

## **Risk Assessment for Genetic Technology Inc.**

### Main assets and their importance

Genetic Technology Incorporation (GTI), situated in Washington D.C., is a biotechnology organization that has been in existence for four years. It utilizes a single facility for the majority of its operations. The company also has laboratory facilities and a warehouse. Its location of operation is considered an asset because the company is able to function in a specified location without interruptions and to store all tools needed for a smooth delivery of service. The restricted area also facilitates the proper care and processing of bio-organisms so that they adhere to vital requirements for viability. In addition to the advantageous location, the company has a large number of product supplies, including drugs and genetic materials. If the company were to find itself in need of quick cash and had no other resources available, these items could quickly and easily be sold to generate the needed capital<sup>1</sup>.

### Threats faced by the company

A major threat to GTI is its lack of security on the premises. First, it does not employ a security officer to patrol the area. This leaves the company vulnerable to possible security breaches and to break-ins. Theft is always a concern since GTI's products can readily be sold on the market. Furthermore, GTI is susceptible to competition from other like companies, especially since it has not yet firmly established itself in the biotechnology market. Other companies may seek to squeeze GTI out of competition or to prevent it from developing a strong foot-hold in

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<sup>1</sup> LaGoy, P. (1994). *Risk assessment: principles and applications for hazardous waste and related sites*. USA: William Andrew publishers.

the current market. This could lead to a stunted growth of the company and perhaps the elimination of the company itself. Finally, the economic downturn of the country has affected most businesses, as GTI. Difficult economic times nationally can result in companies never having a chance to succeed.

### Existing liabilities

GTI's assets also work as its liabilities. For example, although the location of the facility in a restricted area makes operations convenient, it also makes the facility an easy target for those who wish to inflict harm or difficulties for the company. One possible way of protecting its assets would be for the company to diversify its assets and their locations. This would help protect GTI from losing everything at once in the case of an attack of some kind. Another major asset of the company is its employees who are well-trained and highly skilled. The company can ensure that its best and brightest are not recruited by competitors. GTI can accomplish this through a system of promotion, contract bonuses, and profit-sharing opportunities<sup>2</sup>. The lack of a security team is another concern. The company needs to hire a security officer and put him in charge of recruiting and training a team. The newly formed team would be responsible for making certain that nothing belonging to the company left the premises, that technology is secured from hackers, and that the facility is controlled at all times to protect against theft and vandalism. Finally, the company must protect itself against competitors and possible political influence that works against it. Public opinion can sway politicians to take certain actions.

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<sup>2</sup> LaGoy, P. (1994). *Risk assessment: principles and applications for hazardous waste and related sites*. USA: William Andrew publishers.

Also, the economic health of a country can influence what occurs politically. Additionally, lobbyists may influence politicians to support one aspect of an industry or one company over another. GTI should strive to stay abreast of political and social developments that directly or indirectly impact the company's growth and future success.

#### Potential impact of projected losses due to threats

GTI remains vulnerable to threats that could potentially result in the company's demise. Since its assets are located in one area, a potential attack could be so damaging that the company would have great difficulty overcoming it. Competition from other companies also poses a continuing threat. GTI must be able to establish itself in the market place. To do so, its products must develop a reputation for high quality and its prices must be competitive with the prices offered by other companies. Being too competitive could cost the company the need to meet operating costs and to stay afloat, whereas not being competitive enough could result in not establishing a strong foothold in the market. Finally, the company must be able to protect itself from economic factors out of its control, such as the overall economy of its company<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> Lerche, I., and Glaesser, W. (2006). *Environmental risk assessment: quantitative measures, anthropogenic influences, human impact*. Berlin: Springer publishers.

## Reference List:

LaGoy, P. (1994) *Risk assessment: principles and applications for hazardous waste and related sites*. USA: William Andrew publishers.

Lerche, I., and Glaesser, W. (2006) *Environmental risk assessment: quantitative measures, anthropogenic influences, human impact*. Berlin: Springer publishers.