# **Global ESPP Implementation** Keys for Success

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# Agenda

- Introductions
- Project background
- Rollout schedule and key dates
- Plan design considerations
- Technical considerations
- Final design
- General risk areas
- EEO Implementation tips
- Communication best practices
- The result . . .

## Introductions

# HCC: At a Glance



HCC Insurance Holdings, Inc. underwrites noncorrelated specialty insurance products worldwide. The company operates in five segments: U.S. Property and Casualty, Professional Liability, Accident and Health, U.S. Surety and Credit, and International

Stock Ticker:	NYSE: HCC
Market Cap:	\$4.47 billion
2013 Revenue:	\$2.54 billion
Founded:	1974
Headquarters:	Houston, TX
Employees:	~1,900 worldwide
Global Presence:	~6 countries

# Introductions

# Hire potential. Higher performance.

At Independent Stock Plan Advisors, we deliver executive compensation solutions that inspire your workforce. By delivering just-in-time resources, we bridge global equity and incentive compensation knowledge and resource gaps at every level of your organization. Dynamic, flexible and focused, we're the people who keep your people happy.

# Our advisors count more than the numbers.

Some firms specialize in executive compensation strategy, governance and technical matters. Others concentrate on plan operations and administration. We do both. We understand the rules governing global equity and incentive compensation plans, as well as the functionality of the vendor platforms that support them. As a result, we're able to offer an inherently holistic approach to executive compensation planning.





# The genesis

# The "CEO Golf Trip"

# **Primary goal**

# Create culture of ownership in US

# Additional objectives

Increase employee engagement

Improve productivity / ROI

Grow ownership in friendly hands

# Why ESPP?

#### Employer benefit

- Retain, attract and motivate
- Align all staff levels with shareholder interest and ownership
- Prof. Blasi study (4-5% higher growth)
- Realistic expense (only pay for what you actually deliver)

#### Employee benefit

- Flexibility and choice
  - Employees choose to opt in or out of plan
  - Convenience of payroll deduction
  - Buy stock at discount to market value
  - Immediately vested, can sell stock at any time

# **Defining success**

# 10 – 20% participation Year 2

Year 1

20 – 40% participation

# **Rollout schedule and key dates**



- An ESPP is an employee benefit plan that allows employees to purchase company shares at a discount – typically with funds accumulated via payroll deductions
- Key plan design features are as follows:
  - Discount vs. company match
  - Qualified or not
  - Look-back feature
  - Length of offering period
  - Eligible employees
  - Holding period

## **Additional "Big Picture" Considerations**

Total reward alignment	<ul> <li>How will the plan align with the current total rewards and overall business strategy?</li> </ul>	
Value delivered	<ul> <li>What is the employee perceived value vs. actual cost of plan?</li> <li>Does this vary by employee level?</li> <li>Tax qualified opportunities available?</li> </ul>	
Retention & attraction	<ul><li>Are there turnover or recruiting concerns?</li><li>Do we want to impose a holding requirement?</li></ul>	
Plan funding & ROI	<ul> <li>How will you evaluate the effectiveness of the plan?</li> </ul>	
External competitiveness	Should participation levels be benchmarked against market practices?	
Global alignment	<ul> <li>Will the plan be standard around the world?</li> <li>Will the plan be modified to capture local tax benefits?</li> <li>Expense push-down?</li> </ul>	

NASPP 2011 Survey

- Of 581 survey respondents, roughly half (52%) have ESPP
  - ESPP more prevalent in high tech companies (69%); not so much in manufacturing (29%)
- Most ESPPs are qualified under IRC Section 423 with 15% discount, many with look-back feature
  - 82% are Section 423 plans
  - 71% offer 15% discount; 62% offer look-back feature
- Participation % varies widely
  - 40% reported participation rate of 20% or less
  - 35% reported participation rate between 21% and 50%
  - 20% reported participation rate between 51% and 80%
  - 5% reported participation rate over 80%

- Accounting implications
  - Equity vehicle with arguably the most realistic expense
    - You only pay for what you actually deliver
  - Under ASC 718
    - Compensatory if discount > 5% and/or plan contains look-back feature
    - Fair value calculation required

	ESPP cost per \$10 share					
	15% discount		10% discount		5% discount	
Look-back period	No limit	Limit	No limit	Limit	No limit	Limit
24 months	\$4.33	\$3.94	\$3.84	\$3.58	\$3.36	\$3.23
18 months	\$3.95	\$3.61	\$3.46	\$3.24	\$2.98	\$2.87
12 months	\$3.51	\$3.23	\$3.02	\$2.83	\$2.53	\$2.43
6 months	\$2.92	\$2.72	\$2.43	\$2.29	\$1.93	\$1.86
None	\$1.70	\$1.50	\$1.13	\$1.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

- Accounting implications (cont.)
  - Ways to reduce employer compensation cost
    - Shorten offering period (e.g. from 24 months to 6 months)
      - The longer the offering period, the more diluted the Plan, since employees are more likely to purchase their shares at a substantial discount
  - Eliminate look-back feature
    - Reduces administrative and cost burden
  - Reduce discount (e.g. from 15% to 5%)
    - The smaller the discount, the less the cost per share

- Tax
  - Notable IRC Section 423 Requirements
    - Written plan must:
      - Specify maximum # of shares that may be issued under the plan
      - Approved by shareholders within 1 year (+ / -) of plan adoption
      - Most companies begin the first offering "after" the shareholders have approved the plan
  - \$25,000 Annual Limit
    - No more than \$25K of stock may be purchased under 423 plan during each calendar year
    - Limit is calculated based on FMV of stock on Grant Date

- Tax (cont.)
  - Eligibility requirements
    - Nondiscriminatory (with some exceptions)
      - Highly compensated employees under IRC Section 414
      - Employed < 2 years</p>
      - Work 20 or less per week
      - Seasonal employees (
    - Equal rights & privileges
      - Except for narrow exceptions for non-US EEs, all eligible EEs must generally be offered same rights and privileges

Foreign anti-

discrimination laws

may limit availability of exclusions

• Foreign branch vs. subsidiary distinction is significant



#### **Technical considerations**



# **Final design**

#### **Features**

Eligibility	<ul> <li>The ESPP will be available to employees in both the US &amp; UK</li> <li>Additional countries eligible as of 2<sup>nd</sup> purchase period</li> <li>No exclusions</li> </ul>	
Purchase Period	<ul> <li>Purchases will occur biannually, at fair market value on either the first or last day of the purchase period, whichever is lower</li> </ul>	
Enrollment	<ul> <li>Biannually</li> <li>2-week period prior to the start of each Purchase Period</li> </ul>	
Look-Back Period	<ul> <li>6 Months</li> </ul>	
Discount	<ul> <li>15% off the purchase price</li> </ul>	
Participant Contribution	<ul> <li>1 – 15% of base salary</li> </ul>	

- Key issues
  - Senior leadership and local support are critical to success
  - Varying regulatory approval schedules can impact timing
  - Lack of clear accountabilities, particularly between corporate and local subsidiary
  - Conflicting projects, corporate and local
  - Resource constraints
  - Availability and accuracy of global employee data

## **ESPP Enrollment**

- Leverage 'Location ID' in eligibility file for multiple payroll groups
- Automatic carry-over enrollment elections from prior vendor's system
- Cumulative contributions displayed to employee
- Electronic acceptance
- Multiple enrollment sites for international presence

EXTRADE Employee Stock Plans			
Choose your language: English	T		
Have an E*TRADE FINANCIAL user ID and password?	Don't have a user ID and password? Start here.		
You can enroll or update your contributions by logging on to etrade.com.	Please enter the information we need to confirm your identity.		
LOG ON	Company ticker symbol: Find symbol		
	Last Name:		
	U.S. Social Security number:		
	Employee ID:		

#### **E\*TRADE Hosted Enrollment**

Take a couple of minutes to review the information below and enroll in your stock purchase plan.	Enrollmer	nt History
Message From Your Company:	Offering Per 01/01/2007 - 1	
You can now enroll in Demo Corp's ESPP. If you have questions, email us at stockplan@democorp.com or call 555-1212	Purchase Da 06/30/2007, 12	
Enrollment Information	Changes All	owed
Set contribution percentage to: % (Between 1% and 10%) Set contribution amount to: USD (Between \$1 and \$500)	Type Increase Decrease	<b>Remainin</b> 2 1
Enter your e-mail address:		
Confirm your e-mail address: (required only if changing)		
Review Plan Documents		
Review Plan Documents         You must open and review the documents below before you enroll in your employer's stock purchase plan.         (Adobe Acrobat Reader required)         2004 Plan Document         Beneficiary Designation Form (To designate your beneficiary, you need to print, sign, and return this form to your stock plan administrator.)         Brokerage Account Information		
You must open and review the documents below before you enroll in your employer's stock purchase plan. (Adobe Acrobat Reader required)  2004 Plan Document Beneficiary Designation Form (To designate your beneficiary, you need to print, sign, and return this form to your stock plan administrator.) Brokerage Account Information Enter the name of your brokerage firm: E*TRADE FINANCIAL v (this selection applies only to your stock purchase plan shares)		
You must open and review the documents below before you enroll in your employer's stock purchase plan. (Adobe Acrobat Reader required)  2004 Plan Document Beneficiary Designation Form (To designate your beneficiary, you need to print, sign, and return this form to your stock plan administrator.) Brokerage Account Information Enter the name of your brokerage firm: E*TRADE FINANCIAL		

# **ESPP Purchase**

- Model purchase in Sandbox before moving it to Production
- Cumulative 'Contribution' file split by payroll groups
- Confirmation of Purchase exposed to employees through etrade.com



# Equity Edge Online<sup>™</sup> Implementation Tips (cont'd)

# **ESPP** Purchase

- Disposition Surveys in EEO
- Disposition of Sale tracking through E\*TRADE via the Client Resource Center
  - Transfers out of stock plan holding account
  - Disposition (qualifying disqualifying) reports



## Equity Edge Online<sup>™</sup> Enrollment to Purchase Timeline

Pre-Enrollment	Open	Offering	Offering Ends / Shares
	Enrollment	Begins	Purchase Purchased
<ul> <li>Communication to employees</li> <li>Client / E*TRADE set up enrollment site</li> <li>Process eligibility file</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Employees elect to enroll</li> <li>Employees choose contribution amounts (\$ or %)</li> <li>Administration begins</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Open enrollment closes</li> <li>Payroll administration begins</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Payroll administration ends</li> <li>Collate data and place in EEO</li> <li>Model Purchase in Sandbox (for accuracy)</li> <li>Process Purchase in Production</li> <li>Review / sign-off on Purchase (via reports)</li> <li>DWAC shares from Transfer Agent (TA)</li> <li>Update etrade.com via Exchange Manager</li> <li>New etrade.com e-mails sent to employees along with a Smart Alert</li> <li>Existing etrade.com – Smart Alert sent via e-mail to employees</li> </ul>

# **Communication best practices**

- Key issues
  - Integrate into overall business strategy discussions
    - Local executive champions are key to success
    - Align key business and compensation messages
  - Communication medium matters
    - Web-based / In person / Printed materials
    - Cultural sensitivity is important
  - Communication challenges
    - Employees do not always understand / appreciate the value of the plans that are available
    - One-size plans do not always fit local needs
  - Varied employee preferences & access to electronic / self-service media

#### **Communication Best Practices**

- Ensure employees are directed to etrade.com/enroll
- Requirements by employees to login and enroll:
- U.S. Employees: Ticker Symbol, Last Name, Social Security Number (SSN) or Employee ID
- Non-U.S. Employees: Only Employee ID required (not SSN)



#### The result

