SURVIVAL AND GROWTH OF CHINESE PES AND VCS

中国的私募基金和风险投资如何在逆流中求得生存和发展

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I. Introduction

So you've heard of the global recession.

What are you doing about it? It's not really an unusual question—you PE and VC colleagues are asking the same thing and waiting for someone else to answer it. Most have sat on the sidelines to see when others will jump into the market and start putting money to work. Given the highly uncertain outlook for the immediate future, Chinese PEs and VCs are understandably anxious about their survival and potential for growth against the backdrop of the economical meltdown.

But in any economy, there is money to be made and deals to do.

The Chinese word "Wei Ji" perfectly describes the potential that is present in the current economic climate. Roughly translated, Wei Ji means "Risk and Opportunity." In other words, where there is increased risk of failure, there is also dramatically increased potential for success. Despite the fact that Chinese PEs and VCs are currently weathering an economy unlike any seen in past 80 years, now is the time for Chinese PEs and VCs to seize investment opportunities that will blossom in 3-7 years.

一、前言

你一定不会对"全球金融危机"感到 陌生。

那么,你采取了什么策略呢?这个问题早已司空见惯,你的私募基金和风险投

资同僚们正提出同样的问题,等待着别人来回答。大部分人选择隔岸观火,想看看别人选择什么时机搏击市场,开始运作资金。由于近期市场前景相当模糊,中国的私募基金和风险投资对自己能否在经济逆行的风浪中生存和发展非常忧虑,这也的确情有可原。

但是在任何经济情势下, 钱总是有 得赚, 交易也总是有得做。

中文里的"危机"一词完美地诠释了目前经济环境中显现出来的发展空间。 危机的字面意思是"风险和机遇",也即 只要风险提高,成功的可能性也就大增。 尽管中国的私募基金和风险投资正遭遇着 80年未遇的金融风暴,但现在也是他们紧 紧抓住未来3到7年内大量投资机遇的时刻。

II. Cases Analyses

A look at several investments made by Chinese PEs and VCs can provide insight into the challenges, as well as the opportunities accompanying the recession:

l.Private Equity Investment in Astronergy On 20 March 2009, Astronergy, a subsidiary of the Chint Group in China, successfully secured USD \$50 million from Cybernaut China Investment and Shanghai Lianhe Investment, two Chinabased private equity investors. Chint Group is a leading player in the low-voltage electrical, power transmission and distribution industries in China. Astronergy, founded in October 2006, locates in Zhejiang and has reached 100 megawatts of annual protection capacity. It is a

world-renowned expert in thin film PV technology as well as solar energy. It is committed to reaching 380 megawatts of production capacity by 2010. Astronergy' s successful capital raise is but one example of the continuing trend in China toward hi-tech rather than low tech manufacturing, and the trend toward green industries and alternative energy. With the global economy crawling along, particularly in the consumer industry that China has historically relied on as its manufacturing backbone, it makes sense that Chinese companies are shifting focus to address global demand to improve efficiency, cut costs and be more socially responsible.

2.China's Real Gold Mining IPO in Hong Kong

The IPO of Real Gold Mining Co. Ltd. ("Real Gold") successfully raised around HK \$ 1.03 billion on the Hong Kong Exchange on 23 February 2009. Real

Gold focuses on mining of gold and processing of ore into concentrates containing gold and other minerals for subsequent sale. Real Gold owns three operating mines situated in the northeastern provinces of China, such as Liaoning Province. Real Gold has allocated 90% of the shares on offer to international institutional investors and remainder to retail investors in Hong Kong. In contrast with Astronergy, Real Gold is a commodity/mining/heavy industry play. Heavy industry is one of the traditional backbone industries in China. The Real Gold case highlights that there is still money to be made in traditional Chinese industries, particularly in the interior regions of China. Over the past several years, investment in the coastal cities has been the preferred track, but trailblazing in the more remote parts of China is yielding outsized returns.

3.Siemens Financing for Beijing Newcom

On 20 March 2009, Beijing Newcom Traffic Technology Co., Ltd. ("Beijing Newcom") successively completed a Series A round, which was led by Siemens Venture Capital ("Siemens"). Beijing Newcom is a leading traffic information services provider whose technology and operational experience could help numerous cities of China to improve traffic efficiency.

Beijing Newcom shows that the right timing is vital for getting funded. It is obvious that traffic efficiency has been an increasingly serious problem for China, and one that will only get worse with time, but hosting the Beijing Olympics underscored for everyone the need to alleviate China's traffic problems. Beijing Newcom undoubtedly saw the opportunity to showcase its solution against one of the most public opportunities available—the Olympics—and captured the attention of Siemens (among other VCs of course). Like every good investment, Beijing Newcom demonstrated a pressing need and a compelling solution.

二、案例分析

分析几例中国私募和风投的投资实例,便可清楚地了解到伴随着经济危机出现的挑战和机遇:

1、2009年3月20日,正泰集团旗下公司正泰太阳能科技有限公司(Astronergy),成功向两家中国私募投资者赛伯乐成长基金(Cybernaut China Investment)及上海联和投资(Shanghai Lianhe Investment)募集5000万美元资金。正泰集团是国内低压电器、电力传输及供电业的领军企业,而2006年10月成立的浙江正泰太阳能科技的年保护容量已达一亿瓦,是全球知名的薄膜光电技术及太阳能专家。公司承诺2010年的保护容量将达到3亿8千万瓦。

正泰太阳能科技的成功集资仅是中国 从低端科技生产向高端化过渡的一个体 现,也是发展绿色产业和替代性能源趋势 的一个体现。在全球经济滞缓,尤其是中 国企业曾经赖以生存的消费产业不景气的 逆境中,本次募集充分展示了中国企业正 开始从迎合全球市场向提高效率、控制成 本及承担更多社会责任转型。

2、中国瑞金矿业有限公司(Real Gold Mining Limited)在香港首次公开募股

2009年2月23日,中国瑞金矿业有限公司成功在香港交易所募得约10亿3千万港币的资金。瑞金矿业专注于黄金开采业务,并对矿石进行加工,成为含黄金及其化矿物的精矿,以供销售。该公司拥有三座坐落在东北的经营中的矿山,如辽宁省。瑞金矿业已向国际机构投资者发行了90%的股份,其余的股份则向香港零售投资者发行。

和正泰太阳能科技相反,瑞金矿业是一家从事采矿的重工业企业。重工业是中国的传统产业支柱之一。瑞金矿业的案例充分说明中国的传统产业依旧有利可图,在中国内陆地区更是如此。在过去的几年中,向沿海城市投资一直备受青睐,但开拓中国边远地区的市场却能给投资者带来意想不到的巨大收益。

3、西门子牵头北京航天智通科技有限 公司完成融资

2009年3月20日,北京航天智通科技有限公司(Beijing Newcom)在西门子创业投资有限公司(Siemens)的牵头下,成功完成首轮融资。北京航天智通科技有限公司是中国市场最全面的智能交通信息服务提供商,其先进的技术和丰富的运营经验能帮助成千上万的中国城市提高交通运输效率。

北京航天智通的案例说明融资的关键 在于把握准确的时机。很明显,交通运输 效率问题已经成为中国面临的日益严重的 问题,且随着时间的流逝将变得更加严 峻。而举办北京奥运会更令每个人感受到 缓解中国交通压力问题的迫切需要。北京 航天智通无疑是看准了奥运会这个最重大



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公共项目所提供的机遇,并提供了问题的解决之道从而吸引了西门子创业投资的注意(当然也包括其他风险投资公司)。同所有成功的投资一样,北京航天智通既看到了高涨的需求,也提出了出色的解决之道。

III. Conclusion

The cases discussed are just a small sample of the opportunities that exist for Chinese PEs and VCs. Each indicates a possible avenue of putting RMB to work in China. Some key points to take away for Chinese PEs and VCs operating in the current economic climate: (1) invest in the trend— for

Astronergy, that was technology, greentech and alternative energy; (2) invest where China wants you to invest—hi-tech, green and alternative energy companies such as Astronergy are encouraged by government policies, as is investment in China's interior region (in the case of Real Gold); and (3) stick to the basics—find a big problem that needs solving and that will be around for a while, such as the case of Beijing Newcom.

三、结论

上述案例仅仅是中国私募基金和风

险投资者们所面临的机遇中的几个例子 且每个案例都各说明了一条在中国进行 资本运作的途径。以下提供一些中国私 募基金和风险投资在当下经济情势中的 操作注意: (1)投资要紧跟潮流—— 如正泰太阳能科技,应走技术、绿色科 技和替代性能源道路; (2)到中国最 需要的地方去投资——如高科技、绿色 替代性能源企业正泰太阳能科技便取得 了中国政府的政策鼓励,在中国内陆地 区投资同样如此(如瑞金矿业); (3)抓住根本——寻找急需解决但可 能阶段性持续的重大问题,如北京航天 智通科技公司。■