

Day 1, Session 4

Accurate Delineation and Recognition of the Actual Transaction - Workshop



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Advanced Transfer Pricing Course (General Topics), April 15-19, 2024

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Agenda

- I. Case 1: Business restructuring
- II. Case 2: Digital gaming



Section I

Case 1. Business restructuring

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Alpha Group: Description of the Case

Pre-restructuring

- The Alpha Group is active in the manufacturing and distribution of equipment and spare parts for running data centers
- The Parent Company, IT Alpha, sells both equipment and spare parts to its UK affiliate and UK customers, which according to the TP file is remunerated on a Cost Plus 3% for low-value adding mktg activities

Post- restructuring

- As of FY 200x+1, the UK entity will take full responsibility in dealing with UK customers, while the TP policy will change at group level, with the UK affiliate now remunerated on a Cost Plus 13%
- The distribution agreement does not consider any break-up fee in the event of termination or renegotiation of contracts

Alpha Group pre/post restructuring

Description of the Case

Current transactions



- Sales of Equipment
- TP Policy: Cost Plus 3%



- Sale of Spare Parts and Updates

Future transactions



- Sales of Equipment
- TP Policy: Cost Plus 13%



- Sale of Spare Parts and Updates

Business restructuring consequences

- Is this a business restructuring?
- Has IT transferred something of value?
- UK has to pay any indemnification to the IT company?
- Quantification?
- TP policy after restructuring?



- Valuation techniques: Discounted Cash Flow

$$DCF = \frac{CF_1}{(1+r)^1} + \frac{CF_2}{(1+r)^2} + \dots + \frac{CF_n}{(1+r)^n}$$

CF = Cash Flow

r = discount rate (WACC)

- Assumptions: financial projections, growth rate, WACC, **terminal value.**
- Net financial impact = additional income from new TP policy – EBIT moved

DCF - Calculation Model

<i>Indemnification (3yrs+Terminal Value)</i>					
€ '000		2016	2017	2018	TV
Operating profit moved to UK on Spare		6.000	6.200	6.300	
Other Operating profit moved to UK		1.168	1.191	1.215	
Operating profit moved to UK		7.168	7.391	7.515	
Additional operating from new TP Equipment		5.800	6.000	6.400	
Additional operating from services		34	34	34	
Net financial impact		-1.334	-1.357	-1.081	-1.086
					-14.485
WACC	8%				
Discounted net balance		-1.235	-1.163	-858	-11.499
Period		1	2	3	3
Stable growth (TBD)	0,50%				
Total Discounted Net Financial Impact	-14.756				
Tax (rate=31.4%)	4.633				

Remuneration of post-restructuring

- The application of arm's length principle to business restructuring should not be different from the application to other controlled transactions
- It is not possible to base TP adjustment on before and after restructuring scenarios
- Accurate delineation of the new transactions

Section II

Case 2. Digital gaming

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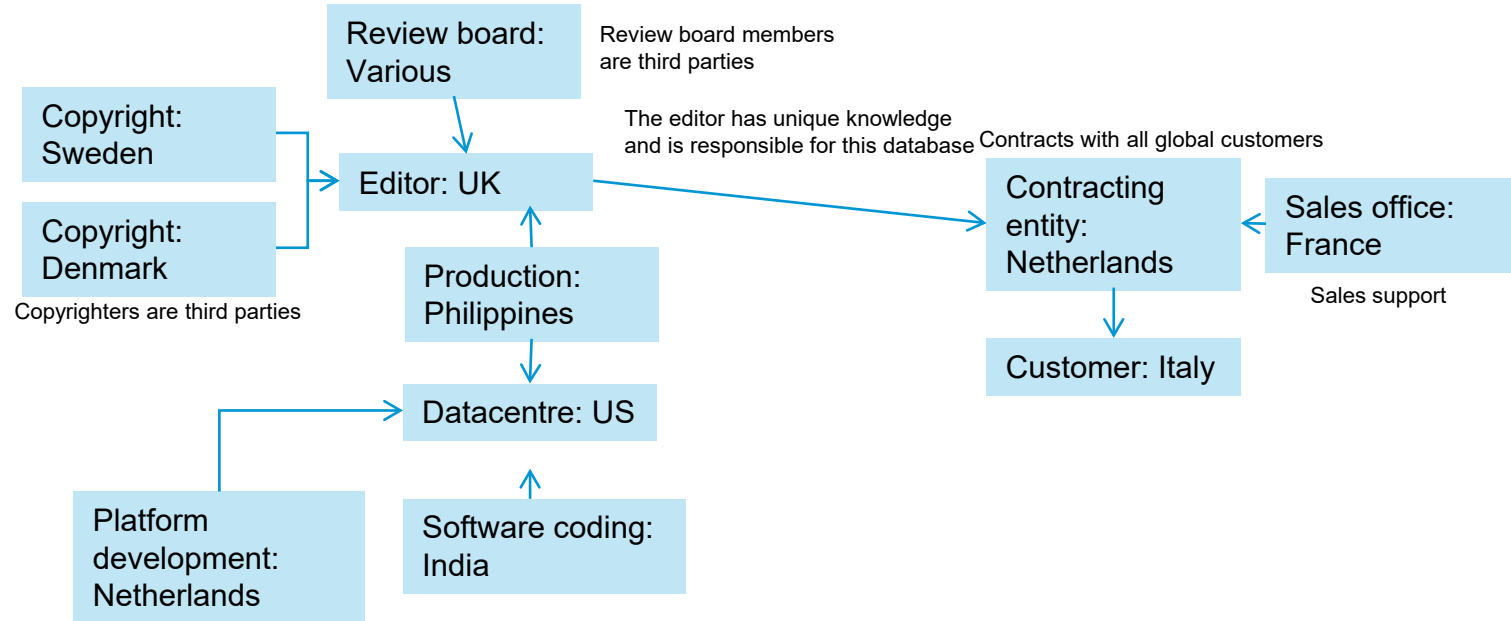
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Case 2. Digital gaming



The platform cost \$500 million and was cost shared by five operating companies – UK, US, France, Netherlands and Japan

Description of the case

- The group produces videogames and developed an online database platform
- Various third-party authors provide data for the videogame creation
- The game editor is based in a UK operating company
- “Production” consists of processing the game and data so that it is searchable and appropriately stored in the various databases
- The datacentre contains servers – note that this is a routine function which could be located in many jurisdictions, and which is now a commodity service available from many third parties
- The platform (including the search algorithm) is unique and valuable
- The software coding is a routine service
- All sales contracts are entered into by the Netherlands entity which applies fairly standard terms
- The customer is an Italian organisation which then redistributes the program at wholesale level

Questions relevant for setting up a restructuring

- The Customers
 - Is it relevant where they are located
 - Where is the customer?
 - Who is the customer?
 - Where is the customer using the service?
 - How can we know?
- The Revenues
 - Where should the revenue (gross proceeds) be recognised? Is it relevant according to the current international tax framework?

Questions (C'd)

- The costs
 - How should the costs be allocated?
 - How should the costs of developing the technology be amortised?
 - If there is a digital PE, how should costs be allocated to it?
 - Do you think that the cost of the servers have a role
- The editor
 - If the editor moves e.g to the Netherlands, has there been a disposal of an intangible by the UK?

I. On the customers

- More than the relevance of their location it is important who is dealing with them from a negotiating standpoint (in our case, this is a B2B transaction and not B2C)
- To answer that question, we need to perform a value chain analysis and accurately understanding the weight of the distribution layer of the supply chain

II. On the revenues and costs

- Both they should follow-up the six-step approach of Section D2 of the TPG, Chapter I
- What about the possible impact of DSTs and Pillar I of the OECD Unified Approach?



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