - DEVELOPS AND MANAGES TIMELINE WITH KEY MILESTONES
- SYNTHESIZES CUSTOMER DISCOVERY DATA
- MAINTAINS AND INTEGRATES LEARNINGS VIA TEMPLATES

### STARTUP CO-FOUNDER TECHNICAL LEAD

- BRINGS FUNCTIONAL EXPERTISE AND/OR TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE
- DRIVES EXPLORATION OF POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS TO SOLVE CUSTOMER PROBLEMS
- IDENTIFIES AND LIAISES WITH TECHNICAL SMEs

### SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT(S) COMMERCIAL /TECHNICAL

- TECHNICAL SME: PROVIDES INSIGHT INTO TECHNICAL AREAS, DEVELOPMENT NEEDS, AND SPECIFIC SOLUTIONS AND/OR FEATURES
- COMMERCIAL SME: PROVIDES INSIGHT INTO CUSTOMER RESEARCH, MARKET DYNAMICS, BEHAVIOR, AND/OR ECONOMICS





# KEY COMPETENCIES



## INNOVATIVE

NOT AFRAID TO CHALLENGE THE STATUS QUO, QUESTION ASSUMPTIONS AND GENERATE NEW IDEAS BY LOOKING AT ISSUES FROM MULTIPLE ANGLES

---

Challenges long-standing assumptions and identifies new ways of solving problems

Actively participates in brainstorming and ideation sessions

Proposes non-traditional methods when tradition impedes performance improvements

Continually seeks the customer's point of view and uses learnings to create new solutions

Validates customer needs & solutions directly with the customer



## CONNECTOR

TAKES TIME TO REFLECT ON EXPERIENCES; SPENDS FOCUSED ENERGY PROCESSING INFORMATION, GAINING DEEPER INSIGHTS INTO PROBLEMS, THEMSELVES & OTHERS AS A RESULT

---

Reflects on experiences and utilizes setbacks as an opportunity to learn and improve

Thinks beyond own area of responsibility examining linkages and interactions between different parts of a system

Integrates disparate data points to get to the root of a problem

Applies insights to simplify work assignments and focus on what's important

Builds relationships and connects ideas across silos



## CURIOUS

OPEN TO LEARNING & EXPLORING NEW INFORMATION AND PRACTICES; INTERESTED IN UNDERSTANDING HOW THINGS WORK

---

Seeks and takes into account the opinions of others to reach creative solutions

Demonstrates an appetite to learn and understand the business

Participates in learning groups and networks to stay current on industry trends

Leverages customers as a learning resource

Anticipates and explores evolving shifts in the environment to surface new opportunities



## FLEXIBLE

REMAINS ENGAGED DURING STRESSFUL SITUATIONS BROUGHT ON BY AMBIGUITY AND CONFLICT

---

Remains calm and optimistic under pressure and adapts well to unexpected situations and challenges

Takes charge and delivers when expectations are ambiguous

Makes prudent decisions quickly amidst change

Embraces feedback from others to make changes to improve impact and effectiveness

Handles conflict in a solutions-oriented manner



## COURAGEOUS

TAKES CALCULATED RISKS AND PURPOSEFULLY PUTS SELF IN CHALLENGING SITUATIONS WHERE SUCCESS IS NOT ALWAYS GUARANTEED

---

Seeks challenging work assignments that involve professional risk and personal stretch

Willing to experiment with new ideas where both gain and loss is possible

Is not afraid to fail or go against popular opinion

Makes difficult or unpopular decisions and stands behind them

Acts with a sense of urgency to move others to action, even when outcomes are uncertain



**NIKE**   
**GROWTH**  
**BOARD**