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AVIATION AFRICA 2019

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Restructuring vs. Liquidation

Distress or insolvency usually leads to either restructuring or liquidation

Insolvency Test

– cash flow test
 – balance sheet test

Liquidation

- Involves the sale of the assets with proceeds distributed to creditors in accordance with their priority
- kill not cure: job losses, fire sales, value dissipation, proceeds are usually less than claims of creditors

Restructuring

- an alternative to liquidation and a viable option only where the going concern value exceeds the liquidation value – therefore valuation is key
- tool for creditors/ debtors/ investors
- usually saves company, saves jobs, preserves value

The Trading Curve and Restructuring Timeline of a Business



Aviation Restructuring Roadmap

Brown Rudnick's approach to restructuring is an all-encompassing and comprehensive one, designed to create a sustainable model with an implementable roadmap and clearly defined action items.





Operational Restructuring

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Operational Road Map – some areas for attention





Debt Restructuring and Liability Management

Debt restructuring tools include the following:



New Money Investment

- Debt and Equity Investment
- Asset Disposals (Non-core)
 - Needs to be carefully and strategically managed
- Investment from Strategic Partners
- Consolidation
 - Consolidation is the process by which airlines merge and form a smaller, more efficient, less concentrated aviation market in a given territory

Airline Consolidation

Advantages

- Mergers usually result in financially stronger carriers allowing them to better compete in the market
- Allows airlines to potentially increase revenues by eliminating unprofitable or redundant routes, and capitalising in other ways (e.g. code share)
- It is generally the ideal way to cut costs without jeopardizing an airline's presence

Disadvantages

- Too much consolidation can create monopolies that distort competition, and create barriers for smaller airlines
- Ensure compliance with competition laws
- For consumers:
 - May lead to poorer service, higher prices due to fewer choices

Airline Consolidation - Example

The United States is a key example of successful airline consolidation. 70% of its aviation market is currently controlled by four primary airlines:

- American Airlines
- Delta Airlines
- Southwest Airlines
- United Airlines

As a result of airline consolidations in the United States, the airline industry has generally become more stable-preventing large-scale turnover of airlines.



Use of insolvency process

- Sometimes it is not possible to achieve a consensual resolution and the assistance of a formal insolvency legislative framework is required
- Challenge for most of Africa lack of appropriate insolvency legislation or tools

a) Moratorium – to "stay" creditor action
b) Cram down any hold out creditors
c) Valuation
d) New money / priming ("super-senior debt")

- However, many African countries are modernising their laws For example Kenya has a new administration law, South Africa has a new business rescue law
- Forum shopping is a possibility, subject to conditions being met Avianca is an example of where a Colombian airline used US Chapter 11 to effect a restructuring

Questions?

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