Real Options in Practice: Two Examples from the Energy Sector



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Outline

What is different about Real Options?

- Modeling options and managerial flexibility
- Valuing cash flows
- Example 1: New Technology
 - **Example 2: Offshore Opportunity**
 - Conclusion

Why Real Options Valuation (ROV) ?



Real Options Valuation (ROV) combines and extends DCF, Option Pricing, and Decision Analysis

The two dimensions of Real Options Valuation



What are real options?





What are real options?

Add Flexibility to Abandon Project (Put Option)



Value cash flows with appropriate risking

- Use option pricing to model "market" (e.g., price) risk:
 - Apply risk-adjusted probabilities to capture risk premium (can determine from futures and options markets)
 - Use decision analysis to model "private" (e.g., volume) risk:
 - Apply subjective probabilities to risk "non-tradable" assumptions (can determine from historical databases and expert assessments)
- Discount the resulting risk-adjusted cash flows at risk-free discount rate

Who uses ROV?*



Learning

 Enhance subsequent decisions (option value) by incorporating learning on new information

 Learning occurs at differing speeds and in a variety of ways



Learning







Graphs courtesy of ADA(PwC)

ROV is not simply a better tool. It is an objective, all-embracing process.



Example 1: New Technology

- From commercial standpoint, relatively unproven technology
- More than one source of technology, with providers at differing points in development and experience
- Anticipate variations in technology performance and costs, depending on provider



Questions

- Should we make a major commitment to this technology?
- What commercial opportunities exist for application of this technology in the long-term?

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- In the short-term, on which commercial opportunities and technology provider(s) should we focus?
- How does commercial application of this technology look from a portfolio perspective?

Areas of major uncertainty

- For each provider, technology effectiveness and cost
- For each provider and location, installation and operational costs
- Prices of inputs and end-products
 - Potential for non-technical delays
 - Contractual terms and taxes in various locations



Decisions to be evaluated

- Which technology provider(s) should we use?
- Should we do more testing before committing to the technology?
- What implementation size is best?
- What implementation schedule is best?
- When should we take advantage of potential synergies?



Approach taken

- Modeled approximately 10 separate opportunities
- Evaluated 3 separate schedules
 - Treated as a "portfolio" of opportunities
 - Placed significant emphasis on learning from project to project within each schedule



Sources of option value



Relative value of learning*

With Options

100% -50% **Without Options** 0% Fully Learning Fully Fully Learning Fully Risked Value Risked Risked Value Risked Value, No Value Value, No Value Learning Learning

* learning about technology, operating efficiency, operating costs, and capital costs

Keeping all technology providers available is the best choice



No single provider is always the best choice

For most opportunities, having a choice of technology providers is best

Example 2: Offshore Opportunity

- Harsh or unique conditions
- May be little or no infrastructure in place
- Costs are higher

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- **Operations more difficult**
 - Large reserves

Areas of major uncertainty

- Amount of oil and gas
- Recoverable oil and gas
- Drilling and platform costs
- Value of oil and gas
- Impact of delays



 Contractual terms, regulations, political issues, special environmental issues

Decisions to be evaluated

- What size should the platform be initially?
- Should the platform be expandable?
- When should we expand the platform? How much?
- Should the development plan be rapid or staged?
- Should we handle production from other opportunities?

Sources of option value



Optimal strategy map

DeltaConnect to
nearby platformMedium platformLarge
platformCammaExitMedium platformLarge
platformLowNominalHigh

Test Reserve Results

Calculations and Analysis





The long-term challenge is a cohesive, enterprise solution



