

A Pragmatic New Strategy for Enterprise Competitiveness

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# Outsourcing Outlook 2006: Current and Future State

**ITA Outsourcing Roundtable** 

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## **Agenda**

- My background and approach
- Interesting numbers
- Enterprise (client) observations
- Provider observations
- Future trends
- Conclusions and guidance



# Background and Approach: Over 15 Years of Experience with Enterprise Transformation

- Human capital transformation
  - Coached executives and specialists on thriving on economic changes
  - Built pioneering office for one of the largest human capital firms in the U.S.
- Technology transformation: the Internet and enterprise software
  - Leading role in launching Java as an enterprise solution
  - Launched one of the Midwest's first corporate Internet businesses
  - Standards-based technology, distributed computing
- Technology/business transformation: e-business and knowledge
  - Corporate change agent at Big Five consultancy
    - Built websites, intranets and extranets to change business processes
  - Principal and Subject Matter Expert at Big Five consultancy
    - Led strategy engagements to advise automakers, oil, consumer products, financial services and others on creating the "real-time enterprise"
    - Business strategy for start-ups: transform industries with innovation
- Business process transformation: "Pervasive Outsourcing"
  - Outsourcing will actualize globalization and a business process revolution
  - How enterprises are built, how they run, how they satisfy customers
  - What will stay the same, what will change



## **Interesting Numbers**

- MGI report "The Emerging Global Labor Market" (mid 2005)
  - Predicts "minimal" wage threat to western economies
  - Supply numbers misleading: many supplier country graduates not immediately suitable for offshore contracts
  - Demand: 11% service jobs could be outsourced by 2008 (max)
- Deloitte "Calling for a Change.." study (early 2005)
  - Excellent summary of the "Trough of Disillusionment"
    - Gotchas: outsourcing for the wrong reasons, with wrong goals
    - Learning curve: since when have large projects of any type been successful?
- Forrester: 2005 "Record Year" for outsourcing
  - 9% growth to 293 contracts but outsourcing expenditures lower
- Conclusion: we are set for a long adoption curve
  - Economics undeniable, growing successes will increase
  - Difficulty and complexity will persist as challenges



## **Enterprise Focus: "Best" Practices**

#### **Best practices**

- Offshore (outsource) for the right reasons
- Choose the model carefully
- Get your people on board
- Invest time and money
- Treat partners as equals

#### Interpretation

- Outsourcing offers alternatives to every aspect of business
  - What do you want to change?
  - How do you want to change it?
- This means a serious learning curve
  - Business has always been complex, but...
    - Due to increased information, we are more aware of complexity
    - We can slice/dice more
    - We may have outsourced before, but our info-rich environment makes it a different, more complex proposition
  - To be sustainable, outsourcing must have a value proposition for all parties



## **Enterprise Focus: Drivers and Opportunities**

- Publicized "failures" have overshadowed successes.
- IT becoming more agile, can support more flexible business processes
  - SOA, Web services, software vendor adoption
  - Still in initial stages
- There will be a significant SMB opportunity in the future
  - The barrier is the lack of outsourcing knowledge and familiarity
  - The enabler is competitiveness and need
  - The Barry-Wehmiller story
- Observe and think creatively
  - Emerging knowledge and services create new opportunities
  - You have to think differently, be aware of assumptions that no longer hold true



# **Enterprise Focus: Preliminary Adoption Model for Transformational Outsourcing**

Stage One (Basic)	Stage Two (Intermediate)	Stage Three (Advanced)	Stage Four (Visionary)
Scope: cost reduction by outsourcing a discrete process Led by: process manager Expectations often made by looking at manufacturing experiences of outsourcing	Scope: departmental efficiency Often includes more than one process Led by: department executive Shared services, may be BPO or offshore Expectations more tactical than strategic	Scope: enterprise  Led by: CIO, COO or  SVP  Drivers include efficiency, but new emphasis on acquiring new capabilities  BPOed several of its non-strategic business processes, Several offshore locations to mitigate risk  Focus on brand building within emerging markets	Scope: trans-enterprise Led by: CxO with CEO Outsourcing pervasive; much competitive advantage derived by partner network The enterprise permeable, key elements of innovation and business strategy driven by partners. Major focus employees in emerging markets and community activities

Outsourcing is transformational: developing competence in outsourcing is a way to deliver the adaptive enterprise, iteratively and profitably



### **Provider Focus: Drivers and Differentiators**

- Providers under pressure to innovate
  - Constant competition; there's always someone willing to do it more cheaply
  - The same forces that enable providers to displace work in higher cost countries enable lower cost countries to displace them
  - Innovation and specialization
- The value curve
  - Outsourcing (of discrete activities)
  - BPO (integrated, process-based)
  - KPO (new level; offers expertise the enterprise never had)
- Location: politics and economics
  - Ability to collaborate: language, proximity, culture
  - Incentives and legal: can change quickly, leading to new entrants
  - However, infrastructure not built in a day



# Provider Focus: The Multiple Meanings of Proximity

- Examples
  - China: manufacturing; high local demand drives expertise as well
  - India: out in front due to language, culture
  - SE Asia (Singapore, Philippines)
  - Eastern Europe: cultural/geo proximity to Western Europe
  - Latin America: cost advantage + language + time parity
  - Canada, low-cost USA: cost advantage + language + time parity
- Larger trend: global human capital
  - x-shore: where the work is done less relevant than it seems
    - Although important, it's an implementation detail
  - All U.S. outsourcing vendors have offshore components
    - Increasingly, the offshore providers have offshore providers
  - High competition to persist and increase
    - Business strategy and global market expertise needed to manage value proposition



### **Seismic Shifts**

- From the industrial economy to the knowledge economy
  - Technology-enabled business processes provide more information about everything
    - Information drives the opportunity to differentiate
    - However, information-driven differentiation easier to emulate
    - Competitiveness now global and in your face; the death of distance
  - Information is the key input, not raw materials
- Enterprises as currently structured were built for the industrial economy, not the knowledge economy
  - They need to transform their business processes to flow with customer demand
  - Outsourcing is a tool to achieve transformation
    - Iterative, profitable change
    - No need to stop the engines



### **Conclusions and Guidance**

- Points of confusion
  - Outsourcing is deceptive because it seems familiar
    - It's been practiced for years, but the environment has changed
  - Globalization seems familiar, but its context is tech-enabled
    - As people around the world jump on-line, their lifestyles will converge due to information exchange and access
- Outsourcing's significance
  - Outsourcing will be a major factor in restructuring enterprises and the economy
  - It will create an interactive, interdependent global economy
- Opportunities
  - Think about where enterprises are on the adoption curve
  - Due to strategic value, the market will be dynamic at all levels
  - Specialization is key; think about barriers to entry
  - The SMB market bears watching



## For Additional Learning

#### Sample Resources\*

- McKinsey Global Institute
- IBM Institute for Business Value
- Baker & McKenzie Webinars: country backgrounders
- Return On Outsourcing site
- Outsourcing for Strategic Advantage site
- rollyson.net for papers, articles and advisories

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\*Google these phrases

\*Consulting and seminars