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相關與非相關多角化策略:以能力與價值活動為基礎之研究

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相關與非相關多角化策略:以能力與價值活動為基礎之研究

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相關與非相關多角化策略:以能力與價值活動為基礎之研究 Related and Non-Related Diversification: A Capability-Based and Value-Activity-Based Perspective

計畫編號: NSC 97-2410-H-004-026

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計畫主持人:黃國峯助理教授 國立政治大學企業管理學系

相關與非相關多角化:以能力與價值活動為基礎之觀點

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壹、導論

多角化策略在策略管理的領域中,一直是主要探索研究的議題之一。傳統多角化之研究,在界定多角化之相關性,尤其在實證研究上,多以產業或次產業之類別來分類;而在過去有關多角化績效之實證研究,證明無多角化之企業的績效較多角化之企業的績效佳;在企業多角化下,相關多角化之企業的績效較非相關多角化之企業為佳。然而,上述的實證研究,亦多以產業別編碼,來做為判斷多角化事業之相關性,這樣的分類方式,雖在過去許多研究中已經被驗證,但是,我們仍舊對過去的研究結果裡所無法解釋的現象感到好奇,例如:若依據傳統產品別或產業別定義下的非相關多角化事業,其績效表現應該會比較差,但是,若不同的產品別或產業別之事業,卻是使用相同的核心能力,其績效真的會比較差嗎?果真如此,這樣的推論似乎與 Hamel & Prahalad (1994) 的核心競爭力的推論相異。因此,本研究認為有必要以不同的構面,重新檢視企業多角化的策略議題。所以,本篇論文的研究問題包括:

- 1. 界定企業多角化事業相關程度的構面有哪些?
- 2. 依據本研究所探索之構面,企業多角化事業策略的種類可能有哪些?
- 3. 企業多角化事業策略對績效之影響為何?

在回顧多角化相關文獻後,本研究發展出一個新的概念性架構,來分析企業多角化的策略。這個架構,以事業所需能力相似程度與價值活動相似程度為兩個構面,發展成一個2×2的矩陣架構,即「能力/價值活動多角化策略矩陣」,並區分成四種多角化事業類型:「高度相關多角化事業」、「能力相關多角化事業」、「價值活動相關多角化事業」、以及「非相關多角化事業」。然後,以這個概念性架構為基礎,本研究以 K 公司的個案,來進行探索性的分析,驗證這個架構的有效性。K 公司為台灣一家製造砂輪的公司,近年來進行多角化事業擴展,包括鑽石碟、再生晶圓、與光學玻璃鏡片。依據個案分析結果,本研究得到幾個研究命題,例如:高度相關多角化事業擁有較佳之財務績效、市場績效、以及創新績效;能力相關多角化事業(再生晶圓事業),亦會有較佳的財務績效以及創新績效之表現。本研究的最主要的貢獻,在於提供一個與過去研究不同的概念性架構,用來分析企業多角化程度與企業績效之關係,並試圖解釋不同多角化事業,如何藉由能力與價值活動的綜效產生,達到競爭優勢的目標。

貳、文獻探討

多角化策略在策略管理的領域中,一直是主要探索研究的議題之一。本章節將首先回 顧有關多角化定義之研究,接著將探討過去對多角化程度之文獻,最後,將回顧有關企業 多角化績效之文獻。希望透過對多角化文獻之檢視,藉以探索出新的界定企業多角化事業 相關程度之構面。

一、多角化之研究

Ansoff (1957) 將多角化區分為三類:垂直多角化(Vertical Diversification)、水平多角化(Horizontal Diversification)、以及橫向多角化(Lateral Diversification)。其中,「垂直多角化」是指企業以上、下游的價值活動作為多角化的標的;「水平多角化」是指企業以新產品進入既有目標市場;「橫向多角化」則是定義為企業多角化進入與原先不同的產業。Ansoff (1965) 以企業成長的觀點為基礎,認為企業多角化是指企業在新市場提供新的產品,強調新市場與產品與既有市場與產品的綜效發揮。Ansoff (1957, 1984) 由企業既有的市場與產品兩個構面來看,來界定企業四種多角化策略:市場滲透策略(Market Penetration)、市場擴張略(Market Development)、產品擴張策略(Product Development)、以及產品多角化策略(Product Proliferation)。「市場滲透策略」是指企業在原有的產品與既存的目標市場上,擴大市場佔有率,最常見的即是水平購併的方式;「市場擴張策略」是指企業利用原有的產品,開拓新的目標市場區隔;「產品擴張策略」則是指在既存的市場區隔裡,開發新的產品;而這裡所謂「產品多角化策略」,是指當企業同時開拓新的目標市場與發展新的產品。此外,Ansoff 依據產品及技術特性,將橫向多角化再細分為「集中多角化」(Concentric Diversification)與「複合多角化」(Conglomerate Diversification)。

Wrigley (1970) 以產品類別為構面,將多角化區分為四類:單一產品企業(Single Product Firm)、核心產品企業(Dominant Product Firm)、相關產品企業(Related Product Firm)、與無關產品企業(Unrelated Product Firm)。

而 Rumelt (1974) 則將多角化定義為企業進入新產業、新產品線、或新的產品市場。 Rumelt 並更進一步將多角化區分為「相關多角化」(Related-Linked)、「相關限制多角化」 (Related-Constrained)、以及「非相關多角化」(Unrelated)。「相關多角化」是指當企業各事業雖有共同的產品與目標市場,但各事業以不同的職能為主要營運事業,比較類似垂直整合的策略;「相關限制多角化」是指企業各事業雖有不同的產品與目標市場,但卻共同依賴的類似的技能、能力、或資源;最後,「非相關多角化」則是指企業內各事業不僅產品與目標市場不同,且所依賴的技能、能力、或資源相異。

Aaker (1984) 認為,企業可以透過購併或重新設立一個事業單位來進行多角化策略。 而 Aaker 將多角化區分為「相關多角化」與「非相關多角化」。Aaker 認為,相關多角化是 指兩個事業間在營運活動上,包括:研究發展、生產技術、或市場配銷通路上,具有若干 共通性,可藉由規模經濟之產生,或兩個事業間之技能與資源之交換,產生綜效,進而追 求企業整體的最大利潤。反之,非相關多角化是指兩個事業間在營運活動上並無共通性, 以致於兩個事業並無綜效之效益。 Varadarajan & Ramanujam (1987) 以兩個構面:企業所跨的產業數以及個別產業內產品平均數,提出一個雙構面多角化分類矩陣模型,當企業所跨的產業數多且個別產業內產品平均數亦多時,則定義為「高度多角化」;當企業所跨的產業數少但個別產業內產品平均數多時,則定義為「相關事業多角化」;當企業所跨的產業數多但個別產業內產品平均數少時,則定義為「非相關事業多角化」;當企業所跨的產業數少,且個別產業內產品平均數亦少時,則定義為「低度多角化」。

從上述的多角化的文獻回顧中,可歸納出研究多角化策略的學者,大多以產品、市場、 或產業,來區分多角化事業策略,並作為衡量各個事業間的相關程度之構面。然而,Rumelt (1974) 提到界定多角化事業間的相關程度,除了以產品與市場是否相同來區分外,也應該 以考量多角化事業間所共同依賴的技能、能力、或資源是否相同。而 Aaker (1984) 亦指出, 多角化事業之相關程度,應該以各個事業間在營運活動上是否具有共通性來區分,這裡的 營運活動,即是研究發展、生產技術、或市場配銷通路等營運流程,亦稱為價值活動。然 而,後續的學者在做多角化相關研究時,多以產品、市場、或產業來作為企業多角化策略 的劃分構面,且以產業別或事業別作為操作性定義,進行實證研究。以產品/市場、產業、 或事業作為多角化程度的衡量構面,其優點是客觀、簡單、易懂,且實證操作便利,但可 能缺點,則是忽略到企業在資源能力的交互運用之特性,以及價值活動共通性的考量。舉 例來說,雖然汽車產業、電腦產業、與食品產業是不同的產業別,但對零售通路業而言, 汽車零售業的營運流程,可能與電腦零售業或食品零售業的營運流程差異不大,都是屬於 零售通路業的營運流程,若以產業作為區分多角化之相關性,卻可能是歸類在不同的產業 別內,這樣意味汽車零售業與電腦零售業或食品零售業是低度相關多角化事業,但若企業 可以轉移或複製在汽車零售業營運流程上的特殊能力或資源於電腦零售業或食品零售業, 則以產業別作為區分相關程度之方式,似乎不太能完全詮釋企業多角化策略的現象。因此, 本研究認為,除了以產業或產品來作為界定各事業多角化程度的構面外,應該試圖用不同 的構面,例如:所需資源能力、或營運流程,來探討企業多角化事業的相關程度。

而 Hamel & Prahalad (1994) 則試圖從核心能耐 (Core Competence) 來看企業競爭力建立之策略,他們以既有的能耐 (Competence) 與產業 (Industry) 為兩個構面,來分析企業應該如何發掘核心競爭力,藉由這兩個構面,可區分四種建立競爭力的策略:填空 (Fill in the Blanks)、白色地帶 (White Spaces)、十年後第一 (Premier plus 10)、以及機不可失 (Mega-Opportunities)。「填空」是指企業應該在既存的產業裡,充分發揮自身既有的能耐,把沒有填補的市場機會填補起來;「白色地帶」是指企業是否運用目前既有的能耐到新的產品/服務或產業裡;「十年後第一」是指企業應該思考十年後可能在既有產業內所需的新的能耐,並試圖即早建立並發展該新的能耐;「機不可失」是指企業必須探索未來主流產業的主要競爭能耐為何,即早建立並發展該新的能耐,以掌握先機。

雖然 Hamel & Prahalad 這個架構並非是探索企業多角化策略的議題,但其分析架構的 構面之一一企業的競爭能耐,卻提供我們有價值的研究啟示,尤其在多角化事業之相關程 度的研究。若企業以同樣的能耐或能力,在不同的產業從事多角化事業,在傳統多角化的定義下,這些事業是屬於非相關多角化事業或低度相關多角化事業,然而,就 Hamel & Prahalad 的論點而言,是否在原來的產業或新的產業發展新事業,並非重點,企業的競爭優勢是否能持續,則是視企業是否能以原有競爭能耐發展新事業,而傳統多角化相關程度之分類方式,可能無法確實描述這些多角化事業間的競爭力之移轉與複製,因為即使高度相關的多角化事業(以產業別區分),可能所依賴競爭能耐是不同的,以產業別這樣的分類方式,對我們探索企業的競爭優勢的來源,是相對沒有意義的。因此,本研究第一個研究問題即是,除了以產業、產品或市場為構面來界定企業多角化事業相關程度外,是否有其他構面更適合地用來描述或界定企業多角化事業相關程度?綜合本節的文獻回顧,本研究認為 Rumelt (1974) 所提到的能力或資源,Aaker (1984) 所提的營運活動(或價值活動),以及 Hamel & Prahalad (1994) 所提的競爭能耐,皆比產業、產品或市場等構面,更能深入描繪出企業多角化相關程度與競爭優勢之關係。

二、多角化程度之研究

過去的研究中,在衡量多角化程度時,有些學者以企業在不同市場所提供產品的異質性程度來界定,即以兩種產品在兩個市場中的替代彈性程度來衡量,替代彈性程度低,表示產品異質性高(Gort, 1962);另外,有些學者主張以企業所涉及的產業數目之增減(Berry, 1975),或是所涉及之事業數目之多寡(Wood, 1971; Pitts, & Hopkins, 1992),來界定多角化程度的高低。

最常見的多角化程度衡量方式有兩大類,一類是以 Wrigley (1970) 與 Rumelt (1974) 所使用的絕對衡量法 (Categorical Measure),絕對衡量法是先依據企業多角化的特性,給予分數,再比較事先定義好的多角化之類型,予以分類。例如:Rumelt (1974) 以 SIC (Standard Industrial Classification,標準產業分類) 為基礎,發展出企業各事業在產品與市場的相關程度之衡量指標,包括:專業比率(Specialization Ratio, Rs)、相關比率(Related Ratio, Rr)、垂直比率(Vertical Ratio, Rv)、以及相關核心比率(Related-Core Ratio, Rc),依據這四個指標,可以區分成九種多角化的類型。Rumelt 是以事業銷售額佔企業總銷售額之比率來計算這些指標。

另一類衡量方式為連續衡量法(Continuous Measure),是依據企業從事多角化事業的規模,在相關與非相關多角化間找出一個相對值。最長見的分類方式,是以標準產業分類碼(SIC Code)來計算。Wood (1971) 以企業所跨 SIC Code 之兩碼的事業數目,來區別企業多角化程度,稱為寬幅多角化(Broad Spectrum Diversification);另外,又以兩碼產業內為基礎,計算在該兩碼產業中所跨四碼行業別的數目,代表企業在該產業內所涉及產品數目多寡,稱為窄幅多角化(Narrow Spectrum Diversification)。這種多角化程度計算方式的優點,在於操縱簡易,但由於並未加權計算每一產品類別所銷售的金額,可能無法真正辨別企業多角化的方向與重心,這是傳統以標準產業分類碼計算多角化程度的最大缺點。

因此,後續的學者針對此問題,提出修正的計算方式,尤其又以Jackquemin & Berry (1979) 所提出的Herfindahl指標與Entropy指標的衡量方式,最廣為使用。Herfindahl指標的計算方式,為公司各部門銷售佔公司全部銷售比之平方和,當Herfindahl指標值愈接近 1 時,表示企業的銷售愈集中在某些部門,則多角化程度較低,反之,多角化程度較高。至於Entropy指標的計算方式,則是以跨SIC code兩碼產業間多角化構面,與兩碼產業內跨四碼的產業內構面為基準,以各事業部門佔總銷售額的比例乘以各事業部門權重¹,計算而得到Entropy指標。由於Entropy指標比Herfindahl指標能更進一步同時反應出產業間多角化程度與產業內多角化程度,充分把非相關多角化(產業間)與相關多角化(產業內)之程度反應在企業多角化程度上,因此,愈來愈多策略管理的學者使用Entropy指標來衡量企業多角化之程度,例如:Ramanujam & Varadarajan (1989)用Entropy指標的衡量方式之兩個構面,區分成四種多角化類型。

總結上述的文獻,衡量企業多角化之程度,不論是用標準產業分類碼、Herfindahl 指標、或是 Entropy 指標,皆是以產業別之編碼(兩碼或四碼)來作為衡量方法,主要原因是過去在做企業多角化的研究時,多以產品、市場、產業等構面來區分,因此,引用標準產業分類碼是最直接且客觀的衡量方式。然而,承上節末所論述,企業的競爭優勢是否能移轉到新的多角化事業,用傳統標準產業分類碼之衡量方式,並無法確實描述這些多角化事業間的競爭力之移轉與複製與多角化程度之關係,這對我們瞭解企業如何在各多角化事業間產生綜效的幫助較少,我們只能從產業別來瞭解這些多角化事業的相關程度,至於資源、技術、或能力的運用,並無法在傳統衡量多角化程度的方式彰顯出來,因此,我們有必要從其他構面,以及其相對應之衡量方式,來探索企業多角化事業的相關程度。

三、多角化程度與企業績效之研究

企業多角化最主要的動機,在增加多角化事業間的規模經濟(Aaker, 1984)與範疇經濟(Teece, 1980, 1990)之效益,此外,從交易成本的觀點來看,企業多角化可以創造內部資本市場,讓各事業單位能利用內部資本市場,進行資訊與資源的分享,以解決外部市場的資訊不對稱之問題(Williamson, 1975)。若從綜效(Synergy)的角度去看,多角化的目的是在於新舊事業間能力之移轉與價值活動之共享(司徒達賢,2001)。從產業生命週期的觀點來看,企業多角化之動機可能是逃離產業前景不好的事業(Rumelt, 1974),或新機會之掌握(司徒達賢,2001)。而更有些學者認為,企業多角化的目的,可能在於多點競爭的均衡地位,以減輕競爭者相互競爭之程度(Bernheim & Whinston, 1990;司徒達賢,2001)。企業多角化雖然可能帶來上述的效益,但相反地,也可能必須面臨一些成本,例如:高階管理人才的不足(Grant, Jammine, & Thomas, 1988),各事業間的協調成本增加(Markides, 1992),沒有效率之投資(Lamont & Polk, 2002),以及管理者的代理成本(Jensen & Murphy, 1990)。

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¹ Entropy 指標的權重是以公司各事業部門自身銷售比率的倒數再取對數之值(Jackquemin & Berry, 1979)。

從上面的文獻整理,可以瞭解企業多角化雖可以創造效益,但也可能產生一些成本, 因此,研究企業多角化與企業績效的實證研究,成為許多學者探索企業多角化的主要議題。 過去對於企業多角化程度與企業績效之相關研究,所得的結論相當分歧,除了有無顯著關 係的結論外,亦有正向關係,或負向關係的結論,甚至非線性關係的研究結果。

Imel & Helmberger (1971) 發現企業多角化程度與獲利無顯著關係; Christensen & Montgomery (1981) 發現相關多角化與非相關多角化對績效之影響並無顯著關係,所在產業才是導致績效不同之因。

Elgers & Clark (1980) 在美國主要購併事件的研究發現,企業購併方在購併事件後會有利得,意味多角化與企業績效呈現正向關係。Michel & Shaked (1984) 以 Rumelt (1974)多角化分類方式來衡量多角化程度,研究發現非相關多角化,企業比相關多角化企業有顯著較高的股東價值。Jose, Nichols, & Stevens (1986) 的研究亦發現企業多角化程度對企業績效(以 Tobin's q 衡量)有正向的影響。

Rumelt (1974) 的研究,主要發現多角化程度與企業績效呈現負向關係,就財務績效而 言,企業採取集中策略或相關多角化策略較採取垂直策略或非相關策略為佳。Bettis (1981) 採用 Rumelt (1974) 的分類方式進行研究,發現企業採用相關多角化策略之績效,優於非相 關多角化策略之績效。而 Bettis & Hall (1982) 驗證 Rumelt (1974)的研究結果,他們發現 Rumelt (1974)的樣本內,相關集中多角化的企業較多來自高獲利之產業,經樣本調整後, 相關與非相關多角化策略之績效並無顯著差異。然而,Rumelt (1982) 在調整過產業因素 後,依舊發現多角化策略之財務績效 (ROA),會隨著多角化的程度增加而降低,即單一事 業或重點集中事業之 ROA 最高,非相關多角化之 ROA 最低。Palepu (1985) 採用 Jackquemin & Berry (1979) 的分類方式,亦得到採用高度相關多角化策略之企業的績效,較採用高度 非相關多角化事業的企業之績效為佳。Varadarajam & Ramanujan (1987) 也得到類似的結 論,證明相關多角化企業之 ROI 與 ROE,較非相關多角化企業為高。此外,Keats (1990) 亦 採用 Rumelt (1974)的分類方式為根據,來探索企業多角化程度對企業各種績效之影響,研 究結果發現,重點事業與績效無關,相關多角化與市場績效和會計績效有顯著關係,而非 相關多角化只與市場績效有顯著關係。Comment & Jarrel (1995) 的研究亦發現,企業事業 的集中度會提高企業價值,即多角化會造成企業價值下跌。Denis, Denis, & Yost (2002) 與 Lamont & Polk (2002) 亦有類似的結論,企業多角化與企業價值呈現負向關係。

Rosenberg (1977) 的研究發現,多角化程度與權益報酬率呈現正向關係,但與市場佔有率卻呈現U型關係,亦即市場佔有率較低或較高時,企業比較傾向多角化策略。Khanna & Palepu (2000) 的研究發現,以 Tobin's q 與 ROA 作為績效的衡量指標,企業在多角化程度較低時,績效較差,但隨著多角化的程度到一個水準之後,績效就會呈現上升的情形,即企業績效會隨著多角化程度先降後升。

由上述的文獻回顧中,早期產業經濟學者的研究發現,多角化程度與企業績效並無顯著的關係(Gort, 1962; Arnould, 1969),但後期策略管理的學者卻指出多角化與企業績效呈現系統性的關係,包括正向關係、負向關係、或非線性關係(Rumelt, 1974; Montgomery, 1982),會出現不同的研究結果的原因,最主要在於衡量企業多角化程度的方式是不同的;早期產業經濟學者是計算產品類別來作為多角化程度的指標,而策略管理的學者多根據Rumelt (1974) 分類的方式計算多角化程度,因此,會影響到研究結果的不同(Palepu, 1985)。此外,因為研究目的之不同,造成不同的研究對於企業績效的操作性定義也都不盡相同,所以,研究結果自然會有差異。雖然過去研究多角化程序對企業績效影響之結果十分分歧,但從上述的研究中,大致可以歸納出下列兩個主要結論:(1)單一事業的企業之企業價值較多角化事業的企業之企業價值高;(2)相關多角化之企業價值又較非相關多角化之企業價值高。

雖然過去對於多角化與企業績效的研究,已十分豐富且詳盡,但由於多角化分類的類型與績效衡量的方式不同,因此所得之結論也不盡相同,而本研究試圖探索新的構面,來作為企業多角化分類的方式,因此所對應之企業績效的衡量方式,也可能需要適切的指標來衡量,以配合新的分析架構。除了傳統過去衡量企業績效的指標外,例如:獲利率(ROA或 ROE)、企業價值等外,本研究也考慮將把企業創新績效的指標(例如:專利權數)納入衡量指標中,由於企業能力的因素是本研究架構的主要研究構面,因此反應企業能力的創新績效的指標,應該納入企業績效之討論。

叁、理論架構發展

從上一章節的文獻回顧中,有三個主要研究問題值得我們再驗證。首先,對於多角化的分類之構面,除了可以從傳統的構面(例如:產品、產業、或市場)來衡量外,是否可以從企業的能力或事業的價值活動來衡量?其次,若使用新的分類方式,則企業多角化的類型可能有哪些?企業如何在不同的多角化類型中發展與成長?最後,在新的構面與分析架構下,企業多角化與企業績效之關係為何?

前面文獻提到,雖然過去的研究中,多以產品、產業、或市場等構面來分析或衡量多角化,但 Rumelt (1974) 提到,企業各事業雖在不同的產品與目標市場,但所依賴的技能、能力、或資源卻有可能是相似的,亦可算是相關多角化的一種,若只是從產品或市場來決定企業多角化的程度與分類,可能會忽略掉 Rumelt 所歸類的限制型的相關多角化,因此,本研究的第一個多角化之構面,希望從企業所擁有的能力之角度切入來探索。其次,Aaker (1984) 亦指出,多角化事業之相關程度,應該以各個事業間在營運活動上是否具有共通性來區分,這裡的營運活動,即是研究發展、生產技術、或市場配銷通路等營運流程,亦可稱為價值活動(司徒達賢,2001),因此,本研究的第二個多角化之構面,是以企業所從事

之價值活動的相似度來衡量。下面分別就能力與價值活動兩個構面,做更進一步的定義與 討論。

一、所需能力相似程度(Capability Similarity)

兩事業之能力相似度如何衡量,是本篇研究的主要重心之一。過去學者對能力的定義,主要是指部署與應用資源的能力 (Amit & Schoemaker, 1993)。由於能力往往來自於許多資源的集合,學者們往往將能力也列入資源的定義中 (Barney, 1991; Peteraf, 1993)。除此之外,Grant (1991) 認為,能力乃指廠商以員工為基礎的能力,或是代表人力資源與其他資源的互動。Teece, Pisano, & Shuen (1997) 認為描述廠商的動態能力 (組織與管理的流程、特定資產地位、與廠商的路徑)是達到創新競爭優勢的來源。Fahy (1997) 也認為,廠商的能力包括個人與組織的能力。個人能力指的是員工由於其工作內容與流程,所產生的知識與經驗。組織能力則是為了達成某種任務,將兩種或兩種以上資源綜合運用的資源。綜合上述的文獻,本研究所定義的能力,是為廠商為了達成競爭優勢,所必須擁有的資源與能力,包含個人的能力與組織的動態能力。

對於能力的相似度之衡量,過去的學者也有類似的定義。Chen (1996) 曾經在他的競爭分析模型中採用資源相似度(Resource Similarity)的構面,來衡量企業與其競爭者所擁有的關鍵資源是否相似。此外,Peteraf & Bergen (2003)的競爭者定位分析模型,亦以競爭者間的能力相關性(Capability Equivalence)以及市場需求同質性(Market Needs Correspondence)等兩個構面,來分析企業所可能面對的競爭者。Peteraf & Bergen 把能力相關性定義為不同公司的特定資源或特有能力之相關程度,相關程度高的,表示其資源或能力相似;反之,相關程度低的,表示其資源或能力相異。因此,本研究以能力相似度(Capability Similarity)來作為衡量企業多角化之第一個構面,即要達成競爭優勢,兩事業所必須擁有的資源或能力之相似程度。

二、價值活動相似程度(Value Activity Similarity)

承如前面的討論,過去的文獻多以產品、市場、或產業作為分析多角化之構面,但是,有時不同的產品,其價值活動是高度相似,例如:筆記型電腦製造與手機製造,因此,以產品或產業來作為區分事業多角化相關程度之構面,可能會有所偏差。本研究認為,應該以事業所從事之價值活動來判斷多角化相關程度,不同事業若其主要事業之價值活動相似,則即使是產品或產業不同,其多角化相關程度,應該會比相同產品或產業但價值活動相似度低的事業來得高,因為價值活動高度相似之兩事業,其營運流程類似,雖然產品或產業不同,但只要補足該產品或產業所需之能力,則亦可很容易進入該事業。然而,若在相同的產業中,但所從事的事業其營運流程相似度低(例如:一個事業只從事研發之價值活動,而另一個事業只從事行銷通路之價值活動),則兩個事業所可以共享資源與能力較少,不一定容易產生綜效。因此,以主要事業營運流程或價值活動之相似度來衡量,可以

提供我們另一個角度來探究企業多角化之相關程度。

本研究價值活動相似性之構面,是以不同事業間所從事價值鏈活動之重疊性來衡量,若其從事價值活動的重疊性愈高,則價值活動相似程度愈高;反之,若其從事價值活動的重疊性愈低,則價值活動相似程度愈低。價值活動的重疊性之衡量,本研究將以司徒達賢(2001)之價值單元的概念為基礎,將各事業所涉及之價值活動展開,再來判斷各事業間的價值活動之重疊性。

三、能力/價值活動多角化策略矩陣

在定義上述兩個衡量多角化的構面,所需能力相似程度與價值活動相似程度,我們可以用這兩個構面,發展成一個 2×2 的矩陣架構,來分析企業多角化策略類型。圖一即是「能力/價值活動多角化策略矩陣」。

價值活動相似程度 Value Activity Similarity

High

Non-Related Diversified Value-Related Diversified Low **Business Business** 非相關多角化事業 價值活動相關多角化事業 所需能力相似程度 Capability Similarity Capability-Related Highly-Related Diversified **Diversified Business Business** High 高度相關多角化事業 能力相關多角化事業

Low

圖一、能力/價值活動多角化策略矩陣圖

(一) 高度相關多角化事業

當企業欲多角化之事業的價值活動與原事業之相似性高,且所需能力相似程度高時,則定義此事業為高度相關多角化事業。本架構所謂之高度相關多角化事業,是以能力與價值活動兩個構面來衡量,與傳統以產品與市場所定義之高度相關多角化事業不同,因此,在與過去研究做比較性研究時,必須特別留意架構的不同所造成結論的差異。例如:在本研究的架構下,台灣企業從事筆記型電腦製造與手機製造,應該屬於高度相關多角化事業(因為所從事之價值活動與所需之能力皆高度相似);但若以傳統之產品與市場的分類方式,例如Rumelt(1974),則筆記型電腦製造與手機製造,則不是屬於高度相關多角化事業,而是相關限制多角化事業(因為產品不同)。

(二) 能力相關多角化事業

當企業欲多角化之事業的價值活動與原事業之相似性低,且所需能力相似程度高時,則定義此事業為能力相關多角化事業。企業在進行能力相關多角化事業時,主要是以原先擁有的核心競爭能力為主要考量基礎,來判斷企業在多角化時,是否可以把此舊有核心競爭能力應用在新事業上,即使原事業的價值鏈活動與新事業的價值鏈活動的相似度不高,但舊有核心競爭能力可以有效應用在新的事業上,並成為新事業的核心競爭能力。

(三) 價值活動相關多角化事業

當企業欲多角化之事業的價值活動與原事業之相似性高,且所需能力相似程度低時,則此定義事業為價值活動相關多角化事業。當企業在進行價值活動相關多角化事業時,主要是以從事事業之價值活動為主要考量基礎,來判斷企業在多角化時,是否可以把此舊有的事業複製應用在新事業上,即使原事業的能力與新事業的能力的相似度不高,但由於價值活動或營運流程相似程度高,只要企業能適切地內部發展或外部取得新事業所需的能力,則還是可以享有因價值活動相似所創造之綜效。

(四) 非相關多角化事業

當企業欲多角化之事業的價值活動與原事業之相似性低,且所需能力相似程度低時,則定義此事業為非關多角化事業。同樣地,由於構面的不同,本研究的非相關多角化事業與過去的研究定義不同,且研究結果可能相異。例如,傳統上以產品或產業為構面的研究,汽車製造與銷售可能是汽車產業的相關多角化事業(因為產品相同,都是汽車),但若依照本研究的分類方式,則汽車製造與汽車銷售可能屬於低度相關或非相關多角化事業,因為汽車製造與汽車銷售所需的能力不同,且兩事業的價值活動相似程度亦不高(製造與銷售的價值活動或營運流程重疊性不高)。

在瞭解「能力/價值活動多角化策略矩陣」的基本概念後,另一個值得探索的問題,是在這個架構下,企業如何進行多角化策略?過去多角化的研究,皆以產品、市場、或產業作為企業多角化考量的依據,然而在商業實務上,企業在做從事多角化事業之決策時,雖然會考慮從事的產業與產品是否是企業所熟悉的,但更重要的是,企業從事這新的事業所需的能力是否具備,或是可以從舊有的事業移轉或複製所需的能力。此外,若從事相似營運流程的事業,企業會比較容易駕輕就熟。因此,本研究希望藉由個案研究的方式,檢驗企業進行多角化事業所考慮的因素,以及是否可以用「能力/價值活動多角化策略矩陣」之架構,更貼切地瞭解企業如何進行多角化。

四、能力/價值活動多角化策略矩陣與企業績效

由於本研究「能力/價值活動多角化策略矩陣」之架構與過去的架構相異,因此衡量績效的指標將有些許差異,除了傳統上所考慮的一些績效指標外(例如:獲利率、或市場佔有率),本研究亦將企業創新績效指標納入考量,由於企業的能力為本研究架構之一個重要構面,而能力所展現的績效,除了財務績效或市場績效外,創新績效亦是呈現企業能力的指標之一。此外,本研究亦想要瞭解在不同多角化事業中,企業創新績效之表現為何,因此,本研究將把創新績效納入企業績效的考量。

本研究的財務績效指標,將以企業的獲利率來衡量(例如:ROA、ROE、或毛利率);市場績效指標將以市場佔有率來衡量;創新績效指標將以累積專利權數目來衡量。有了這些衡量企業績效的指標,我們就可以探索「能力/價值活動多角化策略矩陣」中的四種多角化策略(包括:高度相關多角化事業、能力相關多角化事業、價值活動相關多角化事業、以及非相關多角化事業)的企業績效。在前面的文獻回顧中,過去的研究歸納出企業採相關多角化之事業策略,其財務績效比採非相關多角化事業策略的企業之績效來得佳(Rumelt, 1974, 1982; Palepu, 1985),因此,本研究將在「能力/價值活動多角化策略矩陣」之架構下,初步探索多角化程度與企業績效之關係。

肆、研究方法

本研究之研究方式,主要是以個案研究的方式,來探索衡量企業多角化程度的構面,以及多角化程度與企業績效之關係。因為本研究的性質是屬於概念性與探索性之研究,以個案研究的方式,可以對研究問題,做更深入且精確的探索與描述,並藉由深入的個案訪談,並歸納與分析資料,形成初步的理論架構與命題,以供後續實證研究之基礎(Eisenhardt,1989)。而本研究主要研究目的,是希望可以從企業多角化形成之原因與動機,藉以找出影響企業多角化程度的新構面,因此,使用個案研究的方式,比較可以滿足本研究之目的。

本研究的個案選擇方式,是採取計劃性抽樣與便利性抽樣的方式,來選擇適合本研究目的之個案。計劃性樣本抽樣,是透過某些主觀性的標準設定,選擇對研究有貢獻之樣本,而非代表性的樣本,此種抽樣方式適合使用在探索性的研究(Churchill, 1995)。此外,考慮到個案深度訪談之耗時性,所選之個案企業必須充分配合研究之需求,因此,本研究亦採取便利性抽樣,個案公司與本研究之執行單位有長期性的關係,可以使本研究取得較豐富且真實的資料,以供探索性之研究。最後,本研究的個案研究將採取單一分析單位之多個案研究法(Yin, 1989),而本研究之分析單位將以企業的事業單位(Business Units)作為分析單位,所以將以一個企業內的多個事業部位為研究對象,即是分析單位為事業單位的多個個案之研究。

本研究是探討企業多角化的探索性研究,所以研究對象的個案公司,其從事的事業必 須至少有兩個以上;其次,本研究的理論架構,是建築在能力與價值活動等兩個構面之上, 因此希望所選取的個案公司,在其從事的價值活動是比較長且完整的²。此外,由於本個案是研究企業多角化,因此所選擇之個案公司要有多角化發展的經驗。基於上述的研究需求,本研究所選取的個案公司,是屬於製造業的企業,且具有多次多角化的經驗。在審慎地與專家學者討論後,決定以K公司作為本研究的個案企業。

本研究的個案訪談對象,是以事業單位總經理為主要訪談對象,另外,輔以部門內各級員工為次要訪談對象,如此可避免只由單一層級訪談之主觀偏差。個案訪談以半結構式的訪談(Semi-Structured Interview)為主,以一訪談大綱為主,於訪談前一週寄給受訪人,除了讓受訪者可以事先瞭解訪談主題外,在訪談時則彈性調整訪談順序,讓受訪者可暢所欲言,但又不會有失焦之狀況發生。本研究於 2007 年 2 月開始,至 2007 年 5 月為止,陸續訪談 K 公司董事長兼總經理 1 人,事業部總經理 2 人,功能部門經理 1 人,廠長級幹部 1 人,事業部員工 3 人。主要訪談方式是採取面對面訪談,此外,另有多次電話訪談的方式,釐清相關細節問題。

本研究的資料處理分析,是先將錄音的訪談資料編碼,然後將所有訪談者的意見與反應,分類歸納整理,此外,並輔以相關次級資料,包括:個案公司年報、期刊、雜誌報導、或報紙等,協助研究命題之形成。本研究以一個概念性的理論架構為基礎,在綜合深度訪談結果與次級資料後,試圖歸納與整理出合理的研究命題,以供本概念性架構之論述。

伍、個案分析-以 K 公司為例

本章節將以 K 公司為本研究的個案,首先,我們將簡單介紹 K 公司,接著先從原有的核心事業一砂輪事業開始討論,然後再逐一比較其多角化事業與砂輪事業,藉以建立本研究的理論架構,即如何以能力與價值活動來判斷企業多角化的程度。最後,希望藉由探討各事業單位的績效表現,試圖歸納出不同類型或程度的多角化事業與企業績效表現之關聯性,以未來後續研究奠定基礎。

一、K公司簡介

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成立於 1953 年的 K 公司,2006 年底公司資本總額達新台幣 11.5 億元,員工總數約為 1,400 人,是台灣最大的傳統砂輪製造公司,K 公司所製造的砂輪,從低階的陶瓷砂輪,到 高階的鑽石砂輪,砂輪年生產達 6,000 噸,生產超過 10 萬種不同規格及材質的產品,更有 8,000 家固定往來的客戶。K 公司近年來憑藉著鑽石碟修整器(以下簡稱鑽石碟)的開發,贏得台積電、聯電等公司的好評,業績逐年成長,在獲利方面,自 2003 年以後,連續幾年每股盈餘皆超過四元以上,K 公司遂於 2005 年 1 月 31 日正式掛牌上市,2006 年 12 月 31

² 所謂較完整是指其價值活動可能包含研發、製造、與銷售,而非只是從事單一的價值活動,例如:研發活動。

日股價為 155.0 元。K 公司的成功,更證明傳統產業也可以藉由多角化策略,順利進入高 科技產業,而其中的關鍵,是在於企業是否能清楚瞭解自身的核心能力,以及競爭優勢的 來源,並充分利用這些能力與優勢於新的事業單位,創造價值。

至2006年,K公司已經擁有四個事業部,包括:傳統砂輪事業部、鑽石事業部、晶圓事業部,以及光電事業部。四個事業部都設有自己的生產、製造、銷售。在營收比例的表現上,傳統砂輪事業部、鑽石事業部、以及晶圓事業部分別佔30%、30%、40%。員工人數依序大約是,700人、200人、300人。至於光電事業部的產量還很小,員工人數目前大約是200人。K公司之績效表現,2006年營收為新台幣34.4億元,公司平均毛利率為37%左右;各事業部的營收,傳統砂輪佔30%、鑽石碟事業佔30%、再生晶圓佔40%,而光電事業尚未有營業收入3。2006年時,K公司佔全球鑽石碟市場之市佔率為30%,遠超過第二、第三名的Seasol(15%)與3M(12%)。此外,K公司有兩個研究單位,分別是鑽石研究中心,以及研究本部。鑽石研究中心是從事鑽石材料應用的相關研發,根據鑽石的特性,研發鑽石之前瞻性技術,以及可能發展的產品。至於研發本部,則是一般產品的研發與改善,以及專利管理。不過現階段研發本部與鑽石科技中心,仍有部分的研究工作內容重疊,資源與設備也可共享。

以 K 公司之個案來看,砂輪事業為其原本核心事業,後來才陸續發展鑽石碟事業、再 生晶圓事業、以及光電事業,因此,我們先從砂輪事業來開始討論。

二、傳統砂輪事業

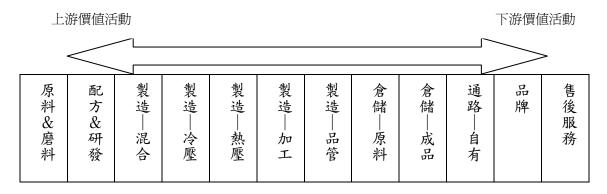
砂輪,是一種提高機械設備精密度的耗材,砂輪之於研磨與切削工具,就如同磨刀石與刀的關係一般。而研磨與切削工具,是機械工具中的工具之母,因此,砂輪在精密加工技術中,扮演著相當重要的角色,該過程不僅能提高工件表面的整合性及加工精度,也能控制產品尺寸的最終控制程序。K公司砂輪產品的客戶群極廣,包括:機械零件業、五金製造業、鋼鐵工業、半導體業、玻璃工業、電子製造業、塑膠工業等各種產業,為因應不同砂輪產品的需求,會需要不同配方的磨料來混合,而混合配方的比例,就會影響到生產出來的砂輪之硬度。傳統砂輪的技術關鍵,在於砂輪之軟硬度與其壽命如何調配。砂輪愈硬,雖然壽命較長,但容易磨損機具;相反地,砂輪愈軟,雖然對機具耐用度比較高,但砂輪壽命較短。因此,磨料的配方能力,是砂輪生產製程中重要的核心能力。而主要磨料的原料為氧化鋁與碳化矽,然後依據結合劑之不同,使得砂輪製法不同,最主要製作方法,是由磨料加上結合劑充份混合後,成型燒製硬化而成。

K 公司砂輪事業另外一個重要的核心能力,則是研磨與切削的能力。承前段所述,K公司砂輪產品的客戶群極廣,必須因應不同性質廠商的需求而調整產品規格,往往需要為客戶量身訂做 (Taylor-made),也因為需要滿足不同客戶的工具需求,K公司在工具機械上

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³ K 公司提供,本研究訪談資料整理。

的專業知識,比其競爭對手更廣且深入,尤其在各種工具機上的研磨與切削之技術,更是 K公司累積五十年的經驗所擁有的競爭優勢。綜合上面論述,K公司砂輪事業擁有兩項主 要核心技術能力,一個是有關於磨料配方的「材料技術能力」,另一個則是有關於研磨與切 削的「精密技術能力」。



圖二、K 公司砂輪產業的價值活動

從價值活動來看,基本上,砂輪產業的價值活動包括:原料與磨料的進口,配方與研發,製造,原料與成品之倉儲,自有通路,品牌,與售後服務等,而砂輪的製造的程序,又有幾個重要步驟,首先是混合磨料 (Mixing),在混合磨料後,要經過兩道程序,一個是冷壓 (Cold Pressing),接著是加熱 (Heating Pressing),這些程序會隨著混料的不同有所不同,有的加熱需要到攝氏 700 度以上;在加熱完之後,砂輪的雛形已成,但接下來的步驟,則是砂輪製作最重要的程序一「加工」(Dressing),配合研磨與切削技術的需求,製造出各式各樣的砂輪,以滿足顧客的需求。當然,品質管制也是砂輪製造重要的一環,通常砂輪廠商在交貨前都會自行檢驗,畢竟,若是因為砂輪品質問題而造成客戶機具損壞,是砂輪廠商要負責賠償的。圖二即是將 K 公司砂輪事業所涉及營運的價值活動之示意圖。

三、傳統砂輪事業與鑽石碟事業

半導體在製程時,晶圓表面的「平坦化」是相當重要的製程之一。為了在更小的面積上堆積更密集的線路,晶圓每層的厚度與平整度都需要嚴格的要求,而晶圓平坦化的過程則有賴拋光墊來磨平,而平坦化機制稱為 CMP (Chemical Mechanic Polish,化學機械平坦化)。在進行 CMP 時,是將具酸性的結合劑 (Slurry),滴在一個旋轉的塑膠拋光墊 (Pad)上拋光晶圓,而晶圓磨下的碎屑會填滿拋光墊表面,為了使拋光墊表層硬化,因此需要鑽石碟修整器(以下簡稱鑽石碟,Diamond Disk) 間歇性的修整,以恢復拋光墊的拋光作用,並延長其壽命。所以,鑽石碟的良窳將影響 IC 生產效率與良率。也是半導體製程中重要的耗材之一。台積電長久以來都採用國外的鑽石碟修整器,但發現這些鑽石碟修整器有時無法完全將拋光墊上的殘質去除,而造成晶圓表面刮傷,造成損失。而國外的鑽石碟不僅價格昂貴,再加上產品採購自國外,每次維修時都得等上幾天,造成許多的不便。從 1999 年開始,台積電詢問台灣的砂輪產業廠商,是否能夠提供類似的產品?K 公司也是被詢問的公司之一。

適逢 K 公司為發展石材業,購買了一批昂貴設備,這套設備是在真空的狀態之下,可將鑽石焊在堅硬的不銹鋼合金上。而這些設備與技術在開發鑽石碟時,正好派上用場。K 公司研發團隊為了開發鑽石碟,一共開了數千小時的討論會議,後來試著先將工業鑽石牢牢焊在堅硬的不銹鋼台金上,先使其不脫粒,再嘗試將 PVD 類鑽石碳(Diamond Like Carbon或 DLC)塗佈技術,即運用於保護各類精密模具(如光碟、封裝、成形等)的鑽石盾(Dia Shield),以及 K 公司獨創且取得專利之規律的鑽石排列技術,例如:已經用於各類加工刀具的鑽石陣(Dia Grid)。K 公司將鑽石盾與鑽石陣這兩種技術組合,於 2000 年製作出鑽石碟。這種鑽石碟中的鑽石陣排列可以防止鑽石脫落,且能提高刮除積垢的效率及促進研磨液的流通,以保持 CMP 製程的穩定性;而透過鑽石盾的保護,還可以有效防止鑽石碟不受到 CMP 製程所添加的酸液侵蝕,而鑽石本身是酸鹼不侵,甚至不溶於王水的材料。K 公司鑽石碟在通過台積電現場測試後,台積電於 2000 年底開始採用 K 公司這個從無到有的產品---鑽石碟。至於鑽石碟所需用的工業鑽石,主要來自愛爾蘭元素六(原 DeBeers (戴比))、美國 GE (奇異)。

2001年,K公司成功取代美日大廠而成為國內半導體業者之鑽石碟的主要提供者,例如:台積電、聯電等。同時,也試圖推廣到日本的 NEC、韓國的 Samsung、以及新加坡的 Charters,以改善 CMP 之製程。而 K公司鑽石碟也贏得世界最大的半導體耗材供應者美國 Rodel 公司的認同,Rodel 公司所生產的是 CMP 製程所使用的 PU 拋光墊,全球的市佔率為 90%。2001年,K公司與 Rodel 策略聯盟後,委由 Rodel 在歐美各地推展 K 公司的鑽石碟。 K 公司鑽石碟的成功也引發同業的仿效,雖然也有廠商模擬出相當類似的產品,但由於無法通過半導體廠商的認證,還是難以與 K 公司的鑽石碟相抗衡。

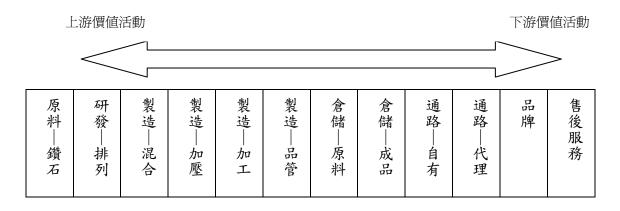
由上面的個案描述,可以瞭解 K 公司在鑽石碟的主要核心能力為鑽石排列技術與塗佈技術,而鑽石排列技術與塗佈技術的 know-how,是從 K 公司在砂輪製造之多年經驗所累積的。K 公司鑽石事業部總經理指出:

「我們公司製造鑽石碟的知識與技術,是K公司在砂輪製造所累積相關材料科學的知識,以及切割與研磨的知識,這是其他製造鑽石碟公司所沒有的能力。」

因此, K 公司在鑽石事業上擁有兩項主要核心技術能力, 一個是有關於塗佈技術的「材料技術能力」, 另一個則是有鑽石排列的「精密技術能力」。

從價值活動來看,鑽石碟的上游原料—工業鑽石是從國外進口(與砂輪事業的原料供應商相同),主要的研發活動是探索合適的鑽石排列模式,接下來,製造活動部份,鑽石如何鑲嵌,除了排列模式外,塗料的混合也是十分重要的程序,接著,加壓與加工都是鑽石碟成形的重要製造過程,最後的品質管理,也是K公司贏得台積電免驗證入庫的重要價值活動,在倉儲部分,分別有儲存原料與成品的倉庫,通路部分,台灣地區鑽石碟的銷售是

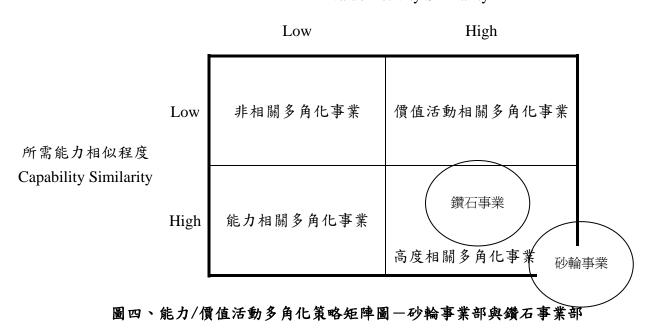
由 K 公司自行負責,國外的通路則委由代理商負責,鑽石碟的品牌與砂輪一樣,屬於 B2B 的品牌策略,最後,就是產品售出後的服務。圖三是 K 公司鑽石碟的價值活動示意圖。



圖三、K 公司鑽石碟的價值活動

本研究以 K 公司之砂輪事業部與鑽石事業部所擁有的核心能力與所在事業之價值活動為基準,來比較 K 公司砂輪事業部與鑽石事業部之多角化的相關程度。本研究發現,在所擁有的能力上,兩個事業部主要的核心能力皆為「材料技術能力」與「研磨與切削能力」,所以,兩事業部在所擁有的能力高度相似。在價值活動的構面中,兩事業的差異只在製造過程的一小部份不同,以及鑽石事業部在通路上多了代理商的價值活動(比較圖二與圖三),所以,兩事業部所在事業之價值活動亦高度相似。圖四則是 K 公司之砂輪事業部與鑽石事業部在能力/價值活動多角化策略矩陣之位置圖,由於砂輪事業部與鑽石事業部在所擁有的能力與所在事業之價值活動的相似度皆高,因此,K 公司之鑽石事業部與砂輪事業部為高度相關多角化事業。

價值活動相似程度 Value Activity Similarity



四、傳統砂輪事業與再生晶圓事業

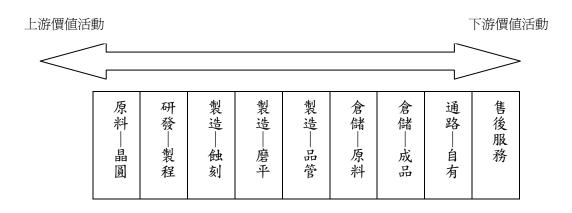
所謂晶圓製造,是依據 IC 設計公司的設計,將積體電路寫入晶圓片上,然後,交由封裝廠與測試廠包裝與測試後,即成為 IC 產品。但在晶圓正式量產前,半導體晶圓廠會用測試晶圓(Test Wafer 或 Dummy Wafer),來量測爐管溫度、金屬層、化學品濃度、沈積厚度等,量測後的測試晶圓通常會報廢,或加工後再行使用。廠商通常是自行與國內外 wafer maker採購材料後,自行加工生產測試晶圓。近年來晶圓廠為節省成本,通常會選擇將使用後之測試晶圓,交予代工廠再加工,而由代工廠將測試晶圓上的粒子與晶層進行蝕刻與磨平程序後,即為再生晶圓(Reclaim Wafer 或 Recycle Wafer),即可再行投入為測試,可有效節省購買測試晶圓成本。

1997 年起,K公司將既有的精密研磨技術之能力,運用在半導體晶圓片再生過程,透過與經濟部科技專案研發計畫,與工研院機械所合作,共同合作開發矽晶圓再生研磨技術。並於同年,對外招募新台幣 8 億元,轉投資成立 G 公司(K 公司持股 14.66%),專門從事再生晶圓的生產與銷售。G 公司陸續將研發成果運用到八吋以及十二吋再生晶圓的量產。2000年,G 公司與中德半導體材料公司進行策略聯盟後,更跨入附加價值更高的測試晶圓及產品晶圓的代工,客戶群包括台積電、中德電子、日月光等。G 公司現今主要業務乃從事再生晶圓代工及測試晶圓生產,以研磨硬脆材料晶圓之技術,提供國內半導體廠商再生晶圓代工及測試晶圓生產之服務。G 公司產品主要的銷售地區仍是以內銷為主,2003年內銷金額將近新台幣 4 億 6 千萬元,而外銷則是以美國為主,約新台幣 2,500 萬元。而在台灣的市佔率是超過 50%。以營收比例來看,再生晶圓與測試晶圓則是 80/20。雖然 G 公司與 K 公司的產品線與製程皆不同,但與鑽石碟相同的是,都是服務相同的半導體客戶。

2005年4月6日,K公司併購G公司,由K公司於2004年度盈餘分配後,以G公司每4.5股普通股換發K公司1股普通股。K公司是鑒於G公司與鑽石碟事業部,在半導體產業方面之客戶群重疊,主要銷售客戶皆為台積電。雙方合併後,可避免資源重複投入,透過研發技術整合,可提高產品之附加價值以及拓展產品之應用領域,並提供客戶整合性的服務。此外,透過國內外行銷經驗、資源的整合,更有助於提昇K公司開拓國際市場之能力。預期晶圓事業部的產品需求逐年上升,K公司為了擴充產能,打算在中部科學園區購置一塊土地,除了滿足現有晶圓之產能外,更為提供12吋晶圓更先進的0.65nm製程晶圓之產能做準備。但現階段仍然是採取觀望的態度,因為K公司之前太快投入12吋再生晶圓生產,然而客戶需求尚未成長,因此造成連續三年的虧損,所以這次的投資將會更小心,畢竟這項投資案,光是一條生產線就要投資十億元,雖然製程升級是一個必然的趨勢,但切入時機還是十分重要的。

由上面敘述,可以瞭解 K 公司在再生晶圓或測試晶圓製造的主要核心能力,為蝕刻與 磨平的技術,這是 K 公司在砂輪製造之多年經驗所累積的出來的「研磨與切削」能力;另 外,晶圓再生製造的相關知識與能力,這是K公司藉由與工研院合作所取得的新能力,是K公司發展再生晶圓事業不可或缺的重要能力。

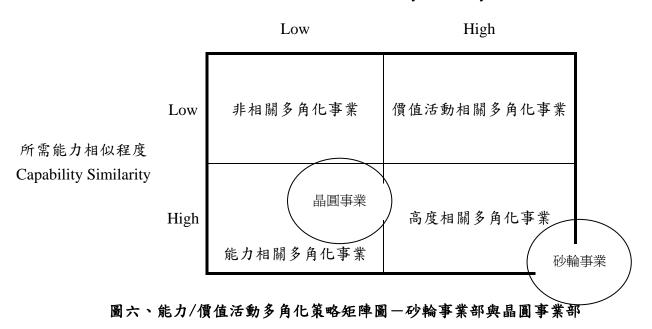
從價值活動來看,再生晶圓的上游原料—晶圓片,是由半導體廠採購而來,測試晶圓的原料晶圓則是向 wafer 廠採購,在研發的價值活動,是有關於製程的改進,在製造部份, K 公司將買回來使用過的晶圓片上的粒子與晶層進行蝕刻與磨平,即成為再生晶圓,最後, 品質管理也是的重要價值活動,通路部分,再生晶圓是由 K 公司自行負責,主要是國內的半導體廠商,雖然屬於 B2B 的營運模式,但品牌不是主要的價值活動,當然,產品售出後的服務也是價值活動之一。圖五是 K 公司再生晶圓的價值活動示意圖。



圖五、K公司再生晶圓的價值活動

若以 K 公司之砂輪事業部與晶圓事業部所擁有的核心能力與所在事業之價值活動為基準,來比較 K 公司砂輪事業部與晶圓事業部之多角化的相關程度。本研究發現,在所擁有的能力上,兩個事業部在研磨與切削的能力類似,因為再生晶圓所需要蝕刻與磨平的技術能力,是可以從砂輪製造的經驗所累積學習的,然而在其他晶圓事業所需的能力上,K 公司必須另覓其他在晶圓產業中優秀的人材,所以,兩事業部在所擁有的能力相似度為中度偏高。在價值活動的構面中,兩事業的差異,有些許不同(比較圖二與圖五),例如:原料的採購部份,再生晶圓事業的供應商為半導體廠商,與砂輪事業的原料供應商不同;另外,在製造過程中,再生晶圓事業必須在無塵室裡面生產製造,生產方式亦不同於砂輪製造;而再生晶圓產品在品牌上的要求,不若砂輪的高。所以,綜合上述分析,砂輪事業部與晶圓事業部之價值活動相似度中度偏低。

價值活動相似程度 Value Activity Similarity



圖六則是 K 公司之砂輪事業部與晶圓事業部在能力/價值活動多角化策略矩陣之位置 圖,由於砂輪事業部與晶圓事業部在所擁有的能力相似度為中度偏高,而所在事業之價值 活動的相似度中度偏低,因此,K公司之晶圓事業部與砂輪事業部為能力相關多角化事業。

五、傳統砂輪事業與光學玻璃事業

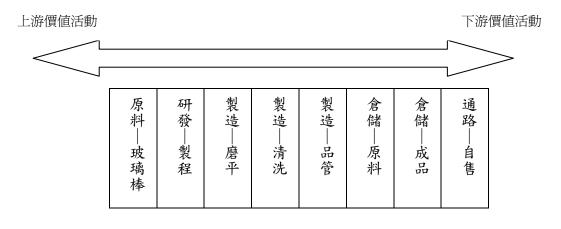
2003 年,K公司決心研發與量產非球面模造玻璃鏡片,並且由研發本部成立光電事業部,初期該事業部設於鶯歌。同時,積極尋覓適當的廠址地點,遂於2005 年,決定到新竹科學園區附近設立工廠。除了從鶯歌研發本部帶走十位研發人員之外,G公司也有三位同仁加入光學玻璃事業的團隊,共同協助光電事業部的新廠設立。此新廠建置,總共投資約新台幣五億元,其中在設備上的投資大約是新台幣三億元左右,其他兩億元則是廠務及其他費用支出。同年,光電事業部邀請日本籍技術顧問,到廠協助指導如何壓玻璃,以及如何加工。K公司主要打算投入鏡片市場,理由是因為這部分的生產所需要的技術,有80%需要機械的相關能力,只有20%是需要具備相關的光學知識,而K公司評估有信心可以從事這部分的生產。但若是要生產鏡頭部分,則必須100%運用到光學方面的知識,對K公司而言,則是全然陌生的領域。模造玻璃鏡片成形有三個步驟,第一是玻璃球,即是由玻璃棒變成玻璃球;第二是超精密模具;第三則是成形的過程,包括運用到砂輪及一些次級材料。玻璃棒是向日本與德國供應商採購的,再將之切成玻璃球,然後進行後續的生產,目前國外提供高階的玻璃棒的廠商並不多。至於超精密模具與成形過程,這個階段的製程是K公司可以掌握。

在光電產業中,K公司是個後進者,對國內光電產業的網絡不甚熟悉,因此K公司積

極與日本、韓國客戶建立關係,並與主要的供應商(例如:住田、小原)成為策略夥伴, 也積極尋覓其他可能的合作夥伴。光電產業的產品相較於 K 公司其他的產品來說,生命週 期較短,且在設計階段就必須高度涉入。而且,鏡片必須得到系統、鏡頭、以及軟體等廠 商之認證與整合,如果找到不好的鏡頭廠配合,鏡片就賣不出去。鏡片的銷售量甚至受到 相機手機銷售量所影響。如果手機賣得好,則鏡片的訂單就會增加,反之,若手機賣的不 好,則該款鏡片就乏人問津。因此,K 公司過去其他事業部的產品銷售經驗,並無法作為 光電事業部之借鏡。此外,在生產上,K 公司其他事業部也經常派員協助光電事業部的發 展,例如:像晶圓事業部經常派員協助,指導非球面膜造玻璃鏡片生產過程的清洗流程, 但事實上,非球面模造玻璃鏡片需要更精密的清洗步驟,再生晶圓的清洗步驟與經驗,並 無法提供有效的建議。技術上,除了既有的研磨、切削技術核心之外,鑽石碟或再生晶圓 的生產經驗或知識,都無法改善非球面模造玻璃的良率。

由上面敘述,可以瞭解 K 公司在非球面膜造玻璃鏡片製造的所需要的能力,為機械的相關能力,以及相關的光學知識。雖然 K 公司在機械的相關能力,例如把玻璃棒磨成玻璃球,可以從過去砂輪製造的經驗所累積移轉的,但是在光學知識方面,K 公司必須藉由外部的資源來取得,例如與工研院或日本廠商合作,這是 K 公司發展非球面膜造玻璃鏡片不可或缺的重要能力。

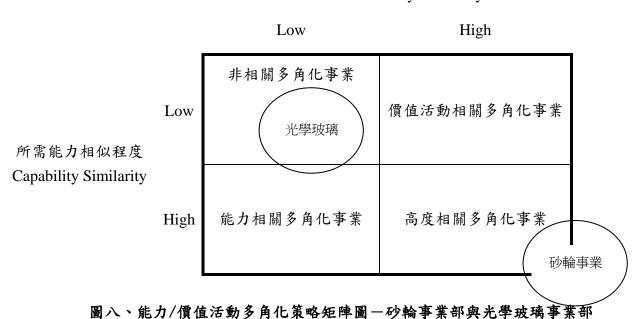
從價值活動來看,非球面膜造玻璃鏡片的上游原料—玻璃棒,是由國外供應商採購而來,在研發的價值活動,則是如何透過製程的改進,提昇良率,在製造部份,K 公司將買回來玻璃棒磨成玻璃球,經由超精密模具加工成形,即成為非球面膜造玻璃鏡片,通路部分,由於鏡片必須得到系統、鏡頭、以及軟體等廠商之認證與整合,如果找到不好的鏡頭廠配合,鏡片就賣不出去,因此目前 K 公司的作法,是自行尋求系統廠商的訂單。由於鏡片需要系統廠商的認證與整合,品牌並非主要的價值活動。圖七是 K 公司再生晶圓的價值活動示意圖。



圖七、K公司光學玻璃的價值活動

若以 K 公司之砂輪事業部與光學玻璃事業部所擁有的核心能力與所在事業之價值活動為基準,來比較 K 公司砂輪事業部與光學玻璃事業部之多角化的相關程度。本研究發現,在所擁有的能力上,光學玻璃事業在研磨與切削上所需的能力,可以從砂輪製造的經驗所累積學習,然而,砂輪製造研磨的技術雖對光學玻璃鏡片製造有幫助,然而鏡片製造,不僅只是把玻璃研磨成形即可,還必須考慮到鏡片的厚度與弧度,否則呈現的影像可能會有問題,因此,在光學玻璃事業所需的光學知識相關能力上, K 公司必須另覓其他在光電產業中優秀的人材,所以,光學玻璃事業部與砂輪事業部在所擁有的能力相似度為中度偏低。在價值活動的構面中,兩事業的差異,有些許不同(比較圖二與圖七),例如:原料的採購部份,光學玻璃事業的供應商為玻璃棒供應廠商,與砂輪事業的原料供應商不同;另外,在製造過程中,光學玻璃事業在生產製造的流程,亦不同於砂輪製造;而光學玻璃境片產品是搭配在系統廠商的產品上,因此鏡片在品牌上的要求並不高。綜合上述分析,砂輪事業部與光學玻璃事業部之價值活動相似度中度偏低。圖八則是 K 公司之砂輪事業部與光學玻璃事業部在能力/價值活動多角化策略矩陣之位置圖,由於砂輪事業部與光學玻璃事業部在所擁有的能力相似度與所在事業之價值活動的相似度皆為中度偏低,因此,K 公司之光學玻璃事業部與砂輪事業部為非相關多角化事業。

價值活動相似程度 Value Activity Similarity



由上面的個案討論,本研究嘗試以能力與價值活動作為衡量多角化程度之構面,來提供企業多角化策略分析,初步結果,證明「能力/價值活動多角化策略矩陣」,可提供與過去不同的分析架構,從企業所擁有能力與所在產業之價值活動,來判斷企業多角化策略,我們從K公司的個案中發現,K公司從砂輪事業,發展到高度相關多角化事業之鑽石碟,能力相關多角化事業之再生晶圓,以及非相關多角化事業之光學玻璃鏡片。

六、各事業多角化程度與企業績效

本研究的另一個主要目的,是要探索不同類型的多角化事業在績效上的表現。然而,由於本研究是屬於探索性研究,以採取個案研究的方法,發展可能的研究命題,以供未來量化實證之研究。

2000 年開始,K公司在佔總營收達 9 成的砂輪之外,開始有 1 成來自鑽石碟的收入,到了 2002 年,K公司鑽石碟所佔K公司總營收的比例已達 32.79%,2003 年更提升到 35.26%,而傳統砂輪所佔營收比例則從 2002 年的 60.47%,降到 2003 年的 51.75%。2002 年,K公司鑽石碟在台灣的市佔率達六成以上。2002 年與 2003 年主要銷售對象為台積電,其銷售額佔全年度之銷售額分別為 21.4% 與 20.0%。中國砂輪之績效表現,2006 年盈收為新台幣 34.4 億元,公司平均毛利率為 37%左右,傳統砂輪的毛利大約為 18%以下,鑽石碟的毛利約為 60%,再生晶圓產品的毛利率達 38%~40%左右;各事業部的營收,傳統砂輪佔30%、鑽石碟事業佔 30%、再生晶圓佔 40%,而光電事業尚未有營業收入。2006 年時,中國砂輪佔全球鑽石碟市場之市佔率為 30%,遠超過第二、第三名的Seasol(15%)與 3M(12%)。在創新績效的表現上,自 1960 年到 2006 年,K公司共擁有中華民國專利數為 39件,其中,屬於砂輪製作的有 13 件,鑽石碟的有 11 件,晶圓或半導體的有 5 件,屬於光學領域的則有 2 件4。

從上面幾個績效之敘述,可試圖歸納出下面幾個命題:

命題一:當企業從事高度相關多角化事業時,會有較佳的財務績效(營收、毛利)、市場績效(市佔率)、以及創新績效(專利權數)之表現。

命題二:當企業從事能力相關多角化事業時,會有較佳的財務績效(營收、毛利)、以 及創新績效(專利權數)之表現。

命題三:當企業從事非相關多角化事業時,會有較差的財務績效(營收)、市場績效(市 佔率)、以及創新績效(專利權數)之表現。

由於本研究欠缺價值活動相關多角化事業之個案,無法提供這個價值活動相關多角化事業與其績效之命題。

陸、結論

本研究的最主要研究貢獻,在於提供一個新的區分企業多角化事業之相關程度的概念

⁴ 資料來源:中華民國專利資訊網,2007, http://free.twpat.com/Webpat/freeZone/pnQuery.aspx。

性分析架構,有別於傳統以產品或市場區分的模式,本研究以所需之能力與所從事的價值活動為分析構面,發展出「能力/價值活動多角化策略矩陣」,並提出「高度相關多角化事業」、「能力相關多角化事業」、「價值活動相關多角化事業」、以及「非相關多角化事業」等四種多角化策略類型。而這個架構,可提供與過去研究不同思考的角度,來分析企業多角化的策略。

舉例而言,若使用傳統多角化策略的分析構面來看 K 公司個案,則依據產品或產業別的分類,則鑽石碟、再生晶圓、與光學玻璃鏡片都是低度或非相關多角化事業,因為與砂輪事業的產品別或產業別不同,所以依據過去研究結論,低度或非相關多角化事業之企業績效應該較差,然而,從本研究的個案分析顯示,K 公司之鑽石碟事業與再生晶圓事業,在財務上的績效卻有不錯的表現,因此,若能採用不同的構面來分析企業多角化策略,也許可以解釋上述過去研究無法解釋之結論。然而,在本研究的個案分析中,以企業所擁有能力與所在產業之價值活動為分析構面,所得到的結論是,高度相關多角化事業(鑽石碟事業)擁有較佳之財務績效、市場績效、以及創新績效;能力相關多角化事業(再生晶圓事業),亦會有較佳的財務績效以及創新績效之表現。這是過去用傳統產品市場的架構所無法解釋的現象,因此,本研究最主要的貢獻,是提供新的概念性分析架構,來解釋企業多角化策略與企業績效之關係。

本研究另外一個貢獻,是提供能力與價值活動兩個構面,來思考企業多角化的問題,其實,這部分的貢獻,主要是藉由討論多角化事業之能力與價值活動,重新檢視企業在多角化事業中,其原有的能力與價值活動之綜效如何發揮。舉例來說,K 公司在傳統砂輪事業中所累積的「材料技術能力」與「研磨切削技術能力」,可以分別應用在鑽石碟、再生晶圓、與光學玻璃鏡片的製造上,這是傳統多角化事業之定義所無法解釋的。

然而,本研究因受到研究方法上的選擇,會有些研究限制。首先,就是如何衡量所需能力相似程度,以及所從事價值活動之相似度,由於本研究採用個案研究的方式,所以這兩個構面的衡量比較容易因受訪者的主觀意見所影響,因此,未來的研究應該試著探索衡量這兩個構面的一般性指標。其次,由於本研究的個案只解釋部分的研究架構,例如「價值活動相關多角化事業」,本研究並未有個案來解釋,未來研究應該再對「能力/價值活動多角化策略矩陣」做更進一步的探索。雖然有上述的研究限制,但「能力/價值活動多角化策略矩陣」之架構,提供我們一個與過去不同之角度,去思考企業多角化策略之現象。

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國內專家學者出席國際學術會議報告

97年 12月 20日

報告	人姓名	黄國峯	服務機構	國立政治大學 企業管理學系
		東 四 全	及職稱	助理教授
	時間	民國 97 年 6 月 30 日至	本會核定	97-2410-H-004-026
會議		民國 96 年7月4日	補助文號	
	地點	台北 台灣		
會議		(中文) 2008 年亞洲管理學年會		
名稱		(英文) 2008 Asian Academy of Management		
發表		1.(中文) 相關與非相關多角化策略:以能力與價值活動為基礎之研究		
論文	(英文) Related and Non-Related Diversification: A Capability-Based and			
題目		Value-Activity-Based Perspective		

一、參加會議經過

Asian Academy of Management (AAoM) 年會是亞洲管理學界最重要的學術會議,而 AAoM 發行的期刊 Asia Pacific Journal of Management (APJM)是 SSCI 期刊,因此在 AAoM 發表的論文,將有機會與上述期刊的編輯委員做直接的接觸與討論,進而可發表在 SSCI 等級的期刊上。

這是本人第一次參加 AAoM 年會,今年發表了一篇 "Related and Non-Related Diversification: A Capability-Based and Value-Activity-Based Perspective",在本人發表論文之場次中,得到許多其他學者的建設性 feedbacks,對於這篇論文之修改與日後投稿期刊的修正有極大的幫助。此外,在發表過程中,讓本人與其他學者的研究有機會充分的討論與整合,產生許多腦力的激蕩與火花。

本次與會另一個目的,是希望多認識相關領域的學者,以及瞭解最新的研究方向與趨勢,並利用與會時間,多認識相關期刊之編輯委員,所以,在與會的過程中,除了參加數場相關研究的討論會外,並積極參與許多不同組織學會的 reception,以多認識與會的其他學者,交換研究心得與經驗。

二、與會心得

第一次參加 AAoM 的年會,再次與亞洲地區的管理學大師們當面接觸,並聆聽最新的研究發展方向,這是非常難得的寶貴經驗。在國際企業管理的領域中,與會學者持續強調國際企業的整合之重要性。今年台灣在 AAoM 的發表的人數大幅增加,可見近年來國內學者參與國際學術研討會的風氣日盛,希望藉由這樣的良性競爭,讓台灣的管理學術研究也能漸漸與國際接軌。而在這次的會場中,到處可見台灣來的學者,也可讓國際學者們有機會接觸並瞭解台灣的研究現況,同時增加對台灣國際企業管理議題的討論機會。

藉由此次與會,認識許多其他不同國家的學者,經由彼此經驗的交流,瞭解國外的學術研究機構與學校對研討會的重視程度,尤其像 AAoM 這類的大型國際學術研討會之重視程度,不論從對發表論文學者的補助,或是對發表文章的獎勵,都是國內學術環境仍須努力的方向,而個人也因為榮獲 貴會部份經費的補助,得以成行,所以特別感謝國科會提供國內學者這樣的獎勵補助,對於國內學術成就的國際化應有很大助益。

三、建議

無

四、攜回資料名稱及內容

- 1. 大會議程一份。
- 2. 光碟一張。

Related and Non-Related Diversification: A Capability-Based and Value-Activity-Based Perspective

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Related and Non-Related Diversification: A Capability-Based and Value-Activity-Based

Perspective

ABSTRACT

This paper attempts to provide a conceptual framework: the capability-value activity

diversification matrix, to analyze a firm's diversification strategy. Instead of using product or

market as constructs, this study employs two constructs: capability similarity and value

activity similarity to measure the relatedness of a firm's multi-business units. Four types of

diversified relationship have been identified: highly-related diversified businesses

capability-related diversified businesses, value-activity-related diversified businesses, and

unrelated diversified businesses. A case study for a Taiwanese manufacturing firm is

employed to verify the robustness of our framework. Our analysis suggests that the

framework can provide a different analytical framework from the traditional product-market

matrix framework.

Keywords: diversification, capability, value activity

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Related and Non-Related Diversification: A Capability-Based and Value-Activity-Based

Perspective

INTRODUCTION

Diversification has been an important topic in the strategic management research for decades. Penrose (1959) suggests that a firm with slack resources is suggested to diversify in order to achieve the growth. Traditionally, diversification studies mainly define a firm's diversification strategy based on products, markets, or industries. However, prior empirical studies (Montgomery, 1982; Jacquemin and Berry, 1979) mainly use industrial code as a tool for classifying related or unrelated diversification. The findings of prior studies suggest that the performance of focusing firms is better than the diversification firms. Furthermore, among the diversified companies, the related-diversification firms are performed superior to the unrelated-diversification firms (Rumelt, 1974; Christensen and Montgomery, 1981; Palepu, 1985). However, there remain some unexplained results which need to be further explored. For instance, based on traditional classification (e.g. Standardized Industry Classification code, SIC code), the performance of unrelated diversification firms is suggested to be worse than related diversification firms. However, if two different businesses share the same core competences, then their performance might be equally good, which achieve competitive advantage (Hamel and Prahalad, 1994). Therefore, the core competence may be a better indicator for measuring a firm's diversification other than products, markets, or SIC codes.

One of our primary objectives is to re-visit the diversification studies using competence or capability as novella mean of classification. Our paper also attempts to provide a conceptual framework based on two constructs, capability similarity and value activity similarity. We develop a 2x2 matrix framework which includes four types of diversification strategies: highly related diversification, capability related diversification, value activity related diversification, and unrelated diversification.

This paper uses a case study method to develop the concept of the matrix framework. By analyzing a Taiwanese case, the K Company, we develop a conceptual framework for understanding a firm's diversification strategy based on capability and value activity as well as exploring how these diversified firms achieve synergy via capability similarity and value activity similarity.

THERORETICAL BACKGROUND

Diversification Classification

Prior studies classify a firm's diversification strategy mainly by product, market, or industry. There are also other types of categorization. For instance, based on a firm's supply chain, product, market, and industry, Ansoff (1957) classifies a firm's diversification as vertical diversification, horizontal diversification, and lateral diversification. Furthermore, from firm growth perspective, Ansoff (1965) regards diversification as firms providing new products to new markets based on the existing products and markets. Thus, by using these two

constructs, product and product, Ansoff (1957, 1984) defines four types of the diversification strategy: market penetration, market development, product development, and product proliferation. Similarly, Wrigley (1970) also uses product category to define diversification. while Varadarajan and Ramanujam (1987) attempt to employ the number of industries a firm involves and the average number of products in each industry to classify a firm's diversification strategy.

The advantages of this traditional method to classify diversification include objective measurement and easy operationalization whereas the limitations are that it may neglect the importance of capabilities or resources, which is transferable among different business units. For instance, computer retailers and food retailers are two different industries but their retailing activities may be similar. If diversification categorization is based on products, markets, or industries, then computer retailing and food retailing may be classified as un-related diversification. However, since the capabilities or resources of computer retailing and food retailing, firms may transfer its existing capabilities or resources from the original business unit to the new business unit without losing competitive advantage. Therefore, the classification by product, market, or industry may not fully capture the generic picture of the diversification strategy. Thus, in addition to product, market or industry, we attempt to explore other constructs for classifying a firm's diversification.

Rumelt (1974) asserts that a firm's diversification strategy not only should consider its

positioning of products and markets, but also should consider whether diversified businesses share the same activities in technologies, capabilities, and resources. Aaker (1984) also suggests that if two business units have similarity in operational activities, such as research and development, production technologies, or distribution channels, then synergies can be created due to the scale of economies as well as the exchange of technologies or resources between two business units. Moreover, Hamel and Prahalad (1994) use two constructs, competence and industry, to examine how firms attain competitive strategy. Hamel and Prahalad (1994) assert that it is not market or industry but a firm's core competence to determine the firm's competitive advantage. Base on the above discussion, we conclude that capabilities or resources (Rumelt, 1974), operational activities or value activities (Aaker, 1984) and competences (Hamel and Prahalad, 1994) are more important constructs to classify the diversification strategy which determines a firm's competitive advantage.

Related or Unrelated Diversification

As mentioned earlier, prior studies use product, market, or industry to measure the degree of diversification. Gort (1962), for example, defines diversification as the concept of heterogeneity of output depended on the number of markets served to those outputs. A firm's degree of diversification is also measured by the number of industries (Berry, 1975) or the number of businesses (Wood, 1971; Pitts, 1977). Traditionally, two approaches are used to measure the degree of diversification (Davis and Duhaime, 1992). The first approach is a

categorical measurement, which give scores based on the characteristics of diversification while the second approach is a continuous measurement, which uses a scale value between related and unrelated diversification. The former is mainly built from the works of Wrigley (1970), and the latter is derived from Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Code system, which is the most common measurement for diversification. Wood (1971) uses SIC code to calculate and define broad spectrum diversification and narrow spectrum diversification. Rumelt (1974) also uses SIC code to develop indicators for measuring the relatedness of diversified businesses, including specialization ratio (Rs), related ratio (Rr), vertical ratio (Rv)and related-core ratio (Rc). Based on these four indicators, he then defines nine types of diversification. The advantage of using SIC code to calculate the degree of diversification is its comprehensive definition and easy operation. However, since this approach does not consider sale volume for each product, it is unable to understand the real focus business of a diversified firm. Therefore, some scholars attempt to provide amended measurement. Jackquemin and Berry (1979) develop the Herfindahl indicator and Entropy indicator, which is the most well-known tool for measuring a firm's diversification. Both the Herfindahl indicator and Entropy indicator use sale volume of each product to measure diversification but the Entropy indicator further weights different products (or business units), which can authentically reflect the degree of a firm's diversification. Ramanujam and Varadarajan (1989) also use two dimensions of the Entropy indicator to define four types of diversification.

However, the standard SIC code, Herfindahl indicator, or Entropy indicator all base on the types of industries or products. As discussed earlier, these classifications are unable to explain what or why the competitive advantage can be transferred from an old business to a new business. It can only evaluate the relatedness between diversified businesses, but hardly shows how these diversified businesses achieve the synergy of resources, technologies or capabilities. This urges us to further explore the other constructs or dimensions to measure the relatedness of diversification.

THE CAPABILITY-VALUE ACTIVITY DIVERSIFICATION MATRIX

According to the resource view of the firm (RBV), firms with slack resources or capabilities are suggested to diversify new businesses in order to achieve the higher firm growth (Penrose, 1959). However, the following diversification studies rarely use resources or capabilities but products, markets, or industries as a mean of diversification classification. The synergy of resources, capabilities, or competencies in value-added activities is suggested to be an important source of competitive advantage (Aaker, 1984; Hamel and Prahalad, 1994; Rumelt, 1974). Rumelt (1974) suggests the importance of a firm's capabilities for categorizing the diversification while Aaker (1984) proposes that the relatedness of diversification should consider the similarity of operational activities or value activities among businesses. The higher similar capabilities (or resources) and value-added activities, the higher synergy among businesses is benefited by firms. Therefore, a firm's capabilities

(including resources) and their involvement with value activities can be considered as two constructs for defining the diversification. We use capability similarity and value activity similarity to develop a conceptual framework for diversification analysis.

Capability Similarity

Capabilities can be seen as a firm's ability to allocate and apply resources (Amit and Schoemaker, 1993), or as the collection of resources (Barney, 1991; Peteraf, 1993). Moreover, Grant (1991) regards capabilities as employees' capabilities, which interact with other resources while Teece, Pisano, and Shuen (1997) posit that a firm's dynamic capability is the organizational and managerial process or specialized assets to reach competitive advantage. Fahy (1997) concludes that capabilities should include personal capabilities, which apply personal knowledge and experience into works, and organizational capabilities, which can integrate two or more than two types of resources for completing a particular task. In our research, the capability is defined as a firm's resources and capabilities, including personal capability and organizational capabilities.

One of the challenges of this study is how to measure capability similarity between two businesses. Previous studies can shed the lights for measuring capability similarity. For instance, Chen (1996) uses the resource similarity to measure how the resources are similar between firms and their competitors in his competitive analysis model. Moreover, Peteraf and Bergen (2003; p:1032) define "capability equivalence is the extent to which a given firm has

resources and capability bundles comparable to those of the focal firm, in terms of their ability to satisfy similar customer needs". In their competitor identification framework, they use capability equivalence and market needs correspondence to position a firm's potential competitors. Thus, in this research, we apply Peteraf and Bergen's (2003) definition of capability equivalence to compare capability similarity between two businesses.

Value Activity Similarity

As mentioned earlier, product/market/industry classifications for diversification may not capture the whole picture of a firm's diversification strategy. For instance, mobile phones and portable personal computer may be different in terms of products or markets but the required manufacturing processes or value-added activities are highly similar. Thus, in this research, we would like to employ the similarity of two businesses' value-added activity as another construct for classifying the diversification. In Seetoo's (2001) strategic matrix framework, he analyze a business unit's strategy using two constructs, strategic determinants and value-added activities including activities (i.e. procurement, R&D, and distribution) and assets (i.e. brand, key component, and product). Therefore, we apply Seetoo's (2001) definition of added value activities to compare the similarity of value activities in two businesses. The more overlapped the value-added activities between two businesses, the higher value activity similarity is.

Capability/ Value Activity Diversification Matrix

Having determined two constructs, capability similarity and value activity similarity, Figure 1 shows a 2x2 matrix framework for defining the extent of firm diversification. Divided by two constructs, capability similarity and value activity similarity, four types of diversification strategies are derived: highly related diversified business, capability-related diversified business, value-related diversified business, and non-related diversified business.

Insert Figure 1 about here

When a firm diversifies to a new business, which has a higher similarity on both capabilities and value activities compared to the existing business, then we define it as the high-related diversified business. When a firm diversifies to a new business, which has lower value activity similarity but higher capability similarity compared to the existing business, then we define it as the capability-related diversified business. This type of diversified firms mainly transfers their existing core capabilities to the newly diversified business, even though the value-added activities between the existing business and the new business are less similar. While a firm diversifies to a new business, which has higher value activity similarity but lower capability similarity compared to the existing business, then we define it as the value-related diversified business. Although the capabilities between the existing business and the new business are less similar, the value-added activities or operational processes are

highly similar, making them possible to share resources among the same value activities. Finally, when a firm diversifies to a new business, which has the lower similarity both on capabilities and value-added activities compared to the existing business, then we define it as the non-related diversified business.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study used a case study to establish the constructs for classifying diversification. Since this is an exploratory study which mainly attempts to develop a conceptual framework, a case study method is more appropriate to explore the answers of research questions and to provide the in-depth discussion. Moreover, a case study method can induce and analyze the interview information to generate the primary theoretical framework and propositions, which are the fundamental for future empirical research (Eisenhardt, 1989).

In order to gather richer information, this study employed a convenient and planned sample selection since it is more applicable for exploratory research purpose (Churchill, 1995). The selected company has a long term relationship with the research team and is willing to provide insightful information to meet the research purpose. This study used a single analysis unit with multi cases methodology suggested by Yin (1989). In other words, the unit of analysis is a business unit and our research examined multi business units within one single company.

Since this study is an exploratory research for firm diversification, the selected company

should have at least two diversified business units. In addition, the selected company should meet the criteria of the complete value-added activity¹. After consulting with professional experts and academic scholars, we decided to choose a manufacturing firm, K Company, as our case company. The main informants are managing directors of each business unit and their subordinates in order to avoid the subjective bias of single level interview. The semi-structured interviews were used and the outlines of interview questions were sent before the interviews, including 'what is the core capability for developing your products?' or 'What are your important values added activities?' The interviews were conducted from February to May in 2007. Informants were included the CEO of K Company, four managing directors of each business unit, three factory directors, and two employees. Interviews lasted 90 minutes although some went on up to 3 hours. Some informants were visited more than once to gather more information. Furthermore, several telephone interviews also required to further clarify some details. Table 1 is the summary of the interviews.

Insert Table 1 about here

Interviews were tape recorded and transcript for coding and analysis. Following instructions of inductive research, we were as descriptive as possible for the data until major

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¹Complete value-added activity means that the value-added activities include research and development, production and sales, in contrast to single value-added activity, such as research and development.

themes emerged (Glaser and Strauss, 1967; Miles and Huberman, 1994). Moreover, the secondary data, such as K Company's annual report, journals, and magazines, was also collected as supplementary information. By combining with the interview data and secondary data, our study attempts to conduct a conceptual analytical framework.

CASE ANALYSIS: K COMPANY

Company Introduction

K Company founded in 1953 in Taiwan with total capital 1.2 billion NT dollars and 1,400 employees in 2006. K Company is the largest traditional grinding wheel production company in Taiwan, which produces over 100 thousand different products in terms of functions and materials as well as serves more than 8,000 customers in Taiwan. Their grinding wheel products are varied from the low-end ceramic grinding wheels to the high-end diamond grinding wheels. K Company's diamond disk has received good reputation from Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Corporation (TSMC), largest semiconductor the manufacturing-only firm in the world since 2000. The annual sale growth rates of K Company from 2001 to 2006 are 28%, 24%, 22%, 10%, and 58% respectively. In 2005, K Company was initially public listed and traded in Taiwan's stock market. K Company's core business is the grinding wheel business. In the late 1990s, it started to diversify to diamond disk business (1999), reclaimed wafer business (2003), and optical business (2005). By 2006, K Company has four main business units, including traditional grinding wheel, diamond disk, wafer, and optical business unit. All of them have their own R&D, manufacturing, and sales. The total sales of K Company was NT\$ 3.44 billion and its average gross profit was 37% in 2006. Simultaneously, the global market share of K Company's diamond disk was 30%, which exceeded Seasol (15%) and 3M (12%). In addition to four business units, K Company has two research centers; diamond research center and research & development center. The former carries out advanced diamond applications while the later carries out normal R&D activities, such as product improvement and patent management. At the current stage, two research centers still have some similar projects and share some resources with each other.

Traditional Grinding Wheel Business

Grinding wheel is a consumable product which is used to improve the precision of machinery equipments and enhances the integration of the different work pieces. Since types of customers are various such as machinery parts, hardware manufacturing, steel, semi-conductor, glass, and electronic manufacturing, the material formulations are mainly tailor-made. The compositions of material formulations directly affect the hardness of the grinding wheels, which determine the duration of the grinding wheel and the durability of the machine. Therefore, the core capability of the grinding wheel is the material formulations. The main raw materials for grinding wheels include aluminum oxide and silicon carbide. Different materials and formulas need to conduct different production methods. The main production method is to mix grinding materials with bonding materials and then to heat and

press them to form a certain shape. Another important core capability of K Company is the grinding and cutting capability. K Company can quickly adjust their production to meet the requirement of wide range of customers. As a result, "material science capability" of grinding material formulation and "precision technology capability" of grinding and cutting technologies are two core competence of K Company's grinding wheel business.

Insert Figure 2 about here

The value-added activities of the grinding wheel business, as shown in Figure 2, includes raw materials, grinding materials, formulation, R&D, production, warehouse for raw materials and products, distributions, branding, and after sales services. In the production activities, there are several important procedures, including the mixing of grinding materials, cold pressing, and heat pressing. These processes are different depended on the types of mixed materials. For instance, some grinding materials may need heating up to 700°C, then, the basic shapes of the grinding wheels are formed. The next step is to take the undressed grinding wheels need the grinding and cutting process to make various shapes of grinding wheels. Finally, quality control and internal testing are also important procedures since K Company has to take the full responsibility for the damage incurred by any defected grinding wheel products. Having understood the core capabilities and value-added activities of the

grinding wheel business, we use it as the focus business for comparing other businesses.

Diamond Disk Business

Flattening the wafer surface is a very important production process for semiconductor manufacturing. In order to stack wires on the surface of the wafers, the thickness and flatness for the layers of each wafer is required. This flatten mechanism is called the Chemical Mechanic Polish (CMP). When carrying out CMP to flatten the wafer, it needs a rotating polishing pad and the slurry on the pad during the process. However, in the process of CMP, it may produce the wafer debris on the rotating polishing pad. Therefore, a diamond disk dresser (herein after as diamond disk) is required to shave the polishing pad periodically in order to restore its polishing function and to extend its life of usage. As a result, the quality of diamond disk may critically affect the production efficiency and yield rate of semiconductor manufacturing. A few number of global diamond disk providers, such as Abrasive Technology and 3M, provide the diamond disks but the quality of their diamond disk is various. Thus, with the support by TSMC, in 1999, K Company started to develop and produce diamond disks. In 2000, K Company successfully weld industrial diamond tightly on the hard stainless steel alloys without separation by incorporating technologies of diamond shield for precision molds and diamond grid layout for cutting tools. The diamond shield can effectively prevent diamond disk from being corroded by chemical solutions during the CMP production process while the invented layout of diamond grid can prevent falling off diamonds, increase dirt

removal, speed up the flow of polishing liquid, and maintain the stability of CMP production process. K Company's diamond disks had passed TSMC's onsite testing by the end of 2000 and successfully replaced US and Japan's suppliers as the main diamond disk supplier for TSMC, United Microelectronics Corporation (UMC), and other Taiwan semi-conductor companies in 2001. K Company also sold diamond disks to Japan's NEC, Korea's Samsung, and Singapore's Charters, with the help of Rodel Company in US, the world's largest semiconductor consumable supplier. The quality approval by semiconductor companies is very important for diamond disk. Managing Director of K Company's diamond disk business, Mr. Lee, stated that:

"The critical knowledge for diamond disk production is the material science technology as well as cutting and grinding techniques which are derived from our grinding wheel production. This experience is our advantage compared to other competitors."

Based on above discussion, two core capabilities of the diamond disk business in K Company can be concluded as the "material science technology capability" and the "precision technology capability".

The value-added activities of diamond disk, as shown in Figure 2, it is highly similar with the value-added activities of grinding wheel. Some of grinding wheel product and diamond disk shares the same raw material - industrial diamond. The main R&D activities in

diamond disk business are mainly responsible for exploring the layout of diamond grid. As for manufacturing activities, the production processes of diamond disks are similar with grinding wheel production, including mixing, heat pressing, and dressing. Quality control is another important activity for the diamond disk production since the damage caused by a flawed diamond disk may cost 5,000 US Dollars per wafer. The remaining value-added activities of the diamond disk business are similar to the grinding wheel business, including warehousing, branding, and after sales service, except distribution which the diamond disk business has foreign agent as the sale channel.

Reclaimed Wafer Business

Prior to producing wafers, semiconductor fabs need to test wafers (or dummy wafer) to check the furnace tube temperature, metal layer, chemical contamination, and strained thickness on the surface. After testing, the test wafers are normally discarded or recycled. Traditionally, semiconductor manufacturers purchase wafers to produce the test wafers by themselves. In recent years, in order to reduce cost, semiconductor manufacturers start to use the reclaimed wafer as the test wafer through external contractors. The reclaimed wafer is made by etching and polishing process to wipe away the particle and seed layer on the test wafer. The core capabilities of K Company in reclaimed wafers or test wafers are etching and polishing technologies, which are also originated from the grinding and cutting capabilities accumulated by K Company's grinding wheels business for decades. Moreover, parts of the

reclaimed wafer knowledge and capabilities are acquires from the strategic alliance with the Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI). As for the value-added activities, the raw materials of the reclaimed wafer business are the used test wafers from semiconductor manufacturers. The R&D activity mainly focused on production process improvement. In production activity, K Company etches and polishes the surface of each layer of used test wafer to produce reclaimed wafers. The quality control activity is also important since it will affect the quality of wafer production. As for distribution, the reclaimed wafers are sold via their same sale teams in diamond disks while the after sale service is also highly demanded due to its highly customer-oriented nature.

Optical Glass Business

In 2003, due to increasing demand for glass lens from digital cameras and mobile phones with photo function, K Company considered to develop non-spherical mode glass lens. The main reason for entering lens business is that this product requires 20% of optical knowledge and 80% of mechanical capabilities, which is highly related to K Company's core competence, mechanical capabilities. In 2005, they invested 500 million NT Dollars, including 300 million NT Dollars of equipments, to establish a new factory near the Hsinchu Science Based Industrial Park in Northern Taiwan and 13 researchers from the K Company. Moreover, the K Company also invited a Japanese technical consultant team to help them developing the skills on pressing and processing glass lens. There are two major stages to shape glass lenses. The

first stage is to transform the glass rod into the glass ball by using the fine precision molding tools while the second stage is the shaping process by using the grinding wheel and other materials. K Company has better skills and knowledge to produce the fine precision molding tools. However, K Company is unfamiliar with the optical knowledge and its industrial network. Since the non-spherical mold glass lens is mainly used in the camera and mobile phone, it needs to be designed in some components with the close relationship with clients. The marketing knowledge and sale forces from other K Company's businesses can hardly help the optical business unit due to different targeting customers. Furthermore, in order to solve the problem in washing process, the K Company's reclaimed wafer business unit sent their technicians or engineers to the optical business unit frequently but still could not help much as expected. This is because the non-spherical mold glass lens requires more complicated and precise washing procedure. More importantly, the existing grinding and cutting capabilities of K Company were found difficult to improve the yield rate of the non-spherical mold glass lens.

As regard to the value-added activities of the optical business, the main raw material is glass rods and the purpose of the R&D activity is reducing the defect rate. The main production activities are transforming glass rods into glass balls and shaping non-spherical mold glass lenses. As for distribution channel, since glass lenses must be embedded in camera lens as well as integrated with software system, it must be certified by camera lens companies

and software companies. Therefore, the main strategy of the optical business unit is to acquire certifications from the system companies whereas developing own brand is less important in the non-spherical mold glass lens. Figure 2 shows the main value-added activities of the K Company's optical business.

DISCUSSIONS

Based on the above discussions, we found that the diamond disk business has high similarity in both core capabilities and value-added activities with the grinding wheel business. Both business units are dependent on "material science technology capability" and "grinding and cutting capability". Moreover, the similarity of value-added activities between the two business units is also high due to higher number of similar activities as shown in Figure 2. Figure 3 shows the positioning of the K Company's grinding wheel business and diamond disk business on the capability/value-added-activity matrix. Since two business units have higher similarity in core capabilities and value-added activities, then the diamond disk business and the grinding wheel business in K Company are defined as highly related diversified businesses in our framework.

Insert Figure 3 about here

Similarly, we would like to examine the similarity of both capabilities and value-added

activities between grinding wheel business and wafer business. As for the capabilities, both two business units require similar capabilities in grinding and cutting techniques. However, wafer business need additional knowledge as regard to satisfy the semiconductor production. This implies that the similarity of capabilities between these two businesses is medium to high. As for value-added activities, both businesses are different (as shown in Figure 2). For instance, as for the raw material procurement, the suppliers of the reclaimed wafer business are semiconductor companies, which are different from the suppliers of the grinding wheel business. Particularly in the production activity, reclaimed wafer production should be carried out in the clean room while grinding wheel production dose not. Finally, brand is more important for grinding wheel products than reclaimed wafer products. In short, the similarity of value-added activities between grinding wheel business and wafer business is medium to low. Therefore, we conclude that the similarity of capabilities between grinding wheel business and wafer business are relatively high but the similarity of value-added activities is relatively low. Figure 3 provides the positioning analysis based on our matrix framework. Since two businesses have relatively high similarity in the capabilities but relatively low similarity in the value-added activities, K Company's wafer business is defined as capability-related diversified business.

Finally, the critical capabilities for the non-spherical mold glass lens are mechanical capabilities and optical knowledge. Although K Company can apply its mechanical

capabilities to cut and grind glass rod into glass ball, but such techniques can not be fully integrated. Moreover, K Company needs to acquire optical knowledge externally, such as controlling the thickness of the glass lens and capturing the right angle of image, and also to produce high-quality glass lens at minimal costs. This implies the similarity of capabilities between the optical business and the grinding wheel business is relatively low. As for value-added activities, both businesses are quite different (as shown in Figure 2). For instance, the raw material suppliers of grinding wheel business are different from the suppliers of optical business. The production process of optical business is also different comparing to grinding wheel business since it requires more optical knowledge and technical skills. Furthermore, the glass lenses are components of the end-products, so its distribution is different from grinding wheel business and branding activities is less important. Thus, the value-added activity similarity between the grinding wheel business and the optical business is also relatively low. Figure 3 provides the positioning of K Company's optical business against grinding wheel business. Since the lower similarity in both capabilities and value-added activities between two businesses, the optical business is defined as non-related diversification compared to the grinding wheel business.

Based on the above analysis on our framework, the capabilities/value-added activities diversified strategy matrix, we found three diversified strategy adopted by K Company: the highly related diversification strategy for the diamond disk business, the capability-related

diversification strategy for the reclaimed wafer business, and finally the non-related diversification strategy for the optical business.

CONCLUSION

From our case analysis, the determinants of K Company's diversification strategy to diamond disk business, reclaimed wafer business, and optical business is whether they have relatively similar capabilities and knowledge. Unlike considering diversification from products, markets, or, industries suggested by the previous studies (Rumelt, 1974; Berry, 1975; Jacquemin and Berry, 1979; Christensen and Montgomery, 1981; Palepu, 1985), K company's diversification depends on their capabilities. In addition to capabilities, the similarity of value-added activities also determines a firm's diversification strategy. The higher similarity of two businesses' value-added activities can create higher synergy for each value-added activity. Hence, we can derive the following propositions from our case analysis:

- Proposition 1: Higher capability similarity leads to higher synergy between diversified businesses.
- Proposition 2: Higher value-added activity similarity leads to higher synergy between diversified businesses.
- Proposition 3: Firms are more likely to diversify to these businesses with higher capability similarity than to businesses with higher value-added activity similarity.

The main contribution of this study is to provide a conceptual framework of capability/value activity diversified strategic matrix to analyze the firm diversification strategy. Four types of diversification strategies can be developed, including the highly related diversification, capability-related diversification, value-activity-related diversification, and non-related diversification. While using the traditional diversification classification based on products or industries, the relationship of K Company's grinding wheels and diamond disk, reclaimed wafer, or optical glass lens is low related diversification or non-related diversification. It is difficult to figure out the true relationship between these businesses. However, our case explain why K Company diversifies to diamond disk business and wafer business, which can not be explained by the traditional product/industry classification. By introducing the two constructs, capability similarity and value-added activity similarity, a firm's diversification strategy can be interpreted more appropriately. Furthermore, by using these two constructs, we can explore how the synergy can be created via existing capabilities and value-added activities between businesses. For instance, K Company uses its capability on material technology as well as cutting and grinding technology, which are accumulated via traditional grinding wheel business, to produce the diamond disks, reclaimed wafers, or optical non-spherical mold glass lens. Our framework can shed the insight for reasons of firm diversification, which is unable to be explained by the traditional diversification classification. Moreover, the implication for management from our research is that a firm should consider

starting its diversification via highly related diversification strategy, which starts with the business in the highly capability similarity and highly value-added activity similarity from the existing business.

Nevertheless, our study also suffers some limitations. First, due to the case study method, the measurement of two constructs, the capability similarity and value-added activity similarity, is based on the informants' opinions, which may be subjective. Therefore, future studies are suggested to use objective indicators to measure these two constructs. Second, the case of K Company only explains three types of diversification strategy in our framework. No case for the value-added-activity-related diversification strategy was observed in this research. Future research is encouraged to identify and to examine this type of diversification.

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TABLES

Table 1 Summary of Interviews

	Title or position	Total Time / hours			
1.	CEO	3			
2.	General Manager of grinding wheel business unit	4			
3.	General Manager of diamond business unit (DBU)	6			
4.	General Manager of wafer business unit (WBU)	4			
5.	General Manager of optical business unit (OBU)	6			
6.	Assistant from Buying Department	3			
7.	Factory director from grinding wheel business unit	3			
8.	Associate executive from DBU	4			
9.	Factory director from DBU	4			
10.	Factory director from OBU	4			

FIGURES

Value Activity Similarity

		Low	High				
	Low	Non-Related Diversified Business	Value-Related Diversified Business				
Capability Similarity	High	Capability-Related Diversified Business	Highly-Related Diversified Business				

Figure 1 Capability/Value Activity Diversification Matrix

	Value-Added Activities															
Businesses	Upstream Activities Downstream Activities														ivities	
	Raw material	Formulation & R&D	Productionmixing	Productioncold pressing	Productionheat pressing	Productiondressing	Productionetch	Production—polish / grinding	Production—washing	Production—quality control	Warehouse—raw material	Warehouse—final product	Sales channel—own channel	Sales channel—agent	Brand	After sales service
Grinding	0	0	0	0	0	0		0		0	0	0	0		0	0
Wheel																
Diamond	0	0	0		0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Disk																
Reclaimed	0	0					0	0	0	0	0		0			0
Wafer																
Optical	0	0						0	0	0	0	0	0			
Glass																

Figure 2 K Company's Value-Added Activities

Value Activity Similarity

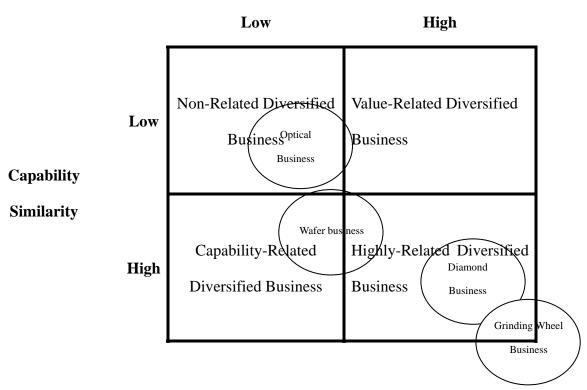


Figure 3 K Company's Four Business Units