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## Cooperative Strategy

- **Cooperative Strategy**
  - A strategy in which firms work together to achieve a shared objective
- **Cooperating with other firms is a strategy that:**
  - Creates value for a customer
  - Exceeds the cost of constructing customer value in other ways
  - Establishes a favorable position relative to competitors

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## Types of Corporate & Grand Strategies

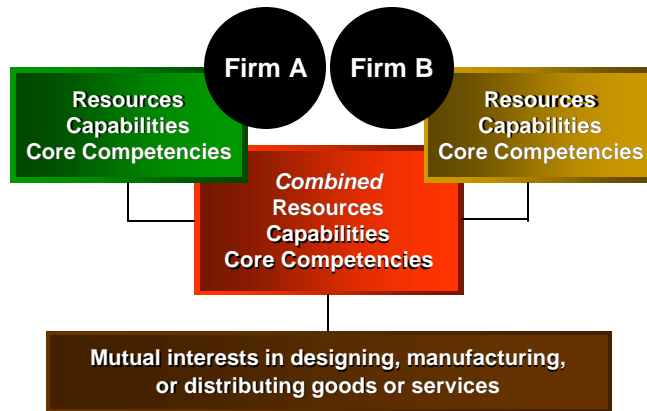


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## Strategic Alliance



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## Three Types of Strategic Alliances

- **Joint Venture**
  - Two or more firms create a legally independent company by sharing some of their resources and capabilities
- **Equity Strategic Alliance**
  - Partners who own different percentages of equity in a separate company they have formed
- **Nonequity Strategic Alliance**
  - Two or more firms develop a contractual relationship to share some of their unique resources and capabilities

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## Reasons for Strategic Alliances

Market	Reason
Slow Cycle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gain access to a restricted market</li><li>• Establish a franchise in a new market</li><li>• Maintain market stability (e.g., establishing standards)</li></ul>

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## Reasons for Strategic Alliances (cont'd)

Market	Reason
Fast Cycle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Speed up development of new goods or service</li><li>• Speed up new market entry</li><li>• Maintain market leadership</li><li>• Form an industry technology standard</li><li>• Share risky R&amp;D expenses</li><li>• Overcome uncertainty</li></ul>

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## Reasons for Strategic Alliances (cont'd)

Market	Reason
Standard Cycle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gain market power (reduce industry overcapacity)</li><li>• Gain access to complementary resources</li><li>• Establish economies of scale</li><li>• Overcome trade barriers</li><li>• Meet competitive challenges from other competitors</li><li>• Pool resources for very large capital projects</li><li>• Learn new business techniques</li></ul>

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## Business-Level Cooperative Strategies

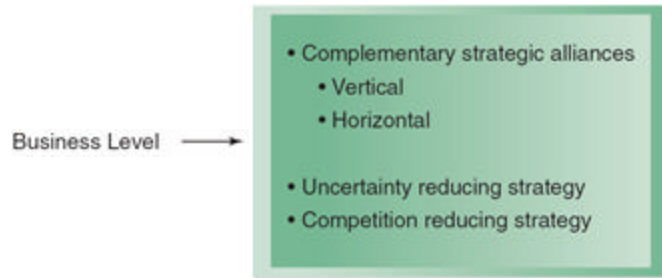
- **Complementary strategic alliances**
  - Vertical
  - Horizontal
- **Competition response strategy**
- **Uncertainty reducing strategy**
- **Competition reducing strategy**

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## Business-Level Cooperative Strategies

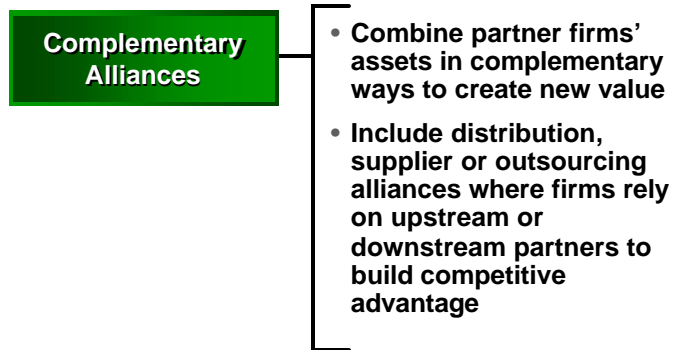


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Figure 9.1  
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## Business-Level Cooperative Strategies

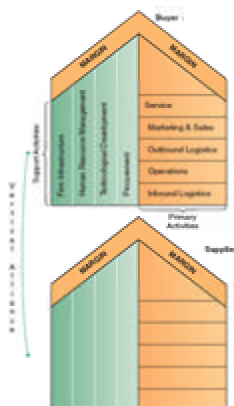


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## Vertical Complementary Strategic Alliances



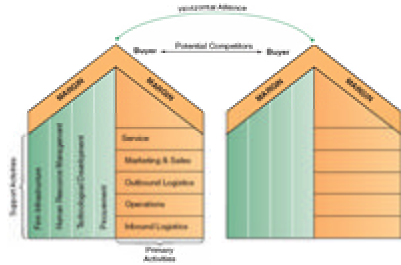
- Firms agree to use their skills and capabilities in different stages of the value chain to create value for both firms
- Outsourcing

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Adapted from Figure 9.2  
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## Horizontal Complementary Strategic Alliances



- Partners combine resources and skills to create value in the same stage of the value chain
- Focus is on long-term product development and distribution opportunities
- Partners may become competitors

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Adapted from Figure 9.2  
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## Competition Response Strategy

**Complementary Alliances**

**Competition Response Alliances**

- Occur when firms join forces to respond to a strategic action of another competitor
- Because they can be difficult to reverse and expensive to operate, strategic alliances are primarily formed to respond to strategic rather than tactical actions

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## Uncertainty Reducing Strategy

**Complementary Alliances**

**Competition Response Alliances**

**Uncertainty Reducing Alliances**

- Are used to hedge against risk and uncertainty
- These alliances are most noticed in fast-cycle markets
- An alliance may be formed to reduce the uncertainty associated with developing new product or technology standards

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## Competition Reducing Strategy

- Complementary Alliances
- Competition Response Alliances
- Uncertainty Reducing Alliances
- Competition Reducing Alliances

- Created to avoid destructive or excessive competition
- **Explicit collusion:** when firms directly negotiate production output and pricing agreements in order to reduce competition (illegal)
- **Tacit collusion:** when firms in an industry indirectly coordinate their production and pricing decisions by observing other firm's actions and responses

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## Assessment of Cooperative Strategies

- **Complementary business-level strategic alliances, especially the vertical ones, have the greatest probability of creating a sustainable competitive advantage**
- **Horizontal complementary alliances are sometimes difficult to maintain because they are often between rival competitors**
- **Competitive advantages gained from competition and uncertainty reducing strategies tend to be temporary**

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## Corporate-Level Cooperative Strategies



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Figure 9.3  
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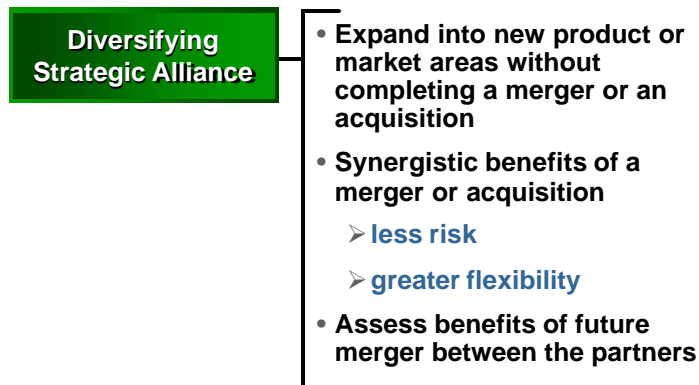
## Corporate-Level Cooperative Strategy

- **Corporate-level strategies**
  - **Help the firm diversify in terms of:**
    - ❖ **Products offered to the market**
    - ❖ **The markets it serves**
  - **Require fewer resource commitments**
  - **Permit greater flexibility in terms of efforts to diversify partners' operations**

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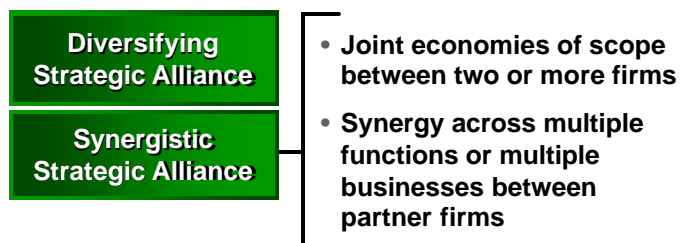
## Diversifying Strategic Alliances



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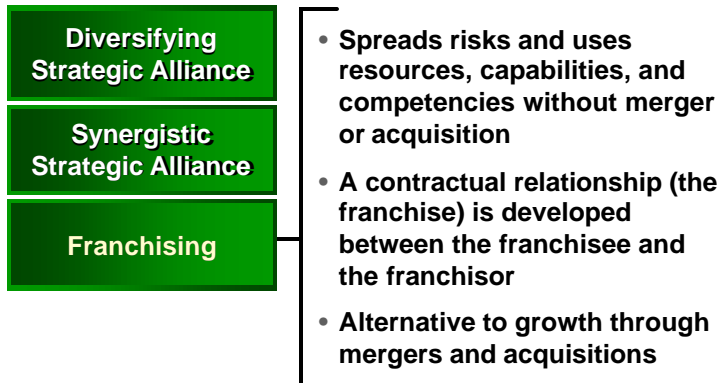
## Synergistic Strategic Alliances



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## Franchising



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## Assessment of Corporate-Level Cooperative Strategies

- **Compared to business-level strategies**
  - Broader in scope
  - More complex
  - More costly
- **Can lead to competitive advantage and value when:**
  - Successful alliance experiences are internalized
  - The firm uses such strategies to develop useful knowledge about how to succeed in the future

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## International Cooperative Strategies

- **Cross-border Strategic Alliance**
  - A strategy in which firms with headquarters in different nations combine their resources and capabilities to create a competitive advantage
  - A firm may form cross-border strategic alliances to leverage core competencies that are the foundation of its domestic success to expand into international markets

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## International Cooperative Strategies (cont'd)

- **Synergistic Strategic Alliance**

- Allows risk sharing by reducing financial investment
- Host partner knows local market and customs
- International alliances can be difficult to manage due to differences in management styles, cultures or regulatory constraints
- Must gauge partner's strategic intent such that the partner does not gain access to important technology and become a competitor

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## Network Cooperative Strategy

- **A cooperative strategy wherein several firms agree to form multiple partnerships to achieve shared objectives**

- Stable alliance network
- Dynamic alliance network

- **Keys to a successful network cooperative strategy**

- Effective social relationships
- Interactions among partners

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## Network Cooperative Strategies (cont'd)

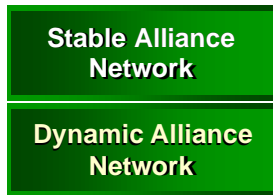
### Stable Alliance Network

- **Long term relationships**
  - mature industries where demand is
  - relatively constant
  - predictable
- **Stable networks *exploit* economies (scale and/or scope) available between the firms**

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## Network Cooperative Strategies (cont'd)



- Evolve in industries with rapid technological change leading to short product life cycles
- Primarily used to stimulate rapid, value-creating product innovation and subsequent successful market entries
- Purpose is often *exploration* of new ideas

## Competitive Risks of Cooperative Strategies

- Partners may act opportunistically
- Partners may misrepresent competencies brought to the partnership
- Partners fail to make committed resources and capabilities available to other partners
- One partner may make investments that are specific to the alliance while its partner does not

## Managing Risks in Cooperative Strategies



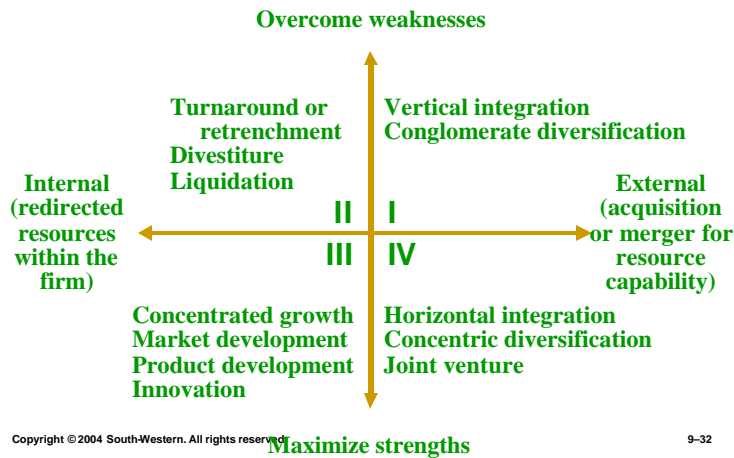
## Managing Cooperative Strategies

- **Cost minimization management approach**
  - Formal contracts with partners
  - Specify
    - ❖ How strategy is to be monitored
    - ❖ How partner behavior is to be controlled
  - Goals that minimize costs and prevent opportunistic behavior by partners
- **Opportunity maximization approach**
  - Maximize partnership's value-creation opportunities
  - learn from each other
  - explore additional marketplace possibilities
  - less formal contracts, fewer constraints

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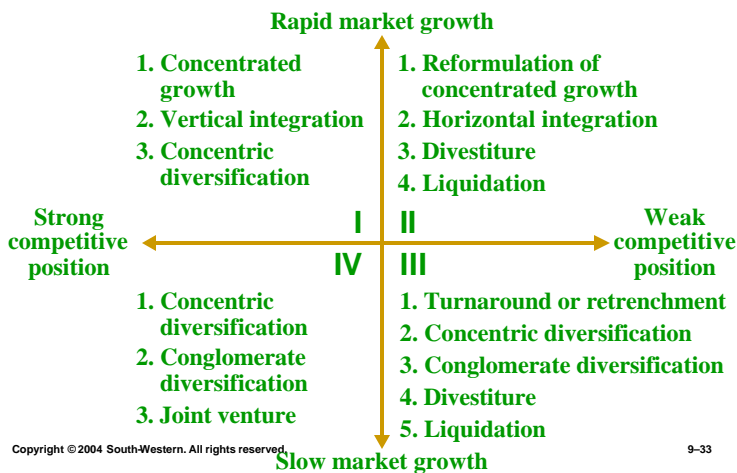
## Grand Strategy Selection Matrix



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## Model of Grand Strategy Clusters



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