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ENCOMPASS SOFTWARE: GETTING STARTED, THE FIRST MONTHS AND FUELING GROWTH INSTRUCTOR'S NOTES

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CASE DESCRIPTION

The primary subject matter of this case concerns Entrepreneurship, Entrepreneurial Marketing and aspects of Leadership in an entrepreneurial context. Using an innovative chronological approach, this case addresses several key issues faced by entrepreneurs when launching and developing new ventures. Specifically, the case explores the key tasks that need to be undertaken in a startup business (a technology firm focused on the development and commercialization of software with utility in scheduling patients in a healthcare setting), and encourages students to consider the priorities that need to be established during the first six months of operations – the most critical time frame for an entrepreneur, where future success depends on the choices made in a time of considerable uncertainty. The case is divided into three parts (Part 1: Getting Started; Part 2: The First Months: Part 3: Fueling Growth) and has a difficulty level of three, appropriate for junior level courses in entrepreneurship. The case is designed to be taught in 3, 75 minute class periods and is expected to require up to 6 hours of outside preparation by students (approximately 2 hours for each part).

CASE SYNOPSIS

The case is written from the perspective of the protagonist, the CEO of Encompass Software, a startup company dedicated to the development and commercialization of software with utility in scheduling patients in a healthcare setting. The CEO is faced with three unique sets of challenges, with the solving of each being critical to the company's future success.

In Part 1, the CEO has decided to "take the plunge" and has just resigned her corporate job to start Encompass Software. In Part 2, the CEO is two months into operations and is ready to launch the company's new software product. In Part 3, the CEO has just hired a team and must now consider ways to best generate revenue.

[NOTE: This case is a fictionalized account of a real-life situation. Names and other identifying information have been changed. However, the applicable facts and situations are true to the real case. Additionally, the actual dates and timeframes of the industry statistics presented have been adjusted for the purpose of this case.]