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Cross-Border Mergers and Acquisitions

SCOTT C. WHITAKER

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Edited by SCOTT C. WHITAKER

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To our families, clients, and colleagues . . . and to Sheila for keeping us all on task

Preface

A fter Mergers and Acquisitions Integration Handbook: Helping Companies Realize the Full Value of Acquisitions (John Wiley & Sons, 2012) published, I realized that executives were looking for practical guides to handling the complex task of integration. They wanted books that were rooted in the realities of execution, not based on theory or outdated concepts.

Cross-Border Mergers and Acquisitions attempts to apply the same approach for handling global integrations. The book is a compilation from 10 mergers and acquisitions (M&A) professionals who together have experience handling hundreds of cross-border transactions across dozens of countries.

The authors bring perspectives on M&A from nine countries that represent the bulk of global M&A activity: the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Belgium, Germany, Sweden, Israel, Japan, and China.

Many mission-critical topics, including M&A strategy, integration, due diligence, and culture are covered in multiple chapters to allow the authors to share their respective experiences, and enable the reader to gain several different perspectives on many key subjects.

Note that several of the authors are writing in English as a second or even third language, which is quite impressive for such an intricate subject. While I have made efforts to mildly harmonize style differences across the book, I have tried to allow some of the country-specific nuances to show through to showcase the cultural point of view of the authors.

Cross-Border Mergers and Acquisitions is organized into four parts, each covering a wide range of M&A topics. Here's an at-a-glance summary of how the book is organized and what you will find in each section and chapter.

PART ONE: CROSS-BORDER STRATEGY AND DEAL PLANNING

This part provides some insights into the overall dynamics of the global M&A environment, along with some perspectives on region- and country-specific trends and nuances.

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■ Chapter 1, "Cross-Border Deal Evolution and Rationale," presents an overview of the evolution and rationale of cross-border deals, along with some general information on the overall M&A market—sizing of the current market, international development, existence of cycles, determinants of the M&A waves as an introduction to cross-border M&A evolution, and high-level specificities.

PREFACE

■ Chapter 2, "Cross-Border M&A Strategy and Deal Planning Essentials," explores decision-making and strategic process approaches for

managing cross-border integration activity.

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Chapter 3, "Legal, Financial, Social, and Political Interdependencies with Cross-Border Integration," introduces the key legal, financial, social, and political influences on, and implications of, cross-border mergers, acquisitions, and divestitures. It puts cross-border M&A programs in context within and between the jurisdictions and societies where the companies operate.

- Chapter 4, "Trends and Leading Practices in Global M&A," introduces important concepts related to strategic reasoning for doing the deal, along with the key phases and steps in the M&A life cycle. This chapter includes a step-by-step process that enables you to find and review potential targets for their fit, and introduces important issues related to cross-border due diligence, along with options and strategies for mitigating the execution risk in cross-border deals.
- Chapter 5, "Cross-Border M&A: Region- and Country-Specific Trends and Deal Planning Tips," delves into the countries and industries that dominate pre-deal M&A and what considerations are important when exploring cross-border opportunities.

PART TWO: CROSS-BORDER CULTURE AND LEADERSHIP ALIGNMENT

This part includes several chapters that explore how leadership and culture influence cross-border M&A.

- Chapter 6, "Leading during Cross-Border M&A," attempts to outline specific activities and practices leaders can take during an M&A event to help ensure transaction success and lay the foundation to make integration a core competency of their organizations.
- Chapter 7, "The Role of Culture in Cross-Border M&A," explains the importance of culture in a merger or integration environment,

and shows how to create awareness of cultural elements in both the deal teams and integration teams. The importance of company values in turning culture into a success driver for your deal is also explored.

Chapter 8, "Managing National Reactions and Sovereignty Issues," explores the "local" side of cross-border M&A and how region- and country-specific nuances such as regulatory constraints, sensitivities of local populations, unions, and many other areas can impact transactions.

PART THREE: CROSS-BORDER INTEGRATION, PLANNING, AND EXECUTION

This part includes an abundance of detail around the more tactical elements of cross-border integration, along with how country-specific nuances can impact planning and execution details.

- Chapter 9, "Managing Pre-PMI Due Diligence," presents a methodical approach for cross-border due diligence based on lessons learned from hands-on project engagements, including a practical review of the due diligence process, and ingredients and tools to be applied in order to improve the quality of due diligence deliverables.
- Chapter 10, "Ramping Up an Integration Management Office and Day One in Cross-Border Deals," provides a comprehensive understanding of the integration management office and describes activity to set up an IMO and to execute a successful Day One.
- Chapter 11, "Integration Decision Making and Process Strategy in Cross-Border Deals," reviews the important factors that drive crossborder M&A success, including leadership styles and related decisionmaking and process development and change approaches.
- Chapter 12, "Post-Merger Integration Process, Methodologies, and Tools," explores a multitude of integration planning and execution essentials across all phases of the M&A life cycle.
- Chapter 13, "Managing Post-Merger Integration Globally," outlines various approaches for managing a PMI process in a cross-border scenario. This chapter also explores PMI governance concepts, managerial structure, roles and responsibilities, meeting management routines, and communications.
- Chapter 14, "Country-Specific Trends and Tips for Integration Planning," outlines proven approaches for factoring cultures and work styles in cross-border integrations. The chapter also includes cultural

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Scott has been involved in over two dozen mergers and acquisitions totaling nearly \$100 billion in value. His industry experience includes health care, financial services, telecommunications, gaming, hospitality, chemicals, oil and gas, industrial manufacturing, retail, and consumer durables. Scott has worked in Canada, China, Europe, and Africa on a variety of assignments, and specializes in establishing integration management offices (IMOs) and helping companies develop integration playbooks. He holds a BA from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and is the author of Mergers and Acquisitions Integration Handbook: Helping Companies Realize the Full Value of Acquisitions.

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