



Do Dots

Running out of cash in an otherwise really good company is like running out of gas in an otherwise really good helicopter - Unknown

It was May 3, 2000, Tony Medrano, President and co-founder of DoDots.com, an eleven-month old Internet start-up (www.dodots.com), had just hung up the phone with Heidi Roizen, a partner at Softbank Venture Capital (SBVC). Roizen, the lead investor in DoDots' first round of financing and a Director of the Company, had repeated a previous offer to lead the Company's second round if necessary. The Company, a star of the Softbank portfolio, was getting close to running out of cash. On April 17, six weeks after the high-flying company had signed a second round term sheet with Chase H&Q for a large equity valuation, the deal collapsed, leaving the company scrambling for financing. Chase had pulled away from the deal in the wake of recent stock market volatility that had sent many Internet stocks well below their initial offering prices. The market was littered with horror stories with some high profile companies such as Chemdex losing over 50% of their value in two months. (See Exhibits 1 & 2 for a chart of the NASDAQ Composite index and Internet Sector Indices.)

Nothing was wrong with the company, Chase said, but with the market for new Internet company IPOs questionable or at least depressed for the foreseeable future, Chase could no longer justify the investment at such a high price. Chase said it would consider making a smaller investment at a much lower valuation. The founding team, CEO George Kembel, CTO John Kembel and Medrano, besides being upset over the seeming vaporization of the majority of the value of their company, worried that if the markets continued to vacillate, and the deal fell through again, the Company would be in serious trouble. To minimize that risk, the team chose to pursue other sources of funding, while continuing to talk to Chase. The team wasn't bitter, they had seen the market and understood the implications, however, they still had a company to fund that was getting closer and closer to running out of cash.

Roizen's offer, to lead the round with a \$20 million investment at an \$80 million pre-money valuation, albeit at a much lower valuation than the Chase's original offer, was, by any standards, still an enormous step up from the first round. Roizen repeated that she and her partners at Softbank felt that the Company had a strong future and was willing to support it. As a rule, Softbank did not pre-emptively lead rounds in which they were already invested, preferring to have new investors involved both for purposes of objectivity as well as for the added benefits that additional investors brought to the Company. In this case, Softbank had decided to make an exception for various reasons including market conditions and the partnership's expectations for the company. Medrano appreciated her offer, but didn't want to take it unless necessary. He saw it mainly as a safety net. Medrano and his co-founders felt that having the first round lead investor also lead the second round, would not look good and was not necessarily in the best interests of the Company. The Company wanted to get additional value-added investors on board to expand the company's network and spread the control amongst multiple investors. Besides, Softbank and Roizen, as first round shareholders were conflicted. On one side as a board member she had a fiduciary duty to the company, on the other side, as a venture capitalist, she wanted to invest in the company for the lowest price possible. Medrano and the Kembels still felt the company was worth more.

The founders welcomed the safety net provided by Roizen's offer as they negotiated with shaken investors who were cautious about putting money to work in the wake of recent market events. The company still had enough cash to last until the end of May (see Exhibit 3 for DoDots financial statements), so there was still some but not much time to pursue additional investors. To make things more complicated, the Company faced significant dilution from the exercise of warrants by a creditor if the second round was not closed by May 15th. A condition had been written into the contract with the creditor that stated if the second round was not closed by that date, the conversion price for the warrants would switch from the Series B to the Series A price. As a result, the number of shares of stock issued to the creditor would increase dramatically. This meant that the company would in effect be giving a much larger slice of equity to the creditor. While this wasn't life threatening to the company, it provided a strong incentive to get a deal done sooner rather than later.

The company's other option if it didn't secure financing in short order, was to take a bridge loan at Softbank's standard bridge loan terms, while it continued to look for investors. Although Softbank's terms were more favorable to the borrower than those of some other investors, bridge loans in general were often viewed as a last resort by companies and investors and in extreme cases carried draconian terms. (See Exhibit 4 for the terms of the Softbank bridge loan.)

BACKGROUND:

George Kembel, John Kembel and Tony Medrano began working in the spring of 1999 on an idea for a new type of Internet company. (See Exhibit 5 for founders' biographies) George and John Kembel, identical twins, graduated from Stanford University with B.S. degrees in Mechanical Engineering in 1994. George pursued a sales and marketing career path while John focused on a more technical career in computer science. Both returned to Stanford for M.S. degrees in Product Design. George focused on technical marketing and John concentrated on software and product design. While in graduate school they met Medrano through personal contact. Tony, a former naval officer, high school physics teacher and JD/MBA student at Stanford, joined George and John in developing a business around technology which John had created and patented.

The idea was to bring consumer packaging and distribution to web content. The Company, DoDots, would provide online and offline companies with technology to enable web content to be "packaged, branded, and distributed" to customers outside of a web browser. Dots, as the team called them, were small, specific information and features such as weather, games, a dictionary, financial information or e-commerce (see Exhibit 6 for some examples of Dots). Dots could be open along with other applications on a desktop, and because of their small size, Dots displayed in about one tenth the time of a normal web page. Companies, the team felt, would want to use Dots to distribute content because of the benefits of having a single purpose, small window sporting that company's branding and style that could stay visible as users used other applications. Similarly, users would like the simplicity, ability to multitask, and fast downloads.

Through June and July 1999, Medrano and the Kembels met with venture capitalists to discuss their idea and show a working prototype of their application. The team used personal and academic contacts to put together meetings with several technology-focused venture capitalists.

In early July, the team was referred to Softbank partner Heidi Roizen by Tom Kosnik, a former professor of George and John whom Heidi had known for several years, as well as by Pete Hartigan, an associate at Softbank who worked closely with Heidi. Hartigan knew Medrano through his fiancée who had been a classmate of Medrano at the business school.

SOFTBANK VENTURE CAPITAL

In early 1996, SBVC was formed when Gary Raschel joined Softbank Holdings to head up their venture capital activities. The Softbank family of companies was headed by the vibrant Masayoshi Son, an entrepreneur who founded Softbank in 1981 as a software distribution company and by 1999 had developed it into a multinational diversified high technology organization with a market capitalization of nearly \$80 billion. Son developed an ambitious 300-year plan for Softbank that included the creation of a worldwide Internet "ecosystem," in which synergies among the many companies in which Softbank held stakes would be leveraged for maximum advantage. In keeping with this strategy, some of Softbank's central holdings were infrastructure companies like Yahoo!, E-Trade and ZDNet, which had distribution or other resources to offer other Softbank-backed companies.

Raschel and his partners took Son's zaibatsu vision to heart when they began directing Softbank's US investments, choosing deal and sectors that supported the global Softbank goal of "building a compelling, long-lasting Internet infrastructure." By early 2000, SBVC had \$4.9 Billion under management. Raschel told an interviewer that "because of the information that travels between Softbank's companies and our portfolio and how we really encourage them to work and communicate with each other... we get better information as investors." The synergies between companies were good for SBVC as well as for the companies involved, because they strengthened the overall network by fortifying each with its own talents.

Softbank had considerable Internet investing experience upon which SBVC could draw. Son envisioned Softbank as "the hub of a huge digital marketplace," and began investing heavily in Internet companies as early as 1995. Softbank's early stake in Yahoo! yielded not only enormous financial gains but also global business synergies: its presence in Softbank's portfolio gave other Softbank companies access to one of the most powerful distribution engines in the Internet economy of the late 1990's.

Heidi Roizen

Roizen, an outgoing, personable, former entrepreneur, joined Softbank as an investing partner in the spring of 1999. Roizen had spent the first decade of her career as CEO of T.Maker, the software company she co-founded while at the Stanford Business School. Through her roles as CEO of T.Maker, President of the Software Publishers Association, and later vice president of worldwide developer relations at Apple Computer, Roizen had developed a network that included many of the most powerful business leaders in the technology sector. Roizen was widely known for using the network that she had created to the benefit of many, and effectively combining social, community, and business relationships. She followed a set of guidelines that she had developed for how to leverage her relationships in a constructive manner to create win-win relationships for those involved. Roizen wore her family and home life into her career as well, and the family house was the site of everything from community planning sessions and dinner parties with the likes of Bill Gates of Microsoft and Scott McNealy of Sun Microsystems to company retreats.

The team's first meeting with Roizen took place at her home one morning at 8:00 AM before her daily jog. She was leaving town for a week, but on a strong recommendation from Hartigan wanted to meet with the team sooner rather than later. During the meeting, the team showed their product technology and answered her questions. The team and Roizen immediately hit it off. George recalled, "Heidi told us that she liked what we had shown her and she liked our work ethic; even though she recognized that we were young and inexperienced in running a company. She put us in contact with another of her partners, Scott Russell, to also hear our pitch."

Two days later the team met with Scott Russell. Russell also liked the idea, the technology and the team. Based on that meeting and Russell's input from Roizen, Russell made the team a tentative offer on the spot. Russell discussed how Softbank could help the company. DoDots, he thought, would fit in well with the Softbank portfolio, and be an excellent platform for the content produced by many of Softbank portfolio of over 100 Internet companies (see Exhibit 7 for a partial list of Softbank's portfolio). Scott explained that Softbank associates (known as Nerubus Development Officers) had specific responsibility for facilitating business development deals between the portfolio companies (in fact, approximately 50% of the NDOR's time was slated for the purpose). With so many Internet companies in the portfolio, the potential value to a "platform" company like DoDots was substantial. Following the meeting, Russell offered to draw up a term sheet and asked for the team's input on what they wanted to see in it.

George and John had given Tony full responsibility for investor negotiations especially those aspects dealing with legal matters. Tony himself had drafted several term sheets between his years in law school while working at Cooley Godward, a law firm specializing in the venture law. Tony went over the terms that were important to the company. Medrano was conscious of the fact that once terms were included in the first round term sheet it was very difficult to change them later. His goals were to ensure that the terms protected the founders and to avoid any terms that limited the upside potential of the company or had the potential to cause problems in future fundraising rounds. (See Exhibit 8 for a discussion of typical terms of preferred stock.) Tony also wanted John and George to receive a portion of their equity with immediate vesting for the work they had already done towards creating the technology and prototype. Board composition was also an important consideration and the DoDots team wanted to ensure that they did not lose control of the company. With DoDots' input, Russell had the term sheet drawn up and had it in their hands by that evening. The team considered the resulting terms (see Exhibit 9) to be extremely entrepreneur friendly.

To date, the team had been impressed with Softbank on several levels. Softbank had been very responsive, arranging meetings and preparing documents in short order. The extensive Internet portfolio, or "ecosystem" as Hartigan had referred to it looked promising for deal flow. To that end, the partnership enjoyed a philosophy of actively facilitating and supporting relationships between the portfolio companies. In addition, the team felt that Roizen and Russell seemed to "get it," that is they shared the vision of the founders for the company. As Roizen would be the partner to sit on the company's Board, along with George and John, the DoDots founders were very alert to the way in which she would interact with the company. Because Heidi had just recently started working at Softbank she did not have a large number of investments she was overseeing. To DoDots, this meant that they would get more of her time at the critical fundraising stages of the company. She was very interested in using her skills to help companies grow and had been explicit in communicating and committing to what she would be willing to do.

During the same time period, the team also began to have serious discussions with Menlo Ventures (Menlo). Medrano had originally approached Menlo based on a personal relationship he had developed with one of the Menlo partners, Doug Carlisle, while in business school. Menlo, a well-known and respected firm that had been in business for 23 years had numerous investments in Internet, e-commerce, communications, software and health care companies. Menlo was very interested in doing the deal. The DoDots team also felt comfortable with Doug Carlisle, having met with him several times to discuss the company and the value that Menlo could provide. Attractive to the team was the fact that the firm was actively involved with the vast majority of its portfolio companies, taking board seats on over 80% of them. However, the portfolio, while broad, had fewer content companies that would be candidates to partner with DoDots.

CLOSING THE FIRST ROUND

By the beginning of August, the team had received two term sheets - one from Menlo Ventures and one from Softbank.

The company was looking to raise \$3 million from two investors. Softbank proposed a \$4.5 million pre-money valuation with Softbank investing \$1.5 million, and another yet to be determined investor also investing \$1.5 million. Menlo Ventures had proposed a \$5 million pre-money valuation. The Menlo offer, although higher, carried with it some restrictive terms that would provide Menlo with warrants on 20% of the company in Series B with no more than a \$25 million pre-money valuation. While at the time \$25 million seemed generously high when compared to the current valuation, Medrano and the Kembels did not like the idea of signing a document now that capped the upside of value of the company in the future.

The team considered taking funding from both Softbank and Menlo, but the desire by each VC to lead the round left the company with a choice. Medrano and the Kembels felt that the good chemistry between themselves and Heidi Roizen, Softbank's entrepreneur friendly reputation, which had been backed up by their own experience to date, and the value of the Softbank portfolio led the DoDots team to accept the Softbank offer on August 21, 1999.

DEBT FINANCING

After DoDots received the term sheet from Softbank, the team continued to look for a complementary investor for the Company. At the same time, itching to begin building the Company, George, John, and Tony did not want to wait until venture money was "in the bank" to begin hiring people, getting office space, and buying necessary equipment. In early August, Medrano approached a personal contact who ran a commercial bank and obtained a \$250K line of credit for the company based on the pending equity financing. Medrano described the use of the funds and the implications on the value of the company.

"With this money, we signed a lease for our first office space and John hired Reactivy, a technology consulting company, to convert the prototype circuit to the production circuit. In the meantime we're talking to customers and getting initial customer verification of the product. Next we began hiring people internally. The result was that everyday the company was getting more valuable and we still hadn't closed our first round of equity financing. We decided to pursue more forms of debt financing with the goal of stretching the company's cash as far as possible. Give us a long runway" as they call it. Our goal was to finance as much of the growth of the company as we could while we did. We decided to forgo selling any more equity in the company than necessary. Letting another investor into the first round at a \$4.5 million pre-money valuation seemed foolish at this point. We were already worth much more.

Rather than raising \$3 million in the first round as originally intended, the company raised \$2M from Softbank at the previously agreed upon \$4.5 pre-money valuation. By the time that the investment closed on Sept 15, the company was employing six people. In early October 1999, Joseph Vetter, a former Microsoft Officer and Softbank limited partner asked to invest in the company. Medrano recalled,

"Vetter really liked the company and wanted to put a significant amount of money to work in it. He wanted to invest at the first round price, which we told him was impossible. We had specifically removed the provision from the Series A closing documents that would allow additional investors to come into the round after the closing. We also told him that we planned to raise the second round early in the next year, but intended to fund financing from venture capital investors and couldn't guarantee that there would be space in the round for individual investors at that time. However, if he chose, Vetter could purchase convertible debt. His investment would earn 10% interest and be senior to equity in the case of a liquidation, so there was less risk than an equity investment. However, at the time of the closing of the second round, his loan would convert into an equity investment at the B share price. It was good for the company and would also allow him to invest in the second round. He agreed and in early November purchased \$1.25 million in convertible debt."

As the company grew and George and John concentrated on steering the company and developing the technology, Medrano continued to pursue additional forms of debt financing to fuel its growth. Following the convertible loan from Vetter, in December the company negotiated an equipment line of credit from Western Technology Investments for the purchase of computer equipment and software in the amount of \$1.5 million. The equipment loan was secured by the assets purchased with the loan proceeds. The loan carried a 10% annual interest rate with the payments spread over 36 months, and 6% warrant coverage at the Series B share price. However an additional caveat was written into the contract which would price the warrants at the Series A price if a B round was not closed by May 15.

In February, the company further increased its leverage by obtaining \$2 million in commercial debt from Lighthouse Capital Partners. The terms of this loan included an APR of 10%, a balloon payment at the end of 36 months and 3.75% warrant coverage. These warrants were to be priced at the B round price.

Through this phase Roizen was continuously surprised by the DoDots team's ability to raise such advantageous debt financing.

"They stretched a \$2 million equity investment further than any company I had ever seen. Often investors frown on debt because it makes their interest further subordinated in the case that the company's assets are liquidated. Or it makes the company less attractive to new investors because rather than their funds going to build the company they are going to repay loans which the company previously took out. In this case however, we felt the company was strong and Tony, John and George had raised very attractive debt financing with very good terms that wouldn't require repayment for quite some time. We were in full support of it because it was good for the company."

Hartigan commented on the effect of the Company's fundraising efforts.

"Two of most important things to the growth of an Internet start-up, or any start-up for that matter are time and cash. DoDots used debt to get both."

Besides being supportive of the DoDots financing strategy, Softbank, specifically Roizen and Hartigan, helped extensively in recruiting and business development. Roizen's network and her strong belief in the idea and the team made her ideal for helping to find and "closing" key employees.

"Tony, John, George and I have an excellent working relationship. Much of this stems from the way we communicate. The team doesn't take up my time discussing every key decision they make. Rather they just keep me informed. For example, the team will often BCC me on important emails. If I feel I need to interject myself, I do. If they need me to take some action, they tell me exactly what it is. When they needed me to close on the VP of marketing, George sent me an email with the person's resume, his thoughts on why he wanted to hire this person, and when this person was expecting my phone call. I love that, that's efficiency."

George Kembel seconded Roizen's thoughts,

"Heidi has always done what is good for the company, and when we do well, like we have been the whole way, she's let us run with it. She's been there ready and waiting for what we ask her to do. We try to only ask her to do things that are fast and right up her alley and don't waste her time on things she shouldn't be doing."

GROWING THE COMPANY

Through the fall and winter the company continued to beat expectations relative to its milestones in terms of technology development, product development, partnerships, and growth. The founders and the Softbank team had planned for rapid growth and had put in place the infrastructure to enable it. From the hiring of the first employee, the issues of scale were addressed. The company's first hires were aimed at helping the company to grow rapidly while allowing the founders to focus on critical business and technical issues. The company's first hire was the Director of Human Resources, Dani Aggar. Medrano explained,

"We felt that if we intended to build a real company and grow quickly, we needed to be able to hire a large number of people and not have us spending all our time on that. We also needed someone to figure out how to pay everyone and set up benefits and other policies. The same goes for IT. We quickly hired the director of IT to set up the office, the network, our servers, and make sure all that ran smoothly. The last thing you want in a technology company is to have your CTO configuring laptops. By putting the infrastructure in place early we really facilitated our growth."

The topic of replacing the founders as the company grew had come up on a fairly regular basis in discussion among the founders. George, John and Tony wanted to ensure that the company had the right management as the company grew and had asked Roizen when would be the right time to get replacements. Roizen's response had been that if and when the time came that the job exceeded the founders' capabilities then the company could find a search for executive management. However, as long as the founders continued to excel as they had, Softbank was in favor of leaving the founding team in place. Roizen explained, "The only way to really get good entrepreneurs is to let them grow. We want to build leaders that we can find in their next businesses too, knowing that those businesses will even bigger and better because of the skills the entrepreneurs have developed."

PARTNERSHIPS

The DoDots team felt their technology would be valuable to just about any company that delivered content on the Internet. It would be especially valuable to those companies that benefited from frequent or constant contact with their users or that provided timely information that might be useful while users worked in other applications. Examples included calendars, news, and applications such as a dictionary dot that could be open alongside a word processor to allow users to quickly look up a word as they worked.

Softbank had been critical in helping DoDots to arrange its many of first partnerships with Internet content companies. In November 1999, SOFTBANK held its Annual Forum to give member companies a formal opportunity to meet and develop cross relationships within the portfolio. While most companies presented in a trade show format, DoDots, which was still in stealth mode, did not present on the floor. Roizen and Hartigan arranged for a separate room for DoDots to use and brought potential partner companies to meet with them privately. At the end of the forum, several companies had expressed strong interests in partnering with DoDots.

Softbank had also recently opened an incubator, termed the "Hotbank." Although DoDots was not located in the incubator, they took advantage of many of its benefits. Hotbank, located on the lower level of Softbank's new Mountain View offices, offered many of Softbank's seed-stage companies assistance with infrastructure items, outfitted office space provided at cost and perhaps most importantly incubated businesses had extensive informal access to their VCs because their offices were all housed in the same building. Business development and interaction between the companies was fueled by the shared spaces and resulting familiarity amongst the portfolio. DoDots team members would make regular visits to Hotbank to formally and informally interact with several of the companies that were a good fit with the DoDots platform.

By the end of December, as the beta version of the Dotz client neared completion, the company began finalizing its first strategic partnerships. Three of its first partners: AnyDay, ZDot, and PhotoPrint, all Softbank portfolio companies, had been introduced to DoDots through the efforts of Roizen and Hartigan. By April 2000, the number of partners inside and outside of SOFTBANK was 15 and growing.

RAISING THE SECOND ROUND

In February, by just about any measure, the company was "hot", even relative to other Internet companies that were raising a giant wave of investor interest that was pushing valuations and public offerings to new levels. Several private investors had expressed interest in the Company. DoDots partners and users were also pleased with the performance of the product. For the companies that distributed content via dots, duration and frequency, two key measures, were significantly higher in comparison to browser based page views. Duration, a measure of how long a customer would keep the window open was up on average by over 1800% when compared with browser based page views. In addition several dots linked to the sites themselves and resulted in increased traffic to the sites. Because DoDots provided both a distribution platform and a packaging technology as well as links and a subscription service, the company benefited from multiple revenue streams from its partners. Revenue had also exceeded expectations as the number of users and their use of the Dotz grew ahead of expectations. Underlying all the performance based value were the company's numerous proprietary patented technologies that had significant value in themselves.

In mid February, the executive team made a presentation to the SBVC partners, as a "warm-up" for the presentations that they would be making to potential financiers over the next month. This marked the first time that some of the Softbank partners had met the team in person. In the presentation, the company showed its progress to date and discussed the plans for the future. When the question of valuation came up, Medrano stated that under a conservative revenue scenario, they felt the company was worth \$150 million pre-money, however if things really went the way the company expected on revenue, growth, and expected partnerships, the company could be worth \$300 million pre-money. If so, the Company could raise enough capital at that valuation to allow it to grow even faster, pursue the acquisition of strategic targets and take it to an IPO. Not knowing what reaction to expect by proposing such a high valuation, he was somewhat surprised when the partners, although noting that \$300 million pre seemed on the high side, encouraged the team to get a great investor at what the market would offer. Following the presentation, the partners applauded. Roizen indicated that Softbank would follow with their pre-25% (23% of the round) at whatever valuation the lead investor and the company determined.

Medrano described the effect that the meeting had on the company,

"The Softbank partners, were amazingly supportive. After our presentation in February, they started introducing us to all their portfolio companies, even more so than they had before. They began advocating us to the press. They helped establish other business development relationships. Really all of Softbank kind of came by and said, 'Wow, this is a great company. We're all really going to get behind you and do whatever we can to help leverage you guys in our companies. That was a great experience."

Within a week of starting to pursue additional funding the team had met with several investors including Kleiner Perkins Caufield and Byers, Technology Crossover Ventures, Bowman Capital, and Chase H&Q.

CHASE H&Q

Following two meetings with Chase in San Francisco, a group of Chase partners went to the DoDots office on March 10, 2000 for further discussions. Charlie Walker, a partner that had recently joined Chase as a part of the merger with Hambrecht and Quist led the group. Walker didn't mind words. The company was very attractive to Chase, however the business model was new and there was significant risk. There were not comparables on to base a valuation and if Chase was going to invest, DoDots was going to have to agree to numerous terms which protected Chase in a number of scenarios. Medrano described the discussion,

"Charlie has a very strong style, very much what I would call 'Chicago banker'. It was a far cry from our initial discussions with Softbank, but these stakes were also a lot higher. Before the meeting, I had pretty good idea of what to expect in the discussion so I made sure that as a management team, George, John, some of our other senior people and I discussed the various scenarios that we would accept so that I could comfortably speak for the team in the negotiations. For example, Walker wanted downside protection for his investment, including a full ratchet, which meant the risk to founders losing control and equity in the case of financial difficulties was much higher. We would only agree to that with some limits and a high valuation."

The discussion was heated with Medrano and Walker going head to head on a number of issues. By the end of the four-hour meeting, the parties had agreed to a set of terms (see Exhibit 10) and a pre-money valuation of \$275 million. Chase along with its affiliate, Access Technology Partners, would invest \$25 million of a total round of near \$60 million. Walker put the terms on the table and told the management team, "This is a one time deal, either you agree to the terms now and sign the term sheet, or we pull it off the table. I can barely justify this type of valuation." After a five minute private meeting of the management team with Medrano briefly explaining the implications and confirming George and John's consensus, Medrano agreed to the terms. The term sheet, while non-binding would be the basis for the much more detailed closing documents that Chase's lawyers would put together over the coming weeks.

That same day, March 10, 2000 marked a day in the history of the NASDAQ index. The following weeks saw precipitous drops in the market indices with Internet stocks leading the fall. Tony began receiving indications, directly and indirectly that many of the Chase partners were uncomfortable with the deal as negotiated.

Through this period, Roizen was fully behind the company. Medrano recalled, "Heidi was very supportive and was trying to help us close the round. She would be on the phone with Chase saying, 'You guys need to do this deal, this is great, here are some things they've done, here's more people to talk to and more references.'"

In early April as the market continued its slide, Walker called saying that Chase had decided to not invest \$25 million but would put in \$20 million if Softbank would also contribute the same. Roizen approached her partners with the offer, Softbank's pro rata was 33% and Roizen had discussed with the company several times that Softbank didn't want to take much more than that because it wasn't really good for the company. However, still realizing that the deal was great for the company, Roizen and her partners agreed to put in \$20 million if that would convince Chase to close the deal. Softbank even agreed to terms that would give Series B shares better liquidation preference than Series A shares. Meanwhile, the team continued to talk to potential third investors. Several potential investors were interested in the company, but not at the price. Others were watching the market and stated they were not making investments until things settled down. "We're just not putting money to work right now", was a common response.

In the meantime, the market continued to slide and the deal still hadn't made much progress. Keeping a close eye on the company's cash, Medrano became frustrated with the delays. They had started the fundraising process with 3 months of cash in the bank. But as of mid-April with a month and a half almost gone, 80 people on the payroll and still no closed deal, he started to get concerned.

"Fortunately, we had been conservative in how much time it would take to close the round, so we weren't in immediate trouble, but we weren't exactly comfortable. Several other company's with less cash reserve, suffering from the same market jitters in the investment community were having to take bridge loans at very unfavorable terms, 50% warrant coverage and the like, other were planning for fire sales. That was not a position that I wanted this company to be in. Theoretically we might have been able to convince some of the potential investors that we spoke with to come in at a lower price, but with a term sheet sitting on the table at 275, we didn't want to shoot ourselves in the foot by taking less unless it became necessary. Besides, we were, admittedly floated on the valuation that Chase had given us, and we desperately wanted to close that deal!"

On April 17th, Medrano received a call from Roizen breaking the news that Chase had decided to pass on the deal. "They thought it would be a good idea if I talked to you first", she said, "Talk to them and listen to what they have to say. Then let's see what else we can put together. I have no doubts that this company is a going concern. We're not going to let it run out of money."

Chase offered to renegotiate and possibly lead the round. The company, still wanting a well known investor, but cautious of putting all the company's eggs in one basket began pursuing other options, including re-approaching some of the investors that had expressed interest but didn't like the price. With the previous deal off, the price was back on the table. Medrano found that several investors were interested, but after seeing the lead pull out, and with the market continuing to fall, many had adopted a wait and see attitude.

One potential investor had been interested in the company for several months. Jon Stansberg, a Stanford GSB alumna and ex-Microsoft executive who ran Stansberg Venture Capital, a small VC fund out of Seattle, had wanted to invest in the company the previous autumn when he found out about DoDots through an introduction from Roizen. Roizen had felt Stansberg's connections and location made him potentially a strategically attractive investor for DoDots. Stansberg's fund had investments in a broad portfolio of companies, in which he often took an advisory role. The fund typically made smaller investments as a follow-on investor with some of its investments to date over \$3 million. Following several rounds of discussions, On May 2, Stansberg offered to invest \$2 million and lead the round at a \$125 million pre-money valuation. Medrano knew that having a small investor who was not very well known in the valley lead a deal with a relatively small investment was a risky strategy, but the company needed cash, and if it happened quickly the company would also avoid the additional dilution caused by offering Western Technologies' warrants.

The lead investor generally sets the terms, sets the valuation for the company, puts in the largest investment, and often takes a seat on the Company's Board of Directors. In this case, Stansberg would set the terms and valuation, but would not take a Board seat nor, if all went well, be making the largest investment.

Medrano took a moment to think about the current situation as well as the future of the Company. Medrano strongly believed the Company had a great future. He knew that the decisions that they made now would have long reaching implications. Two months before, when the Company started to raise this round of financing, everything had seemed to proceed to plan and the Company's options looked great. Now, a huge portion of the valuation had disappeared, the Company was scrambling to get money, and the Company had pretty limited short-term options. Should the company try to close the round with Stansberg as the lead investor? Medrano wondered if other investors would follow and what the impact would be on future rounds. The company was rushing to close the deal to avoid the repricing of the Western Technology warrants on May 15th. In the grand scheme of things, Medrano wondered if that was worth it. Regardless, the company still needed cash or at least would in a couple of weeks. If not Stansberg, should the Company take the bridge loan and hope to attract other investors or did having Softbank lead with an equity investment make sense?

EXHIBIT 1 - NASDAQ COMPOSITE INDEX MAY 1999 TO MAY 2000

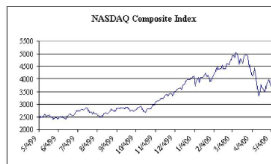


EXHIBIT 2 - INTERNET SECTORS INDICES

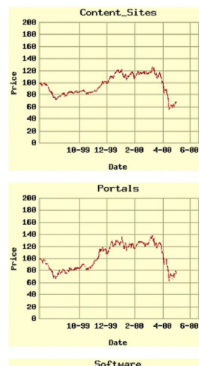




EXHIBIT 3 - DO DOTS CASH FLOW AND INCOME STATEMENT

DoDots, Inc

Income statement
Months of March 2000

	2000	2000	2000	%
Revenue	-	1	(0)	100%
Cost of revenue	-	-	(1)	100%
Gross profit	-	1	(0)	100%
Operating expenses:				
Product development	(800)	(402)	(200)	80%
Sales and marketing	(200)	(400)	171	-43%
General and administrative	(228)	(262)	43	-18%
Total operating expenses	(1,028)	(1,110)	19	-1%
Operating loss	(1,028)	(1,109)	12	-1%
Interest income	1	8	(7)	-88%
Interest expense	(37)	(46)	23	-50%
Net loss	(1,119)	(1,147)	28	-2%

The overall loss is near budgeted levels. Product development expenses are larger than planned primarily as a result of call center start up costs and an increase in allocated depreciation expense.

Sales and marketing expense are less than forecasted primarily as a result of headcount being less than planned. General and administrative expense are less than forecasted due to program development having a larger proportion of depreciable expense than originally planned.

Cash flow statement
Months of March 2000

	2000	2000	2000	%
Cash flow from operating activities:				
Net operating loss	(1,119)	(1,140)	27	-2%
Adjustments to net operating loss:				
Depreciation and amortization	112	69	66	111%
Change in receivables	11	19	(8)	-42%
Change in accounts payable	(107)	51	(40)	-78%
Change in prepaid expenses	22	28	(6)	-21%
Change in other assets	(1)	(1)	21	-20%
Net cash used in operating activities	(1,003)	(996)	65	-6%
Cash flow from financing activities:				
Proceeds from issuance of common stock	(80)	(150)	107	-68%
Net cash used in financing activities	(80)	(150)	107	-68%
Cash flow from investing activities:				
Proceeds from sale of equipment	4	4	4	100%
Proceeds from sale of intangible assets	219	115	264	230%
Proceeds from other financing	1,189	109	1,080	100%
Payment of purchase on capital lease	(20)	(20)	4	-20%
Net cash provided by investing activities	2,012	122	1,890	151%
Net movement in cash and cash equivalents	829	(99)	1,028	-103%
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	273	2,728	(1,870)	-68%
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	1,102	1,629	479	29%

Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period are greater than expected. This is largely a result of the \$1 million loan received from the lender in March 2000. The increase in cash and cash equivalents is primarily due to the sale of intangible assets and the sale of equipment. The increase in cash and cash equivalents is primarily due to the sale of intangible assets and the sale of equipment.

DoDots, Inc

Income statement
Months of April 2000

	2000	2000	2000	%
Revenue	-	7	(0)	100%
Cost of revenue	-	-	(7)	100%
Gross profit	-	7	(0)	100%
Operating expenses:				
Product development	(400)	(307)	(22)	75%
Sales and marketing	(200)	(400)	120	-40%
General and administrative	(170)	(200)	(70)	-24%
Total operating expenses	(,770)	(,907)	137	-14%
Operating loss	(,770)	(,840)	70	-8%
Interest income	1	8	(6)	-75%
Interest expense	(80)	(46)	(10)	-25%
Net loss	(,849)	(,838)	11	-1%

The overall loss is near budgeted levels. Product development expenses are larger than planned primarily as a result of call center start up costs and an increase in allocated depreciation expense.

Sales and marketing expense are less than forecasted primarily as a result of headcount being less than planned. General and administrative expense are less than forecasted due to program development having a larger proportion of depreciable expense than originally planned.

Cash flow statement
Months of April 2000

	2000	2000	2000	%
Cash flow from operating activities:				
Net operating loss	(,849)	(,838)	11	-1%
Adjustments to net operating loss:				
Depreciation and amortization	112	69	66	111%
Change in receivables	11	19	(8)	-42%
Change in accounts payable	(107)	51	(40)	-78%
Change in prepaid expenses	22	28	(6)	-21%
Change in other assets	(1)	(1)	21	-20%
Net cash used in operating activities	(,693)	(,682)	11	-2%
Cash flow from financing activities:				
Proceeds from issuance of common stock	(80)	(150)	107	-68%
Net cash used in financing activities	(80)	(150)	107	-68%
Cash flow from investing activities:				
Proceeds from sale of equipment	4	4	4	100%
Proceeds from sale of intangible assets	219	115	264	230%
Proceeds from other financing	1,189	109	1,080	100%
Payment of purchase on capital lease	(20)	(20)	4	-20%
Net cash provided by investing activities	2,012	122	1,890	151%
Net movement in cash and cash equivalents	1,239	(103)	1,342	-12%
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	273	2,728	(1,870)	-68%
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	1,512	1,625	113	7%

Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period are greater than expected. This is largely a result of the \$1 million loan received from the lender in March 2000. The increase in cash and cash equivalents is primarily due to the sale of intangible assets and the sale of equipment. The increase in cash and cash equivalents is primarily due to the sale of intangible assets and the sale of equipment.

EXHIBIT 4 - SAMPLE TERMS OF SOFTBANK BRIDGE LOAN

SOFTBANK TECHNOLOGY VENTURES V. L.P.
Summary of Terms for Proposed Bridge Loan (SAMPLE)
XXXX
April 30, 2000

Borrower: Sample
Investor(s): SOFTBANK Technology Ventures V. L.P.; Outside Lender
Principal Amount of Loan: An aggregate of \$X million (the "Principal Amount"). The individual investment amounts for each Investor is as follows:
Softbank: \$ XXXX,XXX
Outside Lender: \$ XXXX,XXX
Interest / Payment: Interest shall accrue on the outstanding Principal Amount at a rate of 8% per annum, simple interest ("Interest"). The outstanding Principal Amount and any accrued and unpaid Interest shall become due and payable on demand at any time on or after July 30th, 2000, unless this loan is converted pursuant to the terms of the loan.
Conversion: Upon completion of the Company's issuance and sale of Series C Preferred Stock (the "Series C Financing") of gross proceeds of at least \$XXX,000,000, the outstanding Principal Amount and accrued and unpaid Interest shall automatically convert into shares of such Series C Preferred Stock at the price paid by the investors in the Series C Financing (the "Series C Price"). The Series C shares to be issued upon conversion of this loan shall be entitled to the same rights and subject to the same obligations provided in the purchase agreement and related documents entered into with investors with respect to the Series C Financing.
Warrant Coverage: Each Investor shall be entitled to convert its full share of the outstanding Principal Amount plus accrued and unpaid Interest as provided above regardless of its pro rata rights in the Series C Financing. The Investors shall receive warrants to purchase shares of Series C Preferred Stock at the Series C Price in a number equivalent to twenty five percent (25%) of the Principal Amount divided by the Series C Price. If by July 30th, 2000, the Series C Financing, of gross proceeds of at least \$XXX,000,000, is not closed then the warrant coverage for the Investors will increase in a number equivalent to five percent (5%) of the Principal Amount divided by the price of the Series C Financing every 30 days. In the event the Series C Financing does not occur by September 30th, 2000, at the Investors' election, the above warrants shall be issued at the price of the Series B financing in a number equivalent to twenty five percent (25%) of the Principal Amount divided by the price of the Series B financing.
Legal Fees & Expenses: The Company shall bear its own fees and expenses and shall pay the reasonable fees and expenses of Investor Counsel.

Acknowledged and agreed:
SOFTBANK TECHNOLOGY VENTURES V. L.P.
By: _____
Print Name: _____
Title: _____
SAMPLE CO
By: _____
Print Name: _____
Title: _____

EXHIBIT 5 - FOUNDERS' BIOS

George Kember, Chief Executive Officer and Founder
George Kember, a DoDots co-founder, has extensive starting and managing successful companies, most recently as founder and president of ENGA/E Corporation. The firm attracted numerous Fortune 500 and prestigious clients, including GVO, LeapFrog, and Interval Research. Previously, John worked as a software engineer at Intel and holds multiple patents assigned to Intel Corporation for software development. He has also served as a Design Engineer at IDEO, where he worked on consumer and technology product development, and as the lead software and database engineer for a Stanford University archaeological 3D-mapping expedition on the Peruvian Andes. He has received two national awards for excellence in engineering design. George holds a B.S. degree in Mechanical Engineering from Stanford and a M.S.E. degree in Product Design with focus on high-technology marketing and corporate strategy, also from Stanford.
John Kember, Chief Technology Officer and Founder
John Kember, a DoDots co-founder, was also a founder of ENGA/E Corporation where he served as chief technology officer focused on new technology architecture and development. The company attracted numerous Fortune 500 and prestigious clients, including GVO, LeapFrog, and Interval Research. Previously, John worked as a software engineer at Intel and holds multiple patents assigned to Intel Corporation for software development. He has also served as a Design Engineer at IDEO, where he worked on consumer and technology product development, and as the lead software and database engineer for a Stanford University archaeological 3D-mapping expedition on the Peruvian Andes. He has received two national awards for excellence in engineering design. John holds a B.S. degree in Mechanical Engineering from Stanford and a M.S.E. degree in Product Design, with focus on embedded software, architecture and protocols, also from Stanford.
Tony Medina, President and Founder
Tony Medina, DoDots co-founder, gained his first experience in the venture finance arena at Cooley Godward LLP, where he worked with numerous entrepreneurs, venture capitalists and investment bankers. Previously, he was an Engineering and Operations Officer in the U.S. Navy, where he was awarded the Navy Achievement Medal for outstanding leadership and management of a 100+ person department. He has also taught physics. Tony holds a B.A. from Harvard, an M.A. from Columbia University and attended the J.D. and M.B.A. programs at Stanford University.

EXHIBIT 6 - SOME DOTS



- DO DOTS PARTNERS**
- [AnyDay.com](#)™ - online DayPlanner
 - [BlueLight.com](#) - totally free Internet service
 - [Broad Daylight, Inc.](#) - interactive Q&A content
 - [dDrow.com](#) - relationship advice and chat
 - [eHow™](#) - how to do just about anything
 - [Epinions.com](#) - unbiased advice to help your buying decisions
 - [GreatRestaurants.com](#) - restaurant reviews and reservations
 - [JumboMall.com](#) - online shopping mall
 - [Kiba](#) - an online world for teen girls
 - [LiveMind](#) - applications for anywhere, anytime e-commerce
 - [Merriam-Webster](#) - online dictionary and thesaurus
 - [mySimon™](#) - online shopping assistant
 - [Noomedia.com](#) - integrated digital media solutions
 - [PCWorld.com](#) - online resources for PC users
 - [PhotoPoint](#) - make photos accessible to the world
 - [Snapfish](#) - film development and online sharing
 - [StartSampling](#) - free sample products
 - [Work.com](#) - online business portal
 - [ZDNet](#) - technology news and information
 - [Zapt.com](#) (formerly i2e2) - computer game community

EXHIBIT 7 - PARTIAL LIST OF SBVC PALUX PORTFOLIO COMPANIES

- | | |
|---|--|
| Altera Technologies, Inc. | Intellect, Inc. |
| AspenTech Ltd. | International ThinLink Corporation (ITC) |
| Autodesk, Inc. | InterTrust Technologies Corporation |
| Aut Technology Group, Inc. | INVESTools (acquired by Teleca) |
| Aut, Inc. Inc. (acquired by Geac Imaging, Inc.) | Intuitive Worlds, Inc. |

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DoDots, Inc.
Summary of Key Terms for Proposed Private Placement
of Series B Convertible Preferred Stock
March 16, 2009

Issuer:	DoDots, Inc. (the "Company")
Type of Security:	Series B Convertible Preferred Stock ("Series B Preferred")
Amount of Investment:	\$65,000,000 <i>vs \$70M</i> \$12 million from SOFTBANK & affiliates \$12.5 million from Chase Capital Partners ("CCP") \$12.5 million from Access Technology Partners ("ATP") \$15 million from other new investors
Dividends:	8%, non-cumulative
Pre-money Valuation:	27.5 <i>vs 30</i> \$100 million fully diluted by unissued options
Anti-dilution:	Full ratchet, with customary exceptions <i>18 months</i> 30% to 15% Full Ratchet
Liquidation Preference:	2.5x or Participation, at holder's option <i>Below 70% weighted</i>
Right of Redemption:	Redeemable at cost plus accrued dividends on 12/31/04
Board Seat:	Company (2), SOFTBANK (1), ATP/CCP (1), & Industry (1)
Automatic Conversion:	Upon IPO if at 2x cost, plus \$20 million in proceeds 8% per annum
Voting Rights:	On an as converted basis, except for Protective Provisions
Protective Provisions:	Consent of Series B for sale, merger, liquidation, dividends
Registration Rights:	As per industry standard
Right of First Offer:	Pro Rata on up to 50% of each round for Preferred
Employee Stock Option Pool:	Vesting as per Series A term sheet
Information Rights:	Monthly, Quarterly and Annual (indirect) financials
Fees and Expenses:	Company to pay for counsel fees and technology review
Conditions to Closing:	Completion of due diligence review; Approval of ATP and CCP Investment Committee; No Material Adverse Change to Company's Business; Satisfactory Documentation
Not a Firm Commitment:	This term sheet shall not constitute a firm, binding commitment

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Do Dots (B)
STUDY QUESTIONS

- From an entrepreneur's standpoint, what factors do you consider important in selecting a VC firm. What aspects are desirable in a relationship with a venture capital investor and vice versa. Based on the information presented in the case, under what scenarios might the relationship between Roizen and the team at DoDots cause problems?
- Compare the Company's first round term sheet from Softbank with its original second round term sheet (from Chase). What are the main differences? What rationale could you provide for these differences? What effect might the new terms in the Chase term sheet have had on the Company going forward? When might these terms hurt the company or Softbank?
- What are the pros and cons of debt financing for the Company? Existing investors? New investors?
- Discuss the conflict of interest between company and first round investor during in second round related to valuation. Evaluate Softbank's actions in this respect. What problems may arise if the company accepts Softbank's offer to also lead the second round?
- Put yourself in the role of an advisor to the company at the time of the case. If asked, what would you tell Medrano to do about the second round? Do you consider the Western Technology warrant issue to be significant enough to be a deciding factor?

This case was prepared by Keith Ligg under the supervision of John Glynn, Lecturer in Management, Stanford University Graduate School of Business, as the basis for class discussion rather than to illustrate either effective or ineffective handling of an administrative situation.

For confidentiality purposes some facts and numbers in this case have been changed. These changes should not affect the readers conclusions.

This case was made possible by a gift from H. Michael Stevens.

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[1] Special thanks to HBS High Tech Fellow Mary Rotelli for her research on Softbank which is included here

[2] Alex Gove, "Softbank Antes Up," Red Herring 6/1/96

[3] Interview with Bruce Francis, CNN's Anchor, Digital Jam 2/4/99

[4] Brian Bremner and Linda Himmelstein, "Softbank Cyber Keirstein," Business Week, 4/5/99

[5] For an excellent discussion of the career of Heidi Roizen, see HBS Case study N9-900-228 80 January 18, 2000

[6] Often, the deal documents allow for additional investors to come in after the closing for some predetermined length of time.

[7] Western Technology Investments would receive stock warrants worth \$90,000 (6% of the \$1.5 million loan). The actual number of shares would be calculated based on the share price in the B round, or in the event the B round was not closed by May 15, the conversion would be based on the share price in the A round (\$0.25).

[8] The ABC's of Convertible Preferred Stock. Craig W. Johnson, Chairman, Venture Law Group